

# Automated Backups - Billing related questions

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## Automated Backups - Billing related questions

### Issue

In connection to these billing specific requests, include the answers for the common ones that PG helped with (thru ICM/Teams0, , which might help similar cases from other customers..

### Questions & Answers

*Q1) How does that work exactly? What are the exact rules for how the PITR storage is billed?*

**PG (Austin D)** : The backup storage consumption ultimately depends on the database workload. For high data-churn databases, we will see high backup sizes for LOG & DIFF.

For low data-churn, we expect the majority to come from FULL backups. However, for all standalone databases, the formula to bill is the same: we aggregate the total FULL+DIFF++LOG backup storage and deduct the current max size of the database. This is the billed amount.

*Q2) We have lowered PITR retention to 7 days on all our databases, and have been told that this was a guaranteed way to not have PITR cost anything. But it seem that even 35 days was "free" for some of the databases. We need to know how it works exactly so we can finetune our configuration.*

**PG(Austin D)** : This is not guaranteed to be true. Even with 7 day retention the total backup storage may be greater than the database max size. This depends on the database workload.

*Q3)Is there a way to view backup storage usage (Portal Or PS) so we can plan how long to have retention set to best optimize our billing?*

**PG(Sasha N)**: We are developing an API to visualize the running backup storage usage. And evaluating suggestions from feedbacks ( like adding as a property to Get-AzSqlDatabase and Get-AzSqlElasticPool) and/or alternate options. Stay tuned for updates.

*Q4) Is there Azure doc that specifies backup storage charge for DTU models is included in the total price. My customer don't want to close the case unless they see public documentation.(Ricardo)*

**Answer:** Explained on the Azure Docs - [pricing\\_page](#) , which is quiet hidden but look in [Frequently asked questions (FAQ)] for [Azure SQL Database pricing] (*click on load more FAQs*) .

*\*\*Requested Sasha to include the above as part of [Automated Backups] doc*

#### How is the Backup Storage charge calculated for Point-In-Time Restore?

Increasing your backup retention period increases the backup storage that's consumed by your instance.

In the vCore-based model, there's no additional charge for backup storage for up to 100 percent of your total provisioned server storage. Additional consumption of backup storage will be charged in GB per month. For example, if you have the database storage size of 100 GBs, you'll get 100 GBs of backup at no additional cost. But if the backup is 110 GBs, you'll pay for the additional 10 GBs.

In the DTU-based model, the Backup Storage cost is included in the total price and the maximum retention period for a database depends on the service tier.

See [documentation](#) to learn more about Backup Storage for Point-In-Time Restore.

#### How good have you found this content?

