

Module 15. Resources for Billing Support

This module covers the following subjects:

- **Cost Calculators:** You might wonder how much money you can save by migrating to an AWS implementation. The Pricing Calculator can help dramatically with this critical question. However, these powerful tools are not the only calculators you can access with AWS. This part of the module covers these options with you. Also, the **Migration Evaluator** Migration Evaluator (formerly TSO Logic) is a complimentary service to create data-driven business cases for AWS Cloud planning and migration
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- **AWS Billing and Cost Management:** This module part discusses best practices in billing and cost management.

AWS will not be well received in your enterprise if you cannot afford it or if it does not provide the expected cost savings. This module helps you achieve the cost controls you want with AWS by sharing tools and best practices for costs and billing.

FOUNDATION TOPICS

COST CALCULATORS

When you are dealing with costs, it is great to have calculators and other tools that can assist you in estimating and planning. Fortunately, Amazon realized your needs here and provides several.

AWS Pricing Calculator

AWS helps you reduce the total cost of ownership (TCO) by reducing the need to invest in large capital expenditures (CapEx). AWS also offers a pay-as-you-go model that empowers you to invest in the capacity you need and use it only when the business requires it.

Amazon provides Pricing Calculators that allow you to estimate the cost of using AWS. These calculators also offer detailed reports that can be used in executive presentations.

Finally, the calculators also allow you to modify assumptions that best meet your business needs.

Using the AWS calculators, you can do the following:

- Use the calculators to compare the cost of your applications in an on-premises or traditional hosting environment to AWS.
- Describe your on-premises or hosting environment configuration to produce a detailed cost comparison with AWS.
- Get an instant summary report showing the 3-year TCO comparison by cost categories.
- Download a full report, including detailed cost breakdowns, methodology, assumptions, and FAQs; you can also store the report in AWS for easy sharing with others.

AWS Simple Monthly Calculator (Discontinued)

In September 2023, some months after it was discontinued, the SMC still appeared in test questions, so I have left this section in place.

Before creating the Pricing calculators, AWS provided us with the Simple Monthly Calculator. While many no longer use it, as they consider it replaced by the new tools, it still functions and is very valuable.

The AWS Simple Monthly Calculator is a JavaScript-based tool that allows you to calculate your monthly cost using Amazon S3, Amazon EC2, and Amazon SQS. This tool incorporates the latest pricing changes, including the tiered pricing model for download bandwidth. You can use this tool to estimate your monthly bill, determine your best—and worst-case scenarios, identify areas of development to reduce your monthly costs, and even compare them with other service providers who do not offer pay-as-you-go billing.

AWS BILLING AND COST MANAGEMENT

AWS Billing and Cost Management is the service you use to pay your AWS bill, monitor your usage, and budget your costs. AWS automatically charges the credit card you provided when you signed up for a new account with AWS. Charges appear on your credit card bill monthly.

The Payment Methods page in the Billing and Cost Management console allows you to view or update credit card information and designate a different credit card for AWS to charge.

The Billing and Cost Management service provides features for estimating and planning your AWS costs, receiving alerts if your costs exceed a threshold you set, assessing your biggest investments in AWS resources, and simplifying your accounting if you work with multiple AWS accounts.

Here are the main features and capabilities of AWS Billing and Cost Management you should be aware of:

- **Analysing costs with graphs:** The AWS Billing and Cost Management console includes the Cost Explorer tool for viewing your AWS cost data as a graph. You should note that this valuable tool is provided for you free of charge. With Cost Explorer, you can filter graphs by values such as API operation, Availability Zone, AWS service, custom cost allocation tag, Amazon EC2 instance type, purchase option, region, usage type, usage type group, and more. If you use consolidated billing, you can also filter by member account. In addition, you can see a forecast of future costs based on your historical cost data.

- **Budgets:** You can use budgets to track your AWS usage and costs. Budgets use the cost visualisation provided by Cost Explorer to show you the status of your budgets, to provide forecasts of your estimated costs. You can also use budgets to track your AWS usage, including your Free Tier usage. Finally, you can also use budgets to create Amazon SNS notifications that alert you when you go over your budgeted amounts, or when your estimated costs exceed your budgets.
- **Payment currencies:** You can view your estimated bills and pay your AWS invoices in your preferred currency by setting a payment currency. AWS converts your bill to your preferred currency after it is finalised. Until then, all of the preferred currency amounts shown in the console are estimated in USD. AWS guarantees your exchange rate, so refunds are issued at the same exchange rate as your original transaction.
- **AWS Cost and Usage reports:** You can choose to have AWS publish billing reports to an Amazon S3 bucket that you own. You can receive reports that break down your costs by the hour or month, by product or product resource, or by tags you define yourself. AWS updates the report in your bucket once a day in comma-separated value (CSV) format. You can view the reports using spreadsheet software such as Microsoft Excel or access them from an application using the Amazon S3 API.

EXAM PREPARATION TASKS

REVIEW ALL KEY TOPICS

DEFINE KEY TERMS

Define the following key terms from this module and check your answers in the Glossary:

Pricing calculators

Simple Monthly Calculator

Billing and Cost Management

Q&A

- 1.** What popular calculator for AWS pre-dated the Pricing calculators?
- 2.** Name at least two main AWS Billing and Cost Management features.