**AWS S3 Requester Pays – Explained for Beginners**

In **AWS S3**, normally the **bucket owner** pays for storage and data transfer costs. But with **Requester Pays**, the **person accessing (downloading) the files** pays for the costs instead of the bucket owner.

**🔹 Why Use Requester Pays?**

✅ **Reduces Costs for Bucket Owner** – You don’t have to pay when others download your files.  
✅ **Useful for Public Data Sharing** – If you share large datasets, let users pay for their own access.  
✅ **Encourages Fair Usage** – Only serious users will download, reducing unnecessary access.

**🔹 How Does Requester Pays Work?**

1️⃣ **Bucket Owner Enables "Requester Pays"** – This setting is turned ON in S3.  
2️⃣ **Users Who Download Files Pay the Costs** – The person downloading needs to have an **AWS account**.  
3️⃣ **Costs Include:**

* **Data Transfer Fees** (when downloading files)
* **Request Fees** (GET, LIST, etc.)  
  4️⃣ **AWS Bills the Requester, Not the Owner**

**🔹 How to Enable Requester Pays in S3?**

1️⃣ **Go to AWS S3 Console**  
2️⃣ **Select your bucket**  
3️⃣ **Go to "Properties"**  
4️⃣ Scroll to **Requester Pays**  
5️⃣ **Enable the setting** and **Save changes**

✅ Now, **anyone downloading files will be charged instead of you**.

**🔹 How a Requester Downloads from a "Requester Pays" Bucket?**

📌 If a user wants to **download from a Requester Pays bucket**, they must **explicitly agree to pay**.

Using **AWS CLI**, they can download like this:

aws s3 cp s3://example-bucket/file.txt . --request-payer requester

🔹 The --request-payer requester flag tells AWS that **they accept the costs**.

**🔹 Things to Keep in Mind**

✅ **Users Need an AWS Account** – Only AWS users can pay for requests.  
✅ **Not for Completely Public Data** – If you want **free public access**, don’t enable Requester Pays.  
✅ **Storage Costs Still Paid by Owner** – The bucket owner still pays for storing the files.

**🔹 Final Thoughts**

AWS **S3 Requester Pays** is useful for **data-sharing scenarios**, especially for **large datasets** where the owner doesn’t want to pay for everyone’s downloads. It shifts the cost to the **users who access the data**, ensuring **fair usage and cost control**. 🚀