

## Cost control in the Labs

Free Tier is defined by AWS, and applied as a discount to your monthly bill. It is not a special lab environment. Though the Labs you will be advised which services and sizes to use to minimize cost and stay within the discount. If you follow this advice, and be aware of what you are doing and why, the costs will be nil or trivial. In addition AWS take some steps to prevent excessive number (hundreds) of resources being used unintentionally.

However, remember that it is your responsibility to manage the resources. Fortunately this is not hard.

Free Tier has certain limitations that you need to be aware of:

- The age of your account : Some aspects of free tier are only valid for 12 months
- The type of resource that qualify : Only certain types qualify (e.g. t2-micros )
- The amount of resource used : A fixed amount of each resource is allocated per month.

To keep tabs on costs you can:

Use Tag Editor to check what resources you have in each region:

<http://docs.aws.amazon.com/awsconsolehelpdocs/latest/gsg/tag-editor.html>

Set up the Billing alarms as Ryan demonstrates in the Billing Alarm lab in the SA associate lecture: <https://acloud.guru/course/aws-certified-solutions-architect-associate/learn/iam/e2984b70-613a-6801-3d80-6b4d4d86cd73/watch>

or,

In the AWS documentation:

<http://docs.aws.amazon.com/awsaccountbilling/latest/aboutv2/free-tier-alarms.html>

Here are some tips you might consider:

- Read and understand the Free Tier requirements.
- Check that your account is less than 12 months old. If it is old, shut it down and open a new account with a new email address
- Only use instance sizes recommended in the labs unless you make a conscious decision to experiment and accept the cost.
- Clean up after yourself. There is very little that you cannot recreate as needed (except the Default VPC). In addition the process of recreating resources is good practice.
- Check your billing in the console, and set up billing alerts if you want. (See above on how to do this)
- Use Tag Editor to track down orphaned resources and either tag them or delete them.