

Scalable File Service

Billing

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Contents

1 Billing Overview.....

2 Billing Modes.....

2.1 Overview.....

2.2 Pay-per-Use Billing.....

3 Billed Items.....

4 Billing Examples.....

5 Bills.....

6 Arrears.....

7 Billing Termination.....

8 Cost Management.....

9 Billing FAQ.....

9.1 How Do I Purchase SFS?.....

9.2 How Do I Renew SFS?.....

9.3 How Do I Check If My Account Is in Arrears?.....

1

2

2

2

5

6

7

9

11

13

18

18

18

19

1 Billing Overview

In this document, you will learn about how SFS resources are billed, how you can renew subscriptions and manage costs, and what happens if your account goes into arrears. For details, see [Product Pricing Details](#).

- **Billing Modes**

SFS supports pay-per-use billing.

Pay-per-use billing: You can start using SFS file systems first and then pay as you go.

For more information, see [Overview](#).

- **Billed Items**

To learn more about the billing factor and billing formula, see [Billed Items](#).

For details about the billing examples and how prices are calculated, see [Billing Examples](#).

- **Viewing Bills**

You can choose **Billing > Bills** to check the SFS transactions and bills. For details, see [Bills](#).

- **Arrears**

If there is not a sufficient account balance to pay for your bill and there is no other payment method configured, your account will go into arrears. If you want to continue using your SFS file systems, you will need to top up your account in a timely manner. For details, see [Arrears](#).

- **Stopping Billing**

If you no longer need to use your SFS file systems, you can delete them to stop the billing. For details, see [Billing Termination](#).

- **Managing Costs**

You can allocate, analyze, and optimize costs to save more money. For details, see [Cost Management](#).

2 Billing Modes

2.1 Overview

SFS supports pay-per-use billing.

Pay-per-use is a postpaid billing mode. You pay as you go and just pay for what you use. You can adjust resources easily. You do not need to prepare resources, and will not have excessive or insufficient resources.

[Table 2-1](#) lists the details of pay-per-use billing.

Table 2-1 Billing mode

Billing Mode	Pay-per-Use
Payment	Postpaid Billed based on how long the general-purpose file system is used
Billing Method	Billed by the hour
Billed Items	Standard storage
Application Scenarios	Recommended when the resource demands are likely to fluctuate and you want more flexibility.

2.2 Pay-per-Use Billing

Pay-per-use billing means you pay nothing up front and are not tied into any contract or commitment. This section describes the billing rules for pay-per-use SFS file systems.

Application Scenarios

Pay-per-use billing is good for short-term, bursty, or unpredictable workloads that cannot tolerate any interruptions, such as applications for e-commerce flash sales, temporary testing, and scientific computing.

Billed Items

Pay-per-use billing is selected by default. You can create a general-purpose file system for free and pay only for the used storage based on how long you use the file system. You will be billed by the hour, and there is no minimum cost. Any usage period of less than an hour is billed as a full hour.

Table 2-2 General-Purpose File System billing model

Billed Item	Billing Factor	Billing Description
Standard storage	Storage space	Billed based on the used capacity and usage period of the general-purpose file system

Billed Usage Period

The minimum billed usage period of a file system is an hour regardless of when you create it. For example, if you created a pay-per-use general-purpose file system at sometime between 18:00:00 to 19:00:00, the usage period of an hour would be billed (18:00:00 to 19:00:00).

Billing Formula

Storage price = Unit price per GB × Storage space used × Usage period

NOTE

To obtain the unit price per GB, see the pay-per-use prices on the [SFS Pricing Details](#) page.

Billing Examples

Assume that you used 100 GB standard storage of a general-purpose file system on January 1, 2026. In the region that charges \$0.09 USD/GB-month, you would be billed \$0.3 USD on that day (\$0.09 USD per GB per month/30 × 100 GB × 1 day).

NOTICE

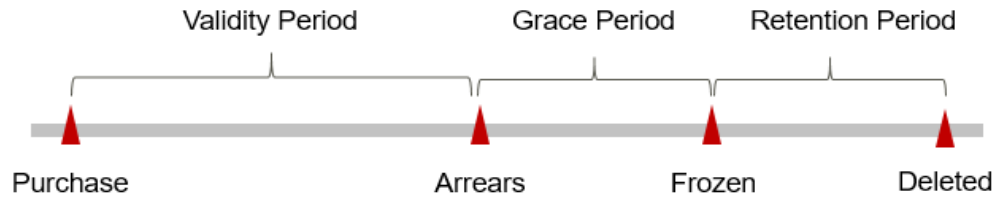
The preceding price is just an example. See the actual price on the [SFS Pricing Details](#) page.

Impact of Arrears

Figure 2-1 shows the statuses a pay-per-use SFS file system can have throughout its lifecycle. After an SFS file system is created, it enters the valid period and works

normally during this period. If your account goes into arrears, the file system enters a grace period and then a retention period.

Figure 2-1 Lifecycle of a pay-per-use SFS file system



Arrears Reminder

The system will bill you for pay-per-use resources after each billing cycle ends. If your Huawei account goes into arrears, we will notify you by email, SMS, or in-app message.

Arrears Impact

SFS will deduct charges for resources based on the billing cycle of each billed item. If the usage of your **expenditure quota** reaches or exceeds 100% and you do not make payments in a timely manner, a grace period starts.

If you do not bring your account balance current before the grace period expires, the file systems turn to **Frozen** and enter a retention period. You cannot perform any operations on pay-per-use file systems in the **Frozen** status.

If you do not bring your account balance current before the retention period ends, the general-purpose file systems will be released and data cannot be restored.

NOTE

- For details about the grace period and retention period, see [What Is a Grace Period of Huawei Cloud? How Long Is It?](#) and [What Is a Retention Period of Huawei Cloud? How Long Is It?](#)
- For details about how to add a credit card for automatic payment, see [Adding a Payment Method](#).
- For details about how to make a payment, see [Making Payments \(Postpaid Direct Customers\)](#).

3 Billed Items

Table 3-1 describes the billed items of SFS.

Table 3-1 General-Purpose File System billing model

Category	Billed Item	Billing Factor	Description	Billing Formula	Billing Mode
Storage	Standard storage	Storage space	Billed based on the used capacity and usage period of the general-purpose file system	Storage price = Unit price per GB × Used capacity × Usage period	Pay-per-use

4 Billing Examples

Billing Scenario

A user created a general-purpose file system in the EU-Dublin region at 15:00:00 on January 1, 2026. The file system specifications are as follows:

- Type: standard storage

The used capacity remained 100 GB from 15:00:00 on January 1, 2026 to 23:59:59 on January 10, 2026. So how much will the user be billed for this general-purpose file system in during this period?

Billing Analysis

From January 1, 2026, 15:00:00 to January 10, 2026, 23:59:59, the file system used 100 GB for 9.375 days, so the price would be calculated as follows:

$\$0.09 \text{ USD per GB per month} / 30 \times 100 \text{ GB} \times 9.375 \text{ days} \approx \2.81 USD

5 Bills

You can view the resource usage and bills for different billing cycles on the **Bills** page in the Billing Center.

Bill Generation

Pay-per-use resources are billed by the hour, day, or month, depending on their usage types. The general-purpose file system usage is billed by the hour. For details, see [Bill Run for Pay-per-Use Resources](#).

You are not charged immediately after a record is generated. For example, if a pay-per-use general-purpose file system (which is billed on an hourly basis) is deleted at 08:30, you will still have expenditures for the hour between 08:00 to 09:00. However, you will not likely be billed for the hour between 08:00 to 09:00 until about 10:00. After choosing **Billing > Bills > Expenditure Items** in the left navigation pane, **Expenditure Time** on the displayed page indicates the time when the pay-per-use resource is used.

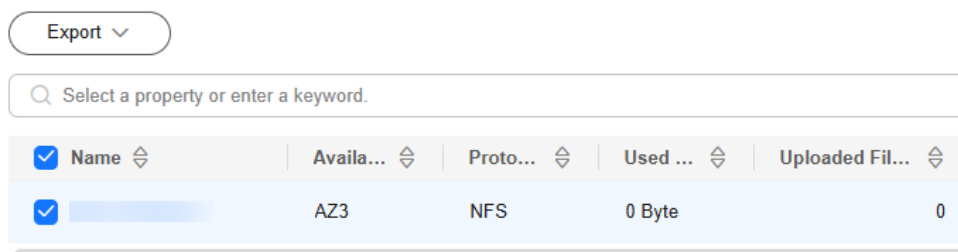
Viewing Bills of a Specific Resource

Use the SFS file system ID to search for a bill.

Step 1 [Log in to the SFS console](#).

Step 2 In the file system list, click the icon next to the name of a general-purpose file system to copy the name.

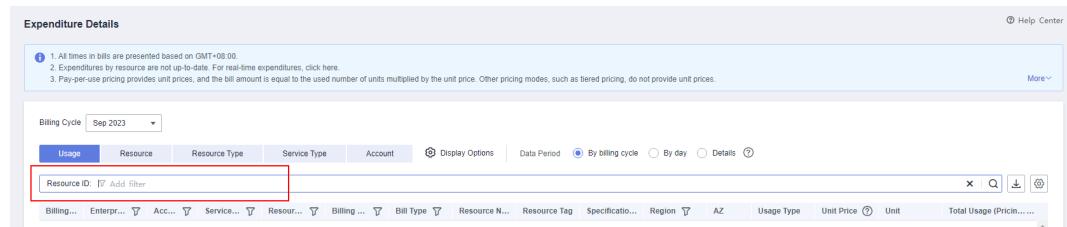
Figure 5-1 Obtaining the general-purpose file system name



Step 3 [Access the Expenditure Details page](#).

Step 4 Select **Resource ID** as the filter criterion, enter the general-purpose file system name copied in [Step 2](#), and click the  icon.

Figure 5-2 Searching for a bill



By default, the bill details are displayed by usage and billing cycle. You can choose other display options as required. For details, see [Bills](#).

----End

6 Arrears

If bills are not paid when the usage of your expenditure quota reaches or exceeds 100%, your account goes into arrears. Pay your bills in a timely manner to ensure your resources can run normally.

Arrears Reason

If the usage of your **expenditure quota** reaches or exceeds 100% and you do not make payments in a timely manner, a grace period starts.

Arrears Impact

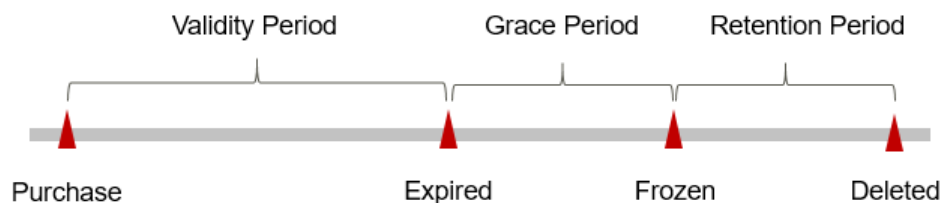
- Pay-per-use

If you do not bring your account balance current when your expenditure quota usage reaches or exceeds 100%, your account goes into arrears and your SFS resources enter a grace period.

If you do not bring your account balance current before the grace period expires, the file systems turn to **Frozen** and enter a retention period. You cannot perform any operations on file systems in the **Frozen** status.

If you do not bring your account balance current during the retention period, your SFS resources will be deleted, and data cannot be restored.

Figure 6-1 Lifecycle of a pay-per-use SFS file system



NOTE

For details about the grace period and retention period, see [What Is a Grace Period of Huawei Cloud? How Long Is It?](#) and [What Is a Retention Period of Huawei Cloud? How Long Is It?](#)

Avoiding and Handling Arrears

Make sure you have a valid payment method configured after your account is in arrears. For details, see [Making Payments \(Postpaid Direct Customers\)](#).

If data in your SFS file systems is no longer required, you can delete the data to avoid unexpected expenditures.

If your account is in arrears, your cloud service resources will enter a grace period and probably a retention period. For more information, see [Resource Suspension and Release](#). View the outstanding amount of your account in the [Billing Center](#) and pay the outstanding amount by referring to [Making Payments \(Postpaid Direct Customers\)](#).

7 Billing Termination

You can find a single general-purpose file system that is no longer needed from a bill in the Billing Center and then delete the file system on SFS console to terminate its billing.

Pay-per-Use Resources

If you no longer need pay-per-use resources, delete them in a timely manner.

Searching for Resources from Bills and Stopping Billing

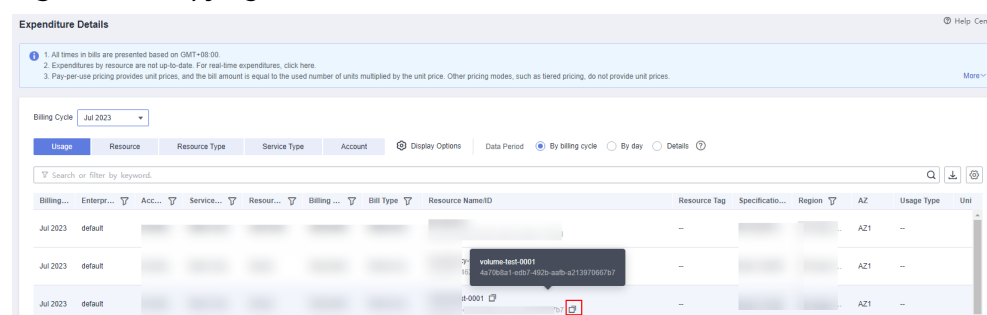
To ensure that all related resources are deleted, you can search the billing records by resource name, and then delete the resources you identify in this way.

Use the resource ID in the bill to search for the resource.

Step 1 [Access the Expenditure Details page.](#)

Step 2 On the page shown below, copy the general-purpose file system name.

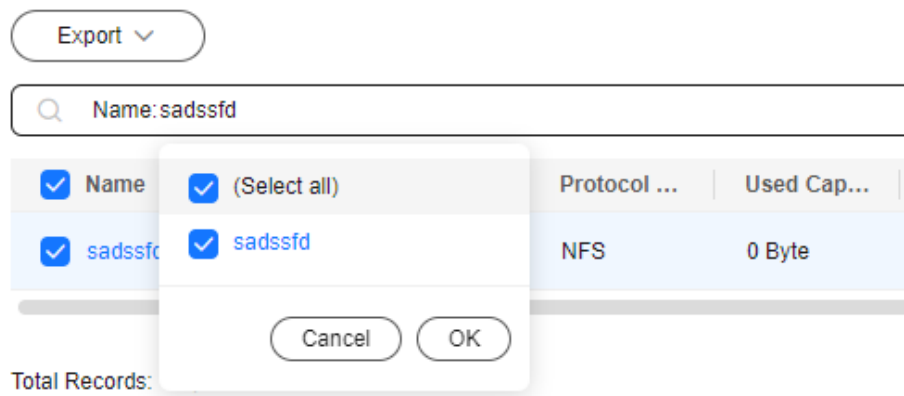
Figure 7-1 Copying the resource ID



Step 3 [Log in to the SFS console.](#)

Step 4 Switch to the region where the resource is located, select the **Name** filter criteria, enter the file system name copied in [Step 2](#), and click **OK**.

Figure 7-2 Searching for the resource



Step 5 Click **Delete** in the **Operation** column to delete the general-purpose file system. Then, check that the file system no longer appears in the list.

NOTE

You are billed one hour after the resource usage is calculated, so a bill may still be generated after the pay-per-use resource is deleted. For example, if you delete a file system (which is billed on an hourly basis) at 08:30, the expenditures for the hour from 08:00 to 09:00 are usually not billed until about 10:00.

----End

8 Cost Management

As you migrate more of your services to the cloud, managing cloud costs becomes more important. For example, you may be more concerned with cost management when using SFS. The following describes how to manage costs in terms of cost composition, allocation, analysis, and optimization. Optimizing costs can help you maximize return on investment.

Cost Composition

SFS costs consist of two parts:

- Resource costs: cost of resources, depending on the billed items of SFS. For details, see [Billed Items](#).
- O&M costs: labor costs incurred during the use of SFS.

Huawei Cloud [Cost Center](#) helps you manage resource costs with ease. However, you need to identify, manage, and optimize O&M costs by yourself.

Cost Allocation

A good cost accountability system is a prerequisite for cost management. It ensures that departments, business teams, and owners are accountable for their respective cloud costs. An enterprise can allocate cloud costs to different teams or projects so as to have a clear picture of their respective costs.

Huawei Cloud [Cost Center](#) provides various tools for you to group costs in different ways. You can experiment with these tools and find a way that works best for you.

- **By linked account**
The enterprise master account can manage costs by grouping the costs of its member accounts by linked account. For details, see [Viewing Costs by Linked Account](#).
- **By enterprise project**
Before allocating costs, enable Enterprise Project Management Service (EPS) and plan your enterprise projects based on your organizational structure or service needs. When purchasing cloud resources, select an enterprise project so that the costs of the resources will be allocated to the selected enterprise project. For details, see [Viewing Costs by Enterprise Project](#).

Figure 8-1 Selecting an enterprise project for a general-purpose file system

- **By cost category**

You can use cost categories provided by **Cost Center** to split shared costs. Shared costs are the costs of resources (compute, network, storage) shared across multiple departments or the costs that cannot be directly split by cost tag or enterprise project. These costs are not directly attributable to a singular owner, and they cannot be categorized into a singular cost type. In this case, you can define cost splitting rules to fairly allocate these costs among teams or business units. For details, see [Viewing Cost By Cost Category](#).

Cost Analysis

To precisely control and optimize your costs, you need a clear understanding of what parts of your enterprise incurred different costs. **Cost Center** visualizes your original costs and amortized costs using various dimensions and display filters for cost analysis so that you can analyze the trends and drivers of your service usage and costs from a variety of perspectives or within different defined scopes.

You can also use cost anomaly detection provided by **Cost Center** to detect unexpected expenses in a timely manner. In this way, costs can be monitored, analyzed, and traced.

For details, see [Performing Cost Analysis to Explore Costs and Usage](#) and [Enabling Cost Anomaly Detection to Identify Anomalies](#).

Cost Optimization

- **Cost control**

You can create different types of budgets on the **Budgets** page of Cost Center to track your costs against the budgeted amount you specified. If the budget thresholds you defined are reached, Cost Center will send alerts to the recipients you configured. You can also create budget reports and specify recipients to receive budget alerts if any at a frequency you configured.

Suppose you want to create a monthly budget of \$2,000 USD for pay-per-use general-purpose file systems and expect to receive an alert if the forecasted amount exceeds 80% of the budgeted amount. You can refer to the following budget information.

Figure 8-2 Basic budget information

Specify Budget Name

Pay-per-use SFS budget-2000

Configure Budget Details

Reset Period 

☐ Daily ☒ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Yearly

Budget evaluation begins at 00:00 GMT+08:00 on the 1st day of the start month and will be reset to zero at 00:00 GMT+08:00 on the 1st day of each month moving forward

Budget Duration 

☒ Recurring ☐ Expiring

Start Time 

2025/11 

Allocation

☒ Fixed ☐ Monthly ☐ Dynamic

Budgeted Amount

2000

Last month's cost: 5,847.34

Figure 8-3 Defining the budget scope

Define Budget Scope

Modify

Alerts are unavailable for the current month cost of monthly-settlement cloud services, such as CDN billed by 95th percentile bandwidth.

Enterprise Project

All

Service Type

Clear Include 1

Scalable File Service (SFS) X

Linked Account

All

Usage Type ?

All

Billing Mode

Clear Include 1

Pay-per-Use X

PayerAccount Name

All

Business Entity

All

Show more

Figure 8-4 Setting a budget alert

(Optional) Alert Thresholds

Thresholds

Actual > 80 (%) of budgeted amount Alerts are sent when the actual cost is 80% (¥1,600.00) higher than the budgeted amount.

+ Add threshold

Recipients(0/10)

+ Select From Contacts

For details, see [Enabling Forecasting and Creating Budgets to Track Costs and Usage](#).

- Resource rightsizing**
You can also identify resources with high costs based on the analyses on the [Cost Analysis](#) page and use Cloud Eye to monitor resource usage. By doing

this, you can determine the causes of high costs and take optimization measures accordingly. You can:

- Monitor resource usage and evaluate whether the current configuration is more than you need.
- Identify idle resources.

- **Billing mode selection**

Different types of services have different requirements on resource usage periods, so the most economical billing mode for one resource may not be the best option for another resource.

For short-term, unpredictable services that experience traffic bursts and cannot afford to be interrupted, select the pay-per-use billing.

9 Billing FAQ

9.1 How Do I Purchase SFS?

SFS uses pay-per-use billing by default. You are billed by the storage space used and the duration of use. Pay your outstanding amount in a timely manner to prevent your general-purpose file system from being deleted.

Buying a Pay-per-Use File System

Step 1 Sign up for an account.

1. Visit the [Huawei Cloud website](#).
2. In the upper right corner of the page, click **Sign Up**.
3. Complete the registration as instructed.

Step 2 Add a credit card.

For details about how to add a payment method, see [Adding a Payment Method](#).
For details about how to pay, see [Payment](#).

Step 3 Use SFS.

1. [Log in to the SFS console](#).
2. Click **Create File System** to create a file system and then use it.

----End

9.2 How Do I Renew SFS?

Your account may be frozen or your order may be canceled if outstanding bills are not paid on time.

Procedure

Step 1 [Access the Renewals page](#).

Step 2 Find the desired resource and click **Renew** in the **Operation** column.

Step 3 Pay for the order as prompted.

 NOTE

- After the payment, the system automatically pays the arrears.
- For more information about renewal, including auto-renewal, exporting the renewal list, and changing subscriptions, see [Renewal Management](#).
- For more information about orders, coupons, and expenditure details, see the [Payment](#).

----End

9.3 How Do I Check If My Account Is in Arrears?

You can go to Billing Center and view arrears. If your account is in arrears, the system processes resources and charges in SFS according to rules specified in [Resource Suspension and Release](#). To prevent service suspension and resource release, repay the arrears in time.

Procedure

Step 1 [Log in to Billing Center](#).

Step 2 On the **Overview** page, view the outstanding amount of the current account.

Step 3 Top up your account to pay the arrears if any.

----End

 NOTE

- For details about how to add a credit card for automatic payment, see [Adding a Payment Method](#).
- For details about how to make a payment, see [Making Payments \(Postpaid Direct Customers\)](#).
- For more information about orders, coupons, and expenditure details, see the [Payment](#).