

User Guide

# AWS Flat-Rate Plans



# AWS Flat-Rate Plans: User Guide

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# Table of Contents

<b>Overview of AWS Flat-Rate Pricing Plans .....</b>	<b>1</b>
What are AWS Flat-Rate Pricing Plans? .....	1
Key Benefits .....	1
How Flat-Rate Plans Work .....	1
When You're Billed .....	1
<b>Available Plans .....</b>	<b>2</b>
CloudFront Flat-Rate Plans .....	2
Plan Tiers .....	2
Usage Monitoring .....	2
Account Requirements .....	2
Service Code .....	2
<b>Plan Management .....</b>	<b>3</b>
New Plan Activation .....	3
Upgrading Plans .....	3
Downgrading Plans .....	4
Cancelling Plans .....	4
<b>Understanding Your Bill .....</b>	<b>5</b>
AWS Invoice .....	5
Bills Page .....	5
Key Display Elements .....	5
Pro-Ration Calculations .....	6
Mid-Cycle Upgrades .....	6
Mid-Cycle Downgrades .....	6
<b>Monitoring and Managing Costs .....</b>	<b>7</b>
AWS Cost Explorer .....	7
Available Filtering Options .....	7
Cost Allocation Tags .....	7
Tag Applicability .....	7
Tagging Strategy .....	7
Activation Steps .....	8
AWS Cost and Usage Reports (CUR) .....	8
Configuration .....	8
Example Queries .....	8
<b>Logging AWS Flat-Rate Plans Activity Using AWS CloudTrail .....</b>	<b>11</b>

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Example CloudTrail Event for CreateSubscription .....	11
<b>Managing Access to AWS Flat-Rate Plans .....</b>	<b>14</b>
Available Actions .....	14
<b>Frequently Asked Questions .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Support and Resources .....</b>	<b>16</b>
Getting Help .....	16
Related Documentation .....	16

# Overview of AWS Flat-Rate Pricing Plans

## What are AWS Flat-Rate Pricing Plans?

Flat-rate plans provide simplified billing for integrated AWS service packages. Instead of separate charges for individual services, you pay one monthly rate that includes predefined usage allowances.

## Key Benefits

- **Simplified billing** - Single line item for multiple services
- **Clear usage allowances** - Published usage allowances designed for optimal performance at each tier. Monitor your usage and receive proactive notifications.
- **Integrated services** - Pre-configured services that work together seamlessly

## How Flat-Rate Plans Work

- Pay one flat rate per plan per month
- Usage allowances reset monthly (no rollover)
- Automatic renewal each billing cycle
- Email notifications at usage thresholds

## When You're Billed

- **New plans:** Immediate charge for current period
- **Upgrades:** Immediate effect with pro-rated charges
- **Downgrades:** Effective at next billing cycle
- **Cancellations:** Effective at next billing cycle
- **Billing cycles:** All end at month-end

# Available Plans

## CloudFront Flat-Rate Plans

CloudFront Flat-Rate Plans combine global content delivery with AWS WAF, DDoS protection, Amazon Route 53 DNS, Amazon CloudWatch Logs ingestion, Amazon S3 storage credits, and serverless edge compute into a simple monthly price with no overage charges. Each plan includes predefined usage allowances for these integrated services.

### Plan Tiers

- Free (\$0/month) - 1M requests, 100GB transfer
- Pro (\$15/month) - 10M requests, 50TB transfer
- Business (\$200/month) - 125M requests, 50TB transfer
- Premium (\$1,000/month) - 500M requests, 50TB transfer

### Usage Monitoring

You can monitor your CloudFront flat-rate plan usage through the CloudFront console. The console displays your usage percentage tracking against monthly allowances and days remaining in the current billing cycle. Email notifications are sent when you reach 50%, 80%, and 100% of your monthly allowance.

### Account Requirements

Free Tier accounts cannot use CloudFront Flat-Rate Plans.

### Service Code

CloudFrontPlans

For technical details and feature specifications, see the [CloudFront documentation](#).

# Plan Management

## New Plan Activation

When you activate a new flat-rate plan:

- Plan activates immediately
- Pro-rated charge for remaining days in current billing cycle appears on your account and is reflected in your next invoice
- Full monthly charge begins with next billing cycle

### Pro-Ration Example

If you activate a \$15/month Pro plan on the 16th day of a 30-day month, you'll see a \$7.50 charge on your account. This represents the 15 remaining days in the current billing cycle ( $\$15 \div 30 \text{ days} \times 15 \text{ days} = \$7.50$ ). Starting with your next billing cycle, you'll be charged the full \$15/month.

## Upgrading Plans

When you upgrade to a higher plan tier:

- Upgrade takes effect immediately
- Your charge and usage allowances are prorated
- Pro-rated charge for tier difference for remaining days in current cycle appears on your account and is reflected in your next invoice
- Usage allowance increases immediately to new tier limits
- Next billing cycle charges at new tier's full monthly rate

### Pro-Ration Example

If you upgrade from a \$15/month Pro plan to a \$200/month Business plan on the 16th day of a 30-day month, you'll see a \$92.50 charge on your account. This represents the tier difference for the 15 remaining days in the current billing cycle ( $(\$200 - \$15) \div 30 \text{ days} \times 15 \text{ days} = \$92.50$ ). Starting with your next billing cycle, you'll be charged the full \$200/month Business plan rate.

## Downgrading Plans

When you downgrade to a lower plan tier:

- Downgrade takes effect at next billing cycle (not immediate)
- No mid-cycle pro-ration credits provided
- Continue paying current tier price through end of billing period
- Next billing cycle charges at lower tier rate
- Must ensure current usage fits within target tier allowances to avoid service disruption

## Cancelling Plans

When you cancel a flat-rate plan:

- Cancellation takes effect at end of current billing period (not immediate)
- No refunds provided for remaining days in current period
- You retain access to flat-rate plan benefits through cancellation date
- After cancellation date, all usage billed at standard pay-as-you-go rates

# Understanding Your Bill

## AWS Invoice

Flat-rate plans appear as consolidated line items on your AWS invoice, grouped by service package and a consolidated charge line item for all plan tiers.

### Example Invoice

```
Service: CloudFront Flat-Rate Plans
Active plans: 2x Free, 1x Pro, 3x Business, and 1x Premium

Free plan (2 count)           $0.00 {not on invoice}
Pro plan (1 count)           $15.00 {not on invoice}
Business plan (3 count)      $600.00 {not on invoice}
Premium plan (1 count)       $1,000.00 {not on invoice}
CloudFront Flat-Rate Plans    $1,615.00 {single line item on invoice}
```

## Bills Page

Flat-rate plans appear on the Bills page with a hierarchical structure.

### Example Bills Page Display

```
CloudFront Flat-Rate Plans           USD 1015.00
### Any                               USD 1015.00
  ### CloudFront Flat-Rate Plans CloudFrontPlan USD 1015.00
    ### $15.00 per Pro plan           1.000 Count    USD 15.00
    ### $1000.00 per Premium plan      1.000 Count    USD 1000.00
```

## Key Display Elements

- Service Name: CloudFront Flat-Rate Plans
- Usage Quantity: Shows billing period fraction (e.g., "1.000 Count" for full month, "0.554 Count" for mid-cycle activation)
- Amount: Pro-rated charges based on billing period
- No Usage Metrics: Only charge information is displayed, not requests or data transfer

- **Plan Aggregation:** Multiple plans of the same tier are aggregated into a single line
- **Mid-Cycle Charges:** For pro-rated or partial month charges, the count reflects the portion of the month the plan was active. For example, two Premium plans activated on the 20th and 24th of a 30-day month would show counts of 0.367 and 0.233 respectively, totaling 0.600 Count.

## Pro-Ration Calculations

### Mid-Cycle Upgrades

Daily rate = Monthly cost ÷ Days in month  
Pro-rated charge = Daily rate × Days remaining

Example (July 15 upgrade, 31-day month):  
Pro tier: \$15/month ÷ 31 days = \$0.48/day  
Business tier: \$200/month ÷ 31 days = \$6.45/day  
Days remaining: 17 days

Calculation:  
- Pro tier (full month): \$15.00  
- Business tier (17 days): \$109.65  
- Adjustment for tier difference (17 days): -\$8.16  
Net charge for the month: \$116.49

### Mid-Cycle Downgrades

Downgrades take effect at the next billing cycle with no mid-cycle pro-ration.

# Monitoring and Managing Costs

## AWS Cost Explorer

Flat-rate plans appear in Cost Explorer as charge line items.

### Example Cost Explorer Display

Service	Service total	November 2025
CloudFront Flat-Rate Plans	\$15.00	\$15.00

## Available Filtering Options

- Group by Dimension: Service, Linked Account, Region, Usage Type
- Service Filter: Select "CloudFront Flat-Rate Plans" from "Choose services" dropdown
- Linked Account Filter: Filter by specific AWS accounts
- Region Filter: Filter by AWS regions
- Date Range: Customizable with Monthly/Daily granularity
- Export: Download as CSV for analysis

## Cost Allocation Tags

### Tag Applicability

For flat-rate plans, only tags applied to the primary billable resource will appear in billing reports. Tags on associated resources that are included in the flat-rate plan do not generate separate charges and therefore do not appear in flat-rate plan billing reports.

### Tagging Strategy

```
Cost Center: CC-12345
Department: Marketing
Project: Website-Redesign
Environment: Production
Application: CustomerPortal
```

Owner: jane.doe@example.com

## Activation Steps

1. Apply tags to resources with flat-rate plans
2. Activate cost allocation tags in Billing and Cost Management console
3. Wait 24 hours for tags to appear in Cost Explorer
4. Create filtered views by tag values

## AWS Cost and Usage Reports (CUR)

### Note

Flat-rate plans appear in CUR as charge line items only. No usage metrics (requests, data transfer, etc.) are available in CUR for flat-rate plans.

## Configuration

1. Enable CUR in Billing and Cost Management console
2. Configure S3 bucket for report delivery
3. Include resource IDs and tags
4. Set daily granularity
5. Enable report versioning

## Example Queries

### Monthly flat-rate charges (example: CloudFront)

```
SELECT
  DATE_TRUNC('month', line_item_usage_start_date) AS month,
  line_item_usage_account_id,
  line_item_usage_account_name,
  SUM(line_item_unblended_cost) AS total_cost
FROM cur_table
WHERE line_item_product_code = 'CloudFrontPlans'
```

```
GROUP BY month, line_item_usage_account_id, line_item_usage_account_name
ORDER BY month, total_cost DESC;
```

## Charges by plan tier

```
SELECT
  line_item_usage_type AS plan_tier,
  line_item_line_item_description AS plan_description,
  COUNT(DISTINCT line_item_resource_id) AS plan_count,
  SUM(line_item_usage_amount) AS total_usage_count,
  SUM(line_item_unblended_cost) AS total_cost
FROM cur_table
WHERE line_item_product_code = '<service_code>'
GROUP BY plan_tier, plan_description
ORDER BY total_cost DESC;
```

## Resource-level charges

```
SELECT
  line_item_resource_id,
  line_item_usage_type AS plan_tier,
  line_item_line_item_description AS plan_description,
  SUM(line_item_usage_amount) AS usage_count,
  SUM(line_item_unblended_cost) AS total_cost
FROM cur_table
WHERE line_item_product_code = '<service_code>'
GROUP BY line_item_resource_id, plan_tier, plan_description
ORDER BY total_cost DESC;
```

## Department-level charges (requires cost allocation tags)

```
SELECT
  resource_tags_user_department AS department,
  line_item_usage_type AS plan_tier,
  COUNT(DISTINCT line_item_resource_id) AS resource_count,
  SUM(line_item_unblended_cost) AS total_cost
FROM cur_table
WHERE line_item_product_code = '<service_code>'
  AND resource_tags_user_department IS NOT NULL
GROUP BY department, plan_tier
ORDER BY department, total_cost DESC;
```

**Note**

Replace `<service_code>` with the appropriate service code for your flat-rate plan (e.g., `CloudFrontPlans` for CloudFront). The `line_item_resource_id` represents the primary billable resource. Tags applied to this resource will appear in CUR reports. Tags on associated resources included in the flat-rate plan will not appear.

# Logging AWS Flat-Rate Plans Activity Using AWS CloudTrail

AWS Flat-Rate Plans is integrated with [AWS CloudTrail](#) to record all console actions as events. CloudTrail captures details about each action, including the source IP address, timestamp, and user identity. Each CloudTrail event identifies whether the action was performed by:

- Root user or IAM user credentials
- IAM Identity Center user
- Temporary security credentials (role or federated user)
- Another AWS service

For flat-rate plans, the eventSource is `pricingplanmanager.amazonaws.com`.

## Example CloudTrail Event for CreateSubscription

The following example shows a CloudTrail log entry that demonstrates the action.

```
{
  "eventVersion": "1.09",
  "userIdentity": {
    "type": "AssumedRole",
    "principalId": "AIDACKCEVSQ6C2EXAMPLE:role-session-name",
    "arn": "arn:aws:sts::111122223333:assumed-role/Admin/role-session-name",
    "accountId": "111122223333",
    "accessKeyId": "ASIAIOSFODNN7EXAMPLE",
    "sessionContext": {
      "sessionIssuer": {
        "type": "Role",
        "principalId": "AIDACKCEVSQ6C2EXAMPLE",
        "arn": "arn:aws:iam::111122223333:role/Admin",
        "accountId": "111122223333",
        "userName": "Admin"
      },
      "attributes": {
        "creationDate": "2025-11-20T10:15:30Z",
        "mfaAuthenticated": "false"
      }
    }
  }
}
```

```
    }
  },
  "eventTime": "2025-11-20T10:20:45Z",
  "eventSource": "pricingplanmanager.amazonaws.com",
  "eventName": "CreateSubscription",
  "awsRegion": "us-east-1",
  "sourceIPAddress": "203.0.113.12",
  "userAgent": "Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML,
like Gecko) Chrome/121.0.0.0 Safari/537.36",
  "requestParameters": {
    "planName": "CF_FRP",
    "planTier": "PRO",
    "resourceArns": [
      "arn:aws:cloudfront::111122223333:distribution/d111111abcdef8",
      "arn:aws:wafv2:us-east-1:111122223333:global/webacl/CreatedByCloudFront-
example/example-id"
    ]
  },
  "responseElements": {
    "Access-Control-Expose-Headers": "ETag",
    "lastModifiedTime": "2025-11-20T14:35:22.512142957Z",
    "ETag": "3",
    "createdTime": "2025-11-20T14:30:00.388318680Z",
    "planName": "CF_FRP",
    "resourceArns": [
      "arn:aws:cloudfront::111122223333:distribution/d111111abcdef8",
      "arn:aws:wafv2:us-east-1:111122223333:global/webacl/CreatedByCloudFront-
example/example-id"
    ],
    "planTier": "PRO",
    "arn": "arn:aws:pricingplanmanager::111122223333:subscription:sub_123",
    "status": "SYNC_IN_PROGRESS"
  },
  "requestID": "a1b2c3d4-e5f6-7890-abcd-ef1234567890",
  "eventID": "12345678-abcd-ef12-3456-7890abcdef12",
  "readOnly": false,
  "eventType": "AwsApiCall",
  "managementEvent": true,
  "recipientAccountId": "111122223333",
  "eventCategory": "Management"
}
```

---

For more information about CloudTrail, including how to view and manage event logs, see [AWS CloudTrail User Guide](#).

## Example

# Managing Access to AWS Flat-Rate Plans

You can use AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM) to control access to AWS Flat-Rate Plans. The namespace for Flat-Rate Plans is `pricingplanmanager`.

## Available Actions

The following table lists the `pricingplanmanager` actions you can perform in the console and specify in an IAM policy to allow or deny specific operations:

Action	Description
<code>AssociateResourcesToSubscription</code>	Grants permission to associate resources with a subscription
<code>CancelSubscription</code>	Grants permission to cancel a subscription
<code>CancelSubscriptionChange</code>	Grants permission to cancel a pending change for a subscription
<code>CreateSubscription</code>	Grants permission to create a subscription
<code>DisassociateResourcesFromSubscription</code>	Grants permission to disassociate resources from a subscription
<code>GetSubscription</code>	Grants permission to get the details for a subscription
<code>ListSubscriptions</code>	Grants permission to list subscriptions in your account
<code>UpdateSubscription</code>	Grants permission to update a subscription

For information about how to create an IAM policy, see [Creating IAM policies \(console\)](#) in the IAM User Guide.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Do I need an annual commitment?**

No, flat-rate plans do not require annual commitments. Plans are billed monthly and can be cancelled at any time, with cancellation taking effect at the end of the current billing cycle.

## **When am I charged for flat-rate plans?**

Charges are posted to your account immediately upon activation and at each billing cycle. Your invoice is generated at the end of each billing period. Mid-cycle activations result in pro-rated charges for the remainder of the current period.

## **Can I get a refund if I cancel a plan mid-month?**

No refunds are provided for flat-rate plans. Cancellations take effect at the end of the current billing period, and you retain access to plan benefits through that date.

## **How do plan changes affect my bill?**

Upgrades result in immediate pro-rated charges for the difference between plans. Downgrades take effect at the next billing cycle with no mid-cycle credits or adjustments.

## **Do unused allowances roll over to the next month?**

No, usage allowances reset at the beginning of each billing cycle and do not accumulate or roll over.

## **Can I monitor my usage in real-time?**

Yes, usage data is available through the service console with near real-time updates. Email notifications provide threshold alerts at 50%, 80%, and 100% of your monthly allowance.

## **What's the difference between Free plan and AWS Free Tier?**

The Free plan is a \$0/month flat-rate plan available to paid AWS accounts. AWS Free Tier is a separate program for new AWS accounts that cannot use flat-rate plans. Free Tier accounts must upgrade to paid accounts before activating any flat-rate plan.

# Support and Resources

## Getting Help

For questions or issues with flat-rate plans:

- Open a support case in the [AWS Support Center](#) under the Billing category
- Visit [AWS re:Post](#) for community discussions

## Related Documentation

- [AWS Billing and Cost Management User Guide](#) - Comprehensive billing documentation
- [AWS Organizations Consolidated Billing](#) - Multi-account billing
- [CloudFront Flat-Rate Pricing Plans](#) - Service-specific documentation