
Amazon Web Services Management Console

Getting Started Guide

Version 1.0



Amazon Web Services Management Console: Getting Started Guide

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What is the Amazon Web Services Management Console?

The [Amazon Web Services Management Console](#) is a web application that comprises and refers to a broad collection of service consoles for managing Amazon resources. When you first sign in, you see the console home page. The home page provides access to each service console and offers a single place to access the information you need to perform your Amazon related tasks. It also lets you customize the Console Home experience by adding, removing, and rearranging widgets such as **Recently visited**, **Amazon Health**, **Trusted Advisor**, and more.

Note

The language selection option has moved to the new Unified Settings page. For more information, see [Changing the language of the Amazon Web Services Management Console \(p. 6\)](#).

The individual service consoles, on the other hand, offer a wide range of tools for cloud computing, as well as information about your account and about your [billing](#).

Using the device of your choice

The [Amazon Web Services Management Console](#) has been designed to work on tablets as well as other kinds of devices:

- Horizontal and vertical space is maximized to show more on your screen.
- Buttons and selectors are larger for a better touch experience.

The Amazon Web Services Management Console is also available as an app for Android and iOS. This app provides mobile-relevant tasks that are a good companion to the full web experience. For example, you can easily view and manage your existing Amazon EC2 instances and Amazon CloudWatch alarms from your phone.

You can download the Amazon Console mobile app from [Amazon Appstore](#), [Google Play](#), or [iTunes](#).

Configuring the Amazon Web Services Management Console

This topic includes procedures that show you how to configure your Amazon Web Services Management Console and how to set defaults that apply to all service consoles with the Unified Settings page. It also explains widgets, a new feature of Amazon Web Services Console Home that lets you add custom components that track information about your Amazon services and resources.

Topics

- [Working with widgets \(p. 2\)](#)
- [Configuring Unified Settings \(p. 3\)](#)
- [Choosing a Region \(p. 4\)](#)
- [Adding and removing favorites \(p. 5\)](#)
- [Changing your password \(p. 5\)](#)
- [Changing the language of the Amazon Web Services Management Console \(p. 6\)](#)

Working with widgets

The new Amazon Web Services Console Home includes widgets that display important information about your Amazon environment and provide shortcuts to your services. You can customize your experience by adding and removing widgets, rearranging them, or changing their size.

To add a widget

1. Choose the **Add widgets** button on the on the upper or lower right side of the page.
2. In the **Add widgets** menu, select the widgets that you want to add to the console, and then choose **Add**.

To remove a widget

1. Choose the widget actions menu, represented by three vertical dots in the upper right corner of the widget.
2. Choose **Remove widget**.

To rearrange your widgets

- Select the title bar at the top of the widget, and then drag the widget to a new location on the page.

To resize a widget

1. Choose the widget actions menu, represented by three vertical dots in the upper right corner of the widget.
2. Choose **Change size**.
3. On the **Change size** menu, select your preferred view for this widget, and then choose **Change size**.

Note

Some widgets, such as **Explore Amazon**, do not support changing size. **Extended view** is not supported on small screens.

If you want to start over with organizing and setting up your widgets, you can reset the Amazon Web Services Console Home page to the default layout. This will revert your changes to the Amazon Web Services Console Home layout, and restore all the widgets to their default location and size.

To reset the page to the default layout

1. Choose the **Reset to default layout** button on the upper right side of the page.
2. Choose **Reset** to confirm this action.

Note

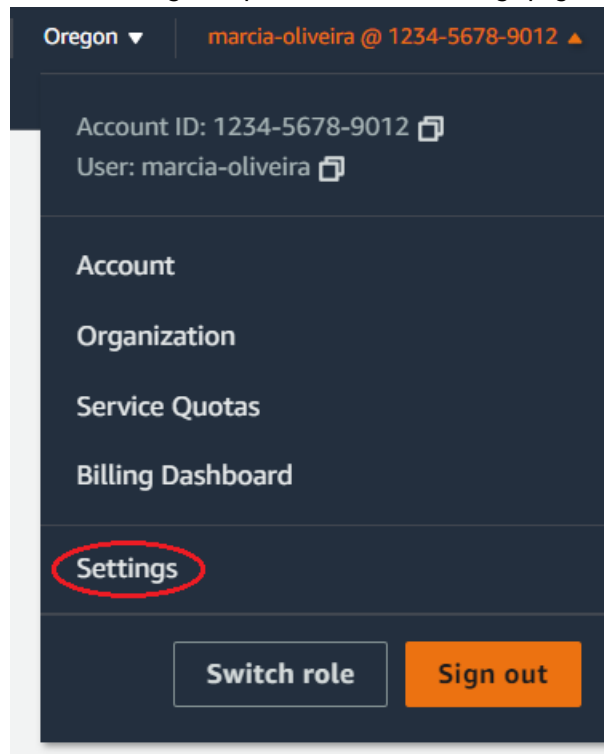
This will revert all your changes to the layout of the Amazon Web Services Console Home page.

Configuring Unified Settings

You can configure settings and defaults, such as display, language and Region, from the Amazon Web Services Management Console. These changes apply to all service consoles.

To access Unified Settings

1. Sign in to the [Amazon Web Services Management Console](#).
2. In the navigation bar, choose your account name.
3. Choose **Settings** to open the **Unified Settings** page.



4. Choose **Edit** next to your preferred settings:
 - **Localization and default Region:**

- **Default language** lets you select the default language for console text.
- **Default Region** lets you select a default Region that applies each time you log in. You can select any of the available Regions for your account. You can also select the last used Region as your default.

To learn more about Region routing in the [Amazon Web Services Management Console](#), see [Choosing a Region \(p. 4\)](#).

- **Display:**
 - **Favorite bar display** toggles the **Favorites** bar display between the full service name with its icon or only the service's icon.
 - **Visual mode** lets you set your console to light mode, dark mode, or the default display mode of your browser.

Dark mode is a beta feature and might not apply across all Amazon service consoles.

5. Choose **Save changes**.

Important

To ensure that your settings, favorite services, and recently visited services persist globally, this data is stored in all Amazon Web Services Regions, including Regions that are disabled by default. These Regions are Africa (Cape Town), Asia Pacific (Hong Kong), Europe (Milan), and Middle East (Bahrain). You still need to [manually enable a Region \(p. 4\)](#) to access it and then create and manage resources in that Region. If you don't want to store this data in all Amazon Web Services Regions, [remove services \(p. 5\)](#) from the list of **Favorites** and choose **Cancel** to cancel your changes to the Unified Settings.

Choosing a Region

For many services, you can choose an Amazon Web Services Region that specifies where your resources are managed. Regions are sets of Amazon resources located in the same geographical area. You don't need to choose a Region for the [Amazon Web Services Management Console](#) or for some services, such as Amazon Identity and Access Management. To learn more about Amazon Web Services Regions, see [Managing Amazon Web Services Regions](#) in the *Amazon General Reference*.

To choose a Region

1. Sign in to the [Amazon Web Services Management Console](#).
2. [Choose a service \(p. 8\)](#) to go to that service's console.
3. In the navigation bar, choose the name of the currently displayed Region. Then choose the Region to which you want to switch.

To choose a default Region

1. In the navigation bar choose your account name and then choose **Settings** to navigate to the **Unified Settings** page.
2. Choose **Edit** next to **Localization and default Region**.
3. Select your default Region, then choose **Save changes**. If you do not select a default Region, the last Region you visited will be your default.

Note

If you have created Amazon resources but you don't see those resources in the console, the console might be displaying resources from a different Region. Some resources (such as Amazon

EC2 instances) are specific to the Region where they were created. To see them, use the Region selector to choose the Region that contains your resources.

Adding and removing favorites

To access your frequently used services more quickly, you can save their service consoles to a list of **Favorites**.

Note

Favorites are currently stored in browser cookies. If you delete your cookies between console sessions, your list of **Favorites** will be cleared.

To add a service to the list of Favorites

1. Sign in to the [Amazon Web Services Management Console](#).
2. In the navigation bar, choose **Services**.
3. In either the **Recently visited** list or the **All services** list, pause on the name of the service that you want to add as a favorite.
4. Select the star to the left of the service name.
5. Repeat the previous two steps to add more services to your **Favorites** list.

To remove a service from the list of Favorites

1. In the navigation bar, choose **Services**.
2. Do one of the following:
 - In the **Favorites** list, pause on the name of a service. Then choose the × to the right of the service name.
 - In the **Recently visited** list or **All services** list, deselect the star by the name of a service that is in your **Favorites** list.

Changing your password

If you are an account owner, you can change your Amazon account password from the [Amazon Web Services Management Console](#).

To change your password

1. Sign in to the [Amazon Web Services Management Console](#).
2. In the navigation bar, choose your account name.
3. Choose **Security credentials**.
4. The options displayed will vary depending on your Amazon Web Services account type. Follow the instructions shown on the console to change your password.
5. Enter your current password once and your new password twice.

The new password must be at least eight characters long and must include the following:

- At least one symbol
- At least one number

- At least one uppercase letter
 - At least one lowercase letter
6. Choose **Change Password** or **Save changes**.

Changing the language of the Amazon Web Services Management Console

The Amazon Web Services Console Home experience includes a new settings page where you can change the display language for Amazon services in the Amazon Web Services Management Console. You can make this change from anywhere in the console.

Note

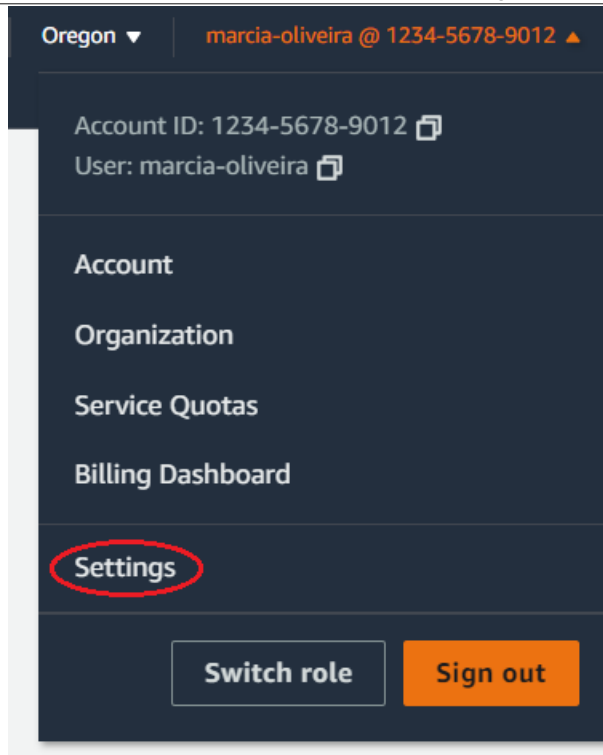
This procedure changes the language for all consoles, but not for Amazon documentation. To change the language used for documentation, use the language menu in the upper right corner of any documentation page.

The Amazon Web Services Management Console currently supports the following languages:

- English (US)
- English (UK)
- Bahasa Indonesia
- German
- French
- Japanese
- Spanish
- Italian
- Portuguese
- Korean
- Chinese (Simplified)
- Chinese (Traditional)

To change the console language

1. Sign in to the [Amazon Web Services Management Console](#).
2. In the navigation bar, choose your account name.
3. Choose **Settings** to open the **Unified Settings** page.



4. In **Unified Settings**, choose **Edit** next to **Localization and default Region**.
5. Select the language that you want for the console, then choose **Save changes**.

Note

After you choose your preferred language, the console text for all Amazon services appears in that language.

Getting started with a service

The [Amazon Web Services Management Console](#) provides multiple ways for navigating to individual service consoles.

To open a console for a service

Do one of the following:

- In the search box on the navigation bar, enter all or part of the name of the service. Under **Services**, choose the service that you want from the list of search results. For more information, see [Searching for products, services, features, and more \(p. 9\)](#).
- In the **Recently visited services** widget, choose a service name.
- In the **Recently visited services** widget, choose **View all Amazon services**. Then, on the **All Amazon services** page, choose a service name.
- On the navigation bar, choose **Services** to open a full list of services. Then choose a service under **Recently visited** or **All services**.

Searching for products, services, features, and more

The search box in the navigation bar provides a unified search tool for tracking down Amazon services and features, service documentation, and Amazon Web Services Marketplace. Just type in a few characters to see results from all these categories. The more characters you type, the more search refines your results.

To search for a service, feature, documentation, or Amazon Web Services Marketplace product

1. In search box on the navigation bar of the Amazon Web Services Management Console, enter all or part of your search terms.
2. Do any of the following to refine your search and get more detail:
 - To narrow the results to the type of content that you want, choose one of the categories on the left.
 - To see more results for a particular category, choose **See all *n* results** by each category heading. To return to the main results list, choose **Back** in the top left corner.
 - To quickly navigate to popular features of a service, pause on the service name in the results and choose a link.
 - To get more detail about a documentation or Amazon Web Services Marketplace result, pause on the result title.
3. Choose any link to navigate to your intended service, topic, or Amazon Web Services Marketplace page.

Tip

You can also use your keyboard to quickly navigate to the top search result. First, press **Alt+s** (Windows) or **Option+s** (macOS) to access the search bar. Then start entering your search term. When the intended result appears at the top of the list, press **Enter**. For example, to quickly navigate to the Amazon EC2 console, enter **ec2** and press **Enter**.

Launching Amazon CloudShell

Amazon CloudShell is a browser-based, pre-authenticated shell that you can launch directly from the Amazon Web Services Management Console. You can run Amazon CLI commands against services using your preferred shell (Bash, PowerShell, or Z shell).

You can launch Amazon CloudShell from the Amazon Web Services Management Console using either one of the following two methods:

- Choose the Amazon CloudShell icon on the console navigation bar.
- Start typing "cloudshell" in the Find Services box and then choose the **Amazon CloudShell** option.

For more information on this service, see the [Amazon CloudShell User Guide](#).

Getting billing information

If you have the necessary permissions, you can get information about your Amazon charges from the console.

To get your billing information

1. On the navigation bar, choose your account name.
2. Choose **Billing Dashboard**.
3. Use the Amazon Billing and Cost Management dashboard to find a summary and a breakdown of your monthly spending. To learn more, see the [Amazon Billing User Guide](#).

Using Markdown in the Console

Some services in the Amazon Web Services Management Console, such as Amazon CloudWatch, support the use of [Markdown](#) in certain fields. This topic explains the types of Markdown formatting supported in the console.

Contents

- [Paragraphs, Line Spacing, and Horizontal Lines](#) (p. 12)
- [Headings](#) (p. 12)
- [Text Formatting](#) (p. 13)
- [Links](#) (p. 13)
- [Lists](#) (p. 13)
- [Tables and Buttons \(CloudWatch Dashboards\)](#) (p. 14)

Paragraphs, Line Spacing, and Horizontal Lines

Paragraphs are separated by a blank line. To make sure that the blank line between the paragraphs renders when it is converted to HTML, add a new line with a non-break space () and then a blank line. Repeat this pair of lines to insert multiple blank lines one after the other, as in the following example:

```
&nbsp;
&nbsp;
```

To create a horizontal rule that separates the paragraphs, add a new line with three hyphens in a row:

```
Previous paragraph.
---
Next paragraph.
```

To create a text block with monospace type, add a line with three backticks (`). Enter the text to show in monospace type. Then, add another new line with three backticks. The following example shows text that will be formatted to monospace type when displayed:

```
```
This appears in a text box with a background shading.
The text is in monospace.
```
```

Headings

To create headings, use the pound sign (#). A single pound sign and a space indicate a top-level heading. Two pound signs create a second-level heading, and three pound signs create a third-level heading. The following examples show a top-level, second-level, and third-level heading:

```
# Top-level heading
```

```
## Second-level heading
```

```
### Third-level heading
```

Text Formatting

To format text as italic, surround it with a single underscore (`_`) or asterisk (`*`) on each side.

```
*This text appears in italics.*
```

To format text as bold, surround it with double underscores or double asterisks on each side.

```
**This text appears in bold.**
```

To format text as strikethrough, surround it with two tildes (`~`) on each side.

```
~~This text appears in strikethrough.~~
```

Links

To add a text hyperlink, enter the link text surrounded by square brackets (`[]`), followed by the full URL in parentheses (`()`), as in the following example:

```
Choose [link_text](http://my.example.com).
```

Lists

To format lines as part of a bulleted list, add them on separate lines that start with with a single asterisk (`*`) and then a space, as in the following example:

```
Here is a bulleted list:  
* Ant  
* Bug  
* Caterpillar
```

To format lines as part of a numbered list, add them on separate lines that start with with a number, a period (`.`), and a space, as in the following example:

```
Here is a numbered list:  
1. Do the first step  
2. Do the next step  
3. Do the final step
```


Tables and Buttons (CloudWatch Dashboards)

CloudWatch dashboards text widgets support Markdown tables and buttons.

To create a table, separate columns using vertical bars (|) and rows using new lines. To make the first row a header row, insert a line between the header row and the first row of values. Then, add at least three hyphens (-) for each column in the table. Separate columns using vertical bars. The following example shows Markdown for a table with two columns, a header row, and two rows of data:

```
Table | Header
----|-----
Amazon Web Services | Amazon
1 | 2
```

The Markdown text in the previous example creates the following table:

Table	Header
Amazon Web Services	Amazon
1	2

In a CloudWatch dashboard text widget, you can also format a hyperlink to appear as a button. To create a button, use `[button:Button text]`, followed by the full URL in parentheses(`()`), as in the following example:

```
[button:Go to Amazon](http://my.example.com)
[button:primary:This button stands out even more](http://my.example.com)
```

Troubleshooting

Consult this section to find solutions to common problems with the Amazon Web Services Management Console

The page isn't loading properly

- If this problem only occurs occasionally, check your internet connection. Try to connect through a different network, or with or without a VPN.
- If you use privacy browser extensions or security firewalls, they might be blocking access to the domains used by the Amazon Web Services Management Console. Try turning off these extensions or adjusting firewall settings. To verify issues with your connection, open your browser developer tools ([Chrome](#), [Firefox](#)) and inspect the errors in the **Console** tab.
- If you use a network that connects to Amazon through Amazon Virtual Private Cloud (Amazon VPC), make sure that the browser environment has permission to access services that are available through Amazon PrivateLink. The Amazon Web Services Management Console makes API calls directly from the browser to both service endpoints and its own web servers. Make sure that IAM policies and Amazon VPC endpoint policies allow access from the browser. For more information, see [Amazon PrivateLink](#), [Policies and permissions in IAM](#), and [VPC endpoint policies](#).

Note

Some Amazon global condition keys, such as [aws:SourceIp](#), are not available through VPC endpoint policies. For more information, see [Identity and access management for VPC endpoints and VPC endpoint services](#).

Warning

Since July 31, 2022, Amazon no longer supports Internet Explorer 11. We recommend that you use the Amazon Web Services Management Console with other supported browsers. For more information, see [Amazon News Blog](#).

The widget I want isn't included in the Amazon Web Services Console Home widgets

If you don't see the widget that you want in the Amazon Web Services Console Home, you can suggest new widgets. We review suggestions periodically and may add new widgets in future updates to the Amazon Web Services Management Console. To make your suggestions, choose **Want to see another widget? Tell us!** on the lower left side of the page.

My browser displays timeout errors when connecting to the Amazon Web Services Management Console

If there's a service outage in the Amazon Web Services Region where you normally access the Amazon Web Services Management Console, your browser might display a 504 Gateway Timeout error when

I want to change the language of the Amazon Web Services Management Console but I can't find the language selection menu at the bottom of the page. If you're trying to connect to the console from a different Region, specify an alternate Regional endpoint in the URL. For example, if there's an outage in the us-west-1 (N. California) Region, to access the us-west-2 (Oregon) Region use the following template:

```
https://region-code.console.aws.amazon.com
```

For more information, see [Amazon Web Services Management Console service endpoints](#) in the *Amazon General Reference*.

I want to change the language of the Amazon Web Services Management Console but I can't find the language selection menu at the bottom of the page

The language selection menu has moved to the new Unified Settings page. To change the language of the Amazon Web Services Management Console, [navigate to the Unified Settings page \(p. 3\)](#), and then choose the language for the console.

For more information, see [Changing the language of the Amazon Web Services Management Console \(p. 6\)](#).

Document history

The following table describes important changes to the *Amazon Web Services Management Console Getting Started Guide*, beginning in March 2021.

Change	Description	Date
Configuring Unified Settings	A new settings page for configuring settings and defaults that apply to the current user, including language and region. For more information, see Configuring Unified Settings (p. 3) .	April 6, 2022
New Amazon Web Services Console Home UI	New Amazon Web Services Console Home UI, which includes widgets for displaying important usage information and shortcuts to Amazon services. For more information, see Working with widgets (p. 2) .	February 25, 2022
Changing the Console language	Choose a different language for the Amazon Web Services Management Console. For more information, see Changing the language of the Amazon Web Services Management Console (p. 6) .	April 1, 2021
Launching CloudShell	Open Amazon CloudShell from the Amazon Web Services Management Console and run Amazon CLI commands. For more information, see Launching Amazon CloudShell (p. 10) .	March 22, 2021

Amazon glossary

For the latest Amazon terminology, see the [Amazon glossary](#) in the *Amazon General Reference*.