AWS Management Console

Getting Started Guide

Version 1.0
AWS Management Console: Getting Started Guide
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What is the AWS Management Console?

The AWS Management Console is a web application that comprises and refers to a broad collection of service consoles for managing AWS 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 AWS related tasks. It also lets you customize the Console Home experience by adding, removing, and rearranging widgets such as Recently visited, AWS Health, Trusted Advisor, and more.

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 AWS 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 AWS 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 AWS Console mobile app from Amazon Appstore, Google Play, or iTunes.
Configuring the AWS Management Console

This topic includes procedures that show you how to configure your AWS Management Console. It also explains the use of widgets, a new feature of AWS Console Home that lets you add custom components that track information about your AWS services and resources.

Topics
- Working with widgets (p. 2)
- Configuring Unified Settings (p. 3)
- Choosing a Region (p. 4)
- Adding and removing favorites (p. 4)
- Changing your password (p. 5)
- Changing the language of the AWS Management Console (p. 5)

Working with widgets

The new AWS Console Home includes widgets that display important information about your AWS environment and provide shortcuts to your services. You can customize your experience by adding and removing widgets, rearranging them, or changing their size. You can also choose to return to the old AWS Console Home experience if you don't want to use widgets.

To add a widget
1. Do one of the following:
   - Choose the Add widgets button on the lower right side of the page.
   - Choose the Actions button on the upper right side of the page, then choose Add widgets.
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 AWS, 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 AWS Console Home page to the default layout. This will revert your changes to the AWS Console Home layout, and restore all the widgets to their default location and size.

**To reset the page to the default layout**
1. Choose Actions on the upper right side of the page, and then choose Reset to default layout.
2. Choose Reset to confirm this action.

**Note**
This will revert all your changes to the layout of the AWS Console Home page.

### Reverting to the old Console Home

If you don’t want to use widgets, you can revert to the old AWS Console Home. You can also switch back to the new AWS Console Home and use widgets later.

**To revert to the old Console Home**
- Choose Actions on the upper right side of the page, and then choose Revert to previous Console Home.

**To switch to the new Console Home**
- Under New AWS Console Home, choose Switch now.

### Configuring Unified Settings

You can configure settings and defaults from the AWS Management Console that will apply to all service consoles.

**To access Unified Settings**
1. Sign in to the AWS Management Console.
2. In the navigation bar, choose your account name.
3. Choose Settings to open the Unified Settings page.
4. Choose your preferred settings:
   - Default language lets you choose the default language for console text.
   - Default Region lets you choose a default Region that applies each time you log in. You can choose any of the available Regions for your account. You can also choose the last used Region as your default.

   To learn more about Region routing in the AWS Management Console, see Choosing a Region (p. 4).
• **Favorite bar display** toggles the Favorites bar display between the full service name with its icon or only the service's icon.

5. Choose **Save**.

**Note**
To ensure that your settings, favorite services, and recently visited services persist globally, this data is stored in all AWS 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 AWS Regions, remove services (p. 4) 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 AWS Region that specifies where your resources are managed. Regions are sets of AWS resources located in the same geographical area. You don't need to choose a Region for the AWS Management Console or for some services, such as AWS Identity and Access Management. To learn more about AWS Regions, see Managing AWS Regions in the AWS General Reference.

### To choose a Region

1. Sign in to the [AWS Management Console](https://aws.amazon.com/console/).
2. Choose a service (p. 7) 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.
4. To choose a default Region, navigate to (p. 3) Unified Settings and select your default Region. If you do not select a default Region, the last Region you visited will be your default.

**Note**
If you have created AWS 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 [AWS Management Console](https://aws.amazon.com/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.
Changing your password

If you are an account owner, you can change your AWS account password from the AWS Management Console.

To change your password
1. Sign in to the AWS Management Console.
2. In the navigation bar, choose your account name.
4. The options displayed will vary depending on your AWS 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 AWS Management Console

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

You can change the display language for AWS services in the AWS Management Console. You can make this change from anywhere in the console. The AWS Management Console currently supports the following languages:

- English (US)
- English (UK)
Changing the language of the AWS Management Console

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

To change the console language

1. Sign in to the AWS Management Console.
2. Navigate to (p. 3) the Unified Settings page.
3. In Unified Settings, choose the language that you want for the console.

Note
This changes the language for the entire console.
Getting started with a service

The AWS 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. 8).
- Under Recently visited services, choose a service name.
- Under All services, 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 AWS services and features, service documentation, and AWS 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 AWS Marketplace product

1. In search box on the navigation bar of the AWS 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 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 AWS Marketplace result, pause on the result title.
3. Choose any link to navigate to your intended service, topic, or AWS 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 AWS CloudShell

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

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

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

For more information on this service, see the AWS CloudShell User Guide.
Getting billing information

If you have the necessary permissions, you can get information about your AWS 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 AWS Billing and Cost Management dashboard to find a summary and a breakdown of your monthly spending. To learn more, see the AWS Billing User Guide.
Using Markdown in the Console

Some services in the AWS 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. 11)
- Headings (p. 11)
- Text Formatting (p. 12)
- Links (p. 12)
- Lists (p. 12)
- Tables and Buttons (CloudWatch Dashboards) (p. 13)

**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 (&nbsp;) and then a blank line. Repeat this pair of lines to insert multiple blank lines one after the other, as in the following example:

```markdown

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

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:
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 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 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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Header</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amazon Web Services</td>
<td>AWS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Header</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amazon Web Services</td>
<td>AWS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 AWS](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 AWS Management Console.

The page isn't loading properly.

If you use the AWS Management Console with Internet Explorer 11, the browser might fail to load some pages of the console. This is a problem related to Internet Explorer's Compatibility View. To address this issue, in Internet Explorer, open Compatibility View Settings and disable Display intranet sites in Compatibility View.

For more information, see Fix site display problems with Compatibility View on the Microsoft Support website.

The widget I want isn't included in the AWS Console Home widgets

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Configuring Unified Settings</td>
<td>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).</td>
<td>April 6, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New AWS Console Home UI</td>
<td>New AWS Console Home UI, which includes widgets for displaying important usage information and shortcuts to AWS services. For more information, see Working with widgets (p. 2).</td>
<td>February 25, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changing the Console language</td>
<td>Choose a different language for the AWS Management Console. For more information, see Changing the language of the AWS Management Console (p. 5).</td>
<td>April 1, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Launching CloudShell</td>
<td>Open AWS CloudShell from the AWS Management Console and run AWS CLI commands. For more information, see Launching AWS CloudShell (p. 9).</td>
<td>March 22, 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AWS glossary

For the latest AWS terminology, see the AWS glossary in the AWS General Reference.