



WHITEPAPER · ZCP PRICING V2

Compute and Storage, Priced Separately

Why every ZCP plan is now CPU and memory only, how the root disk is sized and billed by the GB, and what it means for servers you already run.

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Product facts and prices were checked against the live ZCP plan catalogue and documentation on 11 October 2026. Prices change. The current rates are at zcp.zsoftly.ca/pricing.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A plan is CPU and memory. The disk is yours to size.

Until October 2026, every ZCP virtual machine plan came with a root disk of a fixed size. From 11 October 2026, a plan covers CPU and memory only. You choose the root disk size in GB when you create the server, and it is billed on its own line at the per-GB rate of the storage tier you pick. ZSoftly Technologies Inc. made this change because the bundled disk was wrong for most workloads.

The problem

- A small application paid for disk space it never used.
- A database that outgrew its disk had to change plan to get more space, and took more CPU and memory with it.
- A workload that needed more CPU was forced to buy more storage.

What changed

- Plans carry CPU and memory only. Plan names now carry a **c** before the size, for example **ca2c.m**.
- The root disk is a block storage volume. The minimum is the template size. It can grow at any time and never shrinks.
- Review and Deploy in the console shows compute, network, public IP and block storage as separate lines.
- We retired custom plans, where you pick your own CPU and RAM. You choose from fixed sizes.
- Servers you already run keep their plan and their price.

CPU and memory

One line for compute, with fixed sizes.

Per-GB root disk

Sized at create time, grown later.

Six storage tiers

Shared or local, NVMe, SSD or HDD.

No forced change

Existing servers keep plan and price.

The price effect in one line. Pick the same root size on the default tier and the total matches the old bundled price. Page 6 shows the arithmetic.

How to read this paper

Pages 3 and 4 explain why. Page 5 lists what changed. Page 6 works one plan through the sums. Page 7 helps you size a disk and pick a tier. Page 8 answers the questions existing customers ask.

Who should read this

Engineering and platform leads who create servers, **finance and procurement leads** who forecast the bill, and **owners of existing ZCP servers** who want to know what stays the same.

WHY WE CHANGED IT

The problem with bundled plans

A bundled plan sells CPU, memory and a root disk as one unit. It is simple to explain. It is also wrong for workloads whose disk and CPU needs differ, because CPU, memory and disk do not grow together.

Three ways a bundle costs you

The small application pays for space it never uses. The smallest general-purpose plan carried 40 GB of root disk. An application that needs 8 GB paid for 40 GB every month.

The database cannot grow its disk on its own. A database that fills its root disk had to move to a larger plan. The larger plan added CPU and memory that the database did not need. The move also meant a plan change on a running service.

More CPU forces more storage. A build server or a batch worker needs cores and little disk. The bundle tied the two together, so the bill followed the plan, not the workload.

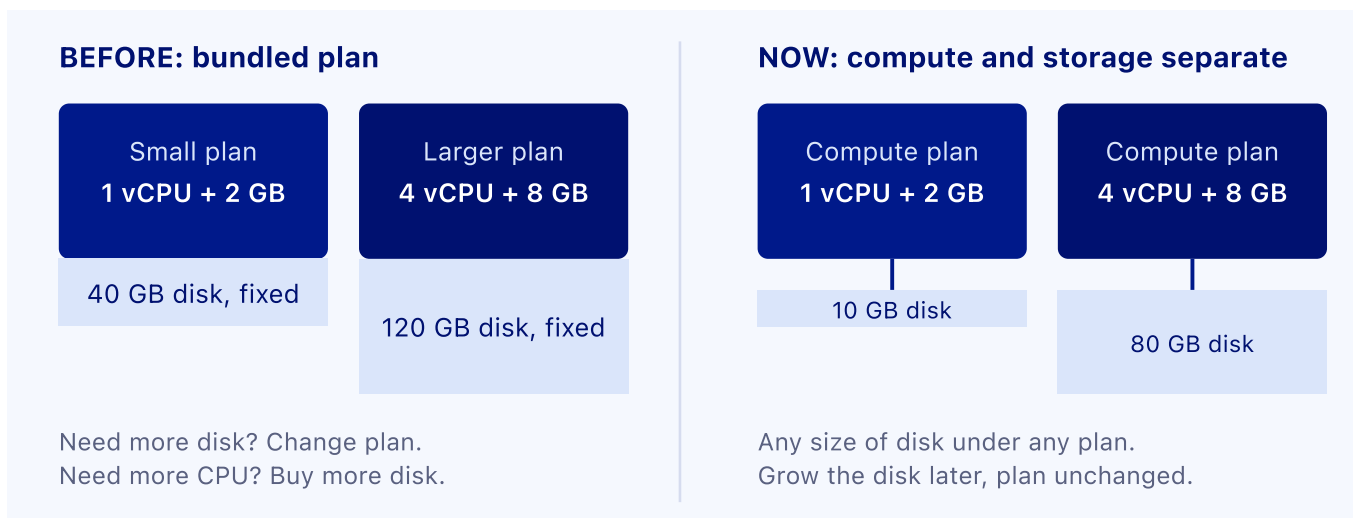


Figure 1. A bundled plan fixes the disk to the CPU and memory. A compute-only plan lets you pick the disk. Sizes in the figure are illustrative.

What a bundle assumes

Small and steady

Web front ends, internal tools and small APIs. They need a few GB of disk. The bundle gave them more.

Stateful and growing

Databases, queues and search nodes. Their disk grows month by month while CPU stays flat.

Compute-heavy

Build runners, batch jobs and workers. They need cores and memory and rarely much disk.

A bundle fits only when disk grows with CPU. Many workloads sit at one end or the other.

The old model also cost time. A plan change on a running service is a change window, a restart and a rollback plan.

WHERE ZCP IS GOING

The model the large clouds already use

ZCP serves developers and platform teams. Many already run servers on AWS or Azure. The most common habit is that a server is compute, and a disk is a volume attached to it.

The hyperscaler model

Amazon EC2 sells instance types as CPU and memory, and the root volume is an Amazon EBS volume you size and pay for by the GB [1]. Azure virtual machine sizes carry CPU and memory, and the OS disk is a managed disk with its own size and price [2]. ZCP now works the same way. ZCP now separates compute and root disk in the same way.

The model is not new. What is new on ZCP is that the root disk, the last bundled part, now follows it. Data volumes were already separate. The root disk was the exception.

Four principles behind the change

Separate lifecycles

Compute and storage are separate resources with separate lifecycles. A volume can grow without the server being replaced.

Developer platform

The console and the CLI expose the root disk as one input, and Terraform will follow. You set it where you already set the plan.

One line per resource

Each resource has its own line. You see what the CPU costs, what the disk costs and what the network costs before you deploy.

Fixed sizes

Plans come in fixed sizes. We retired custom plans, where you picked any CPU and RAM. AWS and Azure also sell fixed sizes [1][2].

Why fixed sizes and not custom plans

A custom CPU and RAM plan looks flexible. A custom plan multiplies the shapes we must place, price and support. It also hides a simple question. Which standard size is closest to your workload? Fixed sizes give you fewer shapes to compare. With the disk now priced on its own, the main reason to ask for a custom shape, a specific amount of disk, no longer applies.

Each compute category has a recommended size. For general-purpose compute, the recommended size is the 4 vCPU and 8 GB plan. For CPU-optimized and memory-optimized compute, it is the **m** size. Page 6 lists them. They are a starting point. Move up or down a size once you have seen real usage.

What we did not change. The regions and the network plans stay as they were. The change moves the root disk onto its own line. The compute rate of each plan is the old bundled price with the disk component taken out, as page 6 shows.

WHAT CHANGED

Plans, root disk, tiers and billing lines

Plans

Every active plan is CPU and memory only. The plan name carries a `c` before the size letter, so `ca2c.m` is the compute-only plan that replaces the bundled `ca2.m`. We no longer offer plans without the `c` to new servers.

The root disk

- It is a block storage volume, sized in GB when you create the server.
- The minimum size is the size of the template. A Linux template is about 10 GB.
- You grow it at any time. It never shrinks. Choose a size you can live with, then grow it.
- It is billed on its own line at the per-GB monthly rate of the tier you select on the OS Disk Offering step [3].

Storage tiers

Each tier has a code and a medium. Page 6 lists the rates.

Tier	Region	Medium
<code>b1.g1</code>	YOW	Shared replicated NVMe
<code>b1.g3</code>	YOW	Shared HDD
<code>b2.g1</code>	YUL	Shared replicated NVMe
<code>b2.g2</code>	YUL	Shared replicated SSD
<code>b2.l1</code>	YUL	Local NVMe
<code>b2.l2</code>	YUL	Local SSD

Which tiers you can order depends on the region and what the console shows as orderable. Confirm before you plan.

Billing lines

Compute
CPU and memory
plan rate

Network
network plan
rate

Public IP
own line,
if attached

Block storage
root disk GB x tier
per-GB rate (new)

Review and Deploy shows each line before you confirm.

Figure 2. The four lines on Review and Deploy. Block storage is the line that used to be inside the plan.

A WORKED EXAMPLE

One plan, three disk sizes, four tiers

Prices appear only here. The assumptions come first so you can redo the sums with your own numbers.

Assumptions, checked 11 October 2026. Region YUL. Plan `ca2c.m` (2 vCPU, 4 GB) at \$24.80 per month. Disk rates from the table below. Network plan \$3.00 per month. All amounts are Canadian dollars per month. Compute and storage are shown before tax and are pro-rated for part months. The public IP line is left out because the example does not attach one.

The same plan with three root disk sizes on `b2.g1`

Case	Compute	Root disk	Disk cost	Compute + disk
Small app, 10 GB	\$24.80	10 GB	\$1.40	\$26.20
Same size as the old bundle, 80 GB	\$24.80	80 GB	\$11.20	\$36.00
Database grown later, 200 GB	\$24.80	200 GB	\$28.00	\$52.80

Disk cost is GB multiplied by \$0.14. Adding the \$3.00 network plan to the first row gives \$29.20.

The 80 GB row matches the old bundled `ca2.m`, which cost \$36 with an 80 GB disk. The compute rate of \$24.80 is that plan's price with the disk component removed. The third row shows the new freedom. The database grew its disk from 80 GB to 200 GB and the compute line did not move.

Rates by tier and the cost of an 80 GB disk, checked 11 October 2026

Tier	Region	Medium	Per GB per month	80 GB disk
<code>b1.g1</code>	YOW	Shared replicated NVMe	\$0.14	\$11.20
<code>b1.g3</code>	YOW	Shared HDD	\$0.03	\$2.40
<code>b2.g1</code>	YUL	Shared replicated NVMe	\$0.14	\$11.20
<code>b2.g2</code>	YUL	Shared replicated SSD	\$0.09	\$7.20
<code>b2.l1</code>	YUL	Local NVMe	\$0.10	\$8.00
<code>b2.l2</code>	YUL	Local SSD	\$0.07	\$5.60

Add the \$24.80 `ca2c.m` line to a Montreal row for the total: \$36.00, \$32.00, \$32.80 and \$30.40. A lower rate is not a free saving. The local tiers keep the volume on one host. Page 7 explains the trade.

Compute-only plan sizes, Montreal

Category	Plan	vCPU	Memory	Per month
General purpose	<code>ca2c.s</code>	1	2 GB	\$9.60
	<code>ca2c.m</code>	2	4 GB	\$24.80
	<code>ca2c.l</code> (recommended)	4	8 GB	\$55.20
CPU-optimized	<code>cac2c.m</code> (recommended)	8	8 GB	\$79.20
Memory-optimized	<code>cam2c.m</code> (recommended)	2	16 GB	\$106.00

HOW TO SIZE A ROOT DISK

Start from the template, choose a tier, leave room to grow

Size

- 1 **Start at the template size.** The console will not accept less. A Linux template is about 10 GB.
- 2 **Add what the operating system and your software will write.** Logs, package caches and application files all live on the root disk unless you attach a separate data volume.
- 3 **Leave headroom, not a margin of years.** You grow the disk at any time, so you do not need to guess the size of year three on day one. It never shrinks, so do not oversize either.
- 4 **Keep large or fast-growing data on its own volume.** A separate data volume lets you change the server without touching the data, and lets you apply a separate backup plan [4].

Choose a tier

The tier decides how the data is stored. The decision is about recovery as much as speed.

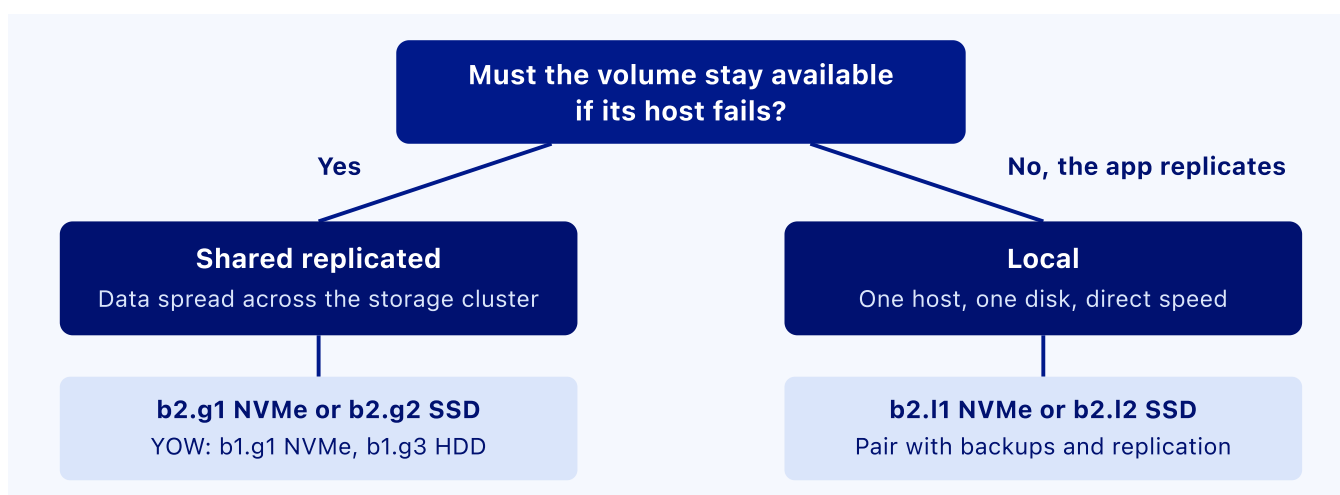


Figure 3. The tier decision. Start with recovery, then choose the medium.

Workload	Tier to consider	Reason
Production service that must recover on another host	b2.g1 or b2.g2	Shared replicated storage keeps the data available across the cluster [4].
Database with application-level replication, cache, scratch or build disk	b2.l1	Local NVMe, no network hop. Recovery comes from the application, not the disk.
Lower-I/O workload where cost matters	b2.l2 or b2.g2	Lower rate, with local or replicated behaviour as you need.
Development, test and bulk data in YOW	b1.g3	The lowest rate, on HDD, in the development region [4].

Local storage is not a replacement for backups. A host failure or maintenance event can make a local volume unavailable. Use snapshots and backups for the recovery objective of the workload.

MIGRATION AND QUESTIONS

If you already run servers on ZCP

Nothing moves unless you ask it to. Servers created before 11 October 2026 keep their bundled plan, their bundled root disk and their price. The platform records which model each server was created under.

Do I need to do anything?

No. Existing servers keep running on their current plan and are billed as before.

What happens if I change the plan of an existing server?

A server on an old bundled plan that moves to a compute-only plan drops the storage component of the old price. Check the Review and Deploy lines before you confirm. If the server needs the old bundled disk, do not change its plan.

Can I still order an old bundled plan?

No. New servers cannot use bundled plans. We did not delete them, so existing servers keep running.

I used a custom CPU and RAM plan. What now?

Custom plans are retired for new servers. Choose the closest fixed size. Existing servers created from a custom plan keep running at their current price.

Can I make the root disk smaller later?

No. A root disk never shrinks. To go smaller, create a new server with a smaller disk and move the data across.

Does the same total apply on every tier?

The same-total result holds for the same root size on the default tier. Other tiers price the disk at their own per-GB rate, so the total differs.

What about the CLI and Terraform?

The console and the ZCP CLI (v1.0.0, 11 October 2026) both set the root disk at create time. Terraform support is coming (page 9).

Where do I choose the storage tier?

On the OS Disk Offering step of the create flow. The same step takes the root disk size in GB.

Do I need a bigger plan or a bigger disk?

Look at what is full. If the disk is full, grow the disk and leave the plan alone. If CPU or memory is saturated, move to a larger plan and keep the disk as it is.

How is the root disk billed?

At the per-GB monthly rate of its tier, pro-rated for part months, on its own line.

Check a server before you change it. For any server you plan to resize or re-plan, read the Review and Deploy lines first. They show what the new model will bill, line by line, before you confirm.

WHAT IS NEXT AND HOW WE CAN HELP

What is coming, and where to start

Shipped and coming

Item	Status
Root disk sizing in the ZCP CLI	Shipped in v1.0.0 on 11 October 2026: <code>--blockstorage-plan</code> and <code>--root-disk-size</code> on <code>zcp instance create</code> .
Root disk sizing in the Terraform provider	Coming. Not released.
Pricing page and calculator with a root disk input	Being updated to match the new model.

Until the Terraform release ships, create servers with a chosen root disk size in the console or the CLI. Review your infrastructure as code before the release. State the disk size. Do not rely on a default. We do not give dates for items marked coming. The ZCP roadmap lists each item as it ships.

A short plan for your team

- 1 **List your servers.** Note the plan, root disk and role of each.
- 2 **Pick a tier per role.** Use the decision on page 7.
- 3 **Create the next server with an explicit root size.** Read the Review and Deploy lines.
- 4 **Add the disk line to your forecast.** It scales with GB, not with plan.
- 5 **Watch usage and grow when needed.** Growth is a volume change, not a plan change.

How ZSoftly can help

ZSoftly Technologies Inc. publishes ZCP. If you want a review of root sizes, tier choice or the move off a custom plan, send us your server list and your recovery targets. We will review the design with you and give you the forecast in the new model. For dedicated or single-tenant storage, ask about ZSoftly Cloud Storage.

Questions to settle before you roll this out

Engineering

- Which tier does each role need?
- Which servers hold data that needs its own volume?
- Where is the disk size set in your automation?

Finance

- Is the forecast built per plan or per resource?
- Who owns the growth of disk spend?
- Do you track the disk line separately?

Operations

- Who grows a disk, and on what threshold?
- Are snapshots and backups set for local volumes?
- Who checks the Review and Deploy lines?

Where the numbers live. Current rates are on the ZCP pricing page, and storage behaviour is in the ZCP documentation. This paper is a dated snapshot. When the two differ, the website is right.

REFERENCES

Sources

All sources were checked on 11 October 2026.

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Plan names, sizes, compute rates and the 80 GB worked example come from the ZCP plan catalogue as configured on 11 October 2026. The recommended sizes follow the plan tags in the catalogue.

Notices

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