

# **Cloud Cost Optimization Checklist**

## **Cloud Cost Optimization Checklist: Find and Reduce Cloud Waste**

Use this checklist to identify unnecessary cloud expenses and improve your cloud spending efficiency.

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### **1. Review Your Current Cloud Spending**

- ☐ Analyze your monthly cloud bill and identify the biggest cost areas
  - ☐ Check which services are increasing costs month over month
  - ☐ Review spending by department, project, application, and environment
  - ☐ Identify unexpected charges or sudden cost spikes
  - ☐ Set monthly cloud spending budgets and alerts
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### **2. Remove Unused Cloud Resources**

- ☐ Delete unused virtual machines and instances
  - ☐ Remove unattached storage volumes
  - ☐ Identify unused snapshots and backups
  - ☐ Delete old test and development environments
  - ☐ Remove unused IP addresses and networking resources
  - ☐ Review inactive databases and applications
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### 3. Right-Size Your Cloud Infrastructure

- ☐ Check if your servers are larger than required
  - ☐ Monitor CPU, memory, and storage usage
  - ☐ Downsize over-provisioned virtual machines
  - ☐ Match resources with actual workload requirements
  - ☐ Review instance sizes regularly
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### 4. Optimize Cloud Storage Costs

- ☐ Remove duplicate and unnecessary files
  - ☐ Move rarely accessed data to cheaper storage tiers
  - ☐ Enable automatic data lifecycle policies
  - ☐ Compress large files where possible
  - ☐ Review backup retention periods
  - ☐ Delete outdated backups
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### 5. Improve Compute Cost Efficiency

- ☐ Use auto-scaling to match resources with demand
  - ☐ Shut down non-production environments during unused hours
  - ☐ Use reserved instances or savings plans where suitable
  - ☐ Review serverless options for suitable workloads
  - ☐ Optimize application performance to reduce resource usage
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### 6. Implement Cloud Cost Monitoring

- ☐ Enable cloud billing dashboards
  - ☐ Set up cost alerts
  - ☐ Track spending trends regularly
  - ☐ Create monthly cloud cost reports
  - ☐ Assign cost ownership to teams
  - ☐ Monitor unused resources continuously
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## **7. Optimize AWS, Azure, and Google Cloud Services**

### **AWS**

- ☐ Review AWS Cost Explorer reports
- ☐ Use AWS Compute Optimizer recommendations
- ☐ Evaluate Savings Plans and Reserved Instances

### **Microsoft Azure**

- ☐ Review Azure Advisor recommendations
- ☐ Optimize Azure Virtual Machines
- ☐ Check reserved VM discounts

### **Google Cloud**

- ☐ Review Google Cloud cost recommendations
  - ☐ Optimize Compute Engine resources
  - ☐ Evaluate committed use discounts
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## **8. Improve Cloud Security and Governance**

- ☐ Remove unused user accounts and permissions

- ☐ Review access policies regularly
  - ☐ Apply resource tagging standards
  - ☐ Track cloud usage ownership
  - ☐ Create governance policies for new resources
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## 9. Automate Cost Optimization

- ☐ Automate resource shutdown schedules
  - ☐ Create alerts for unusual spending patterns
  - ☐ Use automation tools for resource cleanup
  - ☐ Schedule regular cloud cost reviews
  - ☐ Automate reporting processes
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## 10. Build a Cloud Cost Optimization Process

- ☐ Assign someone responsible for cloud costs
  - ☐ Conduct monthly cost reviews
  - ☐ Train teams on cloud spending best practices
  - ☐ Document optimization decisions
  - ☐ Continuously review and improve cloud usage
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## Quick Cloud Cost Audit Score

After completing this checklist:

**0-10 completed:**

Your cloud environment likely has significant cost-saving opportunities.

**10-25 completed:**

Your cloud spending is partially optimized but needs improvement.

**25+ completed:**

Your organization has a strong cloud cost management process.