

Azure Cost Optimization Checklist

A practical checklist for finding and cutting unnecessary Azure spend across compute, storage, databases, and networking.

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Compute

- ☐ Right-size VM instances to actual CPU/memory usage, not initial guesses
- ☐ Move predictable, always-on workloads to Reserved Instances
- ☐ Use Spot Instances for flexible, interruption-tolerant workloads
- ☐ Schedule auto-shutdown for non-production VMs outside working hours
- ☐ Decommission orphaned VMs, disks, and network interfaces

Storage

- ☐ Set lifecycle policies to move aging data to cooler (cheaper) storage tiers automatically
- ☐ Review and delete unattached managed disks
- ☐ Right-size disk performance tiers (Premium vs Standard) to actual IOPS needs
- ☐ Enable soft-delete/versioning only where genuinely needed, as it adds storage cost

Databases

- ☐ Right-size database compute tiers to actual query load
- ☐ Use reserved capacity pricing for stable, predictable database workloads
- ☐ Review read replica usage — remove replicas that aren't offloading meaningful traffic
- ☐ Check backup retention settings against actual compliance requirements

Networking

- ☐ Review data egress costs, especially cross-region transfers
- ☐ Remove unused public IP addresses and load balancers
- ☐ Consolidate redundant VPN or ExpressRoute connections where possible

Governance & Ongoing Review

- ☐ Set up budget alerts at the subscription and resource group level
- ☐ Tag resources by owner/project for cost accountability
- ☐ Review Azure Advisor cost recommendations monthly
- ☐ Run a full cost review quarterly, not just when a bill looks surprising

Common finding: The single biggest source of Azure overspend is usually resources sized to match old on-premises hardware specs, rather than actual cloud workload demand.

Want help with this, not just the guide?

Rua Technologies is an authorized Microsoft partner delivering licensing, migration, security, and support to businesses across India.

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