

# AWS Well-Architected Review Checklist

A condensed field checklist across the six pillars for engineering teams preparing for a formal AWS WAR review.

## Operational Excellence

- Runbooks documented and version-controlled
- Deployments fully automated via CI/CD
- Post-incident reviews conducted within 5 business days
- Ownership defined for every workload

## Security

- Root account MFA enforced and unused
- IAM policies follow least-privilege
- Secrets stored in Secrets Manager or Parameter Store
- GuardDuty, Security Hub, and CloudTrail enabled across all accounts
- Encryption at rest and in transit for every data store

## Reliability

- Multi-AZ deployment for stateful services
- Backups automated and periodically restore-tested
- Documented RTO and RPO per workload
- Auto-scaling policies tuned for peak load

## Performance Efficiency

- Right-sized compute reviewed monthly
- Caching layer in front of read-heavy paths
- CloudFront or equivalent CDN for static assets
- Managed services preferred over self-hosted

## Cost Optimization

- Savings Plans / Reserved Instances reviewed quarterly
- Unused EBS volumes, snapshots, and EIPs cleaned up
- Cost allocation tags enforced via SCP
- Budgets and anomaly detection enabled

## Sustainability

- Workloads consolidated onto fewer, better-utilized instances
- Serverless preferred for spiky workloads
- Data lifecycle policies move cold data to Glacier

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