

# Cloud Cost Optimization Checklist

Quick wins and structural moves that consistently reduce cloud spend without hurting performance.

## Visibility

- Cost allocation tags enforced and reported on
- Anomaly detection alerts wired to Slack or email
- Per-team / per-service showback dashboards

## Compute

- Right-size EC2 / VM SKUs based on 30-day utilization
- Adopt Graviton / AMD instances where compatible
- Spot / Preemptible for fault-tolerant workloads
- Auto-scale non-prod down outside business hours

## Kubernetes

- Set realistic requests and limits
- Enable cluster autoscaler and Karpenter or equivalent
- Bin-pack with topology-aware scheduling
- Delete unused namespaces and idle deployments

## Storage & Data

- Move cold objects to Glacier / Archive tier
- Delete orphaned EBS volumes, snapshots, and old AMIs
- Compress and prune log retention
- Right-size RDS storage and IOPS

## Commitments

- Savings Plans reviewed quarterly against usage
- Reserved capacity for stable baselines only
- Track commitment coverage and utilization weekly

## Networking

- Audit NAT Gateway traffic — often the top hidden line item
- Use VPC endpoints for AWS services
- Consolidate cross-region traffic

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