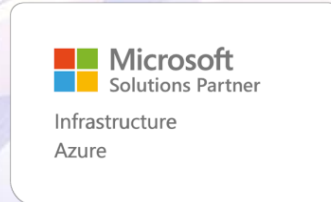
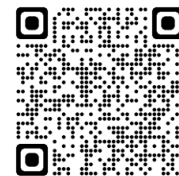


# 7 Cost Savings Tips For Your Azure Cloud Environment

Authored by  
Conor McCulloch, Cloud Engineer, Aug 2024



# Azure Cloud Solutions That Just Work

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- ✓ Reduce Costs
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# Tip 1 - Find the Right Partner

Finding the right **Cloud Partner** is essential to ensure you save the most money possible on your cloud spend.

**License Partners** Save costs on your entire Azure spend with the right license partner, who can provision subscriptions and offer special discounts across your environment.

**Managed Service** How well does your team know the cloud?

The right partner can provide ongoing optimization and guidance. They can become a valued, trusted partner, giving you peace of mind.

**Advice & Consultation** Managing your own cloud environment?

No problem, the right partner can offer expert advice and assist in any projects or problems you may need help with.

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## Tip 2 – Reserve & Save!

**Azure Reservations** offer significant cost savings by allowing you to commit to one-year or three-year plans for various Azure products. Here are the key benefits:

**Cost Savings** Save up to 72% compared to pay-as-you-go prices by committing to a reservation.

**Automatic Discounts** Once purchased, the discount is automatically applied to matching resources without affecting their runtime state.

**Flexible Payment Options** Choose to pay upfront or monthly, with no additional fees for monthly payments. Note that monthly payment is available only for Azure reservations, not third-party products.

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## Tip 3 – Plan & Save!

Azure Savings Plans provide a flexible way to save on compute services by committing to a fixed hourly spend for one-year or three-year terms. Here are the key benefits:

**Cost Savings** Save up to 65% on select compute services compared to pay-as-you-go prices.

**Flexible Commitment** Choose a one-year or three-year term and set your plan's hourly amount based on personalized recommendations.

**Wide Applicability** Apply savings across subscriptions, resource groups, management groups, or entire Azure accounts.

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# What's The Difference?

## Azure Reservations v Azure Savings Plans

### Azure Reservations

#### Commitment

With Reservations, you commit to using a specific resource type (e.g. a particular VM size) in a specific region for 1 or 3 years.

#### Scope

Reservations apply only to the specified resource type and region.

#### Savings

Up to 72% savings compared to pay-as-you-go plans.

#### Use Case

Workloads that are stable and predictable, with no anticipated changes to the instance type, family, or region, offering larger savings in return for those more specific resources.

### Azure Savings Plans

#### Commitment

With Savings Plans you commit to a fixed hourly spend on eligible compute services across all Azure regions for one or three years.

#### Scope

Savings Plans apply to any eligible compute service globally, up to the hourly commitment.

#### Savings

Up to 65% savings compared to pay-as-you-go plans.

#### Use Case

Dynamic or evolving workloads that may use various instance families or compute services, or shift between different regions, offering smaller savings across a larger breadth of resources and resource types.

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# Tip 4 – Keep on Top of your Spend!

**Cost Management Alerts** help you monitor and control your Azure spending by notifying you when certain thresholds are met. There are several types of alerts including:

**Budget Alerts** Notify you when your spending reaches or exceeds a predefined budget amount. You can set these alerts based on actual costs or forecasted costs.

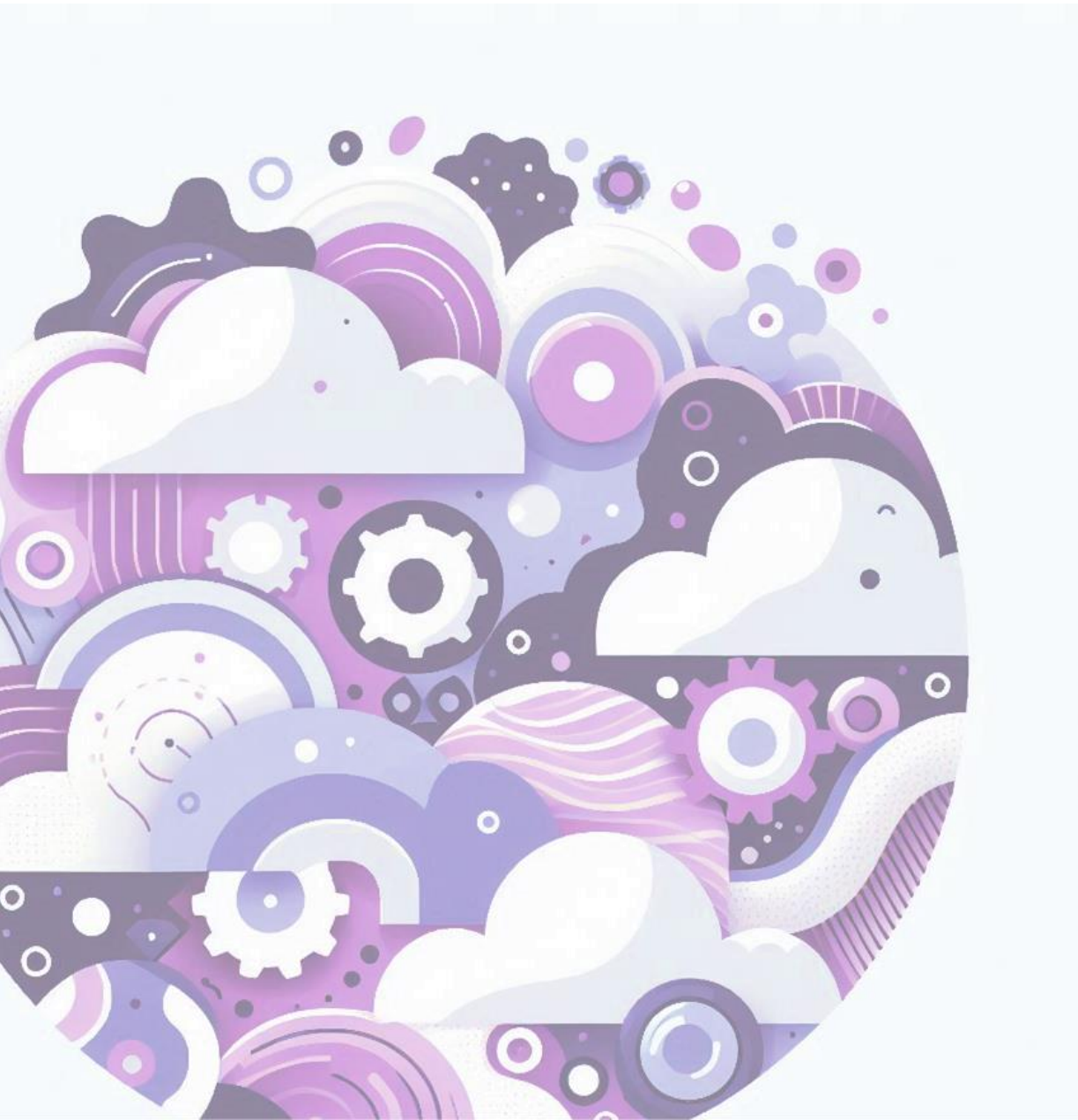
**Department Spending Quota Alerts** Notify you when department spending reaches a fixed threshold of the quota. These are useful for large organizations with multiple departments or projects.

**Cost Anomaly Alerts** Automatically notify you when an unusual spending pattern is detected, helping you catch unexpected costs early.

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## Tip 5 – Automate!

**Automate** shutdown VM's and schedule workloads to reduce in size or SKU when not in use or under less load. Ensuring you only paying for what you need is vital to saving costs in Azure.

**Scheduled Shutdown** You can set a specific time for your VMs to shut down automatically. This is particularly useful for development and testing environments that do not need to run 24/7.

**Notifications** You can configure notifications to be sent before the shutdown occurs, allowing you to cancel the shutdown if necessary.

**Automation Accounts** You can create scripts to resize workloads such as Web Apps and Databases to smaller SKUs to save costs when they have lower traffic.

**Auto Pause** Serverless SQL Databases can be set to automatically pause when they are inactive

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# Tip 6 – Bring Your Licenses with You!

**Azure Hybrid Benefit** is a licensing offer that helps you save on Azure costs by allowing you to use your existing on-premises licenses for Windows Server, SQL Server, and Linux subscriptions on Azure.

Here are the key benefits:

**Cost Savings** Save up to 85% on Windows Server and SQL Server by using your existing licenses with Software Assurance or qualifying subscription licenses.

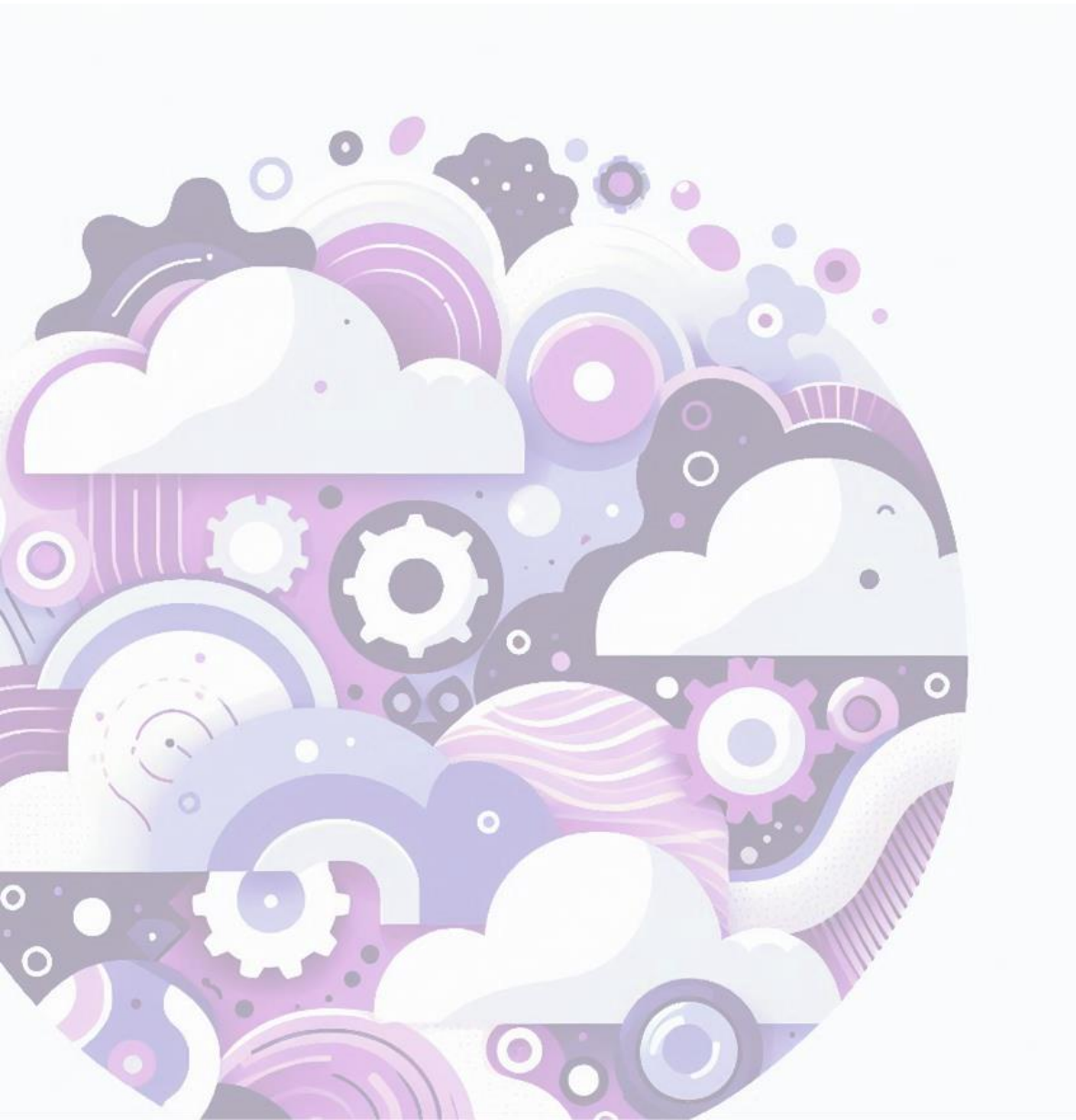
**Flexibility** Apply your licenses to various Azure services, including virtual machines, Azure Stack HCI, and Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS).

**Scope** The benefit can be applied to both new and existing resources, making it easy to integrate into your current setup.

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## Tip 7 – Right Sizing

Figuring out the correct size and SKU of VM, Database or App Service can be difficult and getting it wrong can mean a lot of unneeded costs! Here are a few ways to ensure you pick the right SKU

**Azure Advisor** Already have resources deployed and are unsure if they're the right fit for you? Azure Advisor provides personalized recommendations to optimize your Azure resources.

**\*Azure Pricing Calculator** Not sure what the VM you picked will cost you? The Azure Pricing Calculator helps you estimate the cost of VM's, Databases, Storage and everything else in Azure.

**Azure VM Selector Tool** Unsure of the VM you need for a new project or workload? The Azure VM Selector Tool within Azure assists in finding the best VM size for your workload.

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We are a Microsoft Azure Solutions Partner, Cyber Essentials Plus certified, and hold ISO 27001 and ISO 9001.

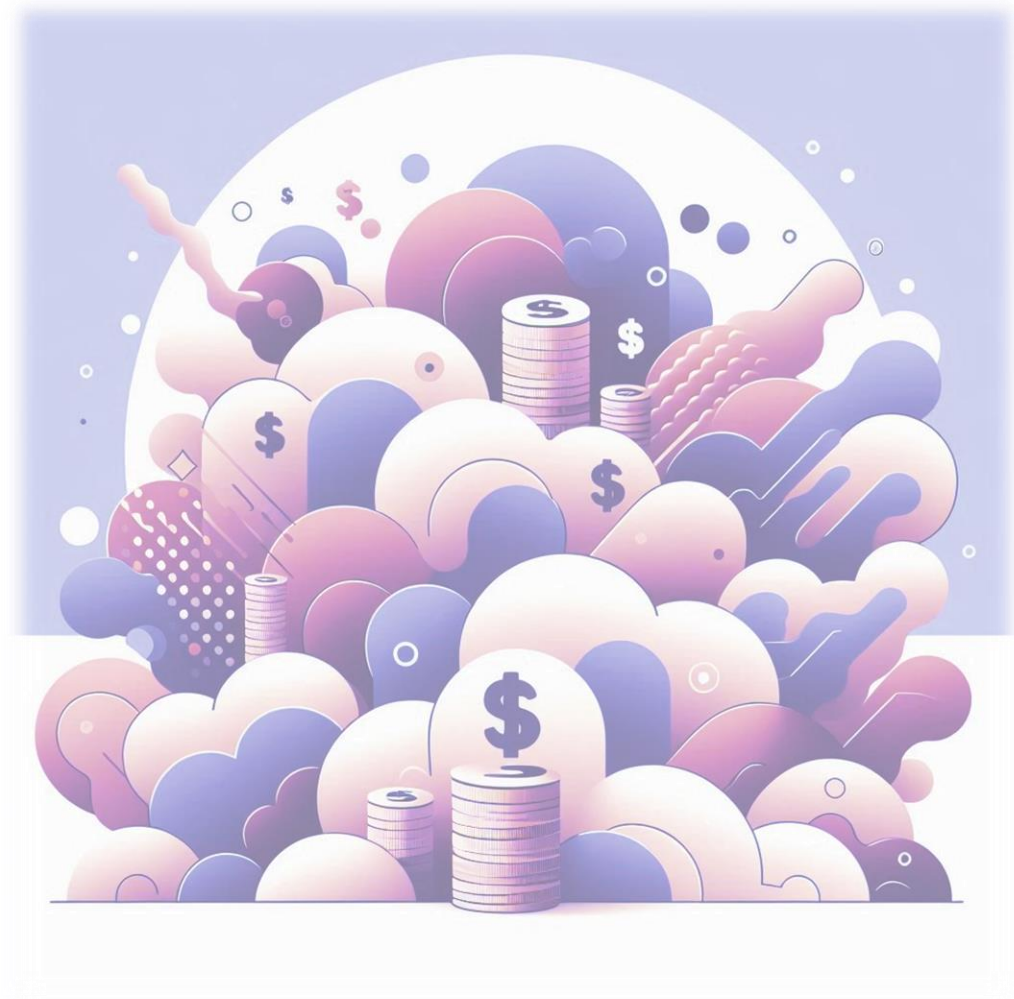
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# Thank you!



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