**Cloud Services**

We investigated the costs of hosting Truelec’s servers using Microsoft Azure and Amazon AWS. The official cloud pricing calculators were used, and the exported estimates are provided in our repository for verification:

* AzureEstimate.xlsx
* AWSEstimate.csv

VM Specifications (per server)

* Region: Australia East (Azure) / Asia Pacific (Sydney) AWS
* Operating System: Windows Server 2022
* vCPUs: 4
* RAM: 16 GB
* Storage: 256 GB SSD

Cost Comparison

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Provider | VM Specs (Sydney Region) | Monthly Cost | 12-Month Cost | 5-Year Total | Estimate File |
| Azure | 4 vCPUs, 16 GB RAM, 256 GB Premium SSD | $392.79 | $4,713.50 | $23,567.52 | AzureEstimate.xlsx |
| AWS | 4 vCPUs, 16 GB RAM, 256 GB gp2 SSD (EBS) | $327.01 | $3,924.12 | $19,620.60 | AWSEstimate.csv |

Note: Values are in USD. Each cost is for one VM. Truelec requires 6 servers, so totals would be 6× these values.

Analysis

* Azure Advantages: Tighter integration with Microsoft ecosystem (AD, Office 365, licensing). Easier for existing Windows workloads.
* AWS Advantages: Slightly lower costs, flexible services, broader global network.
* Disadvantages of Cloud: Recurring operational costs, vendor lock-in, dependency on internet availability.

Recommendation

While AWS offers lower costs (~17% cheaper), we recommend Microsoft Azure for Truelec. The integration with Microsoft services, licensing compatibility, and simplified administration outweigh the modest cost difference.