

# DevOps Bulletin

The latest **DevOps** trends  
in your inbox every week.

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## Cost Optimization Checklist

From the FinOps Tip of the Week



# Visibility & Monitoring

## 1. Enable detailed visibility

- Activate **AWS Cost and Usage Report (CUR)** — hourly granularity
- Set up **AWS Budgets** and monthly cost alerts
- Turn on **Cost Explorer** and create service breakdown reports
- Enable **Tagging Policies** for consistent metadata
- Use **AWS Config** or **CloudQuery** to cross-check untagged resources

## 2. Track spend by *Owner & Project*

- Implement mandatory tags: *Owner, Environment, Project*
- Use **AWS Organizations** + **Cost Allocation Tags**
- Export cost data to **Athena** for custom dashboards
- Automate tagging audits and remediation

💡 Tip: Lack of tagging is the #1 cause of wasted spend. Make it a governance priority.

# Compute Optimization

## 3. Right-size & modernize

- Use **Compute Optimizer** for EC2/Auto Scaling rightsizing
- Decommission idle EC2s and EBS volumes
- Move to Graviton (ARM) instances where possible
- Replace older instance families (*t2/t3* → *t4g/m7g*)
- Review underused containers and Lambda memory allocations

## 4. Track spend by *Owner* & *Project*

- Implement **Auto Scaling** groups for variable workloads
- Schedule shutdowns for non-prod environments (Lambda or Instance Scheduler)
- Use **ECS/Fargate** Spot for CI/CD runners or batch jobs
- Tune Lambda timeout and memory settings
- Consolidate compute in fewer, well-utilized regions

💡 Tip: 30–40% of compute spend is typically idle time.



# Storage & Data Transfer

## 5. Optimize S3 & EBS

- Move infrequently accessed data to **S3 IA / Glacier**
- Enable **Intelligent Tiering** for dynamic workloads
- Delete old EBS snapshots and unattached volumes
- Enable **S3 Lifecycle Policies** and versioning limits
- Compress and archive logs regularly

## 6. Reduce Data Transfer costs

- Use **VPC Endpoints** instead of NAT Gateways
- Serve static assets via **CloudFront CDN**
- Prefer same-region traffic and avoid unnecessary cross-AZ calls
- Consolidate workloads under **PrivateLink** connections
- Monitor egress-heavy services (S3, EC2, API Gateway)

💡 Tip: Data transfer can silently eat 10–20% of your AWS bill — measure it!

# Commitments, Automation & Governance

## 7. Commit to long-term savings

- Purchase **Savings Plans** for consistent workloads
- Use Reserved Instances for predictable services (RDS, Redshift)
- **Mix Spot + On-Demand** for batch or CI/CD workloads
- Track utilization via Savings Plan reports
- Review commitments quarterly

## 8. Automate governance & FinOps

- Use **AWS Config**, **Cloud Custodian**, or **Terraform policies** for cleanup
- Create Slack alerts for cost anomalies via **CloudWatch + SNS**
- Integrate FinOps data into dashboards (**QuickSight / Looker / Grafana**)
- Conduct monthly FinOps reviews per team
- Embed cost KPIs in sprint metrics

💡 Pro Tip: FinOps isn't about cutting costs — it's about spending smarter.