



AZURE COST AUDIT

# Where your Azure money is going, and what to stop paying for.

Northwind Analytics (sample)

1 subscription · billing data 2026-09-24 to 2026-10-23

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**\$3,066**

SAVINGS IDENTIFIED /  
MONTH

**\$36,787**

ANNUALISED

**34%**

OF CURRENT MONTHLY  
SPEND

# Executive summary

|                                 |                                   |                                  |                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| MONTHLY SPEND<br><b>\$9,094</b> | QUICK WINS / MO<br><b>\$2,578</b> | COMMITMENTS / MO<br><b>\$696</b> | FINDINGS<br><b>39</b> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|

We reviewed 1 subscription using read-only access, 30 days of actual billing data and 14 days of VM utilisation. Cleanup, scheduling and rightsizing alone can cut **\$2,578 a month**. Reservations and savings plans add up to \$696 more; we count those at 70% in the headline because they shrink once the footprint is right-sized.

**Return on this audit: 49x.** Identified annual savings of \$36,787 against the audit fee of \$750 (guarantee threshold \$1,500).

## Biggest single wins

| RESOURCE                         | ISSUE                                                                                   | ACTION                                    | SAVE / MO    |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------|
| vm-prod-worker-01<br>rg-prod-app | Over-provisioned VMs (low CPU)<br>Standard_E16s_v5 - avg CPU 6.2%, p95 peak 22%         | Resize to Standard_E8s_v5                 | <b>\$373</b> |
| vm-prod-reporting<br>rg-prod-app | Over-provisioned VMs (low CPU)<br>Standard_D16s_v5 - avg CPU 4.1%, p95 peak 18%         | Resize to Standard_D8s_v5                 | <b>\$284</b> |
| vm-stg-worker<br>rg-staging      | Non-production VMs running 24/7<br>Standard_E8s_v5 - up 97% of hours, no auto-shutdown  | Auto-shutdown 19:00, start 07:00 weekdays | <b>\$239</b> |
| vm-stg-app-01<br>rg-staging      | Non-production VMs running 24/7<br>Standard_D8s_v5 - up 100% of hours, no auto-shutdown | Auto-shutdown 19:00, start 07:00 weekdays | <b>\$182</b> |
| asp-internal-tools<br>rg-web     | App Service plans with no apps<br>Standard S2 - 0 apps                                  | Delete plan                               | <b>\$148</b> |
| asp-marketing-old<br>rg-web      | App Service plans with no apps<br>PremiumV3 P1v3 - 0 apps                               | Delete plan                               | <b>\$126</b> |

## Savings by type

| FINDING                                               | ITEMS | SAVE / MO    | SAVE / YR |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------|-----------|
| VMs stopped but still allocated <span>High</span>     | 1     | <b>\$71</b>  | \$852     |
| Unattached managed disks <span>High</span>            | 5     | <b>\$293</b> | \$3,522   |
| Public IPs not attached to anything <span>High</span> | 4     | <b>\$15</b>  | \$178     |
| App Service plans with no apps <span>High</span>      | 2     | <b>\$274</b> | \$3,284   |

|                                         |        |   |       |          |
|-----------------------------------------|--------|---|-------|----------|
| Load balancers with empty backend pools | High   | 1 | \$19  | \$222    |
| Snapshots older than 90 days            | Medium | 5 | \$123 | \$1,479  |
| Deallocated VMs still paying for disks  | Medium | 2 | \$169 | \$2,027  |
| Non-production VMs running 24/7         | High   | 5 | \$693 | \$8,318  |
| Over-provisioned VMs (low CPU)          | Medium | 6 | \$872 | \$10,460 |
| Premium SSDs on non-production VMs      | Medium | 5 | \$50  | \$599    |
| Reservations & savings plans            | Medium | 3 | \$696 | \$8,352  |

## Where the money goes today

Top services, normalised to a monthly figure (USD).

|                          |  |         |
|--------------------------|--|---------|
| Virtual Machines         |  | \$3,428 |
| SQL Database             |  | \$1,865 |
| Azure Kubernetes Service |  | \$1,135 |
| Storage                  |  | \$880   |
| Log Analytics            |  | \$620   |
| Azure App Service        |  | \$525   |
| Bandwidth                |  | \$292   |
| Azure Cache for Redis    |  | \$207   |

## Implementation plan

| WHEN             | WHAT                                                                                                                                          | SAVE / MO      |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Week 1</b>    | <b>Remove pure waste</b><br>Deallocate stopped VMs, delete unattached disks, idle IPs, empty plans and load balancers.                        | <b>\$672</b>   |
| <b>Week 2</b>    | <b>Confirm and clean the rest</b><br>Confirm retention on old snapshots and parked VMs with their owners, then remove.                        | <b>\$292</b>   |
| <b>Weeks 2-3</b> | <b>Schedules and rightsizing</b><br>Auto-shutdown for non-prod, resize over-provisioned VMs in maintenance windows, downgrade non-prod disks. | <b>\$1,615</b> |
| <b>Week 4</b>    | <b>Commit on the smaller footprint</b><br>Buy reservations / savings plans only after the steps above, so you don't lock in waste.            | <b>\$696</b>   |

Each step is independent and reversible except deletions. Snapshot anything you are unsure about before deleting it.

## Findings in detail

### VMs stopped but still allocated

High confidence

\$71 / mo

Shutting a VM down from inside the OS stops it but keeps the compute allocated, so you keep paying the full hourly rate.

| RESOURCE                                    | DETAIL                                     | ACTION                           | COST / MO | SAVE / MO   |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| <b>vm-legacy-sftp</b><br>rg-legacy · eastus | Standard_D2s_v5 - stopped, not deallocated | Deallocate (or delete if unused) | \$71      | <b>\$71</b> |

```
az vm deallocate --ids <resource-id>
```

### Unattached managed disks

High confidence

\$293 / mo

Disks left behind after a VM was deleted are billed every month at full provisioned size.

| RESOURCE                                            | DETAIL                               | ACTION                            | COST / MO | SAVE / MO   |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| <b>vm-retired-05_datadisk</b><br>rg-legacy · eastus | Standard_LRS 2048 GB - unattached    | Delete (snapshot first if needed) | \$83      | <b>\$83</b> |
| <b>vm-retired-03_datadisk</b><br>rg-legacy · eastus | StandardSSD_LRS 1024 GB - unattached | Delete (snapshot first if needed) | \$78      | <b>\$78</b> |
| <b>vm-retired-01_datadisk</b><br>rg-legacy · eastus | Premium_LRS 512 GB - unattached      | Delete (snapshot first if needed) | \$74      | <b>\$74</b> |
| <b>vm-retired-02_datadisk</b><br>rg-legacy · eastus | Premium_LRS 256 GB - unattached      | Delete (snapshot first if needed) | \$39      | <b>\$39</b> |
| <b>vm-retired-04_datadisk</b><br>rg-legacy · eastus | Premium_LRS 128 GB - unattached      | Delete (snapshot first if needed) | \$20      | <b>\$20</b> |

```
az snapshot create ... (optional backup), then: az disk delete --ids <resource-id>
```

### Public IPs not attached to anything

High confidence

\$15 / mo

Standard public IPs bill hourly whether or not they are in use.

| RESOURCE                                   | DETAIL                        | ACTION | COST / MO | SAVE / MO  |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|-----------|------------|
| <b>pip-unused-1</b><br>rg-network · eastus | Standard SKU - not associated | Delete | \$4       | <b>\$4</b> |
| <b>pip-unused-2</b><br>rg-network · eastus | Standard SKU - not associated | Delete | \$4       | <b>\$4</b> |
| <b>pip-unused-3</b><br>rg-network · eastus | Standard SKU - not associated | Delete | \$4       | <b>\$4</b> |

|                                            |                               |        |     |            |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|-----|------------|
| <b>pip-unused-4</b><br>rg-network · eastus | Standard SKU - not associated | Delete | \$4 | <b>\$4</b> |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|-----|------------|

```
az network public-ip delete --ids <resource-id>
```

## App Service plans with no apps High confidence \$274 / mo

An App Service plan bills for its instances even when no app runs on it.

| RESOURCE                                     | DETAIL                  | ACTION      | COST / MO | SAVE / MO    |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| <b>asp-internal-tools</b><br>rg-web · eastus | Standard S2 - 0 apps    | Delete plan | \$148     | <b>\$148</b> |
| <b>asp-marketing-old</b><br>rg-web · eastus  | PremiumV3 P1v3 - 0 apps | Delete plan | \$126     | <b>\$126</b> |

```
az appservice plan delete --ids <resource-id>
```

## Load balancers with empty backend pools High confidence \$19 / mo

Standard load balancers bill for rules and data processing even with nothing behind them.

| RESOURCE                                         | DETAIL                              | ACTION | COST / MO | SAVE / MO   |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|-----------|-------------|
| <b>lb-legacy-internal</b><br>rg-network · eastus | Standard SKU - 1 pool(s), 0 members | Delete | \$19      | <b>\$19</b> |

```
az network lb delete --ids <resource-id>
```

## Snapshots older than 90 days Medium confidence \$123 / mo

Old snapshots quietly accumulate. Most are forgotten one-off backups; confirm retention needs, then delete.

| RESOURCE                                     | DETAIL                 | ACTION                    | COST / MO | SAVE / MO   |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| <b>snap-prod-db-04</b><br>rg-backup · eastus | 1024 GB - 160 days old | Confirm retention, delete | \$52      | <b>\$52</b> |
| <b>snap-prod-db-01</b><br>rg-backup · eastus | 512 GB - 410 days old  | Confirm retention, delete | \$26      | <b>\$26</b> |
| <b>snap-prod-db-02</b><br>rg-backup · eastus | 512 GB - 380 days old  | Confirm retention, delete | \$26      | <b>\$26</b> |
| <b>snap-prod-db-05</b><br>rg-backup · eastus | 256 GB - 95 days old   | Confirm retention, delete | \$13      | <b>\$13</b> |
| <b>snap-prod-db-03</b><br>rg-backup · eastus | 128 GB - 220 days old  | Confirm retention, delete | \$6       | <b>\$6</b>  |

```
az snapshot delete --ids <resource-id>
```

## Deallocated VMs still paying for disks

Medium confidence

\$169 / mo

A deallocated VM stops compute billing, but its OS and data disks keep billing. If the VM is not coming back, snapshot and delete.

| RESOURCE                                        | DETAIL                                 | ACTION                                      | COST / MO | SAVE / MO    |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| <b>vm-poc-ml-gpu</b><br>rg-poc · eastus         | 1 disk(s) still billed while VM is off | Snapshot to Standard HDD, delete VM + disks | \$137     | <b>\$110</b> |
| <b>vm-old-build-agent</b><br>rg-legacy · eastus | 1 disk(s) still billed while VM is off | Snapshot to Standard HDD, delete VM + disks | \$74      | <b>\$59</b>  |

Snapshot the disks (incremental, Standard HDD), then delete the VM and its disks.

## Non-production VMs running 24/7

High confidence

\$693 / mo

Dev/test/staging machines rarely need nights and weekends. Running them 12h on weekdays cuts ~64% of their compute hours.

| RESOURCE                                    | DETAIL                                               | ACTION                                    | COST / MO | SAVE / MO    |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| <b>vm-stg-worker</b><br>rg-staging · eastus | Standard_E8s_v5 - up 97% of hours, no auto-shutdown  | Auto-shutdown 19:00, start 07:00 weekdays | \$373     | <b>\$239</b> |
| <b>vm-stg-app-01</b><br>rg-staging · eastus | Standard_D8s_v5 - up 100% of hours, no auto-shutdown | Auto-shutdown 19:00, start 07:00 weekdays | \$284     | <b>\$182</b> |
| <b>vm-dev-api-01</b><br>rg-dev · eastus     | Standard_D4s_v5 - up 99% of hours, no auto-shutdown  | Auto-shutdown 19:00, start 07:00 weekdays | \$142     | <b>\$91</b>  |
| <b>vm-dev-api-02</b><br>rg-dev · eastus     | Standard_D4s_v5 - up 100% of hours, no auto-shutdown | Auto-shutdown 19:00, start 07:00 weekdays | \$142     | <b>\$91</b>  |
| <b>vm-qa-selenium</b><br>rg-qa · eastus     | Standard_D4s_v5 - up 98% of hours, no auto-shutdown  | Auto-shutdown 19:00, start 07:00 weekdays | \$142     | <b>\$91</b>  |

```
az vm auto-shutdown --ids <resource-id> --time 1900 (pair with a start schedule via Automation or Logic Apps)
```

## Over-provisioned VMs (low CPU)

Medium confidence

\$872 / mo

Average CPU under 10% with low peaks over 14 days. One size down in the same family typically halves the compute cost. Memory isn't visible without the guest agent, so verify before resizing.

| RESOURCE                                         | DETAIL                                        | ACTION                    | COST / MO | SAVE / MO    |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| <b>vm-prod-worker-01</b><br>rg-prod-app · eastus | Standard_E16s_v5 - avg CPU 6.2%, p95 peak 22% | Resize to Standard_E8s_v5 | \$746     | <b>\$373</b> |
| <b>vm-prod-reporting</b><br>rg-prod-app · eastus | Standard_D16s_v5 - avg CPU 4.1%, p95 peak 18% | Resize to Standard_D8s_v5 | \$568     | <b>\$284</b> |

|                                              |                                              |                              |       |             |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|-------------|
| <b>vm-prod-jump</b><br>rg-prod-data · eastus | Standard_D4s_v5 - avg CPU 2.3%, p95 peak 9%  | Resize to<br>Standard_D2s_v5 | \$142 | <b>\$71</b> |
| <b>vm-stg-worker</b><br>rg-staging · eastus  | Standard_E8s_v5 - avg CPU 3.2%, p95 peak 14% | Resize to<br>Standard_E4s_v5 | \$373 | <b>\$67</b> |
| <b>vm-stg-app-01</b><br>rg-staging · eastus  | Standard_D8s_v5 - avg CPU 7.5%, p95 peak 30% | Resize to<br>Standard_D4s_v5 | \$284 | <b>\$51</b> |
| <b>vm-dev-api-02</b><br>rg-dev · eastus      | Standard_D4s_v5 - avg CPU 9%, p95 peak 35%   | Resize to<br>Standard_D2s_v5 | \$142 | <b>\$26</b> |

```
az vm resize --ids <resource-id> --size <target-size>
```

## Premium SSDs on non-production VMs

Medium confidence

\$50 / mo

Non-prod workloads rarely need Premium SSD performance. Standard SSD costs roughly half.

| RESOURCE                                           | DETAIL                               | ACTION                       | COST / MO | SAVE / MO   |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| <b>vm-dev-api-01-osdisk</b><br>rg-dev · eastus     | Premium_LRS 128 GB on vm-dev-api-01  | Change to<br>StandardSSD_LRS | \$20      | <b>\$10</b> |
| <b>vm-dev-api-02-osdisk</b><br>rg-dev · eastus     | Premium_LRS 128 GB on vm-dev-api-02  | Change to<br>StandardSSD_LRS | \$20      | <b>\$10</b> |
| <b>vm-stg-app-01-osdisk</b><br>rg-staging · eastus | Premium_LRS 128 GB on vm-stg-app-01  | Change to<br>StandardSSD_LRS | \$20      | <b>\$10</b> |
| <b>vm-stg-worker-osdisk</b><br>rg-staging · eastus | Premium_LRS 128 GB on vm-stg-worker  | Change to<br>StandardSSD_LRS | \$20      | <b>\$10</b> |
| <b>vm-qa-selenium-osdisk</b><br>rg-qa · eastus     | Premium_LRS 128 GB on vm-qa-selenium | Change to<br>StandardSSD_LRS | \$20      | <b>\$10</b> |

```
az vm deallocate ...; az disk update --ids <resource-id> --sku StandardSSD_LRS
```

## Reservations & savings plans

Medium confidence

\$696 / mo

Steady-state usage bought on demand. A 1-year reservation or savings plan cuts the rate for the same usage. Do the cleanup and rightsizing first, then commit on the smaller footprint.

| RESOURCE                          | DETAIL                                                                        | ACTION                                         | COST / MO | SAVE / MO    |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| <b>SQL DB vCore Gen5 (eastus)</b> | Consider SQL Database reserved capacity to save over your pay-as-you-go costs | Buy SQL Database reserved capacity (1-year)    | -         | <b>\$386</b> |
| <b>Standard_D8s_v5 (eastus)</b>   | Consider virtual machine reserved instance to save over your on-demand costs  | Buy virtual machine reserved instance (1-year) | -         | <b>\$168</b> |

|                             |                                                                   |                                   |   |              |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--------------|
| <b>Compute savings plan</b> | Consider a compute savings plan to save over your on-demand costs | Buy compute savings plan (1-year) | - | <b>\$142</b> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--------------|

Azure portal > Reservations / Savings plans > Purchase, using the scope and quantity shown.

## Method and assumptions

1. **Access.** A service principal with Reader and Cost Management Reader roles only, with a credential that expires after 30 days. Nothing was changed in your environment.
2. **Costs** are your actual billed costs per resource from Azure Cost Management (2026-09-24 to 2026-10-23), normalised to a 30.4-day month, in your billing currency (USD).
3. **Waste** savings equal the resource's current cost: removing it removes the charge.
4. **Schedules** assume weekday 07:00-19:00 running (60 of 168 hours), a 64% reduction in compute hours.
5. **Rightsizing** assumes one size down in the same family (about 50% of compute cost), based on CPU over 14 days. Memory pressure is not visible without the guest agent; check it before resizing.
6. **Commitments** come from Azure Advisor's 1-year recommendations, de-duplicated. They are counted at 70% in the headline because cleanup and rightsizing reduce the base they apply to.
7. Licence costs (Windows, SQL), data egress and Marketplace charges are included in spend but not modelled as separate savings.

The full list of findings with resource IDs is supplied separately as a CSV for your engineers.