

G-Cloud 15

Service Definition Document

Cloud Cost Optimisation Assessment

January 2026



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1. Service detail

1.1. Introduction

Cloud Cost Optimisation Assessment Service is the process of evaluating, analysing, and identifying opportunities to reduce cloud spending while maintaining or improving efficiency and performance. Given that cloud costs can be a significant part of an organisation's operating expenses, this assessment seeks to ensure that resources are used effectively, and that money isn't wasted on underutilised or incorrectly provisioned resources.

EY's Cloud Cost Optimization Assessment employs a proven methodology to identify and analyse the costs associated with cloud services. We conduct a comprehensive end-to-end analysis that encompasses three critical areas within the organisation: People, Process, and Technology. Our detailed approach allows businesses to uncover inefficiencies and superfluous expenditures within their current cloud infrastructure.

By addressing these areas, companies can effectively streamline their cloud expenses. Our assessment guides them in removing redundant resources, optimising the allocation and utilisation of existing cloud assets, and making informed choices regarding cloud pricing options. The result is a leaner, more cost-effective cloud deployment that aligns with the organisation's financial and operational goals.

1.2. Description

Immediate Needs from Assessment

We would Assess the Buyer's Cloud environment and generate a detailed assessment report, identifying the gaps and recommendations for Cloud cost optimisation. The more a business understands the parts of a cloud cost analysis, the more likely they are to account for all necessary components in their analysis.



Figure 1 - Immediate needs from Assessment

In today's competitive and rapidly changing market, organisations are continuously striving to improve their organisation. Whether changes are required from internal (e.g., **cost reduction**) or external business drivers (e.g., regulatory reform), organisations need to assess their platform across several key areas.

Our detailed approach for Cloud Cost Optimisation Assessment

Once we gather all prerequisites for assessment, we will conduct the cloud cost optimisation assessment in 3 phases with regular weekly reviews.

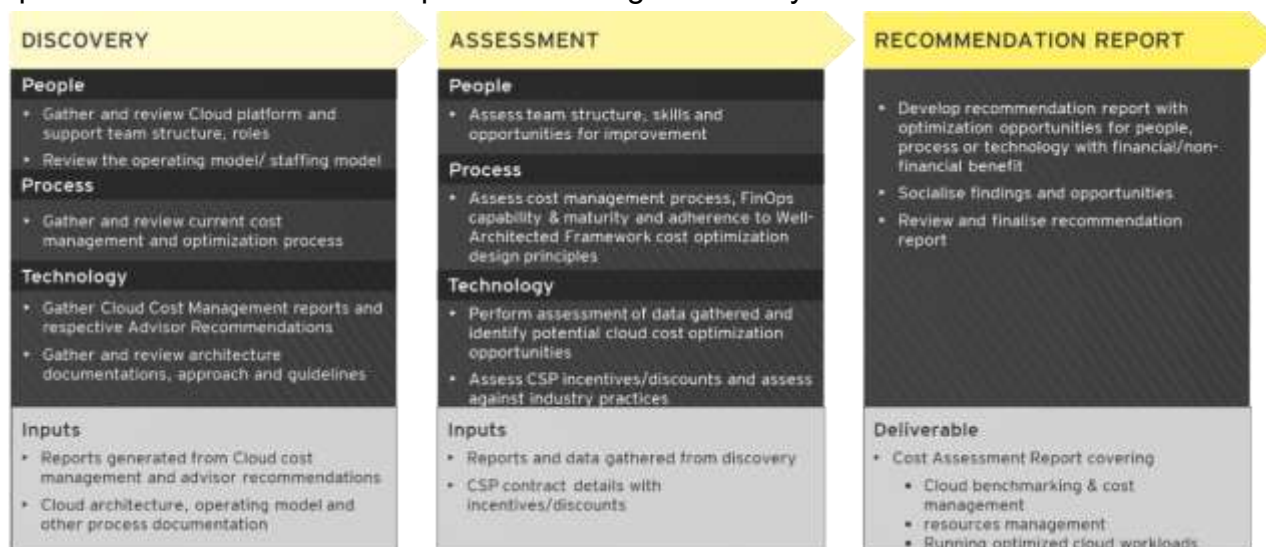


Figure 2 – EY Approach for Cloud Cost Optimisation Assessment

Discovery Phase

The Discovery phase of the project involves several steps, beginning with the finalisation of gathering Cloud cost reports, Cloud contracts and architecture documents. This will commence after a project kick-off meeting, ensuring all stakeholders are well-aligned.

We will then review the Cloud delivery team structure and staffing model, documenting all findings for future reference. It's crucial to understand the central cost-management process that includes aspects like tooling budget, Savings Plan, and cost allocations. We will also aim to comprehend the DevOps/ DevSecOps approach and Cloud platform operations. This would involve reviewing contracts, Cloud utilisation and cost reports, and the guideline document.

Furthermore, it's important to comprehend native cloud architecture and contract management. To achieve this, a comprehensive review of architecture and costs related to Cloud workloads across all business units would be conducted.

The end of this phase would involve finalising the report structure which details all the findings and suggestions.

Assessment Phase

An effective assessment can greatly enhance the efficiency and success of team and project outcomes.

The process begins by scrutinising the team's structure, evaluating the diverse skills of its members, and pinpointing areas where there is room for growth and enhancement. A thorough review of the cost management process is also vital, which entails examining the FinOps capability and its maturity level to ensure strict adherence to the design principles of the Well-Architected Framework, particularly those related to cost optimisation.

We also review the organisation's DevOps and DevSecOps approach to understand how engineering practices support effective platform operations. As part of this review, we note that DevOps is increasingly shifting toward energy-aware practices, with leaner pipelines, more efficient infrastructure choices and growing attention to tracking carbon footprint and reducing compute waste. This trend supports both sustainable operations and the broader optimisation goals of the assessment.

Moving forward, it is essential to perform a detailed assessment of the data collected during the discovery phase. This step is instrumental in identifying potential opportunities for cloud cost optimisation, which could lead to significant savings and increased effectiveness. Furthermore, it is crucial to compare the Cloud Service Provider (CSP) incentives and discounts with standard industry practices to determine their value and impact on overall cost management.

The inputs for this comprehensive assessment process include various reports and data that have been gathered during the discovery stage, as well as details of the CSP contract that highlight the available incentives and discounts. This holistic approach ensures that the assessment is grounded in concrete data and can provide actionable insights for improvement.

Recommendation Report

To enhance the operational effectiveness and cost-efficiency of an organisation, it is crucial to develop a comprehensive recommendation report that brings together optimisation opportunities across people, processes and technology. The report should outline both financial and non-financial benefits that can be realised by implementing the proposed improvements, helping organisations understand where efficiencies can be achieved and how those changes support broader strategic goals.

Once drafted, the findings and identified opportunities are shared with relevant stakeholders so they can provide feedback and support collective decision-making. This collaborative step strengthens the recommendations, ensuring they are realistic, actionable and aligned to organisational priorities. Following this socialisation, the report is reviewed and finalised so that each recommendation is both feasible and clearly linked to the organisation's objectives.

The resulting Cost Optimisation Assessment Report represents the culmination of the assessment process. It covers essential areas such as cloud benchmarking and cost management, helping organisations understand how they compare with industry standards and where improvements can be made. It also addresses the management of cloud resources by highlighting opportunities to improve utilisation, reduce waste and maintain a balance between performance and cost.

As part of this modernised approach, the recommendations naturally integrate sustainability considerations through the lens of GreenOps. This includes assessing how resource efficiency, workload placement and architectural decisions influence both financial and environmental outcomes. By reducing unnecessary consumption, improving utilisation patterns and selecting more energy-efficient service options where appropriate, organisations can lower cloud spend while also reducing their carbon footprint. These sustainability measures are woven into the same optimisation pathways used for cost control, so they enhance outcomes without adding complexity.

In addition, the report incorporates good practice such as embedding FinOps governance to strengthen cost awareness and accountability across teams, introducing real-time visibility and mature tagging standards so spend has a clear owner, and applying AI-enabled optimisation techniques such as anomaly detection and intelligent rightsizing. These enhancements ensure that optimisation efforts are structured, maturity-aligned and sustainable over the long term, rather than being one-off corrective actions.

Taken together, this report provides a clear and practical roadmap for navigating cost optimisation, sustainability and resource management. It supports organisations in operating more efficiently and responsibly, while maintaining financial discipline and aligning cloud usage with broader strategic and environmental commitments.

1.3. Pricing

This service is priced in accordance with the SFIA rate card provided and can be modelled using a range of commercial approaches e.g., time & materials, fixed price, etc. 'Ordering and Invoicing' and 'Termination' are to be undertaken in accordance with G-Cloud 15 contract terms unless varied by mutual agreement and detailed within a call-off contract.

2. Key contacts

For further information please get in touch via the email address below.



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