

# AZ-104 Pricing & Governance

Separate the Azure admin tools that are easy to mix up under exam pressure.

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## BEST FOR

Sorting out similar governance and cost tools

## FOCUS

Calculator vs TCO vs Cost Management; Policy vs Tags vs

## USE WITH

Service Map + Cheat Sheet

## 1. Cost tools you must separate

**Pricing Calculator** — Estimate expected cost before deployment.

**TCO Calculator** — Compare on-premises cost with Azure migration cost model.

**Cost Management** — Track actual spend, budgets, exports, and optimization insights.

**Azure Advisor** — Recommendations that can reduce cost, improve resilience, performance, and security.

**Budgets + Alerts** — Warn before spend crosses threshold.

## 2. If/then cost rules

**If you are planning** — Start with Pricing Calculator.

**If finance asks about migration value** — Use TCO Calculator.

**If spend already exists** — Use Cost Management and budgets.

**If a VM is underused** — Check Azure Advisor recommendations.

**If storage access drops** — Use lifecycle rules or cooler tiers.

## 3. Governance tools you must separate

**Management Groups** — Govern multiple subscriptions together.

**Subscriptions** — Billing and access boundary.

**Resource Groups** — Lifecycle grouping for related resources.

**Tags** — Metadata for ownership, environment, or chargeback.

**Locks** — Protection from accidental delete or edit.

**Azure Policy** — Allowed/required configurations and compliance.

## 4. If/then governance rules

**If many subscriptions need one standard** — Use management groups plus policy.

**If a resource must not be deleted** — Add a lock.

**If you need reporting by owner or app** — Use tags.

**If a SKU or region must be restricted** — Use Azure Policy.

**If a team needs access only to one app stack** — Assign RBAC at resource-group scope.

**If you must prove compliance drift** — Review Policy compliance state.