

AZ-305 Pricing & Governance

Separate the cost tools from the governance tools and remember the most common architect decision rules.

BEST FOR
cost + policy review

FOCUS
tool selection

USE WITH
service map + scenarios

1. Cost tools: know the split

Pricing Calculator	Estimate future Azure spend before deployment. Best for solution sizing and proposal-stage cost discussions.
TCO Calculator	Compare estimated on-premises cost against moving to Azure. Best for migration business cases.
Cost Management	Analyze actual spend, budgets, anomaly trends, and optimization after workloads are running.
Advisor	Complements cost review with recommendations, but it is not your primary pricing estimator.

2. Governance controls: know the split

Policy	Enforce or audit allowed settings such as regions, SKUs, tags, or secure configuration baselines.
Tags	Support organization, ownership, reporting, and chargeback/showback across resources.
Locks	Prevent accidental deletion or modification of important resources.
Management Groups	Structure many subscriptions so governance can be inherited at scale.

3. High-yield if/then rules

Need a budget before build?	Use Pricing Calculator.
Need migration ROI conversation?	Use TCO Calculator.
Need real spend visibility?	Use Cost Management.
Need to require tagging or block regions?	Use Azure Policy.
Need to stop accidental delete?	Use resource locks.
Need enterprise governance across many subscriptions?	Use management groups.

4. Architect cost patterns

Use PaaS first	Managed services often reduce hidden operational cost compared with VM-heavy designs.
Choose redundancy deliberately	Zone and geo redundancy add resilience, but only where business requirements justify the premium.
Right-size storage	Map data access patterns to Hot, Cool, or Archive tiers instead of defaulting everything to premium options.
Scale with demand	Prefer autoscaling platforms when traffic is variable and predictable overprovisioning would waste budget.