

SOA-C02 Pricing & Governance

Cost-control and governance choices for AWS operations questions: tools, guardrails, and fast if-then rules

BEST FOR	FOCUS	USE WITH
Separating billing tools from governance controls	Budgets, cost visibility, Config, SCPs, tagging, backup	Quick Summary + Cheat Sheet

<h3>1. Cost tools</h3> <p>Pricing Calculator - Estimate future architecture cost before deployment.</p> <p>Cost Explorer - Analyze historical spend, trends, and usage patterns.</p> <p>AWS Budgets - Set thresholds and alert when spend or usage exceeds targets.</p> <p>CUR - Detailed billing export for deep reporting and finance analysis.</p> <p>Savings Plans / RIs - Lower steady-state compute cost when usage is predictable.</p>	<h3>2. Governance controls</h3> <p>AWS Organizations - Multi-account structure and centralized policy management.</p> <p>SCPs - Set maximum allowed actions for member accounts.</p> <p>Tags - Cost allocation, ownership, automation triggers, and reporting filters.</p> <p>AWS Config - Continuously evaluate resources against compliance rules.</p> <p>Service Catalog - Standardize approved products for deployment.</p>
<h3>3. Security and operational guardrails</h3> <p>CloudTrail - Keep audit visibility across accounts and Regions.</p> <p>KMS - Central key control for encrypted storage and secrets.</p> <p>AWS Backup - Enforce backup plans and retention centrally.</p> <p>Systems Manager Patch Manager - Standardize patch baselines and maintenance windows.</p> <p>Config conformance packs - Bundle common compliance checks at scale.</p>	<h3>4. Fast choice rules</h3> <p>If you need forecasted pricing before launch - start with Pricing Calculator.</p> <p>If you need spend trends after launch - use Cost Explorer or CUR.</p> <p>If you need hard account-wide guardrails - use SCPs, not tags.</p> <p>If you need to find owners or allocate cost - require tags.</p> <p>If you need configuration compliance evidence - use AWS Config.</p> <p>If you need centralized backups - use AWS Backup with vault and policy design.</p>