CISILION

8 Tips for Effective Microsoft Cost Management

Microsoft Solutions Partner

Cost Management for Azure and 365 Licensing

Maximise Your Microsoft Investments

As a Microsoft managed service provider, we are dedicated to helping you maximise the value of your investments in Microsoft Azure and Microsoft 365. This guide reflects the latest Microsoft 365 and Azure capabilities and helps you reduce cost, simplify management and get more value from what you already own..

1. Comprehensive Licensing Audit

Evaluate Current Licences
Regularly review your existing Microsoft 365 and Azure licences to ensure they align with your actual usage and business needs.

Identify Unused Licences
Pinpoint any unused or underused licences that can be reallocated or downgraded to reduce costs.

2. Tailored License Allocation

Role-based Assignment
Assign licences based on user roles and specific needs. Ensure employees have the necessary tools without paying for unused features.

Flexible Licensing
Consider flexible licensing options that allow you to scale up or down based on changing business requirements.

3. Optimise Azure Resources

Right-size Your Resources
Continuously monitor and adjust your Azure resources to match your usage needs. Avoid over-provisioning by selecting appropriate VM sizes and storage options.

Use Azure Cost Management Tools
Utilise Azure's built-in cost management tools to track spending, set budgets, and forecast future costs.

4. Enhance User Adoption and Efficiency

Training and Awareness
Conduct regular training sessions to ensure your team fully utilises the features and tools available in Microsoft 365 and Azure.

Adoption Metrics
Track user adoption rates to identify areas where additional training may be required to maximise usage.

5. Utilise Built-in Reporting and Analytics

Microsoft 365 Admin Centre
Leverage the reporting capabilities in the Microsoft 365 admin centre to gain insights into licence usage and user activity.

Azure Monitor
Use Azure Monitor to track performance and health of your Azure resources, enabling proactive management and cost optimisation.

Use evolving Microsoft analytics and AI insights to understand usage, cost trends and optimisation opportunities.

6. Implement Cost-saving Measures

Annual vs Monthly Subscriptions
Opt for annual subscriptions to benefit from lower rates compared to monthly plans.

Discount Programs
Take advantage of Microsoft's discounts for educational institutions, non-profits, and other special programmes.

Use long-term subscription options to maintain predictable pricing as Microsoft's commercial model continues to evolve.

7. Automate and Streamline Processes

Onboarding and Offboarding Automation
Implement automated processes for onboarding and offboarding to ensure licences are efficiently assigned and reclaimed.

Resource Scheduling
Use Azure's automated scheduling to shut down non-essential resources during off-peak hours.

Use modern Intune automation to reduce manual work and remove the need for separate management tools.

8. Review Latest Microsoft 365 Capabilities

Use New Built-In Features
Regularly review new Microsoft 365 security, management and AI capabilities to ensure you are using the tools already included in your licences.

Retire Overlapping Tools
Identify where these newer built-in features replace existing third-party products to reduce spend and simplify your stack.

What Next?

Cisilion's Cost Management service provides visibility, control, and measurable commercial benefits with no architectural change required.

Backed by highly certified Microsoft solution architects, consultants, and optimisation specialists, Cisilion provide the complete lifecycle services to help imagine, realise and optimise your investment in Microsoft.

No commitment – Speak with our team to uncover optimisation opportunities and potential cost reductions.

Our team will analyse the impact of your Azure resources and subscriptions to see how we can help you to optimise your spend.

Book your Microsoft Cost Optimisation Review