# How UK firms are slashing cloud costs without touching a line of code



Optimising cloud expenditure is fast becoming a priority for UK organisations focused on efficiency and innovation. Recent examples show that businesses can reduce cloud costs by nearly half without altering application code—simply through strategic resource management and configuration.

The first step is gaining clear visibility into where money is being spent. Tools like AWS Cost Explorer allow users to track expenses by service, region or resource type. Though often buried within layers of menus, filtering by “Unblended Cost” can reveal hidden inefficiencies—such as over-provisioned compute instances and unused storage volumes—that drive up bills. Cost Explorer also supports historical trend analysis and detailed reporting, making it a powerful resource for cost audits.

Once costly services are identified, automation plays a crucial role in sustaining savings. Manual clean-ups are rarely sustainable at scale. AWS Instance Scheduler, a pre-built tool deployable via CloudFormation, enables users to automatically stop non-essential EC2 instances during off-hours. This can cut running costs by up to 25%—without requiring code changes. Aligning resource availability with actual demand ensures better cost discipline.

Longer-term savings come from commitment-based pricing models. Compute Savings Plans, for example, offer 30–40% discounts over on-demand rates while retaining flexibility across instance types and regions. While more rigid, Reserved Instances also reduce costs for predictable workloads—again, with no need for code alterations.

For intermittent or non-critical workloads, Spot Instances can offer dramatic savings—up to 90% less than on-demand prices. Users have reported dropping processing costs from $60 to $8 per day by shifting batch jobs to Spot capacity.

Efficient auto-scaling is another area ripe for optimisation. Many systems are set to scale up but lack robust scale-down policies. By fine-tuning cooldown periods and scale-down thresholds, organisations can save 8–10% more on compute costs—achieving a leaner response to fluctuating demand.

Storage costs, often overlooked, also benefit from smarter management. Backups and logs stored in Amazon S3 can be automatically moved to lower-cost storage classes like Amazon Glacier via lifecycle policies. This retains data for compliance while slashing storage bills.

At the administrative level, consolidating multiple accounts under AWS Organizations unlocks bulk discounts through centralised billing. This simple step improves cost transparency and maximises volume-based pricing without requiring technical changes.

Together, these measures—visibility, automation, strategic pricing, better scaling and storage policies—can deliver a 40% reduction in monthly cloud bills. The savings can then be redirected towards innovation and service improvements rather than infrastructure maintenance.

As the UK positions itself as a leader in AI and digital innovation, these practical, low-overhead strategies offer a clear roadmap for scalable, cost-effective cloud infrastructure. By embracing efficiency tools already embedded in platforms like AWS, organisations can cut waste while investing in the future—achieving more with less, without compromising quality or agility.

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## Bibliography

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2. <https://aws.amazon.com/aws-cost-management/aws-cost-explorer/pricing/> - AWS Cost Explorer is a tool that enables users to visualize, understand, and manage their AWS costs and usage over time. It offers features such as cost and usage visualization, filtering and grouping by various dimensions, cost and usage forecasting, and the ability to download data in CSV format. The service is accessible via the AWS Management Console and provides programmatic access through an API. Each API request incurs a cost of $0.01, and hourly granularity is available at a daily charge of $0.00000033 per usage record. ([aws.amazon.com](https://aws.amazon.com/aws-cost-management/aws-cost-explorer/pricing/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://aws.amazon.com/aws-cost-management/aws-cost-explorer/features/> - AWS Cost Explorer provides users with visual representations of their AWS cost and usage over time, using graphs and tables. It allows filtering and grouping of data by various dimensions, such as service, account, region, or custom tags. The tool also offers cost and usage forecasting, saved reports, multi-year history, hourly granularity, and resource-level granularity. Users can download their Cost Explorer view in CSV format and access data programmatically through the Cost Explorer API. ([aws.amazon.com](https://aws.amazon.com/aws-cost-management/aws-cost-explorer/features/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://docs.aws.amazon.com/cost-management/latest/userguide/ce-what-is.html> - AWS Cost Explorer is a tool that enables users to view and analyze their AWS costs and usage. It provides features such as cost and usage visualization, filtering and grouping by various dimensions, cost and usage forecasting, and the ability to download data in CSV format. Users can access Cost Explorer via the AWS Management Console or programmatically through the Cost Explorer API. Each API request incurs a cost of $0.01, and hourly granularity is available at a daily charge of $0.00000033 per usage record. ([docs.aws.amazon.com](https://docs.aws.amazon.com/cost-management/latest/userguide/ce-what-is.html?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://repost.aws/knowledge-center/cost-explorer-analyze-spending-and-usage> - To analyse your AWS spending and usage, you can use AWS Cost Explorer. First, launch Cost Explorer from the AWS Cost Management console. After launching, it may take up to 24 hours for cost and usage data to populate. You can view pre-configured reports or create custom reports to compare month-to-month costs, understand costs for your resources by service, view costs by cost allocation tag, and view unblended cost data for an organisation. ([repost.aws](https://repost.aws/knowledge-center/cost-explorer-analyze-spending-and-usage?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://docs.aws.amazon.com/cost-management/latest/userguide/ce-filtering.html> - AWS Cost Explorer allows users to filter and group their cost and usage data by various dimensions, such as service, account, region, or custom tags. When selecting multiple filters, Cost Explorer applies logical AND and OR operations to your selections. For example, selecting multiple filters and values for each filter will result in a chart that adds the aggregate costs for each item together. ([docs.aws.amazon.com](https://docs.aws.amazon.com/cost-management/latest/userguide/ce-filtering.html?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://aws.amazon.com/solutions/instance-scheduler/> - Instance Scheduler on AWS is a solution that automates the starting and stopping of various AWS services, including Amazon EC2 and Amazon RDS instances. By scheduling resources to start and stop as needed, organisations can reduce operational costs. The solution uses resource tags and AWS Lambda to automatically manage instances based on a defined schedule and can be deployed across multiple AWS Regions. ([aws.amazon.com](https://aws.amazon.com/solutions/instance-scheduler/?utm_source=openai))