

Azure Cost Optimization

How Maintech halved the cost of an inherited Azure environment by consolidating a division's separately managed space into the main footprint and optimizing it.



MAINTECH

About the Client

This manufacturing organization operates across several divisions under a single corporate structure. Maintech provides its IT services and originally moved the main company's infrastructure into the cloud, building and optimizing a dedicated Azure environment of around 25 servers under active management.

One division sat outside that arrangement, running its server infrastructure in a separate Azure space set up and managed by a different provider.

The Challenge

The division's inherited Azure environment held only eight servers, yet its monthly cost was approaching that of the 25-server main environment Maintech managed. At roughly \$8,000 per month, the smaller space was billing far more than its size suggested it should.

The manufacturing organization raised the issue directly, since the main environment held considerably more infrastructure for a comparable price. The business wanted to understand why the eight-server space cost so much, and to bring the figure down.

Several conditions were driving the imbalance:



The environment had been configured and managed separately, with no shared cost controls or optimization applied across both Azure spaces. Running it apart from the main footprint meant duplicated management effort and inconsistent governance.



Resources provisioned during the division's original setup, or left behind as workloads changed, continued to incur cost without being reviewed against actual usage.



Licensing had not been structured to take advantage of the savings plans and reservations available to this company at its overall scale, and workloads were running on service tiers more expensive than they needed to be.



The Solution

Maintech approached the work in stages, sequenced to consolidate first and then optimize the combined environment.

Takeover and Consolidation

Maintech assumed management of the division's third-party-managed Azure space, then migrated its workloads into their main Azure environment. Bringing both under a single footprint removed the duplicated management overhead and gave the workloads access to the same controls, visibility, and optimization already in place on the main environment.

Waste Removal and Rightsizing

With the workloads consolidated, Maintech reviewed the inherited resources against current usage. Unused and leftover items were decommissioned so they stopped generating cost, and virtual machines were rightsized to match real workload requirements rather than the specifications they had carried over with.

Licensing Optimization and PaaS Migration

Maintech applied Azure savings plans and reservations to the consolidated workloads, the same approach used across their main environment. Where workloads were eligible, servers were converted to Platform-as-a-Service offerings, which deliver equivalent or better performance at lower cost and with less operational overhead.

The Outcome

Consolidating and optimizing the inherited environment delivered a clear result:



50% cost reduction
on the inherited
environment



\$8,000 to \$4,000 per month,
moving from standalone spend to added
spend within the main environment



Both Azure environments
brought under one managed
footprint with consistent controls



Full visibility for Maintech
across the consolidated infrastructure
for ongoing management

Beyond the savings, the division's spend now reflects what it actually uses, with both environments governed and optimized as one.

Why This Matters for Highly Secured Organizations

Organizations that have grown through divisions, acquisitions, or separately run business units often end up with infrastructure managed in more than one place, under more than one provider. Each environment carries its own configuration decisions, its own cost controls, and its own gaps. When those environments are reviewed in isolation, the disparities are easy to miss. A smaller footprint can quietly cost as much as a larger one simply because it was set up and managed under different conditions and never re-evaluated against the wider estate.

This manufacturer's experience shows that consolidating a separately managed environment into a single, optimized footprint can recover significant cost while improving visibility and control. The savings came from removing waste, aligning licensing to actual scale, and rightsizing infrastructure to real use, with no loss of capability.

For organizations running infrastructure across more than one Azure space, the question is whether each one is costing what it should, and whether the right partner is reviewing them as a whole.



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