Cloud cost decision checklist (one-pager)

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Seven checks before you cut cloud or AI capacity. Educational planning aid — not financial, security or savings advice.

Checklist

1. Confirm the window — Is the spike hourly, daily, monthly, or a reporting delay?
2. Name the owner — Who understands why this workload or storage exists?
3. Separate waste from work — Idle, planned, backup, test, traffic, or unknown?
4. Check blast radius — Customers, payments, compliance, or staff impact if stopped?
5. Look for loops — Scripts, retries, schedulers or AI jobs amplifying usage?
6. Document the decision — Evidence, owner, proposed change, rollback.
7. Review after action — Did noise fall without hiding a real problem?

Decision bands

- Act — High-confidence idle or orphan spend with a named owner and rollback.
- Investigate — Shared platform or unclear ownership; do not bank the dollars yet.
- Hold — Production or GPU/capacity moves lacking utilization evidence.

Companion tools

- Interactive worksheet: https://digisciencetechsol.com/guides/ai-cloud-cost-control/
- Waste triage quiz: https://digisciencetechsol.com/cloud-waste-triage
- Contact: https://digisciencetechsol.com/contact