Outposts

Infrastructure as Code: Code Your Way to Cloud Savings

One of the biggest cloud cost headaches is losing track of resources. You spin up a test server real quick, do your work, and then… forget to tear it down. Before you know it, the instance has been running (and racking up charges) for months on end without anyone realizing it.

For example, we've seen cases where developers spun up databases and other resources for testing purposes but never cleaned them up. Two years later, they were still running, accumulating thousands in unnecessary charges!

Situations like that are simply avoided with infrastructure as code (IaC), where you define all your cloud resources — servers, databases, networks, etc. — as code stored in Git repositories. This way, all the machines will be visible, so you won't skip anything running in the background.
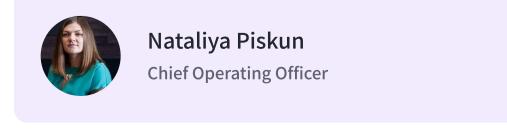
Next, IaC has been a huge time-saver. Rather than manually provisioning resources one by one, you can just tweak the code. Want to provision a new resource? Just add it to your IaC code. Need to de-provision something? Remove it from the code. Instead of juggling cloud console UIs, you have a centralized source of truth for your entire infrastructure. Updating a whole stack is as simple as modifying a few lines. For an hourly consulting model, this efficiency translates directly to cost savings for clients.

Getting started on a new cloud project is so much faster, as well. Instead of having to dig through docs and previous work, we can simply look at the IaC code to see exactly what resources are defined. Then it's just a matter of running the code to provision everything properly. No more wasted time asking a million questions to get spun up.

Speaking of auditing, IaC makes it easy to track who provisioned/modified/deleted any resources for faster root cause analysis. Every commit shows a full change trail to accelerate troubleshooting efforts.

There's an upfront investment, for sure. But that upfront effort pays massive dividends in the long run through increased visibility, efficiency, and cost control. The ROI has been obvious on every IaC project IT Outposts has worked on.

If you're still wrestling with cloud costs and resource management, we absolutely recommend IaC. It has been transformative in streamlining, auditing, and fully cost-optimizing our clients' cloud environments.

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