
Executive Dashboard

The Executive Dashboard tracks key cloud vital trends such as costs and resources in order to help DevOps, IT Managers, CIOs, CTOs, and Finance departments oversee all of cloud costs centrally and to act upon those facts.

Filter Criteria:

The default view out of the box displays the data for the current Month-to-date (MTD)- which is a period starting at the beginning of the current month and ending at the current date. You may however use the Calendar Date Picker to view the data for a specific date range or click on the 'Year to Date' option to view the data from the beginning of the current year and ending at the current date.

The Dashboard, also loads by default, the data for all vendors or Cloud Service Providers consumed by your organization. You may however choose to select one specific provider from the list of providers to view the graphical reports.

Remember to click on the 'Apply' button every time you change the default selections to refresh the page, otherwise the old data is displayed in all the widgets of this page.

NOTE: Month and Year correspond to the Gregorian Calendar with the year starting with January and the month starting from the first.

A maximum of 92 days can be selected at a time.
It is not possible to select a future date.

How often is the data updated?

This page gets updated twice in a day at a specific time. To see the last time the dashboard was updated, refer to the text "Last Updated On" at the top right corner of page.

Updating once a day means that the data displayed on this page is not exactly real time. So do not expect to see a Virtual Machine that you have spun up at 10:00 AM to be visible here immediately. You can expect a data latency of a day or two, as it takes a while for the Cloud Service Provider to record the usage and for the internal Data Warehouse to process the same.

Customizable:

Each dashboard page is easily customizable using a simple drag-and-drop interface. Drag the widget where you want it on the page, size it big or small, add a filter, add a date selector - and customize the widgets and the page as you need it.

Widgets can be moved to other locations within a page.

The top right corner of each widget has an arrow that allows you to resize the widget.

Each widget is loaded with a specific chart type that can display the data in an optimal manner. However you can choose to view the data using another Chart type.

NOTE: Currently for this phase it is not possible to save the edits to the page.

Dashboard Access:

The Dashboard can be viewed only by Administrators and the End Users. However, it can be viewed by other users, provided they have the valid privileges.

Dashboard Rules:

All costs displayed in this dashboard are excluding taxes (if any).

The costing data is rounded up to two decimals in all graphical reports using the Rounding Logic. This means that it is possible to notice a small difference between the total costs displayed at the page and the 'Cost by Products' or 'Cost by Providers' due to rounding.

The exception to the rule of displaying the data with two decimals is when the data is displayed for a 'Pie' Chart. Each slice of the pie displays the percentage value with only one decimal and slices with very small percentage values are not visible. This means there may be cases when the total of all slices in a pie chart may not add up to 100% due to a rounding difference.

All the cost related data are displayed in your store currency. Thus, it is possible that the usage data displayed may differ slightly from actual usage data based on the exchange rate used for calculation.

Rules for Graphical display:

If there are more than 31 data points that need to be displayed for a widget, the default loading will be the Tabular report. You may use the pagination to view the complete data or use the 'Print Screen' option to print the same. You can download the data that is available in the widget in .csv format.

The costing data represented for the current Month to date or for the current period should be considered as estimates.

Please note that the graphical reports are not bills, only the monthly invoice that you receive contains your actual charges. For the current billing period (monthly), the reports approximates the cost of your organization's cloud usage to day and will change as you continue to consume resources.

Sometimes in a PIE chart, we combine all the values smaller than X% in a single "Other" slice.

Also while viewing the data as a pie chart, it is possible that you notice a difference between the number of slices and the number of legends (with more legends than the slices). This happens because the slices with an insignificant percentage do not appear as a slice on the graph but is still represented by a legend. To view this data more accurately, it is recommended that you use switch to a Tabular report.

Each widgets will display the labels (up to a specific number of characters based on the space available for display (and the user can view the entire label by hovering on the product/provider name.

When listing the details (products/providers etc) in the drop-down filters, you can type the first few characters and automatically the text that contains the first few characters will be displayed in the drop-down list.

Cloud Cost Trend

The Cloud Cost Trend shows the cost trends based on previous spending providing valuable information about cost anomalies. Analyzing the trend over monthly, year-to-date or a specific date range (not exceeding 92days) will give valuable insight on critical trends, spikes, and recurring patterns and enables you to react instantly and avoid unnecessary upcoming costs in the mid- and long-term future.

The graph displays the Total Spend for SaaS and /or IaaS Services and allows Financial Administrators to visually compare the trends and the Highs/Lows for the selected period of time. Hover on the spikes and troughs on the trend line to note the actual cost incurred on each day. The aggregate cost when summed up for each day of the current period should match the Total IaaS or SaaS cost displayed at the top of the Executive Dashboard.

What is Included:**SaaS Services:**

- » The cost of SaaS services considers the total amount due (Total Retail Amount after reducing discounts, and without considering taxes).
- » In the Trend line, the Prorate amount and setup fees will be considered on the date when the offer was provisioned.
- » Recurring amount will be considered on the date corresponding to the Bill Run date.
- » SaaS Usage based services will display the actual usage amount retrieved and processed daily.
- » For contract based subscriptions that have expired and are renewed during the selected period, the cost includes both the subscriptions (old and new).
- » For custom trial subscriptions that are automatically converted to paid subscriptions during the selected period, the cost includes the paid subscription.
- » SaaS Cost will include the cost of services de-provisioned or reduced during the selected period.

IaaS Services:

- » The cost of IaaS services is based on the actual usage processed daily.

What is Excluded:

- » Tax amounts are excluded.

Cost By Services

View of cloud cost allocation within your organization based on the services used to ensure suitable return on investment (ROI). All services whether SaaS, IaaS or PaaS are consumed in part or fully during the selected period and are considered for this report.

By Default, this graph displays the Top 5 products (based on the costs accrued) for the selected provider and for the selected period. However, you can choose to view the data for the Top 10 products or All the products based on the costs accrued.

For IaaS Services, the product names will be as per the ISV naming convention prefixed by the ISV Name.

Example: Microsoft-Virtual Machines; Amazon-AmazonGlacier.

What is Included:

- » SaaS Products considered will include an offer that was available partly or fully during the selected period range. So assuming McAfee Total Protection was available for Jun and till July 15th 2016, and the user has selected July 1- 31st, then the cost of McAfee will be considered. However if the user has selected July 20th to Aug 15th, then the cost of McAfee will NOT be considered as it was discontinued before the selected period.
- » IaaS services will be included as long as there is an associated cost in the selected period.

What is Excluded:

- » Services that do not have any associated cost during the selected period.

Cost By Resources

Cost optimization isn't just about cutting costs – it's about spending more on the right resources to maximize values - and less on resources that don't. A cloud resource can be a Virtual Machine, Storage, Snapshot, Images, IP or any other resource that is consumed from the cloud provider. Identify the resources at the most granular level that results in a cost and take necessary steps to keep the cost under control.

This graph shows the cloud resources that you use most based on the cost incurred. The “Resource ID” is a great dimension to identify the specific compute instances, storage buckets, storage volumes, and other cloud resources, that drive costs the most. Identifying the exact resource enables the IT Administrator to take necessary action.

What is Included:

- » Only resources that can be uniquely identified and has a cost during the selected period are included.

NOTE: The resource label is a combination of the resource ID, resource name (wherever available) and the provider's name.

- » Resources that cannot be uniquely identified but have a cost associated are clubbed together and labelled as “Others--Provider's name”.

What is Excluded:

- » Resources that do not have any associated cost or cannot be uniquely identified during the selected period.

Cost By Provider

This report can be used to leverage arbitrage opportunities between clouds, so one can check if it's worthwhile to move assets to another vendor, assuming that application portability between clouds is relevant and feasible.

The default chart type is a Pie graph that indicates the proportion of costs incurred for each provider for the selected period. If a single provider is selected at the top of the page, then the pie will have only a single slice representing 100% of the cloud costs.

NOTE: Pie Chart has a limitation, if the amount is small for the chart to slice the pie. The slice is displayed as others.

What is Included:

- » Total Cost of all services for the selected provider in the selected period.

What is Excluded:

- » Cost of services that do not have a cost associated.

Cost Trend by Provider

In a multi-cloud deployment, identify the trend for each provider and compare the costs across providers. This will provide insights to optimize spending and workload allocation.

Getting a handle on otherwise unpredictable costs when using services across clouds is easier by reviewing the trend lines.

What is Included:

The costs for all services consumed from a Cloud Provider are aggregated on a daily basis to display the historical trend line.

What is Excluded:

Tax amounts are excluded.