CloudCheckr

Get Started with CloudCheckr for Azure

Set Up for Success: Configuring Accounts and Utilizing Key Features



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Get Started Initial Setup

Step 1 Log-On to Your CloudCheckr Account

CloudCheckr has a platform deployed in three regions. Direct your web browser to one of the following links and log-on using your existing CloudCheckr credentials:

app.cloudcheckr.com | eu.cloudcheckr.com | au.cloudcheckr.com

To sign up for a CloudCheckr account, get started here with a free trial.

Step 2 Adding an Account in CloudCheckr

Account Switcher

CloudCheckr's Account Switcher helps identify the account you are currently viewing and allows you to quickly switch to another account or a Multi-Account View (MAV) in your project.

You will find the Account Switcher in the Header bar on every page in the application, so you can change accounts or MAVs regardless of what report or feature you are using.

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From the Account Switcher, you can navigate to the Account Hierarchy page by clicking the link in the upper right corner.

Go to Account Hierarchy Page

The Account Hierarchy page allows you to organize your accounts by account groups—CloudCheckr's folder structure that simplifies account management. From this menu you can add new accounts, MAVs, and Attributes. Attributes are key/value pairs that help you organize and categorize your accounts.

Adding an Account

When you log-in to CloudCheckr for the first time your Account Hierarchy page will be pre-populated with a sample account. You can use this to look through the various CloudCheckr reports and functionality. You will want to add your own Azure accounts to get a full analysis of your environment.

Step A: Click + CREATE and select 'Account' Accounts MAVs & Attributes

Step B: This will pop out a drawer on the right hand side of the UI.

Step C: Name the account and select Azure as the Cloud Provider. If applicable, select the appropriate Location for the new account in your account groups folder structure. Add any relevant Attributes for the account. **Step D:** Click 'Save.'

Step E: Click 'Manage Credentials' and complete the steps as directed in Step 3.

Adding Multi-Account Views

To configure a Multi-Account View (MAV), click '+ NEW MAV' on the Account Hierarchy page on the 'MAVs' tab. Enter + NEW MAV cloud provider for the MAV in question. When creating the MAV, you will be prompted to add the accounts that should be included in the view. You have the option to add all accounts, or to filter by an Attribute, which allows you to add an entire subset of accounts at the same time.

Step 3 Configuring an Azure Subscription in CloudCheckr

Overview

Step A: Make sure you have full access to your billing source.

Step B: Determine your subscription types.

Step C: Connect the Azure Billing subscriptions first.

Step D: Configure and credential any subscriptions you want to optimize with CloudCheckr.

Section One: Direct Customers

If you are receiving Azure services directly from Microsoft, you are a **Direct Customer**. Adding your subscriptions is straightforward.

The person configuring the subscriptions in CloudCheckr will need full access to the

Enterprise Agreement (EA) billing and subscription accounts.

Below are the instructions for configuring the various account types:

- EA Subscription
- Inventory Subscription
- Active Directory/Office 365

Section Two: Partners with Direct Billing Access

If you are a Cloud Solution Provider (CSP) partner, Managed Service Provider (MSP), reseller, ISV, distributor, or other type of partner, without having customers going to any other CSP, you are a **Direct CSP**. CloudCheckr supports both the Azure Plan and the Classic Plan.

Adding a subscription as a Direct CSP is straightforward too, but you will need to work with a CloudCheckr Customer Success resource to ensure that you set up your customers correctly.

To complete this process, you will need direct access to your billing data and full access to the EA billing and subscription accounts. You will also want to confirm what type of Azure CSP Plan you have.

Below are the instructions for configuring the various account types:

- <u>CSP Subscription</u>
- EA Subscription
- Inventory Subscription
- <u>Active Directory/Office 365</u>

Section Three: Partners with Indirect Billing Access

If you help customers, but they are getting Azure billing or other services through another provider, you are an **Indirect CSP**. You will be able to configure customer subscriptions, but without access to the billing data, your billing and cost optimizations are limited. If you do not have access to the billing information you have two options: you can ask the billing partner or you can add the subscriptions without billing data. If you can get access to the data from the billing partner, please share that with your CloudCheckr team.

Below are the instructions for configuring the various account types:

- <u>CSP Subscription</u>
- EA Subscription
- Inventory Subscription
- Active Directory/Office 365

Section Four: Indirect Customers

If you are getting your billing data from a Provider partner but want to use CloudCheckr, you are an Indirect Customer. You will be able to configure your subscriptions but may have a limited view into your billing data since your Provider partner manages your billing data.

If you do not have access to the billing information you have two options: you can ask the billing partner or you can add the subscriptions without billing data. If you can get access to the data from the billing partner, please share that with your CloudCheckr team.

Below are the instructions for configuring the various account types:

- EA Subscription
- Inventory Subscription
- <u>Active Directory/Office 365</u>

Depending on the size of your Azure deployment, the initial reports update could take anywhere from a few minutes to a few hours. As soon as your initial report update finishes, CloudCheckr will send you an Inventory Summary and Best Practices Report email (if you entered an email address when configuring your account). Once your initial report update finishes, you can begin reviewing the data within your account. For more in-app information about CloudCheckr updates and other Account Notifications, navigate to the 'Notifications' icon (⁽⁾) in the upper right hand corner of the screen.

Step 4 Access Management

CloudCheckr customers have full control over provisioning and managing user access within their account(s). User access can be configured with specific permissions, rights, and visibility based on the needs and role of the user.

To configure users & permissions and create their associated policies, reference the following detailed walkthrough: <u>CloudCheckr Success Center:</u> <u>Access Management</u>

Step 5 Customize Your CloudCheckr Experience

After the initial report update is completed, your account will be populated with detailed information about your deployment, organized into many pre-built (and any custom created) reports. Each time a report update completes, CloudCheckr will create new reports that reflect the most recent state of your accounts. Since CloudCheckr retains a history of your deployment with SnapBack, you can drill into historical information up to seven years back in time.

Step A: Start by configuring CloudCheckr email notifications by navigating to the upper right of the UI and selecting the stacked dots icon (:) and then navigating to Account
Configuration > Email Settings. There are a number of prebuilt options for daily, weekly, and monthly emails, including Daily Bill Fluctuation Alerts, Best Practice Check summaries, and Change Monitoring reports.

< Main Menu

Account Configuration

Provider Credentials

Billing and Usage

Edit Account Name (Edit Name)

Email Settings

Step B: Second, navigate to the upper right of the UI and select the stacked dots icon (:) and then to System
Management > Customization to access the CloudCheckr basic whitelabeling options. Users can add their own logo and page icon, change the colors of the navigation menus, and change the support site link to an internal site, if desired.

< Main Menu System Management Customization Resellers

Step 6 Get a Platform Deep Dive from a CloudCheckr Technical Expert

To help you get up and running quickly, CloudCheckr can advise on how you can make the most of the recommendations in your initial report update. The goal of this deep dive is to have one of our subject matter experts provide you some initial suggestions on what features to leverage based on your use cases, help get any specific questions answered and ensure you have a primary point of contact here at CloudCheckr.

Step 7 Get Access to CloudCheckr's Learning Management System

CloudCheckr provides our customers and partners with access to an online, ondemand course called CloudCheckr 101. To get access to our courseware, navigate to the CloudCheckr <u>Success Center</u> and click on 'Training and Certification.'



To get started with CloudCheckr's learning management system, simply fill out the form linked on the 'Training and Certification' page. Our learning team will reach out with more details.





Get Started Utilizing Key Features

Security

Best Practice Checks: Fix Security

CloudCheckr has over 600 Best Practice Checks (BPCs), and most of those are focused on security. Because CloudCheckr Best Practice Checks run at least once a day, by Day 2, you should be able to begin analyzing configuration vulnerabilities. Each check will be marked in Red, Orange, Yellow, or Green, based on severity, and Blue, if the check is informational in nature.



Setup Security Alerts

Leveraging CloudCheckr's Security Best Practice Checks will help to get your accounts configuration in order, but that doesn't guarantee that another account administrator won't erroneously make changes.

CloudCheckr gives users the ability to create custom alerts based off of network security group changes and resource-level modifications with advanced filtration capabilities. CloudCheckr has notification integrations to maximize our customers' ability to integrate systems, and can push alerts via email, SNS, Syslog, PagerDuty, Slack, and ServiceNow.

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Monitor Changes

CloudCheckr's Change Monitoring report allows you to track the day-to-day configuration and resource changes that occur in your Azure account. CloudCheckr takes a daily snapshot of your Azure deployment and compares it against the previous day; if anything has been added, deleted, or modified, users will be notified – and are able to drill into event detail, as shown below – using this report.

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\$	Filter			
<u>~</u> C	Changes made on 2/18/2020			
ß	X 1 Virtual Machines Deleted			ø
	Changes made on 1/28/2020			
	1 App Service Plans Modified			ø
	1 App Service Plan Web Apps Modified			ø
	Changes made on 1/23/2020			
	1 App Service Plans Modified			ø
	Changes made on 1/18/2020			
	1 AzureApplicationGateway Added			ø
	+ 1 Application Gateway Backend HTTP Settings Ac	ided		ø
	+ 1 Application Gateway Frontend IP Configuration	s Added		ø
	+ 1 Application Gateway IP Configurations Added			ø

The Change Monitoring report can also be delivered as a daily email, so you'll always know when changes are made to your VMs, Virtual Networks, App Services Plans, Application Gateways, SQL Servers, Redis Cache, and more!

Cost

Cleanup Idle, Unused, Misprovisioned, & Previous Generation Resources

CloudCheckr can immediately help users to identify resources for which they are incurring cost, without seeing the value of that investment. Start by looking through our Cost Best Practice Checks, and identify the BPCs that include the words "unused," "idle," under-utilized," "unattached," and "stopped" among others.

In addition, we have savings tools to analyze whether you could save money by upgrading to a newer generation resource, and the ability to scan for many common service provisioning issues. Users can reference either our 'Savings' page or the Cost BPCs for all cost optimization opportunities.

Overview Best Practices Cost Savings SnapBack: Ber277/2020 01:10 AM P Possible Monthly Savings \$2,802.75 S183.72 Idle Resources: \$818.17 Mis-Provisioned Resources: \$0.00 Previous Generation Resources: \$0.00 Potential Spot Savings Reserved Purchase Recommendations: \$1,743.75 Other: \$0.00 Unused Resources: \$0.00	CloudCheckr CMx	Q	Test Payer AWS ⇒ Ω			
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Setup Cost Alerts

CloudCheckr allows users to configure budget alerts based off of both absolute budget thresholds and relative cost spikes. You can add multiple thresholds at which to trigger an alert (as shown below), and alerts can be filtered by subscription, resource group, consumed service, meter category, region meter name, and tag. Like our Security Alerts, CloudCheckr has notification integrations via email, SNS, Syslog, PagerDuty, Slack, and ServiceNow.

Microsoft Azure Costs Notifications My budget for each billing period is 0 Alert me if costs exceed the following thresholds: 100 % of my budget. Send every 1 day(s) Only send once Image: Cost of the shold of the sh		Alert Name
Notifications My budget for each billing period is 0 Alert me if costs exceed the following thresholds: 100 % of my budget. Send every 1 day(s) Only send once Add another alert threshold	Vicrosoft Azure Costs	
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○ Budget is the monthly Azure Cost ○ Daily Budget ○ Budget cycle	Budget is the monthly Azure Cost	

Setup Billing & Invoicing

CloudCheckr can manage the entirety of the invoicing process from ingestion of the Azure billing reports, to sending invoices to customers through our invoice generator, to ad hoc profit reporting. We offer both pre-built and custom invoice formats and can generate customers' bills on a scheduled day each month or with the click of a button.

Our invoicing features help Partners dramatically reduce time and expenses of the billing process. CloudCheckr users can create invoices, in PDF or CSV format, grouped by subscription, resource group, consumed service, meter category, region meter name, and tag for one or more accounts.

Beyond invoice itemization and filtering, there are many options to experiment with. For example, invoices can display multiple cost types, known as **Blended**, **Unblended**, or **List Cost** rates. **List Cost** is a CloudCheckr custom cost layer that gives users full power over the allocation of reserved purchase-related and volume-based discounting across the CSP/EA account. Invoice period is also editable. Users can choose a calendar month or a specific date range as the billing period, show precise values well beyond 2 decimal places, and perform currency conversion.

Report Format: 2 Group By: Summary AWS Service and Region	O Monthly O Custom	Aug 202 🗸
Subject	Invoice Description	
Invoice header Invoice	_	
Order by Account Family Name Order by Invoice Amount M 215011050628 345353453453 443094636793 (CloudCheckr QA)	Invoice Date: 08/27/2020 Aug 27th 2020	Due Date: Cost Type: 09/27/2020 Blended • Sep 27th 2020
	Export Type: PDF O CSV O HTML	Suppress due date ? Calculate due date using payment term Show custom charges descriptions ? Show precise values ?

Manage Custom Charges and Credits

In addition to saving money, CloudCheckr enables Managed Services Providers and Enterprises with an IT profit center to charge more for Azure consumption and build margin. You can create charges that are a percentage uplift, or a flat dollar amount, each with multiple tiering capabilities and advanced filters. Administrators can also reconfigure the consumption rate for any service in the Azure catalog. Similarly, you can share cloud provider credits across accounts, if desired, and pass the savings on to your clients.

+ New C Char	Custom ge	Update Stack Order Reload Billing Data ?								
Actions	Start Date	End Date	Туре	Charge Value	Account IDs / Families	Description	Region	Resource ID	Stack	Stack Order
i 🌣	01/01/2017		Monthly Discount	-7.00%	All Accounts	Discount for EC2 - Invoice #321321	All Regions			0
i 🌣	02/01/2018	02/28/2018	Monthly Premium	10.00%	All Accounts	Stack 2 Custom Charge Test	All Regions		•	2
i 🌣	02/01/2018	02/28/2018	Monthly Discount	-11.00%	All Accounts	Enterprise Discount Program	All Regions		~	1
i 🌣 🗋 🗙	02/01/2018	04/01/2018	Premium for all charges	7.00%	All Accounts	All The Stuff	All Regions		N/A	N/A

Review Right Sizing Recommendations

The Right Sizing report helps you optimize the sizing of your resource fleets by providing recommendations both within and across Virtual Machine families, and for supporting services such as SQL, Redis Cache, and App Services. Users should wait until the later part of their evaluation to review Right Sizing report, to ensure that CloudCheckr has a solid couple of weeks' worth of history to be able to make accurate recommendations; typically, we advise waiting to effectuate recommendations until the platform has the ability to use 30 day average CPU history. In many cases, right sizing is one of the places that CloudCheckr customers achieve the greatest cost savings.

	Name	Resource Group	Current Hourly Cost	Projected Hourly Cost	Possible Hourly Savings	Estimated Monthly Savings	Platform	Current Size	Recommended Size	CPU 30- Day Average	Memory 30-Day Average	30- Day Peak	Memory 30-Day Peak	Score	Machine Status
0	christest_1	Api- Default- Central- US	\$0.13	\$0.02	\$0.11	\$77.38	Windows	Standard_D1_v2	Standard_A0	1.03%	N/A	5.44%	N/A	0	Running
0	Test-ENG- 51767	QA- Testing	\$0.20	\$0.12	\$0.08	\$60.59	Windows	Standard_D2s_v3	Standard_DS1_v2	3.19%	N/A	8.43%	N/A	0	Running
•	under9cha_0	Api- Default- Central- US	\$0.07	\$0.02	\$0.05	\$38.69	Linux	Standard_D1_v2	Standard_A0	0.53%	N/A	1.79%	N/A	0	Running
•	under9cha_1	Api- Default- Central- US	\$0.07	\$0.02	\$0.05	\$38.69	Linux	Standard_D1_v2	Standard_A0	0.59%	N/A	2.02%	N/A	0	Running

Review Virtual Machine Reservation Purchase Recommendations

By the end of the evaluation period, users should have enough data to assess CloudCheckr's recommendations for purchasing Virtual Machines reservations. These come with a discount, which is higher with a longer reservation term. CloudCheckr will display the recommended configuration, and give you the cost breakdown for different purchasing scenarios. CloudCheckr can look back at usage over the prior 30, 60, 90, or 180 days to make these recommendations, and users can view the recommended purchases with a number of filterable criteria.



Fix Availability

CloudCheckr has dozens of BPCs focused on High Availability. Use these to make sure that you have backups and snapshots, that you are using multiple zones and load balancers, and that your resources have passed various health checks.

18 Managed Disk without Backup Protection	T 🖓 🏘
2 Redis Cache Using Basic-Tier Pricing	T 🖓 🏘
SQL Server Database With Less Than 10% of Free Storage	₽ 🗟 🌶
A 7 Application Gateways with Empty Backend Address Pools	₽ 🗟 ø
🔺 4 Load Balancers with All Backend Address Pools Containing No Network Interfaces	T 🖓 🏘
App Service Plans with Apps with an Unknown Health Status	T 🖓 🏘
✓ App Service Plan Is Unavailable	₽ 🖓 🇭
Vnhealthy Virtual Machines	₽ 🗟 💋

Fix Usage

Similar to our Security, Cost and Availability BPCs, click on the Usage tab and look for under and over-utilized resources. Parameters to determine what constitute adequate utilization are fully editable by the individual user by clicking the gear symbol, as shown below.

	Configure Check
	Change configuration for Under-
🔺 Under-Utilized App Service Plan CPU	Utilized Virtual Machine CPU.
🔺 6 Under-Utilized Virtual Machine CPU	Days:
A 21 Unused Network Interfaces	2
App Service Has Exceeded Usage Quota	AvgCpuUtilizationCutOff:
	10
	Update <u>Cancel</u>

CloudCheckr

About CloudCheckr

We deliver total visibility—across multiple public clouds and hybrid workloads—making the most complex cloud infrastructures easy to manage. From government agencies to large enterprise and managed service providers, CloudCheckr customers deploy our SaaS solution to secure, manage, and govern the most sensitive environments in the world. Our industry-leading cloud management includes cost savings, billing & invoicing, cloud security & compliance, resource optimization, and automation available in CloudCheckr CMx, CMx High Security for regulated industries, CMx Federal for FedRAMP Ready procurement, and CloudCheckr Finance Manager for IT cost management across hybrid cloud.

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