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WHITE PAPER

The Azure Data Platform Cost Playbook

Controlling Spend Across Databricks, Snowflake, and Fabric



Microsoft Azure

Databricks

Snowflake

Microsoft Fabric

TechVora Solutions | Cloud · Data · AI Consulting

1. Executive Summary

1.1 Why Azure data platform spend outpaces value

Data platform spend has become one of the fastest-growing lines in the enterprise cloud budget. This playbook covers the data platforms your team runs on Azure, whether they're billed by Microsoft or directly by the vendor. Azure Databricks, Snowflake, Microsoft Fabric, and streaming services each bill on consumption, each use a different unit of measure, and each is shared by dozens of teams. Spend scales automatically with usage. Accountability does not.

> KEY TAKEAWAY
>
> **Spend scales automatically with usage. Accountability does not.**

The result is familiar to most data leaders: a monthly bill that keeps climbing, a central FinOps team asking for cuts, and no reliable way to say which domain, team, or pipeline is driving the increase, or whether that spend is producing value.

1.2 The core argument: attribute first, then optimize

Most cost guidance starts with optimization tactics: right-size clusters, suspend warehouses, buy reservations. Those tactics work, but applied blindly they produce small, one-time savings and a lot of friction with engineering teams. The organizations that control data platform spend over the long term start somewhere else. They first establish cost attribution: a consistent way to assign every dollar to the domain, team, and workload that consumed it. Once spend is visible, optimization becomes targeted, defensible, and repeatable.

> KEY TAKEAWAY
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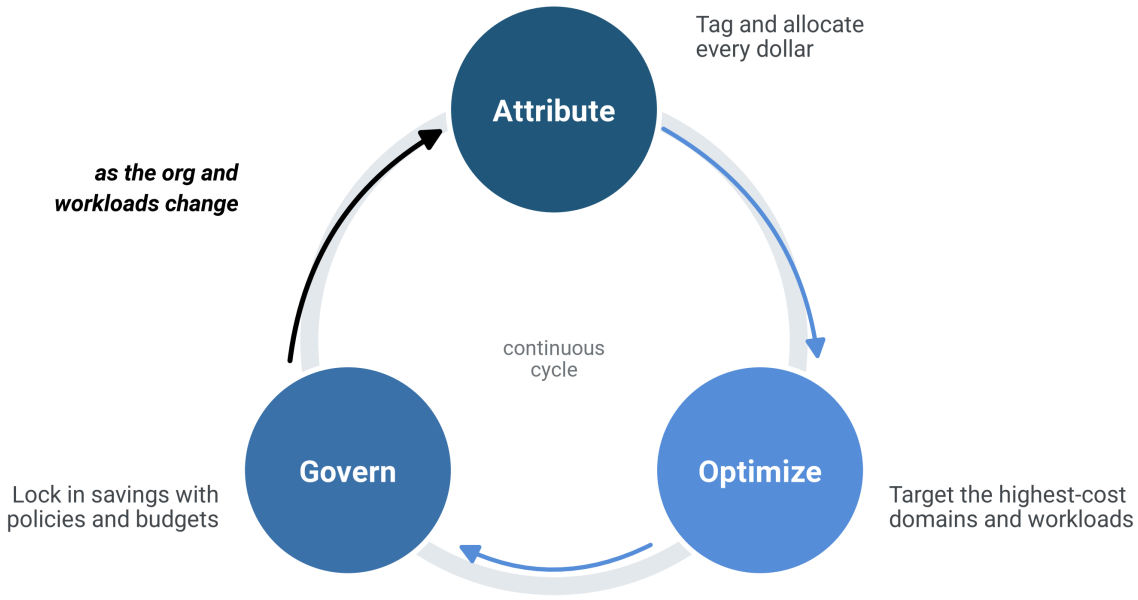


Figure 1 The attribute → optimize → govern cycle

1.3 What readers will walk away with

- A practical model for attributing data platform spend across Azure, Databricks, Snowflake, and Fabric
- Platform-specific optimization levers, ranked by effort and impact
- How to use Microsoft commitments (MACC, reservations, savings plans) to lower your effective rates
- Governance patterns that control cost without slowing engineers down
- A 30-day roadmap and a self-assessment checklist to benchmark where you stand today

2. Why Data Platform Costs Spiral on Azure

2.1 Consumption pricing and the "move fast" mandate

Modern data platforms were adopted to remove friction. Engineers can spin up a cluster or warehouse in minutes, with no procurement cycle. That speed is the point, but it also means spend decisions are made thousands of times a day by people who never see the bill. When leadership mandates speed over cost, budgets are routinely exceeded within months, and nobody notices until finance does.

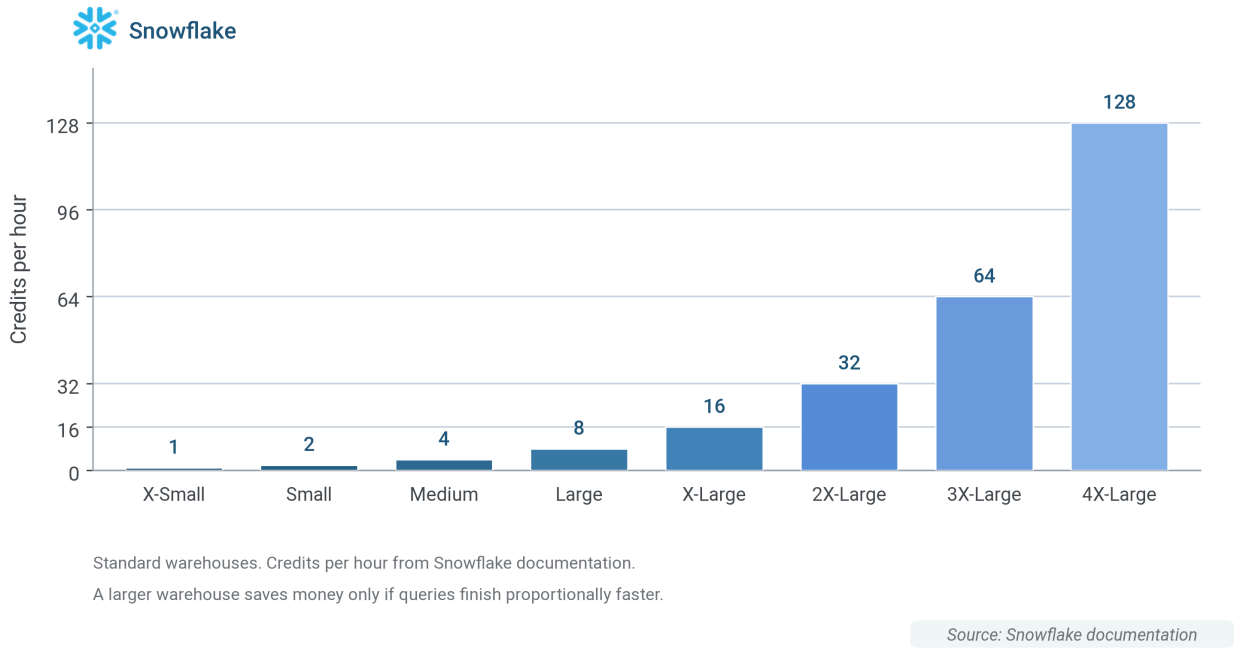


Figure 12 Snowflake warehouse size vs. credits per hour

5.2 Warehouse sizing, auto-suspend, and multi-cluster settings

- Right-size warehouses to the workload; a larger warehouse only saves money if queries finish proportionally faster
- Set aggressive auto-suspend values on warehouses that serve intermittent workloads
- Separate warehouses by workload type (ingestion, transformation, BI) so each can be sized and attributed independently
- Use the economy scaling policy for multi-cluster warehouses where some queuing is acceptable

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THAT WAS THE PREVIEW

Get the full 29-page playbook

This preview is a few pages from The Azure Data Platform Cost Playbook. Submit the LinkedIn form to download the complete 29-page white paper.

INSIDE THE FULL PLAYBOOK

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