

## CASE STUDY

# FinOps at Scale: Reducing Cloud Costs for a U.S. Air Force Software Development Organization

## Introduction

Cloud computing is an important piece of nearly every enterprise ecosystem. Flexibility, demand elasticity, reliability, automation, and security are some of the many advantages of cloud computing that organizations have benefited from as an increasing number of workloads have moved to the cloud. While the advantages are many, cloud adoption does present some new challenges related to understanding and controlling costs. Overcoming those challenges requires a comprehensive approach to Cloud Financial Management which is commonly referred to as FinOps.

## Challenge

This U.S. Air Force Software Development organization provides cloud-based, managed environments and services for dozens of mission applications and the teams that develop those applications. Our client enables the Cyber Mission Force to be interoperable and interconnected, and to conduct integrated planning and execution of the full spectrum of cyberspace operations. To fulfill this mission, they extensively leverage AWS cloud services with a total cloud footprint exceeding 40 accounts, thousands of servers, and several environments that span multiple classification levels.

**40+**

**AWS Accounts**

**2,000+**

**EC2 Instances**

**10+**

**Environments**



## About

BridgePhase is a cutting-edge digital services provider that delivers intelligent solutions for critical missions. As a trusted partner for some of the nation's most impactful federal organizations, BridgePhase designs, builds, operates, and manages secure enterprise systems at scale. By combining relentless mission focus with user centered design, technical excellence, and forward-leaning innovation, BridgePhase creates successful mission outcomes and exceptional user experiences.



In an enterprise ecosystem as large and complex as this one, it can be difficult to understand, predict, and control cloud costs. Within the context of this broader problem, our client was faced with some specific challenges:

- **Increasing Costs** – Cloud expenditures, in terms of total costs and costs relative to the organizational budget, were climbing.
- **Unmanaged Resources** – Most workloads were provisioned manually, making standardization and management difficult.
- **Disparate Governance** – A lack of standardized processes and controls resulted in varying costs for similar environments.
- **Limited FinOps Expertise** – Specific skillsets needed to create a comprehensive approach were historically not available.

Founded

**2008**

Capabilities



AI, Automation & Data



Cloud Infrastructure



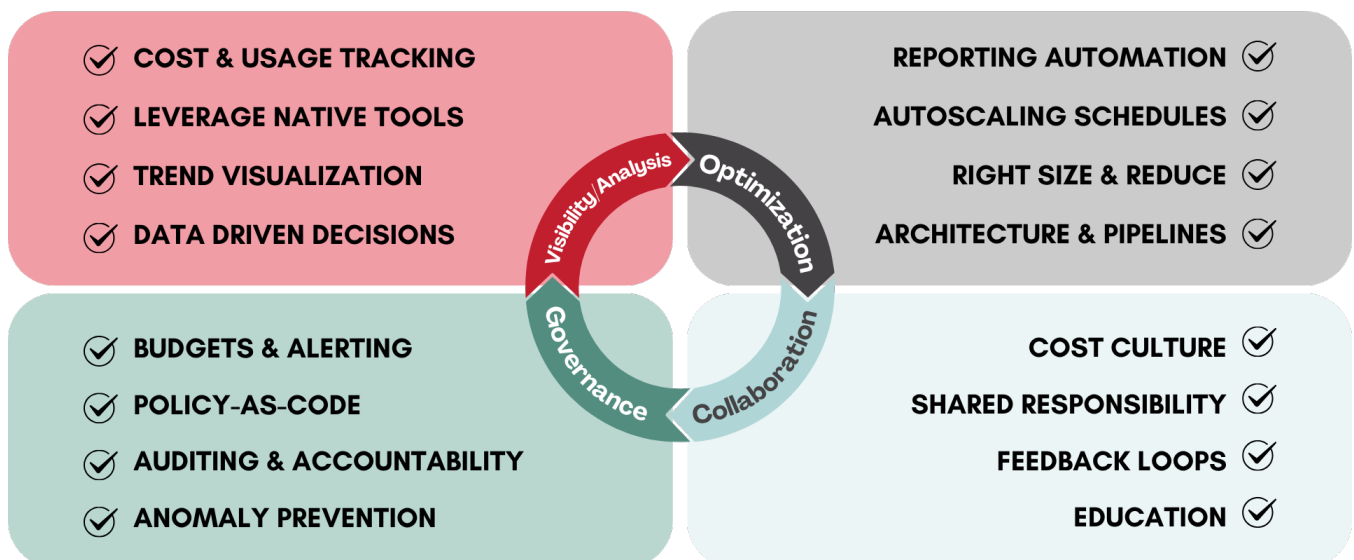
Cyber Operations



Digital Transformation

## Solution

BridgePhase leveraged our comprehensive Mosaic Digital FinOps framework that combines robust technologies with proven techniques to optimize cloud computing costs. Our team tailored the framework to address the unique needs and complexities of the platform ecosystem, using a data-driven, iterative methodology that adheres to the four key principles of Visibility, Optimization, Collaboration, and Governance. This approach was seamlessly integrated with existing workflows to ensure operational continuity.



## Result

This approach created immediate and lasting results. Overall **cloud costs were reduced by 20%**, which greatly reduced organizational budget constraints. Aggregated cost data was unified through a single dashboard, increasing transparency and organizational awareness. Governance was standardized and streamlined through automation and templates, ensuring consistency and accountability. Lastly, a positive culture shift of cost awareness emerged through the shared responsibility model, feedback loops, and education, creating an organizational imperative to drive continued FinOps success.



**20%**  
Cloud Cost



**Unified  
Cost  
Dashboard**



**Positive  
Culture  
Shift**



**Streamlined  
Governance**



“FinOps is about much more than saving money. The missions and programs we support operate on limited funding, and managing operations and infrastructure to support these missions is as critical as the missions. Recent government cuts and furloughs have only compounded the pressure that some programs and missions were already feeling, and we know how to help these programs help themselves to utilize funding and resources to the greatest extent possible.”

**David Nicholls**

Principal DevSecOps  
Engineer

## Conclusion

Cloud costs don't have to compete with mission priorities. BridgePhase enabled an Air Force software development organization to deliver operationally resilient cloud environments at substantially lower costs while establishing practices and controls with long lasting benefits. Through BridgePhase's Mosaic Digital solution and service offerings, Government agencies can access these proven, scalable approaches through a wide range of commercial solution pathways. If you are ready to turn cloud spend into mission advantage, connect with BridgePhase to talk about what's possible for your program.

Your mission is our  
commitment.

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