

DRIVING CLOUD COST EFFICIENCY & VISIBILITY FOR A GLOBAL CHEMICALS ENTERPRISE

Sasol is a **global chemicals and oil refinery enterprise** operating a complex **Microsoft Azure** environment with a:

\$900K.

monthly average
Cloud Spend

The client benefits from an **18% Enterprise Agreement (EA) discount** and is focused on:



Migrating additional **on-premise workloads to the cloud**



Introducing new **cloud-native services** to improve business efficiency

Despite significant cloud investment, the client faced key FinOps challenges:



Limited **visibility of cloud spend** across departments



No **chargeback /showback** capability



Lack of **real-time** anomaly detection



Minimal insight into **resource-level optimization** opportunities



Uncertainty around **Reserved Instance (RI) coverage vs PAYG usage**



No clear view of **on-premise vs cloud cost comparison**



Inconsistent and ineffective **tagging strategy**

The implementation of the **OneView® platform**, combined with structured FinOps practices, enabled complete visibility, governance, and optimization of both cloud and on-premise spend.

1. FINOPS DASHBOARD

- Visibility of **cost before and after EA discount**.
- Enhanced financial transparency for leadership and finance teams spend.

2. AZURE DETAILED COST VIEW

- Granular insights at **meter category level**.
- Enables deep analysis across services and regions.

3. ANOMALY DETECTION & ALERTS

- Real-time detection of **cost spikes and anomalies**.
- Automated **alerts triggered** when thresholds are exceeded.
- Reduced risk of unexpected billing.

4. OPTIMIZATION & SAVINGS TRACKING

- Introduction of a **Potential Savings Dashboard**:
 - Tracks **monthly spend**.
 - Identifies **optimization opportunities**.
 - Monitors **actual realized savings**.
- Implementation of a **Cost Efficiency Score** to measure improvements over time.

5. RUN RATE & COMMITMENT TRACKING

- Tracks **Azure consumption vs EA commitment**.
- Monitors **discount utilization**.
- Supports accurate **forecasting and budgeting**.

6. CLOUD OWNER SPEND DASHBOARD (CHARGEBACK ENABLEMENT)

- Department-level visibility into cloud spend.
- Business owners can view **their actual usage and cost**.
- Finance teams can reconcile **department spend vs Azure invoice**.
- Enables **chargeback and showback models**.

7. TOTAL COST OF OWNERSHIP (TCO) DASHBOARD

- Provides end-to-end visibility of **on-premise vs cloud spend**.
- Enables comparison of:
 - **Legacy infrastructure costs**.
 - **Cloud consumption costs**.

- As workloads migrate, stakeholders can track:
 - **Cost variances.**
 - **Savings or increases post-migration.**
- Supports data-driven **cloud migration** decisions.

8. TAGGING STRATEGY & GOVERNANCE

- Designed and implemented a **standardized tagging framework.**
- **Eliminated** inconsistent and non-value-adding tags.
- Defined a core set of **business-aligned tags.**

Implementation approach:

- **Phase 1:** Tagging at resource group level.
- **Phase 2:** Rollout to resource level.
- **Successfully tested** in development environment.
- Currently being **scaled to production environments.**

This enables:

- **Accurate** cost allocation.
- **Improved** reporting and accountability.
- **Stronger** FinOps governance.

Continuous engagement ensured sustained optimization:

- **Bi-weekly and monthly** FinOps sessions with cloud architects.
- Identification of:
 - **Usage optimization opportunities.**
 - **Rate optimization opportunities (RI, savings plans).**
 - **Orphaned and unused resources.**
- Encouraged **resource cleanup**, driving direct cost savings.

BUSINESS IMPACT

- | | |
|--|---|
| ✓ Full visibility across cloud and on-premise spend | ✓ Improved cost efficiency and FinOps maturity |
| ✓ Enabled department-level accountability and chargeback | ✓ Standardized tagging for accurate cost allocation |
| ✓ Proactive cost anomaly detection and alerts | ✓ Data-driven decisions for cloud migration and expansion |
| ✓ Structured tracking of potential vs actual savings | |

Through the implementation of OneView and a robust FinOps framework, the client transitioned from **limited visibility and reactive cost management** to a **proactive, insight-driven** optimization model.

This transformation has empowered the organization to:

- **Confidently** scale cloud adoption.
- Optimize costs **continuously.**
- **Align cloud spend** with business value and accountability.

The client is now well-positioned to:



Accelerate on-premise to cloud migration



Expand cloud-native capabilities



Continuously improve through FinOps best practices and governance