Many organizations have integrated Amazon Web Services (AWS) into their cloud strategy without a comprehensive plan for monitoring and governing the consumption of AWS resources. The pay-as-you-go nature of public cloud can offer significant financial benefits over traditional infrastructure for many use cases, but those benefits are only realized in a well managed environment.

Understanding your consumption is a critical component of managing your overall cloud usage and spend. Determining how to chargeback this spend to the business is time consuming, especially across multiple AWS instances, regions, and services. Advanced configuration, and advanced tools in some cases, are needed to provide different parts of your organization with the right level of visibility and data to make informed business decisions.

AHEAD’s Consolidated Billing for Amazon Web Services service provides best practice guidance and ongoing analytics of your AWS consumption. Based on your usage and trending, we will also provide recommendations to optimize savings using reserved instances.

WHAT YOU GET

CHARGEBACK BEST PRACTICES
When you first opt in to consolidated AWS billing with AHEAD, we hold a meeting with your team to understand your organization’s chargeback requirements and discuss best practices. AHEAD then provides you with guidance on how to configure tagging within your AWS account(s) to align with your chargeback reporting needs.

MONTHLY CONSOLIDATED INVOICING AND CHARGEBACK REPORTING
Each month you receive a single, consolidated invoice for your previous month’s AWS consumption across all linked accounts, summarized by AWS service. You also receive a report summarizing your AWS consumption for the previous month, based on pre-established chargeback requirements.

SUBSCRIPTION TO THE STAY AHEAD NEWSLETTER
The Stay AHEAD: Digest for AWS Administrators newsletter is written by our team of AWS experts. It consolidates everything our experts believe is important for an AWS administrator to know—updates to best practices, information about upcoming releases, known issues, tips & tricks, links to relevant articles—into a single digest delivered right to your inbox.

DELIVERABLES
Our service includes more than consolidated billing. Compare our service to what you would get from AWS directly:

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PREREQUISITES
- Existing Amazon Web Services account(s)
- Fully executed Amazon Web Services Master Purchase Agreement
- Current opted-in status to consolidated AWS billing, with AHEAD selected as the payer account

BENEFITS
- Best-practice guidance on chargeback configuration and cost optimization
- Ongoing analytics of your AWS consumption so you can proactively anticipate and manage spend
- Ongoing knowledge sharing from AHEAD’s engineers to your AWS administrators
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?
This is a complimentary service. You only pay AHEAD monthly for your actual AWS consumption, at the same rate you would pay AWS directly.

WHAT ARE THE PAYMENT TERMS ON MY AWS CONSUMPTION?
Your monthly consolidated invoice from AHEAD has Net 15 payment terms, the same payment terms you would get from AWS directly.

WILL I BE REQUIRED TO SIGN A STATEMENT OF WORK?
No. To sign up for consolidated AWS billing with AHEAD, you simply need to opt in to consolidated billing through your AWS console and select AHEAD as the payer account. Refer to the other prerequisites.

HOW LONG DO I RECEIVE THESE BENEFITS?
As long as you are currently opted-in to consolidated billing and have AHEAD selected as the payer account, you will receive all benefits and deliverables of this service. If you wish to discontinue this service at any time, you can opt out of consolidated billing in your AWS console and/or remove AHEAD as your payer account.

AS PART OF THIS SERVICE, WILL AHEAD MANAGE MY ENVIRONMENT?
This is not a managed service. AHEAD is not responsible for technical support, break/fix, configuration, or management of the AWS environment. If you are interested in these types of services, see your AHEAD Account Manager.

I DON’T HAVE AN EXISTING AWS ACCOUNT. CAN AHEAD HELP ME CREATE ONE?
Yes. Depending on your needs, we have service offerings available to help you design, plan, and deploy an AWS environment and migrate workloads. Your AHEAD Account Manager has more information.