CloudLens

How we approach AWS Well-Architected Reviews

Clear thinking for cloud platforms

A practical, evidence-led review that clarifies risk, prioritises action and leaves your team with a roadmap they can deliver.

Executive summary

Our Well-Architected Reviews focus on clarity rather than volume. We align to the AWS pillars, but we tailor the review to the reality of your platform, your team and your immediate priorities.

What you receive

- Prioritised findings with clear ownership and effort level.
- Remediation guidance grounded in your tooling and constraints.
- Visibility of cost, security and reliability risks.
- A delivery roadmap that your team can realistically execute.

What you avoid

- Generic reports that duplicate AWS documentation.
- Checklist outputs without contextual judgement.
- Unbounded scopes or recommendations without owners.
- One-off reviews that leave no capability behind.

The review is designed to be collaborative and lightweight on your team. We come prepared, interview efficiently and validate findings with the people who operate the platform.

Principles

A clear review is a disciplined one. These principles guide how we scope, run and document the work.

Context over checklists

We use the AWS Well-Architected Framework as a backbone, but we prioritise the choices that matter to your platform. If a pillar is not relevant, we say so and move on.

Evidence over opinion

Every finding ties back to observable evidence: architecture diagrams, configuration, incidents, cost trends or operational data. This keeps the review grounded and defensible.

Action over volume

We keep the report concise. Fewer, higher-quality findings with clear owners are more impactful than a long list that never gets delivered.

Capability over dependency

We aim to leave your team stronger. Where possible we pair recommendations with patterns, playbooks and decisions that are easy to reuse.

Method

A structured process that respects your time and gives you a clear line from assessment to delivery.

1. Preparation

We establish the platform scope, gather existing artefacts and agree the systems that matter. We identify stakeholders for each pillar to avoid interview fatigue.

2. Discovery sessions

Short, focused sessions with platform owners, security, engineering and finance. We ask for decisions, trade-offs, and known risks rather than broad walkthroughs.

3. Evidence review

We validate inputs against architecture diagrams, configuration, cost reports and operational indicators. Any gaps are flagged early and closed quickly.

4. Synthesis

Findings are grouped into themes, ranked by risk and effort and mapped to clear owners. Dependencies are identified so the roadmap is realistic.

5. Readout

We deliver a clear walkthrough of findings, remediation options and quick wins. The output is a short report with a prioritised backlog.

Evidence

We request only what we need. The goal is to keep the review lightweight while still grounded in reality.

Artifacts

- Architecture and account diagrams.
- Infrastructure-as-code structure and conventions.
- Operational runbooks and incident summaries.
- Cost trends and budget indicators.
- Security controls and compliance notes.

What we look for

- Service ownership and operational maturity.
- Reliability targets and SLOs.
- Change failure rate and recovery time.
- Risk exceptions that are already accepted.
- Constraints that limit change velocity.

If something isn't visible, we avoid guessing. We document the gap and suggest how to capture it over time.

Outputs

The report is intentionally short. Each finding is written as a decision ready note rather than an exhaustive audit log.

Findings

Each finding includes a clear statement of the risk, the evidence supporting it and a remediation path. We keep wording precise and neutral so it can be shared with leadership.

Prioritisation

We rank by operational risk, cost exposure and delivery effort. If trade-offs are required, we make them explicit.

Roadmap

A staged plan that breaks work into near-term fixes and longer-term platform improvements. The aim is to plan ahead without stalling current delivery.

Optional follow-through

We can help implement remediation or work with your team to own delivery. The review stands alone either way.

Collaboration

Our approach is hands-on and collaborative. We account for how things actually work: time constraints, existing roadmaps and organisational context.

Lightweight scheduling

We keep sessions short and focused. Most of the analysis happens outside meetings.

Shared language

We avoid jargon and excessive documentation. Findings are phrased so both engineers and leaders can make decisions quickly.

Transparent trade-offs

If a recommendation has cost, time or reliability implications, we call it out. This keeps decision-making grounded.

Knowledge transfer

We capture reasoning as well as outcomes, so your team can reuse the thinking on future reviews.

Scope

Clear boundaries keep the work fast and the outcomes trustworthy.

Included by default

- Core platform accounts and network topology.
- Critical workloads and shared services.
- Reliability, security and cost controls.
- Operational ownership and on-call readiness.

Excluded unless agreed

- Application code reviews.
- Compliance audits.
- Detailed project management or backlog refinement.
- Vendor tooling selection.

Scope is revisited early. If critical areas fall outside the initial boundary, we flag them and agree next steps.

Next steps

A Well-Architected Review should create momentum, not stall delivery. We design the output so you can move immediately.

Immediate actions

Quick wins are identified in the first few weeks, giving the team visible progress and risk reduction without major rework.

Quarterly roadmap

We align recommendations to a realistic delivery cadence. The roadmap is designed to sit alongside product work, not compete with it.

Review cadence

If helpful, we can define a light-touch cadence so the review becomes a repeated practice, not a one-time event.

We keep the work grounded, structured and clear — so the platform evolves with confidence.