

Cost Optimization for OpenShift Environments Checklist

Identify inefficiencies, reduce spend, and
maximize your OpenShift ROI

Executive Summary

OpenShift has become the platform of choice for enterprises looking to deploy, manage, and scale containerized workloads in hybrid and multi-cloud environments. While its capabilities enable speed, scalability, and operational consistency, costs can spiral quickly if environments are not actively managed and optimized.

Unnecessary over-provisioning, underutilized resources, and inefficient workload placement are common culprits driving waste. These issues are compounded by complex licensing models, unused persistent volumes, idle development environments, and the lack of proactive monitoring.

The Cost Optimization for OpenShift Environments Checklist is designed to give IT leaders, DevOps managers, and platform teams a clear, actionable framework to identify inefficiencies, streamline resource allocation, and implement best practices that directly reduce costs — without sacrificing performance or compliance.

Opportunity

For many organizations, the gap between OpenShift's potential and its actual ROI lies in day-to-day operational discipline. This gap represents a significant savings opportunity.

- **Resource Efficiency Gains:** Right-sizing nodes, tuning autoscaling policies, and removing orphaned workloads can reduce infrastructure costs by double-digit percentages.
- **Storage Optimization:** Identifying unused volumes and applying tiered storage policies can yield substantial long-term savings.
- **Operational Automation:** Implementing automated scaling, scheduled shutdowns, and cleanup routines can free up both budget and engineering time.
- **Governance and Accountability:** Cost allocation reports, showback, and chargeback mechanisms ensure responsible usage across teams and departments.



Your 8-Point Checklist

Identify inefficiencies, reduce spend, and maximize your OpenShift ROI

1. Cluster and Node Sizing

- ☐ Nodes are right-sized based on actual workload demand
- ☐ Node pools configured for different workload profiles (e.g., dev vs. production)
- ☐ Reserved and on-demand compute balanced for cost and performance
- ☐ Resource over-provisioning monitored and reduced

2. Pod and Resource Management

- ☐ Resource requests and limits set for all workloads
- ☐ CPU and memory utilization monitored regularly
- ☐ Autoscaling policies tested and optimized
- ☐ Unused or orphaned pods removed

3. Storage Optimization

- ☐ Unused persistent volumes identified and cleaned up
- ☐ Storage classes matched to workload performance needs
- ☐ Data retention policies enforced for logs and backups
- ☐ Archival storage used for cold data

4. Image and Registry Management

- ☐ Unused container images regularly pruned
- ☐ Image sizes reduced with multi-stage builds
- ☐ Registry retention policies applied
- ☐ Image pull frequency optimized to reduce bandwidth costs

Did you know that many OpenShift clusters run at 40 to 60 percent over-provisioned, leading to thousands of dollars in wasted infrastructure each month? With proper cost optimization, most organizations can reclaim that spend without impacting performance.

5. Environment Lifecycle Management

- ☐ Development and testing clusters shut down when idle
- ☐ Non-production workloads scheduled during off-peak hours
- ☐ Environments consolidated to reduce duplication
- ☐ Sandbox and experimental workloads reviewed monthly

6. Licensing and Support

- ☐ OpenShift subscription usage reviewed against actual need
- ☐ Third-party tool licensing mapped to usage
- ☐ Support tiers evaluated for cost-effectiveness
- ☐ Vendor consolidation opportunities identified

7. Monitoring and Reporting

- ☐ Cost allocation reports by team, project, or environment in place
- ☐ Anomaly detection alerts set for cost spikes
- ☐ Showback or chargeback models implemented for accountability
- ☐ Cost trends reviewed monthly for optimization opportunities

8. Automation for Cost Savings

- ☐ Automated scaling implemented based on real-time metrics
- ☐ Scheduled shutdown scripts for idle environments in place
- ☐ Automated cleanup of unused resources configured
- ☐ Continuous integration with FinOps tools or dashboards

Scoring

- 0–10 checks: High savings potential significant inefficiencies likely
- 11–20 checks: Moderate savings potential, targeted improvements needed
- 21–32 checks: Optimized, focus on ongoing monitoring and automation

Ready to turn cost optimization into measurable savings?

Your OpenShift environment has the potential to deliver more value at lower cost. It starts with knowing where to focus. Use your checklist results as the foundation for action, and let Crossvale help you take the next step.

Schedule your assessment

Get in touch today

Schedule your free OpenShift Cost Optimization Review. We will map your current state, identify quick wins, and build a tailored plan to improve efficiency without sacrificing performance.

sales@crossvale.com