+33 (0)1 48 10 09 46
formation@ambient-it.net
140 Avenue Jean Lolive 93500 Pantin - France

Updated on 10/26/2026

Sign Up

Cloud Custodian Training: Adopting a FinOps Approach

3 days (21 hours)

Overview

Cloud Custodian is a rules engine that enables you to govern cloud resources and automate their optimization. With its YAML policies and filtering mechanisms, it supports a FinOps approach based on usage control, team accountability, and the reduction of unnecessary expenses.

Our Cloud Custodian Training: Adopting a FinOps Approach will enable you to translate your business objectives into automated and controlled policies, using real-world examples on AWS.

You'll learn how to structure your rules, manage resource tagging, identify underutilized resources, and schedule shutdowns outside of business hours. You'll also set up notifications and deferred actions.

By the end of the training, you'll be able to implement progressive cost governance, secure remediation processes, and distinguish between estimated savings and actual gains observed in billing data.

This training also covers policy testing and deployment, monitoring of executions, and key performance indicators to ensure your optimizations are part of a continuous improvement process.

Like all our training courses, this one will introduce you to **the latest stable version** of the technology and its new features.

Objectives

- Structure a FinOps approach that combines visibility, optimization, and operations
- Design and validate Cloud Custodian policies tailored to cloud resources
- Detect tagging errors and potentially underutilized resources
- Automate optimizations with operational safeguards and notifications
- Deploy policies and measure their impact on usage and costs

Target Audience

- FinOps Engineer
- Cloud Engineer
- DevOps Engineer
- Cloud Architect
- Cloud Administrator

Prerequisites

- Experience with AWS computing and storage resources in a professional or lab environment
- Knowledge of AWS IAM permissions and roles used to access resources
- Proficiency with common terminal commands and YAML configuration files
- Basic understanding of cloud billing, tagging, and usage tracking

Technical Prerequisites

- Computer with 8 GB of RAM (recommended) and a local or virtualized Linux environment
- Installation of Python 3 in a supported version compatible with the version of Cloud Custodian selected for the workshops
- Install AWS CLI 2 and Git, along with an editor such as Visual Studio Code, to modify policies
- Access to an AWS lab account with dedicated resources, appropriate permissions, and a controlled budget
- Stable internet connection allowing for the download of dependencies and access to the required for the workshops

Our Cloud Custodian training program: adopting a FinOps approach

[Day 1 - Morning]

Linking the FinOps approach to cloud policies

- The Inform, Optimize, and Operate phases of the FinOps Foundation framework and collaboration between finance, business units, and technical teams

- Cost-reduction strategies: usage optimization, pricing, and the scope of Cloud Custodian
- How Cloud Custodian works: resources, filters, actions, and differences between cloud providers
- Setting up the AWS lab: isolated Python environment, authentication, and minimal permissions
- The structure of a YAML policy, schema discovery, and validation with Cloud Custodian validate
- Hands-on workshop: Install Cloud Custodian and run an initial read-only inventory policy on the lab's resources.

[Day 1 - Afternoon]

Improving the reliability of tagging and usage visibility

- Defining a FinOps tagging convention: owner, application, environment, and cost center
- Value filters, tag conditions, and logical combinations to target resources
- Detecting missing or non-compliant tags and managing exceptions
- Simulation using `--dryrun` and analysis of selected resources in the output files
- Reconciling inventories with cost data and tag usage conditions for financial allocation
- Hands-on workshop: Building a tag control policy, analyzing discrepancies, and generating an actionable inventory by owner.

[Day 2 - Morning]

Detecting and prioritizing optimization opportunities

- Identifying unattached EBS volumes and resources eligible for cleanup
- Using metrics filters and CloudWatch metrics to identify potentially underutilized instances
- Selecting thresholds, observation periods, and handling missing data
- Distinguishing between underutilization signals, resizing recommendations, and owner-approved decisions
- Prioritizing based on potential savings, application dependencies, and operational risk Operational
- Hands-on workshop: Detect unused volumes and instances eligible for optimization, then build a cost-estimated backlog based on the pricing data provided.

[Day 2 - Afternoon]

Automating optimizations with safeguards

- Scheduling EC2 stops and starts using off-hour and on-hour filters

- Management of time zones, calendars, scheduling tags, and inclusion or exclusion mechanisms
- Deferred actions using `mark-for-op` and their subsequent selection via `marked-for-op`
- Notifications to owners using `notify`, the SQS relay, and `c7n-mailer`
- Safeguards before remediation: human validation, backups, re-verification of eligibility, and rollback limits
- Hands-on workshop: Configure a planned shutdown policy on a test instance and simulate a deferred cleanup process with notification.

[Day 3 - Morning]

Scaling and monitoring policies

- Organizing the Git repository: naming conventions, documentation, settings, and environment separation
- CI/CD checks: schema validation, expected resource sets, review, and staged deployment
- Execution modes on AWS: local launch, periodic scheduling, and deployment to Lambda
- Multi-account execution with c7n-org, delegated roles, and region targeting
- Monitoring logs and metrics, permission errors, API limits, and the operational costs of automation
- Hands-on workshop: Versioning and validating a policy, deploying its periodic execution in the lab, and verify the generated traces.

[Day 3 – Afternoon]

Driving gains and ensuring the sustainability of the FinOps approach

- Defining FinOps metrics: tagging coverage, optimized resources, exceptions, and processing times
- Establishing a baseline and distinguishing between estimated savings, avoided costs avoided costs, and realized gains
- Reconciliation with AWS billing, taking into account fluctuations in activity, commitments, and data availability timelines
- Policy lifecycle governance: responsibilities, approvals, reassessment of thresholds, and expiration of exceptions
- The continuous improvement roadmap and key considerations for extending policies to other cloud providers
- Hands-on workshop: Building a comprehensive FinOps framework, from detection to , followed by a presentation of monitoring metrics and a phased deployment plan.

Target Audience

This training is intended for both individuals and companies—large or small—seeking to train their teams in new, advanced IT technologies or to acquire specific business knowledge or modern methodologies.

Pre-training Assessment

The pre-training assessment complies with Qualiopi quality standards. Upon final registration, the learner receives a self-assessment questionnaire that allows us to evaluate their estimated proficiency level across various types of technologies, as well as their expectations and personal goals regarding the upcoming training, within the limits imposed by the selected format. This questionnaire also allows us to anticipate certain connection or internal security issues within the company (intra-company or virtual classroom) that could pose challenges for monitoring and ensuring the smooth operation of the training session.

Teaching Methods

Hands-On Training: 60% Hands-On, 40% Theory. Training materials distributed in digital format to all participants.

Organization

The course alternates between theoretical input from the instructor—supported by examples and reflection sessions—and group work.

Assessment

At the end of the session, a multiple-choice quiz is administered to verify that participants have successfully acquired the skills.

Certification

A certificate will be issued to each trainee who has completed the entire training program.

Training organization registered under number 11 75 54743 75. This registration does not constitute state accreditation.
© Ambient IT 2015-2026. All rights reserved. Paris, France - Switzerland - Belgium - Luxembourg