CORESTACK®

CoreStack Advantages Over Cloud-Native Tools: A Deep Dive

In the ever-evolving landscape of cloud computing, companies are striving to harness the full potential of their cloud investments while maintaining the delicate balance between innovation, agility, and cost-effectiveness. Achieving this balance can be tricky, especially when you have only cloud-native tools at your disposal for cloud governance.

In order to take advantage of all that the cloud has to offer, organizations need more than basic cloud management tools. They need NextGen cloud governance capabilities. CoreStack Governance is a suite of modules that leverage AI to provide continuous and autonomous governance for FinOps, SecOps, and CloudOps across AWS, Microsoft Azure, GCP, and OCI. These modules can transform any organization from a reactive posture to a proactive one, enabling predictable increases in top-line revenues and bottom-line efficiencies.

Leverage CoreStack Governance to augment and extend the capabilities of cloud-native management tooling across FinOps, SecOps, and CloudOps

Access capabilities that are not possible across cloud accounts from the hyper-scaler console, including a single-pane view of all resource inventory from all accounts across multiple cloud platforms

Get cost-saving recommendations across more types of cloud resources than those covered by cloud-native advisors

This solution brief provides a detailed description of the advantages CoreStack Governance provides over cloud-native tools across FinOps, SecOps, and CloudOps. By harnessing these capabilities, CoreStack Governance can help you mitigate risk, accelerate delivery, experiment more, optimize performance, and innovate rather than just improve.

FinOps

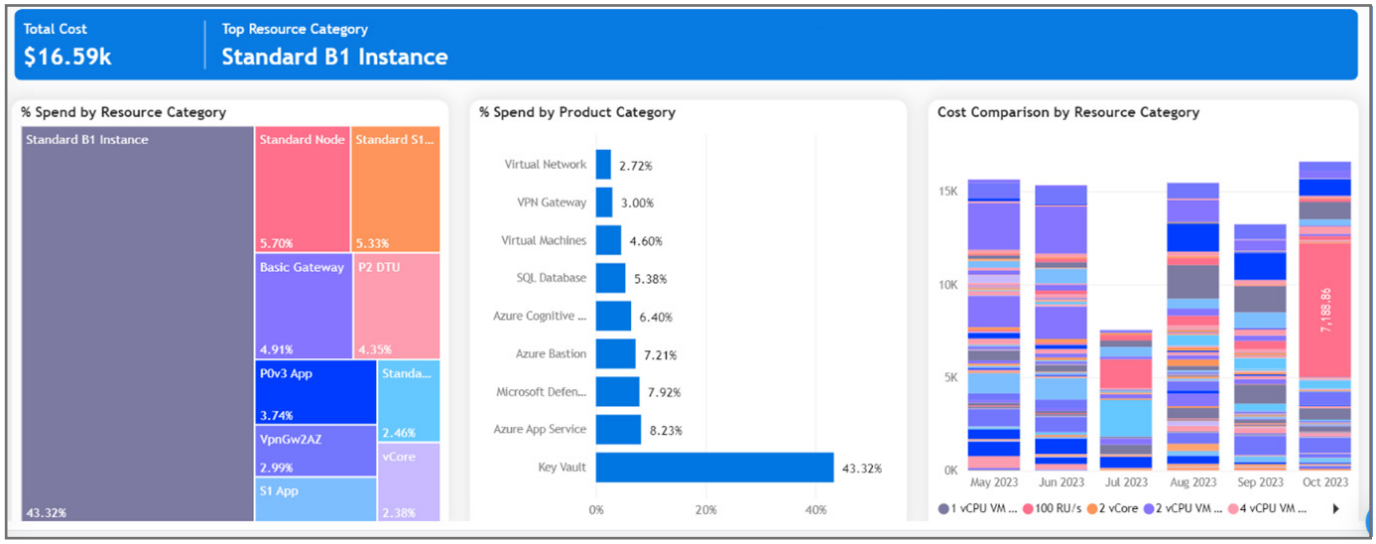
Centralized Cost Visibility and Analytics

In addition to providing multi-cloud cost management, CoreStack provides cost visibility through reports and dashboards that can be used for multiple cloud accounts, subscriptions, and/or projects, showing multiple customers in a single pane. This capability applies to any type of cloud account for each hyperscaler – for example, an AWS Management Account or Linked Account, an Azure EA, CSP, CSP-In-Direct, or Pay-as-you-go, or a GCP Billing Account or Linked Project.

CoreStack provides cost analysis through data drilldowns across various dimensions, including those listed below. These reports can also be downloaded and shared in PDF or Microsoft Excel format.

- Master / billing account to linked / member account cost visibility
- Cost usage by cloud account, product, resources, tags/labels, regions, resource groups, and more

CoreStack also has configurable Executive Dashboards that allow users to create custom query-based dashboards and reports.



	Cloud Account	Corestack Service Account	Subscription Name	Region	Product Category	Resource Category	Resource Name	May 2023	Jun 20
mo	Azure_subscription_Test_Type	Azure_subscription_Test_Type	Azure subscription 1	southcentralus	Azure Bastion	Basic Data Transfer Out	demoRG-vnet-bastion	$0.06	$0.06
							Total	$0.06	$0.06
						Total		$0.06	$0.06
					Total			$0.06	$0.06
				southindia	Azure Bastion	Basic Data Transfer Out	azurebastion-bastion	$0.11	$0.16
							Bastioserver	$0.08	$0.16
							Total	$0.19	$0.32
						Total		$0.19	$0.32
					Total			$0.19	$0.32
				Total				$0.25	$0.38
			Total					$0.25	$0.38
		Total						$0.25	$0.38

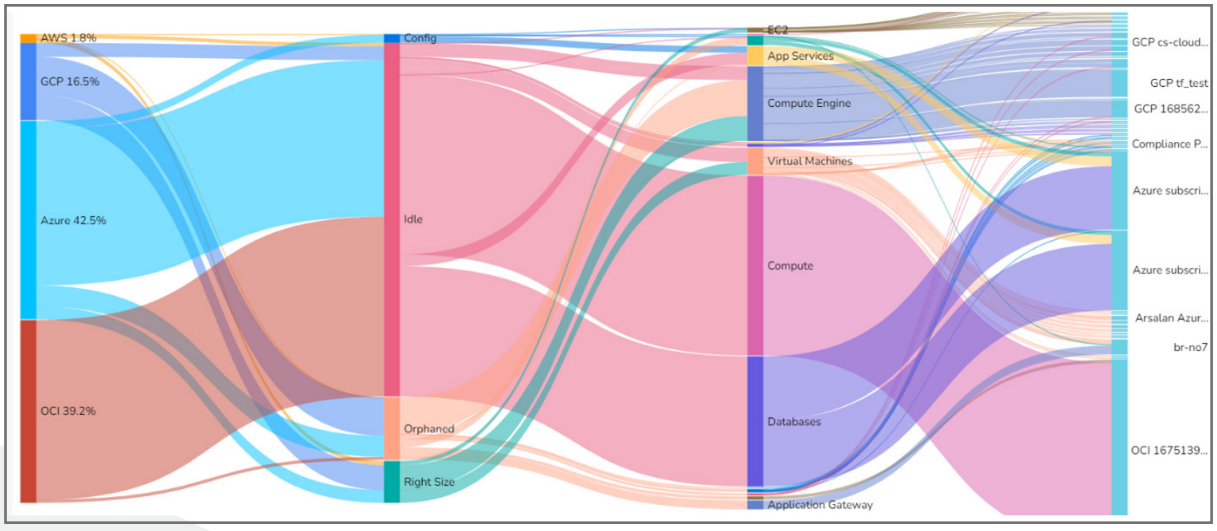
Enhanced Cost Optimization with Remediation Support

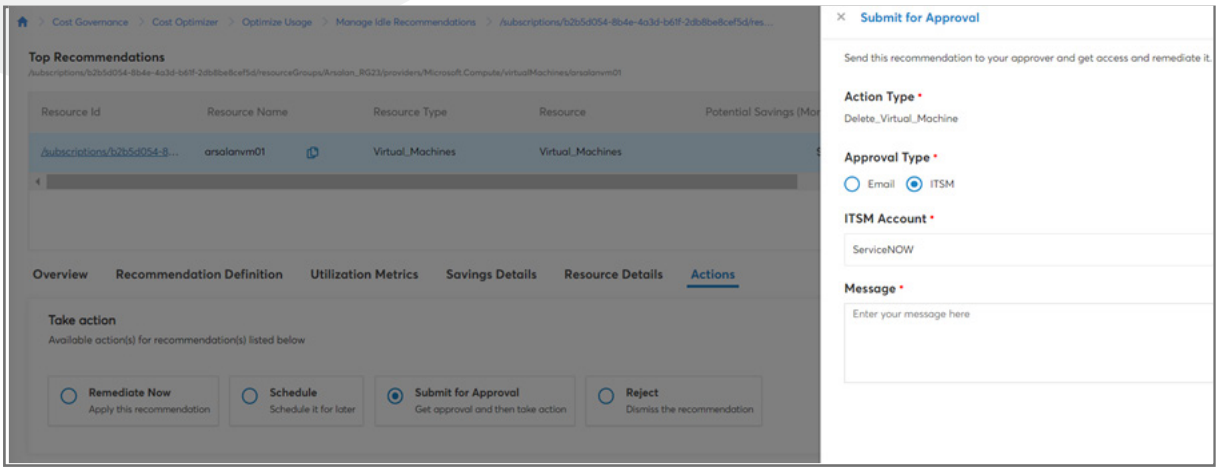
Users can leverage CoreStack's cost polices and AIML capabilities for additional usage-based cost optimization recommendations that exceed what cloud-native advisors provide, including AWS Trusted Advisor, and Azure Advisor. These recommendations come in the form of rightsizing, configuration recommendations, and idle and orphaned resources detection, and they include resource types whose recommendations are not provided by cloud-native advisors, such as AWS RDS, DynamoDB, Workspace, Azure MySQL Server, Cosmos DB, and GCP Big Query.

CoreStack also continuously monitors resource utilization patterns and recommends runtime scheduling for auto-start / auto-shutdown – another capability not available in cloud-native tools.

Apart from having visibility into cost optimization recommendations, users can also take steps to remediate directly from the CoreStack platform, reducing friction. Remediation activities can also be tracked through an ITSM workflow approval process by integrating CoreStack with ITSM tools like ServiceNow. This feature simplifies FinOps processes for MSPs and SIs.

For rate-based optimization recommendations, CoreStack gives users visibility into all RI recommendations in a single pane. Similar capabilities are coming for Savings Plan.

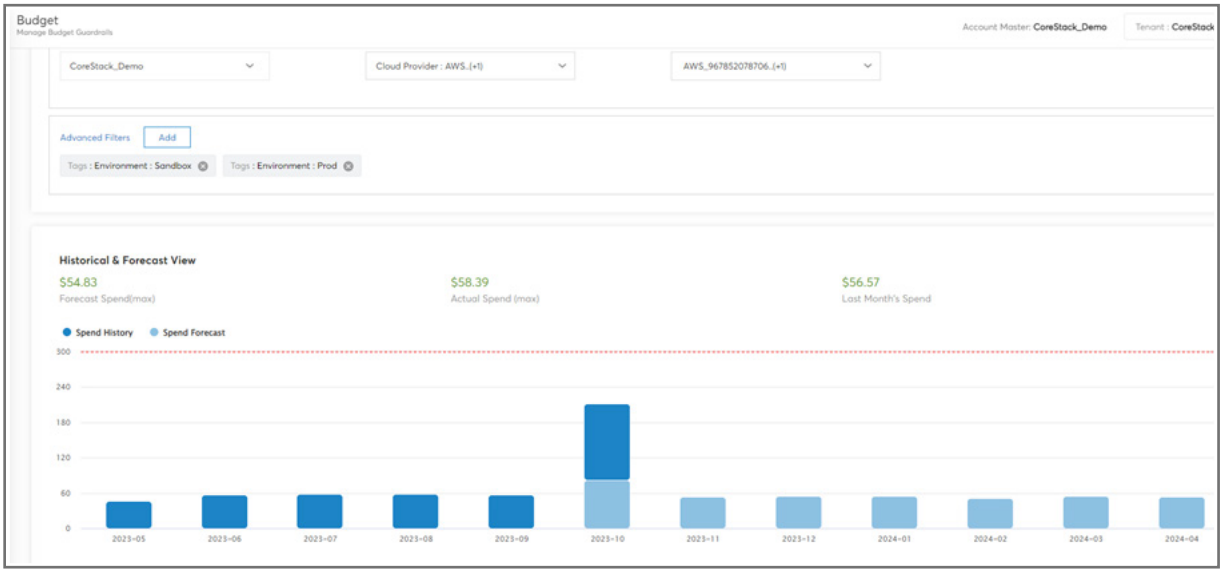




Granular Budgeting and Forecasting

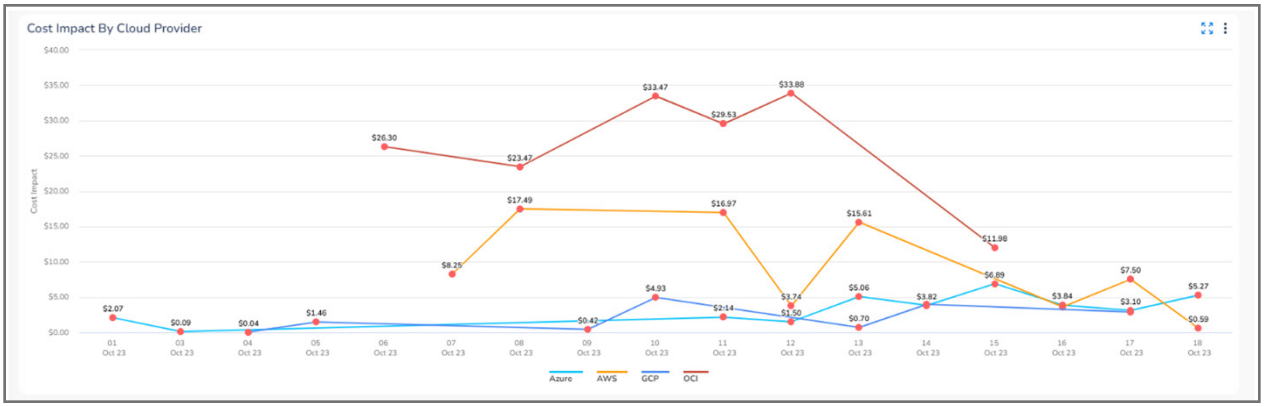
CoreStack takes budget management to the next level, allowing organizations to set budgets at the cost center, environment, or tag level, or even create a budget at a multi-cloud level. With CoreStack, users can set budget threshold alerts at “Forecasted” or “Actual” consumption values. Users can also define “Actions” when a budget crosses a specific threshold. In addition, CoreStack enables sending notifications to ITSM tools along with email alerts.

CoreStack leverages AIML for accurate forecasting that considers trends and seasonality. Forecasts can also be drilled down at a cloud account level, tag level, and more. Users can refer to Budget Reports and Cloud Cost vs Budget Variance Reports to get additional visibility and insights.



Cost Anomalies

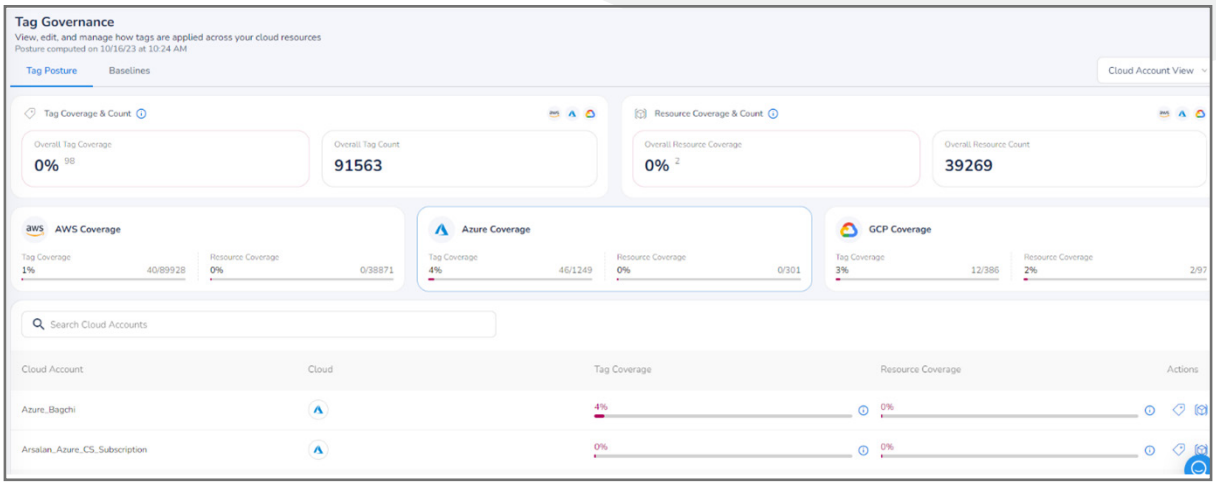
With CoreStack, organizations get no more surprise cloud bills. CoreStack correlates daily activities and notifies users with cost impacts and usage spikes in near real-time. Anomaly sensitivity can be set based on customer preferences.



Centralized Tagging Governance with Remediation

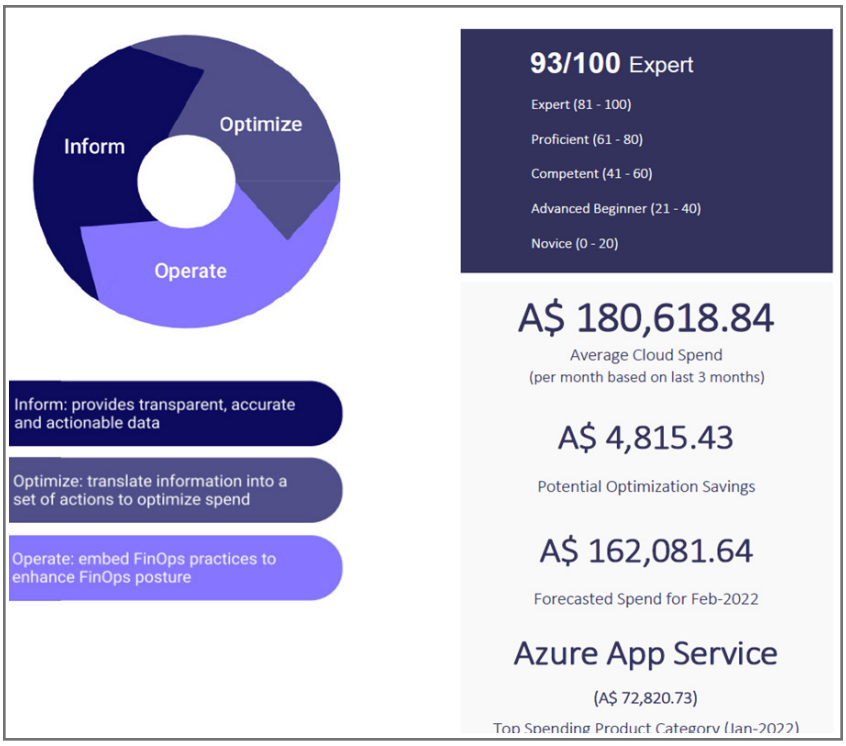
With CoreStack, users can define their organization tagging strategy based on a baseline across multiple cloud accounts and hyperscalers. This is a very important FinOps best practice, and there is currently no direct cloud-native service that handles centralized tagging governance and remediation at the same time.

CoreStack's tagging governance dashboard helps in understanding tagging violations at a tag key and value level. Remediation of tag violations can be done from the platform by selecting and applying the correct tag, ensuring enforcement of the tagging strategy at a cloud account level. Based on tagging, users can then generate showback and chargeback reports for cost allocation.



FinOps Maturity Assessment

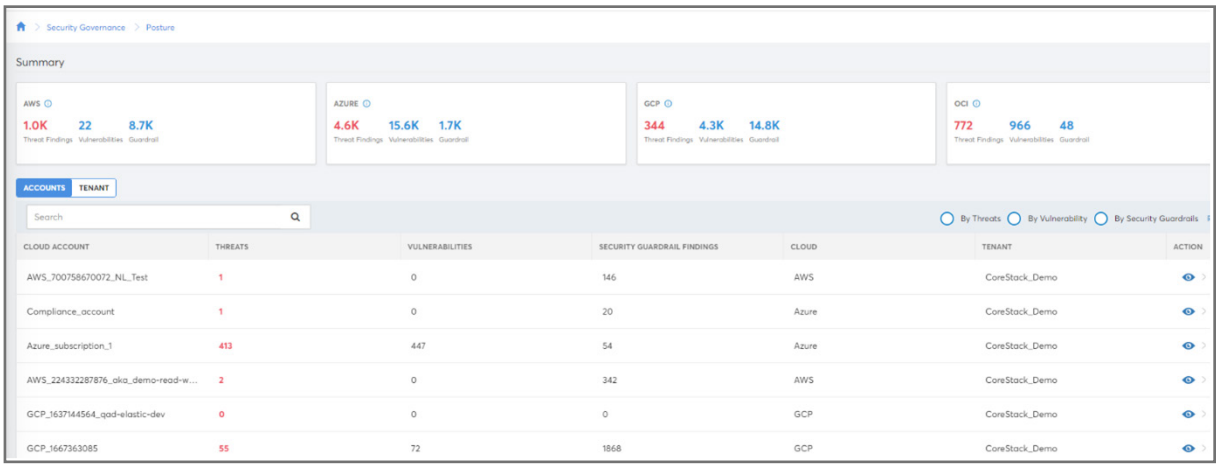
Out of the box, CoreStack provides FinOps maturity assessments for cloud accounts based on historical cloud spend. Organizations can use the resulting score to better understand their FinOps maturity and evaluate where they are in the FinOps journey.



SecOps

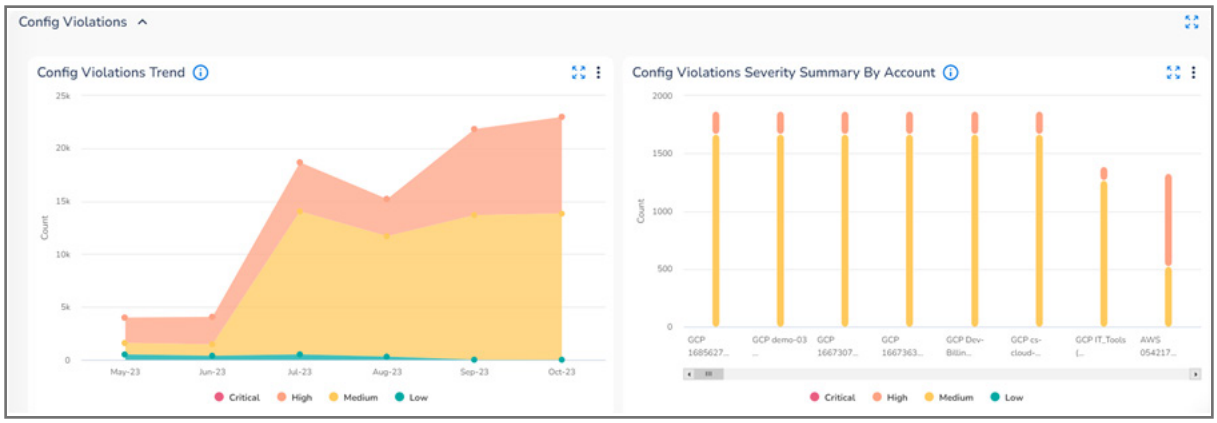
Centralized Cloud Security Posture Management (CSPM)

CoreStack CSPM provides single-pane visibility into threats, vulnerabilities, and guardrail policies across multiple customers and cloud accounts / subscriptions / linked projects – across multi-cloud. Users can access analytics and reporting to drill down into threats and vulnerabilities to better understand trends, patterns, and more. Users can also view the recommendations provided and perform basic remediation for threats.



Custom Guardrails Through Policies

The CoreStack platform provides the ability to create custom guardrails through policies to help reduce security misconfigurations and best practice violations. This feature is especially useful when customers want to implement their own custom security governance frameworks, understand violations, and see recommendations. Auto-remediation can also be configured for custom security policies to boost operational efficiency.



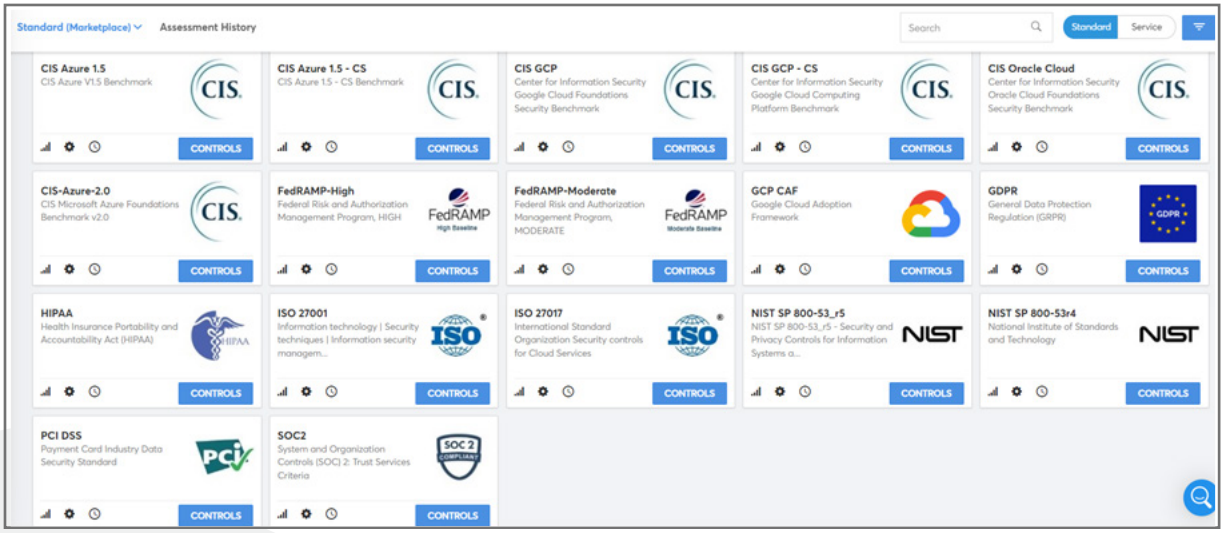
Workflow Automation for Incident Ticketing and Notification

CoreStack integrates with ITSM tools such as ServiceNow and Jira to automatically create incident tickets for threats. Users can also receive email and webhook notifications for security incidents.

Compliance Assessment Against Industry and Custom Standards

CoreStack helps users perform compliance assessments against industry standards using built-in policies instead of relying on AWS Config, Azure policies, etc. This feature helps reduce costs further as cloud-native policies are changed by the hyperscalers.

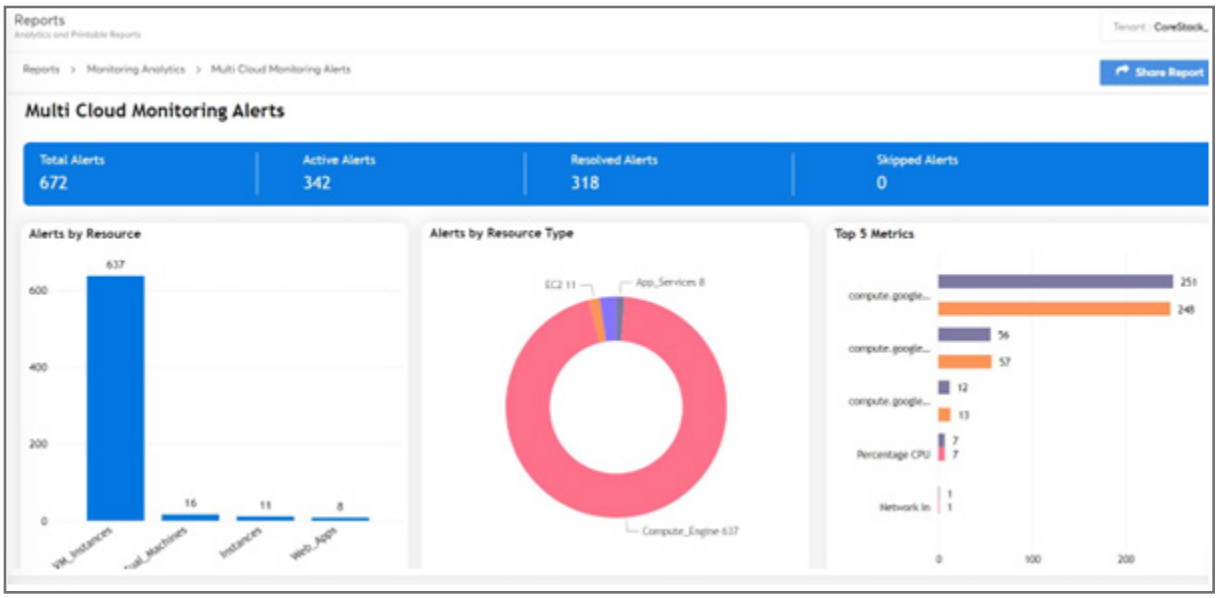
Users can automate assessments to run on a specific schedule. Users can also perform assessments against custom frameworks that the user can create based on a set of policies. This feature is extremely useful in scenarios where customers have organization-specific standards. Compliance assessment and violations dashboards and reports can also be generated and shared.



CloudOps

Centralized Visibility of Monitoring Alerts and Activities Across Multi-Cloud

CoreStack CloudOps provides single-pane visibility into alerts and activities across multiple customers and cloud accounts / subscriptions / linked projects – across multi-cloud. Users can access analytics and reporting to better understand trends, patterns, and more. Users can also configure thresholds for alerts and activities across multiple cloud accounts / customers using templates, which reduces turnaround time.

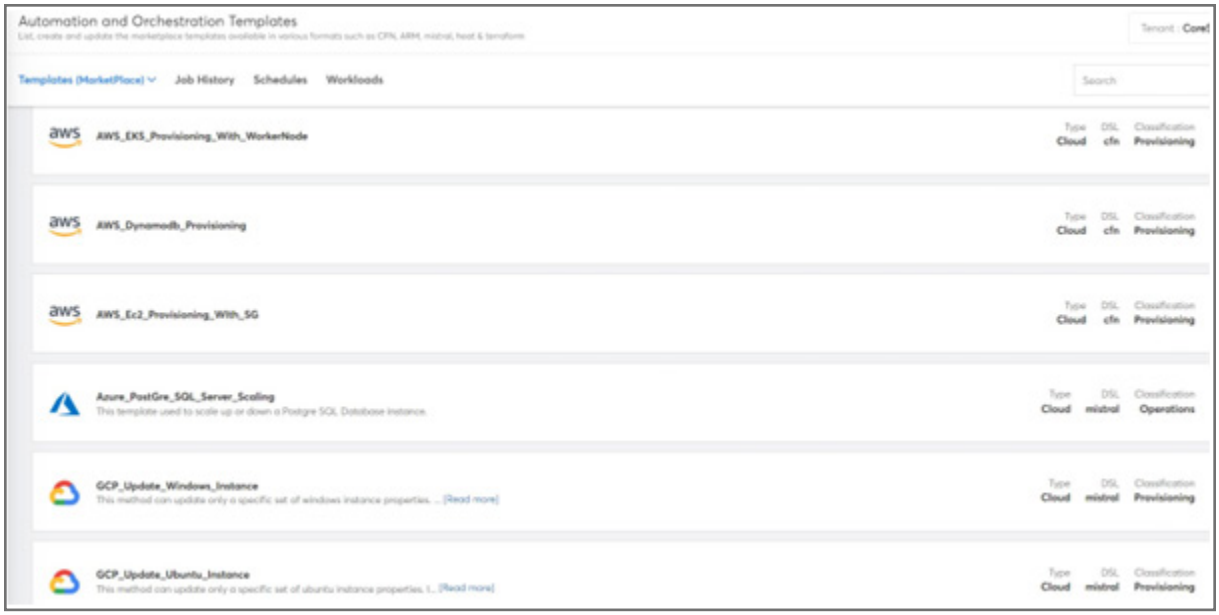


Workflow Automation for Incident Ticketing and Notification

CoreStack integrates with ITSM tools such as ServiceNow and Jira to automatically create incident tickets for alerts and activities, helping ensure service availability. Users can also receive email and webhook notifications for alerts and activities.

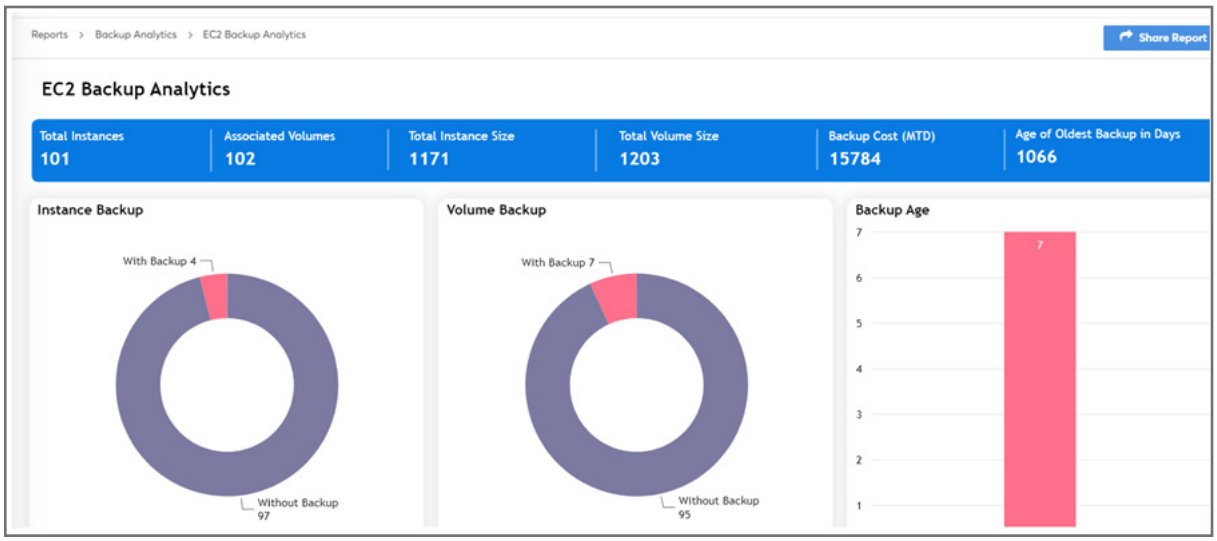
Automation and Orchestration

Users can leverage CoreStack to provision resources in an automated way using IaC templates like CloudFormation, ARM, Terraform, DM, and more. Users are provided with multiple out-of-the-box templates which can be executed from the platform. CoreStack can also be integrated with GitHub so that users can import their own templates, making it the local repository from which users can provision templates.



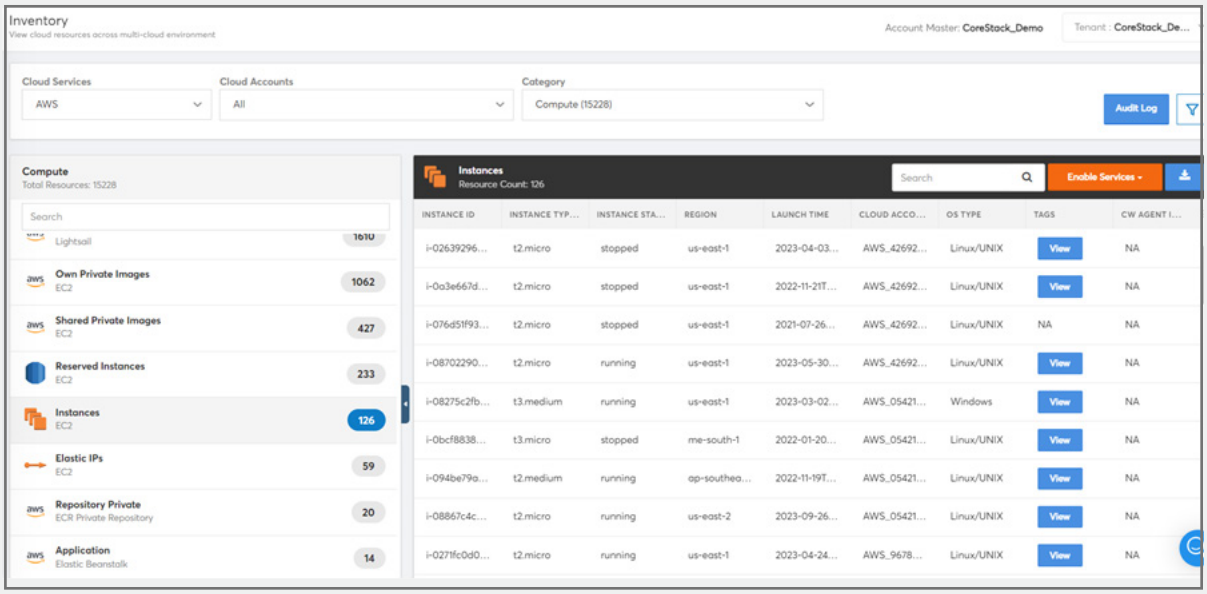
Backup and Patch Management

CoreStack integrates with cloud-native patch management capabilities to centralize patch management, including patch compliance visibility, execution, and reporting. Users can also perform backup by leveraging out-of-the-box IaC templates or their own.



Inventory and CMDB Integration

CoreStack provides a single-pane view of all resource inventory from multiple multi-cloud accounts, providing a 360° view of all resources in one dashboard. It can also integrate with third-party CMDBs like ServiceNow CMDB.



Learn More

With powerful cost, security, operational, and compliance governance capabilities underpinned by intelligent automation, CoreStack provides countless advantages over cloud-native tools. To find out how CoreStack Governance can help your organization, visit www.corestack.io or reach out to us at contact@corestack.io.

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CoreStack is an AI-powered NextGen Cloud Governance platform that enables enterprises to embrace cloud with confidence, rapidly achieving continuous and autonomous cloud governance at scale. CoreStack helps 750+ global enterprises govern more than $2B in annual cloud consumption. The company is a Microsoft Azure (Legacy) Gold Partner, Amazon AWS Technology Partner with Cloud Operations Competency, Oracle Cloud Build Partner, and Google Cloud Build Partner.