Vantalect

AWS WELL-ARCHITECTED FRAMEWORK · FIXED PRICE

AWS Well-Architected Framework Review

Six pillars, one critical workload. Verified in two weeks, remediated in six.

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The problem

A critical production workload has grown under deadline pressure, and nobody has stepped back to evaluate its reliability, security, operational readiness, performance, and cost together. Many Well-Architected Reviews are a few hours of partner sales questions answered from memory.

This engagement evaluates one production workload across all six pillars of the AWS Well-Architected Framework (Operational Excellence, Security, Reliability, Performance Efficiency, Cost Optimization, and Sustainability), checks the answers against your live accounts and code, and closes every agreed High-Risk Issue in six weeks.

The Review

Two weeks

$25,000

Up to 40 consultant hours

One critical production workload, evaluated across all six pillars of the AWS Well-Architected Framework. We check the answers against your live configuration, telemetry, billing, and code, and record the baseline in your AWS Well-Architected Tool.

GUARANTEED

The Remediation

Six weeks

$35,000

Up to 110 consultant hours

The Review in the first two weeks. Then weeks three through five close every agreed High-Risk Issue as code in your repositories, with the engineers who own the workload. Week six verifies every fix and records the closing milestone.

The second half of the fee is invoiced only when every High-Risk Issue agreed at the week-two readout is closed, verified in the week-six AWS Well-Architected Tool milestone.

Who it is for

- A CTO, VP of Engineering, or chief architect with a business-critical production workload on AWS
- A system preparing for enterprise scale, a major customer launch, technical due diligence, or a post-incident architectural reset
- Budget authority for a fixed-price engagement without a procurement cycle

It is not the right engagement if you want a free checkbox workshop to unlock partner promotional credits, or if your pressure is organization-wide and in one area: choose our AWS Security, Compliance & Governance Audit or our AWS Cost Analysis & Optimization instead.

Week by week

The same weeks every time, which is why the price is fixed.

The Review, two weeks.

Week	What happens
1. Inspect and interview	With the read-only role in place before week one, we inspect live configuration, metrics, pipelines, and billing, then run pillar sessions with your architects and service owners.
2. Score and design	Every pillar question is scored in your AWS Well-Architected Tool with its resource-level evidence. Each High- and Medium-Risk Issue gets a target design, an estimate, and a sequence in the roadmap, presented at the sponsor readout.

The Remediation, six weeks.

Week	What happens
1 and 2. Inspect, interview, score, design	The Review's two weeks, with no changes yet. The week-two milestone in your AWS Well-Architected Tool is the baseline, and the verified High-Risk Issue register is agreed with your sponsor.
3. Security and reliability foundations	Identity least-privilege, secret management, encryption, and network boundaries go in as code alongside multi-AZ topology, automated backups, restore checks, and service quota monitors.
4. Resilience and operational excellence	Health checks, circuit breakers, queue backpressure, and auto-scaling rules are tuned to real load. Deployment rollback gates, structured telemetry, SLO alarms, and incident runbooks go into the repositories.
5. Performance, cost, and sustainability	Compute, containers, and databases are matched to workload demand; caching, storage tiers, lifecycle rules, and data-transfer paths are tightened so the workload runs faster on fewer resources.
6. Verify and hand over	Every remediated High-Risk Issue is verified against live configuration and telemetry, the week-six milestone is saved in your AWS Well-Architected Tool, and your team takes over the review cadence.

The meetings, and the hours behind them

Every session is held on Zoom and scheduled before week one: a kickoff, three pillar sessions (architecture and reliability; security and operations; performance, cost, and sustainability), a High-Risk Issue review, and a sponsor readout. The Remediation adds a weekly sponsor check-in, twice-weekly change reviews and pairing in weeks three through five, office hours twice a week, and a 2-hour handover workshop in week six.

In the Review, about 8 of the 40 hours are live with your team; in the Remediation, about 38 of the 110. The rest is live account inspection, architecture analysis, and pull-request preparation under Charles's hand.

What you receive

The Review

1. **The Well-Architected Tool baseline.** Your workload defined and scored across all six pillars in the AWS Well-Architected Tool inside your account, with the week-two milestone saved.
2. **The High- and Medium-Risk Issue register.** Every HRI and MRI verified against live accounts, ranked by business impact and effort, each with the resources it touches.
3. **The current- and target-state diagrams.** Architecture diagrams of the workload today and the target-state changes that close each High-Risk Issue.
4. **The reliability and recovery analysis.** Failure-mode trace across availability zones, data stores, dependencies, quotas, and backup paths against your recovery targets.
5. **The security and operational gap analysis.** Workload IAM roles, secrets, network boundaries, deployment safety, observability, and alarm quality.
6. **The remediation roadmap.** Every architectural fix sequenced by risk reduction and effort, with pull-request-level scope.
7. **The sponsor readout.** A short written document, presented in the closing meeting.

The Remediation

Everything in the Review, then eight more:

8. **Every agreed High-Risk Issue closed** as code in your repositories, each through a pull request reviewed by the engineer who owns the service.
9. **Reliability controls in place:** multi-AZ failover, automated backup verification, connection pooling, throttling protection, and quota alarms.
10. **Workload security hardened:** least-privilege roles, KMS encryption, secret rotation, security group boundaries, and VPC endpoints.

11. **Operational telemetry and alarms:** dashboards, SLO alerts, deployment health checks, and rollback triggers wired to your on-call.
12. **Performance and cost tuning applied:** compute, database, and storage configurations matched to measured traffic, with lifecycle rules.
13. **Operational runbooks** for failure recovery, rollback, scaling events, and dependency outages.
14. **The week-six Well-Architected milestone** recorded in your AWS Well-Architected Tool against week two. It decides the second invoice.
15. **The handover workshop,** its recording, and the runbook for running your own milestones after major releases.

How the result is measured

During week two, every High-Risk Issue the AWS Well-Architected Tool flags is verified against your live accounts, agreed in writing with your sponsor at the readout, and saved as the week-two baseline milestone. In week six, every remediated question is verified against live configuration and telemetry and recorded in a closing milestone.

The guarantee

The second half of the Remediation fee is invoiced only when every High-Risk Issue agreed at the week-two readout is closed, verified in the week-six AWS Well-Architected Tool milestone. If the gate is not met, the second invoice is not issued and you keep everything delivered.

A High-Risk Issue you accept in writing as a business risk or defer as a multi-quarter application rewrite counts as closed, as does one whose fix you declined, or approved but had not applied by week six.

Beyond that gate, no particular result is guaranteed: a Well-Architected engagement reduces architectural risk but cannot promise a workload will never experience an outage or breach. It is not an audit opinion, an attestation, a certification of compliance, or a penetration test.

Terms at a glance

Fees, hours, and scope. Invoices are due within fifteen days.

Term	The Review	The Remediation
Fee	$25,000, fixed	$35,000, fixed
Length	Two weeks	Six weeks
Consultant hours included	Up to 40	Up to 110
Time live with your team (estimate)	About 8 hours	About 38 hours
Invoicing	As the statement of work sets out	Half at signature, half only if the guarantee is met
Beyond the cap	$450 per hour, by written change order agreed before the hour is spent, invoiced monthly	Same
Scope	One production workload in one AWS organization, with 50 accounts included, then $50, $30, or $20 more per account by band (see the terms); all six pillars	Same, plus fixes in up to four infrastructure-as-code repositories (Terraform, CloudFormation, or CDK)
Bundle	10% off each with one other AWS engagement, 15% off each with two or more	The same

Additional workloads, organizations, or repositories, an on-site day, infrastructure migration, and support after the closing readout are outside scope, available only by written change order. Either party may end an engagement with five business days' written notice; you then pay for hours spent to date at $450 per hour, capped at the fee, and keep everything delivered. In the Remediation, ending after week two costs at least the Review's fee; if we end it before the gate is decided, you pay at most half.

Your data and your ownership

The inspection role reads how your accounts are configured and billed, not what your buckets, databases, or secrets store. Architecture notes and working files are kept in your engagement's Pavilion workspace, exported to you at the close, and deleted from Vantalect's systems within thirty days after it. High-Risk Issue registers are never cited, with or without your name. You own outright what is delivered: Well-Architected milestones, infrastructure code, diagrams, runbooks, recordings, and reports.

What we need from you

The read-only inspection role, deployed from a CloudFormation template we hand you, reads configuration, metrics and alarms, and billing, without write permissions or data access. In the Remediation, every fix lands in your repositories and is applied by your pipeline. Sessions run on Zoom, the record lives in Pavilion, and scheduling, approvals, and invoices go by email.

- The inspection role deployed in every account that runs or supports the workload within three business days of signature, plus access to record the workload and milestones in your AWS Well-Architected Tool. The schedule starts on the agreed date, or when access exists if that is later, and slides by the same number of business days if an obligation is not met.
- The workload's lead architect or tech lead available at least four hours a week.
- Your sponsor available for thirty minutes a week and for the readouts.
- In the Remediation, review and approval or decline of each pull request within two business days through your normal release process.
- Your permission to record the sessions.

What comes with every engagement

- **Charles, personally.** Charles Sieg delivers every engagement inside your accounts and repositories, with your engineers and no hand-off to a junior team. He holds AWS Certified Solutions Architect and DevOps Engineer at the Professional level and Security at the Specialty level, and has designed and reviewed AWS architectures carrying from $20,000 to more than $300,000 a month in spend.
- **Pavilion, your private workspace.** Set up in week one: the calendar, every recording with its transcript and summary, the High-Risk Issue register, the architecture diagrams, the decisions, and the action items, in one archive you keep afterward.
- **Every session recorded,** with your permission, with transcripts and recaps.
- **A start within two weeks** of signature, once the access it needs exists.

Questions clients ask

Why pay for a Well-Architected Review when some AWS partners offer one for free?

A free partner WAFR is a pre-sales discovery call: a few hours of self-reported questions to qualify you for a follow-on staffing contract. We do not sell follow-on staffing. We inspect your live AWS accounts, metrics, and billing for two weeks, design the exact fixes, and in the Remediation write and ship the code with your team under a result guarantee.

What counts as one workload?

A workload is the set of components that together deliver business value across the production, staging, networking, and shared-services accounts that support it, in one AWS organization. We agree on the exact boundary before you sign.

What if a High-Risk Issue requires a multi-quarter application rewrite?

We tell you plainly in week two. If an HRI cannot be closed safely through infrastructure, configuration, and platform changes within six weeks, or if you decide the business trade-off is not worth making right now, you can record it in writing as an accepted risk at the readout, and it counts as closed for the guarantee.

Do you record the review in our AWS Well-Architected Tool?

Yes. We create or update the workload directly inside the AWS Well-Architected Tool in your own account, record the week-two baseline milestone, and in the Remediation record the week-six closing milestone.

Start with an email

Write to **charles.sieg@vantalect.com** and tell us what the workload does, which AWS services it uses, and what prompted the review. Charles replies within one business day, and the first call is fifteen minutes.

The full description is at **vantalect.com/well-architected**, and the standard terms are at **vantalect.com/terms**.

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