Implementation Guide:

FLEXEra
Inform IT. Transform IT.

Integrating Flexera Optima with AWS Control Tower

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Foreword

The Flexera Optima solution offers a unique approach to AWS cloud cost management and optimization that enables cloud governance teams to work collaboratively with business units and cloud resource owners to reduce wasted cloud spend.

The purpose of this AWS Implementation Guide is to enable every AWS Marketplace customer to seamlessly activate, deploy and configure the Flexera Optima solution in AWS Control Tower environment while taking full advantage of the resources pre-configures by AWS Control Tower as part of the initialization.

Solution overview and features

Flexera's Optima offers a unique approach to cloud cost management and optimization. Powerful tools enable cloud governance teams to work collaboratively with business units and cloud resource owners to reduce wasted spend. When paired with Cloud Management Platform, Optima provides a robust set of capabilities designed to remove the complexity of managing costs and workloads across any cloud provider or server.

With Flexera you can:

- ✓ Implement cloud financial management
- ✓ Adopt a consumption model
- ✓ Measure overall efficiency
- ✓ Stop spending money on undifferentiated heavy lifting
- ✓ Analyze and attribute expenditure
- ✓ Gain a complete picture of cloud costs with combined billing data and detailed usage information
- ✓ Allocate cloud costs to the appropriate cost centers or teams
- ✓ Provide tailored reports to every part of your organization
- ✓ Forecast future cost

Flexera's Optima integration with AWS Control Tower enables customers to create Cost and Usage report and register billing configuration for management (payer) accounts using Cloud Formation template. Cost and usage for existing and newly enrolled AWS accounts are automatically propagated in the Cost and Usage report.
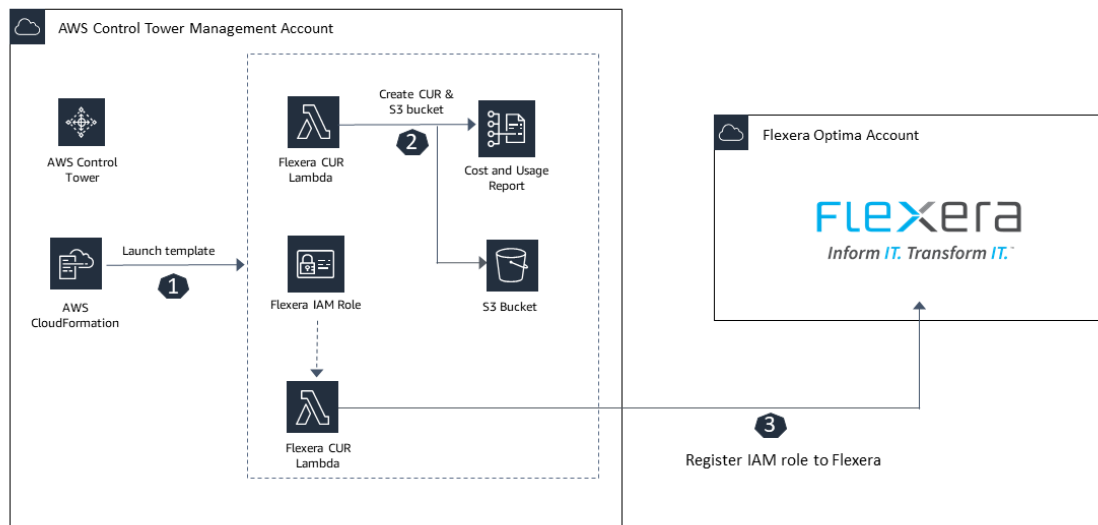
Architecture diagram

Figure 1 Flexera Optima Integration with AWS Control Tower.

Resource and Services used in the integration: Identity and Access Management (IAM) Roles and Policy, AWS Lambda, Amazon Simple Storage Service (S3) Bucket, AWS CloudFormation.

Solution Walkthrough

To initialize the integration of Optima, CloudFormation template is used to automate all the steps in the process. The CloudFormation template will launch two lambda functions. The first lambda function creates an S3 bucket and apply S3 bucket policy that will allow it to be used for Cost and Usage (CUR) report.

Flexera Role with IAM permission for accessing the CUR in the S3 bucket are created by the CloudFormation template. The second lambda function uses the Flexera IAM role to connect the CUR to Flexera Optima Platform. Once these steps are successfully completed, a newly connected bill will be registered in Flexera Optima.

Link to the code repository containing the CloudFormation template and Lambda functions can be found from: https://github.com/flexera/aws-control-tower

Pre-requisites

Flexera Optima

If you are new to Flexera Optima, click this link to learn more about the offering. For existing customers please skip to the 2.2 section of this document. Sign up here for a free trial - https://info.flexera.com/SLO-CM-Eval-Optima

If you are new to AWS, see Getting Started with AWS and click here to learn more about AWS Marketplace. To get started with AWS Control Tower, check out the AWS Control Tower getting started guide.

Deployment and Configuration Steps

Step 1.1: Subscribe to Flexera Optima in the AWS Marketplace.

Locate the **Flexera Optima** in the AWS Marketplace.

Click on the **Continue to Subscribe** button.

Step 1.2: Guidance on Contract Duration and Renewal

In the new screen, you can configure your contract. You can select the **Contract Duration** and set the **Renewal Settings**.

Configure your Software Contract

Choose the contract that suits your needs. You're charged for your purchase on your AWS bill. After you purchase a contract, you're directed to the vendor's site to complete setup and begin using this software. For any software use beyond your contract limit, you're charged consumption pricing.

How long do you want your contract to run?

(•) 12 months   ( ) 24 months   ( ) 36 months

Renewal Settings

Auto Renew when this contract ends on - Sat Oct 16 2021?
(•) Yes
( ) No

I understand that when I renew, the seller's pricing terms and end user license agreement (EULA) might have changed. On the renewal date, I will be billed based on the price and EULA applicable on that date, which I can find on the Your Marketplace Software page.

Step 1.3: Select Contract Options

Select the Contract Options to be activated with your contract.

Contract Options

( ) **Percent of Monthly Spend**   **$0 / Units**

No Upfront Payment. $1,000 USD Minimum Charge

( ) **Fixed Annual Cost**   **$40681 / Units**

For organizations with $125,000 USD of monthly AWS Spend

Step 1.4: Create the Contract and Pay

Once you have configured your contract, you can click on the Create contract button.

You will be prompted to confirm the contract. If you agree to the pricing, select the **Pay Now** button.

Step 1.5: Set up Account

You will be redirected to Flexera Portal. Here you will register and your order will be placed.

Step 2.1: Log into the Flexera Platform

You will receive an email once the order is processed with login information.

Step 2.2: Getting Started

Once you log into the Flexera Platform, retrieve your Organization ID and Refresh Token before moving on to the next step.

Flexera Organization ID - https://docs.flexera.com/flexera/EN/FlexeraAPI/OrgID.htm

Flexera Refresh Token - https://docs.flexera.com/flexera/EN/FlexeraAPI/GenerateRefreshToken.htm

These credentials will be used as parameters when executing the cloud formation template.

Step 3.1: Login to AWS Control Tower management account as user / role with Administrator permission to deploy the solution.

Step 3.3: Launch CloudFormation Template

    a) Create a new stack using the following CloudFormation template
       Click here for Quick create stack link.

    b) Enter the mandatory parameters, including your Flexera refresh token and enterprise organization id.

    c) Click Next to proceed, add extra AWS tags as needed and launch the stack
    d) When complete you should see a new AWS payer account connected to your Optima organization.

Step 4.1: To validate that the solution is properly deploy login into Flexera Optima. In the "Settings" > "Billing Configuration" section you should see a new account connected.
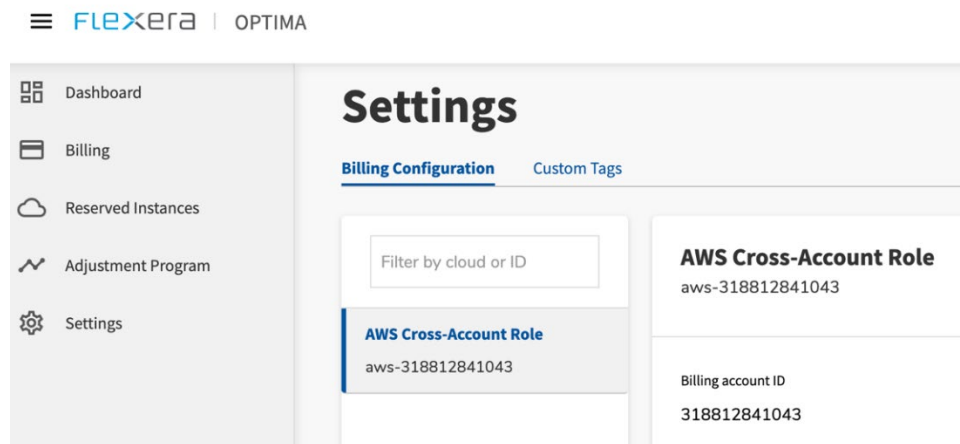
Best Practices & Resources

Billing Center Hierarchy

https://docs.flexera.com/Optima/Content/helplibrary/howbillcenterhier.htm

Resource Tagging

https://www.flexera.com/blog/cloud/tagging-best-practices-for-cloud-governance-and-cost-management/

Solution Estimated Pricing

https://aws.amazon.com/marketplace/pp/Flexera-Flexera-Optima/B08BWYLXX9#pricing-information

FAQs

Getting Started: https://docs.flexera.com/Optima/Content/helplibrary/Getting_Started_with_Optima.htm

Additional resources

Flexera Optima User Guide https://docs.flexera.com/Optima/OptimaUserGuide.pdf

Code Repository

https://github.com/flexera/aws-control-tower

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