

# Operational Amortization Window

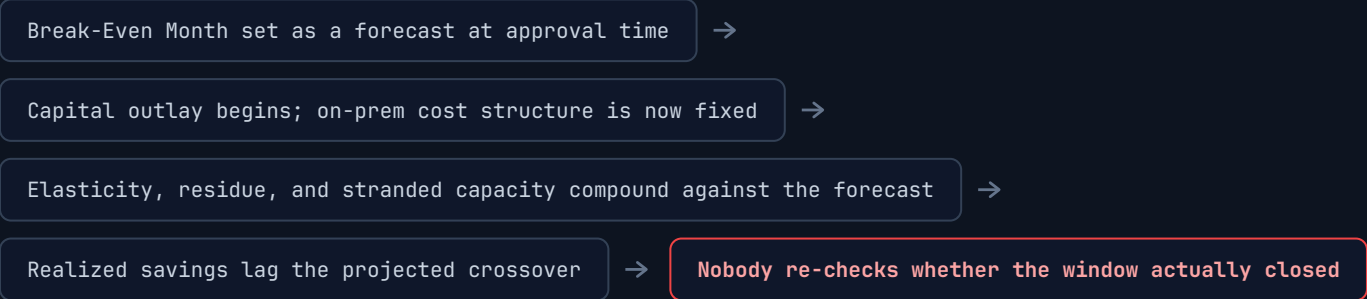
DEFINITION

The period over which repatriation's operational investments — staff, tooling, facilities — must amortize before the move nets positive.

FRAMEWORK FLOW

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| <p><b>01</b></p> <p><b>The Condition</b></p> <p>A repatriation decision is approved against a forecast — a Break-Even Month often modeled in the 9-12 month range for stable workloads, and a 5-year TCO curve — before any capital has actually been spent.</p> | <p><b>02</b></p> <p><b>The Boundary</b></p> <p>The Amortization Window is the real, calendar-measured period between capital outlay and the month realized savings actually catch the projection — a distinct thing from the Break-Even Month, which is only ever a forecast.</p> | <p><b>03</b></p> <p><b>Failure State</b></p> <p>Elasticity forfeited, residue left cloud-billed, and stranded capacity all compound inside this window — each silently pushing the realized crossover later than the forecast said, while Persistence Bias keeps anyone from checking.</p> | <p><b>04</b></p> <p><b>Consequence</b></p> <p>The organization that budgeted for a month 9-12 breakeven is still carrying both cost structures well past it, with no review ever confirming whether the window actually closed or just moved.</p> |
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Failure State: The Forecast Stops Being Checked



THE DIAGNOSTIC SIGNAL

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| <p><b>FORECAST VS. REALIZED</b></p> <p>Ask whether anyone has compared actual monthly cost delta against the original Break-Even Month forecast since the move happened. Most repatriation programs check this once, at approval, and never again.</p> | <p><b>WINDOW COMPOSITION</b></p> <p>Ask what's compounding inside the window. Structural dependency residue and Severe stranded capacity both push the realized crossover later than the forecast one — independent of whether the original math was right.</p>   |
| <p><b>TRIGGER CONDITION</b></p> <p>The window only becomes visible as a problem once enough calendar time has passed to compare against the forecast month. Early on, every timeline still looks on track by default.</p>                              | <p><b>REMEDIATION SHAPE</b></p> <p>Track realized cost delta monthly against the original Break-Even Month — not just at decision time — and re-run the Repatriation Timing Window output if elasticity, residue, or capacity findings change after the move.</p> |

ARCHITECTURAL RELATIONSHIPS

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| <p><b>#76</b></p> <p><b>Repatriation Elasticity Gap</b></p> <p><b>RELATED</b> <b>MODERATE</b></p> <p>The Elasticity Gap is a cost the Amortization Window has to absorb — the fixed-capacity delta compounds every month until the on-prem investment normalizes.</p>         | <p><b>#77</b></p> <p><b>Cloud Dependency Residue</b></p> <p><b>RELATED</b> <b>MODERATE</b></p> <p>Structural residue extends the Amortization Window directly — the on-prem investment can't normalize against savings that a still-cloud-billed dependency layer keeps eroding.</p>                         |
| <p><b>#78</b></p> <p><b>Stranded Capacity Risk</b></p> <p><b>RELATED</b> <b>MODERATE</b></p> <p>Stranded capacity is dead weight inside the Amortization Window — idle hardware still has to be paid down on the same clock as capacity that's actually earning its keep.</p> | <p><b>#79</b></p> <p><b>Economic Persistence Bias</b></p> <p><b>RELATED</b> <b>MODERATE</b></p> <p>Persistence Bias is what makes the Amortization Window feel longer than it actually is — the same inertia that discounts the case for moving discounts the payoff once the window is already running.</p> |

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FRAMEWORK HOME

The Cloud Repatriation Economics Engine's Economic Viability pillar computes the forecast this window is measured against — Break-Even Month, 5-year TCO curve, Economic Inversion Point — plus the Repatriation Timing Window output. What the engine can't do is re-run itself against realized numbers after the move; that reconciliation is this framework's job, not the tool's.

"A Break-Even Month is a forecast. The Operational Amortization Window is what actually happened to it — the only one of these five numbers that gets checked against a calendar instead of a spreadsheet."