Who pays for AI review? Make the policy explicit

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On November 25, 2026, GitHub announced a December 30 default change for applicable Copilot Business and Enterprise accounts: when member review billing has not been selected, the organization will become the default payer. Explicit choices remain in effect. This is a forthcoming change; consult the announcement and account settings for applicability and exceptions.

Unset is a state worth managing

The following is a process proposed by 8plus, not a measured case study. Tool adoption often focuses on access while leaving cost ownership implicit. A convenient default can change with product policy. Distinguish an unset choice from explicit permission or an explicit restriction.

Inventory repositories using AI review, the level that controls the setting, an accountable owner, and the last verification date. Keep only necessary operational information, not copies of payment details or personal records. When enterprise policy controls a setting, identify the responsible decision maker before attempting organization-level changes.

Separate cost decisions from engineering acceptance

Paying for a review does not mean accepting every suggestion. A policy can describe permitted use, situations requiring human review, and when to reassess. Engineering acceptance still examines behavior, tests, and risk. A count of reviews is not a measure of quality.

One possible trial is a low-risk project where the team records reproducible problems identified by review and suggestions that needed clarification. This is a proposed experiment, not a promise of time savings. Usage alone cannot establish return on investment.

Leave a decision that can be checked

After the owner chooses a policy, save it explicitly and record its scope and effective time. Saying “keep the existing approach” in a meeting does not establish that a setting was saved. Keep configuration evidence and change records in an appropriately restricted internal location.

Verify the resulting setting and schedule a follow-up. If usage or billing information has not updated, mark that part pending. A successful save is not the entire acceptance process. An AI assistant can organize open questions, but payment responsibility and policy choices still need accountable ownership.

Make the next announcement easier to assess

A useful record can be brief: the choice, its reason, its owner, and the next review date. When a default changes again, that record helps identify the affected decisions. Governing AI tools starts before a model produces an answer, including the small defaults that shape how a team uses them.

Sources

Official announcement

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