Kong

Executive Bios

Augusto Marietti
CEO AND CO-FOUNDER

Augusto "Aghi" Marietti is an inventor, technology entrepreneur and angel investor. As the CEO and co-founder of Kong — the API company on a mission to intelligently broker information across all services — he drives the company's vision, strategy and long-term growth. Prior to Kong, he was the CEO and co-founder of Mashape, the largest API marketplace, which was acquired by RapidAPI in 2017. Before that, he founded MemboxX, the first European cloud service for storing documents and sensitive personal data. Augusto holds a B.S. in Economics from the Catholic University of Milan. He is the lead inventor on five U.S. patents and an angel investor in more than 10 startups.

Marco Palladino
CTO AND CO-FOUNDER

Marco Palladino is an inventor, software developer and Internet entrepreneur based in San Francisco, California. He is the co-founder and CTO of Kong, the leading cloud connectivity company that created widely adopted open source projects such as Kong Gateway, Kuma and Insomnia. Besides being a core maintainer, Marco is currently responsible for the design and delivery of the Kong products, while also providing the technical thought leadership around APIs and microservices within Kong and the external community. Marco was also the co-founder of Mashape, which started in 2010 and is today the largest API marketplace in the world.

Chirag Shah
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Chirag Shah is a seasoned executive with extensive operational, financial and leadership experience across various stages of organizational growth. Prior to joining Kong, Chirag spent over a decade at Cornerstone OnDemand, a global leader in talent management software, most recently as the company's chief financial officer. During Chirag's tenure with Cornerstone, the company grew from less than $30M in annual recurring revenue (ARR) to nearly $900M in ARR. Chirag was responsible for leading Cornerstone's successful initial public offering in March 2011, as well as its take-private sale transaction to Clearlake Capital for $5.2 billion in October 2021. Prior to Cornerstone, Chirag was an investment banker focused on mergers, acquisitions and restructurings. Chirag holds a B.S. from Georgetown University, and an M.B.A. from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Saju Pillai
SVP, ENGINEERING

Saju Pillai is a seasoned engineering executive experienced in building teams and products from the ground up at both startups and global corporations. He worked as a principal engineer at Oracle Corp programming HTTP servers and Fusion Middleware tech. He then went on to build and successfully exit a startup in the RBA space. Before joining Kong, Saju most recently built Concur's core platform as the company's VP of engineering and later ran Concur's R&D and Infrastructure Operations as CTO and SVP of engineering. He currently lives near Seattle with his wife, twin boys and a puppy.

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Juliette Rizkallah
CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER

Juliette brings more than 30 years of experience in marketing, sales development and growth strategy for leading enterprise technology companies. She most recently served as CMO for A Cloud Guru, a social learning platform for cloud computing acquired this year by Pluralsight. Prior to that, she was CMO at SailPoint, where she developed and led the company's worldwide marketing and was instrumental in the company's successful 2017 IPO. She has also held senior marketing leadership roles at Check Point Software Technologies, BusinessObjects, CA and Oracle. Juliette is also on the board of Elemica, a digital supply chain company, and holds an MBA from Harvard Business School. She lives in Austin, TX with her husband and two kids.

Ken Kim
VP OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Ken Kim is a serial entrepreneur and experienced startup executive. As the VP of business operations for Kong, he oversees most aspects of operations for the company, including customer services, finance and legal. Ken has held leadership roles across sales, services, and business and corporate development at various technology companies, which include Citrix, Cloud.com, Symantec, Vontu, E2open, KANA and Accenture. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Master's degree in Manufacturing Systems Engineering from Stanford University.

Janet Phillips
VP OF PEOPLE

Janet Phillips is the People leader at Kong, driving talent, people ops and culture programs to support Kong's explosive growth. She is an experienced technology business leader, having held leadership positions in multiple disciplines, including HR, Technology Education Services, Customer Success and Support, M&A Integration, Field Sales and other roles in Fortune 500, mid-size and start-ups, including Ciber, Sonicwall, Vontu and Symantec. Janet holds a B.A. degree in Communications from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA.

Reza Shafii
VP OF PRODUCT

Reza Shafii is a seasoned product executive in the infrastructure and middleware space. His early career was as a software engineer at Nortel Networks as well as a technical consultant at BEA Systems. During this time, Reza fell in love with Product Management and has since led Product at a number of successful enterprises, including the first Product Management hire at MuleSoft, VP of product at CoreOS, and through acquisition, GM and VP of platform services for OpenShift at Red Hat. In his spare time, Reza still gravitates to writing code for fun and clears his head by taking on the beautiful bike roads of the Bay area.