



Life In Brief

Current Title: CEO

Work History:

- CEO of Alphabet, 2019-present
- CEO of Google, 2015-present
- Head of Google Android Business, 2013-2015
- Senior Vice President of Google Chrome and Apps, 2011-2013
- Vice President of Project Management, Google, 2004-2011
- Engineering and Product Management at Applied Materials Inc.
- Management Consultant, McKinsey & Company

Quick Summary

Indian-born technologist with a long career across various parts of Google. Passionate about artificial intelligence and machine learning, and aspires to provide access to technology around the globe

- After a humble upbringing in India, moved to the United States on a scholarship to Stanford; continues to develop projects to improve technology for Indian consumers
- Key player in the development of ubiquitous products such as Google Chrome, Google Drive, and the Chromebook
- Has been promoted from technical and development roles to his current management status; nonetheless speaks with developers about the technical aspect of their products every day
- Passionate about artificial intelligence and machine learning

- Vocal about the ideal relationship between technology and governance, believing that regulation by both innovators and lawmakers is vital to accountability
- Maintains an open workplace culture that encourages feedback from employees

Approach and Motivations

Firsthand experience with technology radically improving his quality of life fuels his ambition to ensure widespread access to technology

- Remembers the extent to which his family's life improved after they received their first telephone, refrigerator, and television
- Fascination with technology came from his father's work as an electrical engineer
- Believes the internet is a great equalizer, allowing everyone to access the same information; this belief led to development of low-cost Chromebooks and innovation regarding internet access

Policy Position and Areas of Focus

Pichai is passionate about artificial intelligence, vocal about privacy, and supportive of bringing opportunities to the developing world

Artificial Intelligence: Supports AI regulation by both innovators as well as lawmakers

- Published Google's AI principles in order to ensure accountability for areas where they will not deploy AI, such as mass surveillance and human rights violations



- Developed fairness testing and independent human-rights assessments for new AI products; has made these tools widely available
- Believe's Europe's General Data Protection Regulation can serve as a strong foundation for AI regulation

Privacy: Works to ensure that privacy is equally available to everyone

- Affirms that data used to display ads does not come from personal data from apps such as Gmail and Docs; provides the option for users to turn off customized ads
- Created new features in 2019 to allow one-click access to privacy settings from all products
- Advancing AI research to allow Google products to be efficient without collecting raw data
- Believes it is necessary to collaborate with legislative bodies to ensure privacy; has cooperated with Europe's General Data Protection Regulation and encourages the United States to adopt similar legislation

Aiding Developing Countries: Works to aid developing countries through technology

- Google's Project Loom uses balloon-based technology to provide internet access to areas without set infrastructure
- Has launched dozens of projects in India such as a reading tutor app called Bolo and Internet Saathi, a digital literacy program

Core Communities

Focused on his work and achieving his goals of bringing technology to the masses, Pichai's core communities consist of other members of the tech community with similar objectives

Google Leadership: Long career at Google has allowed Pichai to form strong relationships with key figures

- Google co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin have stepped down from Alphabet, but remain on the Board of Directors with Pichai and maintain voting control of the business
- Former Google CEO Eric Schmidt is currently technical advisor to Alphabet, as well as Chair of the Department of Defense's Defense Innovation Advisory Board
- Google's Vice President of Policy and Government Relations, Karan Bhatia, was Deputy U.S. Trade Representative during the Bush 43 administration
- Google's President of EMEA Business & Operations is Matt Brittin; like Pichai, he had also been a consultant for McKinsey & Co. early in his career

Other Prominent Tech Figures: Involved in ventures outside of Google along with several key members of the tech community

- Serves on the Board of Directors for virtual reality startup Magic Leap with Alibaba founders Jack Ma and Joseph Tsai
- Former Executive Chairman of Qualcomm Paul E. Jacobs is also a Magic Leap board member
- Tony Zingale, chairman of software company ServiceMax, was previously CEO of Jive Software at the time that Pichai was a Board Member



Relevant Financial Information

Pichai has used his substantial wealth to contribute to both Republican and Democratic politicians and committees

Political Donations

- Contributed \$5,400 each to Rep. Rohit Khanna (D-CA17), Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA), and Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY), and \$2,700 to Sen. John Thune (R-SD) in 2016
- Has given \$33,900 to both the US Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and the National Republican Senatorial Committee

Miscellaneous

- Estimated net worth ranges from \$600 million to \$1 billion

Publications, Media and Speaking

Pichai utilizes media outlets to promote his objectives regarding technology regulation

Publications: *Has penned op-eds discussing regulation of technology*

- “Why Google Thinks We Need to Regulate AI,” *Financial Times*, January 19, 2020
- “Privacy Should Not Be a Luxury Good,” *The New York Times*, May 7, 2019

Media: *Discusses his goals for AI development and privacy protection with mainstream publications*

- Preferred Outlets: Widely-read publications such as *Fortune*, *Time*, *The Telegraph*, *The Guardian*, etc.
- Favorite Subjects: Artificial intelligence, privacy, expanding access to technology
- Social Media Habits: Active on Twitter and Instagram; has not posted on Facebook since 2015

Speaking: *Speaks about Google’s technological advances to large tech and business-oriented audiences*

- Favorite Subjects: Artificial intelligence, machine learning, privacy
- Preferred Audience: International tech-oriented groups and business-focused groups
- Examples: World Economic Forum, World Internet Conference, Google I/O, Code Conference

Congressional Testimony: *Testified before Congress in 2018 to discuss a range of Google-related topics*

- Testified before the House Judiciary Committee to address issues such as the alleged political bias on Google’s platforms and privacy concerns, December 11, 2018
- Pichai affirmed that Google employees cannot influence search results, and that Google users can opt out of having their data collected



Family and Personal Background

Grew up in India to parents with careers in science and technology; continued their innovative legacy and excelled academically

- Grew up in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, southern India; he and his family lived in a two-room apartment
- His mother was a stenographer
- His father was an electrical engineer at General Electric Company, and also had a manufacturing plant that produced electrical components
- His friends and family described him as a studious child who loved science
- Was named a Siebel Scholar at Stanford University and a Palmer Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania
- Met his wife Anjali at the Indian University of Technology Kharagpur
- Likes soccer and cricket
- Family has a dog named Jeffree
- Is a vegetarian

- Google's health care data collection initiative, Project Nightingale, sparked public criticism that such data collection violated HIPAA

Chinese Censorship concerns

- Had been developing a censored search engine called Dragonfly for use in China, sparking a company backlash, as the data collection practices were hidden from Google's privacy team
- The backlash prompted Pichai and other executives to shelve the project indefinitely

Anti-Trust Concerns

- The European Union has fined Google three times for hindering competition by imposing advertising restrictions on rivals, unfairly pushing its apps onto smartphone users, and steering users to its own shopping platform
- Several US Attorneys General have urged the FTC to reopen its investigation into Google's monopoly, which had been closed in 2013

Criticisms and Controversies

Pichai has been involved in the controversies facing Google regarding privacy, censorship, thwarting competition, and free speech

Ethical concerns

- Google's AI technology had been utilized in the Pentagon's Project Maven to analyze drone footage; Google executives did not renew the project contract after employee protests

Diversity memo controversy

- In 2017, engineer James Damore circulated a memo critical of Google's diversity hiring efforts
- Pichai claimed the memo had violated the company Code of Conduct and fired Damore
- This incident sparked public controversy from groups claiming that Google has not done enough to promote women and minorities, and groups that believed firing Damore went against Google's notable culture of openness