



NEWS RELEASE

The Walt Disney Company Names Karandeep Anand to Newly Created Role of Chief Technology Officer

2026-09-18

Anand, CEO of Character.AI and former technology leader at Meta and Microsoft, will help Disney advance its tech strategy and strengthen how it serves fans worldwide

BURBANK, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- The Walt Disney Company (NYSE: DIS) today announced that Karandeep Anand will join the company as Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, a newly created position, effective October 2. Anand, who most recently has served as CEO of Character.AI, will report directly to Disney Chief Executive Officer Josh D'Amaro.

Karandeep Anand, The Walt Disney Company

"Karandeep brings a rare mix of experience across infrastructure,

consumer technology and AI, and will be a vital addition to Disney's senior leadership team as we further our three priorities: great storytelling as our North Star, technology in service of creativity, and operating as One Disney," said D'Amaro. "He is an expert builder and strategist, technical and product-minded, with sharp instincts for what fans actually want. He also has real enthusiasm and respect for Disney, a clear sense of where technology and creativity meet, and shares our belief that technology creates the most value when it helps people do their best work."

As Chief Technology Officer, Anand will oversee enterprise technology, infrastructure, data and AI platforms, product, and engineering, working across the company's segment technology teams to further modernize how Disney builds and delivers technology company-wide. Along with Anand's appointment, a number of Character.AI's technical team are expected to join Disney. The move comes as D'Amaro is sharpening Disney's focus on technology as a driver of growth across the company. Since becoming CEO, D'Amaro has emphasized deepening Disney's direct relationships with fans by creating a

more connected Disney experience, with Disney+ as the digital centerpiece.

"I've admired Disney my entire life for how it blends unforgettable storytelling with the latest technology to constantly push the boundaries of what entertainment can be," Anand said. "I'm honored to join a team with such extraordinary creative talent, and I look forward to building on the company's impressive technology capabilities to help Disney connect fans worldwide with its beloved stories and characters in new and innovative ways."

Anand led Character.AI through a period of explosive growth, building one of the most engaged consumer-AI audiences in the world, while also making user trust and safety a priority as the platform scaled. Before Character.AI, he was President and Chief Product Officer of the financial technology company Brex. He also served in several leadership roles at Meta's Facebook, most recently as Vice President of Ads & Business Products. Earlier in his career, Anand held senior product and engineering leadership roles at Microsoft, where he worked for 15 years and was part of the team that built the Azure platform. He holds a Computer Science degree from the International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad.

About The Walt Disney Company

The Walt Disney Company, together with its subsidiaries and affiliates, is a leading diversified international entertainment and media enterprise that includes three business segments: Entertainment, Sports, and Experiences.

Media Contacts:

David Jefferson

(818) 560-4832

david.j.jefferson@disney.com

Mike Long

(818) 560-4588

mike.p.long@disney.com

Source: The Walt Disney Company