



SERVICE DESCRIPTION

# Kong Enterprise

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The following is an overview of the Kong Enterprise offering which is subject to change.

Kong's products and offerings are subject to constant evolution and Kong reserves the right to change them and this service description at any time in its sole discretion.

# Introduction to Kong Enterprise

Kong Enterprise is a lightweight, fast, feature-advanced, flexible and secure API management solution built on the Kong Gateway – the world’s most adopted API gateway. An API gateway is a reverse proxy that lets you manage, configure, and route requests to your APIs.

The Kong Gateway runs in front of any RESTful API and can be extended through modules and plugins. It’s designed to run on decentralized architectures, including hybrid-cloud and multi-cloud deployments.

With Kong Enterprise, users can:

- Leverage workflow automation and modern GitOps practices
- Decentralize applications/services and transition to microservices
- Create a thriving API developer ecosystem
- Proactively identify API-related anomalies and threats
- Secure and govern APIs/services, and improve API visibility across the entire organization.

Customers can modernize legacy applications, deliver digital customer experiences, and accelerate time to market – with enterprise plugins, developer portal, analytics, advanced security, user interface, and 24/7 production-ready support.

## Extending Kong Gateway

Kong Gateway is a Lua application running in Nginx. Kong Gateway is distributed along with OpenResty, which is a bundle of modules that extend the lua-nginx-module.

This sets the foundations for a modular architecture, where plugins can be enabled and executed at runtime. At its core, Kong Gateway implements database abstraction, routing, and plugin management. Plugins can live in separate code bases and be injected anywhere into the request lifecycle, all with a few lines of code.

Kong provides many plugins for you to use in your Gateway deployments. You can also create your own custom plugins. For more information, see the plugin development guide, the PDK reference, and the guide on creating plugins with other languages (JavaScript, Go, and Python).

A Kong Enterprise subscription includes the Kong Enterprise Gateway and also includes:

- Dev Portal
- Vitals
- RBAC
- Enterprise plugins

You can manage Kong Enterprise with Kong's Admin API, declarative configuration, or Kong Manager.

Kong Enterprise is a customer self-hosted product, meaning that it runs within the customer's network environment. The customer's network environment may include the customer's own servers, servers of third-party cloud provider services (such as Amazon Web Services, Microsoft Azure or Google Cloud) or some combination of on-premises and cloud provider deployment.

## **Kong Admin API**

[Kong Admin API](#) provides a RESTful interface for administration and configuration of Services, Routes, Plugins, and Consumers. All of the tasks you can perform against the Gateway can be automated using the Kong Admin API.

## **Kong Manager**

[Kong Manager](#) is the graphical user interface (GUI) for Kong Gateway. It uses the Kong Admin API under the hood to administer and control Kong Gateway.

Here are some of the things you can do with Kong Manager:

- Create new Routes and Services
- Activate or deactivate plugins with a couple of clicks
- Group your teams, services, plugins, consumer management, and everything else exactly how you want them
- Monitor performance: visualize cluster-wide, workspace-level, or object-level health using intuitive, customizable dashboards

## **Kong Dev Portal**

[Kong Dev Portal](#) is used to onboard new developers and to generate API documentation, create custom pages, manage API versions, and secure developer access.

## **Kong Vitals**

[Kong Vitals](#) provides useful metrics about the health and performance of your Kong Gateway nodes, as well as metrics about the usage of your proxied APIs. You can visually monitor vital signs and pinpoint anomalies in real-time, and use visual API analytics to see exactly how your APIs and Gateway are performing and access key statistics. Kong Vitals is part of the Kong Manager UI.

## Kubernetes

Kong Gateway can run natively on Kubernetes with its custom [ingress controller](#), Helm chart, and Operator. A Kubernetes ingress controller is a proxy that exposes Kubernetes services from applications (for example, Deployments, ReplicaSets) running on a Kubernetes cluster to client applications running outside of the cluster. The intent of an ingress controller is to provide a single point of control for all incoming traffic into the Kubernetes cluster.

## Kong Gateway plugins

[Kong Gateway plugins](#) provide advanced functionality to better manage your API and microservices. With turnkey capabilities to meet the most challenging use cases, Kong Gateway plugins ensure maximum control and minimizes unnecessary overhead. Enable features like authentication, rate-limiting, and transformations by enabling Kong Gateway plugins through Kong Manager or the Admin API.

## Tools

Kong also provides API lifecycle management tools that you can use with Kong Gateway.



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