

Zendesk, Inc.
Form DEF 14A
April 03, 2018
Table of Contents

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to § 240.14a-12

ZENDESK, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

Table of Contents

Zendesk, Inc.

1019 Market Street

San Francisco, CA 94103

April 3, 2018

Dear Zendesk Stockholder:

I am pleased to invite you to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the Annual Meeting) of Zendesk, Inc. (Zendesk), which will be held virtually on May 22, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. Pacific Time. You can attend the Annual Meeting by visiting www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/ZEN2018, where you will be able to listen to the Annual Meeting live, submit questions, and vote online. We are embracing the latest technology to provide expanded access, improved communication, and cost savings for our stockholders and Zendesk. We believe that holding the Annual Meeting virtually provides greater access to those who may wish to attend, including participation from locations around the world, and therefore have chosen this over an in-person meeting.

Details regarding the Annual Meeting, including how to attend the Annual Meeting online and the business to be conducted at the Annual Meeting, are more fully described in the accompanying Notice of 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and Proxy Statement.

Thank you for your ongoing support of and continued interest in Zendesk. We look forward to your attendance at our Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,

Mikkel Svane

Chair of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT

On or about April 3, 2018, we expect to mail to our stockholders a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the Notice) containing instructions on how to access our proxy statement for our 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the Proxy Statement) and our 2017 Annual Report to Stockholders (the 2017 Annual Report). The Notice provides instructions on how to vote online or by telephone and includes instructions on how to receive a paper copy of proxy materials by mail. The Proxy Statement and the 2017 Annual Report can be accessed directly at the Internet address www.proxyvote.com using the control number located on your proxy card.

In order to ensure your representation at the Annual Meeting, whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting virtually, please vote your shares as promptly as possible. Your participation will help to ensure the presence of a

quorum at the Annual Meeting and save Zendesk the extra expense associated with additional solicitation. If you hold your shares through a broker, your broker is not permitted to vote on your behalf in the election of directors unless you provide specific instructions to your broker by completing and returning any voting instruction form that your broker provides (or following any instructions that allow you to vote your broker-held shares via telephone or the Internet). For your vote to be counted, you will need to communicate your voting decision before the date of the Annual Meeting. Voting your shares in advance will not prevent you from attending the Annual Meeting virtually, revoking your earlier submitted proxy, or voting your stock at the virtual meeting.

Table of Contents

ZENDESK, INC.

1019 Market Street

San Francisco, CA 94103

NOTICE OF 2018 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that Zendesk, Inc. ("Zendesk") will hold its 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the "Annual Meeting") virtually on May 22, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. Pacific Time for the following purposes:

To elect three Class I directors, Ms. Michelle Wilson, Ms. Hilarie Koplow-McAdams, and Ms. Caryn Marooney, to hold office until the 2021 annual meeting of stockholders or until their successors are duly elected and qualified, subject to their earlier resignation or removal;

To ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018;

To conduct a non-binding advisory vote to approve the compensation of our Named Executive Officers; and

To transact any other business that properly comes before the Annual Meeting (including adjournments, continuations, and postponements thereof).

On or about April 3, 2018, we expect to mail to our stockholders a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the "Notice"), containing instructions on how to access our proxy statement for our 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the "Proxy Statement") and our 2017 Annual Report to Stockholders (the "2017 Annual Report"). The Notice provides instructions on how to vote online or by telephone and includes instructions on how to receive a paper copy of proxy materials by mail. The Proxy Statement and the 2017 Annual Report can be accessed directly at the Internet address www.proxyvote.com using the control number located on your proxy card.

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on March 23, 2018 (the "Record Date") are entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting as set forth in the Proxy Statement. You are entitled to attend the Annual Meeting only if you were a stockholder as of the close of business on the Record Date or hold a valid proxy for the Annual Meeting.

If you have any questions regarding this information or the proxy materials, please contact our investor relations department at ir@zendesk.com.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Mikkel Svane

Chair of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer

San Francisco, California

April 3, 2018

Table of Contents

ZENDESK, INC.

2018 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

PROXY STATEMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>GENERAL INFORMATION</u>	1
<u>PROPOSAL ONE: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS</u>	5
<u>CORPORATE GOVERNANCE</u>	10
<u>PROPOSAL TWO: RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF OUR INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM</u>	16
<u>PROPOSAL THREE: NON-BINDING ADVISORY VOTE TO APPROVE THE COMPENSATION OF OUR NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS</u>	18
<u>COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS</u>	19
<u>EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION</u>	35
<u>SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT</u>	46
<u>RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS</u>	49
<u>TRANSACTION OF OTHER BUSINESS</u>	52
<u>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u>	53

Table of Contents

ZENDESK, INC.

1019 Market Street

San Francisco, CA 94103

PROXY STATEMENT

FOR THE 2018 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

TO BE HELD ON MAY 22, 2018

GENERAL INFORMATION

Our Board of Directors (our **Board**) solicits your proxy on our behalf for the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the **Annual Meeting**) and at any adjournment, continuation, or postponement of the Annual Meeting for the purposes set forth in this proxy statement for our 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the **Proxy Statement**) and the accompanying Notice of 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. The Annual Meeting will be held virtually on May 22, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. Pacific Time. You can attend the Annual Meeting by visiting www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/ZEN2018, where you will be able to listen to the meeting live, submit questions, and vote online. The Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials containing instructions on how to access our Proxy Statement and our 2017 Annual Report to Stockholders (the **2017 Annual Report**) is first being mailed on or about April 3, 2018 to all stockholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting.

In this Proxy Statement, the terms **Zendesk**, **the Company**, **we**, **us**, and **our** refer to Zendesk, Inc. and its subsidiaries. The mailing address of our principal executive offices is Zendesk, Inc., 1019 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94103.

Record Date	March 23, 2018.
Quorum	A majority of the shares of all issued and outstanding stock entitled to vote on the Record Date must be present at the virtual Annual Meeting or represented by proxy to constitute a quorum.
Shares Outstanding	104,254,042 shares of common stock outstanding as of the Record Date.
Voting	There are four ways a stockholder of record can vote: (1) directly at the Annual Meeting any stockholder can attend the Annual Meeting by visiting www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/ZEN2018 , where stockholders may vote and submit questions during the Annual Meeting. The

Edgar Filing: Zendesk, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

meeting starts at 1:00 p.m. Pacific Time. Please have your 16-Digit Control Number to join the Annual Meeting;

- (2) via the Internet at www.proxyvote.com;
- (3) by toll-free telephone at 1-800-690-6903, until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on May 21, 2018. Please have your 16-Digit Control Number when you call; or

Table of Contents

- (4) by completing, signing, dating, and mailing your proxy card. If you return your signed proxy card to us before the Annual Meeting, we will vote your shares as you instruct.

In order to be counted, proxies submitted by telephone or Internet must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on May 21, 2018. Proxies submitted by U.S. mail must be received before the start of the Annual Meeting.

If you hold your shares through a bank or broker, please follow their instructions.

Revoking Your Proxy

Stockholders of record may revoke their proxies by attending and voting at the virtual Annual Meeting (although attendance at the virtual Annual Meeting will not, by itself, revoke a proxy), by filing an instrument in writing revoking the proxy, by filing another duly executed proxy bearing a later date with our Secretary before the vote is counted, or by voting again using the telephone or Internet before the cutoff time (your latest telephone or Internet proxy is the one that will be counted). If you hold shares through a bank or broker, you may revoke any prior voting instructions by contacting that firm.

Votes Required to Adopt Proposals

Each share of our common stock outstanding on the Record Date is entitled to one vote on any proposal presented at the Annual Meeting:

For Proposal One, the affirmative vote of the majority of the votes properly cast is required for the election of each nominee to the Board. This means that the number of shares voted for a nominee must exceed the number of shares voted against such nominee. If the votes cast for any nominee do not exceed the votes cast against the nominee, the Board will consider whether to accept or reject such director's resignation, which is tendered to the Board pursuant to our corporate governance guidelines.

For Proposal Two, the affirmative vote of the majority of the votes properly cast is required to ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018. This means that the number of shares voted for this proposal must exceed the number of shares voted against this proposal.

For Proposal Three, the affirmative vote of the majority of the votes properly cast is required in order for our stockholders to approve the compensation of our Named Executive Officers. This means that the number of shares voted for this proposal must exceed the number of shares voted against this proposal. Since this proposal is an advisory vote, the result will not be binding on our Board, the compensation committee of our Board, or the Company. Our Board and the compensation committee will consider the outcome of the vote when determining the compensation of our Named Executive Officers.

Table of Contents

Effect of Abstentions and Broker Non-Votes

Abstentions, and broker nonvotes (*i.e.*, where a broker has not received voting instructions from the beneficial owner and for which the broker does not have discretionary power to vote on a particular matter) are counted as present for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum. Abstentions are not considered votes cast for Proposal One, Proposal Two or Proposal Three, and will have no effect on the votes for these proposals.

Under the rules that govern brokers holding shares for their customers, brokers who do not receive voting instructions from their customers have the discretion to vote uninstructed shares on routine matters, but do not have discretion to vote such uninstructed shares on non-routine matters. Only Proposal Two, the ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP, is considered a routine matter where brokers are permitted to vote shares held by them without instruction. If your shares are held through a broker, those shares will not be voted with regard to Proposal One or Proposal Three unless you affirmatively provide the broker instructions on how to vote. Broker non-votes also will have no effect on the outcome of Proposal One or Proposal Three.

Voting Instructions

If you complete and submit your proxy voting instructions, the persons named as proxies will follow your instructions. If you submit proxy voting instructions but do not direct how your shares should be voted on each item, the persons named as proxies will vote **FOR** the election of the nominees for director, **FOR** the ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm, and **FOR** the non-binding advisory vote to approve the compensation of our Named Executive Officers. The persons named as proxies will vote on any other matters properly presented at the Annual Meeting in accordance with their best judgment, although we have not received timely notice of any other matters that may be properly presented for voting at the Annual Meeting.

Voting Results

We will announce preliminary results at the Annual Meeting. We will report final results by filing a Form 8-K within four business days after the Annual Meeting. If final results are not available at that time, we will provide preliminary voting results in the Form 8-K and will provide the final results in an amendment to the Form 8-K as soon as they become available.

Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials

In accordance with the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC), we have elected to furnish our proxy materials, including this Proxy Statement and the 2017 Annual Report, primarily via the Internet. On or about April 3, 2018, we mailed to our stockholders a Notice of

Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the Notice) that contains instructions on how to access our proxy materials on the Internet, how to vote at the virtual meeting, and how to request printed copies of the proxy materials and

Table of Contents

2017 Annual Report. Stockholders may request to receive all future proxy materials in printed form by mail or electronically by e-mail by following the instructions contained in the Notice. We encourage stockholders to take advantage of the availability of the proxy materials on the Internet to help reduce the environmental impact of our annual meetings.

Additional Solicitation/Costs

We are paying for the distribution of the proxy materials and solicitation of the proxies. As part of this process, we reimburse brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees, and fiduciaries for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses for forwarding proxy and solicitation materials to our stockholders. Proxy solicitation expenses that we will pay include those for preparation, mailing, returning, and tabulating the Notice and proxies. Our directors, officers, and employees may also solicit proxies on our behalf in person, by telephone, email, or facsimile, but they do not receive additional compensation for providing those services.

Table of Contents

PROPOSAL ONE:

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Number of Directors; Board Structure

Our Board is divided into three staggered classes of directors. One class is elected each year at the annual meeting of stockholders for a term of three years. The term of the Class I directors expires at the Annual Meeting, the term of the Class II directors expires at the 2019 annual meeting, and the term of the Class III directors expires at the 2020 annual meeting. Following re-election of a director, such director is expected to hold office for a three-year term or until the election and qualification of his or her successor in office.

Nominees

Our Board has nominated each of Caryn Marooney, Michelle Wilson, and Hilarie Koplrow-McAdams for election as a Class I director of the Company, to hold office until the 2021 annual meeting of stockholders or until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified, subject to his or her earlier resignation or removal.

Unless you direct otherwise through your proxy voting instructions, the persons named as proxies will vote all proxies received **FOR** the election of each nominee. If any nominee is unable or unwilling to serve at the time of the Annual Meeting, the persons named as proxies may vote for a substitute nominee chosen by the present Board. In the alternative, the proxies may vote only for the remaining nominee, leaving a vacancy on our Board. Our Board may fill such vacancy at a later date or reduce the size of our Board. Each of the nominees is a current member of our Board and has consented to serve if elected, and we have no reason to believe that any of the nominees will be unwilling or unable to serve if elected as a director.

Recommendation of our Board

OUR BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE FOR THE ELECTION OF EACH OF THE NOMINEES.

The below biographies of each of the nominees, continuing directors, and executive officers contain information regarding each such person's service as a director or executive officer, business experience, and, with respect to the nominees and continuing directors, director positions held currently or at any time during the last five years and the experiences, qualifications, attributes, or skills that caused our Board to determine that the person should serve as a director of the Company. In addition to the information presented below regarding each nominee's and continuing director's specific experience, qualifications, attributes, and skills that led our Board to the conclusion that he or she should serve as a director, we also believe that each of our directors has a reputation for integrity, honesty, and adherence to high ethical standards. Each of our directors has demonstrated business acumen and an ability to exercise sound judgment, as well as a commitment of service to our Company and our Board. Finally, we value our directors' experience in relevant areas of business management and on other boards of directors and board committees.

Our corporate governance guidelines also dictate that a majority of our Board be comprised of independent directors whom our Board has determined have no material relationship with the Company and who are otherwise independent directors under the published listing requirements of the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE").

Table of Contents**Executive Officers and Directors**

The following table sets forth information regarding our executive officers and directors, including their ages, as of March 23, 2018:

Name	Age	Positions and Offices Held with the Company
<i>Executive Officers:</i>		
Mikkel Svane	47	Chair of the Board and Chief Executive Officer
Elena Gomez	48	Chief Financial Officer
John T. Keiser	52	Chief Operating Officer
Adrian McDermott	49	President of Products
John Geschke	47	Chief Legal Officer and Senior Vice President, Administration
<i>Non-Employee Directors:</i>		
Carl Bass ⁽¹⁾	60	Director
Hilarie Koplow-McAdams ⁽¹⁾	54	Director
Caryn Marooney ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	50	Director
Elizabeth Nelson ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	57	Director
Dana Stalder ⁽³⁾	49	Director
Michelle Wilson ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	55	Director
Michael Frandsen ⁽³⁾	56	Director

- (1) Member of our compensation committee.
(2) Member of our nominating and corporate governance committee.
(3) Member of our audit committee.
(4) Lead Independent Director.

Information Concerning Nominees for Election for a Three Year Term Ending at the 2021 Annual Meeting

Caryn Marooney. Ms. Marooney has served as a member of our Board since January 2014. Since May 2011, Ms. Marooney has served in various roles at Facebook, Inc., a social networking service, currently serving as the company's Vice President, Global Communications. From June 1997 to March 2011, Ms. Marooney served in various roles, including President and Chief Executive Officer, of The OutCast Agency, a public relations firm. Ms. Marooney holds a B.S. in labor relations from Cornell University.

Ms. Marooney was selected to serve on our Board because of her prior executive experience and her experience advising technology companies.

Michelle Wilson. Ms. Wilson has served as a member of our Board since January 2014. Ms. Wilson has served as a member of the Board of Directors of Okta, Inc., since August 2015. From July 2003 to September 2012, Ms. Wilson served as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of Amazon.com, Inc., an Internet retail company. Ms. Wilson holds a B.A. in business administration from the University of Washington and a J.D. from the University of Chicago.

Ms. Wilson was selected to serve on our Board because of her significant experience as an executive in the technology industry.

Hilarie Koplow-McAdams. Ms. Koplow-McAdams has served as a member of our board of directors since September 2017. Ms. Koplow-McAdams has served as a Venture Partner of New Enterprise Associates, a venture capital firm, since December 2017. Ms. Koplow-McAdams has served as a member of the Board of Directors of Tableau Software, Inc., a software company, since December 2016. Ms. Koplow-McAdams served as the President of New Relic, Inc., a digital intelligence company, from October 2015 until April 2017 and, prior

Table of Contents

to that, served as New Relic's Chief Revenue Officer from December 2013 to September 2015. Prior to New Relic, Ms. Koplow-McAdams served as President of Global Sales at Salesforce.com, inc., a software company, from April 2013 to November 2013. From February 2012 to April 2013, Ms. Koplow-McAdams served as President of the Commercial and SMB unit at salesforce.com, inc. Additionally, Ms. Koplow-McAdams served as a Director at Informatica Corporation from March 2014 to August 2015. Ms. Koplow-McAdams holds an M.A. in Public Policy from the University of Chicago and a B.A. in Sociology from Mills College.

Ms. Koplow-McAdams was selected to serve on our Board because of her extensive experience as an executive in sales, marketing, customer success, and business development for various companies in the technology industry.

Information Concerning Directors Continuing in Office Until the 2019 Annual Meeting

Carl Bass. Mr. Bass has served as a member of our Board since February 2016. Mr. Bass served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Autodesk, Inc., a software company, from May 2006 to February 2017. Mr. Bass served as Interim Chief Financial Officer of Autodesk, Inc. from August 2014 to November 2014 and August 2008 to April 2009. Mr. Bass has served on the board of directors of Autodesk, Inc. since January 2006. Mr. Bass has also served on the board of directors of HP Inc., a provider of software and technology, from November 2015 to September 2017. Mr. Bass served on the boards of directors of McAfee, Inc., a software company, from January 2008 until it was acquired by Intel Corporation in February 2011, and E2open, Inc., a software company, from July 2011 until it was acquired by Insight Venture Partners in March 2015. Mr. Bass holds a B.A. in mathematics from Cornell University.

Mr. Bass was selected to serve on our Board because of his extensive experience as an executive in the technology industry.

Dana Stalder. Mr. Stalder has served as a member of our Board since November 2010. Mr. Stalder has been a General Partner of Matrix Partners, a venture capital firm, since August 2008. From December 2001 to August 2008, Mr. Stalder served in various executive roles, including Senior Vice President of PayPal Products Sales and Marketing at eBay, Inc., an online marketplace company. Previously, he was the Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Business Development of Respond.com, an online lead generation service, Vice President of Finance and Operations at Netscape Communication Corporation, a computer services company, and an associate and manager at Ernst & Young LLP, a professional services firm. Mr. Stalder served on the board of directors of QuinStreet, Inc., an online marketing company, from May 2003 through December 2015, and currently serves on the boards of directors of a number of privately-held companies. He holds a B.S. in commerce from Santa Clara University.

Mr. Stalder was selected to serve on our Board because of his significant operational experience as an executive and his deep knowledge of finance and financial reporting.

Michael Frandsen. Mr. Frandsen has served as a member of our board of directors since November 2017. Mr. Frandsen has led the Products team of Workday, Inc., a software company, since January 2010. Mr. Frandsen is currently Executive Director, Products at Workday, Inc. and has been responsible for product management, quality assurance and product delivery. Mr. Frandsen served as its Executive Vice President of Products, Support and Delivery from March 2015 to October 2017. Mr. Frandsen served as Workday's Senior Vice President of Products from July 2012 to February 2015 and Vice President of Application Development from January 2010 to July 2012. Mr. Frandsen holds a B.S. in Finance and Information Systems from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Mr. Frandsen was selected to serve on our Board because of his extensive experience as an executive in the technology industry.

Table of Contents

Information Concerning Directors Continuing in Office Until the 2020 Annual Meeting

Mikkel Svane. Mr. Svane co-founded Zendesk and has served as our Chief Executive Officer since August 2007 and as a member of our Board since August 2007. He was appointed Chair of our Board in January 2014. Prior to founding Zendesk, Mr. Svane founded and served as the Chief Executive Officer of Caput A/S, a software company, and served as a technology consultant. Mr. Svane holds an A.P. in marketing management from Arhus Kobmandsskole.

Mr. Svane was selected to serve on our Board because of his operational and historical expertise gained from serving as our Chief Executive Officer. As one of our founders and the longest serving member of our Board, we also value his deep understanding of our business as it has evolved over time.

Elizabeth Nelson. Ms. Nelson has served as a member of our Board since July 2013. Ms. Nelson currently serves on the boards of Nokia Corporation, a network telecommunications company, and several private companies. From 1996 to 2005, Ms. Nelson served as the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Macromedia, Inc., where she also served as a director from January 2005 to December 2005. Ms. Nelson's public company board service includes serving as a director of Pandora Media, an internet radio service company, from 2013 to 2017, Ancestry.com, an online family history company, from 2009 to 2012, SuccessFactors Inc., a provider of human resources solutions, from 2007 to 2012, Autodesk, Inc., a design software company, from 2007 to 2010, CNET Networks, Inc., an Internet media company, from 2003 to 2008, and Brightcove Inc., an online video hosting platform, from 2010 to 2014. Ms. Nelson holds a B.S.F.S. in foreign service from Georgetown University and an M.B.A. in finance with distinction from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Nelson was selected to serve on our Board because of her financial, accounting, and operational expertise from prior experience as a chief financial officer, executive, and director of public and private technology companies.

Information Concerning Executive Officers

In addition to Mr. Mikkel Svane, our Chair of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, who also serves as a director, our executive officers as of March 23, 2018 consisted of the following:

Elena Gomez. Ms Gomez has served as our Chief Financial Officer since May 2016. From July 2010 to April 2016, Ms. Gomez served in senior finance roles at salesforce.com, inc., a software company, including Senior Vice President Go To Market Distribution from July 2015 to April 2016, Vice President Sales and Support and Marketing Finance from June 2011 to June 2015, and Senior Director Marketing and General and Administrative Finance from July 2010 to June 2011. Prior to that she held finance roles at Visa Inc., a financial services company, and The Charles Schwab Corporation, a brokerage and banking company. Ms. Gomez holds a B.S. in business administration from the Haas School of Business at the University of California at Berkeley.

John T. Keiser. Mr. Keiser has served as our Chief Operating Officer since August 2017. Mr. Keiser served as the Company's Chief Information Officer from May 2016 until his appointment as Chief Operating Officer in August 2017, and as the Company's Senior Vice President, Technology Operations from October 2016 until his appointment as Chief Operating Officer in August 2017. From January 2014 to March 2015, Mr. Keiser served as Executive Vice President of Global Product Operations at The Gap, Inc., an apparel company, where he also served as Chief Information Officer from January 2010 to December 2013. Mr. Keiser holds a B.S. in systems science from the University of West Florida.

Adrian McDermott. Mr. McDermott has served as our President of Products since October 2016. Mr. McDermott served as our Senior Vice President, Product Development from July 2010 until October 2016. Mr. McDermott holds a B.Sc. in computer science from De Montfort University.

Table of Contents

John Geschke. Mr. Geschke has served as our Senior Vice President, Administration since October 2015 and as our Chief Legal Officer since May 2017. Mr. Geschke served as our General Counsel and Secretary from July 2012 to May 2017. From April 2010 to June 2012, Mr. Geschke served as General Counsel of Norwest Venture Partners, a venture capital firm. From March 1996 to April 1998 and from May 1999 to March 2010, Mr. Geschke practiced law at Cooley LLP, a law firm. Mr. Geschke holds an A.B. from Princeton University with a concentration in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and a J.D. from Stanford University.

Table of Contents

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Our Board, which is elected by our stockholders, is responsible for directing and overseeing our business and affairs. In carrying out its responsibilities, our Board selects and monitors our top management, provides oversight of our financial reporting processes, and determines and implements our corporate governance policies. A copy of our corporate governance guidelines can be found on our website at <https://investor.zendesk.com>.

Our Board and management are committed to good corporate governance to ensure that we are managed for the long-term benefit of our stockholders, and we have a variety of policies and procedures to promote such goals. To that end, during the past year, our management periodically reviewed our corporate governance policies and practices to ensure that they remain consistent with the requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, as amended (the Sarbanes-Oxley Act), SEC rules, and the listing standards of the NYSE.

Besides verifying the independence of the members of our Board and committees (which is discussed in the section titled *Independence of our Board of Directors* below), at the direction of our Board, we also:

Periodically review and make necessary changes to the charters for our audit, compensation, and nominating and corporate governance committees;

Have established disclosures control policies and procedures in accordance with the requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and the rules and regulations of the SEC;

Have a procedure in place for receipt and treatment of anonymous and confidential complaints or concerns regarding audit or accounting matters; and

Have a code of business conduct and ethics that applies to our officers, directors, and employees. In addition, we have adopted a set of corporate governance guidelines. The nominating and corporate governance committee is responsible for reviewing our corporate governance guidelines from time to time and reporting and making recommendations to our Board concerning corporate governance matters. Our corporate governance guidelines address such matters as:

Director independence Independent directors must constitute at least a majority of our Board;

Monitoring board effectiveness Our Board must conduct an annual self-evaluation of itself and its committees;

Board access to independent advisors Our Board as a whole, and each of its committees separately, has authority to retain independent experts, advisors, or professionals as each deems necessary or appropriate;

Majority Voting Our Board maintains policies on director resignations to facilitate our majority vote standard; and

Board committees All members of the audit, compensation, and nominating and corporate governance committees are independent in accordance with applicable NYSE criteria.

Meetings of the Board of Directors and Annual Meeting Attendance

Our Board held five meetings in fiscal year 2017. During their respective terms of service, each director attended at least 75% of all meetings of our Board and the committees on which they served that were held during fiscal year 2017. Under our corporate governance guidelines, directors are expected to spend the time needed and meet as frequently as our Board deems necessary or appropriate to discharge their responsibilities. Directors are also expected to make efforts to attend our annual meeting of stockholders, all meetings of our Board, and all meetings of the committees on which they serve. Three of our directors then serving in such capacity attended our 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Table of Contents

Code of Business Conduct and Ethics

Our Board has adopted a code of business conduct and ethics that applies to all of our employees, officers, and directors, including our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and other executive and senior financial officers. A copy of our code of business conduct and ethics is available on our Internet website at <https://investor.zendesk.com> and may also be obtained without charge by contacting our Secretary at Zendesk, Inc., 1019 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. We intend to disclose any amendments to our code of business conduct and ethics, or waivers of its requirements, on our website or in filings under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), as required by the applicable rules and NYSE requirements. During fiscal year 2017, no waivers from any provision of our code of business conduct and ethics were granted to our executive officers and directors.

Independence of our Board of Directors

Our Board has undertaken a review of the independence of each director. Based on information provided by each director concerning his or her background, employment, and affiliations, our Board has determined that Mmes. Koplow-McAdams, Marooney, Nelson, and Wilson and Messrs. Bass, Frandsen, and Stalder do not have a relationship that would interfere with the exercise of independent judgment in carrying out the responsibilities of a director and that each of these directors is independent as that term is defined under the applicable rules and regulations of the SEC and the listing standards of the NYSE. In making these determinations, our Board considered the current and prior relationships that each non-employee director has with our Company and all other facts and circumstances our Board deemed relevant in determining their independence, including the beneficial ownership of our capital stock by each non-employee director and the transactions involving them described in the section titled Related Party Transactions.

Board's Role in Risk Oversight

Our Board's role in overseeing the management of our risks is conducted primarily through committees of our Board, as disclosed in the descriptions of each of the committees below and in the charters of each of the committees. Our full Board (or the appropriate Board committee in the case of risks that are under the purview of a particular committee) discusses with management our major risk exposures, their potential impact on our Company, and the steps we take to manage them. When a Board committee is responsible for evaluating and overseeing the management of a particular risk or risks, the chair of the relevant committee reports on the discussion to the full Board during the committee reports portion of the next Board meeting. This enables our Board and its committees to coordinate the risk oversight role, particularly with respect to risk interrelationships.

Risks Related to Compensation Policies and Practices

As part of its oversight function, our Board, and the compensation committee in particular, along with our management team, considers potential risks when reviewing and approving various compensation plans, including executive compensation. Based on this review, our Board has concluded that such compensation plans, including executive compensation, do not encourage risk taking to a degree that is reasonably likely to have a materially adverse impact on us or our operations.

Board Leadership Structure

Mikkel Svane, our founder and Chief Executive Officer, serves as Chair of our Board and presides over meetings of our Board, holds such other powers, and carries out such other duties as are customarily carried out by the Chair of a

board. Mr. Svane brings valuable insight to our Board due to the perspective and experience he brings as our founder and Chief Executive Officer. Our Board has appointed Elizabeth Nelson to serve as our lead independent director. As lead independent director, Ms. Nelson presides over periodic meetings of our independent directors, serves as a liaison between our Chair of the Board and the independent directors, and performs such additional duties as our Board may otherwise determine and delegate.

Table of Contents

Committees of the Board of Directors

Our Board has established an audit committee, a compensation committee, and a nominating and corporate governance committee. The composition and responsibilities of each committee are described below. Members serve on these committees until their resignation or until otherwise determined by our Board. Each of the audit, compensation, and nominating and corporate governance committee operates pursuant to a separate written charter adopted by our Board that are available to stockholders on our Internet website at <https://investor.zendesk.com>.

Audit Committee

Our audit committee consists of Mmes. Nelson and Wilson and Messrs. Stalder and Frandsen, with Ms. Nelson serving as Chair. The composition of our audit committee meets the requirements for independence under the listing standards of the NYSE and SEC rules and regulations. Each member of our audit committee meets the financial literacy requirements of the listing standards of the NYSE. Ms. Nelson and Mr. Stalder are each an audit committee financial expert within the meaning of Item 407(d) of Regulation S-K under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"). Our audit committee, among other things:

selects a qualified firm to serve as the independent registered public accounting firm to audit our financial statements;

helps to ensure the independence and performance of the independent registered public accounting firm;

discusses the scope and results of the audit with the independent registered public accounting firm, and reviews, with management and the independent registered public accounting firm, our interim and year-end operating results;

develops procedures for employees to submit concerns anonymously about questionable accounting or audit matters;

reviews our policies on risk assessment and risk management;

reviews related party transactions; and

approves all audit and all permissible non-audit services, other than de minimis non-audit services, to be performed by the independent registered public accounting firm.

Our audit committee operates under a written charter that satisfies the applicable rules of the SEC and the listing standards of the NYSE. In accordance with and pursuant to Section 10A(i)(3) of the Exchange Act, our Board has delegated to Ms. Nelson the authority to pre-approve any audit and permissible non-audit services to be performed by our independent registered public accounting firm, provided that all such decisions to pre-approve an activity are presented to the full audit committee at its first meeting following any such decision. Our audit committee held five

meetings during fiscal year 2017.

Compensation Committee

Our compensation committee consists of Mmes. Marooney and Koplow-McAdams and Mr. Bass, with Mr. Bass serving as Chair. The composition of our compensation committee meets the requirements for independence under the listing standards of the NYSE and SEC rules and regulations. Each member of the compensation committee is also a non-employee director, as defined pursuant to Rule 16b-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act, and an outside director, as defined pursuant to Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code). The purpose of our compensation committee is to discharge

Table of Contents

the responsibilities of our Board relating to compensation of our executive officers. Our compensation committee, among other things:

reviews, approves, and determines the compensation of our executive officers and directors;

administers our stock and equity incentive plans;

reviews and approves, or makes recommendations to our Board regarding, incentive compensation and equity plans; and

establishes and reviews general policies relating to compensation and benefits of our employees.

Our compensation committee operates under a written charter that satisfies the applicable rules of the SEC and the listing standards of the NYSE. The charter of the compensation committee permits the compensation committee to, in its discretion, delegate all or a portion of its duties and responsibilities to a subcommittee of the compensation committee. The compensation committee retains and does not delegate any of its responsibilities related to the review, approval, or determination of the compensation of our executive officers. Our compensation committee held four meetings during fiscal year 2017.

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

Our nominating and corporate governance committee consists of Mmes. Marooney, Nelson, and Wilson, with Ms. Wilson serving as Chair. The composition of our nominating and corporate governance committee meets the requirements for independence under the listing standards of the NYSE and SEC rules and regulations. Our nominating and corporate governance committee, among other things:

identifies, evaluates, selects, and makes recommendations to our Board regarding, nominees for election to our Board and its committees;

considers and makes recommendations to our Board regarding the composition of our Board and its committees;

reviews and assesses the adequacy of our corporate governance guidelines and recommends any proposed changes to our Board; and

evaluates the performance of our Board and of individual directors.

The nominating and corporate governance committee operates under a written charter that satisfies the applicable listing requirements and rules of the NYSE. Our nominating and corporate governance committee held four meetings during fiscal year 2017.

Identifying and Evaluating Director Nominees

Our Board has delegated to the nominating and corporate governance committee the responsibility of identifying suitable candidates for nomination to our Board (including candidates to fill any vacancies that may occur) and assessing their qualifications in light of the policies and principles in our corporate governance guidelines and the nominating and corporate governance committee's charter. The nominating and corporate governance committee may gather information about the candidates through interviews, detailed questionnaires, comprehensive background checks, or any other means that the nominating and corporate governance committee deems to be appropriate in the evaluation process. The nominating and corporate governance committee then meets as a group to discuss and evaluate the qualities and skills of each candidate, both on an individual basis and taking into account the overall composition and needs of our Board. Based on the results of the evaluation process, the nominating and corporate governance committee recommends candidates for our Board's approval as director nominees for election to our Board.

Table of Contents

Minimum Qualifications

Our nominating and corporate governance committee uses a variety of methods for identifying and evaluating director nominees and will consider all facts and circumstances that it deems appropriate or advisable. In its identification and evaluation of director candidates, our nominating and corporate governance committee will consider the current size and composition of our Board and the needs of our Board and the respective committees of our Board. Some of the qualifications that our nominating and corporate governance committee considers include, without limitation, issues of character, ethics, integrity, judgment, diversity of experience, independence, skills, education, expertise, business acumen, length of service, understanding of our business and industry, potential conflicts of interest, and other commitments. Nominees must also have proven achievement and competence in their field, the ability to offer advice and guidance to our management team, the ability to make significant contributions to our success, and an understanding of the fiduciary responsibilities that are required of a director. Director candidates must have sufficient time available in the judgment of our nominating and corporate governance committee to perform all board of director and committee responsibilities. Members of our Board are expected to prepare for, attend, and participate in all board of director and applicable committee meetings. Other than the foregoing, there are no stated minimum criteria for director nominees, although our nominating and corporate governance committee may also consider such other factors as it may deem, from time to time, are in our and our stockholders' best interests.

Although our Board does not maintain a specific policy with respect to board diversity, our Board believes that our Board should be a diverse body, and our nominating and corporate governance committee considers a broad range of backgrounds and experiences. In making determinations regarding nominations of directors, our nominating and corporate governance committee may take into account the benefits of diverse viewpoints. Our nominating and corporate governance committee also considers these and other factors as it oversees the annual Board and committee evaluations. After completing its review and evaluation of director candidates, our nominating and corporate governance committee recommends to our full Board the director nominees for election to our Board.

Stockholder Recommendations

Stockholders may submit recommendations for director candidates to the nominating and corporate governance committee by sending the individual's name and qualifications to our Secretary at Zendesk, Inc., 1019 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94103, who will forward all recommendations to the nominating and corporate governance committee. The nominating and corporate governance committee will evaluate any candidates recommended by stockholders against the same criteria and pursuant to the same policies and procedures applicable to the evaluation of candidates proposed by directors or management.

Stockholder Communications

Our Board provides to every stockholder or other interested party the ability to communicate with our Board as a whole, the non-employee directors as a group, and with individual directors on our Board through an established process for stockholder communication. For a stockholder communication directed to our Board as a whole, stockholders and other interested parties may send such communication to our Secretary at secretary@zendesk.com or via U.S. Mail or Expedited Delivery Service to: Zendesk, Inc., 1019 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94103, Attn: Board of Directors c/o Secretary.

For a stockholder communication directed to the non-employee directors as a group or an individual director in his or her capacity as a member of our Board, stockholders and other interested parties may send such communication to the attention of the non-employee directors or the individual director at secretary@zendesk.com or via U.S. Mail or Expedited Delivery Service to: Zendesk, Inc., 1019 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94103, Attn: [Non-Employee

Directors or Name of Individual Director] c/o Secretary.

Table of Contents

The Secretary shall review all incoming communications and forward such communications to the appropriate member(s) of our Board. The Secretary will generally not forward communications that are unrelated to the duties and responsibilities of our Board, including communications that the Secretary determines to be primarily commercial in nature, product complaints, or inquires, and materials that are patently offensive or otherwise inappropriate.

Table of Contents

PROPOSAL TWO:

RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF

OUR INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We have appointed Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm to perform the audit of our consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018, and we are asking you and other stockholders to ratify this appointment. Ernst & Young LLP served as our independent registered public accounting firm during our fiscal year ended December 31, 2017.

The audit committee annually reviews the independent registered public accounting firm's independence, including reviewing all relationships between the independent registered public accounting firm and us and any disclosed relationships or services that may impact the objectivity and independence of the independent registered public accounting firm, and the independent registered public accounting firm's performance. As a matter of good corporate governance, our Board is submitting the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP to our stockholders for ratification. A majority of the votes properly cast is required in order to ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP. In the event that a majority of the votes properly cast do not ratify this appointment of Ernst & Young LLP, we will review our future appointment of Ernst & Young LLP.

We expect that a representative of Ernst & Young LLP will attend the Annual Meeting and the representative will have an opportunity to make a statement if he or she so chooses. The representative will also be available to respond to appropriate questions from stockholders.

Policy on Audit Committee Pre-Approval of Audit and Permissible Non-Audit Services of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

We have adopted a policy under which the audit committee must pre-approve all audit and permissible non-audit services to be provided by the independent registered public accounting firm. As part of its review, the audit committee also considers whether the categories of pre-approved services are consistent with the rules on accountant independence of the SEC and the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board. The audit committee has pre-approved all services performed since the pre-approval policy was adopted.

Audit Fees

The following table sets forth the fees billed or expected to be billed by Ernst & Young LLP for audit, audit-related, tax, and all other services rendered for 2017 and 2016 (in thousands):

Fee Category	2017	2016
	(\$)	(\$)
Audit Fees	2,734	2,459
Audit-Related Fees	225	135
Tax Fees	166	5
All Other Fees	4	2
Total Fees	3,129	2,601

Consist of aggregate fees for professional services provided in connection with the annual audits of our consolidated financial statements and internal control over financial reporting, the review of our quarterly condensed consolidated financial statements, and fees related to accounting matters that were addressed during the annual and quarterly review. This category also includes fees for services that were incurred in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements.

Table of Contents

Audit-Related Fees

Consist of aggregate fees for professional services related to Statement on Standards for Attestation Engagements (SSAE) No. 16, and other services that were reasonably related to the performance of audits or reviews of our consolidated financial statements and were not reported above under Audit Fees.

Tax Fees

Consist of aggregate fees for tax compliance and consultation services.

All Other Fees

Consist of aggregate fees billed for products and services provided by the independent registered public accounting firm other than those disclosed above, which include subscription fees paid for access to online accounting research software applications and data.

Recommendation of our Board

**OUR BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE FOR RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF
ERNST & YOUNG LLP AS OUR INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018.

Table of Contents

PROPOSAL THREE:

NON-BINDING ADVISORY VOTE TO APPROVE THE COMPENSATION OF OUR NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Section 14A of the Exchange Act requires that we provide our stockholders with the opportunity to vote to approve, on a nonbinding, advisory basis, not less frequently than once every three years, the compensation of our Named Executive Officers as disclosed in this proxy statement in accordance with the compensation disclosure rules of the SEC. As described in detail under the heading Compensation Discussion and Analysis, we seek to closely align the interests of our Named Executive Officers with the interests of our stockholders.

Our compensation programs are designed to reward our Named Executive Officers for the achievement of short-term and long-term strategic and operational goals and the achievement of increased total stockholder return, while at the same time avoiding the encouragement of unnecessary or excessive risk-taking.

Stockholders are urged to read the Compensation Discussion and Analysis and Executive Compensation sections of this proxy statement, which discuss how our executive compensation policies and procedures implement our compensation philosophy and contain tabular information and narrative discussion about the compensation of our Named Executive Officers. Our Board and the compensation committee believe that these policies and procedures are effective in implementing our compensation philosophy and in achieving our compensation program goals.

The vote on this resolution is not intended to address any specific element of compensation; rather, the vote relates to the compensation of our Named Executive Officers, as described in this proxy statement in accordance with the compensation disclosure rules of the SEC. The vote is advisory, which means that the vote is not binding on the Company, our Board, or the compensation committee. To the extent there is any significant vote against our Named Executive Officer compensation as disclosed in this proxy statement, the compensation committee will evaluate whether any actions are necessary to address the concerns of stockholders.

Accordingly, we are asking our stockholders to vote on the following resolution at the Annual Meeting:

RESOLVED, that the compensation paid to the Company's Named Executive Officers, as disclosed pursuant to Item 402 of Regulation S-K, including in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the compensation tables, and the narrative disclosures that accompany the compensation tables, is hereby APPROVED.

Recommendation of our Board

OUR BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE FOR THE APPROVAL OF, ON AN ADVISORY BASIS, THE COMPENSATION OF OUR NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS, AS DISCLOSED IN THIS PROXY STATEMENT.

Table of Contents

COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Overview

Our Compensation Discussion and Analysis describes our executive compensation program and the decisions in fiscal year 2017 regarding the compensation for:

Mikkel Svane, our Chief Executive Officer;

Elena Gomez, our Chief Financial Officer;

John T. Keiser, our Chief Operating Officer;

Adrian McDermott, our President of Products;

John Geschke, our Chief Legal Officer and Senior Vice President, Administration; and

Bryan Cox, our former Chief Revenue Officer.

We refer to these executive officers collectively in this Compensation Discussion and Analysis and the accompanying compensation tables as the Named Executive Officers.

We believe the compensation program for our Named Executive Officers in 2017 was instrumental in helping us to achieve strong performance in 2017, including 38% year-over-year growth in revenue for the year ended December 31, 2017, by providing a combination of short-term and long-term incentives designed to lead to such performance.

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis provides an overview of our executive compensation philosophy, the overall objectives of our executive compensation program, and each element of compensation that we provide. In addition, we explain how and why the compensation committee arrived at the specific compensation policies and decisions involving our Named Executive Officers during fiscal year 2017.

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis contains forward-looking statements that are based on our current plans, considerations, expectations, and determinations regarding future compensation plans and arrangements. The actual compensation plans and arrangements that we adopt may differ materially from currently anticipated plans and arrangements as summarized in this Compensation Discussion and Analysis.

Executive Compensation Philosophy, Objectives, and Design

Our compensation philosophy is to provide an executive compensation program that rewards our management team for meeting our long-term business strategy, while rewarding the individual contributions of the team members.

Our executive compensation program is designed to achieve the following objectives:

attract, motivate, and retain employees at the executive level who contribute to our long-term success;

provide compensation packages to our executives that are competitive, reward the achievement of our business objectives, and effectively align executive officers' interests with those of our stockholders;

increase the incentive to achieve key strategic performance measures by linking incentive award opportunities to the achievement of performance objectives and by providing a portion of total compensation for executive officers in the form of ownership in the Company; and

promote teamwork while also recognizing the individual role each executive officer plays in our success.

Table of Contents

Our executive compensation program design uses a mix of compensation elements including base salary, performance-based incentives, long-term equity incentives, and benefits, including change in control benefits, to attract and maintain key personnel. In determining the amount of base salary, performance-based incentives, long-term equity incentives, and benefits awarded to each Named Executive Officer, the compensation committee does not apply any rigorous percentage of any one element in relation to the overall compensation package. Rather, the compensation committee looks at the overall compensation package and the relative amount of each element on an individual basis for each Named Executive Officer to determine whether such amounts and mix of components further the basic principles and objectives of our overall compensation program.

A significant portion of the compensation opportunity for our Named Executive Officers is weighted towards equity, as opposed to cash compensation. Our compensation committee believes that making equity awards a key component of executive compensation focuses our leadership team on the achievement of our long-term strategic and financial goals, thereby aligning their interests with those of our stockholders.

We evaluate our compensation philosophy and compensation programs as circumstances require, and at a minimum, we review our executive compensation annually. As part of this review process, we apply our values and the objectives outlined above, while also considering whether our proposed compensation ensures that we remain competitive for talent, that we meet our retention objectives, and that our cost of replacement for a key employee is reasonable.

Compensation Setting Process

2017 Advisory Vote on Compensation

We submitted one non-binding proposal to our stockholders at the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. This proposal consisted of a non-binding advisory vote to approve the compensation of the Named Executive Officers as disclosed in the proxy statement for the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Approximately 96% of the votes cast were in favor of the non-binding advisory vote to approve the compensation of the Named Executive Officers at the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. The compensation committee believes this indicates that our stockholders strongly support the philosophy, strategy, and objectives of our executive compensation programs. After considering this result and following our annual review of our executive compensation philosophy, the compensation committee decided to retain our overall approach to executive compensation. The compensation committee intends to continue to monitor stockholder concerns, including the results of the annual non-binding advisory vote to approve the compensation of the Named Executive Officers, in making future decisions affecting the compensation of the Named Executive Officers.

Role of the Compensation Committee and Executive Officers in Compensation Decisions

The compensation of our Named Executive Officers is determined by our compensation committee. Our Chief Executive Officer typically provides annual recommendations to the compensation committee and discusses with the compensation committee the compensation and performance of our executive officers, other than himself. Because our Chief Executive Officer is involved in the day-to-day operation of our business, he is able to base his recommendations in part upon his review of the performance of our executive officers. Our compensation committee may exercise its discretion in modifying any recommended compensation adjustments or awards to executives. Our compensation committee reviews the performance of our Chief Executive Officer and meets in executive session without him to determine his compensation. In addition, compensation committee meetings typically have included, for all or a portion of each meeting, not only the committee members and our Chief Executive Officer, but also our

Chief Legal Officer and Senior Vice President, Administration, and senior members of our legal and people operations teams who may provide information, data, analysis, and updates to our compensation committee.

Table of Contents*Role of Compensation Consultant and Use of Market Data*

The compensation committee has the authority to engage independent advisors to assist it in carrying out its responsibilities. For fiscal year 2017, the compensation committee retained the services of Compensia, Inc., a national compensation consulting firm (Compensia), to review and advise on the principal aspects of the Company's executive compensation program. The executive compensation program services included providing recommendations regarding the determination of peer group companies, analyzing publicly available compensation data of peer group companies, compensation survey data, and other publicly available data, and reviewing and advising on the target compensation opportunities for our executive officers, including base salaries, performance-based compensation, and long-term incentives. In addition, Compensia also reviewed Board compensation, provided market practices for equity compensation design and developed a compensation risk assessment. In electing to engage Compensia, the compensation committee took into consideration all factors relevant to Compensia's independence from the Company's management and concluded that no conflict of interest existed that would prevent Compensia from independently advising the compensation committee.

With the assistance of Compensia, the compensation committee consulted market data to better inform its determination of the key elements of our compensation program in order to develop a compensation program that the compensation committee believes will enable us to compete effectively for new employees and retain existing employees. In general, this market data consists of compensation information from both broad-based third-party compensation surveys and peer groups. The compensation data for fiscal year 2017 consisted of compensation paid by companies in our peer group to executives in positions comparable to those held by our executive officers based on roles and responsibilities.

For the determination of compensation of our Named Executive Officers for fiscal year 2017, our compensation committee considered the following companies as our peer group:

Aspen Technology, Inc.	Guidewire Software, Inc.	New Relic, Inc.	RingCentral, Inc.
Barracuda Networks, Inc.	Hubspot, Inc.	Paycom Software, Inc.	Twilio, Inc.
Box, Inc.	Imperva, Inc.	Paylocity Holding Corporation	Veeva Systems, Inc.
Cornerstone OnDemand, Inc.	LogMeIn, Inc.	Proofpoint, Inc.	
Ellie Mae, Inc.	Medidata Solutions, Inc.	Qualys, Inc.	

Because publicly filed compensation data is generally limited to those of a company's Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and three most highly paid executive officers (other than the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer), the compensation committee also utilized data from Compensia based on a custom cut of the Radford Global Technology Survey (which is based on the peer group companies with additional similarly sized companies in order to provide sufficient market data for all of the executive positions) in determining the compensation for Mr. Keiser, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Geschke, and Mr. Cox. The same data was also used in determining the compensation for Mr. Keiser upon his promotion to Chief Operating Officer during fiscal year 2017.

The compensation committee selected the companies in our peer group and utilized the Radford Global Technology Survey because it believes that these companies compete with us for executive talent and were similar to us in revenue, revenue growth rate, market capitalization, industry, and size. The compensation committee also determined that the companies in the peer group generally have executive officer positions that are comparable to ours in terms of breadth, complexity, and scope of responsibilities.

While we compete for executive talent to some degree with companies that have revenues significantly in excess of those represented in the surveys and peer groups, we believe that the companies represented in the surveys and peer group similarly compete for talent with such larger companies and hence are an appropriate comparison for our employment market. Our compensation committee uses market data as one information point when making compensation decisions, understanding that such data cannot be applied formulaically. The

Table of Contents

compensation committee used this market data to ensure that no individual element of the total compensation was below a level that, in the determination of the compensation committee, would prevent the Company from effectively competing for talent. In addition to market compensation studies, our compensation committee has historically taken into account other data, including input from the members of the compensation committee based on, among other things, their experience in compensation matters.

The compensation committee reviews the peer group annually and removes companies that it no longer believes are comparable and adds new companies that may now be comparable and have disclosed public information for which the compensation committee can compare. In fiscal year 2017, the compensation committee, based on the recommendations of Compensia and the compensation committee determination that the existing peer group accurately reflected our market for executive talent, determined to use the same peer group in its review and determination of the compensation for executive officers for fiscal year 2018.

Executive Compensation Program Elements

The following describes each element of our executive compensation program, the rationale for each, and how compensation amounts and awards are determined.

Base Salaries

We provide a base salary as a fixed source of compensation for each of our Named Executive Officers, allowing them a degree of certainty relative to the significant portion of their compensation that is based on equity awards with values that are generally contingent on stock price appreciation. Our compensation committee recognizes the importance of base salaries as an element of compensation that helps to attract and retain highly qualified executive talent.

Generally, the initial base salaries of our executive officers are established through arm's-length negotiation at the time the individual executive officer is hired, taking into account his or her qualifications, experience, comparable market data, and prior salary level. Our compensation committee generally reviews, and adjusts as necessary, base salaries for each of our Named Executive Officers annually. Our compensation committee does not apply specific formulas in setting base salary levels or determining adjustments from year to year; however, in completing its annual review and adjustment, our compensation committee targets paying each of our Named Executive Officers base salaries that are competitive with the median of our peer group, if such information is available, or competitive with the median of salaries found in the survey data that it utilizes for similar positions. Additionally, in setting base salary levels, our compensation committee may consider a range of factors, including:

the individual's anticipated responsibilities and experience, and cash compensation for similarly situated executives at our peer group companies;

our compensation committee members' experience and knowledge in compensating similarly situated individuals at other companies;

the value of the Named Executive Officer's existing equity awards and our cash needs; and

a general sense of internal pay equity among our Named Executive Officers.

In February 2017, our compensation committee reviewed the base salaries of our Named Executive Officers and determined to increase the base salaries for certain of our Named Executive Officers. In making a determination as to whether increases to the base salaries for each of our Named Executive Officers were necessary, the compensation committee took into account the competitive market for management within our industry and geographic area and the expanded obligations of our Named Executive Officers due to our growing

Table of Contents

operations. The base salaries of our Named Executive Officers prior to and following the increase approved by the compensation committee in February 2017 were as follows:

Base Salaries

Named Executive Officer	Base Salary Prior to February 2017 Increase (\$)	Base Salary Following February 2017 Increase (\$)	Percent Increase
Mikkel Svane	365,000	383,000	4.9%
Elena Gomez	350,000	350,000	0.0%
John T. Keiser	350,000	350,000 ⁽¹⁾	0.0%
Adrian McDermott	330,000	360,000	9.1%
John Geschke	296,000	335,000	13.2%
Bryan Cox	350,000	350,000 ⁽²⁾	0.0%

(1) Upon Mr. Keiser's promotion to Chief Operating Officer in August 2017, his base salary was increased to \$375,000. As a result, the salary paid to him, as reflected in our Summary Compensation Table, will differ from the amount set forth above.

(2) Because Mr. Cox resigned effective September 2017, the salary paid to him, as reflected in our Summary Compensation Table, will differ from the amount set forth above.

Performance-Based Incentives

We adopted the Amended and Restated Executive Incentive Bonus Plan (the "Bonus Plan") to provide for performance-based incentive payments upon the attainment of target objectives related to Company financial and operational measures, Company objectives, individual performance objectives, or a combination thereof, in each case as set by the compensation committee. For each Named Executive Officer, other than Mr. Cox, the performance-based incentive was targeted at 40% of the Named Executive Officer's base salary. Because much of Mr. Cox's responsibilities were focused on leading our go-to-market efforts, his performance-based incentive was targeted at approximately 86% of his base salary and was heavily focused on the success of our go-to-market efforts. The target annual bonus award for the Named Executive Officers as compared to their base salaries was as follows:

Target Performance-Based Incentives

Named Executive Officer	2017 Base Salary	2017 Target Performance-Based Incentive Under the Bonus Plan (\$)	2017 Target Performance-Based Incentive as Percent of Base Salary
Mikkel Svane	383,000	153,000	40%
Elena Gomez	350,000	140,000	40%
John T. Keiser ⁽¹⁾	350,000	140,000	40%
Adrian McDermott	360,000	144,000	40%

Edgar Filing: Zendesk, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

John Geschke	335,000	134,000	40%
Bryan Cox	350,000	300,000	86%

- (1) Upon Mr. Keiser's promotion to Chief Operating Officer in August 2017, his base salary was increased to \$375,000 and his target performance-based incentive was increased to \$150,000, reflecting 40% of his base salary, which target performance-based incentive was effective for the performance period commencing on July 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

Each executive officer who participates in the Bonus Plan has a target performance-based incentive set for each performance period, as well as one or more target objectives under the Bonus Plan for the performance

Table of Contents

period. The attainment level of the target objectives is measured at the end of each performance period after our financial results for the performance period have been released (or such other appropriate time as the compensation committee determines), with the payout based on such attainment level as approved by the compensation committee. The Bonus Plan also permits the compensation committee to approve additional bonuses to executive officers in its sole discretion and to adjust incentive payments (by increasing or decreasing the amount payable), in each case based on an executive officer's attainment of individual performance objectives or other conditions, as determined by the compensation committee. The compensation committee did not use peer group data to set specific performance-based incentive levels for 2017 performance periods, but used its general knowledge of our industry to ensure that performance-based incentive levels were appropriate and competitive.

The compensation committee believes that the payment of performance-based incentives under the Bonus Plan allows the Company to create short-term incentives for the management team that, given the alignment of the target objectives with the Company's internal operating plan, will drive long-term value creation for our stockholders by motivating each member of the management team to focus his or her efforts on successfully executing such operating plan.

For the Named Executive Officers, other than Mr. Cox, the compensation committee established two six-month performance periods for fiscal year 2017, with the first period (1H 2017) commencing on January 1, 2017 and ending on June 30, 2017, and the second period (2H 2017) commencing on July 1, 2017 and ending on December 31, 2017. For Mr. Cox, the compensation committee established a twelve-month performance period commencing on January 1, 2017 and ending on December 31, 2017, with a semi-annual payment based on performance during 1H 2017 and a semi-annual payment following 2H 2017 based on performance for the twelve-month performance period as offset by the first payment. Since Mr. Cox resigned effective September 17, 2017, the payment was made based on performance during 1H 2017 and no payment was made following the end of the twelve-month performance period.

Target Objectives under the Bonus Plan

For 2017, the compensation committee established a target objective under the Bonus Plan for each Executive Officer, other than Mr. Cox, that was comprised of a component that encouraged efficient revenue growth (the Corporate Performance Objective), as adjusted to account for individual performance and achievement of other Company goals (the Individual Performance Adjustment).

The compensation committee established a separate target objective for Mr. Cox that encouraged efficient revenue growth, achieving new business and expanding the reach of our go-to-market approach (the Cox Corporate Performance Objective), as adjusted to account for individual performance and achievement of other Company goals (the Individual Performance Adjustment).

Corporate Performance Objective

In considering target objectives for the management team for 2017, the compensation committee determined that establishing an objective for the management team that encouraged efficient revenue growth aligned the management team's incentives with the interests of the Company's stockholders. Therefore, the compensation committee designed the Corporate Performance Objective to encourage efficient revenue growth and align the management team's incentives with stockholder interests. The Corporate Performance Objective is comprised of the weighted average attainment against goals related to net additional recurring revenue added during the performance period and the non-GAAP operating margin for the performance period, in each case, as compared to the Company's internal operating plan.

One component of the Corporate Performance Objective, the Net Recurring Revenue Goal, was the percentage of achievement of the net recurring revenue added to customer accounts on our products during the period as compared to the internal operating plan. Net recurring revenue added during a period is determined by assessing the recurring revenue for all customer accounts on our products at the end of the period as compared to

Table of Contents

the recurring revenue for all customer accounts on our products at the beginning of the period. Recurring revenue for a customer account is a legal and contractual determination made by assessing the contractual terms of a customer account, as of the date of determination, as to the revenue the Company expects to generate in the next measurement period for such customer account, assuming no changes to the subscription and without taking into account any one-time discounts or any usage above the subscription base, if any, that may be applicable to such subscription. The Net Recurring Revenue Goal comprised 75% of the Corporate Performance Objective.

The compensation committee chose the Net Recurring Revenue Goal as a component of the Corporate Performance Objective because the compensation committee believes that increasing net recurring revenue has a direct impact on achieving revenue growth, a primary objective for the Company and its stockholders. Furthermore, the compensation committee believes that each of our Named Executive Officers for which the Corporate Performance Objective was a component of the target objectives under the Bonus Plan, was in a position to focus on the net addition of recurring revenue, and the compensation committee desired to incentivize this focus.

The other component of the Corporate Performance Objective, the Operating Margin Goal, was the percentage of achievement of non-GAAP operating margin for the period as compared to the internal operating plan. Non-GAAP operating margin is the ratio of the non-GAAP operating loss for a period (which excludes share-based compensation, employer tax related to employee stock transactions, amortization of share-based compensation capitalized in internal-use software, amortization of purchased intangibles, and costs related to acquisitions from the GAAP operating loss for the period) to our revenue for the period. The Operating Margin Goal comprised 25% of the Corporate Performance Objective.

The compensation committee chose the Operating Margin Goal as a component of the Corporate Performance Objective because the compensation committee believes that revenue growth must be achieved efficiently and with a long-term focus on achieving profitability. Further, the compensation committee believes that each of the applicable Named Executive Officers for which the Corporate Performance Objective was a component of the target objectives under the Bonus Plan, was in a position to focus on scaling our operations efficiently and desired to incentivize this focus.

Overachievement of either of the Net Recurring Revenue Goal or the Operating Margin Goal had the potential to offset underachievement of the other component when determining the aggregate achievement of the Corporate Performance Objective for each of the Named Executive Officers for a performance period. The determination of the level of achievement for the Corporate Performance Objective is rounded to the nearest whole number and subject to a minimum achievement threshold of 80% (at which no portion of the performance-based incentive for the period was earned). Payments for the performance-based incentive for the period that was subject to the Corporate Performance Objective were determined as follows:

Corporate Performance Objective Payment Guidelines

Corporate Performance Objective Achievement During Performance Period	Percent of 2017 Target Performance-Based Incentive Subject to the Corporate Performance Objective Amount Earned
Less than or equal to 80%	0%
Greater than 80%	5% for each 1% of achievement over 80%, subject to a maximum of 150% of the Target Performance-Based

Incentive

Cox Corporate Performance Objective

For 2017, the Cox Corporate Performance Objective under the Bonus Plan that had two weighted components. The first component was the Net Recurring Revenue Goal, which comprised 30% of the Cox Corporate Performance Objective.

Table of Contents

The second component of the Cox Corporate Performance Objective, the Gross Recurring Revenue Goal, was based on the gross additional recurring revenue added during the performance period, as compared to the Company's internal operating plan. The Gross Recurring Revenue Goal was the percentage of achievement of the gross recurring revenue added to customer accounts on our products during the period as compared to the internal operating plan. Gross recurring revenue added during a period is determined by assessing the recurring revenue for all new customer accounts added during such period, as of the date of addition, with an adjustment for any contraction or churn on such accounts during the calendar month of the addition, and expansions within existing customer accounts on our products during such period, as of the date of expansion, with an adjustment for any contraction or churn on such accounts during the calendar month of the expansion. The Gross Recurring Revenue Goal comprised 70% of Mr. Cox's overall target objective under the Bonus Plan.

The compensation committee chose the Gross Recurring Revenue Goal as a component of Mr. Cox's target objective because the compensation committee wanted to provide an incentive that encouraged Mr. Cox to focus on achieving new business and expanding the reach of our go-to-market approach.

Overachievement of either of the Net Recurring Revenue Goal or the Gross Recurring Revenue Goal had the potential to offset underachievement of the other component when determining the aggregate achievement of the Cox Corporate Performance Objective for Mr. Cox for a performance period. Achievement of the Cox Corporate Performance Objective was measured on an annual basis, with semi-annual payments as credit against the overall achievement. Payment of the performance-based incentive for Mr. Cox for 2017 was determined as follows:

Cox Corporate Performance Objective Payment Guidelines

Cox Objective Achievement During Performance Period	Percent of 2017 Target Performance-Based Incentive Subject to the Cox Corporate Performance Objective Earned
Less than or equal to 90%	0.5555% for each 1% achievement of the Cox Corporate Performance Objective
Greater than 90% but less than or equal to 100%	50% + an additional 5% for each 1% of achievement above 90%
Greater than 100%	100% + an additional 10% for every 1% of achievement over 100%, subject to a maximum of 250% of the Cox Objective Performance Target Amount

Individual Performance Adjustment

In addition to the Corporate Performance Objective and the Cox Corporate Performance Objective, our compensation committee may exercise its discretion to adjust payments of each Named Executive Officer's performance-based incentive up or down based on our Chief Executive Officer's assessment of performance and other achievements not otherwise reflected in the target objectives.

Table of Contents**Performance-Based Incentives for 1H 2017***1H 2017 Attainment of Performance-Based Incentives*

Information regarding the attainment of the target objective to each of our Named Executive Officers under the Bonus Plan for 1H 2017 is as follows:

Attainment of 1H 2017 Target Objectives

Target Objective	Component of Objective	Percent of 1H 2017 Target Objective	Percent of 1H 2017 Component Attainment	Percent of 1H 2017 Target Objective Attainment	1H 2017 Aggregate Minimum Achievement Threshold	1H 2017 Target Objective Payout Level
Corporate Performance Objective ⁽¹⁾	Net Recurring Revenue Goal	75%	89.3%	91.4%	80%	55.0%
	Operating Margin Goal	25%	97.8%			
Cox Corporate Performance Objective ⁽²⁾	Gross Recurring Revenue Goal	70%	94.3%	92.8%		64.1%
	Net Recurring Revenue Goal	30%	89.3%			

(1) As stated above, the Corporate Performance Objective was the target objective, made up of the Net Recurring Revenue Goal and Operating Margin Goal, applicable to all of the Named Executive Officers other than Mr. Cox.

(2) As stated above, the Cox Corporate Performance Objective, made up of the Gross Recurring Revenue Goal and the Net Recurring Revenue Goal, was the target objective applicable to Mr. Cox. Since Mr. Cox's plan had a twelve-month performance period, the payout for 1H 2017 was a semi-annual credit payment.

Form of Payment for Bonus Awards for 1H 2017

For 1H 2017, the compensation committee elected to pay the amounts to the Named Executive Officers under the Bonus Plan in cash because the compensation committee believed that it provided a predictable reward for the short-term incentive goals that the compensation committee wished to incentivize. The compensation committee did not adjust the bonus payments payable to any of our Named Executive Officers under the Bonus Plan for 1H 2017 in accordance with the Individual Performance Adjustment. Information regarding the payment of compensation to each of our Named Executive Officers under the Bonus Plan for 1H 2017 is as follows:

Payments for 1H 2017 Performance-Based Incentives:

Named Executive Officer	1H 2017 Target Performance-Based Incentive (\$)	1H 2017 Target Objective Payout Level	1H 2017 Target Objective Payout (\$)
Mikkel Svane	76,500	55.0%	42,075

Edgar Filing: Zendesk, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

Elena Gomez	70,000	55.0%	38,500
John T. Keiser	70,000	55.0%	38,500
Adrian McDermott	72,000	55.0%	39,600
John Geschke	67,000	55.0%	36,850
Bryan Cox ⁽¹⁾	(2)	64.1%	96,103

(1) Mr. Cox's achievement of his performance based incentive was measured annually, with semi-annual payments as a credit against overall achievement. Because Mr. Cox resigned effective September 2017, the above credit payment was made based on 1H 2017 achievement and half of his annual target for 2017. No payment was made based on annual achievement.

(2) Mr. Cox did not have a 1H 2017 target since his plan was measured annually.

Table of Contents**Performance-Based Incentives for 2H 2017**

For 2H 2017, the performance-based incentive target under the Bonus Plan for all of our Named Executive Officers was again comprised entirely of the Corporate Performance Objective, subject to adjustment pursuant to the Individual Performance Adjustment. Because Mr. Cox's resignation was effective during 2H 2017, the Cox Performance Objective was no longer effective during 2H 2017 and no payment was made following the end of the twelve-month performance period. The level of achievement under the Corporate Performance Objective was determined for the Named Executive Officers, in the same manner as they were determined for 1H 2017.

2H 2017 Attainment of Performance-Based Incentives

Information regarding the attainment of the Corporate Performance Objective under the Bonus Plan for 2H 2017 is as follows:

Attainment of 2H 2017 Target Objectives

Target Objective ⁽¹⁾	Component of Objective	Percent of Target Objective	Percent of 2H 2017 Component Attainment	Percent of 2H 2017 Target Attainment	2H 2017 Aggregate Minimum Threshold	2H 2017 Target Payout Level
	Net Recurring					
Corporate Performance Objective	Revenue Goal Operating	75%	86.6%	86.1%	80%	30%
	Margin Goal	25%	84.4%			

⁽¹⁾ The Cox Corporate Performance Objective does not appear in this chart because Mr. Cox's employment ended prior to the payment of performance based incentives for 2H 2017.

The compensation committee elected to adjust the amounts payable to the Named Executive Officers under the Bonus Plan for 2H 2017 pursuant to the Individual Performance Adjustment. The compensation committee elected to utilize the Individual Performance Adjustment in order to reward strong performance by each of the Named Executive Officers that contributed to the Company's operational and financial success but that was not otherwise reflected in the Corporate Performance Objective. The factors that the compensation committee considered in its determination to exercise its discretion pursuant to the Individual Performance Adjustment included the Named Executive Officer's contributions to year-over-year revenue growth and the expansion of revenue generating activities that contributed to the Company's financial performance for the period but did not contribute towards attainment of the Net Recurring Revenue Goal (collectively, the Additional Revenue Contributions). Such revenue growth and revenue generating activities are reflected in the Company's 39% year-over-year fourth quarter growth in revenue and 38% year-over-year growth in revenue for the year ending on December 31, 2017. The compensation committee determined the amount payable to each of the Named Executive Officers pursuant to the Individual Performance Adjustment based on its assessment of the impact of the Additional Revenue Contributions on the Company's financial performance for 2H 2017. By paying the amounts payable pursuant to the Individual Performance Adjustment in restricted stock units, as discussed below, the compensation committee sought to combine the benefit of permitting the Named Executive

Officers to recognize the value of such payment over the relative short-term with a retention component for our Named Executive Officers and the alignment of the interests of the Named Executive Officers with those of our stockholders over the vesting period.

Form of Payment for Bonus Awards for 2H 2017

In 2H 2017, the compensation committee elected to pay the amounts payable to the Named Executive Officers pursuant to achievement of the Corporate Performance Objective in cash in order to provide a predictable reward for the short-term incentive goals that the compensation committee wished to incentivize.

Table of Contents

The compensation committee elected to pay the portion of the performance-based incentives attributable to the Individual Performance Adjustment in restricted stock units that vested in equal monthly installments over the subsequent 12 months because the compensation committee believed that it combined the benefit of permitting the Named Executive Officer to recognize the value of such payment over the relative short-term with a retention component for our Named Executive Officers.

Information regarding payment of compensation to our Named Executive Officers under the Bonus Plan for 2H 2017 is as follows:

Payments for 2H 2017 Corporate Performance Objective:

Named Executive Officer ⁽¹⁾	2H 2017 Target Performance-Based Incentive (\$)	2H 2017 Corporate Performance Objective Payout Level	Value of 2H 2017 Corporate Performance Objective Payout (\$)
Mikkel Svane	76,500	30.0%	22,950
Elena Gomez	70,000	30.0%	21,000
John T. Keiser ⁽²⁾	75,000	30.0%	22,500
Adrian McDermott	72,000	30.0%	21,600
John Geschke	67,000	30.0%	20,100

(1) Since Mr. Cox's employment with the Company ended prior to the end of his twelve-month performance period, he did not receive any payment after the credit payment based on 1H 2017 achievement.

(2) Upon Mr. Keiser's promotion to Chief Operating Officer in August 2017, his target performance-based incentive was increased to \$150,000, reflecting 40% of his base salary.

Payments for 2H 2017 Individual Performance Adjustment:

Named Executive Officer ⁽¹⁾	2H 2017 Target Performance-Based Incentive (\$)	2H 2017 Individual Performance Adjustment Value as a Percent of Target Performance-Based Incentive	Number of Restricted Stock Units Granted Pursuant to the Individual Performance Adjustment (#)	Value of 2H 2017 Individual Performance Adjustment Payout Paid in Restricted Stock Units (\$) ⁽³⁾
Mikkel Svane	76,500	50.3%	1,000	38,500
Elena Gomez	70,000	49.5%	900	34,650
John T. Keiser ⁽²⁾	75,000	51.3%	1,000	38,500
Adrian McDermott	72,000	48.1%	900	34,650
John Geschke	67,000	51.7%	900	34,650

(1) Since Mr. Cox's employment with the Company ended prior to the end of his twelve-month performance period, he did not receive any payment after the credit payment based on 1H 2017 achievement.

(2)

Upon Mr. Keiser's promotion to Chief Operating Officer in August 2017, his target performance-based incentive was increased to \$150,000, reflecting 40% of his base salary.

- (3) The value represents the grant date fair value of such restricted stock units.

Table of Contents

Total Payments for 2H 2017 Performance-Based Incentives:

Named Executive Officer ⁽¹⁾	2H 2017 Target Performance-Based Incentive (\$)	Value of Individual Performance Corporate Performance Objective Payout (\$)	Value of 2H 2017 Adjustment Payout Restricted Stock Units (\$) ⁽³⁾	Total Percent of 2H 2017 Target Performance-Based Incentive Paid	Total Value of 2H 2017 Performance-Based Incentive Payout (\$)
Elena Gomez	70,000	21,000	34,650	79.5%	55,650
John T. Keiser ⁽²⁾	75,000	22,500	38,500	81.3%	61,000
Adrian McDermott	72,000	21,600	34,650	78.1%	56,250
John Geschke	67,000	20,100	34,650	81.7%	54,750

(1) Since Mr. Cox's employment with the Company ended prior to the end of his twelve-month performance period, he did not receive any payment after the credit payment based on 1H 2017 achievement.

(2) Upon Mr. Keiser's promotion to Chief Operating Officer in August 2017, his target performance-based incentive was increased to \$150,000, reflecting 40% of his base salary.

(3) The value represents the grant date fair value of such restricted stock units.

Total Performance-Based Incentives for 2017

The total performance-based incentive payments for 2017 are as follows:

Named Executive Officer	2017 Target Performance-Based Incentive (\$)	Total Value of 1H 2017 Performance-Based Incentive Payout (\$)	Total Value of 2H 2017 Performance-Based Incentive Payout (\$)	Total Value of 2017 Performance-Based Incentive Payout (\$)	Percent of 2017 Target Performance-Based Incentive Paid
Elena Gomez	140,000	38,500	55,650	94,150	67.3%
John T. Keiser ⁽¹⁾	145,000	38,500	61,000	99,500	68.6%
Adrian McDermott	144,000	39,600	56,250	95,850	66.6%
John Geschke	134,000	36,850	54,750	91,600	68.4%
Bryan Cox ⁽²⁾	300,000	96,103		96,103	(2)

(1) As a result of Mr. Keiser's promotion to Chief Operating Officer in August 2017, his target performance-based incentive was increased from \$140,000 in 1H 2017 to \$150,000 in 2H 2017, reflecting 40% of his base salary.

(2)

Since Mr. Cox's employment with the Company ended prior to the end of his twelve-month performance period, his 2017 payout only reflects the credit paid for his performance during 1H 2017. Mr. Cox did not receive any payment after the credit payment based on 1H 2017 achievement.

Long-Term Equity Incentives

We believe that providing long-term incentives in the form of equity awards encourages our Named Executive Officers to take a long-term outlook and provides our Named Executive Officers with an incentive to manage our Company from the perspective of an owner with an equity stake in the business. By providing opportunities for our Named Executive Officers to benefit from future successes in our business through the appreciation of the value of their equity awards, the compensation committee believes that equity awards align our Named Executive Officers interests and contributions with the long-term interests of our stockholders. In addition, the compensation committee believes that offering meaningful equity ownership in our Company assists us in retaining our Named Executive Officers and other key employees.

Generally, our executive officers are granted equity awards at the time of hire, the size and form of which are determined through arm's-length negotiation with the individual executive officer, taking into account his or

Table of Contents

her qualifications, experience, comparable market data, prior compensation level, and expected roles and responsibilities. The equity awards granted to our executive officers upon hire generally vest as to 25% of the award during the month of the first anniversary of the date of hire, with the remaining portion of the award vesting in equal monthly installments over the subsequent 36 months.

In addition to equity awards paid in connection with the Bonus Plan, the equity compensation for our Named Executive Officers for fiscal year 2017 consisted of annual equity awards, in the form of stock options and restricted stock units. The compensation committee believes that, since the Company's annual equity awards require an equity award holder's continued provision of services to the Company through each applicable vesting date, the annual equity awards serve as effective retention tools. For fiscal year 2017, the compensation committee targeted providing 60% of the intended aggregate fair value of all equity awards for each Named Executive Officer in the form of stock options and the remaining 40% as restricted stock units. Since the entire value of each stock option depends on future stock price appreciation, the compensation committee decided to weight the annual equity awards towards stock options. The compensation committee believes that weighting the awards in this manner motivates the management team to focus its efforts on increasing the market value of the Company's common stock through the execution of the Company's long-term objectives. The compensation committee determined the weight of the restricted stock units in the annual equity awards based on its belief that this weighting would add to the retention effect of the annual equity awards, provide reward for growth in the market price of the Company's common stock, and permit the Company to use fewer shares in the grant of the annual equity awards than it would in granting annual equity awards that were comprised solely of stock options. The stock options used as part of our annual equity awards generally have a ten-year term and vest in equal monthly installments over four years, subject to an equity award holder's continued provision of services to the Company through each applicable vesting date. The restricted stock unit portion of each annual equity award generally vests in equal monthly installments over four years, subject to an equity award holder's continued provision of services to the Company through each applicable vesting date.

For its analysis of the intended aggregate fair value of the equity compensation to be granted to each Named Executive Officer for the year, the compensation committee compared the fair value of the award to those made to executives within the applicable peer group using a Black-Scholes valuation methodology for options that is consistent with the Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification Topic 718 (FASB ASC Topic 718) and the reported value for restricted stock units. We believe these comparisons provide important additional context for assessing the competitiveness of our equity-based compensation practices with market practices.

The compensation committee targeted providing each of our Named Executive Officers with equity award grants that were competitive with similar executives at comparable companies. Given the competitive nature of the industry in which we operate, the compensation committee believes equity compensation at this level is generally required to retain our existing Named Executive Officers and to hire new executive officers when and as required.

Employee Stock Purchase Plan

Participation in the 2014 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (ESPP) is available to all Named Executive Officers on the same basis as our other employees. However, any Named Executive Officers who are 5% stockholders, or would become 5% stockholders as a result of their participation in the ESPP, are ineligible to participate in the ESPP. Under the ESPP, eligible employees are granted options to purchase shares of our common stock through payroll deductions. The ESPP provides for eighteen-month offering periods, which include three six-month purchase periods. At the end of each purchase period, employees are able to purchase shares at 85% of the lower of the fair market value of our common stock at the beginning of an offering period or the fair market value of our common stock at the end of the purchase period. Since employees that participate in the ESPP have the opportunity to benefit from any appreciation in the value of the Company's common stock due to the execution of the Company's long-term objectives between the

beginning of each offering period and

Table of Contents

end of each purchase period, we believe that offering the ESPP aligns the interests of our broad employee base with the Company's long-term objectives.

Change in Control Benefits

In fiscal year 2015, our compensation committee adopted a Change in Control Acceleration Plan (the Acceleration Plan) that provides participants with accelerated vesting of all outstanding and unvested equity awards in the event of the termination of the individual's employment from the Company under specified circumstances following a change in control (a double trigger). All executive officers were provided with the opportunity to participate in the Acceleration Plan; however, participation was not mandatory and executive officers could elect to maintain any existing rights to the accelerated vesting of equity awards in lieu of participating in the Acceleration Plan. However, once an executive officer makes an election to participate in the Acceleration Plan, the acceleration provisions of the Acceleration Plan supersede any other arrangements then in place related to the acceleration of equity awards. Following the adoption of the Acceleration Plan, the compensation committee does not anticipate that new executive officers will be eligible for change in control arrangements other than those provided by the Acceleration Plan.

Our compensation committee (and in periods prior to our initial public offering, our Board) determined that we would provide change in control arrangements to our Named Executive Officers in order to mitigate some of the risk that exists for executives working for a company that is smaller than many of its competitors. These arrangements are intended to attract and retain qualified executives that have alternatives that may appear to them to be less risky absent these arrangements, and to mitigate a potential disincentive to consideration and execution of such an acquisition, particularly where the services of these executive officers may not be required by the acquirer. We also believe that entering into these arrangements and the level of acceleration provided by such arrangements will help these executive officers maintain continued focus and dedication to their responsibilities to help maximize stockholder value if there is a potential transaction that could involve a change in control of the Company.

Mr. Svane has acceleration provisions pursuant to an agreement that pre-dates the adoption of the Acceleration Plan, and the terms of Mr. Svane's acceleration provisions are consistent with the Acceleration Plan. Ms. Gomez, Mr. Keiser, Mr. Geschke, and Mr. McDermott are participants in the Acceleration Plan and Mr. Cox was a participant in the Acceleration Plan. For quantification of, and additional information regarding, the change in control arrangements of our Named Executive Officers, please see the discussion under Executive Compensation Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control.

Welfare and Other Benefits

We have established a tax-qualified Section 401(k) retirement plan that provides eligible U.S. employees with an opportunity to save for retirement on a tax-advantaged basis. Under this plan, employees may elect to defer their eligible compensation by up to the statutory limit and contribute to the plan. We initiated an employer matching contribution on employee contributions this year. We currently match 25% of the first 4% of eligible contributions made to the plan by our employees, including our Named Executive Officers. Such matching contributions are immediately and fully vested.

In addition, we provide other employee welfare and benefit programs to our executive officers, including our Named Executive Officers, on the same basis as all of our full-time employees in the country in which they are a resident. These benefits include medical, dental, and vision benefits, medical and dependent care flexible spending accounts, short-term and long-term disability insurance, accidental death and dismemberment insurance, and basic life insurance coverage.

We design our employee welfare and benefit programs to be affordable and competitive in relation to the market, as well as compliant with applicable laws and practices. We adjust our employee welfare and benefit programs as needed based upon regular monitoring of applicable laws and practices and the competitive market.

Table of Contents

Other than payments for parking, gifts, and payments of membership fees in certain rewards programs, we do not generally provide perquisites to our executive officers except in limited situations where we believe it is appropriate to assist an individual in the performance of his or her duties, to make our executive officers more efficient and effective, and for recruitment and retention purposes. Consistent with these objectives, as the result of an arm's-length negotiation in connection with Mr. Cox's hire, we have provided Mr. Cox with a corporate housing perquisite.

In the future, we may provide other perquisites or personal benefits in certain circumstances, such as where we believe it is appropriate to assist an individual executive officer in the performance of his or her duties, to make our executive officers more efficient and effective, and for recruitment, motivation, or retention purposes. All future practices with respect to perquisites or other personal benefits will be approved and subject to periodic review by the compensation committee.

Other Compensation Policies

Stock Ownership Guidelines

We do not have any equity security ownership guidelines or requirements for our Named Executive Officers or directors and we do not have any formal or informal policies or guidelines for allocating compensation between long-term and currently paid out compensation, between cash and non-cash compensation or among different forms of non-cash compensation.

Policy Regarding the Pricing and Timing of Equity Awards

All equity awards to our employees, including executive officers, and to our directors have been granted at the closing price of our common stock on the NYSE on the date of grant and reflected in our consolidated financial statements, in accordance with the applicable accounting guidance, based on such price. While we have not adopted a policy pertaining to the timing of stock option grants to executive officers relative to the timing of the release of material nonpublic information, and do not currently have any plans to implement such a policy, we generally do not grant stock options to executive officers during regularly scheduled quarterly blackout windows or in anticipation of the release of material nonpublic information. We do not time the release of material nonpublic information for the purpose of affecting the value of equity awards or other compensation granted to our executive officers. We believe that the grant of equity awards should be made in the normal course of business, aligning the interests of the stock option recipients with those of the stockholders, rather than seeking to provide an immediate benefit to option recipients through the timing of stock option grants.

Insider Trading Policy and Rule 10b5-1 Sales Plans

We have an insider trading policy that prohibits our officers, directors, and certain other persons from engaging in, among other things, short sales, hedging of stock ownership positions, use of our securities as collateral in a margin account, the pledging of our securities as collateral for loans, and transactions involving derivative securities relating to our common stock. Our insider trading policy permits our officers, directors, and employees to enter into trading plans complying with Rule 10b5-1 under the Exchange Act.

Tax Considerations

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code generally places a \$1,000,000 limit on the amount of compensation a company can deduct in any one year for certain executive officers. While the compensation committee considers tax deductibility as one factor in determining executive compensation, the compensation committee also looks at other

factors in making its decisions, as noted above, and retains the flexibility to award compensation that it determines to be consistent with the goals of our executive compensation program even if the awards are not deductible by us for tax purposes.

Table of Contents

The exemption from Section 162(m)'s deduction limit for performance-based compensation has been repealed, effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017, such that compensation paid to our named executive officers and certain other individuals in excess of \$1 million will not be deductible unless it qualifies for the limited transition relief applicable to certain arrangements in place as of November 2, 2017. Despite the compensation committee's efforts to structure certain performance-based awards in a manner intended to be exempt from Section 162(m) and therefore not subject to its deduction limits, because of ambiguities and uncertainties as to the application and interpretation of Section 162(m) and the regulations issued thereunder, including the uncertain scope of the transition relief under the legislation repealing the performance-based compensation exemption from the deduction limit, no assurance can be given that compensation intended to satisfy the requirements for exemption from Section 162(m) in fact will. Further, the compensation committee reserves the right to modify compensation that was initially intended to be exempt from Section 162(m) if it determines that such modifications are consistent with our business needs. The compensation committee believes that shareholder interests are best served if its discretion and flexibility in awarding compensation is not restricted, even though some compensation awards may result in non-deductible compensation expenses.

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Summary Compensation Table 2017

The following table presents summary information regarding the total compensation awarded to, earned by, and paid to each Named Executive Officer for services rendered in all capacities to the Company for such years.

Name and Principal Position ⁽¹⁾	Year	Salary (\$) ⁽²⁾	Bonus (\$) ⁽³⁾	Stock Awards (\$) ⁽⁴⁾	Option Awards (\$) ⁽⁵⁾	Non-Equity Incentive Compensation			Total (\$)	
						Short-Term Compensation (\$) ⁽⁶⁾	Deferred Compensation (\$) ⁽⁷⁾	Other Compensation (\$) ⁽⁷⁾		
Executive Officers										
Mikkel Svane, Chief Executive Officer	2017	382,308		681,912	957,965	103,525		4,855		2,130,565
	2016	364,481		586,000	840,270	93,838				1,884,589
	2015	378,846 ⁽²⁾		1,037,837	2,970,733	70,166				4,457,582
Elena Gomez, Chief Financial Officer	2017	350,000		303,072	425,762	94,150		7,144		1,180,128
	2016	222,115		3,281,600	2,363,277	79,091				5,946,083
John T. Keiser, Chief Operating Officer	2017	359,519		259,776	1,574,229	99,500		33,625 ⁽⁸⁾		2,326,649
	2016	222,115		3,281,600	2,363,277	79,091				5,946,083
Adrian McDermott, President of Products	2017	358,846		303,072	425,762	95,850		23,551 ⁽⁹⁾		1,207,081
	2016	330,000		254,324	364,117	84,664				1,033,105
	2015	361,154 ⁽²⁾		3,119,587	1,594,425	66,446				5,141,612
John Geschke, Chief Legal Officer, Senior Vice President, Administration	2017	333,500		259,776	364,939	91,600		7,765		1,057,580
	2016	295,619		234,782	315,942	20,073				866,416
	2015	282,692 ⁽²⁾		357,296	821,448					1,461,436
Bryan Cox, Former Chief Revenue Officer	2017	262,500		303,072	425,762	96,103		71,725 ⁽¹⁰⁾		1,159,162
	2016	220,769	250,000	4,688,000	3,376,110	187,167		42,206		8,764,252

(1) Each of Ms. Gomez and Messrs. Cox and Keiser joined the Company in May 2016, and therefore was not a Named Executive Officer for fiscal year 2015. Mr. Cox left the Company in September 2017.

(2) The amount reported includes an amount paid to the Named Executive Officer pursuant to a one-time payment for accrued paid time-off in connection with a change in our paid time-off policy for U.S. salaried employees.

(3)

The amount reported for Mr. Cox reflects a \$250,000 sign-on bonus paid to Mr. Cox upon the commencement of his employment with the Company pursuant to the terms of his offer letter.

- (4) The amounts reported represent the aggregate grant date fair value of the stock awards granted to the Named Executive Officer in the fiscal years ended December 31, 2015, 2016, and 2017, calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. Such aggregate grant date fair value does not take into account any estimated forfeitures related to service-vesting conditions. The assumptions used in calculating the grant date fair value of the stock awards reported in this column are set forth in the notes to our audited financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 22, 2018. The amounts reported in this column reflect the accounting cost for these stock awards, and do not correspond to the actual economic value that may be received by the Named Executive Officers upon vesting of the awards.
- (5) The amounts reported represent the aggregate grant date fair value of the stock options awarded to the Named Executive Officer in the fiscal years ended December 31, 2015, 2016, and 2017, as applicable, calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. Such aggregate grant date fair value does not take into account any estimated forfeitures related to service-vesting conditions. The assumptions used in calculating the grant date fair value of the stock options reported in this column for fiscal year 2017 are set forth in the notes to our audited financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 22, 2018. The amounts reported in this column reflect the accounting cost for these stock options, and do not correspond to the actual economic value that may be received by the Named Executive Officers upon exercise of the options.
- (6) The amounts reported represent the bonuses paid to the applicable Named Executive Officer pursuant to the Bonus Plan. Such amounts include the portion of the applicable bonus that was paid in the form of restricted stock units that vest monthly over one year. See the [Executive Compensation Program Elements Performance-Based Incentives](#) section under [Compensation Discussion and Analysis](#) for further discussion of the bonuses paid under the Bonus Plan and the determination of the number of restricted stock units paid.

Table of Contents

- (7) Amounts disclosed in this column include company contributions made to our Named Executive Officers 401(k) account, which contribution was made to all eligible employees generally.
- (8) This amount includes \$12,537 for Company-paid costs associated with an incentive trip for top Company performers and \$13,223 for tax gross-ups provided with respect to such costs, consistent with how we treated these benefits for all other employees who attended such event.
- (9) This amount includes \$11,228 for Company-paid costs associated with an incentive trip for top Company performers and \$6,616 for tax gross-ups provided with respect to such costs, consistent with how we treated these benefits for all other employees who attended such event.
- (10) This amount includes (i) \$11,309 for Company-paid costs associated with an incentive trip for top Company performers and \$11,750 for tax gross-ups provided with respect to such costs, consistent with how we treated these benefits for all other employees who attended such event and (ii) \$43,673 for costs of corporate housing and \$1,051 for tax gross-ups provided with respect to such costs provided to Mr. Cox pursuant to the terms of his offer letter.

Grants of Plan-Based Awards in 2017

The following table sets forth information regarding grants of awards made to our Named Executive Officers during fiscal year 2017.

Name and Principal Position	Grant Date	Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards ⁽¹⁾ Threshold (\$)	Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards ⁽¹⁾ Maximum (\$)	All other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Stock or units (#)	All other Option Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Options (#)	Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards (\$/Sh)	Grant date fair value of Stock and Option Awards
Mikkel Svane <i>Chief Executive</i>	05/09/2017	76,500	114,750				
<i>Officer</i>	05/09/2017	76,500	114,750	25,200 ⁽³⁾	75,600 ⁽²⁾	27.06	957,965 681,912
Elena Gomez <i>Chief Financial</i>	05/09/2017	70,000	105,000				
<i>Officer</i>	05/09/2017	70,000	105,000	11,200 ⁽³⁾	33,600 ⁽²⁾	27.06	425,762 303,072
John T. Keiser <i>Chief Operating</i>	05/09/2017	70,000	105,000				
<i>Officer</i>	05/09/2017	75,000	112,500	9,600 ⁽³⁾	28,800 ⁽²⁾	27.06	364,939 259,776
	08/11/2017				100,000 ⁽²⁾	26.29	1,209,290
Adrian McDermott <i>President of</i>		72,000	108,000				
		72,000	108,000				

Edgar Filing: Zendesk, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

<i>Products</i>	05/09/2017			33,600 ⁽²⁾	27.06	425,762
	05/09/2017			11,200 ⁽³⁾		303,072
<i>John Geschke</i>		67,000	100,500			
<i>Chief Legal Officer</i>		67,000	100,500			
	05/09/2017			28,800 ⁽²⁾	27.06	364,939
<i>and Senior Vice</i>						
<i>President,</i>						
<i>Administration</i>	05/09/2017			9,600 ⁽³⁾		259,776
<i>Bryan Cox</i>		300,000	750,000			
<i>Former Chief</i>	05/09/2017			33,600 ⁽²⁾	27.06	425,762
<i>Revenue Officer</i>	05/09/2017			11,200 ⁽³⁾		303,072

(1) These columns represent awards granted under our Bonus Plan for performance in fiscal year 2017. These columns show the awards that were possible at the threshold, target, and maximum levels of performance. In the first half of fiscal year 2017, the compensation committee elected to pay the amounts payable to the Named Executive Officers pursuant to the Corporate Performance Objective in cash. In the second half of 2017, the compensation committee elected to pay the amounts payable to the Named Executive Officers pursuant to the Corporate Performance Objective in cash and elected to pay the amounts payable pursuant to the Individual Performance Adjustment in restricted stock units that vested over

Table of Contents

one year. See the Executive Compensation Program Elements Performance-Based Incentives section under Compensation Discussion and Analysis for further discussion of the bonuses paid under the Bonus Plan in fiscal year 2017. Actual cash incentive awards and the value of restricted stock unit awards earned in fiscal year 2017 by the Named Executive Officers under our Bonus Plan are shown in the column titled Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation in the Summary Compensation Table above.

(2) The stock option was granted under our 2014 Plan, has a ten-year term, and vests monthly over four years, subject to the Named Executive Officer's continued employment through each applicable vesting date.

(3) The restricted stock units were granted under our 2014 Plan, have a seven-year term, and vest monthly over four years, subject to the Named Executive Officer's continued employment through each applicable vesting date.

Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End Table 2017

The following table summarizes, for each of the Named Executive Officers, the outstanding equity awards held as of December 31, 2017. As Mr. Cox resigned effective September 2017, he did not hold any outstanding equity as of December 31, 2017.

Name and Principal Position	Grant Date	Option Awards ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾				Stock Awards	
		Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable	Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date	Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#)	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$) ⁽⁴⁾
Mikkel Svane Chief Executive Officer	02/13/2014 ⁽⁵⁾⁽⁶⁾⁽⁷⁾	1,628,111		9.52	02/13/2024		
	02/05/2015 ⁽⁶⁾⁽⁸⁾	164,968	67,932	24.77	02/05/2025		
	05/06/2016 ⁽⁶⁾⁽⁹⁾	29,687	45,313	23.44	05/06/2026		
	05/09/2017 ⁽⁶⁾⁽¹⁰⁾	11,024	64,576	27.06	05/09/2027		
	02/05/2015 ⁽⁶⁾⁽¹¹⁾					11,930	403,711
	05/06/2016 ⁽⁶⁾⁽¹²⁾					15,105	511,153
	05/09/2017 ⁽⁶⁾⁽¹³⁾					21,526	728,440
Elena Gomez Chief Financial Officer	05/06/2016 ⁽¹⁴⁾⁽¹⁵⁾	43,124	126,876	23.44	05/06/2026		
	05/09/2017 ⁽¹⁶⁾⁽¹⁷⁾	4,899	28,701	27.06	05/09/2027		
	05/06/2016 ⁽¹⁴⁾⁽¹⁸⁾					84,584	2,862,323
	05/09/2017 ⁽¹⁶⁾⁽¹⁹⁾					9,567	323,747
John T. Keiser Chief Operating Officer	05/06/2016 ⁽¹⁴⁾⁽¹⁵⁾	83,124	126,876	23.44	05/06/2026		
	05/09/2017 ⁽¹⁶⁾⁽²⁰⁾	4,199	24,601	27.06	05/09/2027		
	08/11/2017 ⁽¹⁶⁾⁽²¹⁾	8,333	91,667	26.29	08/11/2027		
	05/06/2016 ⁽¹⁴⁾⁽¹⁸⁾					84,584	2,862,323
	05/09/2017 ⁽¹⁶⁾⁽²²⁾					8,201	277,522

Edgar Filing: Zendesk, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

Adrian McDermott	05/03/2013 ⁽⁷⁾⁽¹⁶⁾⁽²³⁾	219,330		6.24	05/03/2023		
<i>President of Products</i>	02/13/2014 ⁽⁷⁾⁽¹⁶⁾⁽²⁴⁾	144,698		9.52	02/13/2024		
	02/05/2015 ⁽¹⁶⁾⁽²⁵⁾	88,540	36,460	24.77	02/05/2025		
	05/06/2016 ⁽¹⁶⁾⁽²⁶⁾	12,864	19,636	23.44	05/06/2026		
	05/09/2017 ⁽¹⁶⁾⁽²⁷⁾	4,899	28,701	27.06	05/09/2027		
	02/05/2015 ⁽¹⁶⁾⁽²⁸⁾					36,460	1,233,806
	05/06/2016 ⁽¹⁶⁾⁽²⁹⁾					6,556	221,855
	05/09/2017 ⁽¹⁶⁾⁽³⁰⁾					9,567	323,747
John Geschke	05/03/2013 ⁽⁷⁾⁽¹⁶⁾⁽³¹⁾	16,666		6.24	05/03/2023		
<i>Chief Legal Officer</i>	02/13/2014 ⁽⁷⁾⁽¹⁶⁾⁽³²⁾	90,000		9.52	02/13/2024		
	02/05/2015 ⁽¹⁶⁾⁽³³⁾	45,615	18,785	24.77	02/05/2025		
<i>and</i>	05/06/2016 ⁽¹⁶⁾⁽³⁴⁾	11,162	17,038	23.44	05/06/2026		
	05/09/2017 ⁽¹⁶⁾⁽³⁵⁾	4,199	24,601	27.06	05/09/2027		
<i>Senior Vice President,</i>	02/05/2015 ⁽¹⁶⁾⁽³⁶⁾					3,296	111,537
	05/06/2016 ⁽¹⁶⁾⁽³⁷⁾					5,680	192,211
<i>Administration</i>	05/09/2017 ⁽¹⁶⁾⁽³⁸⁾					8,201	277,522

- (1) Each equity award was granted pursuant to our 2014 Plan, unless otherwise indicated below. Unless otherwise described in the footnotes below, the equity awards are not immediately exercisable.
- (2) Unless otherwise described in the footnotes below, the vesting of each equity award on a vesting date is subject to the equity award holder's provision of service through such vesting date.

Table of Contents

- (3) Unless otherwise described in the footnotes below, each equity award vests over a four-year period, with 25% of the shares to vest upon completion of one year of service measured from the vesting commencement date, and the balance to vest in 36 successive equal monthly installments thereafter.
- (4) Amounts calculated using the closing market price of a share of the Company's common stock as of December 29, 2017, the last trading day of fiscal year 2017, which was \$33.84.
- (5) This stock option to purchase 2,150,000 shares of our common stock vests in 60 equal monthly installments commencing on February 13, 2014, and is immediately exercisable. Mr. Svane transferred 521,889 shares subject to the stock option pursuant to a qualified domestic relations order.
- (6) This equity award will accelerate in full if, upon a sale event (as defined in the 2009 Stock Option and Grant Plan (the 2009 Plan) or the 2014 Plan, as applicable) of the Company, Mr. Svane's employment with us is terminated by us without cause (with a definition that is consistent with the definition in the Acceleration Plan) or by Mr. Svane for good reason (with a definition that is consistent with the definition in the Acceleration Plan) at any time during the period that ends 12 months following the consummation date of the change in control of the Company.
- (7) This stock option was granted under our 2009 Plan.
- (8) This stock option to purchase 232,900 shares of our common stock vests in 48 equal monthly installments commencing on February 5, 2015.
- (9) This stock option to purchase 75,000 shares of our common stock vests in 48 equal monthly installments commencing on May 6, 2016.
- (10) This stock option to purchase 75,600 shares of our common stock vests in 48 equal monthly installments commencing on May 9, 2017.
- (11) This restricted stock unit for 40,900 shares of our common stock vests in 48 equal monthly installments commencing on February 5, 2015.
- (12) This restricted stock unit for 25,000 shares of our common stock vests in 48 equal monthly installments commencing on May 6, 2016.
- (13) This restricted stock unit for 25,200 shares of our common stock vests in 48 equal monthly installments commencing on May 9, 2017.
- (14) This inducement award will accelerate in full if, upon a change in control (as defined in the Acceleration Plan) of the Company, the Named Executive Officer's employment with us is terminated by us without cause (as defined in the Acceleration Plan) or by such Named Executive Officer for good reason (as defined in the Acceleration Plan) at any time during the period that ends 12 months following the consummation date of the change in control of the Company.
- (15) This stock option award for 210,000 shares was pursuant to an Inducement Option Agreement and vests over a four-year period, with 25% of the shares to vest upon completion of one year of service measured from the vesting commencement date of May 2, 2016, and the balance to vest in 36 successive equal monthly installments thereafter.
- (16) This equity award will accelerate in full if, upon a change in control (as defined in the Acceleration Plan) of the Company, the Named Executive Officer's employment with us is terminated by us without cause (as defined in the Acceleration Plan) or by the Named Executive Officer for good reason (as defined in the Acceleration Plan) at any time during the period that ends 12 months following the consummation date of the change in control of the Company.
- (17) This stock option to purchase 33,600 shares of our common stock vests in 48 equal monthly installments commencing on May 9, 2017.
- (18) This restricted stock unit award for 140,000 shares was pursuant to an Inducement RSU Agreement and vests over a four-year period, with 25% of the shares to vest upon completion of one year of service measured from the vesting commencement date of May 15, 2016, and the balance to vest in 36 successive equal monthly installments thereafter.
- (19) This restricted stock unit for 11,200 shares of our common stock vests in 48 equal monthly installments commencing on May 9, 2017.

- (20) This stock option to purchase 28,800 shares of our common stock vests in 48 equal monthly installments commencing on May 9, 2017.
- (21) This restricted stock unit for 100,000 shares of our common stock vests in 48 equal monthly installments commencing on August 1, 2017.
- (22) This restricted stock unit for 9,600 shares of our common stock vests in 48 equal monthly installments commencing on May 15, 2017.
- (23) This stock option to purchase 500,000 shares of our common stock vests in 60 equal monthly installments following April 23, 2013, and is immediately exercisable.
- (24) This stock option to purchase 250,000 shares of our common stock vests in 60 equal monthly installments following February 13, 2014, and is immediately exercisable.
- (25) This stock option to purchase 125,000 shares of our common stock vests in 48 equal monthly installments commencing on February 5, 2015.
- (26) This stock option to purchase 32,500 shares of our common stock vests in 48 equal monthly installments commencing on May 6, 2016.
- (27) This stock option to purchase 33,600 shares of our common stock vests in 48 equal monthly installments commencing on May 9, 2017.
- (28) This restricted stock unit for 125,000 shares of our common stock vests in 48 equal monthly installments commencing on February 15, 2015.

Table of Contents

- (29) This restricted stock unit for 10,850 shares of our common stock vests in 48 equal monthly installments commencing on May 15, 2016.
- (30) This restricted stock unit for 11,200 shares of our common stock vests in 48 equal monthly installments commencing on May 15, 2017.
- (31) This stock option to purchase 100,000 shares of our common stock vests in 48 equal monthly installments commencing on April 23, 2013.
- (32) This stock option to purchase 125,000 shares of our common stock vests in 60 equal monthly installments commencing on February 13, 2014.
- (33) This stock option to purchase 64,400 shares of our common stock vests in 48 equal monthly installments commencing on February 5, 2015.
- (34) This stock option to purchase 28,200 shares of our common stock vests in 48 equal monthly installments commencing on May 6, 2016.
- (35) This stock option to purchase 28,800 shares of our common stock vests in 48 equal monthly installments commencing on May 9, 2017.
- (36) This restricted stock unit for 11,300 shares of our common stock vests in 48 equal monthly installments commencing on February 15, 2015.
- (37) This restricted stock unit for 9,400 shares of our common stock vests in 48 equal monthly installments commencing on May 15, 2016.
- (38) This restricted stock unit for 9,600 shares of our common stock vests in 48 equal monthly installments commencing on May 15, 2017.

Option Exercises and Stock Vested in 2017

The following table sets forth the number of shares of common stock acquired during 2017 by our Named Executive Officers upon the exercise of stock options and the vesting of restricted stock unit awards and the value realized upon such exercise or vesting.

Name	Option Awards		Stock Awards	
	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#)	Value Realized on Exercise (\$) ⁽¹⁾	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#)	Value Realized on Vesting (\$) ⁽²⁾
Mikkel Svane, <i>Chief Executive Officer</i>			20,149	583,586
Elena Gomez, <i>Chief Financial Officer</i>	40,000	462,455	57,049	1,616,974
John T. Keiser, <i>Chief Operating Officer</i>			56,815	1,609,954
Adrian McDermott, <i>President of Products</i>			35,595	1,024,805
John Geschke, <i>Chief Legal Officer and Senior Vice President, Administration</i>	88,334	2,188,549	6,574	190,661
Bryan Cox, <i>Former Chief Revenue Officer</i>	102,798	1,153,194	67,599	1,854,871

- (1) The value realized on exercise is the difference between the market price of the shares of the Company's common stock underlying the options when exercised and the applicable exercise price.

(2) The value realized on vesting is determined by multiplying the number of vested restricted stock units by the closing price of the Company's common stock on the day prior to the vesting date.

Pension Benefits

Aside from our 401(k) plan, which is described below, we do not maintain any pension plan or arrangement under which our Named Executive Officers are entitled to participate or receive post-retirement benefits.

Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation

We do not maintain any non-qualified deferred compensation plans or arrangements under which our Named Executive Officers are entitled to participate.

Table of Contents

Executive Employment Arrangements

Offer Letters and Employment Agreements

Elena Gomez. On April 6, 2016, we entered into an offer letter with Ms. Gomez for the position of Chief Financial Officer. The offer letter provides for her at-will employment and sets forth her initial base salary, initial target annual performance-based incentive, initial equity award, eligibility to participate in an equity acceleration plan, and eligibility for the Company's benefit plans generally.

John T. Keiser. On March 29, 2016, we entered into an offer letter with Mr. Keiser for the position of Chief Information Officer. In August 2017, Mr. Keiser was promoted to our Chief Operating Officer. The offer letter provides for his at-will employment and sets forth his initial base salary, initial target annual performance-based incentive, initial equity award, eligibility to participate in an equity acceleration plan, and eligibility for the Company's benefit plans generally.

Adrian McDermott. On June 16, 2010, we entered into an offer letter with Mr. McDermott for the position of Vice President of Engineering. In October 2016, Mr. McDermott was promoted to our President of Products. The offer letter generally provides for his at-will employment and sets forth his initial base salary, initial equity award, and eligibility for the Company's benefit plans generally.

John Geschke. On May 30, 2012, we entered into an offer letter with Mr. Geschke for the position of General Counsel. In May 2017, Mr. Geschke was promoted to our Chief Legal Officer, in addition to his role as Senior Vice President, Administration. The offer letter generally provides for his at-will employment and sets forth his initial base salary, initial equity award, equity acceleration provisions (which have been superseded by his participation in the Acceleration Plan) and eligibility for the Company's benefit plans generally.

Bryan Cox. On March 24, 2016, we entered into an offer letter with Mr. Cox for the position of Chief Revenue Officer. The offer letter provided for his at-will employment and sets forth his initial base salary, initial target annual performance-based incentive, sign-on bonus in the amount of \$250,000, initial equity award, equity acceleration provisions, corporate housing perquisite, and eligibility for the Company's benefit plans generally. Mr. Cox resigned from his position as our Chief Revenue Officer in September 2017.

Potential Payments upon Termination or Change in Control

Acceleration of Equity Awards

Mikkel Svane. In the event of a sale event (as defined in the 2009 Plan or the 2014 Plan, as applicable), if Mr. Svane's employment is terminated by us without cause or by Mr. Svane for good reason (in each case, as defined in the applicable equity award agreement, with definitions consistent with those in the Acceleration Plan) at any time during the period that ends 12 months following the sale event, then 100% of the outstanding and unvested equity awards held by Mr. Svane will be fully accelerated.

Elena Gomez. Pursuant to the provisions of the Acceleration Plan, in the event of a change in control (as defined in the Acceleration Plan), if Ms. Gomez's employment is terminated by us without cause or by Ms. Gomez for good reason (in each case, as defined in the Acceleration Plan) at any time during the period that ends 12 months following the change in control, then 100% of the outstanding and unvested equity subject to the equity awards held by Ms. Gomez will be fully accelerated.

John T. Keiser. Pursuant to the provisions of the Acceleration Plan, in the event of a change in control (as defined in the Acceleration Plan), if Mr. Keiser's employment is terminated by us without cause or by Mr. Keiser for good reason (in each case, as defined in the Acceleration Plan) at any time during the period that ends 12 months following the change in control, then 100% of the outstanding and unvested equity subject to the equity awards held by Mr. Keiser will be fully accelerated.

Table of Contents

Adrian McDermott. Pursuant to the provisions of the Acceleration Plan, in the event of a change in control (as defined in the Acceleration Plan), if Mr. McDermott's employment is terminated by us without cause or by Mr. McDermott for good reason (in each case, as defined in the Acceleration Plan) at any time during the period that ends 12 months following the change in control, then 100% of the outstanding and unvested equity awards held by Mr. McDermott will be fully accelerated.

John Geschke. Pursuant to the provisions of the Acceleration Plan, in the event of a change in control (as defined in the Acceleration Plan), if Mr. Geschke's employment is terminated by us without cause or by Mr. Geschke for good reason (in each case, as defined in the Acceleration Plan) at any time during the period that ends 12 months following the change in control, then 100% of the outstanding and unvested equity awards held by Mr. Geschke will be fully accelerated.

Bryan Cox. Mr Cox resigned from his position as our Chief Revenue Officer in September 2017. In connection with Mr. Cox leaving the company voluntarily in September 2017 he received no payments upon termination of his employment and is not eligible for any potential payments upon termination or Change in Control as of December 31, 2017.

*Value of Potential Payments upon Termination or Change in Control***Payment on Qualifying Termination in Connection with Change in Control (\$)⁽¹⁾**

Name	Value of Accelerated Stock Options(\$)⁽²⁾	Value of Accelerated Restricted Stock Units(\$)⁽³⁾	Total(\$)
Mikkel Svane, Chief Executive Officer	12,474,160	1,643,304	14,117,464
Elena Gomez, Chief Financial Officer	1,514,103	3,186,070	4,700,173
John T. Keiser, Chief Operating Officer	2,178,391	3,139,844	5,318,235
Adrian McDermott, President of Products	3,068,200	1,779,409	4,847,609
John Geschke, Chief Legal Officer and Senior Vice President, Administration	1,223,711	581,270	1,804,981
Bryan Cox, Former Chief Revenue Officer			

(1) A qualifying event for a Named Executive Officer is deemed to occur when the conditions set forth in the section Potential Payments upon Termination or Change in Control Acceleration of Equity Awards have been met.

(2) Based on a common stock price of \$33.84, equal to the closing market price of the Company's common stock on December 29, 2017, the last trading day of fiscal year 2017, less the applicable exercise price for each option for which vesting would have been accelerated.

(3) Based on a common stock price of \$33.84, equal to the closing market price of the Company's common stock on December 29, 2017, the last trading day of fiscal year 2017, for each Restricted Stock Unit for which vesting would have been accelerated.

Table of Contents**Equity Compensation Plan Information**

The table below presents information as of December 31, 2017 for our compensation plans under which our equity securities are authorized for issuance.

Plan Category	(a) Number of common stock to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights	(b) Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights⁽¹⁾	(c) Number of shares of common stock remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding shares reflected in column (a))
Equity compensation plans approved by stockholders ⁽²⁾	11,516,630	\$ 16.91	11,597,591
Equity compensation plans not approved by stockholders ⁽³⁾	549,168	\$ 23.44	
Total	12,065,798	\$ 17.30	11,597,591

- (1) The weighted-average exercise price is calculated based solely on outstanding stock options. It does not reflect the shares that will be issued in connection with the settlement of restricted stock units, since restricted stock units have no exercise price.
- (2) Includes our 2009 Plan, 2014 Plan and our ESPP. Our 2014 Plan provides that the number of shares reserved and available for issuance under the plan will automatically increase each January 1, beginning on January 1, 2015, by 5% of the outstanding number of shares of our common stock on the immediately preceding December 31 or such lesser number of shares as determined by our compensation committee. Our ESPP provides that the number of shares reserved and available for issuance will automatically increase each January 1, beginning on January 1, 2015, by the lesser of 1,500,000 shares of our common stock, 1% of the outstanding number of shares of our common stock on the immediately preceding December 31, or such lesser number of shares as determined by our compensation committee. On January 1, 2018, the number of shares available for issuance under our 2014 Plan and our ESPP increased by 5,156,058 shares and 1,031,211 shares, respectively, pursuant to these provisions. These increases are not reflected in the table above.
- (3) Consists of awards granted outside of our 2014 Plan and intended to qualify as employment inducement awards within the meaning of Section 303A.08 of the New York Stock Exchange Listed Company Manual.

Section 401(k) Plan

We maintain a tax-qualified retirement plan that provides eligible U.S. employees with an opportunity to save for retirement on a tax-advantaged basis. Plan participants are able to defer eligible compensation subject to applicable annual statutory limits. We initiated an employer matching contribution on employee contributions this year. We currently match 25% of the first 4% of eligible contributions made to the plan by our employees, including our Named Executive Officers. Such matching contributions are immediately and fully vested. The 401(k) plan is intended to be qualified under Section 401(a) of the Code with the 401(k) plan's related trust intended to be tax exempt under

Section 501(a) of the Code. As a tax-qualified retirement plan, contributions to the 401(k) plan and earnings on those contributions are not taxable to the employees until distributed from the 401(k) plan.

CEO Pay Ratio

For 2017, we are required to disclose the ratio of the total annual compensation of Mr. Svane, our chief executive officer (CEO), to the median employee s total annual compensation.

Consistent with applicable rules, we used reasonable estimates both in the methodology used to identify the median employee and in calculating the annual total compensation for employees other than the CEO. Compensation data was gathered for our entire employee population as of December 31, 2017, excluding

Table of Contents

Mr. Svane, for a trailing 12-month period. We used total 2017 earned compensation, including base salary, incentives, commissions, and stock-based compensation, as the compensation measure that best reflects the compensation of all our employees. In accordance with SEC rules, after identifying our median employee, the 2017 annual total compensation of the median employee and our CEO were determined using the same methodology that we use to determine our Named Executive Officers' annual total compensation for the Summary Compensation Table.

In the following table, we are disclosing the median employee's annual total compensation, the annual total compensation of the CEO, and the ratio between the two.

2017 CEO annual total compensation	\$ 2,130,565
2017 median employee annual total compensation	\$ 112,850
Ratio of CEO to median employee compensation	19:1

Non-Employee Director Compensation

We maintain a policy providing for annual retainers for our non-employee directors which was amended and restated on May 9, 2017. In 2017, our non-employee directors had the option to elect to receive the following annual retainers for their service in the form of cash or restricted stock units having a fair market value equal to the value of the retainer to be paid during such period (based on the 30-trading day trailing average closing price of our common stock on the NYSE prior to the grant date). Any restricted stock units that were granted in lieu of cash were granted in four equal installments on each of February 15, May 15, August 15, and November 15, and will be fully-vested upon grant.

	Cash Retainer (\$)
Annual Retainer for Non-Employee Directors	35,000
Additional Annual Retainer for Audit Committee Chairperson	20,000
Additional Annual Retainer for Compensation Committee Chairperson	15,000
Additional Annual Retainer for Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Chairperson	10,000
Additional Annual Retainer for Audit Committee Non-Chairperson Members	10,000
Additional Annual Retainer for Compensation Committee Non-Chairperson Members	7,500
Additional Annual Retainer for Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Non-Chairperson Members	5,000

Our policy provides that on the date of each annual meeting of stockholders, each non-employee continuing director will be granted an annual award of restricted stock units having a fair market value of \$200,000. The restricted stock units will fully vest on the first anniversary of the grant date, in each case subject to continued service as a director through the vesting date, and such awards are subject to full acceleration of vesting upon a sale of the Company. In addition to the compensation for non-employee directors set forth in our policy, our Board, based on recommendations by the compensation committee, makes determinations regarding the grant of equity awards to non-employee directors upon the commencement of such director's service on our Board.

Table of Contents

The following table presents the total compensation for each person who served as a non-employee member of our Board during fiscal year 2017. Directors who are also our employees receive no additional compensation for their service as a director. The compensation received by Mr. Svane as an employee of the Company is presented in Executive Compensation Summary Compensation Table 2017.

Director Compensation Table 2017

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)	Stock Awards (\$) ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	Option Award (\$)	Change in Pension Value and Non-Equity Incentive Nonqualified Plan Deferred Compensation Earnings			All other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
				Compensation	Compensation	Compensation		
Carl Bass ⁽³⁾		237,633 ⁽¹¹⁾						237,633
Peter Fenton ⁽⁴⁾	12,500	228,572 ⁽¹¹⁾						241,072
Michael Frandsen ⁽⁵⁾	11,250	108,834 ⁽¹¹⁾						120,084
Hilarie Koplow-McAdams ⁽⁶⁾	21,250	153,005 ⁽¹¹⁾						174,255
Caryn Marooney ⁽⁷⁾		240,804 ⁽¹¹⁾						240,804
Elizabeth Nelson ⁽⁸⁾	55,000	195,481 ⁽¹¹⁾						250,481
Dana Stalder ⁽⁹⁾		238,212 ⁽¹¹⁾						238,212
Michelle Wilson ⁽¹⁰⁾	51,250	195,481 ⁽¹¹⁾						246,731

- (1) The amounts reported represent the aggregate grant date fair value of the stock awards, awarded to the director in fiscal year 2017, calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. Such aggregate grant date fair value does not take into account any estimated forfeitures related to service-vesting conditions. The assumptions used in calculating the grant date fair value of the stock options and stock awards, as applicable, reported in this column are set forth in the notes to our audited financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 22, 2018. The amounts reported in this column reflect the accounting cost for these stock awards and do not correspond to the actual economic value that may be received by the directors.
- (2) Each restricted stock unit award was granted pursuant to our 2014 Plan. Unless otherwise specified, each restricted stock unit award will fully vest on the first anniversary of the grant date, in each case, subject to continued service as a director through the vesting date.
- (3) As of December 31, 2017, Mr. Bass held a stock option to purchase 50,000 shares of our common stock and 7,150 restricted stock units.
- (4) As of December 31, 2017, Mr. Fenton held 7,874 restricted stock units. Mr. Fenton resigned from our Board of Directors effective October 2017. The amounts reported reflect a pro-rated portion of his annual retainer for service on the Board of Directors and Compensation Committee.
- (5) As of December 31, 2017, Mr. Frandsen held 3,058 restricted stock units. Mr. Frandsen was appointed to the Board of Directors and Audit Committee on November 2017. The amounts reported reflect a pro-rated portion of his annual retainer for service on the Board of Directors and the Audit Committee.

Edgar Filing: Zendesk, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

- (6) As of December 31, 2017, Ms. Koplow-McAdams held 5,445 restricted stock units. Ms. Koplow-McAdams was appointed to the Board of Directors and Compensation Committee on September 2017. The amounts reflect a pro-rated portion of his annual retainer for service on the Board of Directors and the Compensation Committee.
- (7) As of December 31, 2017, Ms. Marooney held a stock option to purchase 48,524 shares of our common stock and 7,150 restricted stock units.
- (8) As of December 31, 2017, Ms. Nelson held a stock option to purchase 72,169 shares of our common stock and 7,150 restricted stock units.
- (9) As of December 31, 2017, Mr. Stalder held 7,150 restricted stock units.

Table of Contents

- (10) As of December 31, 2017, Ms. Wilson held 7,150 restricted stock units.
- (11) The Company targets granting non-employee directors an annual award of restricted stock units having a fair market value of \$200,000 based on the 30-trading day trailing average closing price of our common stock on the NYSE prior to the grant date. Due to the difference between the Company's method of determining the number of shares issuable pursuant to the restricted stock units and the determination of the grant date fair value of the stock awards in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718, the fair market value of such grants is greater than \$200,000.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

None of our executive officers currently serves, or in the past year has served, as a member of the board or compensation committee of any entity that has one or more executive officers serving on our Board or compensation committee.

Report of the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors

The information contained in this compensation committee report shall not be deemed to be (1) soliciting material, (2) filed with the SEC, (3) subject to Regulations 14A or 14C of the Exchange Act, or (4) subject to the liabilities of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). No portion of this compensation committee report shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), or the Exchange Act, through any general statement incorporated by reference in its entirety the proxy statement in which this report appears, except to the extent that Zendesk specifically incorporates this report or a portion of it by reference. In addition, this report shall not be deemed filed under either the Securities Act or the Exchange Act.

The compensation committee has reviewed and discussed the sections captioned Compensation Discussion and Analysis and Executive Compensation with management. Based on such review and discussions, the compensation committee recommended to our Board that these Compensation Discussion and Analysis and Executive Compensation sections be included in this proxy statement for the year ended December 31, 2017.

Compensation Committee

Carl Bass (Chair)

Caryn Marooney

Hilarie Koplou-McAdams

Table of Contents

**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF
CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to the beneficial ownership of our common stock as of March 23, 2018, for:

each of our Named Executive Officers;

each of our directors;

all of our directors and executive officers as a group; and

each person known by us to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of any class of our voting securities.

We have determined beneficial ownership in accordance with the rules of the SEC, and therefore it represents sole or shared voting or investment power with respect to our securities. Unless otherwise indicated below, to our knowledge, the persons and entities named in the table below have sole voting and sole investment power with respect to all shares that they beneficially own, subject to community property laws where applicable. We have deemed shares of our common stock subject to options and restricted stock units outstanding as of March 23, 2018 that were exercisable or issuable or will become exercisable or issuable within 60 days of March 23, 2018 to be outstanding and to be beneficially owned by the person holding the option or restricted stock unit for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of that person, but have not treated them as outstanding for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of any other person.

We have based percentage ownership of our common stock on 104,254,042 shares of our common stock outstanding as of March 23, 2018.

Unless otherwise indicated, the address of each beneficial owner listed in the table below is c/o Zendesk, Inc., 1019 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94103.

	Shares of Record	Ownership %
Named Executive Officers and Directors:		
Mikkel Svane ⁽¹⁾	3,545,208	3.3%
Elena Gomez ⁽²⁾	93,378	*
John T. Keiser, ⁽³⁾	172,597	*
Adrian McDermott ⁽⁴⁾	452,027	*
John Geschke ⁽⁵⁾	173,398	*
Bryan Cox ⁽⁶⁾	23,949	*
Carl Bass ⁽⁷⁾	43,711	*
Hilarie Koplow-McAdams ⁽⁸⁾	5,445	*

Edgar Filing: Zendesk, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

Michael Frandsen ⁽⁹⁾	3,356	*
Caryn Marooney ⁽¹⁰⁾	110,732	*
Elizabeth Nelson ⁽¹¹⁾	133,152	*
Dana Stalder/Matrix/Weston ⁽¹²⁾	91,113	*
Michelle Wilson ⁽¹³⁾	191,903	*
All directors and executive officers as a group (13 persons)⁽¹⁴⁾	5,039,969	4.7%
Other 5% or Greater Stockholders		
FMR LLC ⁽¹⁵⁾	15,226,071	14.6%
The Vanguard Group, Inc. ⁽¹⁶⁾	8,152,789	7.8%
BlackRock, Inc ⁽¹⁷⁾	7,265,195	7.0%
Janus Henderson Group, plc ⁽¹⁸⁾	5,198,466	5.0%

* Represents beneficial ownership of less than one percent (1%) of the outstanding shares of our common stock.

Table of Contents

- (1) Consists of (i) 1,618,438 shares held of record, (ii) 1,921,458 shares subject to outstanding options which are exercisable within 60 days of March 23, 2018, and (iii) 5,312 shares issuable within 60 days of March 23, 2018 upon the vesting of restricted stock units.
- (2) Consists of (i) 8,382 shares held of record, (ii) 77,260 shares subject to outstanding options which are exercisable within 60 days of March 23, 2018, and (iii) 7,736 shares issuable within 60 days of March 23, 2018 upon the vesting of restricted stock units.
- (3) Consists of (i) 30,367 shares held of record, (ii) 134,609 shares subject to outstanding options which are exercisable within 60 days of March 23, 2018, and (iii) 7,621 shares issuable within 60 days of March 23, 2018 upon the vesting of restricted stock units.
- (4) Consists of (i) 81,849 shares held of record, (ii) 362,985 shares subject to outstanding options which are exercisable within 60 days of March 23, 2018, and (iii) 7,193 shares issuable within 60 days of March 23, 2018 upon the vesting of restricted stock units.
- (5) Consists of (i) 13,615 shares held of record, (ii) 157,600 shares subject to outstanding options which are exercisable within 60 days of March 23, 2018, and (iii) 2,183 shares issuable within 60 days of March 23, 2018 upon the vesting of restricted stock units.
- (6) Based on Company records as of September, 19, 2017. Consists of 23,949 shares held of record.
- (7) Consists of (i) 8,437 held of record, and (ii) 28,124 shares subject to outstanding options which are exercisable within 60 days of March 23, 2018, and (iii) 7,150 shares issuable within 60 days of March 23, 2018 upon the vesting of restricted stock units.
- (8) Consists of 5,445 shares issuable within 60 days of March 23, 2018 upon the vesting of restricted stock units.
- (9) Consists of (i) 298 held of record, and (ii) 3,058 shares issuable within 60 days of March 23, 2018 upon the vesting of restricted stock units.
- (10) Consists of (i) 55,058 shares held of record, and (ii) 48,524 shares subject to outstanding options which are exercisable within 60 days of March 23, 2018, and (iii) 7,150 shares issuable within 60 days of March 23, 2018 upon the vesting of restricted stock units.
- (11) Consists of (i) 53,833 shares held of record, and (ii) 72,169 shares subject to outstanding options which are exercisable within 60 days of March 23, 2018, and (iii) 7,150 shares issuable within 60 days of March 23, 2018 upon the vesting of restricted stock units.
- (12) Consists of (i) 8,435 shares held of record, (ii) 75,528 shares by the Vista Grande Trust, and (iii) 7,150 shares issuable within 60 days of March 23, 2018 upon the vesting of restricted stock units.
- (13) Consists of (i) 184,753 shares held of record, and (ii) 7,150 shares issuable within 60 days of March 23, 2018 upon the vesting of restricted stock units.
- (14) Consists of (i) 2,162,942 shares held of record by our current directors and executive officers, (ii) 2,802,729 shares issuable pursuant to outstanding stock options which are exercisable within 60 days of March 23, 2018, and (iii) 74,298 shares issuable within 60 days of March 23, 2018 upon the vesting of restricted stock units.
- (15) Based on the most recently available Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on February 13, 2018 by FMR LLC, or FMR. FMR, certain of its subsidiaries and affiliates, and other companies, beneficially owned 15,226,071 shares, with FMR having sole voting power over 1,590,445 shares, and sole dispositive power over 15,226,071 shares. The address of FMR LLC is 245 Summer Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02210.
- (16) Based on the most recently available Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on February 7, 2018 by The Vanguard Group, Inc. The Vanguard Group, Inc., an investment adviser, beneficially owned 8,152,789 shares, with sole voting power over 193,633 shares, shared voting power over 19,862 shares, sole dispositive power over 7,946,783 shares, and shared dispositive power over 206,006 shares. Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Vanguard Group, Inc., is the beneficial owner of 186,144 shares as a result of its serving as investment manager of collective trust accounts. Vanguard Investments Australia, Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Vanguard Group, Inc., is the beneficial owner of 27,351 shares as a result of its serving as investment manager of Australian investment offerings. The address for The Vanguard Group, Inc. is 100 Vanguard Boulevard, Malvern, Pennsylvania 19355.

Edgar Filing: Zendesk, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

(17) Based on the most recently available Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on January 23, 2018 by BlackRock, Inc., BlackRock, Inc. beneficially owned 7,265,195 shares, with BlackRock, Inc. having sole voting power

Table of Contents

over 7,047,148 shares, and sole dispositive power over 7,265,195 shares. The address of BlackRock, Inc. is 55 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10055.

- (18) Based on the most recently available Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on February 12, 2018 by Janus Henderson Group, plc beneficially owned 5,198,466 shares, with Janus Henderson Group, plc having shared voting power over 5,198,466 shares, and shared dispositive power over 5,198,466 shares. The address of Janus Henderson Group, plc is 201 Bishopsgate EC2M 3AE, United Kingdom.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires our directors and executive officers and persons who own more than 10% of our common stock, to file with the SEC initial reports of beneficial ownership and reports of changes in beneficial ownership. Officers, directors, and greater than 10% stockholders are required by SEC regulations to furnish us with copies of all such reports.

To our knowledge, based solely on a review of the copies of such reports furnished to us and written representations that no other reports were required, we believe that for 2017, all required reports were filed on a timely basis under Section 16(a).

Table of Contents

RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Certain Relationships and Transactions

Other than the transactions discussed below and the compensation agreements, equity compensation policies, grants of certain equity awards, and other arrangements which are discussed above in Executive Compensation, since January 1, 2017, there was not, and there is not currently proposed, any transaction or series of similar transactions to which we were or will be a party for which the amount involved exceeds or will exceed \$120,000 and in which any director, executive officer, holder of 5% or more of any class of our capital stock, or any member of their immediate family, had or will have a direct or indirect material interest.

Transactions

We have granted stock options and other equity awards to our executive officers and our directors. See the sections titled Grants of Plan-Based Awards in 2017, Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End Table 2017 and Director Compensation Table 2017 for a description of these options and equity awards.

We have entered into arrangements with certain of our executive officers that, among other things, provide for certain severance and change in control benefits.

We believe the terms of the transactions described above were comparable to terms we could have obtained in arm's-length dealings with unrelated third parties.

Indemnification of Officers and Directors

Our certificate of incorporation contains provisions that limit the liability of our directors for monetary damages to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law. Consequently, our directors will not be personally liable to us or our stockholders for monetary damages for any breach of fiduciary duties as directors, except liability for the following:

any breach of their duty of loyalty to our Company or our stockholders;

any act or omission not in good faith or that involves intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;

unlawful payments of dividends or unlawful stock repurchases or redemptions as provided in Section 174 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware (DGCL); or

any transaction from which they derived an improper personal benefit.

Any amendment to, or repeal of, these provisions will not eliminate or reduce the effect of these provisions in respect of any act, omission, or claim that occurred or arose prior to that amendment or repeal. If the DGCL is amended to provide for further limitations on the personal liability of directors of corporations, then the personal liability of our directors will be further limited to the greatest extent permitted by the DGCL.

In addition, our bylaws provide that we will indemnify, to the fullest extent permitted by law, any person who is or was a party or is threatened to be made a party to any action, suit, or proceeding by reason of the fact that he or she is or was one of our directors or officers or is or was serving at our request as a director or officer of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, or other enterprise. Our bylaws provide that we may indemnify to the fullest extent permitted by law any person who is or was a party or is threatened to be made a party to any action, suit, or proceeding by reason of the fact that he or she is or was one of our employees or agents or is or was serving at our request as an employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, or other enterprise. Our bylaws provide that we must advance expenses incurred by or on behalf of a director or officer in advance of the final disposition of any action or proceeding, subject to very limited exceptions.

Table of Contents

Further, we have entered into indemnification agreements with each of our directors and executive officers that may be broader than the specific indemnification provisions contained in the DGCL. These indemnification agreements require us, among other things, to indemnify our directors and executive officers against liabilities that may arise by reason of their status or service. These indemnification agreements also require us to advance all expenses incurred by the directors and executive officers in investigating or defending any such action, suit, or proceeding. We believe that these agreements are necessary to attract and retain qualified individuals to serve as directors and executive officers.

The limitation of liability and indemnification provisions that are included in our certificate of incorporation and bylaws, and in indemnification agreements that we enter into with our directors and executive officers, may discourage stockholders from bringing a lawsuit against our directors and executive officers for breach of their fiduciary duties. They may also reduce the likelihood of derivative litigation against our directors and executive officers, even though an action, if successful, might benefit us and other stockholders. Further, a stockholder's investment may be harmed to the extent that we pay the costs of settlement and damage awards against directors and executive officers as required by these indemnification provisions. At present, we are not aware of any pending litigation or proceeding involving any person who is or was one of our directors, officers, employees, or other agents or is or was serving at our request as a director, officer, employee, or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, or other enterprise, for which indemnification is sought, and we are not aware of any threatened litigation that may result in claims for indemnification.

We have obtained insurance policies under which, subject to the limitations of the policies, coverage is provided to our directors and executive officers against loss arising from claims made by reason of breach of fiduciary duty or other wrongful acts as a director or executive officer, including claims relating to public securities matters, and to us with respect to payments that may be made by us to these directors and executive officers pursuant to our indemnification obligations or otherwise as a matter of law.

Certain of our non-employee directors may, through their relationships with their employers or affiliated entities, be insured or indemnified against certain liabilities incurred in their capacity as members of our Board. In our indemnification agreements with these non-employee directors, we have agreed that our indemnification obligations are primary to any such other indemnification arrangements.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers, or persons controlling our Company pursuant to the foregoing provisions, we have been informed that, in the opinion of the SEC, such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is therefore unenforceable.

Procedures for Approval of Related Party Transactions

The audit committee has the primary responsibility for reviewing and approving or disapproving related party transactions, which are transactions between us and related persons in which the aggregate amount involved exceeds or may be expected to exceed \$120,000 and in which a related person has or will have a direct or indirect material interest. For purposes of this policy, a related person will be defined as a director, executive officer, nominee for director, or greater than 5% beneficial owner of our common stock, in each case since the beginning of the most recently completed year, and their immediate family members. Our audit committee charter provides that the audit committee shall review and approve or disapprove any related party transactions.

Report of the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors

Edgar Filing: Zendesk, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

The information contained in this audit committee report shall not be deemed to be (1) soliciting material, (2) filed with the SEC, (3) subject to Regulations 14A or 14C of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), or (4) subject to the liabilities of Section 18 of the Exchange Act. No portion of this audit committee report shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities

Table of Contents

Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), or the Exchange Act, through any general statement incorporating by reference in its entirety the proxy statement in which this report appears, except to the extent that Zendesk specifically incorporates this report or a portion of it by reference. In addition, this report shall not be deemed filed under either the Securities Act or the Exchange Act.

This report is submitted by the audit committee of our Board. The audit committee consists of the three directors whose names appear below. None of the members of the audit committee is an officer or employee of Zendesk, and our Board has determined that each member of the audit committee is independent for audit committee purposes as that term is defined under Rule 10A-3 of the Exchange Act, and the applicable NYSE rules. Each member of the audit committee meets the requirements for financial literacy under the applicable rules and regulations of the SEC and NYSE.

The audit committee's general role is to assist our Board in monitoring our financial reporting process and related matters. Its specific responsibilities are set forth in its charter.

The audit committee has reviewed the Company's audited consolidated financial statements for 2017 and met with management, as well as with representatives of Ernst & Young LLP, the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, to discuss the audited consolidated financial statements. The audit committee also discussed with members of Ernst & Young LLP the matters required to be discussed by the Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, as amended (AICPA, *Professional Standards*, Vol. 1. AU Section 380), as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board in Rule 3200T.

In addition, the audit committee received the written disclosures and the letter from Ernst & Young LLP required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent accountant's communications with the audit committee concerning independence, and discussed with members of Ernst & Young LLP its independence.

Based on these discussions, the financial statement review, and other matters it deemed relevant, the audit committee recommended to our Board that the Company's audited consolidated financial statements for 2017 be included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for 2017.

Audit Committee

Elizabeth Nelson (Chair)

Dana Stalder

Michelle Wilson

Michael Frandsen

Table of Contents

TRANSACTION OF OTHER BUSINESS

Our Board knows of no other matters that will be presented for consideration at the Annual Meeting. If any other matters are properly brought before the Annual Meeting, the persons appointed in the accompanying proxy intend to vote the shares represented thereby in accordance with their best judgment on such matters, under applicable laws.

Table of Contents

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Procedures for Submitting Stockholder Proposals

Requirements for Stockholder Proposals to be Brought Before the Annual Meeting

Our amended and restated bylaws provide that, for nominations of persons for election to our Board or other proposals to be considered at an annual meeting of stockholders, a stockholder must give written notice to our Secretary at Zendesk, Inc., 1019 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94103, not later than the close of business 90 days, nor earlier than the close of business 120 days, prior to the first anniversary of the date of the preceding year's annual meeting. Since our Annual Meeting is being held on May 22, 2018, stockholder proposals must be received by our Secretary at our principal executive offices no earlier than January 22, 2019 and no later than February 21, 2019, in order to be raised at our 2019 annual meeting of stockholders. However, our amended and restated bylaws also provide that in the event the date of the annual meeting is more than 30 days before or more than 60 days after such anniversary date, notice must be delivered not later than the close of business on the later of the 90th day prior to such annual meeting or the 10th day following the day on which public announcement of the date of such meeting is first made. Any nomination must include all information relating to the nominee that is required to be disclosed in solicitations of proxies for election of directors in election contests or is otherwise required under Regulation 14A of the Exchange Act, the person's written consent to be named in the proxy statement and to serve as a director if elected, and such information as we might reasonably require to determine the eligibility of the person to serve as a director. As to other business, the notice must include a brief description of the business desired to be brought before the meeting, the reasons for conducting such business at the meeting, and any material interest of such stockholder (and the beneficial owner) in the proposal. The proposal must be a proper subject for stockholder action. In addition, to make a nomination or proposal, the stockholder must be of record at the time the notice is made and must provide certain information regarding itself (and the beneficial owner), including the name and address, as they appear on our books, of the stockholder proposing such business, the number of shares of our capital stock which are, directly or indirectly, owned beneficially or of record by the stockholder proposing such business or its affiliates or associates (as defined in Rule 12b-2 promulgated under the Exchange Act) and certain additional information. You are also advised to review our amended and restated bylaws, which contain additional requirements about advance notice of stockholder proposals and director nominations.

Requirements for Stockholder Proposals to be Considered for Inclusion in the Company's Proxy Materials

In addition to the requirements stated above, any stockholder who wishes to submit a proposal for inclusion in our proxy materials must comply with Rule 14a-8 promulgated under the Exchange Act. For such proposals to be included in our proxy materials relating to our 2019 annual meeting of stockholders, all applicable requirements of Rule 14a-8 must be satisfied and we must receive such proposals no later than December 4, 2018. Such proposals must be delivered to our Secretary, c/o Zendesk, Inc., 1019 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94103.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents