

QUINSTREET, INC  
Form 10-Q  
February 07, 2012  
[Table of Contents](#)

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

**FORM 10-Q**

**QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**For the quarterly period ended December 31, 2011**

or

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**For the transition period from                    to**

**Commission File No. 001-34628**

**QuinStreet, Inc.**

**(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)**

Edgar Filing: QUINSTREET, INC - Form 10-Q

<b>Delaware</b> (State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization)	<b>77-0512121</b> (IRS Employer Identification No.)
<b>950 Tower Lane, 6th Floor</b>  <b>Foster City, California</b> (Address of principal executive offices)	<b>94404</b> (Zip Code)
<b>650-578-7700</b>	
<b>Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code</b>	

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant: (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer <input type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated filer <input type="checkbox"/> (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company <input type="checkbox"/>

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes  No

Number of shares of common stock outstanding as of January 31, 2012: 45,153,228

**Table of Contents**

**QUINSTREET, INC.**

**INDEX**

**PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

<u>Item 1. Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	3
<u>Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2011 and June 30, 2011</u>	4
<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations for the Three and Six Months Ended December 31, 2011 and 2010</u>	5
<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Six Months Ended December 31, 2011 and 2010</u>	6
<u>Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	7
<u>Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	21
<u>Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	32
<u>Item 4. Controls and Procedures</u>	32
<b>PART II. OTHER INFORMATION</b>	
<u>Item 1. Legal Proceedings</u>	33
<u>Item 1A. Risk Factors</u>	33
<u>Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u>	50
<u>Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities</u>	50
<u>Item 4. (Removed and Reserved)</u>	50
<u>Item 5. Other Information</u>	50
<u>Item 6. Exhibits</u>	51
<u>SIGNATURES</u>	52

**Table of Contents**

**PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**ITEM 1. CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

3

**Table of Contents****QUINSTREET, INC.****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS****(In thousands, except share and per share data)****(Unaudited)**

	<b>December 31, 2011</b>	<b>June 30, 2011</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 105,557	\$ 132,290
Marketable securities	38,946	34,927
Accounts receivable, net	50,551	48,225
Deferred tax assets	10,253	10,253
Prepaid expenses and other assets	4,107	5,773
Total current assets	209,414	231,468
Property and equipment, net	9,453	8,875
Goodwill	235,157	211,856
Other intangible assets, net	68,117	65,847
Deferred tax assets, noncurrent	5,861	5,866
Other assets, noncurrent	1,014	1,012
Total assets	\$ 529,016	\$ 524,924
<b>Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity</b>		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 24,056	\$ 23,300
Accrued liabilities	25,944	33,238
Deferred revenue	2,096	2,531
Debt	16,472	10,038
Total current liabilities	68,568	69,107
Debt, noncurrent	97,600	96,010
Other liabilities, noncurrent	5,261	4,418
Total liabilities	171,429	169,535
Commitments and contingencies (See Note 8)		
Stockholders' equity		
Common stock: \$0.001 par value; 100,000,000 shares authorized; 49,832,054 and 49,564,877 shares issued, and 45,866,202 and 47,387,425 shares outstanding at December 31, 2011 and June 30, 2011, respectively	50	50
Additional paid-in capital	264,511	255,689
Treasury stock, at cost (3,965,852 and 2,177,452 shares at December 31, 2011 and June 30, 2011)	(24,362)	(7,779)
Accumulated other comprehensive income	83	51
Retained earnings	117,305	107,378
Total stockholders' equity	357,587	355,389
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 529,016	\$ 524,924

Edgar Filing: QUINSTREET, INC - Form 10-Q

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements

**Table of Contents****QUINSTREET, INC.****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS****(In thousands, except per share data)****(Unaudited)**

	<b>Three Months Ended December 31,</b>		<b>Six Months Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Net revenue	\$ 90,523	\$ 97,582	\$ 191,747	\$ 201,198
Cost of revenue <sup>(1)</sup>	68,396	70,662	144,144	144,291
Gross profit	22,127	26,920	47,603	56,907
Operating expenses: <sup>(1)</sup>				
Product development	5,102	5,933	11,176	11,484
Sales and marketing	3,686	4,665	7,720	9,410
General and administrative	4,847	4,943	10,064	9,665
Operating income	8,492	11,379	18,643	26,348
Interest income	36	47	74	114
Interest expense	(1,115)	(1,028)	(2,198)	(2,017)
Other income (expense), net	(93)	(79)	(124)	85
Income before income taxes	7,320	10,319	16,395	24,530
Provision for taxes	(2,887)	(3,391)	(6,468)	(10,101)
Net income	\$ 4,433	\$ 6,928	\$ 9,927	\$ 14,429
Net income per share:				
Basic	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.15	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.32
Diluted	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.14	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.30
Weighted average shares used in computing net income per share:				
Basic	47,054	45,858	47,266	45,478
Diluted	47,937	49,194	48,442	48,153

<sup>(1)</sup> Cost of revenue and operating expenses include stock-based compensation expense as follows:**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS**

Cost of revenue	\$ 1,197	\$ 1,129	\$ 2,376	\$ 2,273
Product development	682	691	1,342	1,415
Sales and marketing	841	992	1,620	2,198
General and administrative	801	804	1,557	1,460

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements

**Table of Contents****QUINSTREET, INC.****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS****(In thousands)****(Unaudited)**

	<b>Six Months Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>		
Net income	\$ 9,927	\$ 14,429
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	14,625	12,620
Provision for sales returns and doubtful accounts receivable	(32)	(468)
Stock-based compensation	6,895	7,346
Excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation	(97)	(5,312)
Other non-cash adjustments, net	875	85
Changes in assets and liabilities, net of effects of acquisitions:		
Accounts receivable	412	123
Prepaid expenses and other assets	1,668	(2,705)
Other assets, noncurrent	(6)	167
Accounts payable	552	5,255
Accrued liabilities	(10,287)	(2,654)
Deferred revenue	(493)	440
Other liabilities, noncurrent	906	392
Net cash provided by operating activities	24,945	29,718
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>		
Capital expenditures	(1,384)	(2,947)
Business acquisitions, net of notes payable and cash acquired	(31,203)	(86,628)
Internal software development costs	(1,082)	(880)
Purchases of marketable securities	(22,686)	(18,916)
Proceeds from sales and maturities of marketable securities	18,035	
Other investing activities	30	(6)
Net cash used in investing activities	(38,290)	(109,377)
<b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>		
Payments for issuance of common stock		(106)
Proceeds from exercise of common stock options	2,187	9,614
Proceeds from bank debt	5,884	24,800
Principal payments on bank debt	(2,625)	(1,775)
Payment of bank loan upfront fees	(1,370)	
Principal payments on acquisition-related notes payable	(1,771)	(7,111)
Excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation	97	5,312
Withholding taxes related to restricted stock net share settlement	(262)	
Repurchases of common stock	(15,556)	
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	(13,416)	30,734
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	28	(24)



Edgar Filing: QUINSTREET, INC - Form 10-Q

Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(26,733)	(48,949)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	132,290	155,770
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 105,557	\$ 106,821
<b>Supplemental Disclosure of Cash Flow Information</b>		
Cash paid for interest	1,855	1,940
Cash paid for taxes	4,941	12,974
<b>Supplemental Disclosure of Noncash Investing and Financing Activities</b>		
Notes payable issued in connection with business acquisitions	3,167	2,956
See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements		

---

**Table of Contents**

**QUINSTREET, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**(In thousands, except share and per share data)**

**(Unaudited)**

**1. The Company**

QuinStreet, Inc. (the Company) is an online vertical marketing and media company. The Company was incorporated in California on April 16, 1999 and reincorporated in Delaware on December 31, 2009. The Company provides vertically oriented customer acquisition programs for its clients. The Company also provides hosted solutions for direct selling companies. The corporate headquarters are located in Foster City, California, with offices in Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, India and the United Kingdom.

**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**Basis of Presentation**

*Principles of Consolidation*

The condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its subsidiaries. Intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

*Unaudited Interim Financial Information*

The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements and the notes to the condensed consolidated financial statements as of December 31, 2011 and for the three and six months ended December 31, 2011 and 2010 are unaudited. These unaudited interim condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (GAAP) and applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) regarding interim financial reporting. Certain information and note disclosures normally included in the financial statements prepared in accordance with GAAP have been condensed or omitted pursuant to such rules and regulations. Accordingly, these interim condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto contained in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011, as filed with the SEC on August 30, 2011. The condensed consolidated balance sheet at June 30, 2011 included herein was derived from the audited financial statements as of that date, but does not include all disclosures, including notes required by GAAP.

The unaudited interim condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared on the same basis as the audited consolidated financial statements and in the opinion of management include all adjustments (consisting only of normal recurring adjustments) necessary for the fair statement of the Company's condensed consolidated balance sheet at December 31, 2011, its condensed consolidated statements of operations for the three and six months ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, and its condensed consolidated statements of cash flows for the six months ended December 31, 2011 and 2010. The results of operations for the six months ended December 31, 2011 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, or any other future period.

*Use of Estimates*

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. On an ongoing basis, management evaluates these estimates, judgments and assumptions, including those related to revenue recognition, stock-based compensation, goodwill, intangible assets, long-lived assets and income taxes. The Company bases these estimates on historical and anticipated results and trends and on various other assumptions that the Company believes are reasonable under the circumstances, including assumptions as to future events. These estimates form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities and recorded revenue and expenses that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results could differ from those estimates, and such differences could affect the results of operations reported in future periods.



**Table of Contents**

**QUINSTREET, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**(In thousands, except share and per share data)**

**(Unaudited)**

***Accounting Policies***

The significant accounting policies are described in Note 2 to the consolidated financial Statements included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011. There have been no significant changes in the accounting policies subsequent to June 30, 2011.

***Concentrations of Credit Risk***

No client accounted for 10% or more of total revenue for the three or six months ended December 31, 2011 or for the same period in fiscal year 2011. No client accounted for 10% or more of net accounts receivable as of December 31, 2011 or June 30, 2011.

***Fair Value of Financial Instruments***

The Company's financial instruments consist principally of cash equivalents, accounts receivable, accounts payable, acquisition-related promissory notes, and a term loan. The fair value of the Company's cash equivalents is determined based on quoted prices in active markets for identical assets. The recorded values of the Company's accounts receivable and accounts payable approximate their current fair values due to the relatively short-term nature of these accounts. The fair value of acquisition-related promissory notes approximates their recorded amounts as the interest rates on similar financing arrangements available to the Company at December 31, 2011 approximates the interest rates implied when these acquisition-related promissory notes were originally issued and recorded. The Company believes that the fair values of the term loan approximate their recorded amounts at December 31, 2011 as the interest rates on these instruments are variable and based on market interest rates and after consideration of default and credit risk.

***Recent Accounting Pronouncements***

In September 2011, the FASB issued an update to the accounting standard for goodwill and intangibles. The revised standard is intended to simplify the goodwill impairment test by providing an option to first perform a qualitative assessment to determine whether further impairment testing is necessary. The revised standard is effective for annual and interim goodwill impairment tests performed for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2011, with early adoption permitted. The Company does not anticipate that its adoption of the revised standard on July 1, 2012 will have a material effect on its consolidated financial statements.

**3. Net Income Attributable to Common Stockholders and Net Income per Share**

Basic net income per share is computed by dividing net income by the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the period. Diluted net income per share is computed by using the weighted-average number of shares of common stock outstanding, including potential dilutive shares of common stock assuming the dilutive effect of outstanding stock options and restricted stock units using the treasury stock method.

**Table of Contents****QUINSTREET, INC.****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****(In thousands, except share and per share data)****(Unaudited)**

The following table presents the calculation of basic and diluted net income per share:

	<b>Three Months Ended December 31,</b>		<b>Six Months Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
	(In thousands, except per share data)		(In thousands, except per share data)	
<b>Numerator:</b>				
<b>Basic and Diluted:</b>				
Net income	\$ 4,433	\$ 6,928	\$ 9,927	\$ 14,429
<b>Denominator:</b>				
<b>Basic:</b>				
Weighted average shares of common stock used in computing basic net income per share	47,054	45,858	47,266	45,478
<b>Diluted:</b>				
Weighted average shares of common stock used in computing basic net income per share	47,054	45,858	47,266	45,478
<b>Weighted average effect of dilutive securities:</b>				
Stock options	883	3,264	1,158	2,639
Restricted stock units		72	18	36
Weighted average shares of common stock used in computing diluted net income per share	47,937	49,194	48,442	48,153
<b>Net income per share:</b>				
Basic	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.15	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.32
Diluted	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.14	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.30
Securities excluded from weighted average shares used in computing diluted net income per share because the effect would have been anti-dilutive: <sup>(1)</sup>	7,891	1,918	6,176	3,633

<sup>(1)</sup> These weighted shares relate to anti-dilutive stock options and restricted stock units as calculated using the treasury stock method and could be dilutive in the future.

**4. Marketable Securities and Fair Value Measurements****Marketable Securities**

All liquid investments with maturities of three months or less at the date of purchase are classified as cash equivalents. Investments with maturities greater than three months at the date of purchase are classified as marketable securities. The Company's marketable securities have

## Edgar Filing: QUINSTREET, INC - Form 10-Q

been classified and accounted for as available-for-sale. Management determines the appropriate classification of its investments at the time of purchase and reevaluates the available-for-sale designation as of each balance sheet date. Available-for-sale securities are carried at fair value, with unrealized gains and losses, net of tax, reported as a component of stockholders' equity.

**Table of Contents****QUINSTREET, INC.****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****(In thousands, except share and per share data)****(Unaudited)**

The following table summarizes unrealized gains and losses related to available-for-sale securities held by the Company as of December 31, 2011 and June 30, 2011:

	As of December 31, 2011			Estimated Fair Value
	Gross Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	
U.S. municipal securities	\$ 33,326	\$ 7	\$	\$ 33,333
Certificates of deposit	9,120		1	9,119
Money market funds	56,783			56,783
	\$ 99,229	\$ 7	\$ 1	\$ 99,235

  

	As of June 30, 2011			Estimated Fair Value
	Gross Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	
U.S. municipal securities	\$ 23,625	\$ 12	\$	\$ 23,637
Certificates of deposit	19,046		10	19,036
Money market funds	51,654			51,654
	\$ 94,325	\$ 12	\$ 10	\$ 94,327

The Company did not realize any gains or losses from sales of its securities in the periods presented. As of December 31, 2011 and June 30, 2011, the Company did not hold securities that had maturity dates greater than one year.

***Fair Value Measurements***

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability (exit price) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The FASB has established a fair value hierarchy that distinguishes between (1) market participant assumptions developed based on market data obtained from independent sources (observable inputs) and (2) an entity's own assumptions about market participant assumptions developed based on the best information available in the circumstances (unobservable inputs). The fair value hierarchy consists of three broad levels, which gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3).

The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under the guidance for fair value measurement are described below:

- Level 1 Inputs are unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Pricing inputs are based upon quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the reporting entity has the ability to access at the measurement date. The valuations are based on quoted prices of the underlying security that are readily and regularly

## Edgar Filing: QUINSTREET, INC - Form 10-Q

available in an active market, and accordingly, a significant degree of judgment is not required. As of December 31, 2011, the Company used Level 1 assumptions for its money market funds.

Level 2 Pricing inputs are based upon quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active, and model-based valuation techniques for which all significant assumptions are observable in the market or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities. As of December 31, 2011, the Company used Level 2 assumptions for its U.S. municipal securities and certificates of deposits.



Table of Contents

## QUINSTREET, INC.

## NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(In thousands, except share and per share data)

(Unaudited)

Level 3 Pricing inputs are generally unobservable for the assets or liabilities and include situations where there is little, if any, market activity for the investment. The inputs into the determination of fair value require management's judgment or estimation of assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the assets or liabilities. The fair values are therefore determined using model-based techniques that include option pricing models, discounted cash flow models, and similar techniques. As of December 31, 2011, the Company did not have any Level 3 financial assets or liabilities. The securities held by the Company as of December 31, 2011 and June 30, 2011 were categorized as follows in the fair value hierarchy:

	Fair Value Measurements as of December 31, 2011		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Using Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
U.S. municipal securities	\$	\$ 33,333	\$ 33,333
Certificates of deposit		9,119	9,119
Money market funds	56,783		56,783
	\$ 56,783	\$ 42,452	\$ 99,235

	Fair Value Measurements as of June 30, 2011 Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
U.S. municipal securities	\$	\$ 23,637	\$ 23,637
Certificates of deposit		19,036	19,036
Money market funds	51,654		51,654
	\$ 51,654	\$ 42,673	\$ 94,327

**5. Acquisitions***Acquisitions in Fiscal Year 2012**Acquisition of NarrowCast Group, LLC ( IT Business Edge or ITBE )*

## Edgar Filing: QUINSTREET, INC - Form 10-Q

On August 25, 2011, the Company acquired 100% of the outstanding equity interests of ITBE, in exchange for \$23,961 in cash paid upon closing of the acquisition. The results of ITBE's operations have been included in the consolidated financial statements since the acquisition date. The Company acquired ITBE to broaden its media access in the business-to-business market.

	<b>Amount</b>
Cash	\$ 23,961

**Table of Contents****QUINSTREET, INC.****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****(In thousands, except share and per share data)****(Unaudited)**

The acquisition was accounted for as a purchase business combination. The Company allocated the purchase price to tangible assets acquired, liabilities assumed and identifiable intangible assets acquired based on their estimated fair values. The excess of the purchase price over the aggregate fair value was recorded as goodwill. The goodwill is deductible for tax purposes. The following table summarizes the preliminary allocation of the purchase price and the estimated useful lives of the identifiable intangible assets acquired as of the date of the acquisition:

	<b>Estimated Fair Value</b>	<b>Estimated Useful Life</b>
Tangible assets acquired	\$ 3,597	
Liabilities assumed	(1,868)	
Customer/publisher/advertiser relationships	3,230	5 years
Content	420	2 years
Website/trade/domain names	2,220	5 years
Registered user database and other	4,220	3 years
Noncompete agreements	100	3 years
Goodwill	12,042	Indefinite
	<b>\$ 23,961</b>	

***Other Acquisitions in Fiscal Year 2012***

During the six months ended December 31, 2011, in addition to the acquisition of ITBE, the Company acquired operations from six other online publishing businesses in exchange for \$7,621 in cash paid upon closing of the acquisitions, \$3,125 in non-interest-bearing promissory notes payable over a period of two years, secured by the assets acquired in respect to which the notes were issued and \$165 in non-interest-bearing, unsecured promissory notes payable over a period of one year. The Company also recorded \$4,500 in earn-out payments related to a prior period acquisition as an addition to goodwill; the payment is due in January 2012 and is reflected in debt as of December 31, 2011. The aggregate purchase price recorded was as follows:

	<b>Amount</b>
Cash	\$ 7,621
Fair value of debt (net of \$123 of imputed interest)	7,667
	<b>\$ 15,288</b>

The acquisitions were accounted for as purchase business combinations. In each of the acquisitions, the Company allocated the purchase price to identifiable intangible assets acquired based on their estimated fair values. The excess of the purchase price over the aggregate fair value was recorded as goodwill. The goodwill is deductible for tax purposes. The following table summarizes the preliminary allocation of the purchase prices of these other acquisitions during the six months ended December 31, 2011 and the estimated useful lives of the identifiable intangible assets acquired as of the respective dates of these acquisitions:

Edgar Filing: QUINSTREET, INC - Form 10-Q

	<b>Estimated Fair Value</b>	<b>Estimated Useful Life</b>
Customer/publisher/advertiser relationships	\$ 187	3 years
Content	2,521	2-3 years
Website/trade/domain names	683	4 years
Acquired technology and other	560	4-5 years
Noncompete agreements	78	1-3 years
Goodwill	11,259	Indefinite
	<b>\$ 15,288</b>	

**Table of Contents****QUINSTREET, INC.****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****(In thousands, except share and per share data)****(Unaudited)****Acquisitions in Fiscal Year 2011**

In fiscal year 2011, the Company acquired 100% of the outstanding shares of Car Insurance.com, Inc., a Florida-based online insurance business, and certain of its affiliated companies, for its capacity to generate online visitors in the financial services market, the website business of Insurance.com, an Ohio-based online insurance business for its capacity to generate online visitors in the financial services market, as well as 13 other online publishing businesses. The Company also recorded \$4,500 in earn-out payments related to a prior period acquisition as addition to goodwill.

The total purchase prices recorded were as follows:

<b>Fiscal Year 2011 acquisitions</b>	<b>CarInsurance.com</b>	<b>Insurance.com</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
Cash	\$ 49,655	\$ 33,000	\$ 9,222	\$ 91,877
Fair value of debt (net of imputed interest)		2,483	828	3,311
	\$ 49,655	\$ 35,483	\$ 10,050	\$ 95,188

The acquisitions were accounted for as purchase business combinations. The Company allocated the purchase price to tangible assets acquired, liabilities assumed and identifiable intangible assets acquired based on their estimated fair values. The excess of the purchase price over the aggregate fair value was recorded as goodwill. The goodwill is deductible for tax purposes. The following table summarizes the allocation of the purchase price and the estimated useful lives of the identifiable intangible assets acquired as of the date of the acquisitions:

	<b>CarInsurance.com</b>	<b>Insurance.com</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Estimated Useful Life</b>
Tangible assets acquired	\$ 661	\$ 1,204	\$	\$ 1,865	
Liabilities assumed	(807)			(807)	
Customer/publisher/advertiser relationships	260	2,120	233	2,613	3-7 years
Content	16,130	4,290	1,274	21,694	3-7 years
Website/trade/domain names	4,350	2,940	541	7,831	4-10 years
Acquired technology	3,000	5,530		8,530	2-4 years
Noncompete agreements	40	60	88	188	1-5 years
Goodwill	26,021	19,339	7,914	53,274	Indefinite
	\$ 49,655	\$ 35,483	\$ 10,050	\$ 95,188	

**Pro Forma Financial Information**

The unaudited pro forma financial information in the table below summarizes the combined results of operations for the Company and other companies that were acquired since the beginning of fiscal year 2011. The pro forma financial information includes the business combination accounting effects resulting from these acquisitions, including amortization charges from acquired intangible assets and the related tax effects as though the acquisitions were effected as of the beginning of fiscal year 2011. The unaudited pro forma financial information as presented below is for informational purposes only and is not indicative of the results of operations that would have been achieved if the acquisitions had taken

place at the beginning of fiscal year 2011.

	Three Months Ended December 31,		Six Months Ended December 31,	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
Net revenue	\$ 90,523	\$ 100,895	\$ 193,390	\$ 208,849
Net income	4,222	6,055	9,353	13,464
Basic net income per share	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.13	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.30
Diluted net income per share	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.19	\$ 0.28

**Table of Contents****QUINSTREET, INC.****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(In thousands, except share and per share data)

(Unaudited)

**6. Intangible Assets, Net and Goodwill**

Intangible assets, net balances, excluding goodwill, consisted of the following:

	December 31, 2011			June 30, 2011		
	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Net Carrying Amount	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Net Carrying Amount
Customer/publisher/advertiser relationships	\$ 32,687	\$ (19,740)	\$ 12,947	\$ 29,269	\$ (16,892)	\$ 12,377
Content	59,603	(29,792)	29,811	56,663	(25,142)	31,521
Website/trade/domain names	26,436	(10,496)	15,940	23,533	(8,569)	14,964
Acquired technology and others	25,147	(15,728)	9,419	20,190	(13,205)	6,985
	\$ 143,873	\$ (75,756)	\$ 68,117	\$ 129,655	\$ (63,808)	\$ 65,847

Amortization of intangible assets was \$6,162 and \$11,948 in the three and six months ended December 31, 2011, respectively, and \$5,529 and \$10,451 in the three and six months ended December 31, 2010, respectively.

Future amortization expense for the Company's acquisition-related intangible assets as of December 31, 2011 was as follows:

Year Ending June 30,	Amortization
2012 (remaining six months)	\$ 12,036
2013	19,178
2014	14,163
2015	8,552
2016	6,458
Thereafter	7,731
	\$ 68,118

The change in the carrying amount of goodwill for the six months ended December 31, 2011 was as follows:

	DMS	DSS	Total
Balance at June 30, 2011	\$ 210,625	\$ 1,231	\$ 211,856
Additions	23,301		23,301
Balance at December 31, 2011	\$ 233,926	\$ 1,231	\$ 235,157

## Edgar Filing: QUINSTREET, INC - Form 10-Q

In the six months ended December 31, 2011, the additions to goodwill relate to the Company's acquisitions as described in Note 5, and primarily reflect the value of the synergies expected to be generated from combining the Company's technology and know-how with the acquired businesses' access to online visitors.

### **7. Debt**

#### *Promissory Notes*

During the six months ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, the Company issued total promissory notes for the acquisition of businesses of \$3,290 and \$2,956, respectively, net of imputed interest amounts of \$123 and \$184, respectively. For these notes, interest was imputed such that the notes carry an interest rate commensurate with that available to the Company in the market for similar debt instruments. The Company recorded accretion of promissory notes of \$87 and \$167 as interest expense for the three and six months ended December 31, 2011, respectively, and \$127 and \$303 for the three and six months ended December 31, 2010, respectively. Certain of the promissory notes are secured by the assets acquired in respect to which the notes were issued.



**Table of Contents**

**QUINSTREET, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**(In thousands, except share and per share data)**

**(Unaudited)**

***Credit Facility***

On November 4, 2011, the Company replaced its annual existing \$225,000 credit facility with a new \$300,000 credit facility. The new facility consists of a \$100,000 five-year term loan, with annual principal amortization of 5%, 10%, 15%, 20% and 50%, and a \$200,000 five-year revolving credit line.

Borrowings under the credit facility are collateralized by the Company's assets and interest is payable at specified margins above either the Eurodollar Margin or the Prime Rate. The interest rate varies dependent upon the ratio of funded debt to adjusted EBITDA and ranges from Eurodollar Margin + 1.625% to 2.375% or Prime + 1.00% for the revolving credit line and from Eurodollar Margin + 2.00% to 2.75% or Prime + 1.00% for the term loan. Adjusted EBITDA is defined as net income less provision for taxes, depreciation expense, amortization expense, stock-based compensation expense, interest and other income (expense), and acquisition costs for business combinations. The interest rate margins for the new facility are 0.50% less than the commensurate margins under the Company's previous credit facility. The revolving credit line requires an annual facility fee of 0.375% of the revolving credit line capacity. The credit facility expires in November 2016. The credit facility agreement restricts the Company's ability to raise additional debt financing and pay dividends. In addition, the Company is required to maintain financial ratios computed as follows:

1. Fixed charge coverage: ratio of (i) trailing twelve months of adjusted EBITDA to (ii) the sum of capital expenditures, net cash interest expense, cash taxes, cash dividends and trailing twelve months payments of indebtedness. Payment of unsecured indebtedness is excluded to the degree that sufficient unused revolving credit line exists such that the relevant debt payment could be made from the credit facility.
2. Funded debt to adjusted EBITDA: ratio of (i) the sum of all obligations owed to lending institutions, the face amount of any letters of credit, indebtedness owed in connection with acquisition-related notes and indebtedness owed in connection with capital lease obligations to (ii) trailing twelve months of adjusted EBITDA.

Under the terms of the credit facility, the Company must maintain a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio of 1.15:1.00 and cannot exceed a maximum funded debt to adjusted EBITDA ratio of 3.00:1.00, and the terms also require the Company to comply with other nonfinancial covenants. The Company was in compliance with the covenants of this new credit facility as of December 31, 2011.

Upfront arrangement fees incurred in connection with the credit facility totaled \$1,500 and will be deferred and amortized over the remaining term of the arrangement. As of December 31, 2011, \$100,000 was outstanding under the term loan and there was no outstanding balance under the revolving credit line.

As of June 30, 2011, \$30,188 was outstanding under the term loan under the previous credit facility. As of June 30, 2011, \$66,553 was outstanding under the revolving credit line of the previous credit facility. The Company was in compliance with the covenants of its previous credit facility as of June 30, 2011.

**Table of Contents****QUINSTREET, INC.****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****(In thousands, except share and per share data)****(Unaudited)*****Debt Maturities***

The maturities of debt as of December 31, 2011 were as follows:

<b>Year Ending June 30,</b>	<b>Promissory Notes</b>	<b>Credit Facility</b>
2012 (remaining six months)	\$ 6,258	\$ 2,500
2013	6,664	7,500
2014	3,364	12,500
2015	560	17,500
2016	50	20,000
2017		40,000
	16,896	100,000
Less: imputed interest and unamortized discounts	(454)	(2,370)
Less: current portion	(11,916)	(4,556)
Noncurrent portion of debt	\$ 4,526	\$ 93,074

***Letters of Credit***

The Company has a \$350 letter of credit agreement with a financial institution that is used as collateral for fidelity bonds placed with an insurance company and a \$500 letter of credit agreement with a financial institution that is used as collateral for the Company's corporate headquarters operating lease. The letters of credit automatically renew annually without amendment unless cancelled by the financial institutions within 30 days of the annual expiration date.

**8. Commitments and Contingencies*****Leases***

The Company leases office space and equipment under non-cancelable operating leases with various expiration dates through 2018. Rent expense for the three and six months ended December 31, 2011 was \$841 and \$1,694, respectively, and for the three and six months ended December 31, 2010 was \$1,017 and \$1,687, respectively. The Company recognizes rent expense on a straight-line basis over the lease period and accrues for rent expense incurred but not paid.

Future annual minimum lease payments under noncancelable operating leases as of December 31, 2011 were as follows:

<b>Year Ending June 30,</b>	<b>Operating Leases</b>
2012 (remaining six months)	\$ 1,352

Edgar Filing: QUINSTREET, INC - Form 10-Q

2013	3,144
2014	3,251
2015	3,117
2016	3,060
2017 and thereafter	6,335
	\$ 20,259

The lease for the Company's previous corporate headquarters located at 1051 Hillsdale Boulevard, Foster City, California expired in October 2010.

In February 2010, the Company entered into a new lease agreement for office space located at 950 Tower Lane, Foster City, California. The term of the lease began on November 1, 2010 and expires on October 31, 2018. The Company has the option to extend

---

**Table of Contents**

**QUINSTREET, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**(In thousands, except share and per share data)**

**(Unaudited)**

the term of the lease twice by one additional year. The monthly base rent was abated for the first year of the lease, is \$118 in the current lease year and will be \$182 in the third year of the lease term. In the following years the monthly base rent will increase approximately 3% annually.

***Guarantor Arrangements***

The Company has agreements whereby it indemnifies its officers and directors for certain events or occurrences while the officer or director is, or was, serving at the Company's request in such capacity. The term of the indemnification period is for the officer or director's lifetime. The maximum potential amount of future payments the Company could be required to make under these indemnification agreements is unlimited; however, the Company has a director and officer insurance policy that limits its exposure and enables the Company to recover a portion of any future amounts paid under certain circumstances and subject to deductibles and exclusions. As a result of its insurance policy coverage, the Company believes the estimated fair value of these indemnification agreements is not material. Accordingly, the Company had no liabilities recorded for these agreements as of December 31, 2011 and June 30, 2011.

In the ordinary course of its business, the Company enters into standard indemnification provisions in its agreements with its clients. Pursuant to these provisions, the Company indemnifies its clients for certain losses suffered or incurred, including losses arising from violations of applicable law by the company or its third party publishers, actions or omissions of third party publishers and third-party claims that a Company product infringed upon any United States patent, copyright or other intellectual property rights. Where applicable, the Company generally limits such indemnities. With respect to its DSS products, the Company also generally reserves the right to resolve such claims by designing a non-infringing alternative or by obtaining a license on reasonable terms, and failing that, to terminate its relationship with the client. Subject to these limitations, the term of such indemnity provisions is generally coterminous with the corresponding agreements, but in some cases survives for a short period of time after termination of the agreement.

The potential amount of future payments to defend lawsuits or settle indemnified claims under these indemnification provisions is generally limited and the Company believes the estimated fair value of these indemnity provisions is not material, and accordingly, the Company had no liabilities recorded for these agreements as of December 31, 2011 and June 30, 2011.

***Litigation***

In September 2010, a patent infringement lawsuit was filed against the Company by LendingTree, LLC ( "LendingTree" ) in the United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina, seeking a judgment that the Company has infringed a certain patent held by LendingTree, an injunctive order against the alleged infringing activities and an award for damages. Subsequently, LendingTree filed a first amended complaint adding an additional defendant. If an injunction is granted, it could force the Company to stop or alter certain of its business activities, such as its lead generation in certain client verticals. Currently, the case is in the pre-claims construction stage. While the Company intends to vigorously defend its position, neither the outcome of the litigation nor the amount and range of potential damages or exposure associated with the litigation can be assessed at this time.

**9. Stock Benefit Plans**

***Stock Incentive Plans***

The Company may grant incentive stock options ( "ISOs" ), nonstatutory stock options ( "NQSOs" ), restricted stock, restricted stock units, stock appreciation rights, performance-based stock awards and other forms of equity compensation, as well as performance cash awards under its 2010 Equity Incentive Plan (the "2010 Incentive Plan" ), or NQSOs and restricted stock units to non-employee directors under the 2010 Non-Employee Directors' Stock Award Plan (the "Directors' Plan" ). To date, the Company has issued only ISOs, NQSOs and restricted stock units under the plans.

Edgar Filing: QUINSTREET, INC - Form 10-Q

As of December 31, 2011, 4,905,132 shares were reserved and 2,983,468 shares were available for issuance under the 2010 Incentive Plan and 820,000 shares were reserved and 550,000 shares were available for issuance under the Directors' Plan.

**Table of Contents****QUINSTREET, INC.****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****(In thousands, except share and per share data)****(Unaudited)*****Stock-Based Compensation***

The Company estimates the fair value of stock options at the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model. Options are granted with an exercise price equal to the fair value of the common stock at the date of grant. The weighted average Black-Scholes model assumptions and the weighted average grant date fair value of employee stock options for the three and six months ended December 31, 2011 and 2010 were as follows:

	<b>Three Months Ended December 31,</b>		<b>Six Months Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Expected term (in years)	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
Expected volatility	56%	55%	55%	54%
Expected dividend yield	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Risk-free interest rate	0.9%	1.5%	1.1%	1.5%
Grant date fair value	\$ 5.20	\$ 7.17	\$ 5.32	\$ 6.31

The fair value of restricted stock units is determined based on the closing price of the Company's common stock on the grant date.

Compensation expense is amortized net of estimated forfeitures on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period of the stock-based compensation awards.

**10. Stockholders' Equity*****Comprehensive Income***

The following table sets forth the components of comprehensive income for the three and six months ended December 31, 2011 and 2010:

	<b>Three Months Ended December 31,</b>		<b>Six Months Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Net income	\$ 4,433	\$ 6,928	\$ 9,927	\$ 14,429
Other comprehensive income (loss)				
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments		(13)	4	(13)
Foreign currency translation adjustment	3	(5)	28	(24)
Comprehensive income	\$ 4,436	\$ 6,910	\$ 9,959	\$ 14,392

***Stock Repurchase Program***

On November 3, 2011, the Board of Directors authorized a stock repurchase program allowing the Company to repurchase outstanding shares of its common stock up to \$50,000. The repurchase program expires in November 2012. Repurchases under this program may take place in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions and may be made under a Rule 10b5-1 plan. There is no guarantee as to the exact number of

## Edgar Filing: QUINSTREET, INC - Form 10-Q

shares that will be repurchased by the Company, and the Company may discontinue repurchases at any time. The amount authorized by the Company's board of directors excludes broker commissions.

As of December 31, 2011, the Company had repurchased an aggregate of 1,788,400 shares of its common stock under this repurchase program at an average price of \$9.25 per share for a total of \$16,547 and the remaining amount available for the repurchase of the Company's common stock was \$33,453.

**Table of Contents**

**QUINSTREET, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**(In thousands, except share and per share data)**

**(Unaudited)**

**11. Segment Information**

Operating segments are defined as components of an enterprise about which separate financial information is available that is evaluated regularly by the chief operating decision maker, or decision making group, in deciding how to allocate resources and in assessing performance. The Company's chief operating decision maker is its chief executive officer. The Company's chief executive officer reviews financial information presented on a consolidated basis, accompanied by information about operating segments, including net sales and operating income before depreciation, amortization and stock-based compensation expense.

The Company determined its operating segments to be DMS, which derives revenue from fees earned through the delivery of qualified leads, clicks and, to a lesser extent, impressions, and DSS, which derives revenue from the sale of direct selling services through a hosted solution. The Company's reportable operating segments consist of DMS and DSS. The accounting policies of the two reportable operating segments are the same as those described in Note 2.

The Company evaluates the performance of its operating segments based on net sales and operating income before depreciation, amortization and stock-based compensation expense.

The Company does not allocate most of its assets, as well as its depreciation and amortization expense, stock-based compensation expense, interest income, interest expense and income tax expense by segment. Accordingly, the Company does not report such information.



**Table of Contents****QUINSTREET, INC.****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****(In thousands, except share and per share data)****(Unaudited)**

Summarized information by segment was as follows:

	<b>Three Months Ended December 31,</b>		<b>Six Months Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Net revenue by segment:				
DMS	\$ 90,145	\$ 97,228	\$ 190,986	\$ 200,534
DSS	378	354	761	664
Total net revenue	90,523	97,582	191,747	201,198
Segment operating income before depreciation, amortization, and stock-based compensation expense:				
DMS	19,307	21,479	39,685	45,911
DSS	223	239	478	403
Total segment operating income before depreciation, amortization, and stock-based compensation expense	19,530	21,718	40,163	46,314
Depreciation and amortization	(7,517)	(6,723)	(14,625)	(12,620)
Stock-based compensation expense	(3,521)	(3,616)	(6,895)	(7,346)
Total operating income	\$ 8,492	\$ 11,379	\$ 18,643	\$ 26,348

The following tables set forth net revenue and long-lived assets by geographic area:

	<b>Three Months Ended December 31,</b>		<b>Six Months Ended December 31,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
Net revenue:				
United States	\$ 90,337	\$ 97,098	\$ 191,415	\$ 200,493
International	186	484	332	705
Total net revenue	\$ 90,523	\$ 97,582	\$ 191,747	\$ 201,198

	<b>December 31, 2011</b>	<b>June 30, 2011</b>
Long-lived assets:		
United States	\$ 9,147	\$ 8,641
International	306	234

Total long-lived assets	\$	9,453	\$	8,875
-------------------------	----	-------	----	-------

## 12. Subsequent Events

### *Acquisition of Ziff Davis Enterprise*

On February 3, 2012, the Company acquired certain assets of Ziff Davis Enterprise from Enterprise Media Group, Inc., a New York-based online media and marketing company in the business-to-business technology market, for \$17,526 in cash paid upon closing of the acquisition. The results of Ziff Davis Enterprise's operations will be included in the consolidated financial statements following the acquisition date.

The Company is currently evaluating the purchase price allocation following the consummation of the transaction. It is not possible to disclose the preliminary purchase price allocation or unaudited pro forma combined financial information given the short period of time between the acquisition date and the filing date of this report.

---

**Table of Contents**

**ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

*The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with our condensed consolidated financial statements and related notes appearing elsewhere in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ( SEC ) on August 30, 2011.*

*This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties, as well as assumptions that, if they never materialize or prove incorrect, could cause our results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. The statements contained in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q that are not purely historical are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Forward-looking statements are often identified by the use of words such as, but not limited to, anticipate, believe, can, continue, could, estimate, expect, intend, may, will, plan, project, seek, should, target, will, would, and similar expressions or variations intended to identify forward-looking statements. These statements are based on the beliefs and assumptions of our management based on information currently available to management. Such forward-looking statements are subject to risks, uncertainties and other important factors that could cause actual results and the timing of certain events to differ materially from future results expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited to, those identified in Part II Item 1A. Risk Factors below, and those discussed in the sections titled Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements and Risk Factors included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011, as filed with the SEC on August 30, 2011. Furthermore, such forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this report. Except as required by law, we undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of such statements.*

**Management Overview**

Quinstreet is a leader in vertical marketing and media online. We have built a strong set of capabilities to engage Internet visitors with targeted media and to connect our marketing clients with their potential customers online. We focus on serving clients in large, information-intensive industry verticals where relevant, targeted media and offerings help visitors make informed choices, find the products that match their needs, and thus become qualified customer prospects for our clients.

We deliver cost-effective marketing results to our clients most typically in the form of a qualified lead or inquiry, or in the form of a qualified click. These leads or clicks can then convert into a customer or sale for clients at a rate that results in an acceptable marketing cost to them. We are typically paid by clients when we deliver qualified leads or clicks as defined by our agreements with them. Because we bear the costs of media, our programs must deliver value to our clients and provide for a media yield, or our ability to generate an acceptable margin on our media costs, that provides a sound financial outcome for us. Our general process is:

We own or access targeted media;

We run advertisements or other forms of marketing messages and programs in that media to create visitor responses or clicks through to client offerings;

We match these responses or clicks to client offerings that meet visitor interests or needs, converting visitors into qualified leads or clicks; and

We optimize client matches and media yield such that we achieve desired results for clients and a sound financial outcome for us. Our primary financial objective has been and remains creating revenue growth from sustainable sources, at target levels of profitability. Our primary financial objective is not to maximize profits, but rather to achieve target levels of profitability while investing in various growth initiatives, as we believe we are in the early stages of a large, long-term market.

Our Direct Marketing Services, or DMS, business accounted for 99.6% our net revenue in both the three and six months ended December 31, 2011, and 99.6% and 99.7% of our net revenue in the three and six months ended December 31, 2010, respectively. Our DMS business derives net revenue from fees earned through the delivery of qualified leads and clicks and, to a lesser extent, display advertisements, or impressions.

## Edgar Filing: QUINSTREET, INC - Form 10-Q

Through a vertical focus, targeted media presence and our technology platform, we are able to deliver targeted, measurable marketing results to our clients.

## **Table of Contents**

Our two largest client verticals are education and financial services. Our education client vertical represented 41% and 42% of net revenue in the three and six months ended December 31, 2011, respectively, and 44% and 43% of net revenue in the three and six months ended December 31, 2010, respectively. Our financial services client vertical represented 44% and 43% of net revenue in the three and six months ended December 31, 2011, respectively, and 45% and 46% of net revenue in the three and six months ended December 31, 2010, respectively. Other DMS client verticals, consisting primarily of home services, business-to-business technology, or B2B technology and medical, represented 15% of net revenue in both the three and six months ended December 31, 2011, and 11% of net revenue in both the three and six months ended December 31, 2010.

In addition, we derived less than 1% of our net revenue in both the three and six months ended December 31, 2011, respectively, and for the same periods last fiscal year, from the provision of a hosted solution and related services for clients in the direct selling industry, also referred to as our Direct Selling Services, or DSS, business.

We generated substantially all of our revenue from sales to clients in the United States.

No client accounted for 10% of our net revenue in the three and six months ended December 31, 2011, respectively, and for the same periods last fiscal year.

## **Trends Affecting our Business**

### ***Client Verticals***

To date, we have generated the majority of our revenue from clients in our education and financial services client verticals. We expect that a majority of our revenue in fiscal year 2012 will be generated from clients in these two client verticals.

Our education client vertical is affected by a number of factors, including most significantly, uncertainty from the adoption of the new regulations of for-profit educational institutions. The uncertainty created by the regulations has affected and is expected to continue to affect our clients' businesses and marketing practices and has resulted and may continue to result in fluctuations in the volume and mix of our business with these clients.

Our financial services client vertical has been negatively affected by pricing pressure. The prices we charge per click in our financial services client vertical are determined by bidding. Changes in the volume of business by one or more bidders can dynamically impact pricing for all clients. Recently, revenue in our financial services client vertical has been negatively affected by the pricing impact from volume reductions by certain clients. We have also recently seen increased competition for media.

### ***Acquisitions***

#### ***Acquisitions in Fiscal Year 2012***

In August 2011, we acquired 100% of the outstanding equity interests of NarrowCast Group, LLC, or IT BusinessEdge, a Kentucky-based Internet media company, in exchange for \$24.0 million in cash, to broaden our media access in the B2B technology market. During the six months ended December 31, 2011, in addition to the acquisition of IT BusinessEdge, we acquired six other online publishing businesses.

#### ***Acquisitions in Fiscal Year 2011***

In November 2010, we acquired 100% of the outstanding shares of Car Insurance.com, Inc., a Florida-based online insurance business, and certain of its affiliated companies, in exchange for \$49.7 million in cash, for its capacity to generate online visitors in the financial services market. In July 2010, we acquired the website business Insurance.com from Insurance.com Group, Inc., an Ohio-based online insurance business, in exchange for \$33.0 million in cash and the issuance of a \$2.6 million non-interest-bearing, unsecured promissory note, for its capacity to generate online visitors in the financial services market. During fiscal year 2011, in addition to the acquisitions of CarInsurance.com and Insurance.com, we acquired 13 other online publishing businesses.

## **Table of Contents**

Our acquisition strategy may result in significant fluctuations in our available working capital from period to period and over the years. We may use cash, stock or promissory notes to acquire various businesses or technologies, and we cannot accurately predict the timing of those acquisitions or the impact on our cash flows and balance sheet. Large acquisitions or multiple acquisitions within a particular period may significantly affect our financial results for that period. We may utilize debt financing to make acquisitions, which could give rise to higher interest expense and more restrictive operating covenants. We may also utilize our stock as consideration, which could result in substantial dilution.

### ***Development and Acquisition of Targeted Media***

One of the primary challenges of our business is finding or creating media that is targeted enough to attract prospects economically for our clients and at costs that work for our business model. In order to continue to grow our business, we must be able to continue to find, develop or retain quality targeted media on a cost-effective basis. Our inability to find, develop or retain high quality targeted media has limited, during some periods, and may continue to limit our growth.

### ***Seasonality***

Our results are subject to significant fluctuation as a result of seasonality. In particular, our quarters ending December 31 (our second fiscal quarter) are typically characterized by seasonal weakness. In our second fiscal quarters, there is lower availability of lead supply from some forms of media during the holiday period on a cost effective basis and some of our clients request fewer leads due to holiday staffing. In our quarters ending March 31 (our third fiscal quarter), this trend generally reverses with better lead availability and often new budgets at the beginning of the year for our clients with fiscal years ending December 31.

### **Basis of Presentation**

#### ***General***

We operate in two segments: DMS and DSS. For further discussion and financial information about our reporting segments, see Note 11 to our condensed consolidated financial statements.

#### ***Net Revenue***

*DMS.* Our DMS business generates revenue from fees earned through the delivery of qualified leads, clicks and, to a lesser extent, display advertisements, or impressions. We deliver targeted and measurable results through a vertical focus that we classify into the following client verticals: financial services, education and other (which includes home services, B2B technology and medical).

*DSS.* Our DSS business generated less than 1% of net revenue in each of the three and six months ended December 31, 2011 and 2010. We expect DSS to continue to represent an immaterial portion of our business.

#### ***Cost of Revenue***

Cost of revenue consists primarily of media costs, personnel costs, amortization of acquisition-related intangible assets, depreciation expense and amortization of internal software development costs relating to revenue-producing technologies. Media costs consist primarily of fees paid to website publishers that are directly related to a revenue-generating event and pay-per-click, or PPC, ad purchases from Internet search companies. We pay these Internet search companies and website publishers on a revenue-share, a cost-per-lead, or CPL, cost-per-click, or CPC, and cost-per-thousand-impressions, or CPM basis. Personnel costs include salaries, stock-based compensation expense, bonuses and employee benefit costs. Personnel costs are primarily related to individuals associated with maintaining our servers and websites, our editorial staff, client management, creative team, compliance group and media purchasing analysts. Costs associated with software incurred in the development phase or obtained for internal use are capitalized, and amortized in cost of revenue over the software's estimated useful life. We anticipate that our cost of revenue will increase in absolute dollars as we continue to increase our revenue base and product offerings.

#### ***Operating Expenses***

We classify our operating expenses into three categories: product development, sales and marketing, and general and administrative. Our operating expenses consist primarily of personnel costs and, to a lesser extent, professional services fees, rent and allocated costs. Personnel costs for each category of operating expenses generally include salaries, stock-based compensation expense, bonuses, commissions and

employee benefit costs.

## **Table of Contents**

*Product Development.* Product development expenses consist primarily of personnel costs and professional services fees associated with the development and maintenance of our technology platforms, development and launching of our websites, product-based quality assurance and testing. We believe that continued investment in technology is critical to attaining our strategic objectives and, as a result, we expect product development expenses to increase in absolute dollars in the future.

*Sales and Marketing.* Sales and marketing expenses consist primarily of personnel costs and, to a lesser extent, allocated overhead costs, professional services fees, travel costs, advertising and marketing materials. We expect sales and marketing expenses to increase in absolute dollars as we hire additional personnel in sales and marketing to support our product offerings.

*General and Administrative.* General and administrative expenses consist primarily of personnel costs of our executive, finance, legal, corporate and business development, employee benefits and compliance, technical support and other administrative personnel, as well as accounting and legal professional services fees and other corporate expenses. We expect general and administrative expenses to increase in absolute dollars in future periods as we continue to invest in corporate infrastructure and expanding our business internationally, including increased legal and accounting costs, higher insurance premiums, investor relations costs and compliance costs associated with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

### ***Interest and Other Income (Expense), Net***

Interest and other income (expense), net, consists primarily of interest expense, other income and expense and interest income. Interest expense is related to our credit facility and promissory notes issued in connection with our acquisitions, and includes imputed interest on non-interest bearing notes. Borrowings under our credit facility and related interest expense could increase as we continue to implement our acquisition strategy. Interest income represents interest earned on our cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities, which may increase or decrease depending on market interest rates and the amounts invested.

Other income (expense), net, includes foreign currency exchange gains and losses and other non-operating items.

### ***Income Tax Expense***

We are subject to tax in the United States as well as other tax jurisdictions or countries in which we conduct business. Earnings from our limited non-U.S. activities are subject to local country income tax and may be subject to U.S. income tax.

### ***Critical Accounting Policies, Estimates and Judgments***

In presenting our consolidated financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepting accounting principles, or GAAP, we are required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenue, expenses and related disclosures.

Some of the estimates and assumptions we are required to make relate to matters that are inherently uncertain as they pertain to future events. We base these estimates and assumptions on historical experience or on various other factors that we believe to be reasonable and appropriate under the circumstances. On an ongoing basis, we reconsider and evaluate our estimates and assumptions. Actual results may differ significantly from these estimates.

We believe that the critical accounting policies listed below involve our more significant judgments, assumptions and estimates and, therefore, could have the greatest potential impact on our consolidated financial statements.

Revenue recognition;

Stock-based compensation;

Goodwill and intangible assets;



Long-lived assets; and

Income taxes.

**Table of Contents**

There have been no material changes to our critical accounting policies, estimates and judgments subsequent to June 30, 2011. For further information on our critical and other significant accounting policies and estimates, see Part II, Item 7 Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operation of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended June 30, 2011, as filed with the SEC on August 30, 2011.

**Recently Issued Accounting Standards**

See Note 2 to our condensed consolidated financial statements.

**Results of Operations**

The following table sets forth our consolidated statement of operations for the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended December 31,				Six Months Ended December 31,			
	2011		2010		2011		2010	
Net revenue	\$ 90,523	100.0%	\$ 97,582	100.0%	\$ 191,747	100.0%	\$ 201,198	100.0%
Cost of revenue <sup>(1)</sup>	68,396	75.6	70,662	72.4	144,144	75.2	144,291	71.7
Gross profit	22,127	24.4	26,920	27.6	47,603	24.8	56,907	28.3
Operating expenses: <sup>(1)</sup>								
Product development	5,102	5.6	5,933	6.1	11,176	5.8	11,484	5.7
Sales and marketing	3,686	4.1	4,665	4.8	7,720	4.0	9,410	4.7
General and administrative	4,847	5.4	4,943	5.1	10,064	5.2	9,665	4.8
Operating income	8,492	9.4	11,379	11.7	18,643	9.7	26,348	13.1
Interest income	36	0.0	47	0.0	74	0.0	114	0.1
Interest expense	(1,115)	(1.1)	(1,028)	(1.1)	(2,198)	(1.1)	(2,017)	(1.0)
Other income (expense), net	(93)	(0.1)	(79)	(0.1)	(124)	(0.1)	85	0.0
Income before income taxes	7,320	8.1	10,319	10.6	16,395	8.6	24,530	12.2
Provision for taxes	(2,887)	(3.2)	(3,391)	(3.5)	(6,468)	(3.4)	(10,101)	(5.0)
Net income	\$ 4,433	4.9%	\$ 6,928	7.1%	\$ 9,927	5.2%	\$ 14,429	7.2%

<sup>(1)</sup> Cost of revenue and operating expenses include stock-based compensation expense as follows:

Cost of revenue	\$ 1,197	1.3%	\$ 1,129	1.2%	\$ 2,376	1.2%	\$ 2,273	1.1%
Product development	682	0.8	691	0.7	1,342	0.7	1,415	0.7
Sales and marketing	841	0.9	992	1.0	1,620	0.8	2,198	1.1
General and administrative	801	0.9	804	0.8	1,557	0.8	1,460	0.7

**Table of Contents****Net Revenue**

	Three Months Ended December 31,		Six Months Ended December 31,		Three Months % Change	Six Months % Change
	2011	2010	2011	2010		
	(in thousands)					
Net revenue	\$ 90,523	\$ 97,582	\$ 191,747	\$ 201,198	(7%)	(5%)
Cost of revenue	68,396	70,662	144,144	144,291	(3%)	(0%)
Gross profit	\$ 22,127	\$ 26,920	\$ 47,603	\$ 56,907	(18%)	(16%)

Net revenue decreased \$7.1 million, or 7%, for the three months ended December 31, 2011, compared to the three months ended December 31, 2010. This was primarily due to a decrease from our education and financial services client verticals, which was partially offset by growth in our other client verticals. Our education client vertical decreased \$6.6 million, or 15%, for the three months ended December 31, 2011, compared to the three months ended December 31, 2010, as lower lead volumes were partially offset by higher prices. Our financial services client vertical decreased \$3.9 million, or 9%, for the three months ended December 31, 2011, compared to the three months ended December 31, 2010, as lower click volumes and lower prices were partially offset by increases in lead volumes. Our other client verticals increased \$3.4 million, or 33%, for the three months ended December 31, 2011, compared to the three months ended December 31, 2010, primarily due to the acquisition of IT BusinessEdge in the B2B technology client vertical and, to a lesser extent, higher lead volumes in the home services client vertical.

Net revenue decreased \$9.5 million, or 5%, for the six months ended December 31, 2011, compared to the six months ended December 31, 2010. This was primarily due to a decrease from our education and financial services client verticals, which was partially offset by growth in our other client verticals. Our education client vertical decreased \$4.8 million, or 6%, for the six months ended December 31, 2011, compared to the six months ended December 31, 2010, as lower lead volumes were partially offset by higher prices. Our financial services client vertical decreased \$11.8 million, or 13%, for the six months ended December 31, 2011, compared to the six months ended December 31, 2010, as lower prices were partially offset by increases in lead and click volumes. Our other client verticals increased \$7.1 million, or 33%, for the six months ended December 31, 2011, compared to the six months ended December 31, 2010, primarily due to higher lead volumes in the home services client vertical and, to a lesser extent, the acquisition of IT BusinessEdge in the B2B technology client vertical.

**Cost of Revenue**

Cost of revenue decreased \$2.3 million, or 3%, for the three months ended December 31, 2011, compared to the three months ended December 31, 2010. This was primarily due to decreased media costs of \$2.0 million driven by lower overall lead and click volumes, decreased personnel costs of \$1.3 million resulting from a reduction in average headcount of approximately 10% during the previous twelve months and decreased professional services fees of \$0.3 million, which were partially offset by a one-time offline marketing event of \$0.9 million related to an acquisition and increased amortization of acquisition-related intangible assets of \$0.6 million resulting from acquisitions during the past twelve months. Gross margin, which is the difference between net revenue and cost of revenue as a percentage of net revenue was 24% in the three months ended December 31, 2011 compared to 28% in the three months ended December 31, 2010, primarily due to a lower mix of traffic from owned and operated media, lower margins from publisher arrangements and higher amortization expenses, which were partially offset by the above-mentioned decreased personnel costs.

Cost of revenue decreased \$0.1 million, for the six months ended December 31, 2011, compared to the six months ended December 31, 2010. This was primarily due to decreased personnel costs of \$2.0 million and decreased media costs of \$0.5 million due to lower lead and click volumes, which were partially offset by increased amortization of acquisition-related intangible assets of \$1.5 million resulting from acquisitions during the past twelve months and a one-time, offline marketing event of \$0.9 million related to an acquisition. The decreased personnel costs were attributable to a reduction in average headcount and decreased performance bonus expenses associated with the lower achievement of specified financial metrics. Gross margin, which is the difference between net revenue and cost of revenue as a percentage of net revenue was 25% in the six months ended December 31, 2011 compared to 28% in the six months ended December 31, 2010, primarily due to a lower mix of traffic from owned and operated media, lower margins from publisher arrangements and higher amortization expenses, which were partially offset by the above-mentioned decreased personnel costs.



**Table of Contents***Operating Expenses*

	Three Months Ended December 31,		Six Months Ended December 31,		Three Months	Six Months
	2011	2010	2011	2010	% Change	% Change
	(in thousands)					
Product development	\$ 5,102	\$ 5,933	\$ 11,176	\$ 11,484	(14%)	(3%)
Sales and marketing	3,686	4,665	7,720	9,410	(21%)	(18%)
General and administrative	4,847	4,943	10,064	9,665	(2%)	4%
Operating expenses	\$ 13,635	\$ 15,541	\$ 28,960	\$ 30,559	(12%)	(5%)

*Product Development Expenses*

Product development expenses decreased \$0.8 million, or 14%, for the three months ended December 31, 2011, compared to the three months ended December 31, 2010. This was primarily due to decreased personnel costs of \$0.5 million resulting from a reduction in average headcount of approximately 5% and decreased professional services of \$0.2 million.

Product development expenses decreased \$0.3 million, or 3%, for the six months ended December 31, 2011, compared to the six months ended December 31, 2010. This was primarily due to decreased professional services of \$0.3 million.

*Sales and Marketing Expenses*

Sales and marketing expenses decreased \$1.0 million, or 21%, for the three months ended December 31, 2011, compared to the three months ended December 31, 2010. This was primarily due to decreased personnel costs of \$0.6 million resulting from decreased performance bonus expenses associated with the lower achievement of specified financial metrics.

Sales and marketing expenses decreased \$1.7 million, or 18%, for the six months ended December 31, 2011, compared to the six months ended December 31, 2010. This was primarily due to decreased personnel cost of \$0.8 million, decreased stock-based compensation expense of \$0.6 million and various smaller decreases in sales and marketing expenses of \$0.3 million. The decrease in personnel costs were due to decreased performance bonus expenses associated with the lower achievement of specified financial metrics.

*General and Administrative Expenses*

General and administrative expenses decreased \$0.1 million, or 2%, for the three months ended December 31, 2011, compared to the three months ended December 31, 2010. This was primarily due to decreased personnel costs of \$0.3 million due to decreased performance bonus expense associated with the lower achievement of specified financial metrics, which were partially offset by various miscellaneous increases in general and administrative expenses of \$0.2 million.

General and administrative expenses increased \$0.4 million, or 4%, for the six months ended December 31, 2011, compared to the six months ended December 31, 2010. This was primarily due to increased legal costs of \$0.5 million related to the LendingTree litigation and increased direct acquisition costs of \$0.2 million related to recent acquisitions, which were partially offset by decreased personnel costs of \$0.4 million due to decreased performance bonus expense associated with the lower achievement of specified financial metrics.

**Table of Contents****Interest and Other Income (Expense), Net**

	Three Months Ended December 31, 2011		Six Months Ended December 31, 2010		Three Months % Change	Six Months % Change
	(in thousands)					
Interest income	\$ 36	\$ 47	\$ 74	\$ 114	(23%)	(35%)
Interest expense	(1,115)	(1,028)	(2,198)	(2,017)	8%	9%
Other income (expense), net	(93)	(79)	(124)	85	18%	(246%)
Interest and other income (expense), net	\$ (1,172)	\$ (1,060)	\$ (2,248)	\$ (1,818)	11%	24%

Interest and other income (expense), net decreased \$0.1 million, or 11%, for the three months ended December 31, 2011, compared to the three months ended December 31, 2010, primarily due to increased interest expense in the three months ended December 31, 2011.

Interest and other income (expense), net decreased \$0.4 million, or 24%, for the six months ended December 31, 2011, compared to the six months ended December 31, 2010, primarily due to increased interest expense of \$0.2 million in the six months ended December 31, 2011 and \$0.2 million attributable to proceeds from a settlement of a legal matter in the six months ended December 31, 2010.

**Provision for Taxes**

	Three Months Ended December 31, 2011		Six Months Ended December 31, 2010	
	(in thousands)			
Provision for taxes	\$ 2,887	\$ 3,391	\$ 6,468	\$ 10,101
Effective tax rate	39%	33%	39%	41%

The increase in our effective tax rate for the three months ended December 31, 2011, compared to the three months ended December 31, 2010, was primarily due to a retroactive reinstatement of research and development tax credits and higher tax benefits from stock option exercises in the three months ended December 31, 2010. The research and development credits were retroactively extended under the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act of 2010 ( 2010 Tax Relief Act ) beginning January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2012.

The decrease in our effective tax rate for the six months ended December 31, 2011, compared to the six months ended December 31, 2010, was primarily due to a reduction in California state income tax rates as a result of law changes in the state's apportionment factor and lower non-deductible stock-based compensation expense in the six months ended December 31, 2011.

**Liquidity and Capital Resources**

Our principal sources of liquidity as of December 31, 2011, consisted of cash and cash equivalents of \$105.6 million, short-term marketable securities of \$38.9 million, cash we expect to generate from operations, and our \$200.0 million revolving credit facility, which is committed until November 2016, all of which is available to be drawn. Our cash and cash equivalents are maintained in highly liquid investments with remaining maturities of 90 days or less at the time of purchase. We believe our cash equivalents are liquid and accessible.

In November 2011, we replaced our existing \$225.0 million credit facility with a new credit facility that expanded our overall borrowing capacity by \$75.0 million to \$300.0 million, consisting of a \$100.0 million term loan and a \$200.0 million revolving credit facility. Additionally, in November 2011, our Board of Directors authorized a stock repurchase program allowing us to repurchase up to \$50.0 million, excluding broker commissions, of our outstanding shares of common stock. The repurchase program expires in November 2012. Repurchases under this program may take place in the open



**Table of Contents**

market or in privately negotiated transactions and may be made under a Rule 10b5-1 plan. There is no guarantee as to the exact number of shares that will be repurchased by us and we may discontinue repurchases at any time. During the quarter ended December 31, 2011, we repurchased an aggregate of 1.8 million shares of our common stock for an aggregate of \$16.5 million. As of December 31, 2011, the remaining amount available for the repurchase of our common stock was \$33.5 million. We expect to complete the repurchase by the end of fiscal year 2012.

Additionally, on February 3, 2012, we acquired certain assets of Ziff Davis Enterprise from Enterprise Media Group, Inc., a New York-based online media and marketing company in the business-to-business technology market, for \$17.5 million in cash paid upon closing of the acquisition.

Our short-term and long-term liquidity requirements primarily arise from our working capital requirements, acquisitions from time to time and any share repurchases we may choose to make under our share repurchase program. Our primary operating cash requirements include the payment of media costs, personnel costs, costs of information technology systems and office facilities. Our ability to fund these requirements will depend on our future cash flows, which are determined by future operating performance and are, therefore, subject to prevailing global macroeconomic conditions and financial, business and other factors, some of which are beyond our control, and also our ability to access our credit facility.

We believe that our existing cash, cash equivalents, short-term marketable securities, cash generated from operations and our available borrowings under the credit facility and will be sufficient to satisfy our currently anticipated cash requirements through at least the next 12 months.

Our ability to service any indebtedness we have incurred or may incur, including under our current credit facility, will depend on our ability to generate cash in the future. In addition, even though we may not need additional funds, we may still elect to obtain additional debt or equity securities or draw down on or increase our borrowing capacity under our current credit facility for other reasons.

The following table summarizes our cash flows for the periods indicated:

	<b>Six Months Ended</b>	
	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
	<b>(in thousands)</b>	
Cash flows provided by operating activities	\$ 24,945	\$ 29,718
Cash flows used in investing activities	(38,290)	(109,377)
Cash flows (used in)/provided by financing activities	(13,416)	30,734

**Operating Activities**

Our net cash provided by operating activities is primarily the result of our net income adjusted for non-cash expenses such as depreciation and amortization, stock-based compensation expense and changes in working capital components, and is influenced by the timing of cash collections from our clients and cash payments for purchases of media and other expenses.

Net cash flows provided by operating activities was \$24.9 million for the six months ended December 31, 2011 as compared to \$29.7 million for the six months ended December 31, 2010.

Net cash flow provided by operating activities for the six months ended December 31, 2011 consisted of non-cash charges of \$22.3 million and net income of \$9.9 million, partially offset by contributions to working capital of \$7.3 million. The non-cash charges primarily consisted of depreciation and amortization of \$14.6 million and stock-based compensation expense net of tax benefits of \$6.8 million. The contribution to working capital accounts was primarily due to a decrease in prepaid expenses and other assets of \$1.7 million and a decrease in accounts receivable of \$0.4 million, partially offset by a net decrease in accounts payable and accrued liabilities of \$9.7 million. The decrease in prepaid expenses and other assets, accounts receivable, as well as the net decrease in accounts payable and accrued liabilities, is primarily due to timing of payments.

Net cash flow provided by operating activities for the six months ended December 31, 2010 consisted of net income of \$14.4 million, non-cash charges of \$14.3 million and contributions from working capital of \$1.0 million. The non-cash charges primarily





## **Table of Contents**

consisted of depreciation and amortization of \$12.6 million and stock-based compensation expense net of tax benefits of \$2.0 million. The contribution from working capital accounts was primarily due to an increase in prepaid expenses and other assets of \$2.7 million, partially offset by a net increase in accounts payable and accrued liabilities of \$2.6 million, an increase in deferred revenue of \$0.4 million and an increase in other liabilities of \$0.4 million. The increase in prepaid expenses and other assets is primarily due to timing of payments. The net increase in accounts payable and accrued liabilities is due to timing of payments and increased cost of sales associated with increased revenue.

### ***Investing Activities***

Our investing activities include acquisitions of media websites and businesses, capital expenditures and capitalized internal development costs.

Net cash flows used in investing activities was \$38.3 million for the six months ended December 31, 2011 as compared to net cash flows used in investing activities of \$109.4 million for the six months ended December 31, 2010.

Cash used in investing activities in the six months ended December 31, 2011 was primarily due to our acquisition of ITBE for a cash payment of \$24.0 million and the purchases of the operations of six other online publishing businesses for an aggregate of \$7.6 million in cash payments, as well as net investments in marketable securities of \$4.7 million. Capital expenditures and internal software development costs totaled \$2.5 million in the six months ended December 31, 2011.

Cash used in investing activities in the six months ended December 31, 2010 was primarily due to our acquisition of CarInsurance.com for an initial cash payment of \$49.7 million and Insurance.com for an initial cash payment of \$33.0 million. Cash used in investing activities in the six months ended December 31, 2010 was also impacted by purchases of the operations of nine other online publishing businesses for an aggregate of \$4.0 million in cash payments, as well as purchases of marketable securities of \$18.9 million. Capital expenditures and internal software development costs totaled \$3.8 million in the six months ended December 31, 2010.

### ***Financing Activities***

Net cash flows used in financing activities was \$13.4 million for the six months ended December 31, 2011 as compared to net cash flows provided by financing activities of \$30.7 million for the six months ended December 31, 2010.

Cash used in financing activities in the six months ended December 31, 2011 was primarily due to repurchases of our common stock of \$15.6 million and principal payments on acquisition-related notes payable and our term loan and related fees of \$5.8 million, partially offset by proceeds from bank debt of \$5.9 million and exercise of stock options of \$2.2 million.

Cash provided by financing activities in the six months ended December 31, 2010 was primarily due to proceeds from the draw-down of our revolving credit line of \$24.8 million, proceeds from the exercise of stock options of \$9.6 million and excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation of \$5.3 million, partially offset by \$8.9 million in principal payments on acquisition-related notes payable and our term loan.

### **Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements**

During the periods presented, we did not have any relationships with unconsolidated entities or financial partnerships, such as entities often referred to as structured finance or special purpose entities, which would have been established for the purpose of facilitating off-balance sheet arrangements or other contractually narrow or limited purposes.

**Table of Contents****Contractual Obligations**

Our contractual obligations relate primarily to borrowings under our credit facility, acquisition-related notes payable, operating leases and purchase obligations. A significant change occurred in our contractual obligations related to our credit facility as discussed below. Aside from our credit facility, there have been no other significant changes to our contractual obligations from those disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended June 30, 2011.

**Credit Facility**

Year Ending June 30,	Promissory Notes	Credit Facility	Operating Leases	Total
2012 (remaining six months)	\$ 6,258	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,352	\$ 10,110
2013	6,664	7,500	3,144	17,308
2014	3,364	12,500	3,251	19,115
2015	560	17,500	3,117	21,177
2016	50	20,000	3,060	23,110
2017 and thereafter		40,000	6,335	46,335
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 16,896</b>	<b>\$ 100,000</b>	<b>\$ 20,259</b>	<b>\$ 137,155</b>

On November 4, 2011, we replaced our existing \$225.0 million credit facility with a new \$300.0 million credit facility. The new facility consists of a \$100.0 million five-year term loan, with annual principal amortization of 5%, 10%, 15%, 20% and 50%, and a \$200.0 million five-year revolving credit line.

Borrowings under the credit facility are collateralized by our assets and interest is payable at specified margins above either the Eurodollar Margin or the Prime Rate. The interest rate varies dependent upon the ratio of funded debt to adjusted EBITDA and ranges from Eurodollar Margin + 1.625% to 2.375% or Prime + 1.00% for the revolving credit line and from Eurodollar Margin + 2.00% to 2.75% or Prime + 1.00% for the term loan. Adjusted EBITDA is defined as net income less provision for taxes, depreciation expense, amortization expense, stock-based compensation expense, interest and other income (expense), and acquisition costs for business combinations. The interest rate margins for the new facility are 0.50% less than the commensurate margins under our previous credit facility. The revolving credit line requires a facility fee of 0.375% of the revolving credit line capacity. The credit facility expires in November 2016. The credit facility restricts our ability to raise additional debt financing and pay dividends. In addition, we are required to maintain financial ratios computed as follows:

1. Fixed charge coverage: ratio of (i) trailing twelve months of adjusted EBITDA to (ii) the sum of capital expenditures, net cash interest expense, cash taxes, cash dividends and trailing twelve months payments of indebtedness. Payment of unsecured indebtedness is excluded to the degree that sufficient unused revolving credit line capacity exists such that the relevant debt payment could be made from the credit facility.
2. Funded debt to adjusted EBITDA: ratio of (i) the sum of all obligations owed to lending institutions, the face amount of any letters of credit, indebtedness owed in connection with acquisition-related notes and indebtedness owed in connection with capital lease obligations to (ii) trailing twelve months of adjusted EBITDA.

Under the terms of the credit facility, we must maintain a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio of 1.15:1.00 and cannot exceed a maximum funded debt to adjusted EBITDA ratio of 3.00:1.00, and the terms also require us to comply with other nonfinancial covenants. We were in compliance with the covenants of our new credit facility as of December 31, 2011. We were in compliance with the covenants of our previous credit facility as of June 30, 2011.

**Headquarter Lease**

As the previous lease for our corporate headquarters located at 1051 Hillsdale Boulevard, Foster City, California expired in October 2010, we entered into a new lease agreement in February 2010 for approximately 63,998 square feet of office space located at 950 Tower Lane, Foster City, California. The term of the lease began on November 1, 2010 and expires on October 31, 2018. The monthly base rent was abated for the first 12 calendar months under the lease. Thereafter the base rent is \$118,000 through the 24th calendar month of the term of the lease, after which the monthly base rent will increase to \$182,000 for the subsequent 12 months. In the following years the monthly base rent will increase approximately 3% after each 12-month anniversary during the term of the lease, including any extensions under our options to extend.

We have two options to extend the term of the lease for one additional year for each option following the expiration date of the lease or renewal term, as applicable.

---

**Table of Contents**

**ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK**

We are exposed to market risks in the ordinary course of our business. These risks include primarily foreign currency exchange and interest rate risks.

**Foreign Currency Exchange Risk**

To date, our international client agreements have been predominately denominated in U.S. dollars, and accordingly, we have limited exposure to foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations related to client agreements, and do not currently engage in foreign currency hedging transactions. As the local accounts for some of our foreign operations are maintained in the local currency of the respective country, we are subject to foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations associated with the remeasurement to U.S. dollars. A hypothetical change of 10% in foreign currency exchange rates would not have a material effect on our consolidated financial condition or results of operations.

**Interest Rate Risk**

We invest our cash equivalents and short-term investments primarily in money market funds, US government securities and short-term deposits with original maturities of less than three months. Unrestricted cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments are held for working capital purposes and acquisition financing. We do not enter into investments for trading or speculative purposes. We believe that we do not have material exposure to changes in the fair value as a result of changes in interest rates due to the short-term nature of our investments. Declines in interest rates may reduce future investment income. However, a hypothetical decline of 1% in the interest rate on our investments would not have a material effect on our consolidated financial condition or results of operations.

As of December 31, 2011, our credit facility had a borrowing capacity of \$300.0 million. Interest on borrowings under the credit facility is payable quarterly at specified margins above either Eurodollar Margin or the Prime Rate. Our exposure to interest rate risk under the credit facility will depend on the extent to which we utilize such facility. As of December 31, 2011, we had \$100.0 million outstanding under our credit facility. A hypothetical increase of 1% in the Eurodollar Margin or Prime Rate-based interest rate on our credit facility would result in an increase in our interest expense of \$1.0 million per year, assuming constant borrowing levels.

**ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

**Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

Our management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer, evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures as of December 31, 2011. The term disclosure controls and procedures, as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act, means controls and other procedures of a company that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by a company in the reports that it files or submits under the Securities Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms. Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by a company in the reports that it files or submits under the Securities Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to the company's management, including its principal executive and principal financial officers, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. Management recognizes that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving their objectives and management necessarily applies its judgment in evaluating the cost-benefit relationship of possible controls and procedures. Based on the evaluation of our disclosure controls and procedures as of December 31, 2011, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that, as of such date, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective at the reasonable assurance level.

**Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

There was no change in our internal control over financial reporting identified in connection with the evaluation required by Rules 13a-15(d) and 15d-15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act that occurred during the period covered by this report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

## **Table of Contents**

### **PART II. OTHER INFORMATION**

#### **ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

On September 8, 2010, a patent infringement lawsuit was filed against us by LendingTree, LLC ( LendingTree ) in the United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina, seeking a judgment that we have infringed a certain patent held by LendingTree, an injunctive order against the alleged infringing activities and an award for damages. On September 24, 2010, LendingTree filed a first amended complaint adding an additional defendant. If an injunction is granted, it could force us to stop or alter certain of our business activities, such as our lead generation in certain of our client verticals. Currently, the case is in the pre-claims construction stage. While we intend to vigorously defend our position, neither the outcome of the litigation nor the amount and range of potential damages or exposure associated with the litigation can be assessed with at this time.

From time to time, we may become involved in other legal proceedings and claims arising in the ordinary course of our business.

#### **ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS**

*Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risks described below and the other information in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. If any of such risks actually occur, our business, operating results or financial condition could be adversely affected. In those cases, the trading price of our common stock could decline and you may lose all or part of your investment.*

##### **Risks Related to Our Business and Industry**

*We operate in an immature industry and have a relatively new business model, which makes it difficult to evaluate our business and prospects.*

We derive nearly all of our revenue from the sale of online marketing and media services, which is an immature industry that has undergone rapid and dramatic changes in its short history. The industry in which we operate is characterized by rapidly-changing Internet media, evolving industry standards, and changing user and client demands. Our business model is also evolving and is distinct from many other companies in our industry, and it may not be successful. As a result of these factors, the future revenue and income potential of our business is uncertain and return to our previous growth rates. Any evaluation of our business and our prospects must be considered in light of these factors and the risks and uncertainties often encountered by companies in an immature industry with an evolving business model such as ours. Some of these risks and uncertainties relate to our ability to:

maintain and expand client relationships;

sustain and increase the number of visitors to our websites;

sustain and grow relationships with third-party website publishers and other sources of web visitors;

manage our expanding operations and implement and improve our operational, financial and management controls;

overcome challenges presented by adverse global economic conditions as they impact spending in our client verticals;

raise capital at attractive costs, or at all;

Edgar Filing: QUINSTREET, INC - Form 10-Q

acquire and integrate websites and other businesses;

successfully expand our footprint in our existing client verticals and enter new client verticals;

respond effectively to competition and potential negative effects of competition on profit margins;

attract and retain qualified management, employees and independent service providers;

successfully introduce new processes and technologies and upgrade our existing technologies and services;

## Table of Contents

protect our proprietary technology and intellectual property rights; and

respond to government regulations relating to the Internet, marketing in our client verticals, personal data protection, email, software technologies and other aspects of our business.

If we are unable to address these risks, our business, results of operations and prospects could suffer.

***We depend upon Internet search companies to attract a significant portion of the visitors to our websites, and any change in the search companies' search algorithms or perception of us or our industry could result in our websites being listed less prominently in either paid or algorithmic search result listings, in which case the number of visitors to our websites and our revenue could decline.***

We depend in significant part on various Internet search companies, such as Google, Microsoft and Yahoo!, and other search websites to direct a significant number of visitors to our websites to provide our online marketing services to our clients. Search websites typically provide two types of search results, algorithmic and paid listings. Algorithmic, or organic, listings are determined and displayed solely by a set of formulas designed by search companies. Paid listings can be purchased and then are displayed if particular words are included in a user's Internet search. Placement in paid listings is generally not determined solely on the bid price, but also takes into account the search engines' assessment of the quality of the website featured in the paid listing and other factors. We rely on both algorithmic and paid search results, as well as advertising on other websites, to direct a substantial share of the visitors to our websites.

Our ability to maintain the number of visitors to our websites from search websites and other websites is not entirely within our control. For example, Internet search websites frequently revise their algorithms in an attempt to optimize their search result listings or to maintain their internal standards and strategies. Changes in the algorithms could cause our websites to receive less favorable placements, which could reduce the number of users who visit our websites. We have experienced fluctuations in the search result rankings for a number of our websites. Some of our sites and paid listing campaigns have been negatively impacted by Google algorithmic changes. In addition, our business model may be deemed similar to those of our competitors and others in our industry that Internet search websites may consider to be unsuitable or unattractive. Internet search websites could deem our content to be unsuitable or below standards or less attractive or worthy than those of other or competing websites. In either such case, our websites may receive less favorable placement in algorithmic or paid listings, or both.

In addition, we may make decisions that are suboptimal regarding the purchase of paid listings or our proprietary bid management technologies may contain defects or otherwise fail to achieve their intended results, either of which could also reduce the number of visitors to our websites or cause us to incur additional costs. We may also make decisions that are suboptimal regarding the placement of advertisements on other websites and pricing, which could increase our costs to attract such visitors or cause us to incur unnecessary costs. A reduction in the number of visitors to our websites could negatively affect our ability to earn revenue. If visits to our websites decrease, we may need to resort to more costly sources to replace lost visitors, and such increased expense could adversely affect our business and profitability.

***A substantial portion of our revenue is generated from a limited number of clients and, if we lose a major client, our revenue will decrease and our business and prospects would be adversely impacted.***

A substantial portion of our revenue is generated from a limited number of clients. Our top three clients accounted for 22% and 23% of our net revenue for the three and six months ended December 31, 2011, respectively. Our clients can generally terminate their contracts with us at any time, with limited prior notice or penalty. Our clients may reduce their level of business with us, leading to lower revenue. In addition, reductions in business by one or more significant clients of our programs may lead to price reductions to our other clients for those products whose prices are determined in whole or in part by client bidding or competition, resulting in lower revenue. We expect that a limited number of clients will continue to account for a significant percentage of our revenue, and the loss of, or material reduction in, their marketing spending with us could decrease our revenue and harm our business.



---

## **Table of Contents**

***There is significant activity and uncertainty in the regulatory and legislative environment for the for-profit education sector. These regulatory or legislative changes have negatively affected and could continue to negatively affect our clients' businesses, marketing practices and budgets and could impact demand, pricing or form of our services, any or all of which could have a material adverse impact on our financial results.***

We generate nearly half of our revenue from our education client vertical and nearly all of that revenue is generated from for-profit educational institutions. There is intense governmental interest in and scrutiny of the for-profit education industry and a high degree of focus on marketing practices in the industry. The Department of Education has promulgated regulations that have adversely impacted and could continue to adversely impact us and our education clients. The intense focus on the for-profit education industry could result in further regulatory or legislative action. We cannot predict whether this will happen or what the impact could be on our financial results.

The Higher Education Act, administered by the U.S. Department of Education, provides that to be eligible to participate in Federal student financial aid programs, an educational institution must enter into a program participation agreement with the Secretary of the Department of Education. The agreement includes a number of conditions with which an institution must comply to be granted initial and continuing eligibility to participate. Among those conditions is a prohibition on institutions providing to any individual or entity engaged in recruiting or admission activities any commission, bonus, or other incentive payment based directly or indirectly on success in securing enrollments. The Department of Education issued final regulations on incentive compensation and other matters which became effective July 1, 2011. The Department's regulations repeal all safe harbors regarding incentive compensation which existed under the prior regulations, including the safe harbor for Internet-based recruiting and admissions activities. The elimination of the safe harbors has created uncertainty for us and our education clients and impacts the way in which we are paid by our clients and, accordingly, has reduced the amount of revenue we generate from the education client vertical.

In addition, the same regulations impose strict liability on educational institutions for misrepresentations made by entities, like us, who contract with the institutions to provide marketing services. As a result, our clients have demanded and we have agreed to reduce certain limitations of liability in our contracts as well as indemnification for actions by our third-party publishers. We could be subject to costly litigation and damage to our reputation, if we are unsuccessful in defending ourselves, damages for our violation of any applicable regulation and the unauthorized or unlawful acts of third-party website publishers.

Other regulations could negatively impact our for-profit education clients. For example, the regulations on gainful employment that will restrict or eliminate federal financial aid to students in programs where certain debt-to-income ratios and loan default rates are not satisfied could result in the elimination or reduction in some of our clients' programs. This regulation is expected to take effect on July 1, 2012. Over the past year, enrollments have dropped significantly at some of our clients, caused in part by changes being made in anticipation of the implementation of this regulation. In addition, some of our large for-profit education clients have indicated that in coming years they may violate the 90/10 rule, whereby for-profit institutions must receive at least 10 percent of their revenue from sources other than federal student financial aid. If a for-profit institution fails to comply with the rule for two consecutive fiscal years, it may lose its eligibility to receive student-aid funds for at least two years. These and other regulations or a failure of our clients to comply with such regulations, could adversely affect our clients' businesses and, as a result, affect or materially reduce the amount of revenue we generate from those clients.

Moreover, some of our education clients have had and may in the future have issues regarding their academic accreditation, which could adversely affect their ability to offer certain degree programs. If any of our significant education clients lose their accreditation, they may reduce or eliminate their marketing spending, which could adversely affect our financial results.

Any of the aforementioned regulatory or legislative risks could cause some or all of our education clients to significantly shrink or even to cease doing business, which could have a material adverse effect on our financial results.

***We are dependent on two market verticals for a majority of our revenue. Negative changes in the economic condition, market dynamics or regulatory environment in one or both of these verticals has caused and may continue to cause our revenue to decline and our business and growth could suffer.***

To date, we have generated a majority of our revenue from clients in our education and financial services client verticals. We expect that a majority of our revenue in the near term will continue to be generated from clients in our education and financial services client verticals. Changes in the market conditions or the regulatory environment in these two highly-regulated client verticals has negatively impacted and may continue to negatively impact our clients' businesses, marketing practices and budgets and, therefore, adversely affect our financial results.



## Table of Contents

*Our operating results have fluctuated in the past and may do so in the future, which makes our results of operations difficult to predict and could cause our operating results to fall short of analysts' and investors' expectations.*

Our prior quarterly and annual operating results have fluctuated due to changes in our business, our industry and the general economic climate. Similarly, our future operating results may vary significantly from quarter to quarter due to a variety of factors, many of which are beyond our control. Our fluctuating results could cause our performance to be below the expectations of securities analysts and investors, causing the price of our common stock to fall. Because our business is changing and evolving, our historical operating results may not be useful to you in predicting our future operating results. Factors that may increase the volatility of our operating results include the following:

changes in demand and pricing for our services;

changes in our pricing policies, the pricing policies of our competitors, or the pricing of Internet advertising or media;

the addition of new clients or the loss of existing clients;

changes in our clients' advertising agencies or the marketing strategies our clients or their advertising agencies employ;

changes in the regulatory environment for us or our clients;

changes in the economic prospects of our clients or the economy generally, which could alter current or prospective clients' spending priorities, or could increase the time or costs required to complete sales with clients;

changes in the availability of Internet advertising or the cost to reach Internet visitors;

changes in the placement of our websites on search engines;

the introduction of new product or service offerings by our competitors; and

costs related to acquisitions of businesses or technologies.

***Our future growth depends in part on our ability to identify and complete acquisitions. Any acquisitions that we pursue or complete will involve a number of risks. If we are unable to address and resolve these risks successfully, such acquisition activity could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.***

Our growth over the past several years is in significant part due to the large number of acquisitions we have completed of third-party website publishing businesses and other businesses that are complementary to our own. We intend to evaluate and pursue additional acquisitions of complementary businesses and technologies to expand our capabilities, client base and media. We have also evaluated, and expect to continue to evaluate, a wide array of potential strategic transactions. However, we may not be successful in identifying suitable acquisition candidates or be able to complete acquisitions of such candidates. In addition, we may not be able to obtain financing on favorable terms, or at all, to fund acquisitions that we may wish to pursue. The anticipated benefit of acquisitions that we complete may not materialize and the process of integrating acquired businesses or technologies may create unforeseen operating difficulties and expenditures. Some of the areas where we may face acquisition-related risks include:

diversion of management time and potential business disruptions;

difficulties integrating and supporting acquired products or technologies;

disruptions or reductions in client revenues associated with changes to the business models of acquired businesses;

expenses, distractions and potential claims resulting from acquisitions, whether or not they are completed;

retaining and integrating employees from any businesses we may acquire;

issuance of dilutive equity securities, incurrence of debt or reduction in cash balances;

integrating various accounting, management, information, human resource and other systems to permit effective management;

---

**Table of Contents**

incurring possible impairment charges, contingent liabilities, amortization expense or write-offs of goodwill;

unexpected capital expenditure requirements;

insufficient revenue to offset increased expenses associated with acquisitions;

underperformance problems associated with acquisitions; and

becoming involved in acquisition-related litigation.

Foreign acquisitions involve risks in addition to those mentioned above, including those related to integration of operations across different cultures and languages, currency risks and the particular economic, political, administrative and management, and regulatory risks associated with specific countries. We may not be able to address these risks successfully, or at all, without incurring significant costs, delay or other operating problems. Our inability to resolve such risks could harm our business and results of operations.

***If we are unable to retain the members of our management team or attract and retain qualified management team members in the future, our business and growth could suffer.***

Our success and future growth depend, to a significant degree, on the continued contributions of the members of our management team. Each member of our management team is an at-will employee and may voluntarily terminate his or her employment with us at any time with minimal notice. We also may need to hire additional management team members to adequately manage our growing business. We may not be able to retain or identify and attract additional qualified management team members. Competition for experienced management-level personnel in our industry is intense. Qualified individuals are in high demand, particularly in the Internet marketing industry, and we may incur significant costs to attract and retain them. Members of our management team have also become, or will soon become, substantially vested in their stock option grants. Management team members may be more likely to leave as a result of the recent establishment of a public market for our common stock. If we lose the services of any member of our management team or if we are unable to attract and retain additional qualified senior managers, our business and growth could suffer.

***We need to hire and retain additional qualified personnel to grow and manage our business. If we are unable to attract and retain qualified personnel, our business and growth could be seriously harmed.***

Our performance depends on the talents and efforts of our employees. Our future success will depend on our ability to attract, retain and motivate highly skilled personnel in all areas of our organization and, in particular, in our engineering/technology, sales and marketing, media, finance and legal/regulatory teams. We plan to continue to grow our business and will need to hire additional personnel to support this growth. We have found it difficult from time to time to locate and hire suitable personnel. If we experience similar difficulties in the future, our growth may be hindered. Qualified individuals are in high demand, particularly in the Internet marketing industry, and we may incur significant costs to attract and retain them. Many of our employees have also become, or will soon become, substantially vested in their stock option grants and may be more likely to leave us as a result. If we are unable to attract and retain the personnel we need to succeed, our business and growth could be harmed.

***We depend on third-party website publishers for a significant portion of our visitors, and any decline in the supply of media available through these websites or increase in the price of this media could cause our revenue to decline or our cost to reach visitors to increase.***

A significant portion of our revenue is attributable to visitors originating from arrangements that we have with third-party websites. In many instances, website publishers can change the media inventory they make available to us at any time and, therefore, impact our revenue. In addition, website publishers may place significant restrictions on our offerings. These restrictions may prohibit advertisements from specific clients or specific industries, or restrict the use of certain creative content or formats. If a website publisher decides not to make media inventory available to us, or decides to demand a higher revenue share or places significant restrictions on the use of such inventory, we may not be able to find advertising inventory from other websites that satisfy our requirements in a timely and cost-effective manner. In addition, the number of competing online marketing service providers and advertisers that acquire inventory from websites continues to increase. Consolidation of Internet advertising networks and website



## **Table of Contents**

publishers could eventually lead to a concentration of desirable inventory on a small number of websites or networks, which could limit the supply of inventory available to us or increase the price of inventory to us. We cannot assure you that we will be able to acquire advertising inventory that meets our clients' performance, price and quality requirements. If any of these things occur, our revenue could decline or our operating costs may increase.

*We rely on certain advertising agencies for the purchase of various advertising and marketing services on behalf of their clients. Such agencies may have or develop high-risk credit profiles which may result in credit risk to us.*

We benefit from the established relationships and sales teams that certain of our advertising agencies have with their clients. These agencies may in certain cases, however, have or develop high-risk credit profiles which may subject us to credit risk that we may otherwise mitigate more efficiently with clients directly. This credit risk may vary depending on the nature of an agency's aggregated client base. In some limited circumstances, we also accept direct payment from clients of advertising agencies in place of liability of the advertising agencies.

*If we fail to compete effectively against other online marketing and media companies and other competitors, we could lose clients and our revenue may decline.*

The market for online marketing is intensely competitive. We expect this competition to continue to increase in the future. We perceive only limited barriers to entry to the online marketing industry. We compete both for clients and for limited high quality advertising inventory. We compete for clients on the basis of a number of factors, including return on marketing expenditures, price, and client service.

We compete with Internet and traditional media companies for a share of clients' overall marketing budgets, including:

online marketing or media services providers such as Halyard Education Partners in the education client vertical and BankRate in the financial services client vertical;

offline and online advertising agencies;

major Internet portals and search engine companies with advertising networks such as Google, Yahoo!, MSN, and AOL;

other online marketing service providers, including online affiliate advertising networks and industry-specific portals or lead generation companies;

website publishers with their own sales forces that sell their online marketing services directly to clients;

in-house marketing groups at current or potential clients;

offline direct marketing agencies;

mobile and social media; and

television, radio and print companies.

Competition for web traffic among websites and search engines, as well as competition with traditional media companies, could result in significant price pressure, declining margins, reductions in revenue and loss of market share. In addition, as we continue to expand the scope of

our services, we may compete with a greater number of websites, clients and traditional media companies across an increasing range of different services, including in vertical markets where competitors may have advantages in expertise, brand recognition and other areas. Large Internet companies with brand recognition, such as Google, Yahoo!, MSN, and AOL, have significant numbers of direct sales personnel and substantial proprietary advertising inventory and web traffic that provide a significant competitive advantage and have significant impact on pricing for Internet advertising and web traffic. These companies may also develop more vertically targeted products that match consumers with products and services, such as Google's mortgage rate and credit card comparison products, and thus compete with us more directly. The trend toward consolidation in the Internet advertising arena may also affect pricing and availability of advertising inventory and web traffic. Many of our current and potential competitors also enjoy other competitive advantages over us, such as longer operating histories, greater brand recognition, larger client bases, greater access to advertising inventory on high-traffic websites, and significantly greater financial, technical and marketing resources. As a result, we may not be able to compete successfully. Competition from other marketing service providers' on- and offline offerings could affect both volume and price, and thus revenue. If we fail to deliver results that are superior to those that other online marketing service providers achieve, we could lose clients and our revenue may decline.



---

**Table of Contents**

***We may need additional capital in the future to meet our financial obligations and to pursue our business objectives. Additional capital may not be available or may not be available on favorable terms and our business and financial condition could therefore be adversely affected.***

While we anticipate that our existing cash and cash equivalents, together with availability under our existing credit facility and cash from operations, will be sufficient to fund our operations for at least the next 12 months, we may need to raise additional capital to fund operations in the future or to finance acquisitions. If we seek to raise additional capital in order to meet various objectives, including developing future technologies and services, increasing working capital, acquiring businesses and responding to competitive pressures, capital may not be available on favorable terms or may not be available at all. In addition, pursuant to the terms of our existing and new credit facility, we are required to use a portion of the net proceeds of certain equity financings to repay the outstanding balance of our term loan. Lack of sufficient capital resources could significantly limit our ability to take advantage of business and strategic opportunities. Any additional capital raised through the sale of equity or debt securities with an equity component would dilute our stock ownership. If adequate additional funds are not available, we may be required to delay, reduce the scope of, or eliminate material parts of our business strategy, including potential additional acquisitions or development of new technologies.

***We have a significant amount of debt, which may limit our ability to fund general corporate requirements and obtain additional financing, limit our flexibility in responding to business opportunities and competitive developments and increase our vulnerability to adverse economic and industry conditions.***

As of December 31, 2011, we had an outstanding term loan with a principal balance of \$100.0 million and a revolving credit line pursuant to which we can borrow up to an additional \$200.0 million, all of which is available to be drawn. As of such date, we also had outstanding notes to sellers arising from numerous acquisitions in the total principal amount of \$16.9 million. As a result of obligations associated with our debt:

we may not have sufficient liquidity to respond to business opportunities, competitive developments and adverse economic conditions;

we may not have sufficient liquidity to fund all of our costs if our revenue declines or costs increase; and

we may not have sufficient funds to repay the principal balance of our debt when due.

Our debt obligations may also impair our ability to obtain additional financing, if needed. Our indebtedness is secured by substantially all of our assets, leaving us with limited collateral for additional financing. Moreover, the terms of our indebtedness restrict our ability to take certain actions, including the incurrence of additional indebtedness, mergers and acquisitions, investments and asset sales. In addition, even if we are able to raise needed equity financing, we are required to use a portion of the net proceeds of certain types of equity financings to repay the outstanding balance of our term loan. A failure to pay interest or indebtedness when due could result in a variety of adverse consequences, including the acceleration of our indebtedness. In such a situation, it is unlikely that we would be able to fulfill our obligations under our credit facility or repay the accelerated indebtedness or otherwise cover our costs.

***The continued global macroeconomic uncertainty poses additional risks to our business, financial condition and results of operations.***

The United States and the global economy are experiencing a prolonged period of economic uncertainty following severe economic downturns in many countries. The slow pace of recovery in the United States, deterioration of global economies, potential insolvency of one or more countries globally, high unemployment and reduced and/or volatile equity valuations all create risks that could harm our business. If macroeconomic conditions were to worsen, we are not able to predict the impact such worsening conditions will have on the online marketing industry in general, and our results of operations specifically. Clients in particular client verticals such as financial services, particularly mortgage, credit cards and deposits, small- and medium-sized business customers and home services are facing very difficult conditions and their marketing spend has been negatively affected. These conditions could also damage our business opportunities in existing markets, and reduce our revenue and profitability. While the effect of these and related conditions poses widespread risk across our business, we believe that it may particularly affect our efforts in the mortgage, credit cards and deposits, small- and medium-sized business and home services client verticals, due to reduced availability of credit for households and businesses and reduced household disposable income. Economic conditions may not improve or may worsen.



## **Table of Contents**

***Poor perception of our business or industry as a result of the actions of third parties could harm our reputation and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.***

Our business is dependent on attracting a large number of visitors to our websites and providing leads and clicks to our clients, which depends in part on our reputation within the industry and with our clients. There are companies within our industry that regularly engage in activities that our clients' customers may view as unlawful or inappropriate. These activities, such as spyware or deceptive promotions, by third parties may be seen by clients as characteristic of participants in our industry and, therefore, may have an adverse effect on the reputation of all participants in our industry, including us. Any damage to our reputation, including from publicity from legal proceedings against us or companies that work within our industry, governmental proceedings, consumer class action litigation, or the disclosure of information security breaches or private information misuse, could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***Our quarterly revenue and operating results may fluctuate significantly from quarter to quarter due to seasonal fluctuations in advertising spending.***

Our results are subject to significant fluctuation as a result of seasonality. In particular, our quarters ending December 31 (our second fiscal quarter) generally demonstrate seasonal weakness. In our second fiscal quarters, there is generally lower availability of lead supply from some forms of media during the holiday period on a cost effective basis and some of our clients request fewer leads due to holiday staffing. Our fluctuating results could cause our performance to be below the expectations of securities analysts and investors, causing the price of our common stock to fall. To the extent our rate of growth slows or our revenue contracts, we expect that the seasonality in our business may become more apparent and may in the future cause our operating results to fluctuate to a greater extent.

***If we do not effectively manage our growth, our operating performance will suffer and we may lose clients.***

We have historically experienced rapid growth in our operations and operating locations, and we expect to experience further growth in our business, both through acquisitions and internally. This growth has placed, and will continue to place, significant demands on our management and our operational and financial infrastructure. In particular, rapid growth and acquisitions may make it more difficult for us to accomplish the following:

successfully scale our technology to accommodate a larger business and integrate acquisitions;

maintain our standing with key vendors, including Internet search companies and third-party website publishers;

maintain our client service standards; and

develop and improve our operational, financial and management controls and maintain adequate reporting systems and procedures. In addition, our personnel, systems, procedures and controls may be inadequate to support our future operations. The improvements required to manage such growth would require us to make significant expenditures, expand, train and manage our employee base and allocate valuable management resources. If we fail to effectively manage our growth, our operating performance will suffer and we may lose clients, key vendors and key personnel.

***If the market for online marketing services fails to continue to develop, our future growth may be limited and our revenue may decrease.***

The online marketing services market is relatively new and rapidly evolving, and it uses different measurements than traditional media to gauge its effectiveness. Some of our current or potential clients have little or no experience using the Internet for advertising and marketing purposes and have allocated only limited portions of their advertising and marketing budgets to the Internet. The adoption of Internet advertising, particularly by those entities that have historically relied upon traditional media for advertising, requires the acceptance of a new way of conducting business, exchanging information and evaluating new advertising and marketing technologies and services. In particular, we are dependent on our clients' adoption of new metrics to measure the success of online marketing campaigns. We may also experience resistance from traditional advertising agencies who may be advising our clients. We cannot assure you that the market for online marketing services will continue to grow. If the market for online marketing services fails to continue to develop or develops more slowly than we anticipate, our ability

to grow our business may be limited and our revenue may decrease.

---

**Table of Contents**

***Third-party website publishers may engage in unauthorized or unlawful acts that could subject us to significant liability or cause us to lose clients.***

We generate a significant portion of our web visitors from media advertising that we purchase from third-party website publishers. Some of these publishers are authorized to display our clients' brands, subject to contractual restrictions. In the past, some of our third-party website publishers have engaged in activities that certain of our clients have viewed as harmful to their brands, such as displaying outdated descriptions of a client's offerings or outdated logos. Any activity by publishers that clients view as potentially damaging to their brands can harm our relationship with the client and cause the client to terminate its relationship with us, resulting in a loss of revenue. In addition, the law is unsettled on the extent of liability that an advertiser in our position has for the activities of third-party website publishers. Recent Department of Education regulations impose strict liability on our education clients for misrepresentations made by their marketing service providers and many of our contracts in the education client vertical impose liability on us for the acts of our third-party publishers. We could be subject to costly litigation and, if we are unsuccessful in defending ourselves, damages for the unauthorized or unlawful acts of third-party website publishers.

***Because many of our client contracts can be cancelled by the client with little or no prior notice or penalty, the cancellation of one or more contracts could result in an immediate decline in our revenue.***

We derive our revenue from contracts with our Internet marketing clients, most of which are cancelable with little or no prior notice. In addition, these contracts do not contain penalty provisions for cancellation before the end of the contract term. The non-renewal, renegotiation, cancellation, or deferral of large contracts, or a number of contracts that in the aggregate account for a significant amount of our revenue, is difficult to anticipate and could result in an immediate decline in our revenue.

***Unauthorized access to or accidental disclosure of consumer personally-identifiable information that we collect may cause us to incur significant expenses and may negatively affect our credibility and business.***

There is growing concern over the security of personal information transmitted over the Internet, consumer identity theft and user privacy. Despite our implementation of security measures, our computer systems may be susceptible to electronic or physical computer break-ins, viruses and other disruptions and security breaches. Any perceived or actual unauthorized disclosure of personally-identifiable information regarding website visitors, whether through breach of our network by an unauthorized party, employee theft, misuse or error or otherwise, could harm our reputation, impair our ability to attract website visitors and attract and retain our clients, or subject us to claims or litigation arising from damages suffered by consumers, and thereby harm our business and operating results. In addition, we could incur significant costs in complying with the multitude of state, federal and foreign laws regarding the unauthorized disclosure of personal information.

***If we do not adequately protect our intellectual property rights, our competitive position and business may suffer.***

Our ability to compete effectively depends upon our proprietary systems and technology. We rely on trade secret, trademark and copyright law, confidentiality agreements, technical measures and patents to protect our proprietary rights. We currently have one patent application pending in the United States and no issued patents. Effective trade secret, copyright, trademark and patent protection may not be available in all countries where we currently operate or in which we may operate in the future. Some of our systems and technologies are not covered by any copyright, patent or patent application. We cannot guarantee that: (i) our intellectual property rights will provide competitive advantages to us; (ii) our ability to assert our intellectual property rights against potential competitors or to settle current or future disputes will not be limited by our agreements with third parties; (iii) our intellectual property rights will be enforced in jurisdictions where competition may be intense or where legal protection may be weak; (iv) any of the patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets or other intellectual property rights that we presently employ in our business will not lapse or be invalidated, circumvented, challenged, or abandoned; (v) competitors will not design around our protected systems and technology; or (vi) that we will not lose the ability to assert our intellectual property rights against others.

We are a party to a number of third-party intellectual property license agreements and in the future, may need to obtain additional licenses or renew existing license agreements. We are unable to predict with certainty whether these license agreements can be obtained or renewed on commercially reasonable terms, or at all.

---

## **Table of Contents**

We have from time to time become aware of third parties who we believe may have infringed on our intellectual property rights. The use of our intellectual property rights by others could reduce any competitive advantage we have developed and cause us to lose clients, third-party website publishers or otherwise harm our business. Policing unauthorized use of our proprietary rights can be difficult and costly. In addition, litigation, while it may be necessary to enforce or protect our intellectual property rights or to defend litigation brought against us, could result in substantial costs and diversion of resources and management attention and could adversely affect our business, even if we are successful on the merits.

***Confidentiality agreements with employees, consultants and others may not adequately prevent disclosure of trade secrets and other proprietary information.***

We have devoted substantial resources to the development of our proprietary systems and technology. In order to protect our proprietary systems and technology, we enter into confidentiality agreements with our employees, consultants, independent contractors and other advisors. These agreements may not effectively prevent unauthorized disclosure of confidential information or unauthorized parties from copying aspects of our services or obtaining and using information that we regard as proprietary. Moreover, these agreements may not provide an adequate remedy in the event of such unauthorized disclosures of confidential information and we cannot assure you that our rights under such agreements will be enforceable. In addition, others may independently discover trade secrets and proprietary information, and in such cases we could not assert any trade secret rights against such parties. Costly and time-consuming litigation could be necessary to enforce and determine the scope of our proprietary rights, and failure to obtain or maintain trade secret protection could reduce any competitive advantage we have and cause us to lose clients, publishers or otherwise harm our business.

***Third parties may sue us for intellectual property infringement which, if successful, could require us to pay significant damages or curtail our offerings.***

We cannot be certain that our internally-developed or acquired systems and technologies do not and will not infringe the intellectual property rights of others. In addition, we license content, software and other intellectual property rights from third parties and may be subject to claims of infringement if such parties do not possess the necessary intellectual property rights to the products they license to us. We have in the past and may in the future be subject to legal proceedings and claims that we have infringed the patent or other intellectual property rights of a third-party. These claims sometimes involve patent holding companies or other adverse patent owners who have no relevant product revenue and against whom our own patents, if any, may therefore provide little or no deterrence. In addition, third parties have asserted and may in the future assert intellectual property infringement claims against our clients, which we have agreed in certain circumstances to indemnify and defend against such claims. Any intellectual property related infringement claims, whether or not meritorious, could result in costly litigation and could divert management resources and attention. Moreover, should we be found liable for infringement, we may be required to enter into licensing agreements, if available on acceptable terms or at all, pay substantial damages, or limit or curtail our systems and technologies. Moreover, we may need to redesign some of our systems and technologies to avoid future infringement liability. Any of the foregoing could prevent us from competing effectively and increase our costs.

Additionally, the laws relating to use of trademarks on the Internet are currently unsettled, particularly as they apply to search engine functionality. For example, other Internet marketing and search companies have been sued in the past for trademark infringement and other intellectual property-related claims for the display of ads or search results in response to user queries that include trademarked terms. The outcomes of these lawsuits have differed from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. For this reason, it is conceivable that certain of our activities could expose us to trademark infringement, unfair competition, misappropriation or other intellectual property related claims which could be costly to defend and result in substantial damages or otherwise limit or curtail our activities, and adversely affect our business or prospects.

***Our proprietary technologies may include design or performance defects and may not achieve their intended results, either of which could impair our future revenue growth.***

Our proprietary technologies are relatively new, and they may contain design or performance defects that are not yet apparent. The use of our proprietary technologies may not achieve the intended results as effectively as other technologies that exist now or may be introduced by our competitors, in which case our business could be harmed.

---

## **Table of Contents**

*If we fail to keep pace with rapidly-changing technologies and industry standards, we could lose clients or advertising inventory and our results of operations may suffer.*

The business lines in which we currently compete are characterized by rapidly-changing Internet media and marketing standards, changing technologies, frequent new product and service introductions, and changing user and client demands. The introduction of new technologies and services embodying new technologies and the emergence of new industry standards and practices could render our existing technologies and services obsolete and unmarketable or require unanticipated investments in technology. Our future success will depend in part on our ability to adapt to these rapidly-changing Internet media formats and other technologies. We will need to enhance our existing technologies and services and develop and introduce new technologies and services to address our clients' changing demands. If we fail to adapt successfully to such developments or timely introduce new technologies and services, we could lose clients, our expenses could increase and we could lose advertising inventory.

*Changes in government regulation and industry standards applicable to the Internet and our business could decrease demand for our technologies and services or increase our costs.*

Laws and regulations that apply to Internet communications, commerce and advertising are becoming more prevalent. These regulations could increase the costs of conducting business on the Internet and could decrease demand for our technologies and services.

In the United States, federal and state laws have been enacted regarding copyrights, sending of unsolicited commercial email, user privacy, search engines, Internet tracking technologies, direct marketing, data security, children's privacy, pricing, sweepstakes, promotions, intellectual property ownership and infringement, trade secrets, export of encryption technology, taxation and acceptable content and quality of goods. Other laws and regulations may be adopted in the future. Laws and regulations, including those related to privacy and use of personal information, are changing rapidly outside the United States as well which may make compliance with such laws and regulations difficult and which may negatively affect our ability to expand internationally. This legislation could: (i) hinder growth in the use of the Internet generally; (ii) decrease the acceptance of the Internet as a communications, commercial and advertising medium; (iii) reduce our revenue; (iv) increase our operating expenses; or (v) expose us to significant liabilities.

The laws governing the Internet remain largely unsettled, even in areas where there has been some legislative action. While we actively monitor this changing legal and regulatory landscape to stay abreast of changes in the laws and regulations applicable to our business, we are not certain how our business might be affected by the application of existing laws governing issues such as property ownership, copyrights, encryption and other intellectual property issues, libel, obscenity and export or import matters to the Internet advertising industry. The vast majority of such laws were adopted prior to the advent of the Internet. As a result, they do not contemplate or address the unique issues of the Internet and related technologies. Changes in laws intended to address such issues could create uncertainty in the Internet market. It may take years to determine how existing laws apply to the Internet and Internet marketing. Such uncertainty makes it difficult to predict costs and could reduce demand for our services or increase the cost of doing business as a result of litigation costs or increased service delivery costs.

In particular, a number of U.S. federal laws impact our business. The Digital Millennium Copyright Act, or DMCA, is intended, in part, to limit the liability of eligible online service providers for listing or linking to third-party websites that include materials that infringe copyrights or other rights. Portions of the Communications Decency Act, or CDA, are intended to provide statutory protections to online service providers who distribute third-party content. We rely on the protections provided by both the DMCA and CDA in conducting our business. The U.S. Department of Education issued final regulations on incentive compensation and other matters which became effective July 1, 2011. These regulations repeal all safe harbors regarding incentive compensation which existed under the prior regulations. The elimination of the safe harbors create uncertainty for us and our education clients and impact the way in which we are paid by our clients and, accordingly, could reduce the amount of revenue we generate from the education client vertical.

In addition, the Department has issued final regulations that also restrict Title IV funding for programs not meeting prescribed income-to-debt ratios (i.e., programs not leading to gainful employment as defined under the proposed regulation). These provisions, could negatively affect our business with education clients. Any changes in these laws or judicial interpretations narrowing their protections could subject us to greater risk of liability and may increase our costs of compliance with these regulations or limit our ability to operate certain lines of business.

The financial services, education and medical industries are highly regulated and our marketing activities on behalf of our clients in those industries are also regulated. As described above, and for example, the regulations from the Department of Education on incentive compensation, gainful employment and other matters could limit our clients' businesses and limit the revenue we receive from our education clients. As an additional example, our mortgage and insurance websites and marketing services we offer are subject to various federal, state and local laws, including state licensing laws, federal and state laws prohibiting unfair acts and





---

**Table of Contents**

practices, and federal and state advertising laws. Any failure to comply with these laws and regulations could subject us to revocation of required licenses, civil, criminal or administrative liability, damage to our reputation or changes to or limitations on the conduct of our business. Any of the foregoing could cause our business, operations and financial condition to suffer.

***Increased taxation of companies engaged in Internet commerce may adversely affect the commercial use of our marketing services and our financial results.***

The tax treatment of Internet commerce remains unsettled, and we cannot predict the effect of current attempts to impose sales, income or other taxes on commerce conducted over the Internet. Tax authorities at the international, federal, state and local levels are currently reviewing the taxation of Internet commerce, particularly as many governmental agencies seek to address fiscal concerns and budgetary shortfalls by introducing new taxes or expanding the applicability of existing tax laws. We have experienced certain states taking expansive positions with regard to their taxation of our services. The imposition of new laws requiring the collection of sales or other transactional taxes on the sale of our services via the Internet could create increased administrative burdens or costs, discourage clients from purchasing services from us, decrease our ability to compete or otherwise substantially harm our business and results of operations.

***Limitations on our ability to collect and use data derived from user activities could significantly diminish the value of our services and cause us to lose clients and revenue.***

When a user visits our websites, we use technologies, including cookies, to collect information such as the user's Internet Protocol, or IP, address, offerings delivered by us that have been previously viewed by the user and responses by the user to those offerings. In order to determine the effectiveness of a marketing campaign and to determine how to modify the campaign, we need to access and analyze this information. The use of cookies has been the subject of regulatory scrutiny and litigation and users are able to block or delete cookies from their browser. Periodically, certain of our clients and publishers seek to prohibit or limit our collection or use of this data. Interruptions, failures or defects in our data collection systems, as well as privacy concerns regarding the collection of user data, could also limit our ability to analyze data from our clients' marketing campaigns. This risk is heightened when we deliver marketing services to clients in the financial and medical services client verticals. If our access to data is limited in the future, we may be unable to provide effective technologies and services to clients and we may lose clients and revenue.

***As a creator and a distributor of Internet content, we face potential liability and expenses for legal claims based on the nature and content of the materials that we create or distribute. If we are required to pay damages or expenses in connection with these legal claims, our operating results and business may be harmed.***

We create original content for our websites and marketing messages and distribute third-party content on our websites and in our marketing messages. As a creator and distributor of original content and third-party provided content, we face potential liability based on a variety of theories, including defamation, negligence, deceptive advertising (including the Department of Education's regulations regarding misrepresentation in education marketing), copyright or trademark infringement or other legal theories based on the nature, creation or distribution of this information. It is also possible that our website visitors could make claims against us for losses incurred in reliance upon information provided on our websites. In addition, as the number of users of forums and social media features on our websites increases, we could be exposed to liability in connection with material posted to our websites by users and other third parties. These claims, whether brought in the United States or abroad, could divert management time and attention away from our business and result in significant costs to investigate and defend, regardless of the merit of these claims. In addition, if we become subject to these types of claims and are not successful in our defense, we may be forced to pay substantial damages.

***Wireless devices and mobile phones are increasingly being used to access the Internet, and our online marketing services may not be as effective when accessed through these devices, which could cause harm to our business.***

The number of people who access the Internet through devices other than personal computers has increased substantially in the last few years. Our online marketing services were designed for persons accessing the Internet on a desktop or laptop computer. The smaller screens, lower resolution graphics and less convenient typing capabilities of these devices may make it more difficult for visitors to respond to our offerings. In addition, the cost of mobile advertising is relatively high and may not be cost-effective for our services. If our services continue to be less effective or economically attractive for clients seeking to engage in marketing through these devices and this segment of web traffic grows at the expense of traditional computer Internet access, we will experience difficulty attracting website visitors and attracting and retaining clients and our operating results and business will be harmed.



## **Table of Contents**

*We may not succeed in expanding our businesses outside the United States, which may limit our future growth.*

One potential area of growth for us is in the international markets and we have recently entered into certain markets. However, we have limited experience in marketing, selling and supporting our services outside of the United States and we may not be successful in introducing or marketing our services abroad. There are risks inherent in conducting business in international markets, such as:

the adaptation of technologies and services to foreign clients' preferences and customs;

application of foreign laws and regulations to us, including marketing and privacy regulations;

changes in foreign political and economic conditions;

tariffs and other trade barriers, fluctuations in currency exchange rates and potentially adverse tax consequences;

language barriers or cultural differences;

reduced or limited protection for intellectual property rights in foreign jurisdictions;

difficulties and costs in staffing, managing or overseeing foreign operations; and

education of potential clients who may not be familiar with online marketing.

If we are unable to successfully expand and market our services abroad, our business and future growth may be harmed and we may incur costs that may not lead to future revenue.

***We rely on Internet bandwidth and data center providers and other third parties for key aspects of the process of providing services to our clients, and any failure or interruption in the services and products provided by these third parties could harm our business.***

We rely on third-party vendors, including data center and Internet bandwidth providers. Any disruption in the network access or co-location services provided by these third-party providers or any failure of these third-party providers to handle current or higher volumes of use could significantly harm our business. Any financial or other difficulties our providers face may have negative effects on our business, the nature and extent of which we cannot predict. We exercise little control over these third-party vendors, which increases our vulnerability to problems with the services they provide. We license technology and related databases from third parties to facilitate analysis and storage of data and delivery of offerings. We have experienced interruptions and delays in service and availability for data centers, bandwidth and other technologies in the past. Any errors, failures, interruptions or delays experienced in connection with these third-party technologies and services could adversely affect our business and could expose us to liabilities to third parties.

Our systems also heavily depend on the availability of electricity, which also comes from third-party providers. If we or third-party data centers which we utilize were to experience a major power outage, we would have to rely on back-up generators. These back-up generators may not operate properly through a major power outage and their fuel supply could also be inadequate during a major power outage or disruptive event. Furthermore, we do not currently have backup generators at our Foster City, California headquarters. Information systems such as ours may be disrupted by even brief power outages, or by the fluctuations in power resulting from switches to and from back-up generators. This could give rise to obligations to certain of our clients which could have an adverse effect on our results for the period of time in which any disruption of utility services to us occurs.

***Interruption or failure of our information technology and communications systems could impair our ability to effectively deliver our services, which could cause us to lose clients and harm our operating results.***

Our delivery of marketing and media services depends on the continuing operation of our technology infrastructure and systems. Any damage to or failure of our systems could result in interruptions in our ability to deliver offerings quickly and accurately and/or process visitors' responses emanating from our various web presences. Interruptions in our service could reduce our revenue and profits, and our reputation could be damaged if people believe our systems are unreliable. Our systems and operations are vulnerable to damage or interruption from earthquakes, terrorist attacks, floods, fires, power loss, break-ins, hardware or software failures, telecommunications failures, computer viruses or other attempts to harm our systems, and similar events.

## **Table of Contents**

We lease or maintain server space in various locations, including in San Francisco, California. Our California facilities are located in areas with a high risk of major earthquakes. Our facilities are also subject to break-ins, sabotage and intentional acts of vandalism, and to potential disruptions if the operators of these facilities have financial difficulties. Some of our systems are not fully redundant, and our disaster recovery planning cannot account for all eventualities. The occurrence of a natural disaster, a decision to close a facility we are using without adequate notice for financial reasons or other unanticipated problems at our facilities could result in lengthy interruptions in our service.

Any unscheduled interruption in our service would result in an immediate loss of revenue. If we experience frequent or persistent system failures, the attractiveness of our technologies and services to clients and website publishers could be permanently harmed. The steps we have taken to increase the reliability and redundancy of our systems are expensive, reduce our operating margin, and may not be successful in reducing the frequency or duration of unscheduled interruptions.

***Any constraints on the capacity of our technology infrastructure could delay the effectiveness of our operations or result in system failures, which would result in the loss of clients and harm our business and results of operations.***

Our future success depends in part on the efficient performance of our software and technology infrastructure. As the numbers of websites and Internet users increase, our technology infrastructure may not be able to meet the increased demand. A sudden and unexpected increase in the volume of user responses could strain the capacity of our technology infrastructure. Any capacity constraints we experience could lead to slower response times or system failures and adversely affect the availability of websites and the level of user responses received, which could result in the loss of clients or revenue or harm to our business and results of operations.

***We could lose clients if we fail to detect click-through or other fraud on advertisements in a manner that is acceptable to our clients.***

We are exposed to the risk of fraudulent clicks or actions on our websites or our third-party publishers' websites. We may in the future have to refund revenue that our clients have paid to us and that was later attributed to, or suspected to be caused by, fraud. Click-through fraud occurs when an individual clicks on an ad displayed on a website or an automated system is used to create such clicks with the intent of generating the revenue share payment to the publisher rather than to view the underlying content. Action fraud occurs when on-line forms are completed with false or fictitious information in an effort to increase the compensable actions in respect of which a web publisher is to be compensated. From time to time we have experienced fraudulent clicks or actions and we do not charge our clients for such fraudulent clicks or actions when they are detected. It is conceivable that this activity could negatively affect our profitability, and this type of fraudulent act could hurt our reputation. If fraudulent clicks or actions are not detected, the affected clients may experience a reduced return on their investment in our marketing programs, which could lead the clients to become dissatisfied with our campaigns, and in turn, lead to loss of clients and the related revenue. Additionally, we have from time to time had to terminate relationships with web publishers who we believed to have engaged in fraud and we may have to do so in the future. Termination of such relationships entails a loss of revenue associated with the legitimate actions or clicks generated by such web publishers.

***If we fail to maintain proper and effective internal controls, our ability to produce accurate financial statements on a timely basis could be impaired, which would adversely affect our ability to operate our business.***

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of our financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. We may in the future discover areas of our internal financial and accounting controls and procedures that need improvement. Our internal control over financial reporting will not prevent or detect all error and all fraud. A control system, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the control system's objectives will be met. Because of the inherent limitations in all control systems, no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that misstatements due to error or fraud will not occur or that all control issues and instances of fraud will be detected. If we are unable to maintain proper and effective internal controls, we may not be able to produce accurate financial statements on a timely basis, which could adversely affect our ability to operate our business and could result in regulatory action.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Risks Related to the Ownership of Our Common Stock**

*Our stock price may be volatile, and you may not be able to resell shares of our common stock at or above the price you paid.*

The trading price of our common stock has been highly volatile since our initial public offering and may continue to be subject to wide fluctuations in response to various factors, some of which are beyond our control. These factors include those discussed in this Risk Factors section of this report on Form 10-Q and others such as:

changes in earnings estimates or recommendations by securities analysts;

announcements about our revenues, earnings or growth rates that are not in line with analyst expectations, the risk of which is heightened because it is our policy not to give quarterly guidance on revenue, earnings, or growth rates.

changes in governmental regulations;

announcements regarding our share repurchase program and the timing and amount of shares we purchase under such program;

announcements by us or our competitors of new services, significant contracts, commercial relationships, acquisitions or capital commitments;

changes in the search engine rankings of our sites or our ability to access PPC advertising;

developments with respect to intellectual property rights;

our ability to develop and market new and enhanced products on a timely basis;

our commencement of, or involvement in, litigation;

negative publicity about us, our industry, our clients or our clients' industries; and

a slowdown in our industry or the general economy.

In recent years, the stock market in general, and the market for technology and Internet-based companies in particular, has experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations that have often been unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of those companies. Broad market and industry factors may seriously affect the market price of our common stock, regardless of our actual operating performance. In addition, in the past, following periods of volatility in the overall market and the market price of a particular company's securities, securities class action litigation has often been instituted against these companies. Such litigation, if instituted against us, could result in substantial costs and a diversion of our management's attention and resources.

*If securities or industry analysts do not publish research or reports about our business, or if they issue an adverse opinion regarding our stock, our stock price and trading volume could decline.*

## Edgar Filing: QUINSTREET, INC - Form 10-Q

The trading market for our common stock is influenced by the research and reports that industry or securities analysts publish about us or our business. If any of the analysts who cover us issue an adverse opinion regarding our stock, our stock price would likely decline. If one or more of these analysts ceases coverage of our company or fails to publish reports on us regularly, we could lose visibility in the financial markets, which in turn could cause our stock price or trading volume to decline.

*Material differences between our results and security analysts' estimates could cause our stock price to decrease.*

Our results may differ materially from security analysts' estimates, either in total or for a specific client vertical and such difference could cause the market price of our stock to decrease.

We have generally not provided specific guidance or forecasts for near-term operating results, increasing the likelihood that analyst estimates could differ from our own expectations and increasing the likelihood that our future results could differ from analyst estimates, either in total or for a specific client vertical.

## **Table of Contents**

***Our directors, executive officers and principal stockholders and their respective affiliates have substantial control over us and could delay or prevent a change in corporate control.***

As of December 31, 2011, our directors and executive officers, together with their affiliates, beneficially owned approximately 33% of our outstanding common stock. As a result, these stockholders, acting together, have substantial control over the outcome of matters submitted to our stockholders for approval, including the election of directors and any merger, consolidation or sale of all or substantially all of our assets. In addition, these stockholders, acting together, have significant influence over the management and affairs of our company. Accordingly, this concentration of ownership may have the effect of:

delaying, deferring or preventing a change in corporate control;

impeding a merger, consolidation, takeover or other business combination involving us; or

discouraging a potential acquirer from making a tender offer or otherwise attempting to obtain control of us.

***Future sales of shares by existing stockholders could cause our stock price to decline.***

If our existing stockholders sell, or indicate an intent to sell, substantial amounts of our common stock in the public market the trading price of our common stock could decline significantly. We had 45,866,202 shares of common stock outstanding as of December 31, 2011. In addition, (i) the 11,238,193 shares subject to outstanding stock options and restricted stock units under our equity incentive plans as of December 31, 2011 and (ii) the shares reserved for future issuance under our equity incentive plans will become eligible for sale in the public market in the future, subject to certain legal and contractual limitations. If these additional shares are sold, or if it is perceived that they will be sold, in the public market, the price of our common stock could decline substantially.

***Provisions in our charter documents under Delaware law and in contractual obligations, could discourage a takeover that stockholders may consider favorable and may lead to entrenchment of management.***

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws contain provisions that could have the effect of delaying or preventing changes in control or changes in our management without the consent of our board of directors. These provisions include:

a classified board of directors with three-year staggered terms, which may delay the ability of stockholders to change the membership of a majority of our board of directors;

no cumulative voting in the election of directors, which limits the ability of minority stockholders to elect director candidates;

the exclusive right of our board of directors to elect a director to fill a vacancy created by the expansion of the board of directors or the resignation, death or removal of a director, which prevents stockholders from being able to fill vacancies on our board of directors;

the ability of our board of directors to determine to issue shares of preferred stock and to determine the price and other terms of those shares, including preferences and voting rights, without stockholder approval, which could be used to significantly dilute the ownership of a hostile acquirer;



## Edgar Filing: QUINSTREET, INC - Form 10-Q

a prohibition on stockholder action by written consent, which forces stockholder action to be taken at an annual or special meeting of our stockholders;

the requirement that a special meeting of stockholders may be called only by the chairman of the board of directors, the chief executive officer or the board of directors, which may delay the ability of our stockholders to force consideration of a proposal or to take action, including the removal of directors; and

advance notice procedures that stockholders must comply with in order to nominate candidates to our board of directors or to propose matters to be acted upon at a stockholders' meeting, which may discourage or deter a potential acquiror from conducting a solicitation of proxies to elect the acquiror's own slate of directors or otherwise attempting to obtain control of us.

We are subject to certain anti-takeover provisions under Delaware law. Under Delaware law, a corporation may not, in general, engage in a business combination with any holder of 15% or more of its capital stock unless the holder has held the stock for three years or, among other things, the board of directors has approved the transaction.

**Table of Contents**

*We do not currently intend to pay dividends on our common stock and, consequently, your ability to achieve a return on your investment will depend on appreciation in the price of our common stock.*

We do not intend to declare and pay dividends on our capital stock for the foreseeable future. We currently intend to invest our future earnings, if any, to fund our growth. Additionally, the terms of our credit facility restrict our ability to pay dividends. Therefore, you are not likely to receive any dividends on your common stock for the foreseeable future.

**Table of Contents****ITEM 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS****Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities**

None.

**Purchases of Equity Securities by QuinStreet**

On November 3, 2011, our Board of Directors authorized a stock repurchase program allowing us to repurchase our outstanding shares of common stock up to \$50.0 million. The repurchase program expires in November 2012. Repurchases under this program may take place in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions and may be made under a Rule 10b5-1 plan. There is no guarantee as to the exact number of shares that will be repurchased by the Company, and the Company may discontinue repurchases at any time. The amount authorized by the Company's board of directors excludes broker commissions.

All of our stock repurchases for the three months ended December 31, 2011 were made pursuant to our publicly announced stock repurchase plan. The following table summarizes the stock repurchase activity for the three months ended December 31, 2011 and the approximate dollar value of shares that may yet be purchased pursuant to our stock repurchase program that was available as of December 31, 2011:

(in millions, except share and per share data)		Shares Repurchases			Approximate Dollar Value of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Programs
		Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid per Share <sup>(1)</sup>	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announce Programs	
October 1, 2011	October 31, 2011				
November 1, 2011	November 30, 2011	863,200	\$ 8.97	863,200	\$ 42.3
December 1, 2011	December 31, 2011	925,200	\$ 9.51	925,200	\$ 33.5
Total		1,788,400	\$ 9.25	1,788,400	

(1) Excludes \$0.02 per share broker commission.

**ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES**

None.

**ITEM 4. (REMOVED AND RESERVED)****ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION****Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders**

At our 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders held on November 3, 2011, our stockholders voted on, among other matters, a proposal on the frequency of future stockholder advisory votes regarding compensation awarded to our named executive officers. As previously reported by us, an annual frequency received the highest number of votes cast, as well as a majority of the votes cast on the proposal. Based on these results, we have determined that we will conduct future stockholder advisory votes regarding compensation awarded to our named executive officers annually. The next required stockholder advisory vote on the frequency of future stockholder advisory votes regarding compensation awarded to named executive officers will be conducted at our 2017 annual meeting of stockholders.



**Table of Contents****ITEM 6. EXHIBITS**

<b>Exhibit</b>	
<b>Number</b>	<b>Description of Document</b>
31.1*	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
31.2*	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
101.INS**	XBRL Instance Document
101.SCH**	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
101.CAL**	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
101.DEF**	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document
101.LAB**	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
101.PRE**	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document

\* Filed herewith.  
Furnished herewith.

\*\* XBRL (Extensible Business Reporting Language) information is furnished and not filed or a part of a registration statement or prospectus for purposes of sections 11 or 12 of the Securities Act of 1933, is deemed not filed for purposes of section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and otherwise is not subject to liability under these sections.

**Table of Contents**

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

QUINSTREET, INC.

/s/ Kenneth Hahn

Kenneth Hahn

Chief Financial Officer

(Principal Financial Officer and duly authorized signatory)

Date: February 7, 2012

**Table of Contents**

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

<b>Exhibit</b>	
<b>Number</b>	<b>Description of Document</b>
31.1*	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
31.2*	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
101.INS**	XBRL Instance Document
101.SCH**	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
101.CAL**	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
101.DEF**	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document
101.LAB**	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
101.PRE**	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document

\* Filed herewith.  
Furnished herewith.

\*\* XBRL (Extensible Business Reporting Language) information is furnished and not filed or a part of a registration statement or prospectus for purposes of sections 11 or 12 of the Securities Act of 1933, is deemed not filed for purposes of section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and otherwise is not subject to liability under these sections.