

QUINSTREET, INC
Form 10-Q
February 06, 2015
[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, 2014

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)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

77-0512121
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

950 Tower Lane, 6th Floor

Foster City, California
(Address of principal executive offices)

94404
(Zip Code)

650-578-7700

Registrant's telephone number, including area code

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 ☐ Accelerated filer ☒

Non-accelerated filer ☐ (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company ☐

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, 2015: 44,492,160

Table of Contents

QUINSTREET, INC.

INDEX

<u>PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u>	3
<u>Item 1. Financial Statements</u>	3
<u>Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2014 and June 30, 2014</u>	3
<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations for the Three and Six Months Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013</u>	4
<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Loss for the Three and Six Months Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013</u>	5
<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Six Months Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013</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>	20
<u>Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	32
<u>Item 4. Controls and Procedures</u>	33
<u>PART II. OTHER INFORMATION</u>	33
<u>Item 1. Legal Proceedings</u>	33
<u>Item 1A. Risk Factors</u>	34
<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. Mine Safety Disclosures</u>	50
<u>Item 5. Other Information</u>	50
<u>Item 6. Exhibits</u>	50
<u>SIGNATURES</u>	51

Table of Contents**PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION****ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****QUINSTREET, INC.****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS****(In thousands, except share and per share data)****(Unaudited)**

	December 31, 2014	June 30, 2014
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 87,940	\$ 84,177
Marketable securities	27,951	38,630
Accounts receivable, net	41,115	41,979
Deferred tax assets	223	223
Prepaid expenses and other assets	11,668	11,647
Total current assets	168,897	176,656
Property and equipment, net	9,405	11,126
Goodwill	55,451	55,451
Other intangible assets, net	24,305	31,441
Deferred tax assets, noncurrent	1,710	1,712
Other assets, noncurrent	479	457
Total assets	\$ 260,247	\$ 276,843
Liabilities and Stockholders Equity		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 21,610	\$ 19,517
Accrued liabilities	23,328	27,854
Deferred revenue	1,353	1,175
Debt	19,714	17,698
Total current liabilities	66,005	66,244
Debt, noncurrent	49,764	59,565
Other liabilities, noncurrent	5,630	5,883
Total liabilities	121,399	131,692

Commitments and contingencies (See Note 8)

Stockholders' equity

Common stock: \$0.001 par value; 100,000,000 shares authorized; 44,485,717 and 44,025,908 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2014 and June 30, 2014, respectively

	44	44
Additional paid-in capital	244,777	239,558
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(812)	(1,054)
Accumulated deficit	(105,161)	(93,397)

Total stockholders' equity	138,848	145,151
----------------------------	---------	---------

Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 260,247	\$ 276,843
--	------------	------------

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements

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

	Three Months Ended December 31,		Six Months Ended December 31,	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
Net revenue	\$ 66,694	\$ 66,145	\$ 135,883	\$ 143,106
Cost of revenue ⁽¹⁾	60,395	56,116	123,804	119,708
Gross profit	6,299	10,029	12,079	23,398
Operating expenses: ⁽¹⁾				
Product development	4,244	4,776	9,200	9,935
Sales and marketing	3,357	3,659	7,024	7,815
General and administrative	4,079	4,411	8,694	8,545
Operating loss	(5,381)	(2,817)	(12,839)	(2,897)
Interest income	28	27	54	54
Interest expense	(786)	(976)	(1,966)	(2,002)
Other income (expense), net	636	(29)	2,961	(48)
Loss before income taxes	(5,503)	(3,795)	(11,790)	(4,893)
Benefit from (provision for) taxes	26	(40,234)	26	(40,075)
Net loss	\$ (5,477)	\$ (44,029)	\$ (11,764)	\$ (44,968)
Net loss per share:				
Basic	\$ (0.12)	\$ (1.01)	\$ (0.27)	\$ (1.04)
Diluted	\$ (0.12)	\$ (1.01)	\$ (0.27)	\$ (1.04)
Weighted average shares used in computing net loss per share				
Basic	44,440	43,420	44,353	43,268
Diluted	44,440	43,420	44,353	43,268

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

Cost of revenue	\$ 785	\$ 721	\$ 1,429	\$ 1,595
Product development	594	610	1,189	1,342
Sales and marketing	562	598	1,026	1,368
General and administrative	585	697	1,157	1,356

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

	Three Months Ended December 31,		Six Months Ended December 31,	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
Net loss	\$ (5,477)	\$ (44,029)	\$ (11,764)	\$ (44,968)
Other comprehensive loss				
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	5	(6)	13	
Foreign currency translation adjustment	(18)	4	(25)	(71)
Change in unrealized gain (loss) on interest rate swap	28	93	254	(44)
Other comprehensive income (loss)	15	91	242	(115)
Comprehensive loss	\$ (5,462)	\$ (43,938)	\$ (11,522)	\$ (45,083)

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements

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

	Six Months Ended December 31,	
	2014	2013
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Net loss	\$ (11,764)	\$ (44,968)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	10,408	13,344
Provision for sales returns and doubtful accounts receivable	470	(243)
Write-off of bank loan upfront fees	328	
Stock-based compensation	4,801	5,661
Excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation	(51)	(309)
Gain on sale of domain names	(3,158)	
Other adjustments, net	99	538
Changes in assets and liabilities, net of effects of acquisition:		
Accounts receivable	394	3,562
Prepaid expenses and other assets	(369)	(513)
Other assets, noncurrent		(59)
Deferred taxes	2	40,393
Accounts payable	2,964	(196)
Accrued liabilities	(3,449)	(5,861)
Deferred revenue	178	(638)
Other liabilities, noncurrent	(253)	(370)
Net cash provided by operating activities	600	10,341
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Capital expenditures	(2,285)	(4,179)
Business acquisition		(875)
Other intangibles		(2,692)
Internal software development costs	(933)	(1,204)
Purchases of marketable securities	(16,600)	(23,236)
Proceeds from sales and maturities of marketable securities	27,287	21,345
Proceeds from sale of domain names	3,158	
Proceeds from sale of property and equipment	10	
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	10,637	(10,841)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities		

Edgar Filing: QUINSTREET, INC - Form 10-Q

Proceeds from exercise of common stock options	1,300	1,927
Principal payments on bank debt	(7,500)	(5,000)
Payment of bank loan upfront fees	(272)	
Principal payments on acquisition-related notes payable	(444)	(2,237)
Excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation	51	309
Withholding taxes related to restricted stock net share settlement	(626)	(1,328)
Net cash used in financing activities	(7,491)	(6,329)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	17	(41)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	3,763	(6,870)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	84,177	90,117
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 87,940	\$ 83,247
Supplemental Disclosure of Cash Flow Information		
Cash paid for interest	1,602	1,987
Cash paid for taxes	660	1,221

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements

Table of Contents

QUINSTREET, INC.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

1. The Company

QuinStreet, Inc. (the Company) is a leader in performance marketing online. The Company was incorporated in California in April 1999 and reincorporated in Delaware in December 2009. The Company provides customer acquisition programs for clients in various industry verticals such as education and financial services. The corporate headquarters are located in Foster City, California, with additional offices throughout the United States, Brazil and India.

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, 2014 and for the three and six months ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 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, 2014, as filed with the SEC on September 12, 2014. The condensed consolidated balance sheet at June 30, 2014 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, 2014, its condensed consolidated statements of operations for the three and six months ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, its condensed consolidated statements of comprehensive loss for the three and six months ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, and its condensed consolidated statements of cash flows for the six months ended December 31, 2014 and 2013. The results of operations for the three and six months ended December 31, 2014 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, 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 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, contingencies, 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

(Unaudited)

Accounting Policies

The significant accounting policies are described in Note 2, Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, to the consolidated financial statements included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014. There have been no significant changes in the accounting policies subsequent to June 30, 2014.

Concentrations of Credit Risk

No client accounted for 10% or more of net revenue for the three or six months ended December 31, 2014 or for the same period in fiscal year 2014. No client accounted for 10% or more of net accounts receivable as of December 31, 2014 or June 30, 2014.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The Company's financial instruments consist principally of cash equivalents, marketable securities, accounts receivable, accounts payable, acquisition-related promissory notes, an interest rate swap, 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 for its money market funds; and quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets for its U.S. municipal securities and certificates of deposits that mature within 90 days. 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 values of acquisition-related promissory notes approximate their recorded amounts as the interest rates on similar financing arrangements available to the Company at December 31, 2014 approximate the interest rates implied when these acquisition-related promissory notes were originally issued and recorded. The fair value of the interest rate swap is based upon fair value quotes from the issuing bank and the Company assesses the quotes for reasonableness by comparing them to the present values of expected cash flows. The present value approach is based on observable market interest rate curves that are commensurate with the terms of the interest rate swap. The carrying value represents the fair value of the swap, as adjusted for any non-performance risk associated with the Company at December 31, 2014. The Company believes that the fair value of the term loan approximates its recorded amount at December 31, 2014 as the interest rate on the term loan is variable and is based on market interest rates and after consideration of default and credit risk.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In July 2013, the FASB issued a new accounting standard update on the financial presentation of unrecognized tax benefits. The new guidance provides that a liability related to an unrecognized tax benefit would be presented as reduction of a deferred tax asset for a net operating loss carryforward, a similar tax loss or a tax credit carryforward if such settlement is required or expected in the event the uncertain tax position is disallowed. The new guidance becomes effective July 1, 2015 for the Company and it should be applied prospectively to unrecognized tax benefits that exist at the effective date, although retrospective application is permitted. The Company does not believe that the adoption will have a material effect on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In May 2014, the FASB issued a new accounting standard update on revenue from contracts with clients. The new guidance provides that an entity should recognize revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. The new guidance becomes effective July 1, 2017 for the Company. The Company is currently assessing the impact of this new guidance.

In June 2014, the FASB issued a new accounting standard update on accounting for share-based payments when the terms of an award provide that a performance target could be achieved after the requisite service period, which amends ASC 718, Compensation - Stock Compensation. The amendment provides guidance on the treatment of share-based payment awards with a specific performance target, requiring that a performance target that affects vesting and that could be achieved after the requisite service period be treated as a performance condition. The new guidance becomes effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2015, and interim periods within those years, with early adoption permitted. The adoption of this standard is not expected to have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

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

In August 2014, the FASB issued new guidance related to the disclosures around going concern. The new standard provides guidance around management's responsibility to evaluate whether there is substantial doubt about an entity's ability to continue as a going concern and to provide related footnote disclosures. The new guidance becomes effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2016, and interim periods within those years, with early adoption permitted. The adoption of this standard is not expected to have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

3. Net Loss Attributable to Common Stockholders and Net Loss per Share

Basic net loss per share is computed by dividing net loss by the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the period. Diluted net loss 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.

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

	Three Months Ended		Six Months Ended	
	December 31,		December 31,	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
	(In thousands, except per share data)			
Numerator:				
Basic and Diluted:				
Net loss	\$ (5,477)	\$ (44,029)	\$ (11,764)	\$ (44,968)
Denominator:				
Basic and Diluted:				
Weighted average shares of common stock used in computing basic and diluted net loss per share	44,440	43,420	44,353	43,268
Net loss per share:				
Basic and Diluted ⁽¹⁾	\$ (0.12)	\$ (1.01)	\$ (0.27)	\$ (1.04)
Securities excluded from weighted average shares used in computing diluted net loss per share because the effect would have been anti-dilutive: ⁽²⁾	10,341	8,248	10,057	7,856

- (1) Diluted EPS does not reflect any potential common stock relating to stock options or restricted stock units due to net loss incurred for the three and six months ended December 31, 2014 and 2013. The assumed issuance of any additional shares would be anti-dilutive.
- (2) 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.

Table of Contents

QUINSTREET, INC.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

4. Fair Value Measurements and Marketable Securities

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received on sale of 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 available in an active market, and accordingly, a significant degree of judgment is not required. As of December 31, 2014, 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, 2014, the Company used Level 2 assumptions for its U.S. municipal securities, certificates of deposit, acquisition-related promissory notes, term loan, and interest rate swap.
- 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, 2014, the Company did not have any Level 3 financial assets or liabilities.

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

The Company's financial instruments as of December 31, 2014 and June 30, 2014 were categorized as follows in the fair value hierarchy (in thousands):

Fair Value Measurements as of December 31, 2014 Using			
	Quoted Prices in		
	Active	Significant Other	
	Markets	Observable	
	for Identical Assets	Inputs	
	(Level 1)	(Level 2)	Total
Assets:			
U.S. municipal securities	\$	\$ 3,958	\$ 3,958
Certificates of deposit		23,993	23,993
Money market funds	49,990		49,990
	\$ 49,990	\$ 27,951	\$ 77,941
Liabilities:			
Acquisition-related promissory notes ⁽¹⁾	\$	\$ 97	\$ 97
Term loan ⁽¹⁾		69,381	69,381
Interest rate swap		376	376
	\$	\$ 69,854	\$ 69,854

Fair Value Measurements as of June 30, 2014			
	Using		
	Quoted Prices in	Significant	
	Active Markets	Other	
	for Identical Assets	Observable	
	(Level 1)	Inputs	
	(Level 2)	(Level 2)	Total
Assets:			
U.S. municipal securities	\$	\$ 12,816	\$ 12,816
Certificates of deposit		26,293	26,293
Money market funds	38,641		38,641
	\$ 38,641	\$ 39,109	\$ 77,750

Liabilities:

Acquisition-related promissory notes ⁽¹⁾	\$	\$	603	\$	603
Term loan ⁽¹⁾			76,660		76,660
Interest rate swap			630		630
	\$	\$	77,893	\$	77,893

⁽¹⁾ These liabilities are carried at historical cost on the Company's condensed consolidated balance sheets.

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 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 accumulated other comprehensive loss within stockholders' equity.

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

The following table summarizes unrealized gains and losses related to available-for-sale securities held by the Company as of December 31, 2014 and June 30, 2014 (in thousands):

	As of December 31, 2014			
	Gross Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Estimated Fair Value
U.S. municipal securities	\$ 3,957	\$ 1	\$	\$ 3,958
Certificates of deposit	24,010		17	23,993
Money market funds	49,990			49,990
	\$ 77,957	\$ 1	\$ 17	\$ 77,941

	As of June 30, 2014			
	Gross Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Estimated Fair Value
U.S. municipal securities	\$ 12,812	\$ 4	\$	\$ 12,816
Certificates of deposit	26,330		37	26,293
Money market funds	38,641			38,641
	\$ 77,783	\$ 4	\$ 37	\$ 77,750

The Company did not realize any material gains or losses from sales of its securities in the periods presented. As of December 31, 2014 and June 30, 2014, the Company did not hold securities that had maturity dates greater than one year.

5. Intangible Assets and Goodwill

Intangible assets, net balances, excluding goodwill, consisted of the following (in thousands):

December 31, 2014			June 30, 2014		
Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Net Carrying Amount	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Net Carrying Amount

Customer/publisher/advertiser relationships	\$ 37,031	\$ (32,567)	\$ 4,464	\$ 37,040	\$ (31,185)	\$ 5,855
Content	62,149	(52,634)	9,515	62,196	(50,348)	11,848
Website/trade/domain names	31,634	(23,357)	8,277	31,652	(21,482)	10,170
Acquired technology and others	36,742	(34,693)	2,049	36,744	(33,176)	3,568
	\$ 167,556	\$ (143,251)	\$ 24,305	\$ 167,632	\$ (136,191)	\$ 31,441

Amortization of intangible assets was \$3.3 million and \$7.1 million in the three and six months ended December 31, 2014 and \$5.1 million and \$10.2 million in the three and six months ended December 31, 2013.

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

Future amortization expense for the Company's intangible assets as of December 31, 2014 was as follows (in thousands):

Year Ending June 30,	Amortization
2015 (remaining 6 months)	\$ 5,596
2016	9,131
2017	6,037
2018	1,906
2019	774
Thereafter	861
	\$ 24,305

The change in the carrying amount of goodwill for the six months ended December 31, 2014 was as follows (in thousands):

	Total
Balance at June 30, 2014	\$ 55,451
Additions	
Balance at December 31, 2014	\$ 55,451

In the six months ended December 31, 2014, there were no additions to goodwill as the Company did not complete any acquisitions during such period.

6. Income Taxes

The Company recorded a valuation allowance against the majority of the Company's deferred tax assets at the end of fiscal year 2014 and in order to maintain a full valuation allowance against its deferred tax assets for the three and six months ended December 31, 2014, the Company did not record any material benefit from (provision for) taxes.

7. Debt***Credit Facility***

In November 2011, the Company entered into the Second Amended and Restated Revolving Credit and Term Loan Agreement (Second Loan Agreement) with Comerica Bank (the Bank), the administrative agent and lead arranger. The Second Loan Agreement 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.

On February 15, 2013, the Company entered into the First Amendment to Credit Agreement and Amendment to Guaranty (First Amendment) with the Bank to, among other things: (1) amend the definition of EBITDA, effective as of December 31, 2012, to exclude extraordinary or non-recurring non-cash expenses or losses including, without limitation, goodwill impairments, and any extraordinary or non-recurring cash expenses in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$5.0 million for the life of the Second Loan Agreement; and (2) reduce the \$200.0 million five-year revolving credit line portion of the facility to \$100.0 million, effective as of February 15, 2013. On July 17, 2014, the Company entered into the Second Amendment to Credit Agreement (Second Amendment) with the Bank to, among other things, amend the financial covenants and reduce the revolving loan facility from \$100.0 million to \$50.0 million, each effective as of June 30, 2014.

Table of Contents

QUINSTREET, INC.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

Borrowings under the Second Loan Agreement are secured by substantially all of the Company's assets. Interest is payable at a rate computed using either Base rate or Eurodollar rate plus an applicable margin, at the Company's option. Base rate is defined as the applicable margin plus the greatest of (a) the Prime Rate for such day, (b) the Federal Funds Effective Rate in effect on such day, plus 1% and (c) the Daily Adjusting LIBOR Rate plus 1%. Base rate borrowings bear interest at a Base rate plus an applicable margin which varies from (1) 0.625% to 1.375% for revolving loans and (2) 1.00% to 1.75% for term loans, depending on the Company's funded debt to EBITDA ratio. Eurodollar rate borrowings bear interest at the Eurodollar rate plus an applicable margin which varies from (1) 1.625% to 2.375% for revolving loans and (2) 2.00% to 2.75% for term loans, depending on the Company's funded debt to EBITDA ratio. Pursuant to the Second Amendment, for the period beginning on the effective date of the Second Amendment until the delivery of financial statements for the fiscal quarter ending December 31, 2015, (1) the applicable margin for Base rate borrowings is set at (a) 1.375% for revolving loans or (b) 1.75% for term loans, and (2) the applicable margin for Eurodollar rate borrowings is set at (a) 2.375% for revolving loans or (b) 2.75% for term loans. Thereafter, the applicable margin varies depending on the Company funded debt to EBITDA ratio, as described above.

EBITDA is defined as net (loss) income less (provision for) benefit from taxes, depreciation expense, amortization expense, stock-based compensation expense, interest and other income (expense), acquisition costs for business combinations, extraordinary or non-recurring non-cash expenses or losses including, without limitation, goodwill impairments, and any extraordinary or non-recurring cash expenses in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$5.0 million for the life of this Second Loan Agreement. The revolving loan facility requires an annual facility fee of 0.375% of the revolving credit line capacity.

The Second Loan Agreement expires in November 2016. The Second Loan Agreement, as amended, restricts the Company's ability to raise additional debt financing and pay dividends, and also requires the Company to comply with other nonfinancial covenants. In addition, the Company is required to maintain financial covenants as follows:

1. A minimum fixed charge coverage ratio as of the end of each fiscal quarter of not less than:

(a) 1.00:1.00 for the period between September 30, 2015 and June 30, 2016; and

(b) 1.15:1.00 for the period beginning July 1, 2016 and thereafter.

The fixed charge coverage ratio is not tested until the fiscal quarter ending September 30, 2015.

2. Minimum EBITDA as of the end of each fiscal quarter of not less than:

(a) \$1 for the period between April 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015;

(b) \$3,400,000 for the period between July 1, 2015 and September 30, 2015;

(c) \$3,200,000 for the period between October 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015.

EBITDA is not tested after the fiscal quarter ending December 31, 2015.

3. Minimum liquidity as of the end of each month of not less than \$20,000,000.

The Company was in compliance with the covenants of the Second Loan Agreement, as amended, as of December 31, 2014 and June 30, 2014.

Upfront arrangement fees incurred in connection with the Second Amendment totaled \$0.3 million and were deferred and are being amortized over the remaining term of the arrangement. In connection with the reduction of the revolving credit line capacity, the Company accelerated amortization of approximately \$0.3 million of unamortized deferred upfront costs.

As of December 31, 2014 and June 30, 2014, \$70.0 million and \$77.5 million were outstanding under the term loan. There were no outstanding balances under the revolving credit line as of December 31, 2014 or June 30, 2014.

Table of Contents**QUINSTREET, INC.****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****(Unaudited)*****Interest Rate Swap***

In February 2012, the Company entered into an interest rate swap to reduce its exposure to the financial impact of changing interest rates under its term loan. The Company does not speculate using derivative instruments. The Company entered into this derivative instrument arrangement solely for the purpose of risk management. The swap encompasses the principal balances outstanding as of January 1, 2014 and scheduled to be outstanding thereafter, such principal and notional amount totaling \$85 million in January 2014 and amortizing to \$35 million in November 2016. The effective date of the swap was April 9, 2012 with a maturity date of November 4, 2016. At December 31, 2014, the Company had approximately \$70.0 million of notional amount outstanding in the swap agreement that exchanges a variable interest rate base (Eurodollar rate) for a fixed interest rate of 0.97% over the term of the agreement. This interest rate swap is designated as a cash flow hedge of the interest rate risk attributable to forecasted variable interest payments. The effective portion of the fair value gains or losses on this swap are included as a component of accumulated other comprehensive loss. Any hedge ineffectiveness will be immediately recognized in earnings in the current period.

At December 31, 2014, the fair value of the interest rate swap net liability was \$0.4 million and the hedge effective portion of the interest rate swap was \$0.4 million.

Promissory Notes

During the three and six months ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, the Company did not issue any promissory notes for the acquisition of businesses. The outstanding amount under the promissory notes at December 31, 2014 and June 30, 2014 was \$0.1 million and \$0.6 million.

Debt Maturities

The maturities of the Company's debt as of December 31, 2014 were as follows (in thousands):

Year Ending June 30,	Promissory Notes	Second Loan Agreement
2015 (remaining six months)	\$ 50	\$ 10,000
2016	50	20,000
2017		40,000
	100	70,000
Less: imputed interest and unamortized discounts	(3)	(619)
Less: current portion	(50)	(19,664)

Noncurrent portion of debt	\$	47	\$	49,717
----------------------------	----	----	----	--------

Letters of Credit

The Company has a \$0.4 million letter of credit agreement with a financial institution that is used as collateral for fidelity bonds placed with an insurance company and a \$0.5 million 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.

[Table of Contents](#)**QUINSTREET, INC.****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****(Unaudited)****8. Commitments and Contingencies*****Leases***

The Company leases office space and equipment under non-cancelable operating leases with various expiration dates through 2019. Rent expense for the three and six months ended December 31, 2014 was \$0.9 million and \$1.8 million and for the three and six months ended December 31, 2013 was \$0.8 million and \$1.9 million. 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, 2014 were as follows (in thousands):

Year Ending June 30,	Operating Leases
2015 (remaining six months)	\$ 1,836
2016	3,664
2017	3,323
2018	3,245
2019	1,303
2020 and thereafter	57
	\$ 13,428

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 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, 2014 and June 30, 2014.

In the ordinary course of its business, the Company from time to time enters into standard indemnification provisions in its agreements with its clients. Pursuant to these provisions, the Company may be obligated to indemnify its clients for certain losses suffered or incurred, including losses arising from violations of applicable law by the Company or

by its third-party website publishers, losses arising from actions or omissions of the Company or its third-party publishers, and for third-party claims that a Company product infringed upon any United States patent, copyright or other intellectual property rights. Where practicable, the Company limits its liabilities under such indemnities.

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, 2014 and June 30, 2014.

Table of Contents**QUINSTREET, INC.****NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****(Unaudited)*****Litigation***

In December 2012, Internet Patents Corporation (IPC) filed a patent infringement lawsuit against the Company in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, alleging that the Company has infringed a patent held by IPC. In September 2013, the court dismissed a related case because it found that the patent is invalid, and on the same date, the court issued IPC an Order to Show Cause that the lawsuit against the Company should not be dismissed. In October 2013, IPC filed a response to the order and the court subsequently dismissed the case against the Company. In October 2013, IPC filed its appeal in the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. The United States Court of Appeals for Federal Circuit heard oral arguments on the appeal on August 6, 2014, and the Company is awaiting a decision. While the Company denies IPC's claims and believes that the probability of any loss is remote, there can be no assurance that the Company will prevail in this matter and any adverse ruling or settlement may have a significant impact on its business and operating results. In addition, regardless of the outcome of the matter, the Company may incur significant legal fees defending the action until it is resolved.

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) as well as 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, restricted stock units and performance-based stock awards under the plans.

As of December 31, 2014, 11,411,822 shares were reserved and 8,204,385 shares were available for issuance under the 2010 Incentive Plan; 2,047,770 shares were reserved and 1,641,643 shares were available for issuance under the Directors' Plan.

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, 2014 and 2013 were as follows:

Three Months Ended	Six Months Ended
December 31,	December 31,

	2014	2013	2014	2013
Expected term (in years)	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
Expected volatility	46%	47%	46%	48%
Expected dividend yield	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Risk-free interest rate	1.6%	1.3%	1.6%	1.4%
Grant date fair value	\$ 1.68	\$ 3.71	\$ 1.76	\$ 3.90

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.

Table of Contents

QUINSTREET, INC.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

10. 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 loss income before depreciation, amortization and stock-based compensation expense.

The Company determined its reportable operating segment is DMS, which derives revenue from fees earned through the delivery of qualified leads, clicks, calls, customers and, to a lesser extent, impressions. The remaining segment does not meet the quantitative threshold for an individually reportable segment and is therefore included in the "All other" line in the following table.

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

The Company does not allocate most of its assets, nor its depreciation and amortization expense, stock-based compensation expense, interest income, interest expense or income tax expense by segment. Accordingly, the Company does not report such information.

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

Summarized information by segment was as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended December 31,		Six Months Ended December 31,	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
Net revenue by segment:				
DMS	\$ 66,412	\$ 65,841	\$ 135,344	\$ 142,537
All Other	282	304	539	569
Total net revenue	66,694	66,145	135,883	143,106
Segment operating income before depreciation, amortization, and stock-based compensation expense:				
DMS	1,953	6,268	2,028	15,729
All Other	178	209	342	379
Total segment operating income before depreciation, amortization, and stock-based compensation expense:	2,131	6,477	2,370	16,108
Depreciation and amortization	(4,986)	(6,668)	(10,408)	(13,344)
Stock-based compensation expense	(2,526)	(2,626)	(4,801)	(5,661)
Total operating loss	\$ (5,381)	\$ (2,817)	\$ (12,839)	\$ (2,897)

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

	Three Months Ended December 31,		Six Months Ended December 31,	
	2014	2013	2014	2013
Net revenue:				
United States	\$ 65,397	\$ 65,523	\$ 133,467	\$ 141,940
International	1,297	622	2,416	1,166

Total net revenue	\$ 66,694	\$ 66,145	\$ 135,883	\$ 143,106
-------------------	-----------	-----------	------------	------------

	December 31, 2014	June 30, 2014
Property and equipment, net:		
United States	\$ 9,161	\$ 10,878
International	244	248
Total property and equipment, net:	\$ 9,405	\$ 11,126

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, 2014, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties, as well as assumptions that, if they do not materialize or if they 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 reflect 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, 2014, filed with the SEC. 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 performance marketing 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, in the form of a qualified click, or in the form of a call. Leads, clicks or calls 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, clicks, calls or customers as defined by our agreements with them. References to the delivery of customers means the sale of completed customer transactions (e.g., bound insurance policies or customer appointments with clients). Because we bear the costs of media, our programs must deliver value to our clients and provide for a media yield, or generation of an acceptable margin on our media costs, that provides a sound financial outcome for us. To deliver leads, clicks, calls, and customers to our clients, generally we:

own or access targeted media;

run advertisements or other forms of marketing messages and programs in that media to create visitor responses in the form most typically of leads (visitor generated contact information and requests), clicks (to further qualification or matching steps, or to online client applications or offerings) or calls (to our owned and operated call centers or that of our clients or their agents);

match these leads, clicks, calls or customers to client offerings or brands that we believe can meet visitor interests or needs, converting visitors into qualified leads, clicks, calls or customers for our clients; and

optimize client matches and media yield such that we achieve desired results for clients and a sound financial outcome for us.

Table of Contents

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 continue to believe we are in the early stages of a large, long-term market.

Our Direct Marketing Services (DMS) business accounted for substantially all of our net revenue in the three and six months ended December 31, 2014 and 2013. Our DMS business derives net revenue from fees earned through the delivery of qualified leads, clicks, calls or customers and, to a lesser extent, display advertisements, or impressions. Through a vertical focus, targeted media presence and our technology platform, we are able to deliver targeted, measurable marketing results to our clients.

Our two largest client verticals within our DMS business are financial services and education. Our financial services client vertical represented 44% of net revenue in both the three and six months ended December 31, 2014 and 37% and 39% of net revenue in the three and six months ended December 31, 2013. Our education client vertical represented 35% and 36% of net revenue in the three months and six months ended December 31, 2014 and 45% and 44% of net revenue in the three and six months ended December 31, 2013. Other DMS client verticals, consisting primarily of business-to-business technology, home services and medical, represented 21% and 20% of net revenue in the three and six months ended December 31, 2014 and 18% and 17% of net revenue in the three and six months ended December 31, 2013.

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

No client accounted for 10% or more of our net revenue in the three and six months ended December 31, 2014 or 2013.

Trends Affecting our Business

Client Verticals

To date, we have generated the majority of our revenue from clients in our financial services and education client verticals. We expect that a majority of our revenue for the remainder of fiscal year 2015 will continue to be generated from clients in these two client verticals.

Our financial services client vertical has been affected by a number of factors, including the limited availability of high quality media at acceptable margins caused by changes in search engine algorithms, acquisition of media sources by competitors and increased competition for quality media. These effects may continue to impact our business in the near future. To offset this impact, we have broadened our product set with the launch of enhanced click, lead, call and policy products where we expect better monetization to provide greater access to high quality media sources.

Our education client vertical has been significantly affected by regulations and enforcement activity affecting for-profit educational institutions over the past several years. For example, the Department of Education initiated an investigation of a publicly traded for-profit education client with respect to its enrollment activities and job placement, among other things, and in July 2014, the Department of Education signed an agreement with the client requiring it to wind down or sell its campuses. In addition, in October 2014, the Department of Education announced final regulations on gainful employment which go into effect on July 1, 2015. The regulation requires career college programs to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation, which requires the programs graduates' annual loan payments to be less than a defined percentage of earnings. Programs that do not pass the test could lose access to federal financial aid, which typically constitutes an important source of funding for these

programs. As a result, such programs may be modified, curtailed or eliminated. Similar regulatory and enforcement activities have affected and are expected to continue to affect our clients' businesses and marketing practices, which may result in a decrease in these clients' spending with us, and fluctuations in the volume and mix of our business with these clients. To offset the impact these activities have had on the for-profit education clients, we have broadened our product set from our traditional lead business with the addition of clicks and calls to our product mix. We are also broadening our markets in education to include not-for-profit schools as well as expanding internationally in Brazil and India.

Development and Acquisition of Targeted Media

One of the primary challenges of our business is finding or creating media that is high quality and targeted enough to attract prospects for our clients at costs that provide a sound financial outcome for us. In order to grow our business, we must be able to find, develop or retain quality targeted media on a cost-effective basis. Consolidation of media sources, changes in search engine algorithms and increased competition for available media has, during some periods, limited and may continue to limit our ability to generate revenue at acceptable margins.

Table of Contents

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 have lower budgets. 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.

Regulations

Our revenue has fluctuated as a result of recently adopted or amended regulations and the increased enforcement of existing regulations. Our business is affected directly because we operate websites and conduct telemarketing and email marketing, and indirectly as our clients adjust their operations as a result of regulatory changes that affect their industries.

One example of a regulatory change that may affect our business is the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (the TCPA), which the Federal Communications Commission recently amended to, among other things, impose heightened consent and opt-out requirements that companies conducting telemarketing must follow. Certain provisions of the regulations became effective in July 2012, and additional regulations requiring prior express written consent for telemarketing calls to wireless numbers became effective in October 2013. Our efforts to comply with the TCPA have thus far had a relatively small negative effect on traffic conversion rates. However, our clients may make business decisions based on their own experiences with the TCPA regardless of our products, and the changes we implemented to comply with the new regulations. Those decisions may negatively affect our revenue or profitability.

In addition, our education client vertical has been significantly affected by the adoption of regulations affecting for-profit educational institutions over the past several years, and a higher level of governmental scrutiny is expected to continue. Clients in our financial services vertical have increasingly been affected by laws and regulations as a result of the adoption of new regulations under The Dodd Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and the increased enforcement of new and pre-existing laws and regulations. The effect of these regulations, or any future regulations, may continue to result in fluctuations in the volume and mix of our business with these clients.

Basis of Presentation

General

We operate in one reportable segment, DMS. The remainder of our business, which has historically been immaterial, is classified as All other . See Note 10, Segment Information, to our condensed consolidated financial statements for further discussion and financial information regarding our reporting segment.

Net Revenue

Our DMS business generates revenue from fees earned through the delivery of qualified leads, clicks, calls, customers 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: education, financial services and other (which includes business-to-business technology, home services and medical).

Table of Contents

Cost of Revenue

Cost of revenue consists primarily of media costs, personnel costs, amortization of 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 website publishers and Internet search companies 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 call center operations, our editorial staff, client management, creative team, content, 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.

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 other costs. Personnel costs for each category of operating expenses generally include salaries, stock-based compensation expense, bonuses, commissions, and employee benefit costs.

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. In the current period of business challenges, we are constraining expenses generally to the extent practicable. However, we expect product and development expenses to increase in absolute dollars in the future as we believe that continuous investment in technology is critical to attaining our strategic objectives.

Sales and Marketing. Sales and marketing expenses consist primarily of personnel costs, advertising, professional services fees, and travel costs. We expect sales and marketing expenses to continue to increase in absolute dollars as we increase advertising spend and hire additional personnel in sales and marketing to support our offerings.

General and Administrative. General and administrative expenses consist primarily of personnel costs of our executive, finance, legal, employee benefits and compliance, technical support and other administrative personnel, as well as accounting and legal professional services fees, and insurance. In the current period of business challenges, we are constraining expenses generally to the extent practicable. However, we expect general and administrative expenses to increase in absolute dollars in future periods as we continue to invest in corporate infrastructure.

Interest and Other Income (Expense), Net

Interest and other income (expense), net, consists primarily of interest income, interest expense, and other income and expense. 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. Interest expense is related to our credit facility, interest rate swap, promissory notes issued in connection with our acquisitions, and imputed interest on non-interest bearing notes. Borrowings under our credit facility, the aggregate principal amount of outstanding promissory notes and related interest expense could increase if, among other things, we make additional acquisitions through debt financing. Other income and expense includes gains and losses on foreign currency exchange, gains and losses on sales of non-strategic websites and domain names, and other non-operating items.

Benefit from (Provision for) Income Taxes

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.

Table of Contents

Critical Accounting Policies, Estimates and Judgments

In presenting our consolidated financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted 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;

Valuation of goodwill and intangible assets;

Stock-based compensation;

Income taxes; and

Valuation of long-lived assets.

There have been no material changes to our critical accounting policies, estimates and judgments disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K subsequent to June 30, 2014. 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 Operations of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended June 30, 2014, filed with the SEC.

Recently Issued Accounting Standards

See Note 2, Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, to our condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**Results of Operations**

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

	Three Months Ended December 31,				Six Months Ended December 31,			
	2014		2013		2014		2013	
	(In thousands)				(In thousands)			
Net revenue	\$ 66,694	100.0%	\$ 66,145	100.0%	\$ 135,883	100.0%	\$ 143,106	100.0%
Cost of revenue ⁽¹⁾	60,395	90.6	56,116	84.8	123,804	91.1	119,708	83.6
Gross profit	6,299	9.4	10,029	15.2	12,079	8.9	23,398	16.4
Operating expenses:								
(1)								
Product development	4,244	6.4	4,776	7.2	9,200	6.8	9,935	6.9
Sales and marketing	3,357	5.0	3,659	5.5	7,024	5.2	7,815	5.5
General and administrative	4,079	6.1	4,411	6.7	8,694	6.4	8,545	6.0
Operating loss	(5,381)	(8.1)	(2,817)	(4.2)	(12,839)	(9.5)	(2,897)	(2.0)
Interest income	28		27		54		54	
Interest expense	(786)	(1.2)	(976)	(1.5)	(1,966)	(1.4)	(2,002)	(1.4)
Other income (expense), net	636	1.0	(29)	0.0	2,961	2.2	(48)	
Loss before income taxes	(5,503)	(8.3)	(3,795)	(5.7)	(11,790)	(8.7)	(4,893)	(3.4)
Benefit from (provision for) taxes	26		(40,234)	(60.8)	26		(40,075)	(28.0)
Net loss	\$ (5,477)	(8.3)%	\$ (44,029)	(66.5)%	\$ (11,764)	(8.7)%	\$ (44,968)	(31.4)%

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

Cost of revenue	\$ 785	1.2%	\$ 721	1.1%	\$ 1,429	1.1%	\$ 1,595	1.1%
Product development	594	0.9	610	0.9	1,189	0.9	1,342	0.9
Sales and marketing	562	0.8	598	0.9	1,026	0.8	1,368	1.0
General and administrative	585	0.9	697	1.1	1,157	0.9	1,356	0.9
Net Revenue								

Six Months Ended

Three

Six

	Three Months Ended		December 31,		Months	Months
	December 31,	December 31,	December 31,	December 31,	% Change	% Change
	2014	2013	2014	2013		
	(in thousands)					
Net revenue	\$ 66,694	\$ 66,145	\$ 135,883	\$ 143,106	1%	(5%)
Cost of revenue	60,395	56,116	123,804	119,708	8%	3%
Gross profit	\$ 6,299	\$ 10,029	\$ 12,079	\$ 23,398	(37%)	(48%)

Net revenue increased \$0.5 million, or 1%, for the three months ended December 31, 2014, compared to the three months ended December 31, 2013. Our financial services client vertical revenue increased \$5.2 million, or 21%, for the three months ended December 31, 2014, compared to the three months ended December 31, 2013, primarily due to the launch of our enhanced click, lead, call and policy products which enabled us to access higher quality media for our clients and has led to increased client budgets. Our education client vertical revenue decreased \$6.4 million, or 21%, for the three months ended December 31, 2014, compared to the three months ended December 31, 2013, as a result of our education clients' lower budgets, largely due to uncertainty surrounding regulations and enforcement activity affecting for-profit educational institutions and their operational adjustment to this activity. Our other client verticals revenue increased \$1.8 million or 15%, for the three months ended December 31, 2014, compared to the three months ended December 31, 2013, primarily due to increased client demand in our business-to-business technology and home services client verticals and partially offset by decreased client demand in our medical client vertical.

Table of Contents

Net revenue decreased \$7.2 million, or 5%, for the six months ended December 31, 2014, compared to the six months ended December 31, 2013. Our financial services client vertical revenue increased \$4.0 million, or 7%, for the six months ended December 31, 2014, compared to the six months ended December 31, 2013, primarily due to the launch of our enhanced click, lead, call and policy products which enabled us to access higher quality media for our clients and has led to increased client budgets. Our education client vertical revenue decreased \$14.4 million, or 23%, for the six months ended December 31, 2014, compared to the six months ended December 31, 2013, as a result of our education clients' lower budgets, largely due to uncertainty surrounding regulations affecting for-profit educational institutions and their operational adjustment to those regulatory changes. Our other client verticals revenue increased \$3.2 million, or 13%, for the six months ended December 31, 2014, compared to the six months ended December 31, 2013, primarily due to increased client demand in our business-to-business technology and home services client verticals and partially offset by decreased client demand in our medical client vertical.

Cost of Revenue and Gross Margin

Cost of revenue increased \$4.3 million, or 8%, for the three months ended December 31, 2014, compared to the three months ended December 31, 2013, driven by increased media costs of \$4.3 million, increased personnel costs of \$1.0 million, offset by decreased amortization of intangible assets of \$1.7 million. The increased media costs were attributable to increased costs for high quality media. The increased personnel costs were attributable to an increase in average headcount. The decreased amortization of intangible assets were attributable to assets from historical acquisitions becoming fully amortized and a reduced number of acquisitions in recent periods. Gross margin, which is the difference between net revenue and cost of revenue as a percentage of net revenue, was 9% for the three months ended December 31, 2014 and 15% for the three months ended December 31, 2013. The decrease in gross margin was attributable to our investments in optimizing high quality media in our financial services client vertical and a lower mix of traffic from owned and operated websites which have higher margins than traffic generated for third party publishers.

Cost of revenue increased \$4.1 million, or 3%, for the six months ended December 31, 2014, compared to the six months ended December 31, 2013, driven by increased media costs of \$3.0 million, increased personnel costs of \$2.6 million and increased other expenses of \$1.5 million, offset by decreased amortization of intangible assets of \$3.0 million. The increased media costs were attributable to increased costs for high quality media. The increased personnel costs were attributable to an increase in average headcount. The increased depreciation expense were attributable to the continual purchase of property and equipment. The decreased amortization of intangible assets were attributable to assets from historical acquisitions becoming fully amortized and a reduced number of acquisitions in recent periods. Gross margin was 9% for the six months ended December 31, 2014 and 16% for the six months ended December 31, 2013. The decrease in gross margin was attributable to our investments in optimizing high quality media in our financial services client vertical and a lower mix of traffic from owned and operated websites which have higher margins than traffic generated for third party publishers.

Operating Expenses

	Three Months Ended December 31, 2014 2013		Six Months Ended December 31, 2014 2013		Three Months % Change	Six Months % Change
	(in thousands)					
Product development	\$ 4,244	\$ 4,776	\$ 9,200	\$ 9,935	(11%)	(7%)

Edgar Filing: QUINSTREET, INC - Form 10-Q

Sales and marketing	3,357	3,659	7,024	7,815	(8%)	(10%)
General and administrative	4,079	4,411	8,694	8,545	(8%)	2%
Operating expenses	\$ 11,680	\$ 12,846	\$ 24,918	\$ 26,295	(9%)	(5%)

Table of Contents*Product Development Expenses*

Product development expenses decreased \$0.5 million, or 11%, for the three months ended December 31, 2014, compared to the three months ended December 31, 2013. This was primarily due to decreased personnel costs of \$0.4 million due to a decrease in average salaries.

Product development expenses decreased \$0.7 million, or 7%, for the six months ended December 31, 2014, compared to the six months ended December 31, 2013. This was primarily due to decreased personnel costs of \$0.3 million due to a decrease in average salaries and decreased stock-based compensation of \$0.2 million.

Sales and Marketing Expenses

Sales and marketing expenses decreased \$0.3 million, or 8%, for the three months ended December 31, 2014, compared to the three months ended December 31, 2013. This was primarily due to decreased personnel costs of \$0.2 million due to a decrease in average headcount.

Sales and marketing expenses decreased \$0.8 million, or 10%, for the six months ended December 31, 2014, compared to the six months ended December 31, 2013. This was primarily due to decreased personnel costs of \$0.4 million due to a decrease in average headcount and decreased stock-based compensation of \$0.3 million.

General and Administrative Expenses

General and administrative expenses decreased \$0.3 million, or 8%, for the three months ended December 31, 2014, compared to the three months ended December 31, 2013. This was primarily due to decreased business tax assessment of \$0.3 million.

General and administrative expenses increased \$0.2 million, or 2%, for the six months ended December 31, 2014, compared to the six months ended December 31, 2013. This was primarily due to increased professional services of \$0.4 million, offset by decreased business tax assessment of \$0.3 million.

Interest and Other Income (Expense), Net

	Three Months Ended December 31,		Six Months Ended December 31,		Three Months %	Six Months %
	2014	2013	2014	2013	Change	Change
	(in thousands)					
Interest income	\$ 28	\$ 27	\$ 54	\$ 54	4%	0%
Interest expense	(786)	(976)	(1,966)	(2,002)	(19%)	(2%)
Other income (expense), net	636	(29)	2,961	(48)	2293%	(6269%)
Interest and other income (expense), net	\$ (122)	\$ (978)	\$ 1,049	\$ (1,996)	88%	(153%)

Interest and other expense, net was \$0.1 million for the three months ended December 31, 2014 compared to \$1.0 million for the three months ended December 31, 2013. This decrease of \$0.9 million, or 88%, was due to the sale of domain names for total gains of \$0.7 million, partially offset by lower interest expense due to decreased debt

obligations.

Interest and other income, net was \$1.0 million for the six months ended December 31, 2014, compared to interest and other expense, net of \$2.0 million for the six months ended December 31, 2013. This increase of \$3.0 million, or 153%, was due to the sale of domain names for a gain of \$3.2 million and lower interest expense due to decreased debt obligations, partially offset by the accelerated amortization of \$0.3 million of unamortized deferred upfront costs incurred in connection with the Second Amendment to Credit Agreement.

Three Months Ended		Six Months Ended		Three	Six
December 31,		December 31,		Months	Months
2014	2013	2014	2013	% Change	% Change
(in thousands)					

We recorded a valuation allowance against the majority of our deferred tax assets at the end of fiscal year 2014 and in order to maintain a full valuation allowance against our deferred tax assets for the three and six months ended December 31, 2014, we did not record any material benefit from (provision for) taxes. Our annual statutory tax rate was 35%. Due to the effects of our deferred tax asset valuation allowance and our net operating loss, our annual effective tax rate is not meaningful as our income tax amounts are not directly correlated to the amount of loss before income tax for the period.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Our short-term and long-term liquidity requirements primarily arise from our working capital requirements, debt service on our \$70.0 million term loan balance at December 31, 2014, and acquisitions from time to time. 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, in part, 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. Even though we may not need additional funds to fund anticipated liquidity requirements, we may still elect to obtain additional debt or equity financing or draw down on or increase our borrowing capacity under our current credit facility for other reasons.

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

Table of Contents

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

	Six Months Ended December 31,	
	2014	2013
	(in thousands)	
Cash flows provided by operating activities	\$ 600	\$ 10,341
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	10,637	(10,841)
Cash flows used in financing activities	(7,491)	(6,329)

Operating Activities

Cash flows from operating activities are primarily the result of our net loss adjusted for depreciation and amortization, stock-based compensation expense, and changes in working capital components.

Cash provided by operating activities was \$0.6 million for the six months ended December 31, 2014, compared to cash flows provided by operating activities of \$10.3 million for the six months ended December 31, 2013.

Cash provided by operating activities for the six months ended December 31, 2014 consisted of a net loss of \$11.8 million, which included a one-time restructuring charge of \$0.4 million, offset by non-cash adjustments of \$12.9 million. In addition, there was a net decrease in cash from changes in working capital of \$0.5 million. The non-cash adjustments primarily consisted of depreciation and amortization of \$10.4 million, gain on the sale of domain names of \$3.2 million, and stock-based compensation expense net of tax benefits of \$4.8 million. The changes in working capital accounts were primarily due to an increase in accounts receivable of \$0.4 million, offset by a net decrease in accounts payable and accrued liabilities of \$0.5 million. The net decrease in accounts payable and accrued liabilities were primarily due to timing of payments.

Cash provided by operating activities for the six months ended December 31, 2013 consisted of a net loss of \$45.0 million, offset by non-cash charges of \$19.0 million. In addition, there was a net increase in cash from changes in working capital of \$36.3 million. The non-cash charges primarily consisted of depreciation and amortization of \$13.3 million and stock-based compensation expense net of tax benefits of \$5.4 million. The changes in working capital accounts were primarily due to a decrease in net deferred taxes of \$40.4 million and a decrease in accounts receivable of \$3.6 million offset by a net decrease in accounts payable and accrued liabilities of \$6.1 million and a net decrease in deferred revenue and other noncurrent liabilities of \$1.0 million. The decrease in deferred taxes was due to a one-time charge to establish a valuation allowance. The decrease in accounts receivable was primarily due to lower revenue levels and the net decrease in accounts payable and accrued liabilities was primarily due to timing of payments.

Investing Activities

Cash flows from investing activities include capital expenditures, capitalized internal development costs and net sales and maturities of marketable securities.

Cash provided by investing activities was \$10.6 million for the six months ended December 31, 2014, compared to cash flows used in investing activities of \$10.8 million for the six months ended December 31, 2013.

Cash provided by investing activities in the six months ended December 31, 2014 was primarily due to capital expenditures and internal software development costs of \$3.2 million, offset by net sales and maturities of marketable securities of \$10.7 million and proceeds from the sale of domain names of \$3.2 million.

Cash used in investing activities in the six months ended December 31, 2013 was primarily due to capital expenditures and internal software development costs of \$5.4 million, licenses to intangible assets of \$2.7 million and acquisition costs of \$0.9 million. Net investments in marketable securities totaled \$1.9 million in the six months ended December 31, 2013.

Table of Contents

Financing Activities

Cash flows from financing activities include proceeds from exercise of stock options, withholding taxes related to restricted stock net of share settlement, excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation, and principle payments on bank debt and acquisition-related notes payable.

Cash used in financing activities was \$7.5 million for the six months ended December 31, 2014, compared to cash flows used in financing activities of \$6.3 million for the six months ended December 31, 2013.

Cash used in financing activities in the six months ended December 31, 2014 was primarily due to proceeds from exercises of stock options of \$1.3 million, withholding taxes related to restricted stock net share settlements of \$0.6 million, excess tax benefits from exercises of stock options of \$0.1 million, and principal payments on our term loan and acquisition-related notes payable of \$8.2 million.

Cash used in financing activities in the six months ended December 31, 2013 was primarily due to exercises of stock options of \$1.9 million, withholding taxes related to restricted stock net share settlements of \$1.3 million, excess tax benefits from exercises of stock options of \$0.3 million, and principal payments on acquisition-related notes payable and our term loan of \$7.2 million.

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 established for the purpose of facilitating off-balance sheet arrangements or other contractually narrow or limited purposes.

Contractual Obligations

Our contractual obligations relate to borrowings under our credit facility, acquisition-related notes payable and operating leases. There have been no significant changes to our contractual obligations from those disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended June 30, 2014.

Credit Facility

In November 2011, we entered into the Second Amended and Restated Revolving Credit and Term Loan Agreement (Second Loan Agreement) with Comerica Bank (the Bank), the administrative agent and lead arranger. The Second Loan Agreement 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. On February 15, 2013, we entered into the First Amendment to Credit Agreement and Amendment to Guaranty (First Amendment) with the Bank to, among other things: (1) amend the definition of EBITDA, effective as of December 31, 2012, to exclude extraordinary or non-recurring non-cash expenses or losses including, without limitation, goodwill impairments, and any extraordinary or non-recurring cash expenses in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$5.0 million for the life of the Second Loan Agreement; and (2) reduce the \$200.0 million five-year revolving credit line portion of the facility to \$100.0 million, effective as of February 15, 2013. On July 17, 2014, we entered into the Second Amendment to Credit Agreement (Second Amendment) with the Bank to, among other things, amend the financial covenants and reduce the revolving loan facility from \$100.0 million to \$50.0 million, each effective as of June 30, 2014.

Borrowings under the Second Loan Agreement are secured by substantially all of our assets. Interest is payable at a rate computed using either Base rate or Eurodollar rate plus an applicable margin, at our option. Base rate is defined

as an applicable margin plus the greatest of (a) the Prime Rate for such day, (b) the Federal Funds Effective Rate in effect on such day, plus 1% and (c) the Daily Adjusting LIBOR Rate plus 1%. Base rate borrowings bear interest at a Base rate plus an applicable margin which varies from (1) 0.625% to 1.375% for revolving loans and (2) 1.00% to 1.75% for term loans, depending on our funded debt to EBITDA ratio. Eurodollar rate borrowings bear interest at the Eurodollar rate plus an applicable margin which varies from (1) 1.625% to 2.375% for revolving loans and (2) 2.00% to 2.75% for term loans, depending on our funded debt to EBITDA ratio. Pursuant to the Second Amendment, for the period beginning on the effective date of the Second Amendment until the delivery of financial statements for the fiscal quarter ending December 31, 2015, (1) the applicable margin for Base rate borrowings is set at (a) 1.375% for revolving loans or (b) 1.75% for term loans, and (2) the applicable margin for Eurodollar rate borrowings is set at (a) 2.375% for revolving loans or (b) 2.75% for term loans. Thereafter, the applicable margin varies depending on our funded debt to EBITDA ratio, as described above.

Table of Contents

EBITDA is defined as net (loss) income less (provision for) benefit from taxes, depreciation expense, amortization expense, stock-based compensation expense, interest and other income (expense), acquisition costs for business combinations, extraordinary or non-recurring non-cash expenses or losses including, without limitation, goodwill impairments, and any extraordinary or non-recurring cash expenses in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$5 million for the life of this Second Loan Agreement. The revolving loan facility requires an annual facility fee of 0.375% of the revolving credit line capacity. The Second Loan Agreement expires in November 2016. The Second Loan Agreement, as amended, restricts our ability to raise additional debt financing and pay dividends, and also requires us to comply with other nonfinancial covenants. In addition, we are required to maintain financial covenants as follows:

1. A minimum fixed charge coverage ratio as of the end of each fiscal quarter of not less than:

(a) 1.00:1.00 for the period between September 30, 2015 and June 30, 2016; and

(b) 1.15:1.00 for the period beginning July 1, 2016 and thereafter.

The fixed charge coverage ratio is not tested until the fiscal quarter ending September 30, 2015.

2. Minimum EBITDA as of the end of each fiscal quarter of not less than:

(a) \$1 for the period between April 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015;

(b) \$3,400,000 for the period between July 1, 2015 and September 30, 2015;

(c) \$3,200,000 for the period between October 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015.

EBITDA is not tested after the fiscal quarter ending December 31, 2015.

3. Minimum liquidity as of the end of each month of not less than \$20,000,000.

We were in compliance with the covenants of our Second Loan Agreement, as amended, as of December 31, 2014 and June 30, 2014.

Upfront arrangement fees incurred in connection with the Second Amendment totaled \$0.3 million and were deferred and are being amortized over the remaining term of the arrangement. In connection with the reduction of the revolving credit line capacity, we accelerated amortization of approximately \$0.3 million of unamortized deferred upfront costs.

Interest Rate Swap

In February 2012, we entered into an interest rate swap to reduce our exposure to the financial impact of changing interest rates under our term loan. We do not speculate using derivative instruments. The swap encompasses the principal balances outstanding as of January 1, 2014 and scheduled to be outstanding thereafter, such principal and notional amount totaling \$85 million in January 2014 and amortizing to \$35 million in November 2016. The effective date of the swap was April 9, 2012 with a maturity date of November 4, 2016. At December 31, 2014, we had approximately \$70.0 million of notional amount outstanding in the swap agreement that exchanges a variable interest rate base (Eurodollar rate) for a fixed interest rate of 0.97% over the term of the agreement. This interest rate swap is designated as a cash flow hedge of the interest rate risk attributable to forecasted variable interest payments. The effective portion of the fair value gains or losses on this swap are included as a component of accumulated other comprehensive loss.

At December 31, 2014, our interest rate swap qualified as a cash flow hedge. For this qualifying hedge, the effective portion of the change in fair value will be recognized through earnings when the underlying transaction being hedged affects earnings, thereby allowing the swap's gains and losses to offset interest expense from the term loan on the condensed consolidated statement of operations. Any hedge ineffectiveness is recognized in earnings in the current period.

Table of Contents

Headquarter Lease

We entered into a 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, and was \$0.1 million through the 24th calendar month of the term of the lease. Monthly base rent increased to \$0.2 million for the subsequent 12 months and now increases approximately 3% after each 12-month anniversary during the remaining term, 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.

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 interest rate and foreign currency exchange risks.

Interest Rate Risk

We invest our cash equivalents and short-term investments primarily in liquid, highly-rated U.S. government or municipal fixed income securities, certificates of deposit with financial institutions and money market funds. 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 of these investments 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 statements.

As of December 31, 2014, our credit facility consisted of a \$70.0 million outstanding term loan and a \$50 million revolving line of credit with no amount outstanding. Interest on borrowings under the credit facility is payable quarterly at specified margins above either the Eurodollar rate or the Base Rate. Our exposure to interest rate risk under the credit facility will depend on the extent to which we utilize the facility. To reduce our exposure to rising interest rates under the term loan, in February 2012, we entered into an interest rate swap encompassing the principal balances scheduled to be outstanding as of January 1, 2014 and thereafter, such scheduled principal amount totaling \$85 million on January 1, 2014 and amortizing to \$35 million on November 4, 2016. The interest rate swap effectively fixes the Eurodollar rate at a fixed rate of 0.97%. As such, a hypothetical change of 1% from prevailing interest rates as of December 31, 2014 would not have an effect on our interest expense.

Foreign Currency Exchange Risk

To date, our 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 condensed consolidated financial condition or results of operations.

Table of Contents

ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Our management, with the participation of our principal executive and principal financial officers, evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures as of December 31, 2014. 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, 2014, our principal executive and principal financial officers 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.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

In December 2012, Internet Patents Corporation (“IPC”) filed a patent infringement lawsuit against us in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, alleging that we had infringed a patent held by IPC. In September 2013, the court dismissed a related case because it found that the patent is invalid, and on the same date, the court issued IPC an Order to Show Cause that the lawsuit against us should not be dismissed. In October 2013, IPC filed a response to the order and the court subsequently dismissed the case against us. In October 2013, IPC filed its appeal in the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. The United States Court of Appeals for Federal Circuit heard oral arguments on the appeal on August 6, 2014, and we are still awaiting a decision. While we deny IPC’s claims and believe that the probability of any loss is remote, there can be no assurance that we will prevail in this matter and any adverse ruling or settlement may have a significant impact on our business and operating results. In addition, regardless of the outcome of the matter, we may incur significant legal fees defending the action until it is resolved.

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

Table of Contents

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 periodic report. 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 emerging 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 emerging industry that has undergone rapid and dramatic changes in its relatively short history and which is characterized by rapidly-changing Internet media, evolving industry standards, regulatory uncertainty, and changing user and client demands. As a result, we face risks and uncertainties such as but not limited to:

our emerging industry and relatively new business model;

changes in the economic condition, market dynamics, regulatory or legislative environment affecting our business or our clients' businesses;

our dependence on Internet search companies to attract Internet visitors;

our dependence on unimpeded access to the Internet by us and Internet visitors;

our ability to accurately forecast our results of operations and appropriately plan our expenses;

our ability to compete in our industry;

our ability to develop our websites to allow Internet visitors to access our websites through mobile devices;

our ability to develop new services and enhancements and features to meet new demands from our clients;
and

our ability to successfully challenge regulatory audits, investigations or allegations of noncompliance with laws.

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

Negative changes in the economic condition, market dynamics or regulatory environment have caused, and may continue to cause, our revenue to decline and our business and growth to suffer.

Adverse macroeconomic conditions could cause decreases or delays in spending by our advertisers and could harm our ability to generate revenue and our results of operations. Moreover, to date, we have generated a large majority of our revenue from clients in our education and financial services client verticals. We expect that a majority of our revenue, at least 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 in particular have negatively impacted, and may continue to negatively impact, our clients' businesses, marketing practices and budgets and, therefore, our financial results.

Our and our clients' businesses are subject to many regulatory requirements. Current or future regulations could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Our business is subject to many laws and regulatory requirements, including Federal, state, and local laws and regulations regarding unsolicited commercial email, telemarketing, user privacy, search engines, Internet tracking technologies, direct marketing, data security, data privacy, pricing, sweepstakes, promotions, intellectual property ownership and infringement, trade secrets, export of encryption technology, acceptable content and quality of goods, and taxation, among others. Each of our education, financial services and other client verticals is also subject to various laws and regulations, and our marketing activities on behalf of our clients are regulated. Many of these laws are frequently changing, and keeping our business in compliance with or bringing our business into compliance with new laws may be costly, affect our revenue and harm our financial results. Violations or alleged violations of laws by us, our third-party publishers or clients could result in damages, fines, criminal prosecution, unfavorable publicity, and restrictions on our ability to operate, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition. In addition, new laws or regulations or changes in enforcement of existing laws or regulations applicable to our clients could affect the activities or strategies of our clients and, therefore, lead to reductions in their level of business with us.

Table of Contents

For example, the Federal Communications Commission amended the Telephone Consumer Protection Act that affects telemarketing calls. Certain provisions of the regulations became effective in July 2012, and additional regulations requiring prior express written consent for certain types of telephonic communications became effective in October 2013. Our efforts to comply with the TCPA has not had a material impact on traffic conversion rates. However, depending on future traffic and product mix, it could potentially have a material effect on our revenue and profitability, including increasing our and our clients' exposure to enforcement actions and litigation. Additionally, we generate leads from which customers provide a wireless number, and in turn a significant amount of revenue comes from calls made by our internal call centers as well as by third-party call centers. We also purchase a portion of our lead data from third-party publishers and cannot guarantee that these third-parties will comply with the regulations. Any failure by us or the third-party publishers on which we rely for telemarketing, email marketing and other lead generation activities to adhere to or successfully implement appropriate processes and procedures in response to existing regulations and changing regulatory requirements could result in legal liability or damage to our reputation in the marketplace, either of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition. Furthermore, our clients may make business decisions based on their own experiences with the TCPA regardless of our products and the changes we implemented to comply with the new regulations. These decisions may negatively affect our revenue or profitability.

From time to time, we are subject to audits, inquiries, investigations, claims of non-compliance and lawsuits by Federal and state governmental agencies, regulatory agencies, attorneys general, and other governmental or regulatory bodies, any of whom may allege violations of legal requirements. For example, in June 2012, we entered into an Assurance of Voluntary Compliance agreement following a civil investigation into certain of our marketing practices related to our education client vertical that was conducted by the attorneys general of a number of states. If the results of any future investigations, audits, inquiries, claims or litigation are unfavorable to us, we may be required to pay monetary fines or penalties or have restrictions placed on our business, which could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows.

Federal and state regulations governing clients in our education vertical have negatively affected, and may continue to negatively affect, our clients' businesses, marketing practices and budgets, any or all of which could have a material adverse effect on our financial results.

Historically, we have generated nearly half of our revenue from our education client vertical, and nearly all of that revenue was generated from post-secondary educational institutions. Post-secondary educational institutions are subject to extensive Federal and state regulations, including the Higher Education Act, Department of Education regulations and individual state higher education regulations. The regulations govern many aspects of these clients' operations, including marketing and recruiting activities, as well as the schools' eligibility to participate in Title IV Federal student financial aid programs, which is the principal source of funding for many of our education clients. There have been significant changes to these regulations in the recent past, and a high level of regulatory activity and heightened legislative scrutiny is expected to continue in the post-secondary education sector.

For example, the Department of Education initiated an investigation of a publicly traded for-profit education client with respect to its enrollment activities and job placement, among other things, and in July 2014, the Department of Education signed an agreement with the client requiring it to wind down or sell its campuses. In addition, in October 2014, the Department of Education announced final regulations on gainful employment which go into effect on July 1, 2015. The regulations require career college programs to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation, which requires the programs' graduates' annual loan payments to be less than a defined percentage of earnings. Programs that do not pass the test could lose access to Title IV Federal Student financial aid. As a result, such programs may be modified, curtailed or eliminated. Similar regulatory and enforcement activities have affected and are expected to continue to affect our clients' businesses and marketing practices, which may result in a decrease in

these clients' spending with us, and fluctuations in the volume and mix of our business with these clients. Changes in, or new interpretations of, applicable laws, regulations, standards or policies applicable to these clients could have a material adverse effect on their accreditation, authorization to operate in various states, or receipt of funds under Title IV programs, any of which, in turn, may harm our ability to generate revenue from these clients and our financial results.

Table of Contents

We depend on third-party publishers for a significant portion of our visitors. 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 visitor traffic originating from third-party publishers. In many instances, third-party publishers can change the media inventory they make available to us at any time and, therefore, impact our results of operations. In addition, third-party 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 third-party 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 media 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 third-party publishers could eventually lead to a concentration of desirable inventory on websites or networks owned by a small number of individuals or entities, which could limit the supply or impact the pricing of inventory available to us. For example, since 2012, our revenue has declined in our financial services client vertical primarily due to volume declines caused by losses of available media from third-party publishers acquired by competitors, changes in search engine algorithms which reduced or eliminated traffic from some third-party publishers and increased competition for quality media. We cannot assure you that we will be able to acquire media inventory that meets our clients' performance, price and quality requirements, in which case our revenue could decline or our operating costs could increase.

Our results of operations 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 results of operations to fall short of analysts' and investors' expectations.

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

changes in client volume;

loss of or reduced demand by existing clients;

the availability and price of quality media;

consolidation of media sources;

changes in search engine algorithms that affect our and our publishers' websites; and

regulatory and legislative changes.

As a result of changes in our business model and increased expenditures for certain businesses, products, services and technologies, we anticipate fluctuations in our Adjusted EBITDA margin.

We have invested and expect to continue to invest in new businesses, products, services and technologies, including more expensive forms of media. We may have insufficient revenue to fully offset liabilities and expenses in connection with these investments and may experience inadequate, unpredictable return of capital on our investments. As a result of these investments, we expect fluctuations in our Adjusted EBITDA margin.

We depend upon Internet search providers to direct a significant portion of the visitors to our and our third-party publishers' websites. Changes in search engine algorithms have in the past and may in the future harm the websites' placements in both paid and organic search result listings, which may cause the number of visitors to our websites and our third-party publishers' websites, as well as our revenue, to decline.

Our success depends on our ability to attract online visitors to our and our third-party publishers' websites and convert them into prospects for our clients in a cost-effective manner. We depend on Internet search providers to direct a substantial share of visitors to our websites. Search providers offer two types of search results: organic and paid listings. Organic listings are displayed based solely on formulas designed by the search companies. Paid listings are displayed based on a combination of the advertiser's bid price for particular keywords and the search engines' assessment of the website's relevance and quality.

Table of Contents

Our ability to maintain or grow the number of visitors to our websites from search providers is not entirely within our control. Search providers frequently revise their algorithms and changes in their algorithms could cause our websites to receive less favorable placements. We have experienced fluctuations in organic rankings for a number of our websites and some of our paid listing campaigns have also been harmed by search engine algorithmic changes. Search providers could determine that our or our third-party publishers' websites' content is either not relevant or is of poor quality.

In addition, we may fail to optimally manage our paid listings, or our proprietary bid management technologies may fail. To attract and retain visitors, we use search engine optimization (SEO) which involves developing content to optimize ranking in search engine results. Our ability to successfully manage SEO efforts across our owned and operated websites and our third-party publishers' websites depends on our timely and effective modification of SEO practices implemented in response to periodic changes in search engine algorithms and methodologies and changes in search query trends. If we fail to successfully manage our SEO strategy, our websites may receive less favorable placement in organic or paid listings, which would reduce the number of visitors to our sites, decrease conversion rates and repeat business and have a detrimental effect on our ability to generate revenue. If visits to our websites decrease, we may need to use more costly sources to replace lost visitors, and such increased expense could adversely affect our business and profitability. Even if we succeed in driving traffic to our owned and operated websites and to our clients' websites, we may not be able to effectively monetize this traffic or otherwise retain customers. Our failure to do so could result in lower advertising revenue from our owned and operated websites as well as third-party publishers' websites, which would have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

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, and we expect this competition to continue to increase in the future both from existing competitors and, given the relatively low barriers to entry into the market, from new competitors. We compete both for clients and for limited high-quality media. We compete for clients on the basis of a number of factors, including return on investment of client's marketing spending, 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 Education Dynamics 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;

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

- third-party publishers with their own sales forces that sell their online marketing services directly to clients;

in-house marketing groups and activities at current or potential clients;

offline direct marketing agencies;

mobile and social media; and

television, radio and print companies.

Table of Contents

Competition for web traffic among websites and search engines, as well as competition with traditional media companies, has resulted and may continue to result in significant increases in media pricing, declining margins, reductions in revenue, and loss of market share. In addition, if we 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. Internet search companies with brand recognition, such as Google, Yahoo! and Microsoft, have significant numbers of direct sales personnel and substantial proprietary advertising inventory and web traffic that provide a significant competitive advantage and have a significant impact on pricing for Internet advertising and web traffic. Some of these companies may offer or develop more vertically targeted products that match customers with products and services and, thus, compete with us more directly. The trend toward consolidation in online marketing may also affect pricing and availability of media 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' online and offline offerings has affected and may continue to affect both volume and price, and, thus, revenue, profit margins and profitability. If we fail to deliver results that are superior to those that other online marketing service providers deliver to clients, we could lose clients, and our revenue may decline.

More people are using mobile devices to access the internet. If we fail to develop our websites to keep pace with this shift in user devices, we may not remain competitive and could lose clients or advertising inventory.

The number of people who access the Internet through mobile devices such as smart phones and tablets has increased dramatically in the past few years, and we expect the trend to continue. Our online marketing services and content were originally designed for desktop or laptop computers. The shift from desktop or laptop computers to mobile devices could potentially deteriorate the user experience for visitors to our websites and may make it more difficult for visitors to respond to our offerings. It also requires us to develop new offerings specifically designed for mobile devices. Additionally, the monetization of our online marketing services and content on these mobile devices might not be as lucrative for us compared to those on desktop and laptop computers. If we fail to develop our websites cost effectively and improve the monetization capabilities of our mobile marketing services, we may not remain competitive, which may negatively affect our business and results of operations.

A reduction in online marketing spend by our clients, a loss of clients or lower advertising yields may seriously harm our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, 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 may be harmed.

We rely on clients' marketing spend on our owned and operated websites and on our network of third-party publisher websites. We have historically derived, and we expect to continue to derive, the majority of our revenue through the delivery of qualified leads, clicks, calls and customers. One component of our platform that we use to generate client interest is our system of monetization tools, which is designed to match content with client offerings in a manner that optimizes revenue yield and end-user experience. Clients will stop spending marketing funds on our owned and operated websites or our third-party publisher websites if their investments do not generate sales leads, and ultimately customers or if we do not deliver advertisements in an appropriate and effective manner. The failure of our yield-optimized monetization technology to effectively match advertisements or client offerings with our content in a manner that results in increased revenue for our clients would have an adverse impact on our ability to maintain or increase our revenue from client marketing spend.

Even if our content is effectively matched with advertisements or client offerings, our current clients may not fulfill their obligations under their existing contracts with us and they may not continue to place marketing spend or advertisements on our websites beyond the terms of their existing contracts. If any of our clients decided not to continue marketing spend or advertising on our owned and operated websites or on our third-party publisher websites, we could experience a rapid decline in our revenue over a relatively short period of time. Any factors that limit the amount our clients are willing to and do spend on marketing or advertising with us, or to purchase leads from us, could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Furthermore, a substantial portion of our revenue is generated from a limited number of clients. None of our clients account for 10% or more of our revenue. However, we have a few clients that account for a large portion of our net revenue. Our clients can generally terminate their contracts with us at any time, with limited prior notice or penalty. Clients who have longer-term contracts may fail to honor their existing contracts, fail to renew their contracts or reduce their level of business with us, leading to lower revenue.

Table of Contents

In addition, reductions in business by one or more significant clients may trigger price reductions for our other clients whose prices for certain products are determined in whole or in part by client bidding or competition. Any such price reduction could result 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 any one of these clients, or material reduction in their marketing spending with us, could decrease our revenue and harm our business.

We rely on our management team and other key employees, and the loss of one or more key employees could harm our business.

Our success and future growth depend upon the continued services of our management team, including Douglas Valenti, Chief Executive Officer, and other key employees in all areas of our organization. From time to time, there may be changes in our key employees resulting from the hiring or departure of executives and employees, which could disrupt our business. We have experienced declines in our business and a depressed stock price, making our equity and cash incentive compensation programs less attractive to current and potential key employees. If we lose the services of key employees or if we are unable to attract and retain additional qualified employees, our business and growth could suffer.

Third-party publishers or vendors 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 online media that we purchase from third-party publishers. We also rely on third-party call centers and email marketers. Some of these third-parties are authorized to use our clients' brands, subject to contractual restrictions. Any activity by third-party publishers or vendors 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, we may also face liability for any failure of our third-party publishers or vendors to comply with regulatory requirements, as further described in the risk factor beginning, "Our business is subject to many regulatory requirements, and current or future regulation could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition."

The law is unsettled on the extent of liability that an advertiser in our position has for the activities of third-party publishers or vendors. Department of Education regulations impose liability on our education clients for misrepresentations made by their marketing service providers. In addition, certain of our contracts impose liability on us for the acts of our third-party publishers or vendors. We could be subject to costly litigation and, if we are unsuccessful in defending ourselves, we could incur damages for the unauthorized or unlawful acts of third-party publishers or vendors.

We gather, transmit and store consumer personally identifiable information and unauthorized access to or accidental disclosure of this information may cause us to incur significant expenses and may negatively affect our reputation and business.

We gather, transmit and store consumer personally identifiable information. This information may include social security numbers, credit scores, credit card information, and financial and health information, some of which is held and managed by our third-party vendors. As a result, we are subject to certain contractual terms, including third-party security reviews, as well as Federal, state and foreign laws and regulations designed to protect personally identifiable information. Despite our implementation of security measures and controls, our computer systems may be susceptible to electronic or physical computer break-ins, viruses and other disruptions and security breaches. In the past, we have experienced security incidents involving access to our user databases. Although, to our knowledge, no sensitive financial or personal information has been compromised in the past, any future security incidents could result in the

compromise of such data and subject us to liability or result in cancellation of client contracts. In addition, the increased use of mobile devices by our employees increases the risk of unintentional disclosure of personally identifiable information. Any perceived or actual unauthorized disclosure of personally identifiable information, whether through breach of our network by an unauthorized party, employee theft, misuse, or error could harm our reputation, impair our ability to attract website visitors and to attract and retain our clients, or subject us to claims or litigation arising from damages suffered by consumers, and thereby harm our business and results of operations. In addition, we could incur significant costs in complying with the multitude of state, Federal and foreign laws regarding personally identifiable information.

If we fail to continually enhance and adapt our products and services to keep pace with rapidly changing technologies and industry standards, we may not remain competitive and could lose clients or advertising inventory.

The online media and marketing industry is characterized by rapidly changing 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. We continually make enhancements and other modifications to our proprietary technologies, and these changes may contain design or performance defects that are not readily apparent. If our proprietary technologies fail to achieve their intended purpose or are less effective than technologies used by our competitors, our business could be harmed.

Table of Contents

Our future success will depend in part on our ability to successfully adapt to these rapidly changing online media formats and other technologies. If we fail to adapt successfully, we could lose clients or advertising inventory.

Acquisitions and investments could complicate operations, or could result in dilution and other harmful consequences that may adversely impact our business and results of operations.

Acquisitions have historically been an important element of our overall corporate strategy and use of capital. Any possible future acquisitions could be material to our financial condition and results of operations. We may evaluate and enter into discussions regarding a wide array of potential strategic transactions. The process of integrating an acquired company, business or technology has created, and will continue to create, unforeseen operating difficulties and expenditures. The areas where we face risks include:

diversion of management time and focus from operating our business to acquisition integration challenges;

failure to successfully further develop the acquired business or technology;

implementation or remediation of controls, procedures and policies at the acquired company;

integration of the acquired company's accounting, human resource, and other administrative systems, and coordination of product, engineering and sales and marketing functions;

transition of operations, users and customers onto our existing platforms;

failure to obtain required approvals on a timely basis, if at all, from governmental authorities, or conditions placed upon approval, under competition and antitrust laws which could, among other things, delay or prevent us from completing a transaction, or otherwise restrict our ability to realize the expected financial or strategic goals of an acquisition;

in the case of foreign acquisitions, the need to integrate operations across different cultures and languages and to address the particular economic, currency, political and regulatory risks associated with specific countries;

cultural challenges associated with integrating employees from the acquired company into our organization, and retention of employees from the businesses we acquire;

liability for activities of the acquired company before the acquisition, including patent and trademark infringement claims, violations of laws, commercial disputes, tax liabilities and other known and unknown liabilities; and

litigation or other claims in connection with the acquired company, including claims from terminated employees, customers, former stockholders or other third-parties.

Our failure to address these risks or other problems encountered in connection with our past or future acquisitions and investments could cause us to fail to realize the anticipated benefits of such acquisitions or investments, incur unanticipated liabilities and harm our business generally.

Future acquisitions could also result in dilutive issuances of our equity securities, the incurrence of debt, contingent liabilities, amortization expenses, impairment of goodwill or restructuring charges, any of which could harm our financial condition or results. Also, the anticipated benefit of many of our acquisitions may not materialize.

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.

A portion of our client business is sourced through advertising agencies and, in many cases, we contract with these agencies and not directly with the underlying client. Contracting with these agencies subjects us to greater credit risk than where we contract with clients directly. In many cases, agencies are not required to pay us unless and until they are paid by the underlying client. In addition, many agencies are thinly capitalized and have or may develop high-risk credit profiles. This credit risk may vary depending on the nature of an agency's aggregated client base. If an agency became insolvent, or if an underlying client did not pay the agency, we may be required to write off account receivables as bad debt. Any such write-offs could have a materially negative effect on our results of operations for the periods in which the write-offs occur.

Table of Contents

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, 2014, we had debt with a principal balance of \$70.0 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;

to fund all of our costs if our revenue declines or costs increase; and

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, certain mergers and acquisitions, investments, asset sales, dividends, and stock repurchases. 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.

Damage to our reputation could harm our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our business is dependent on attracting a large number of visitors to our and our third-party publishers' websites and providing leads, clicks, calls, and customers to our clients, which depends in part on our reputation within the industry and with our clients. Certain other companies within our industry regularly engage in activities that others may view as unlawful or inappropriate. These activities by third-parties, such as spyware or deceptive promotions, may be seen as characteristic of participants in our industry and, therefore, may harm the reputation of all participants in our industry, including us.

Our ability to attract potential customers and, thereby, clients, also depends in part on customers receiving competitive levels of customer service, responsiveness and prices from our lead purchaser clients. If our clients do not provide competitive levels of service to customers, our reputation and therefore our ability to attract additional clients and customers could be harmed.

In addition, from time to time, we may be subject to investigations, inquiries or litigation by various regulators, which may harm our reputation regardless of the outcome of any such action. For example, in 2012, we responded to a civil investigation conducted by the attorneys general of a number of states into certain of our marketing and business practices resulting in us entering into an Assurance of Voluntary Compliance agreement. Negative perceptions of our business may result in additional regulation, enforcement actions by the government and increased litigation, any of which may affect our business and result in lower revenue.

We also believe that building brand awareness is important to achieving increased demand for certain of our products and services. Accordingly, we have dedicated, and expect to continue to dedicate, significant operating capital and resources to building brand awareness, which may not be successful. Our failure to build brand awareness may adversely affect our ability to attract and retain clients in a cost-effective manner and as a result, our business, financial condition and results of operations.

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.

Table of Contents

If we do not effectively manage any future growth or if we are not able to scale our business quickly enough to meet our clients' growing needs, our operating performance will suffer and we may lose clients.

We have historically experienced growth in our operations and operating locations. This growth placed, and any future growth will continue to place, significant demands on our management and our operational and financial infrastructure. Growth, if any, may make it more difficult for us to accomplish the following:

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

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

maintaining our client service standards; and

developing and improving our operational, financial and management controls and maintaining adequate reporting systems and procedures.

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. Unexpected constraints on our technology infrastructure could lead to slower website 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.

In addition, our personnel, systems, procedures, and controls may be inadequate to support our future operations if we return to growth. The improvements required to manage growth may require us to make significant expenditures, expand, train and manage our employee base, and reallocate valuable management resources. We may spend substantial amounts to purchase or lease data centers and equipment, upgrade our technology and network infrastructure to handle increased traffic on our owned and operated websites and roll out new products and services. This expansion could be expensive and complex and could result in inefficiencies or operational failures. If we do not implement this expansion successfully, or if we experience inefficiencies and operational failures during its implementation, the quality of our products and services and our users' experience could decline. This could damage our reputation and cause us to lose current and potential customers and clients. The costs associated with these adjustments to our architecture could harm our operating results. Accordingly, if we fail to effectively manage future growth, our operating performance will suffer, and we may lose clients, key vendors and key personnel.

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 results of operations.

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 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. If we or third-party data centers that 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 of operations for the period of time in which any disruption of utility services to us occurs.

Our primary data center is at a third-party co-location center in San Francisco, California. All of the critical components of the system are redundant and we have a backup data center in Las Vegas, Nevada. We have implemented these backup systems and redundancies to minimize the risk associated with earthquakes, fire, power loss, telecommunications failure, and other events beyond our control; however, these backup systems may fail or may not be adequate to prevent losses.

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 third-party 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.

Table of Contents

We rely on call centers, Internet 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 internal and third-party call centers as well as third-party vendors, including data center and Internet providers. Notwithstanding disaster recovery and business continuity plans and precautions instituted to protect our clients and us from events that could interrupt delivery of services, there is no guarantee that such interruptions would not result in a prolonged interruption in our ability to provide services to our clients. Any temporary or permanent interruption in the services provided by our call centers or third-party providers could significantly harm our business.

In addition, any financial or other difficulties our third-party providers face may have negative effects on our business, the nature and extent of which we cannot predict. We exercise little control over our 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 business depends on continued and unimpeded access to the Internet by us and our users. Internet access providers may be able to block, degrade, or charge for access to certain of our products and services, which could lead to additional expenses and the loss of customers and clients.

Our products and services depend on the ability of our users to access the Internet. Currently, this access is provided by companies that have significant market power in the broadband and Internet access marketplace, including incumbent telephone companies, cable companies, mobile communications companies, and government-owned service providers. Some of these providers have taken, or have stated that they may take measures, including legal actions, that could degrade, disrupt, or increase the cost of user access to our advertisements or our third-party publishers' advertisements by restricting or prohibiting the use of infrastructure to support or facilitate our offerings, or by charging increased fees to us or our users to provide our offerings. Such interference could result in a loss of existing customers and clients, and increased costs, and could impair our ability to attract new customers and clients, thereby harming our revenue and growth.

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 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 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.

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

In addition to other factors that cause our results of operations to fluctuate, results are also subject to significant seasonal fluctuation. In particular, our quarters ending December 31 (our second fiscal quarter) are typically characterized by 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 have lower budgets. 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.

Table of Contents

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

The online marketing services market is relatively new and rapidly evolving, and it uses different measurements from 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 online marketing, particularly by those companies 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. Certain of our metrics are subject to inherent challenges in measurement, and real or perceived inaccuracies in such metrics may harm our reputation and negatively affect our business. We present key metrics such as cost-per-click, cost-per-lead and cost-per-acquisition some of which are calculated using internal data. We periodically review and refine some of our methodologies for monitoring, gathering, and calculating these metrics. Based on this process, from time to time we update our methodologies. While our metrics are based on what we believe to be reasonable measurements and methodologies, there are inherent challenges in deriving our metrics. In addition, our user metrics may differ from estimates published by third-parties or from similar metrics of our competitors due to differences in methodology. If advertisers or publishers do not perceive our metrics to be accurate, or if we discover material inaccuracies in our metrics, it could negatively affect our business model and current or potential clients' willingness to adopt our metrics.

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, the success of our business may be limited, and our revenue may decrease.

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 patent, trade secret, trademark and copyright law, confidentiality agreements, and technical measures to protect our proprietary rights. We enter into confidentiality agreements with our employees, consultants, independent contractors, advisors, client vendors, and publishers. These agreements may not effectively prevent unauthorized disclosure of confidential information or unauthorized parties from copying aspects of our services or obtaining and using our proprietary information. Further, these agreements may not provide an adequate remedy in the event of unauthorized disclosures or uses, and we cannot assure you that our rights under such agreements will be enforceable. Effective patent, trade secret, copyright, and trademark 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 be effective; (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 patent, trademark, copyright, trade secret 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 have from time to time become aware of third-parties who we believe may have infringed our intellectual property rights. Such infringement or infringement of which we are not yet aware could reduce our competitive advantages and

cause us to lose clients, third-party publishers or could otherwise harm our business. Policing unauthorized use of our proprietary rights can be difficult and costly. Litigation, while it may be necessary to enforce or protect our intellectual property rights, 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. 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.

Third-parties may sue us for intellectual property infringement, which, even if unsuccessful, could require us to expend significant costs to defend or settle.

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.

Table of Contents

In addition, we have in the past, and may in the future, be subject to legal proceedings and claims that we have infringed the patents or other intellectual property rights of third-parties. These claims sometimes involve patent holding companies or other adverse patent owners who have no relevant product revenue and against whom our own intellectual property rights, if any, may therefore provide little or no deterrence. For example, in December 2012, Internet Patents Corporation (IPC) filed a patent infringement lawsuit against us in the Northern District of California alleging that some of our websites infringe a patent held by IPC. IPC is a non-practicing entity that relies on asserting its patents as its primary source of revenue. In addition, third-parties have asserted and may in the future assert intellectual property infringement claims against our clients, and we have agreed in certain circumstances to indemnify and defend against such claims. Any intellectual property-related infringement claims, whether or not meritorious and regardless of the outcome of the litigation, could result in costly litigation and could divert management resources and attention. 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 unsettled, particularly as they apply to search engine functionality. For example, other Internet marketing and search companies have been sued for trademark infringement and other intellectual property-related claims for displaying ads or search results in response to user queries that include trademarked terms. The outcomes of these lawsuits have differed from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. We may be subject 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 therefore adversely affect our business or prospects.

Limitations on our ability to collect and use data derived from user activities, as well as new technologies that block our ability to deliver Internet-based advertising, could significantly diminish the value of our services and have an adverse effect on our ability to generate revenue.

When a user visits our websites, we use technologies, including cookies, to collect information such as the user's IP address and the user's past responses to our offerings. We also have relationships with data partners that collect and provide us with user data. We access and analyze this information in order to determine the effectiveness of a marketing campaign and to determine how to modify the campaign. The use of cookies is the subject of litigation, regulatory scrutiny and industry self-regulatory activities, including the discussion of do-not-track technologies and guidelines.

Additionally, 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 data derived from the use of cookies. Technologies, tools, software and applications (including new and enhanced web browsers) have been developed and are likely to continue to be developed that can block or allow users to opt out of display, search, and Internet-based advertising and content, delete or block the cookies used to deliver such advertising, or shift the location in which advertising appears on pages so that our advertisements do not show up in the most monetizable places on our pages or are obscured. As a result, the adoption of such technologies, tools, software, and applications could reduce the number of display and search advertisements that we are able to deliver and/or our ability to deliver Internet-based advertising and this, in turn, could reduce our results of operations.

Interruptions, failures or defects in our data collection systems, as well as privacy concerns and regulatory changes or enforcement actions affecting our or our data partners' ability to collect 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 services client vertical. 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.

Table of Contents

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

In order to comply with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, 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. All control systems have inherent limitations, and, accordingly, 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.

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 results of operations and business may be harmed.

We display original content and third-party content on our websites and in our marketing messages. As a result, we face potential liability based on a variety of theories, including defamation, negligence, deceptive advertising (including Department of Education regulations regarding misrepresentation in education marketing), copyright or trademark infringement. We are also exposed to risk that content provided by third-parties is inaccurate or misleading, and for 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.

We face additional risks in conducting business in international markets.

We have entered into certain international markets and may enter into additional international markets in the future. 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 and challenges inherent in conducting business in international markets, such as:

adapting our technologies and services to foreign clients' preferences and customs;

successfully navigating foreign laws and regulations, including marketing, privacy regulations, employment and labor 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;

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

challenges in collecting accounts receivables; and

successfully interpreting and complying with the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and similar worldwide anti-bribery laws, particularly when operating in countries with varying degrees of governmental corruption. 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.

Table of Contents

We recognized an impairment in the carrying value of goodwill. Additional such charges in the future could negatively affect our results of operations and financial condition.

We continue to have a substantial amount of goodwill and purchased intangible assets on our balance sheet as a result of historical acquisitions. The carrying value of goodwill represents the fair value of an acquired business in excess of identifiable assets and liabilities as of the acquisition date. The carrying value of intangible assets with identifiable useful lives represents the fair value of relationships, content, domain names, acquired technology, among others, as of the acquisition date, and are amortized based on their economic lives. Goodwill expected to contribute indefinitely to our cash flows is not amortized, but must be evaluated for impairment at least annually. If the carrying value exceeds current fair value as determined based on the discounted future cash flows of the related business, the goodwill or intangible asset is considered impaired and is reduced to fair value via a non-cash charge to earnings. Events and conditions that could result in impairment include adverse changes in the regulatory environment, a reduced market capitalization or other factors leading to reduction in expected long-term growth or profitability.

Goodwill impairment analysis and measurement is a process that requires significant judgment. Our stock price and any estimated control premium are factors affecting the assessment of the fair value of our underlying reporting units for purposes of performing any goodwill impairment assessment. For example, our public market capitalization sustained a decline after December 31, 2012 and June 30, 2014 to a value below the net book carrying value of our equity, triggering the need for a goodwill impairment analysis. As a result of our goodwill impairment analysis, we recorded a goodwill impairment charge in those periods.

It is possible that another material change could occur in the future. We will continue to conduct impairment analyses of our goodwill on an annual basis, unless indicators of possible impairment arise that would cause a triggering event, and we would be required to take additional impairment charges in the future if any recoverability assessments reflect estimated fair values that are less than our recorded values. Further impairment charges with respect to our goodwill could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

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, which could lead our clients to become dissatisfied with our campaigns, and in turn, lead to loss of clients and related revenue. 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 viewing the underlying content. Action fraud occurs when online lead forms are completed with false or fictitious information in an effort to increase a publisher's compensable actions. From time to time, we have experienced fraudulent clicks or actions. We do not charge our clients for fraudulent clicks or actions when they are detected, and such fraudulent activities could negatively affect our profitability or harm 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 related revenue. Additionally, we have, from time to time, had to, and in the future may have to, terminate relationships with publishers who we believed to have engaged in fraud. Termination of such relationships entails a loss of revenue associated with the legitimate actions or clicks generated by such publishers.

As a public company, we are subject to compliance initiatives that will require substantial time from our management and result in significantly increased costs that may adversely affect our operating results and financial condition.

The Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010, and other rules implemented by the SEC and NASDAQ, impose various requirements on public companies, including requiring changes in corporate governance practices. These and proposed corporate governance laws and regulations under consideration may further increase our compliance costs. If compliance with these various legal and regulatory requirements diverts our management's attention from other business concerns, it could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. We also expect that these laws and regulations may make it more difficult and more expensive for us to obtain director and officer liability insurance, and we may be required to accept reduced policy limits and coverage or incur substantially higher costs to obtain the same or similar coverage than used to be available. As a result, it may be more difficult for us to attract and retain qualified individuals to serve on our board of directors, on committees of our board of directors, or as executive officers.

Table of Contents

Risks Related to the Ownership of Our Common Stock

Our stock price has been 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 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 periodic report and others such as:

our ability to return to growth and to manage any such growth effectively;

changes in earnings estimates or recommendations by securities analysts;

announcements about our revenue, earnings or other financial results that are not in line with analyst expectations;

our ability to find, develop or retain high quality targeted media on a cost effective basis;

relatively low trading volume in our stock, which creates inherent volatility regardless of factors related to our business performance or prospects;

the sale of, or indication of the intent to sell, substantial amounts of our common stock by our directors, officers or substantial shareholders;

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

our commencement of, or involvement in, litigation; and

negative publicity about us, our industry, our clients or our clients' industries.

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.

The trading market for our common stock is influenced by the research and reports that industry or securities analysts publish about us, our business or the industries or businesses of our clients. If any of the analysts issue an adverse opinion regarding our stock or if our actual results do not meet analyst estimates, 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.

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

As of December 31, 2014, our directors and executive officers, together with their affiliates, beneficially owned approximately 25% of our outstanding common stock. As a result, these stockholders, acting together, have substantial influence 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.

Table of Contents

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 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;

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 also 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.

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 have not declared or paid dividends on our common stock and we do not intend to do so in the near term. 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 in the near term.

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

None.

ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES

None.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not Applicable.

ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

See the Exhibit Index following the signature page to this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for a list of exhibits filed or furnished with this report, which Exhibit Index is incorporated herein by reference.

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/ Gregory Wong
Gregory Wong
Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice
President
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer
and duly authorized signatory)
Date: February 6, 2015

Table of Contents

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit	
Number	Description of Document
10.1*	Form of Deferred Restricted Stock Unit Agreement under 2010 Non-Employee Directors Stock Award Plan.
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.	