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AUTOBYTEL INC

Reported by

STEERMAN JOHN

FORM 3

(Initial Statement of Beneficial Ownership)

Filed 12/12/11 for the Period Ending 12/07/11

Address	18872 MACARTHUR BLVD SUITE 200 IRVINE, CA 92612-1400
Telephone	9492254500
CIK	0001023364
Symbol	ABTL
SIC Code	7370 - Computer Programming, Data Processing, And
Industry	Advertising
Sector	Services
Fiscal Year	12/31

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FORM 3

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL
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INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (MM/DD/YYYY)	3. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading Symbol
STEERMAN JOHN	**12/7/2011**	**AUTOBYTEL INC [ABTL]**
(Last) (First) (Middle) **18872 MACARTHUR BLVD., SUITE 200**	4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) _____ Director _____ 10% Owner ___ **X** ___ Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below) **SVP, Lead & Web Product Dev /**	
(Street) **IRVINE, CA 92612** (City) (State) (Zip)	5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (MM/DD/YYYY)	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) _ **X** _ Form filed by One Reporting Person ___ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1.Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
Common Stock	**25000**	**D**	

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (*e.g.* , puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivate Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (MM/DD/YYYY)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)		4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	(1)	**7/2/2017**	**Common Stock**	**7500**	**$4.30**	**D**	
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	(1)	**7/16/2017**	**Common Stock**	**2500**	**$4.35**	**D**	
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	(1)	**9/29/2018**	**Common Stock**	**25000**	**$1.06**	**D**	
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	(2)	**3/3/2019**	**Common Stock**	**20000**	**$0.35**	**D**	
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	(3)	**9/22/2019**	**Common Stock**	**40000**	**$0.62**	**D**	

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (*e.g.* , puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)							
1. Title of Derivate Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (MM/DD/YYYY)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)		4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	(4)	**1/20/2018**	**Common Stock**	**49603**	**$0.96**	**D**	
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	(5)	**4/15/2018**	**Common Stock**	**50000**	**$1.35**	**D**	
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	(6)	**7/19/2018**	**Common Stock**	**6378**	**$1.10**	**D**	
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	(7)	**12/7/2018**	**Common Stock**	**5000**	**$0.76**	**D**	

Explanation of Responses:

(1) Grant to reporting person of options to buy shares of common stock in transaction exempt under Rule 16b-3. All of these options are fully vested and have already become exercisable.

(2) Grant to reporting person of options to buy shares of common stock in transaction exempt under Rule 16b-3. 33 1/3% shall vest and become exercisable on 3/3/2010, and 1/36 shall vest and become exercisable at the end of each successive monthly anniversary thereafter for the following 24 months ending on the third anniversary of the grant date. In addition to the foregoing time vesting requirements, 1/3 of the options can be exercised only if the closing price of the Company's common stock exceeds two times the exercise price over a consecutive 30-day trading period; and 1/3 of the options can be exercised only if the closing price for the Company's common stock exceeds three times the exercise price over a consecutive 30-day trading period.

(3) Grant to reporting person of options to buy shares of common stock in transaction exempt under Rule 16b-3. 33 1/3% shall vest and become exercisable on 9/22/2010 and 1/36 shall vest and become exercisable at the end of each successive monthly anniversary thereafter for the following 24 months ending on the third anniversary.

(4) Grant to reporting person of options to buy shares of common stock in transaction exempt under Rule 16b-3. 50% shall vest and become exercisable on 1/20/2012, and 1/36 shall vest and become exercisable at the end of each successive monthly anniversary thereafter for the following 24 months ending on the third anniversary of the grant date. In addition to the foregoing time vesting requirements, 50% of the options can be exercised only if the Company meets performance targets based on revenue and EBITDA.

(5) Grant to reporting person of options to buy shares of common stock in transaction exempt under Rule 16b-3. 33 1/3% shall vest and become exercisable on 4/15/2012 and 1/36 shall vest and become exercisable at the end of each successive monthly anniversary thereafter for the following 24 months ending on the third anniversary.

(6) Grant to reporting person of options to buy shares of common stock in transaction exempt under Rule 16b-3. 50% shall vest and become exercisable on 7/19/2012 and 1/36 shall vest and become exercisable at the end of each successive monthly anniversary thereafter for the following 24 months ending on the third anniversary of the grant date. In addition to the foregoing time vesting requirements, 50% of the options can be exercised only if the Company meets performance targets based on revenue and EBITDA.

(7) Grant to reporting person of options to buy shares of common stock in transaction exempt under Rule 16b-3. 33 1/3% shall vest and become exercisable on 12/7/2011 and 1/36 shall vest and become exercisable at the end of each successive monthly anniversary thereafter for the following 24 months ending on the third anniversary.

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
STEERMAN JOHN **18872 MACARTHUR BLVD.** **SUITE 200** **IRVINE, CA 92612**			**SVP, Lead & Web Product Dev**	

Signatures

/s/ Glenn E. Fuller as Attorney-in-Fact for John Steerman — **12/8/2011**

** Signature of Reporting Person — Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

***** If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 5(b)(v).

****** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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