

VERISIGN INC/CA

FORM 10-K (Annual Report)

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| Address | 12061 BLUEMONT WAY ATTN: GENERAL COUNSEL RESTON, VA 20190 |
| Telephone | 7039483200 |
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**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

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

For the fiscal year 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 Number: 000-23593

VERISIGN, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

94-3221585

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

12061 Bluemont Way, Reston, Virginia

(Address of principal executive offices)

20190

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (703) 948-3200

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

| <u>Title of each class</u> | <u>Name of each exchange on which registered</u> |
|--|--|
| Common Stock \$0.001 Par Value Per Share | NASDAQ Global Select Market |

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. YES NO

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. YES NO

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 if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of the registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Large accelerated filer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Accelerated filer | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Non-accelerated filer | <input type="checkbox"/> | Smaller reporting company | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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

The aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity stock held by non-affiliates of the Registrant as of June 30, 2014, was \$3.0 billion based upon the last sale price reported for such date on the NASDAQ Global Select Market. For purposes of this disclosure, shares of Common Stock held by persons known to the Registrant (based on information provided by such persons and/or the most recent schedule 13Gs filed by such persons) to beneficially own more than 5% of the Registrant's Common Stock and shares held by officers and directors of the Registrant have been excluded because such persons may be deemed to be affiliates. This determination is not necessarily a conclusive determination for other purposes.

Number of shares of Common Stock, \$0.001 par value, outstanding as of the close of business on February 06, 2015: 116,884,257 shares.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the definitive Proxy Statement to be delivered to stockholders in connection with the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders are incorporated by reference into Part III



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For purposes of this Annual Report, the terms “Verisign”, “the Company”, “we”, “us” and “our” refer to VeriSign, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries.

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

Overview

We are a global provider of domain name registry services and Internet security, enabling Internet navigation for many of the world’s most recognized domain names and providing protection for websites and enterprises around the world (“Registry Services”). Our Registry Services ensure the security, stability and resiliency of key Internet infrastructure and services, including the .com and .net domains, two of the Internet’s root servers, and operation of the root-zone maintainer functions for the core of the Internet’s Domain Name System (“DNS”). Our product suite also includes Network Intelligence and Availability (“NIA”) Services consisting of Distributed Denial of Service (“DDoS”) Protection Services, Verisign iDefense Security Intelligence Services (“iDefense”) and Managed Domain Name System (“Managed DNS”) Services.

We have one reportable segment, which consists of Registry Services and NIA Services. We have operations inside as well as outside the United States (“U.S.”). For certain additional information about our segment, including a geographic breakdown of revenues and changes in revenues, see “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” in Item 7 and Note 9, “Geographic and Customer Information” of our Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 15 of this Form 10-K.

We were incorporated in Delaware on April 12, 1995. Our principal executive offices are located at 12061 Bluemont Way, Reston, Virginia 20190. Our telephone number at that address is (703) 948-3200. Our common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the ticker symbol VRSN. VERISIGN, the VERISIGN logo, and certain other product or service names are registered or unregistered trademarks in the U.S. and other countries. Other names used in this Form 10-K may be trademarks of their respective owners. Our primary website is VerisignInc.com. The information available on, or accessible through, this website is not incorporated in this Form 10-K by reference.

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), are available, free of charge, on the Investor Relations section of our website as soon as is reasonably practicable after filing such reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”). The public may read and copy any materials we file with the SEC at the SEC’s Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549. The public may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC at sec.gov.

Pursuant to our agreements with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (“ICANN”), Verisign makes available on its website at VerisignInc.com/zone files containing all active domain names registered in the .com and .net registries. At the same website address, Verisign makes available a summary of the number of active domain names registered in the .com and .net registries and the number of .com and .net domain names that are registered but are not configured for use. These files and the related summary data are updated at least once per day. The update times may vary each day. The summary data provided on the website includes domain names that, at the time of publication, were recently purchased and subject to a five day grace period during which the domain names may be deleted and a credit may be issued to a registrar (the “add grace period”). The number of active domain names subject to the add grace period is typically immaterial. The numbers provided in this Form 10-K are the numbers as of midnight of the date reported, include domain names registered but not configured for use, and do not include domain names subject to the add grace period and therefore cannot be compared to the summary posted on our website. The information available on, or accessible through, this website is not incorporated herein by reference.

We announce material financial information to our investors using our investor relations website <http://investor.verisign.com>, SEC filings, investor events, news and earnings releases, public conference calls and webcasts. We use these channels as well as social media to communicate with our investors and the public about our company, our products and services, and other issues. It is possible that the information we post on social media could be deemed to be material information. Therefore, we encourage investors, the media, and others interested in our company to review the information we post on the social media channels listed below. This list may be updated from time to time on our investor relations website.

<https://www.facebook.com/Verisign>

<http://www.twitter.com/Verisign>

<http://www.Linkedin.com/company/Verisign>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/Verisign>

<http://www.VerisignInc.com>
<http://blogs.VerisignInc.com>

The contents of these websites are not intended to be incorporated by reference into this Annual Report on Form 10-K or in any other report or document we file, and any reference to these websites are intended to be inactive textual references only.

Naming Services

Registry Services

Registry Services operates the authoritative directory of all *.com*, *.net*, *.cc*, *.tv*, and *.name* domain names and the back-end systems for all *.gov*, *.jobs* and *.edu* domain names, among others. Registry Services allows individuals and organizations to establish their online identities, while providing the secure, always-on access they need to communicate and transact reliably with large-scale online audiences.

We are the exclusive registry of domain names within the *.com*, *.net* and *.name* generic top-level domains (“gTLDs”) under agreements with ICANN and also, with respect to the *.com* agreement, the U.S. Department of Commerce (“DOC”). As a registry, we maintain the master directory of all second-level domain names in these TLDs (e.g., johndoe.com and janedoe.net). Our global constellation of domain name servers provides Internet Protocol (“IP”) address information in response to queries, enabling the use of browsers, email systems, and other systems on the Internet. In addition, we own and maintain the shared registration system that allows all registrars to enter new second-level domain names into the master directory and to submit modifications, transfers, re-registrations and deletions for existing second-level domain names (“Shared Registration System”).

Separate from our agreements with ICANN, we have agreements to be the exclusive registry for the *.tv* and *.cc* country code top-level domains (“ccTLDs”) and to operate the back-end registry systems for the *.gov*, *.jobs* and *.edu* gTLDs, among others. These TLDs are also supported by our global constellation of domain name servers and Shared Registration System.

With our existing gTLDs and ccTLDs, we also provide internationalized domain name (“IDN”) services that enable Internet users to access websites in characters representing their local language. Currently, IDNs may be registered in as many as 350 different native languages and scripts.

Domain names can be registered for between one and 10 years, and the fees charged for *.com* and *.net* may only be increased according to adjustments prescribed in our agreements with ICANN over the applicable term. With respect to *.com*, price increases require prior approval by the DOC according to the terms of Amendment 32 of the Cooperative Agreement between the DOC and Verisign. Revenues for registrations of *.name* are not subject to the same pricing restrictions as those applicable to *.com* and *.net*; however, *.name* fees charged are subject to our agreement with ICANN over the applicable term. Revenues for *.cc* and *.tv* domain names are based on a similar fee system and registration system, though the fees charged are not subject to the same pricing restrictions as those imposed by ICANN. The fees received from operating the *.gov* registry are based on the terms of Verisign’s agreement with the U.S. General Services Administration (“GSA”). The fees received from operating the *.jobs* registry infrastructure are based on the terms of Verisign’s agreement with the registry operator of *.jobs*. No fees are received from operating the *.edu* registry infrastructure.

Historically, we have experienced higher domain name growth in the first quarter of the year compared to other quarters. Our quarterly revenue does not reflect these seasonal patterns because the preponderance of our revenue for each quarterly period is provided by the ratable recognition of our deferred revenue balance. The effect of this seasonality has historically resulted in the largest amount of growth in our deferred revenue balance occurring during the first quarter of the year compared to the other quarters.

NIA Services

NIA Services provides infrastructure assurance to organizations and is comprised of iDefense, Managed DNS and DDoS Protection Services.

DDoS Protection Services supports online business continuity by providing monitoring and mitigation services against DDoS attacks. We help companies stay online without needing to make significant investments in infrastructure or establish internal DDoS expertise. As a cloud-based service, it can be deployed quickly and easily, with no customer premise equipment required. This saves time and money through operational efficiencies, support cost, and economies of scale to provide detection and protection against the largest DDoS attacks. Customers include financial institutions and e-commerce providers. Customers pay a subscription fee that varies depending on the customer’s network requirements.

iDefense provides 24 hours a day, every day of the year, access to cyber intelligence related to vulnerabilities, malicious code, and global threats. Our teams enable companies to improve vulnerability management, incident response, fraud mitigation, and proactive mitigation of the particular threats targeting their industry or global operations. Customers include financial institutions, large corporations, and governmental and quasi-governmental organizations. Customers pay a subscription fee for iDefense.

Managed DNS is a hosting service that delivers DNS resolution, improving the availability of web-based systems. It provides DNS availability through a globally distributed, securely managed, cloud-based DNS infrastructure, allowing enterprises to save on capital expenses associated with DNS infrastructure deployment and reduce operational costs and complexity associated with DNS management. Managed DNS service provides full support for DNS Security Extensions (“DNSSEC”) compliance features and Geo Location traffic routing capabilities.

DNSSEC is designed to protect the DNS infrastructure from man-in-the-middle attacks that corrupt, or poison, DNS data. Geo Location allows website owners to customize responses for end-users based on their physical location or IP address, giving them the ability to deliver location-specific content. Customers include financial institutions, e-commerce, and software-as-a-service providers. Customers pay a subscription fee that varies based on the amount of DNS traffic they receive.

Operations Infrastructure

Our operations infrastructure consists of three secure data centers in Dulles, Virginia; New Castle, Delaware; and Fribourg, Switzerland as well as approximately 70 resolution sites around the world. These secure data centers operate 24 hours a day, supporting our business units and services. The performance and scale of our infrastructure are critical for our business, and give us the platform to maintain our leadership position. Key features of our operations infrastructure include:

- *Distributed Servers:* We operate a large number of high-speed servers globally to support localized capacity and availability demands. In conjunction with our proprietary software, processes and procedures, this platform offers automatic failover, global and local load balancing, and threshold monitoring on critical servers.
- *Networking:* We deploy and maintain a redundant and diverse global Internet network, and maintain high-speed connections to numerous Internet service providers (“ISPs”) and maintain peering relationships globally to ensure that our critical services are readily accessible to customers at all times.
- *Security:* We incorporate architectural concepts such as protected domains, restricted nodes and distributed access control in our system architecture. In addition, we employ firewalls and intrusion detection software, as well as proprietary security mechanisms at many points across our infrastructure. We perform recurring internal vulnerability testing and controls audits, and also contract with third-party security consultants who perform periodic penetration tests and security risk assessments on our systems. Verisign has engineered resiliency and diversity into how it hosts classes of products throughout its set of interconnected sites to mitigate unknown vendor defects and zero-hour security vulnerabilities. This includes different physical security silos, which themselves are separated into bulkheads, and in which servers are located. Corporate networks are in their own physical silo. Thus, the corporate networks to which personnel directly connect are separated from the silos that house production services; administration of production gear from corporate systems must go through an internal, fortified intermediary; and account credentials used within the corporate networks are not used within the production silos, nor on the fortified systems.
- *Data Integrity:* Verisign employs both phased and systemic integrity validation operations via a number of proprietary mechanisms on all internal DNS publication operations.

As part of our operations infrastructure for our Registry Services business, we operate all authoritative domain name servers that answer domain name lookups for the .com and .net zones, as well as for the other TLDs for which we are the registry. We also administer and operate two of the 13 root zone servers that contain authoritative data for the very top of the DNS hierarchy. Our domain name servers provide the associated authoritative name servers and IP addresses for every .com and .net domain name on the Internet and a large number of other TLD queries, resulting in an average of over 110 billion transactions per day. These name servers are located in resolution sites which are in a controlled and monitored environment, incorporating security and system maintenance features. This network of name servers is one of the cornerstones of the Internet’s DNS infrastructure.

In 2013 and 2014, we continued to expand our infrastructure to meet demands to support normal and peak system load and attack volumes based on what we have experienced historically, as well as to accommodate projected Internet attack trends.

Call Centers and Help Desk: We provide customer support services through our phone-based call centers, email help desks and Web-based self-help systems. Our Virginia call center is staffed 24 hours a day, every day of the year to support our

businesses. All call centers have a staff of trained customer support agents and also provide Web-based support services utilizing customized automatic response systems to provide self-help recommendations.

Operations Support and Monitoring: Through our network operations centers, we have an extensive monitoring capability that enables us to track the status and performance of our critical database systems and our global resolution systems. Our distributed network operations centers are staffed 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

Disaster Recovery Plans: We have disaster recovery and business continuity capabilities that are designed to deal with the loss of entire data centers and other facilities. Our Registry Services business maintains dual mirrored data centers that allow rapid failover with no data loss and no loss of function or capacity, as well as off-continent tertiary Registry Services capabilities. Our critical data services (including domain name registration and global resolution) use advanced storage systems that provide data protection through techniques such as synchronous mirroring and remote replication.

Marketing, Sales and Distribution

We offer promotional marketing programs for our registrars based upon market conditions and the business environment in which the registrars operate. We seek to expand our existing businesses through focused marketing programs that target growth in the *.com* and *.net* domain name base, particularly in emerging international markets, and by extending our brand and serving new markets through the IDNs for which we have applied. We market our NIA Services worldwide through multiple distribution channels, including direct sales and indirect channels. We have marketing and sales offices throughout the world.

Research and Development

We believe that timely development of new and enhanced services, including monitoring and visualization, registry provisioning platforms, navigation and resolution services, data services, value added services, and NIA Services is necessary to remain competitive in the marketplace. During 2014, 2013 and 2012 our research and development expenses were \$67.8 million, \$70.3 million and \$61.7 million, respectively.

Our future success will depend in large part on our ability to continue to maintain and enhance our current technologies and services, and to develop new ones. We actively investigate and incubate new concepts, and evaluate new business ideas through our innovation pipeline. In conjunction, we also continue to focus on growing our patent portfolio and consider opportunities for its strategic use. We expect that most of the future enhancements to our existing services and our new services will be the result of internal development efforts in collaboration with suppliers, other vendors, customers and the technology community. Under certain circumstances, we may also acquire or license technology from third parties.

The markets for our services are dynamic, characterized by rapid technological developments, frequent new product introductions and evolving industry standards. The constantly changing nature of these markets and their rapid evolution will require us to continually improve the performance, features and reliability of our services, particularly in response to competitive offerings, and to introduce both new and enhanced services as quickly as possible and prior to our competitors.

Competition

We compete with numerous companies in each of the Registry Services and NIA Services businesses. The overall number of our competitors may increase and the identity and composition of competitors may change over time.

New technologies and the expansion of existing technologies may increase competitive pressure. We cannot assure that competing technologies developed by others or the emergence of new industry standards will not adversely affect our competitive position or render our services or technologies noncompetitive or obsolete. In addition, our markets are characterized by announcements of collaborative relationships involving our competitors. The existence or announcement of any such relationships could adversely affect our ability to attract and retain customers. As a result of the foregoing and other factors, we may not be able to compete effectively with current or future competitors, and competitive pressures that we face could materially harm our business.

Competition in Registry Services: We face competition in the domain name registry space from other gTLD and ccTLD registries that are competing for the business of entities and individuals that are seeking to obtain a domain name registration and/or establish a Web presence. In addition to the three gTLDs we operate (*.com*, *.net* and *.name*), and the 18 other operational gTLDs delegated before October 23, 2013, there are over 250 Latin script ccTLD registries and more than 40 IDN ccTLD registries. Under our agreements with ICANN, we are subject to certain restrictions in the operation of *.com*, *.net* and *.name* on pricing, bundling, marketing, methods of distribution, the introduction of new registry services and use of registrars that do not apply to ccTLDs and therefore may create a competitive disadvantage. If other registries launch marketing campaigns for new or existing TLDs, including forms of marketing campaigns that we are prohibited from running under the terms of our agreements

with ICANN, which result in registrars or their resellers giving other TLDs greater prominence on their websites, advertising or marketing materials, we could be at a competitive disadvantage and our business could suffer.

In addition, on October 23, 2013, the DOC began to authorize, and Verisign began effectuating, the delegation of the new gTLDs. ICANN is executing registry agreements with new gTLD applicants, awarding over 1,300 new gTLDs in an initial round under its new gTLD program, and plans on offering a second round of new gTLDs after the completion of the initial round, the timing of which is uncertain. For additional information about the potential risks presented by these new gTLDs, see “We may face additional competition, operational and other risks from the introduction of new gTLDs by ICANN, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.”

We also face competition from service providers that offer outsourced domain name registration, resolution and other DNS services to organizations that require a reliable and scalable infrastructure. Among the competitors are Neustar, Inc., Afilias Limited, ARI Registry Services, Donuts Inc. and RightSide Inc. In addition, to the extent end-users navigate using search engines or social media, as opposed to direct navigation, we may face competition from search engine operators such as Google, Microsoft, and Yahoo!, operators of social networks such as Facebook, and operators of microblogging tools such as Twitter. Furthermore, to the extent end-users increase the use of web and phone applications to locate and access content, we may face competition from providers of such web and mobile applications.

U.S. and most other countries’ trademark laws do not permit the registration of TLDs such as *.com* and *.net* as trademarks. Accordingly, Verisign’s ability to prevent other registries from using the *.com* and *.net* brand in their marketing materials may be limited.

Competition in NIA Services: Several of our current and potential competitors have longer operating histories and/or significantly greater financial, technical, marketing and other resources than we do and therefore may be able to respond more quickly than we can to new or changing opportunities, technologies, standards and customer requirements. Many of these competitors also have broader and more established distribution channels that may be used to deliver competing products or services directly to customers through bundling or other means. If such competitors were to bundle competing products or services for their customers, we may experience difficulty establishing or increasing demand for our products and services or distributing our products successfully. In addition, it may be difficult to compete against consolidation and partnerships among our competitors which create integrated product suites.

We face competition in the network intelligence and availability services industry from companies or services such as iSight Partners, IBM X-Force, Secunia ApS, Dell SecureWorks, McAfee, Inc., Akamai Technologies Inc. (including their acquisition of Prolexic Technologies, Inc.), AT&T Inc., Verizon Communications, Inc., Dyn, Inc., Neustar, Inc., OpenDNS, BlueCat Networks, Inc., Infoblox Inc., Nominum, Inc. and Afilias Limited.

Industry Regulation

Registry Services: Within the U.S. Government, oversight of the DNS is provided by the DOC. Effective October 1, 2009, the DOC and ICANN entered into a new agreement, known as the “Affirmation of Commitments” which replaced the seventh amendment of the original Memorandum of Understanding and known as the Joint Project Agreement. Under the Affirmation of Commitments, the DOC became one of several parties working together with other representative constituency members in providing an on-going review of ICANN’s performance and accountability. The Affirmation of Commitments sets forth a periodic review process by committees which provide for more international and multi-discipline participation. These review panels are charged with reviewing and making recommendations regarding: (i) the accountability and transparency of ICANN; (ii) the security, stability and resiliency of the DNS; (iii) the impact of new gTLDs on competition, consumer trust, and consumer choice; and (iv) the effectiveness of ICANN’s policies with respect to registrant data in meeting the legitimate needs of law enforcement and promoting consumer trust. Under the Affirmation of Commitments, the Assistant Secretary of Communications and Information of the DOC will be a member of the “Accountability and Transparency” review panel. Individual reviews from each panel generally are to occur no less than every three to four years.

As the exclusive registry of domain names within the *.com*, *.net* and *.name* gTLDs, we have entered into certain agreements with ICANN and, in the case of *.com*, the DOC:

.com Registry Agreement: On November 29, 2012, we renewed our Registry Agreement with ICANN for the *.com* gTLD (the “*.com* Registry Agreement”). The *.com* Registry Agreement provides that we will continue to be the sole registry operator for domain names in the *.com* TLD through November 30, 2018. The *.com* Registry Agreement revised the pricing provisions for *.com* domain name registrations contained in the prior agreement to provide that the price of a *.com* domain name shall not exceed \$7.85 for the term of the Agreement except that we will continue to have the right to increase the price of a *.com* domain name during the term, subject to the terms of the Cooperative Agreement as set forth below, due to the imposition of any new

Consensus Policy or documented extraordinary expense resulting from an attack or threat of attack on the Security or Stability (each as defined in the *.com* Registry Agreement) of the DNS not to exceed 7% above the price in the prior year. Additionally, on a quarterly basis, we pay \$0.25 to ICANN for each annual increment of a domain name registered or renewed during such quarter. See Note 13, “Commitments and Contingencies” of our Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 15 of this Form 10-K. We are required to comply with and implement temporary specifications or policies and consensus policies, as well as other provisions pursuant to the *.com* Registry Agreement relating to handling of data and other registry operations. The *.com* Registry Agreement also provides a procedure for Verisign to propose, and ICANN to review and approve, additional registry services.

The *.com* Registry Agreement provides that it shall be renewed for successive terms unless it has been determined that Verisign has been in fundamental and material breach of certain provisions of the *.com* Registry Agreement and has failed to cure such breach. As further described below, Verisign may not enter into any renewal of the *.com* Registry Agreement, or any other extension or continuation of, or substitution for, the *.com* Registry Agreement without prior written approval by the DOC.

Cooperative Agreement: On November 29, 2012, Verisign and the DOC entered into Amendment Number Thirty-Two (32) (“Amendment 32”) to the Cooperative Agreement between Verisign and the DOC (the “Cooperative Agreement”), which approved the renewal of the *.com* Registry Agreement on the terms and conditions described below as in the public interest. Except as modified by Amendment 32, the terms and conditions of the Cooperative Agreement, including Amendment Thirty (30) to the Cooperative Agreement, which was entered into on November 29, 2006 by the Company and the DOC, remain unchanged. Amendment 32 provides that the Maximum Price (as defined in the *.com* Registry Agreement) of a *.com* domain name shall not exceed \$7.85 for the term of the *.com* Registry Agreement, except that we are entitled to increase the Maximum Price of a *.com* domain name due to the imposition of any new Consensus Policy or documented extraordinary expense resulting from an attack or threat of attack on the Security or Stability of the DNS as described in the *.com* Registry Agreement, provided that we may not exercise such right unless the DOC provides prior written approval that the exercise of such right will serve the public interest, such approval not to be unreasonably withheld. Amendment 32 further provides that we shall be entitled at any time during the term of the *.com* Registry Agreement to seek to remove the pricing restrictions contained in the *.com* Registry Agreement if we demonstrate to the DOC that market conditions no longer warrant pricing restrictions in the *.com* Registry Agreement, as determined by the DOC. Amendment 32 also provides that the DOC’s approval of the *.com* Registry Agreement is not intended to confer federal antitrust immunity on us with respect to the *.com* Registry Agreement and extends the term of the Cooperative Agreement through November 30, 2018. The Cooperative Agreement also provides that any renewal or extension of the *.com* Registry Agreement is subject to prior written approval by the DOC. Amendment 30 to the Cooperative Agreement provides that the DOC shall approve such renewal if it concludes that approval will serve the public interest in (a) the continued security and stability of the Internet DNS and the operation of the *.com* registry including, in addition to other relevant factors, consideration of Verisign’s compliance with consensus policies and technical specifications, its service level agreements as set forth in the *.com* Registry Agreement, and the investment associated with improving the security and stability of the DNS, and (b) the provision of Registry Services as defined in the *.com* Registry Agreement at reasonable prices, terms and conditions. The parties have an expectancy of renewal of the *.com* Registry Agreement so long as the foregoing public interest standard is met and Verisign is not in breach of the *.com* Registry Agreement.

.net Registry Agreement: On June 27, 2011, we entered into a renewal of our Registry Agreement with ICANN for the *.net* gTLD (the “*.net* Registry Agreement”). The *.net* Registry Agreement provides that we will continue to be the sole registry operator for domain names in the *.net* TLD through June 30, 2017. The *.net* Registry Agreement provides that it shall be renewed unless it has been determined that Verisign has been in fundamental and material breach of certain provisions of the *.net* Registry Agreement and has failed to cure such breach.

The descriptions of the *.com* Registry Agreement, Amendment 32, Amendment 30, the Cooperative Agreement, and the *.net* Registry Agreement are qualified in their entirety by the text of the complete agreements that are incorporated by reference as exhibits in this Form 10-K.

.name Registry Agreement: On December 1, 2012, Verisign and ICANN entered into a revised *.name* Registry Agreement which provides that we will continue to be the sole registry operator for domain names in the *.name* TLD through August 15, 2018. The renewal provisions are the same as for the *.net* Registry Agreement.

Some of the services we provide to customers globally may require approval under applicable U.S. export law. As the list of products and countries requiring export approval expands or changes, government restrictions on the export of software and hardware products utilizing encryption technology may grow and become an impediment to our growth in international markets. If we do not obtain required approvals or we violate applicable laws, we may not be able to provide some of our services in international markets and may be subject to fines and other penalties.

Intellectual Property

We rely primarily on a combination of copyrights, trademarks, service marks, patents, restrictions on disclosure and other methods to protect our intellectual property. We also enter into confidentiality and/or invention assignment agreements with our employees, consultants and current and potential affiliates, customers and business partners. We also generally control access to and distribution of proprietary documentation and other confidential information.

We have been issued numerous patents in the U.S. and abroad, covering a wide range of our technology. Additionally, we have filed numerous patent applications with respect to certain of our technology in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and patent offices outside the U.S. Patents may not be awarded with respect to these applications and even if such patents are awarded, such patents may not provide us with sufficient protection of our intellectual property. We continue to focus on growing our patent portfolio and consider opportunities for its strategic use.

We have obtained trademark registrations for the VERISIGN mark and new VERISIGN logo in the U.S. and certain countries, and have pending trademark applications for the new VERISIGN logo in a number of other countries. We have common law rights in other proprietary names. We take steps to enforce and police Verisign's trademarks. We rely on the strength of our Verisign brand to help differentiate ourselves in the marketing of our products and services.

With regard to our Naming Services businesses, our principal intellectual property consists of, and our success is dependent upon, proprietary software used in our Naming Services businesses and certain methodologies (many of which are patented or for which patent applications are pending) and technical expertise we use in both the design and implementation of our current and future registry services and Internet-based products and services businesses. We own our proprietary Shared Registration System through which registrars submit second-level domain name registrations for each of the registries we operate, as well as the ATLAS distributed lookup system which processes billions of queries per day. Some of the software and protocols used in our registry services are in the public domain or are otherwise available to our competitors. Some of the software and protocols used in our business are based on open standards set by organizations such as the Internet Engineering Task Force ("IETF"). To the extent any of our patents are considered "standard essential patents," we may be required to license such patents to our competitors on reasonable and non-discriminatory terms or otherwise be limited in our ability to assert such patents.

Under the agreement reached with Symantec for the sale of our Authentication Services business, which closed on August 9, 2010 (the "Closing Date"), Symantec acquired all trademarks primarily used in our Authentication Services business, including our checkmark logo and the Geotrust and thawte brand names, and we granted Symantec a five-year license in connection with the VeriSign.com website. The VeriSign.com website will be operated by Symantec for a period of five years following the Closing Date, subject to certain rights of Verisign (including the right to include links to sub-domains operated by us).

Employees

The following table shows a comparison of our consolidated employee headcount, by function:

| | As of December 31, | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------|-------|
| | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Employee headcount by function: | | | |
| Cost of revenues | 299 | 301 | 304 |
| Sales and marketing | 171 | 172 | 194 |
| Research and development | 318 | 333 | 339 |
| General and administrative | 273 | 273 | 262 |
| Total | 1,061 | 1,079 | 1,099 |

We have never had a work stoppage, and no U.S.-based employees are represented under collective bargaining agreements. Our ability to achieve our financial and operational objectives depends in large part upon our continued ability to attract, integrate, train, retain and motivate highly qualified sales, technical and managerial personnel, and upon the continued service of our senior management and key sales and technical personnel. Competition for qualified personnel in our industry and in some of our geographical locations is intense, particularly for software development personnel.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

In addition to other information in this Form 10-K, the following risk factors should be carefully considered in evaluating us and our business because these factors currently have a significant impact or may have a significant impact on our business, operating results or financial condition. Actual results could differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements contained in this Form 10-K as a result of the risk factors discussed below and elsewhere in this Form 10-K and in other filings we make with the SEC.

Risks relating to our business

Our operating results may fluctuate and our future revenues and profitability are uncertain.

Our operating results have varied in the past and may fluctuate significantly in the future as a result of a variety of factors, many of which are outside our control. These factors include the following:

- deterioration of global economic and financial conditions as well as their impact on e-commerce, financial services, and the communications and Internet industries;
- volume of new domain name registrations and renewals;
- our success in direct marketing and promotional campaigns and the impact of such campaigns on new registrations and renewal rates;
- any changes to the scope and success of marketing efforts by third-party registrars or their resellers in the case of our Registry Services business, and by our sales channels, including resellers, referrers and OEMs, in the case of our NIA Services business;
- market acceptance of our services by our existing customers and by new customers;
- customer renewal rates and turnover of customers of our services, and in the case of our Registry Services business, the customers of the distributors of our services;
- continued development of our distribution channels for our products and services, both in the U.S. and abroad;
- the impact of price changes in our products and services or our competitors' products and services;
- the impact of decisions by distributors to offer competing or replacement products, including ccTLDs and new gTLDs, or modify or cease their marketing practices, including with respect to new gTLDs;
- the impact of ICANN's Registry Agreement for new gTLDs (the "New gTLD Registry Agreement"), which requires the distribution of new gTLDs only through registrars who have executed the 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement ("the 2013 RAA") as well as accepting a unilateral right of ICANN to amend the New gTLD Registry Agreement;
- the availability of alternatives to our products;
- seasonal fluctuations in business activity;
- the introduction of new gTLDs, which could cause security, stability and resiliency problems that could possibly harm the industry and could substantially and permanently harm our business;
- in the case of our NIA Services business, the long sales cycles for some of our services and the timing and execution of individual customer contracts;
- potential attacks, including hacktivism, by nefarious actors, which could threaten the reliability or the perceived reliability of our products and services;
- potential attacks on the service offerings of our distributors, such as DDoS attacks, which could limit the availability of their service offerings and their ability to offer our products and services;
- changes in policies regarding Internet administration imposed by governments or governmental authorities inside or outside the U.S.;
- potential disruptions in regional registration behaviors due to catastrophic natural events or armed conflict;
- changes in the level of spending for information technology-related products and services by our customers; and
- the uncertainties, costs and risks as a result of the sale of our Authentication Services business, including costs related to any retained liability related to existing and future claims.

Our operating expenses may increase. If an increase in our expenses is not accompanied by a corresponding increase in our revenues, our operating results will suffer, particularly as revenues from most of our services are recognized ratably over the term of the service, rather than immediately when the customer pays for them, unlike our sales and marketing expenses, which are expensed in full when incurred.

Any or all of the above factors could impact our revenues and operating results. Therefore, we believe that period-to-period comparisons of our operating results may not necessarily be meaningful. Also, operating results may fall below our expectations and the expectations of securities analysts or investors in one or more future periods. If this were to occur, the market price of our common stock would likely decline.

Our operating results may be adversely affected as a result of unfavorable market, economic, social and political conditions.

An unstable global economic, social and political environment, including the ongoing hostilities in the Middle East and Ukraine, natural disasters, conflicts in Europe, currency fluctuations, country specific operating regulations, and potential fallout from the disclosures related to the U.S. Internet and communications surveillance may have a negative impact on demand for our services, our business and our foreign operations. For example, recently the ongoing challenging economic conditions in Europe have possibly limited the rate of growth of the domain name base and may continue to do so in the future. More generally, the economic, social and political environment has or may negatively impact, among other things:

- our customers' continued growth and development of their businesses and our customers' ability to continue as going concerns or maintain their businesses, which could affect demand for our products and services;
- current and future demand for our services, including decreases as a result of reduced spending on information technology and communications by our customers;
- price competition for our products and services;
- the price of our common stock;
- our liquidity;
- our ability to service our debt, to obtain financing or assume new debt obligations;
- our ability to obtain payment for outstanding debts owed to us by our customers or other parties with whom we do business; and
- our ability to execute on any share repurchase plans.

In addition, to the extent that the economic, social and political environment impacts specific industry and geographic sectors in which many of our customers are concentrated, that may further negatively impact our business. If the market, economic, social and political conditions in the U.S. and globally do not improve, or if they deteriorate, we may experience material adverse impacts on our business, operating results, financial condition and cash flows as a consequence of the above factors or otherwise.

The successful operation of our business depends on numerous factors.

The successful operation of our business depends on numerous factors, many of which are not entirely under our control, including, but not limited to, the following:

- the use of the Internet and other IP networks, and the extent to which domain names and the DNS are used for e-commerce and communications;
- changes in Internet user behavior, Internet platforms, social networks, mobile devices and web-browsing patterns;
- growth in demand for our services;
- the competition for any of our services;
- the perceived security of e-commerce and communications over the Internet;
- the perceived security of our services, technology, infrastructure and practices;
- the loss of customers through industry consolidation or customer decisions to deploy in-house or competitor technology and services;
- our continued ability to maintain our current, and enter into additional, strategic relationships;
- our ability to successfully market our services to new and existing distributors and customers;
- our ability to develop new products, services or other offerings;
- our success in attracting, integrating, training, retaining and motivating qualified personnel;
- our response to competitive developments;
- the successful introduction, and acceptance by our current or new customers, of new products and services;
- potential disruptions in regional registration behaviors due to catastrophic natural events, armed conflict and currency fluctuations;
- seasonal fluctuations in business activity;
- our ability to implement remedial actions in response to any attacks by nefarious actors;
- the successful introduction of enhancements to our services to address new technologies and standards, alternatives to our products and services and changing market conditions; and
- the successful introduction and compliance with Consensus Policies as they pertain to thick WHOIS and privacy issues for personally identifiable information of *.com* and *.net* registrants.

Substantially all of our revenue is derived from our Registry Services business. Limitations on our ability to raise prices on domain name registrations and any failure to renew key agreements could materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

Our Registry Services business, which derives most of its revenues from registration fees for domain names, generates substantially all of our revenue. If there is a disruption in the Registry Services business, including any disruption from changes in the domain name industry, changes in or challenges to our agreements with ICANN, including any changes resulting from legal challenges to these agreements, changes in our customers' or Internet users' preferences, a downturn in the economy or changes in technology related to the use of domain names, there may be a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition and cash flows. In addition, a failure of the DOC to approve the renewal of the *.com* Registry Agreement prior to the expiration of its current term on November 30, 2018 could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Under the terms of the Cooperative Agreement, the Company has the right to petition for potential relief from the *.com* Registry Agreement's pricing restrictions. However, there is uncertainty whether the DOC will approve any exercise by the Company of its right to increase the price per *.com* domain name registration under certain circumstances and whether the Company will be able to successfully demonstrate to the DOC that market conditions warrant removal of the pricing restrictions on *.com* domain name registrations, each of which could materially and adversely affect our business and results of operations.

There is also uncertainty of future revenue and profitability and potential fluctuations in quarterly operating results due to the potential increase in expenses and costs coupled with such factors as restrictions on increasing prices due to market conditions, under the *.com* Registry Agreement and the Cooperative Agreement, or otherwise, or any other changes to pricing terms in these agreements upon renewal.

Issues arising from our agreements with ICANN, the DOC and the GSA could harm our Registry Services business.

We are parties to agreements (i) with the DOC with respect to certain aspects of the DNS, (ii) with ICANN and the DOC as the exclusive registry of domain names within the *.com* gTLD and (iii) with ICANN with respect to being the exclusive registry for the *.net* and *.name* gTLDs.

We face risks arising from our agreements with ICANN and the DOC, including the following:

- ICANN could adopt or promote policies, including Consensus Policies, procedures or programs that are unfavorable to us as the registry operator of the *.com*, *.net* and *.name* gTLDs, that are inconsistent with our current or future plans, or that affect our competitive position;
- ICANN has adopted registry agreements for new gTLDs that include the right for ICANN to amend the agreement without a registry operator's consent, which could impose unfavorable contract obligations on us that could impact our plans and competitive positions with respect to new gTLDs. ICANN might seek to impose this same unilateral right to amend other registry agreements with us under certain conditions. ICANN has also included new mandatory obligations on registry operators that may increase the risks and potential liabilities associated with providing new gTLDs and ICANN might seek to impose these new mandatory obligations in our registry agreements under certain conditions;
- under certain circumstances, ICANN could terminate one or more of our agreements to be the registry for the *.com*, *.net* or *.name* gTLDs and the DOC could refuse to grant its approval to the renewal of the *.com* Registry Agreement on similar terms, or at all, and if any of the foregoing events occur, in the case of the *.com* and *.net* Registry Agreements, it would have a material adverse impact on our business;
- if we seek a price increase with respect to *.com* domain names during the term of the *.com* Registry Agreement or at the time of the renewal of the *.com* Registry Agreement, the DOC could refuse to approve price increases with respect to *.com* domain names;
- the DOC's or ICANN's interpretation of provisions of our agreements with either of them could differ from ours;
- under certain circumstances, the GSA could terminate, or we could not seek to renew, our agreement to be the registry for the *.gov* gTLD, which could have a material adverse impact on how the Registry Services business is perceived; and
- contracts within our Registry Services business have faced, and could continue to face, challenges, including possible legal challenges resulting from our activities or the activities of ICANN, registrars, registrants and others, and any adverse outcome from such challenges could have a material adverse effect on our business.

In addition, under the *.com*, *.net* and *.name* Registry Agreements with ICANN, as well as the Cooperative Agreement with the DOC, we are not permitted to acquire, directly or indirectly, control of, or a greater than 15% ownership interest in, any ICANN-accredited registrar. Historically, all gTLD registry operators were subject to this vertical integration prohibition. However, ICANN has established a process whereby these registry operators may seek ICANN's approval to remove this restriction, and ICANN has approved such removal in some instances. Additionally, ICANN's registry agreement for new gTLDs generally permits such vertical integration, with certain limitations including ICANN's right, but not the obligation, to refer such vertical integration activities to competition authorities. Furthermore, unless prohibited by ICANN as noted above, such vertical integration restrictions do not generally apply to ccTLD operators.

The impact of these changes to the distribution channel is uncertain but could have a material adverse effect on our business if operators of new or existing gTLDs are able to obtain competitive advantages through such vertical integration. If Verisign were to seek removal of the vertical integration restrictions contained in our agreements with respect to existing gTLDs, or in the future with respect to new gTLDs, it is uncertain whether ICANN and/or the DOC approval would be obtained.

Challenges to Internet administration or changes to our pricing terms could harm our Registry Services business.

Risks we face from challenges by third parties, including governmental authorities in the U.S. and other countries, to our role in the ongoing operation of the Internet include:

- legal, regulatory or other challenges could be brought, including challenges to the agreements governing our relationship with the DOC or ICANN, or to the legal authority underlying the roles and actions of the DOC, ICANN or us;
- the U.S. Congress could take action that is unfavorable to us;
- ICANN could fail to maintain its role, or seek to change its role, potentially resulting in changes to Internet governance that could pose a risk to our business, including instability in DNS administration;
- ICANN is mandated by the Affirmation of Commitments (the "AOC") by the DOC and ICANN to uphold a private sector led multi-stakeholder approach to Internet governance for the public benefit. We believe recent actions by ICANN have signaled a willingness to abandon this model on certain important issues that impact our business and

the Internet community. If ICANN fails to uphold or significantly redefines the multi-stakeholder model, by expanding the role of governments in the Governmental Advisory Committee for example, it could harm our business and our relationship with ICANN;

- some governments and governmental authorities outside the U.S. have in the past disagreed, and may in the future disagree, with the actions, policies or programs of ICANN, the U.S. Government and us relating to the DNS. The AOC established several multi-party review panels and contemplates a greater involvement by foreign governments and governmental authorities in the oversight and review of ICANN. These periodic review panels may take positions that are unfavorable to Verisign;
- the AOC could be terminated or replaced with a different agreement between ICANN and some other authority which may establish other review panels or review procedures that may be unfavorable to Verisign; and
- some governments are now questioning the ability of ICANN to be accountable with respect to Internet governance and, as a result, may seek a multilateral oversight body as a replacement.

As a result of these and other risks, it may be difficult for us to introduce new services in our Registry Services business and we could also be subject to additional restrictions on how this business is conducted, which may not also apply to our competitors.

Our international operations subject our business to additional economic risks that could have an adverse impact on our revenues and business.

As of December 31, 2014, we had 124, or 12% of our employees outside the U.S. Doing business in international markets has required and will continue to require significant management attention and resources. We may also need to tailor some of our services for a particular market and to enter into international distribution and operating relationships. We have limited experience in localizing our services and in developing international distribution or operating relationships. We may fail to maintain our ability to conduct business, including potentially material business operations in some international locations or we may not succeed in expanding our services into new international markets or expand our presence in existing markets. Failure to do so could harm our business. Moreover, local laws and customs in many countries differ significantly from those in the U.S. In many foreign countries, particularly in those with developing economies, it is common for others to engage in business practices that are prohibited by our internal policies and procedures or U.S. law or regulations applicable to us. There can be no assurance that all of our employees, contractors and agents will not take actions in violation of such policies, procedures, laws and/or regulations. Violations of laws, regulations or internal policies and procedures by our employees, contractors or agents could result in financial reporting problems, investigations, fines, penalties, or prohibition on the importation or exportation of our products and services and could have a material adverse effect on our business. In addition, we face risks inherent in doing business on an international basis, including, among others:

- competition with foreign companies or other domestic companies entering the foreign markets in which we operate, as well as foreign governments actively promoting ccTLDs which we do not operate;
- differing and uncertain regulatory requirements;
- legal uncertainty regarding liability, enforcing our contracts and compliance with foreign laws;
- tariffs and other trade barriers and restrictions;
- difficulties in staffing and managing foreign operations;
- longer sales and payment cycles;
- currency fluctuations, as a small portion of our international revenues are not always denominated in U.S. dollars and some of our costs are denominated in foreign currencies;
- high costs associated with repatriating profits to the U.S., which could impact us due to the large percentage of our cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities currently held by us outside the U.S. (see “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - Liquidity and Capital Resources”);
- potential problems associated with adapting our services to technical conditions existing in different countries;
- difficulty of verifying customer information;
- political instability;
- failure of foreign laws to protect our U.S. proprietary rights adequately;
- more stringent privacy policies in some foreign countries;
- additional vulnerability from terrorist groups targeting U.S. interests abroad;
- seasonal reductions in business activity;
- potentially conflicting or adverse tax consequences;
- reliance on third parties in foreign markets in which we only recently started doing business; and
- potential concerns of international customers and prospects regarding doing business with U.S. technology companies due to alleged U.S. government data collection policies.

Governmental regulation and the application of new and existing laws in the U.S. and overseas may slow business growth, increase our costs of doing business, create potential liability and have an adverse effect on our business.

Application of new and existing laws and regulations in the U.S. or overseas to the Internet and communications industry can be unclear. The costs of complying or failing to comply with these laws and regulations could limit our ability to operate in our current markets, expose us to compliance costs and substantial liability and result in costly and time-consuming litigation.

Foreign, federal or state laws could have an adverse impact on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows, and our ability to conduct business in certain foreign countries. For example, laws designed to restrict who can register and who can distribute domain names, the online distribution of certain materials deemed harmful to children, online gambling (especially as we consider providing NIA Services and Registry Services to this sector), counterfeit goods, and cybersquatting; laws designed to require registrants to provide additional documentation or information in connection with domain name registrations; and laws designed to promote cyber security may impose significant additional costs on our business or subject us to additional liabilities. We have contracts pursuant to which we provide services to the U.S. government and even though these contracts are immaterial, they impose compliance costs, including compliance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation, which could be significant to the Company.

Due to the nature of the Internet, it is possible that state or foreign governments might attempt to regulate Internet transmissions or prosecute us for violations of their laws. We might unintentionally violate such laws, such laws may be modified and new laws may be enacted in the future. Any such developments could increase the costs of regulatory compliance for us, affect our reputation, force us to change our business practices or otherwise materially harm our business. In addition, any such new laws could impede growth of or result in a decline in domain name registrations, as well as impact the demand for our services.

We operate two root zone servers and are contracted to perform the Root Zone Maintainer function. Under ICANN's new gTLD program, we face increased risk from these operations.

We administer and operate two of the 13 root zone servers. Root zone servers are name servers that contain authoritative data for the very top of the DNS hierarchy. These servers have the software and DNS configuration data necessary to locate name servers that contain authoritative data for the TLDs. These root zone servers are critical to the functioning of the Internet. Under the Cooperative Agreement with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration ("NTIA") of the DOC, we play a key operational role in support of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority ("IANA") function as the Root Zone Maintainer. In this role, we provision and publish the authoritative data for the root zone itself multiple times daily and distribute it to all root server operators.

Under its new gTLD program, ICANN intends to recommend for delegation into the root zone over 1,300 new gTLDs potentially within a compressed timeframe. On October 23, 2013, NTIA began to authorize, and Verisign began effectuating, the delegation of the new gTLDs. In view of our role as the Root Zone Maintainer, and as a root operator, we face increased risks should ICANN's delegation of these new gTLDs cause security and stability problems within the DNS and/or for parties who rely on the DNS. Such risks include potential instability of the DNS including potential fragmentation of the DNS should ICANN's delegations create sufficient instability, and potential claims based on our role in the root zone provisioning and delegation process. These risks, alone or in the aggregate, have the potential to cause serious harm to our Registry Services business. Further, our business could also be harmed through security, stability and resiliency degradation if the delegation of new gTLDs into the root zone causes problems to certain components of the DNS ecosystem or other aspects of the global DNS, or other relying parties are negatively impacted as a result of domain name collisions, such as exposure or other leakage of private or sensitive information.

Additionally, DNS Security Extensions ("DNSSEC") enabled in the root zone and at other levels of the DNS require new preventative maintenance functions and operational practices that did not exist prior to the introduction of DNSSEC. Any failure by Verisign or the IANA functions operator to comply with stated practices, such as those outlined in relevant DNSSEC Practice Statements, introduces risk to DNSSEC relying parties and other Internet users and consumers of the DNS, which could have a material adverse impact on our business.

On March 14, 2014, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration announced its intent to transition key Internet domain name functions potentially impacting our Root Zone Maintainer function.

On March 14, 2014, NTIA announced its intent to transition its oversight of the IANA function to the global multi-stakeholder community. NTIA asked ICANN to convene global stakeholders to develop a proposal to transition the current role played by NTIA in the coordination of the DNS. It is uncertain whether the transition of oversight of the IANA function will affect our role as Root Zone Maintainer. Although our Root Zone Maintainer function is separate from our Registry Services business, and the NTIA announcement does not affect Verisign's operation of the .com, .net and .name registries, there can be no assurance that the transition will not negatively impact our business.

Changes in Internet user behavior, either as a result of evolving technologies or user practices, may impact the demand for domain names.

Currently, Internet users often navigate to a website either by directly typing its domain name into a web browser or through the use of a search engine. If (i) web browser or Internet search technologies were to change significantly; (ii) Internet search engines were to change the value of their algorithms on the use of a domain for finding a website; (iii) Internet users' preferences or practices continue to shift away from directly typing in web addresses; (iv) Internet users were to significantly decrease the use of web browsers in favor of applications to locate and access content; or (v) Internet users were to increasingly use third level domains or alternate identifiers, such as social networking and microblogging sites, in each case the demand for domain names could decrease.

Changes in the level of spending on online advertising and/or the way that online networks compensate owners of websites could impact the demand for domain names.

Some domain name registrars and registrants seek to generate revenue through advertising on their websites; changes in the way these registrars and registrants are compensated (including changes in methodologies and metrics) by advertisers and advertisement placement networks, such as Google, Yahoo!, Baidu and Bing, have, and may continue to, adversely affect the market for those domain names favored by such registrars and registrants which has resulted in, and may continue to result in, a decrease in demand and/or the renewal rate for those domain names. For example, according to published reports, Google has in the past changed (and may change in the future) its search algorithm, which may decrease site traffic to certain websites, and pay-per-click advertising policies to provide less compensation for advertising on certain types of websites. This has made such websites less profitable which has resulted in, and may continue to result in, fewer domain registrations and renewals. In addition, as a result of the general economic environment, spending on online advertising and marketing may not increase or may be reduced, which in turn, may result in a further decline in the demand for those domain names.

Changes in federal or state tax laws and regulations may discourage the registration or renewal of domain names for e-commerce.

Many Internet merchants are not currently required to collect sales taxes in respect of shipments of goods into states where they lack physical presence. However, state tax laws and regulations may change in the future and one or more states may seek to impose sales tax collection obligations on out-of-state companies that engage in online commerce. Several states have enacted "affiliate nexus" laws which require online retailers without a physical presence in the state to begin collecting sales taxes if a significant number of local sales are generated by brick and mortar affiliates operating in the state. In addition, it is possible that national legislation may be enacted requiring online retailers with greater than \$1 million in sales in a state, but without any physical presence in the state, to begin collecting sales taxes for that state. Legislation called the Marketplace Fairness Act of 2013 (S. 743), which would have done this, passed the Senate in 2013, but no action was taken by the House of Representatives prior to the 2013-2014 congressional term. It is expected that a new version of the Marketplace Fairness Act will be introduced in 2015, but it is unclear if this new version will have any greater chance of passage than S. 743 did in the prior congressional term. The enactment of any such state or federal laws may impair the growth of e-commerce and discourage the registration or renewal of domain names for e-commerce.

Reduced marketing efforts or other operational changes among registrars or their resellers as a result of consolidation or changes in ownership, management, or strategy could harm our Registry Services business.

Registrars and their resellers utilize substantial marketing efforts to increase the demand and/or renewal rates for domain names. Consolidation in the registrar or reseller industry or changes in ownership, management, or strategy among individual registrars or resellers could result in significant changes to their business, operating model and cost structure. Such changes could include reduced marketing efforts or other operational changes that could adversely impact the demand and/or the renewal rates for domain names. Our Registry Services business, which generates substantially all of our revenue, derives most of its revenues from registrations and renewals of domain names, and decreased demand for and/or renewals of domain names could cause a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

Undetected or unknown defects in our services could harm our business and future operating results.

Services as complex as those we offer or develop could contain undetected defects or errors. Despite testing, defects or errors may occur in our existing or new services, which could result in compromised customer data, loss of or delay in revenues, loss of market share, failure to achieve market acceptance, diversion of development resources, injury to our reputation, tort or contract claims, increased insurance costs or increased service costs, any of which could harm our business. The performance of our services could have unforeseen or unknown adverse effects on the networks over which they are delivered as well as, more broadly, on Internet users and consumers, and third-party applications and services that utilize our services, which could result in legal claims against us, harming our business. Our failure or inability to meet customer expectations in a timely manner could also result in loss of or delay in revenues, loss of market share, failure to achieve market acceptance, injury to our reputation and increased costs.

If we encounter system interruptions or failures, we could be exposed to liability and our reputation and business could suffer.

We depend on the uninterrupted operation of our various systems, secure data centers and other computer and communication networks. Our systems and operations are vulnerable to damage or interruption from:

- power loss, transmission cable cuts and other telecommunications failures;
- damage or interruption caused by fire, earthquake, and other natural disasters;
- attacks, including hacktivism, by miscreants or other nefarious actors;
- computer viruses or software defects;
- physical or electronic break-ins, sabotage, intentional acts of vandalism, terrorist attacks and other events beyond our control;
- risks inherent in or arising from the terms and conditions of our agreements with service providers to operate our networks and data centers;
- State suppression of Internet operations; and
- any failure to implement effective and timely remedial actions in response to any damage or interruption.

Most of the computing infrastructure for our Shared Registration System is located at, and most of our customer information is stored in, our facilities in New Castle, Delaware; Dulles, Virginia; and Fribourg, Switzerland. To the extent we are unable to partially or completely switch over to our primary alternate or tertiary sites, any damage or failure that causes interruptions in any of these facilities or our other computer and communications systems could materially harm our business. Although we carry insurance for property damage, we do not carry insurance or financial reserves for such interruptions, or for potential losses arising from terrorism.

In addition, our Registry Services business and certain of our other services depend on the efficient operation of the Internet connections from customers to our Shared Registration System residing in our secure data centers. These connections depend upon the efficient operation of Internet service providers and Internet backbone service providers, all of which have had periodic operational problems or experienced outages in the past beyond our scope of control. In addition, if these service providers present inconsistent data regarding the DNS, our business could be harmed.

A failure in the operation of our TLD name servers, the domain name root zone servers, or other events could result in a DNS resolution or other service outage or in the deletion of one or more domain names from the Internet for a period of time or a misdirection of a domain name to a different server. A failure in the operation of our Shared Registration System could result in the inability of one or more registrars to register and maintain domain names for a period of time. In the event that a registrar has not implemented back-up services recommended by us in conformance with industry best practices, the failure could result in permanent loss of transactions at the registrar during that period. A failure in the operation or update of the root zone file or the supporting cryptographic and other operational infrastructure that we maintain could also result in the deletion of one or more TLDs from the Internet and the discontinuation of second-level domain names in those TLDs for a period of time or a misdirection of a domain name to a different server. Any of these problems or outages could create potential liability and could decrease customer satisfaction, harming our business or resulting in adverse publicity that could adversely affect the market's perception of the security of e-commerce and communications over the Internet as well as of the security or reliability of our services.

In addition, a failure in our NIA Services could have a negative impact on our reputation and our business could suffer.

If we experience security breaches, we could be exposed to liability and our reputation and business could suffer.

We retain certain customer and employee information in our secure data centers and various domain name registration systems. It is critical to our business strategy that our facilities and infrastructure remain secure and are perceived by the marketplace to be secure. The Company, as an operator of critical Internet infrastructure, is frequently targeted and experiences a high rate of attacks. These include the most sophisticated forms of attacks, such as advanced persistent threat

("APT") attacks and zero-hour threats, which means that the threat is not compiled or has been previously unobserved within our observation and threat indicators space until the moment it is launched, and may well target specific unidentified or unresolved vulnerabilities that exist only within the target's operating environment, making these attacks virtually impossible to anticipate and difficult to defend against. The Shared Registration System, the root zone servers, the root zone files, TLD name servers and TLD zone files that we operate are critical hardware and software to our Registry Services operations. We expend significant time and money on the security of our facilities and infrastructure. Despite our security measures, we have been subject to a security breach, as disclosed in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2011, and our infrastructure may in the future be vulnerable to physical break-ins, outages resulting from destructive malware, computer viruses, attacks by hackers or nefarious actors or similar disruptive problems, including hacktivism. It is possible that we may have to expend additional financial and other resources to address such problems. Any physical or electronic break-in or other security breach or compromise of the information stored at our secure data centers or domain name registration systems may cause an outage of or jeopardize the security of information stored on our premises or in the computer systems and networks of our customers. In such an event, we could face significant liability, customers could be reluctant to use our services and we could be at risk for loss of various security and standards-based compliance certifications needed for certain of our businesses, all or any of which could adversely affect our reputation and harm our business. Such an occurrence could also result in adverse publicity and therefore adversely affect the market's perception of the security of e-commerce and communications over the Internet as well as of the security or reliability of our services.

We are frequently subject to large-scale DDoS attacks.

Our networks have been and likely will continue to be subject to DDoS attacks of increasing size and sophistication. We have adopted mitigation techniques, procedures and strategies to defend against such attacks but there can be no assurance that we will be able to defend against every attack especially as the attacks increase in size and sophistication. Any successful attack, or partially successful attack, could disrupt our networks, increase response time, and generally hamper our ability to provide reliable service to our Registry Services customers and the broader Internet community. Further, we sell DDoS protection services to NIA Services customers. Although our contracts with these customers provide that we may prioritize all or part of these services at no liability to us in order to preserve our operational stability, the provision of such services might expose our critical DNS services to temporary degradations or outages caused by very large-scale DDoS attacks against those customers, in addition to any directed specifically against us and our networks.

We rely on our intellectual property, and any failure by us to protect or enforce, or any misappropriation of, our intellectual property could harm our business.

Our success depends in part on our internally developed technologies and intellectual property. Despite our precautions, it may be possible for a third party to copy or otherwise obtain and use our trade secrets or other forms of our intellectual property without authorization. Furthermore, the laws of foreign countries may not protect our proprietary rights in those countries to the same extent U.S. law protects these rights in the U.S. In addition, it is possible that others may independently develop substantially equivalent intellectual property. If we do not effectively protect our intellectual property, our business could suffer. Additionally, we have filed patent applications with respect to certain of our technology in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and patent offices outside the U.S. Patents may not be awarded with respect to these applications and even if such patents are awarded, third parties may seek to oppose or otherwise challenge our patents, and such patents' scope may differ significantly from what was requested in the patent applications and may not provide us with sufficient protection of our intellectual property. In the future, we may have to resort to litigation to enforce our intellectual property rights, to protect our trade secrets or to determine the validity and scope of the proprietary rights of others. This type of litigation is inherently unpredictable and, regardless of its outcome, could result in substantial costs and diversion of management attention and technical resources. Some of the software and protocols used in our business are based on standards set by standards setting organizations such as the Internet Engineering Task Force. To the extent any of our patents are considered "standards essential patents," we may be required to license such patents to our competitors on reasonable and non-discriminatory terms.

We also license third-party technology that is used in our products and services to perform key functions. These third-party technology licenses may not continue to be available to us on commercially reasonable terms or at all. The loss of or our inability to obtain or maintain any of these technology licenses could hinder or increase the cost of our launching new products and services, entering into new markets and/or otherwise harm our business. Some of the software and protocols used in our Registry Services business are in the public domain or may otherwise become publicly available, which means that such software and protocols are equally available to our competitors.

We rely on the strength of our Verisign brand to help differentiate ourselves in the marketing of our products. Dilution of the strength of our brand could harm our business. We are at risk that we will be unable to fully register, build equity in, or enforce the Verisign logo in all markets where Verisign products and services are sold.

We could become subject to claims of infringement of intellectual property of others, which could be costly to defend and could harm our business.

We cannot be certain that we do not and will not infringe the intellectual property rights of others. Claims relating to infringement of intellectual property of others or other similar claims have been made against us and could be made against us in the future. It is possible that we could become subject to additional claims for infringement of the intellectual property of third parties. The international use of our logo could present additional potential risks for third party claims of infringement. Any claims, with or without merit, could be time consuming, result in costly litigation and diversion of technical and management personnel attention, cause delays in our business activities generally, or require us to develop a non-infringing logo or technology or enter into royalty or licensing agreements. Royalty or licensing agreements, if required, may not be available on acceptable terms or at all. If a successful claim of infringement were made against us, we could be required to pay damages or have portions of our business enjoined. If we could not identify and adopt an alternative non-infringing logo, develop non-infringing technology or license the infringed or similar technology on a timely and cost-effective basis, our business could be harmed.

A third party could claim that the technology we license from other parties infringes a patent or other proprietary right. Litigation between the licensor and a third party or between us and a third party could lead to royalty obligations for which we are not indemnified or for which indemnification is insufficient, or we may not be able to obtain any additional license on commercially reasonable terms or at all.

In addition, legal standards relating to the validity, enforceability, and scope of protection of intellectual property rights in Internet-related businesses, including patents related to software and business methods, are uncertain and still evolving. Because of the growth of the Internet and Internet-related businesses, patent applications are continuously being filed in connection with Internet-related technology. There are a significant number of U.S. and foreign patents and patent applications in our areas of interest, and we believe that there has been, and is likely to continue to be, significant litigation in the industry regarding patent and other intellectual property rights.

We could become involved in claims, lawsuits or investigations that may result in adverse outcomes.

In addition to possible intellectual property litigation and infringement claims, we are, and may in the future, become involved in other claims, lawsuits and investigations. Such proceedings may initially be viewed as immaterial but could prove to be material. Litigation is inherently unpredictable, and excessive verdicts do occur. Adverse outcomes in lawsuits and investigations could result in significant monetary damages, including indemnification payments, or injunctive relief that could adversely affect our ability to conduct our business and may have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. Given the inherent uncertainties in litigation, even when we are able to reasonably estimate the amount of possible loss or range of loss and therefore record an aggregate litigation accrual for probable and reasonably estimable loss contingencies, the accrual may change in the future due to new developments or changes in approach. In addition, such investigations, claims and lawsuits could involve significant expense and diversion of management's attention and resources from other matters. See Note 13, "Commitments and Contingencies" *Legal Proceedings*, of our Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Part IV, Item 15 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K for further information.

We must establish and maintain strategic, channel and other relationships.

One of our significant business strategies has been to enter into strategic or other similar collaborative relationships in order to reach a larger customer base than we could reach through our direct sales and marketing efforts, including in international markets. We may need to enter into additional relationships to execute our business plan. We may not be able to enter into additional, or maintain our existing, strategic relationships on commercially reasonable terms. If we fail to enter into additional relationships, we would have to devote substantially more resources to the distribution, sale and marketing of our services than we would otherwise.

Our success in obtaining results from these relationships will depend both on the ultimate success of the other parties to these relationships and on the ability of these parties to market our services successfully.

Furthermore, any changes by our distributors to their existing marketing strategies could have a material adverse effect on our business. Similarly, if one or more of our distributors were to encounter financial difficulties, or if there were a significant reduction in marketing expenditures by our distributors (including registrars or their resellers), as a result of industry consolidation or otherwise, it could have a material adverse effect on our business, including a decrease in domain name registrations and renewals. Failure of one or more of our strategic, channel or other relationships to result in the development and maintenance of a market for our services could harm our business. If we are unable to maintain our existing relationships or to enter into additional relationships, this could harm our business.

With the introduction of new gTLDs, many of our registrars, based upon their perception of market opportunity, may choose to focus their short or long-term marketing efforts on these new offerings and/or reduce the prominence or visibility of our products and services on their e-commerce platforms, and if we are unable to maintain their focus on our products and services or move through them to engage the same registrants, this could harm our business.

New entrants may disrupt the registrar industry, which could have adverse effects on our business. This could include, but is not limited to, potential harm to the business models of existing registrars, impairing their ability to engage in promotional activities beneficial to the sale of domain name registrations in the TLDs operated by us.

We continue to explore new strategic initiatives, the pursuit of any of which may pose significant risks and could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We are exploring a variety of possible strategic initiatives which may include, among other things, the pursuit of new revenue streams, services or products, changes to our offerings or initiatives to leverage our patent portfolio.

Any such strategic initiative may involve a number of risks, including: the diversion of our management's attention from our existing business to develop the initiative, related operations and any requisite personnel; possible material adverse effects on our results of operations during and after the development process; and our possible inability to achieve the intended objectives of the initiative. Such initiatives may result in a reduction of cash or increased costs. We may not be able to successfully or profitably develop, integrate, operate, maintain and manage any such initiative and the related operations or employees in a timely manner or at all. Furthermore, under our agreements with ICANN, we are subject to certain restrictions in the operation of .com , .net and .name , including required ICANN approval of new registry services for such TLDs. If any new initiative requires ICANN review, we cannot predict whether this process will prevent us from implementing the initiative in a timely manner or at all. Any strategic initiative to leverage our patent portfolio will likely increase litigation risks from potential licensees and we may have to resort to litigation to enforce our intellectual property rights. Litigation is inherently unpredictable and, regardless of its outcome, could result in substantial costs and diversion of management attention and technical resources.

The success of our NIA Services depends in part on the acceptance of our services.

We are investing in our NIA Services, and the future growth of these services depends, in part, on the commercial success, acceptance, and reliability of our NIA Services. We continually evaluate and evolve the terms and conditions upon which these services are sold. These services may not experience success or acceptance as a result of changes to the terms and conditions. Also, these services will suffer if our target customers do not adopt or use these services. We are not certain that our target customers will choose our NIA Services or continue to use these services even after adoption.

We rely on third parties to provide products which are incorporated in our NIA Services.

The NIA Services incorporate and rely on third party hardware and software products, many of which have unique capabilities. If we are unable to procure these third party products, the NIA Services may malfunction, not perform as well as they should perform, not perform as well as they have been performing or not perform as planned, and our business could suffer.

Many of our target markets are evolving, and if these markets fail to develop or if our products and services are not widely accepted in these markets, our business could be harmed.

Our Registry Services and NIA Services businesses are developing services in emerging markets, including services that involve naming and directory services other than registry and related infrastructure services. These emerging markets are rapidly evolving, may never gain wide acceptance and may not grow. Even if these markets grow, our services may not be widely accepted. Accordingly, the demand for our services in these markets is very uncertain. The factors that may affect market acceptance of our services in these markets include the following:

- market acceptance of products and services based upon technologies other than those we use;
- public perception of the security of our technologies and of IP and other networks;
- the introduction and consumer acceptance of new generations of mobile devices;
- the ability of the Internet infrastructure to accommodate increased levels of usage; and
- government regulations affecting Internet access and availability, domain name registrations or the provision of registry services, or e-commerce and telecommunications over the Internet.

If the market for e-commerce and communications over IP and other networks does not grow or these services are not widely accepted in the market, our business could be materially harmed.

We depend on key employees to manage our business effectively, and we may face difficulty attracting and retaining qualified leaders.

We depend on the performance of our senior management team and other key employees, and we have experienced changes in our management team during the last few years. If we are unable to attract, integrate, retain and motivate these individuals and additional highly skilled technical and sales and marketing employees, and implement succession plans for these personnel, our business may suffer.

We have anti-takeover protections that may discourage, delay or prevent a change in control that could benefit our stockholders.

Our amended and restated Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws contain provisions that could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire us without the consent of our Board of Directors (“Board”). These provisions include:

- our stockholders may take action only at a duly called meeting and not by written consent;
- special meetings of our stockholders may be called only by the chairman of the board of directors, the president, our Board, or the secretary (acting as a representative of the stockholders) whenever a stockholder or group of stockholders owning at least thirty-five percent (35%) in the aggregate of the capital stock issued, outstanding and entitled to vote, and who held that amount in a net long position continuously for at least one year, so request in writing;
- our Board must be given advance notice regarding stockholder-sponsored proposals for consideration at annual meetings and for stockholder nominations for the election of directors;
- vacancies on our Board can be filled until the next annual meeting of stockholders by majority vote of the members of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee, or a majority of directors then in office if no such committee exists, or a sole remaining director; and
- our Board has the ability to designate the terms of and issue new series of preferred stock without stockholder approval.

In addition, Section 203 of the General Corporation Law of Delaware prohibits a publicly held Delaware corporation from engaging in a business combination with an interested stockholder, generally a person which together with its affiliates owns or within the last three years has owned 15% or more of our voting stock, for a period of three years after the date of the transaction in which the person became an interested stockholder, unless in the same transaction the interested stockholder acquired 85% ownership of our voting stock (excluding certain shares) or the business combination is approved in a prescribed manner. Section 203 therefore may impact the ability of an acquirer to complete an acquisition of us after a successful tender offer and accordingly could discourage, delay or prevent an acquirer from making an unsolicited offer without the approval of our Board.

Changes in, or interpretations of, tax rules and regulations or our tax positions may adversely affect our effective tax rates.

We are subject to income taxes in both the U.S. and numerous foreign jurisdictions. Significant judgment is required in determining our worldwide provision for income taxes. In the ordinary course of our business, there are many transactions and calculations where the ultimate tax determination is uncertain. We are subject to audit by various tax authorities. In accordance with U.S. GAAP, we recognize income tax benefits, net of required valuation allowances and accrual for uncertain tax positions. Although we believe our tax estimates are reasonable, the final determination of tax audits and any related litigation could be materially different than that which is reflected in historical income tax provisions and accruals. Should additional taxes be assessed as a result of an audit or litigation, an adverse effect on our income tax provision and net income in the period or periods for which that determination is made could result.

A significant portion of our foreign earnings for the current fiscal year was earned by our Swiss subsidiaries. Our effective tax rate could fluctuate significantly on a quarterly basis and could be adversely affected to the extent earnings are lower than anticipated in countries where we have lower statutory rates and higher than anticipated in countries where we have higher statutory rates.

As described further in “Note 12, Income Taxes, of our Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Part IV, Item 15 of our 2014 Form 10-K, we claimed a worthless stock deduction on our 2013 federal income tax return and recorded, during the fourth quarter of 2013, an income tax benefit of \$375.3 million, net of valuation allowances and accrual for uncertain tax positions recorded as required under U.S. GAAP. This worthless stock deduction may be subject to audit and adjustment by the IRS, which could result in the reversal of all, part or none of the income tax benefit, or could result in a benefit higher than the net amount recorded. If the IRS rejects or reduces the amount of the income tax benefit related to the worthless stock deduction, we may have to pay additional cash income taxes, which could adversely affect our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows. We cannot guarantee what the ultimate outcome or amount of the benefit we receive, if any, will be.

Various legislative proposals that would reform U.S. corporate tax laws have been proposed by the Obama administration as well as members of Congress, including proposals that would significantly impact how U.S. multinational corporations are taxed on foreign earnings. We are unable to predict whether these or other proposals will be implemented. Although we cannot predict whether or in what form any proposed legislation may pass, if enacted, such legislation could have a material adverse impact on our tax expense or cash flow.

Our inability to indefinitely reinvest our foreign earnings could materially adversely affect our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

We consider the following matters, among others, in evaluating our plans for indefinite reinvestment: the forecasts, budgets and financial requirements of the parent and subsidiaries for both the long and short term; the projected available distributable capital reserves under applicable foreign statutes, the tax consequences of a decision to reinvest; and any U.S. and foreign government programs designed to influence remittances. If these factors change and as a result we are unable to indefinitely reinvest the foreign earnings, the income tax expense and payments may differ significantly from the current period and could materially adversely affect our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows. Deferred income taxes are not provided for any funds remaining in the foreign subsidiaries because these earnings are intended to be indefinitely reinvested.

We are exposed to risks faced by financial institutions.

The hedging transactions we have entered into expose us to credit risk in the event of default by one of our counterparties. Despite the risk control measures we have in place, a default by one of our counterparties, or liquidity problems in the financial services industry in general, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Our marketable securities portfolio could experience a decline in market value, which could materially and adversely affect our financial results.

As of December 31, 2014, we had \$1.4 billion in cash, cash equivalents, marketable securities and restricted cash, of which \$1.2 billion was invested in marketable securities. The marketable securities consist primarily of debt securities issued by the U.S. Treasury meeting the criteria of our investment policy, which is focused on the preservation of our capital through the investment in investment grade securities. We currently do not use derivative financial instruments to adjust our investment portfolio risk or income profile.

These investments, as well as any cash deposited in bank accounts, are subject to general credit, liquidity, market and interest rate risks, which may be exacerbated by unusual events, such as the U.S. debt ceiling crisis and the eurozone crisis, which affected various sectors of the financial markets and led to global credit and liquidity issues. During the 2008 financial crisis, the volatility and disruption in the global credit market reached unprecedented levels. If the global credit market deteriorates again or other events negatively impact the market for U.S. Treasury securities, our investment portfolio may be impacted and we could determine that some of our investments have experienced an other-than-temporary decline in fair value, requiring an impairment charge which could adversely impact our financial results, results of operations and cash flows.

We may be exposed to potential risks if we do not have an effective system of disclosure controls or internal controls over financial reporting.

As a public company, we are subject to the rules and regulations of the SEC, including those that require us to report on and receive an attestation from our independent registered public accounting firm regarding our internal control over financial reporting. Despite our efforts, if we were to fail to maintain an effective system of disclosure controls or internal control over financial reporting, we may not be able to accurately or timely report on our financial results or adequately identify and reduce fraud. As a result, our financial condition could be harmed and current and potential future security holders could lose confidence in us and/or our reported financial results, which may cause a negative effect on our stock price, and we could be exposed to litigation or regulatory proceedings, which may be costly or divert management attention.

We are subject to the risks of owning real property.

We own the land and building in Reston, Virginia, which constitutes our headquarters facility. Ownership of this property, as well as our data centers in Dulles, Virginia and New Castle, Delaware, may subject us to risks, including:

- adverse changes in the value of the properties, due to interest rate changes, changes in the commercial property markets, or other factors;
- ongoing maintenance expenses and costs of improvements;
- the possible need for structural improvements in order to comply with environmental, health and safety, zoning, seismic, disability law, or other requirements;
- the possibility of environmental contamination or notices of violation from federal or state environmental agencies,
- and the costs associated with fixing any environmental problems or addressing notices of violation; and
- possible disputes with neighboring owners, tenants, service providers or others.

Risks relating to the competitive environment in which we operate

The business environment is highly competitive and, if we do not compete effectively, we may suffer price reductions, reduced gross margins and loss of market share.

General: New technologies and the expansion of existing technologies may increase competitive pressure. We cannot assure that competing technologies developed by others or the emergence of new industry standards will not adversely affect our competitive position or render our services or technologies noncompetitive or obsolete. In addition, our markets are characterized by announcements of collaborative relationships involving our competitors. The existence or announcement of any such relationships could adversely affect our ability to attract and retain customers. As a result of the foregoing and other factors, we may not be able to compete effectively with current or future competitors, and competitive pressures that we face could materially harm our business.

Competition in Registry Services: We face competition in the domain name registry space from other gTLD and ccTLD registries that are competing for the business of entities and individuals that are seeking to obtain a domain name registration and/or establish a Web presence. In addition to the three gTLDs we operate (.com, .net and .name), and the 18 other operational gTLDs delegated before October 23, 2013, there are over 250 Latin script ccTLD registries and more than 40 IDN ccTLD registries. Under our agreements with ICANN, we are subject to certain restrictions in the operation of .com, .net and .name on pricing, bundling, marketing, methods of distribution, the introduction of new registry services and use of registrars that do not apply to ccTLDs and therefore may create a competitive disadvantage. If other registries launch marketing campaigns for new or existing TLDs, including forms of marketing campaigns that we are prohibited from running under the terms of our agreements with ICANN, which result in registrars or their resellers giving other TLDs greater prominence on their websites, advertising or marketing materials, we could be at a competitive disadvantage and our business could suffer.

In addition, on October 23, 2013, the DOC began to authorize, and Verisign began effectuating, the delegation of the new gTLDs. ICANN is executing registry agreements with new gTLD applicants, awarding over 1,300 new gTLDs in an initial round under its new gTLD program, and plans on offering a second round of new gTLDs after the completion of the initial round, the timing of which is uncertain. For additional information about the potential risks presented by these new gTLDs, see “We may face additional competition, operational and other risks from the introduction of new gTLDs by ICANN, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.”

We also face competition from service providers that offer outsourced domain name registration, resolution and other DNS services to organizations that require a reliable and scalable infrastructure. Among the competitors are Neustar, Inc., Afiliis Limited, ARI Registry Services, Donuts Inc. and RightSide Inc. In addition, to the extent end-users navigate using search engines or social media, as opposed to direct navigation, we may face competition from search engine operators such as Google, Microsoft, and Yahoo!, operators of social networks such as Facebook, and operators of microblogging tools such as Twitter. Furthermore, to the extent end-users increase the use of web and phone applications to locate and access content, we may face competition from providers of such web and mobile applications.

U.S. and most other countries’ trademark laws do not permit the registration of TLDs such as .com and .net as trademarks. Accordingly, Verisign’s ability to prevent other registries from using the .com and .net brand in their marketing materials may be limited.

Competition in NIA Services : Several of our current and potential competitors have longer operating histories and/or significantly greater financial, technical, marketing and other resources than we do and therefore may be able to respond more quickly than we can to new or changing opportunities, technologies, standards and customer requirements. Many of these competitors also have broader and more established distribution channels that may be used to deliver competing products or services directly to customers through bundling or other means. If such competitors were to bundle competing products or services for their customers, we may experience difficulty establishing or increasing demand for our products and services or distributing our products successfully. In addition, it may be difficult to compete against consolidation and partnerships among our competitors which create integrated product suites.

We face competition in the network intelligence and availability services industry from companies or services such as iSight Partners, IBM X-Force, Secunia ApS, Dell SecureWorks, McAfee, Inc., Akamai Technologies Inc. (including their acquisition of Prolexic Technologies, Inc.), AT&T Inc., Verizon Communications, Inc., Dyn, Inc., Neustar, Inc., OpenDNS, BlueCat Networks, Inc., Infoblox Inc., Nominum, Inc. and Afiliis Limited.

We may face additional competition, operational and other risks from the introduction of new TLDs by ICANN, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

Additional competition to our business may arise from the introduction of new TLDs by ICANN. On October 30, 2009, ICANN approved a fast track process for the awarding of new IDN ccTLDs requested by country code managers, resulting in the ongoing delegation of new IDN ccTLDs to the DNS root zone. Additionally, on June 13, 2012, ICANN announced it received 1,930 applications to operate over 1,400 unique new gTLDs. ICANN has begun executing registry agreements with these new gTLD applicants in connection with this initial round of gTLD applications and intends to continue recommending over 1,300 new gTLDs for delegation into the root zone. On October 23, 2013, the DOC began to authorize, and Verisign began effectuating, the delegation of the new gTLDs. ICANN plans on offering a second round of new gTLDs after the completion of the initial round, the timing of which is uncertain. Increased competition from these new TLDs could have a material effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition and cash flows. As set forth in the Verisign Labs Technical Report #1130007 version 2.2: New gTLD Security and Stability Considerations released on March 28, 2013, and reiterated in our further publications since then, we continue to believe there are issues regarding the deployment of the new gTLDs that should have been addressed before any new gTLDs were delegated, and despite our and others' efforts, some of these issues have not been addressed by ICANN sufficiently, if at all. For example, there has been an increase in domain name collisions in 2014 which have resulted in network interruptions for enterprises as well as confusion and usability issues that have led to phishing attacks. We do not yet know the impact, if any, that these new gTLDs may have on our business, including if or how the introduction of these new gTLDs will affect registrations for .com and .net and therefore have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

Applicants for new gTLDs include companies which may have greater financial, marketing and other resources than we do, including companies that are existing competitors, domain name registrars and new entrants into the domain name industry. In addition, under the .com , .net and .name Registry Agreements with ICANN, as well as the Cooperative Agreement with the DOC, we are not permitted to acquire, directly or indirectly, control of, or a greater than 15% ownership interest in, any ICANN-accredited registrar. Historically, all gTLD registry operators were subject to this vertical integration prohibition. However, ICANN has established a process whereby these registry operators may seek ICANN's approval to remove this restriction, and ICANN has approved such removal in some instances. Additionally, ICANN's registry agreement for new gTLDs generally permits such vertical integration, with certain limitations including ICANN's right, but not the obligation, to refer such vertical integration activities to competition authorities. Furthermore, unless prohibited by ICANN as noted above, such vertical integration restrictions do not generally apply to other ccTLD operators if at all.

If Verisign were to seek removal of the vertical integration restrictions contained in our agreements with respect to existing gTLDs, or in the future with respect to new gTLDs, it is uncertain whether ICANN and/or the DOC approval would be obtained; without such changes, we may be at a competitive disadvantage.

We applied for 14 new gTLDs, including 12 IDN gTLDs, which are transliterations of “.com” or “.net” in various languages. We executed registry agreements to become the registry operator for 12 of these new gTLDs, including 11 IDNs as well as .comsec. The remaining IDN application was for a transliteration of “.com” in Traditional Chinese script, which was a variant of a string we applied for in another IDN application (“.com” in Simplified Chinese), and has been withdrawn at the request of ICANN, because ICANN had not yet developed a policy to address such variants. We may continue with this application, or a new one for the same string, once ICANN develops and implements a policy to address variant strings. The deadline to execute the registry agreement for our .verisign application is July 29, 2015. There is no certainty that we will enter into the registry agreement for .verisign or ultimately operate any of these new gTLDs.

ICANN has stated that it will need to limit the maximum number of new gTLDs that may be delegated in a year to 1,000, which could delay the activation of some approved new gTLDs. Even though IDN gTLDs have been given priority, other factors related to the application process could delay or disrupt an application and the timing of revenue generation, if any, from these gTLDs. Further, there is no guarantee that such new gTLDs will be any more successful than the new gTLDs obtained by our competitors. For example, some of the new gTLDs including our new gTLD strings, may face additional universal acceptability and usability challenges in that current desktop and mobile device software does not ubiquitously recognize these new gTLDs and may be slow to adopt standards or support these gTLDs, even if demand for such products is strong. This is particularly true for IDN gTLDs, but applies to conventional gTLDs as well.

Similarly, while we originally entered into agreements to provide back-end registry services to other applicants for approximately 220 new gTLDs, and applicants for approximately 170 new gTLDs currently continue to contract with us to provide back-end registry services, there is no guarantee that such applicants with which we have entered into agreements will be successful in obtaining one or more of these new gTLDs or that such new gTLDs will be successful due to some or all of the factors discussed above in connection with our new gTLDs. We also cannot guarantee that we will ultimately provide back-end registry services for all of these new gTLDs. ICANN's Registry Agreement for new gTLDs requires the distribution of new gTLDs only through registrars who have executed the 2013 RAA. If registrars do not execute the 2013 RAA, our ability to provide back-end registry services would be reduced, negatively impacting the sale of our back-end registry services for new gTLDs. Even if we are able to provide such services, the timing of revenue may also be dependent on how diligently our customers proceed to delegation and launch following the completion of the application process and our customers' respective launch plans for the new gTLDs. In addition, we may face risks regarding ICANN requirements for mitigating name collisions in the new gTLDs which we operate or for which we provide back-end registry services.

Our agreements to provide back-end registry services directly to other applicants and indirectly through reseller relationships expose us to operational and other risks. For example, the increase in the number of gTLDs for which we provide registry services on a standalone basis or as a back-end service provider could further increase costs or increase the frequency or scope of targeted attacks from nefarious actors.

Our inability to react to changes in our industry and successfully introduce new products and services could harm our business.

The Internet and communications network services industries are characterized by rapid technological change and frequent new product and service announcements which require us continually to improve the performance, features and reliability of our services, particularly in response to competitive offerings or alternatives to our products and services. In order to remain competitive and retain our market share, we must continually improve our access to technology and software, support the latest transmission technologies, and adapt our products and services to changing market conditions and our customers' and Internet users' preferences and practices, or launch entirely new products and services in anticipation of, or in response to, market trends. We cannot assure that we will be able to adapt to these challenges or anticipate or respond successfully or in a cost effective way to adequately meet them. Our failure to do so would adversely affect our ability to compete and retain customers or market share.

Risks related to the sale of our Authentication Services business and the completion of our divestitures

We face risks related to the terms of the sale of the Authentication Services business.

Under the agreement reached with Symantec for the sale of our Authentication Services business (the "Symantec Agreement"), we agreed to several terms that may pose risks to us, including the potential for confusion by the public with respect to Symantec's right to use certain of our trademarks, brands and domain names, as well as the risk that current or potential investors in or customers of the Company may incorrectly attribute to the Company problems with Symantec products or services that currently use the VERISIGN brand pursuant to a license granted by the Company to Symantec. Any such confusion may have a negative impact on our reputation, our brand and the market for our products and services. In addition, we may determine that certain assets transferred to Symantec could have been useful in our Naming Services businesses or in other future endeavors, requiring us to forego future opportunities or design or purchase alternatives which could be costly and less effective than the transferred assets.

Under the terms of the Symantec Agreement, we have licensed rights to certain of our domain name registrations to Symantec. We are at risk that our customers will go to a URL for a licensed domain name and be unable to locate our Registry or NIA Services. In addition, we will continue to maintain the registration rights for the domain names licensed to Symantec for which Symantec has sole control over the displayed content, and we may be subject to claims of infringement if Symantec posts content that is alleged to infringe the rights of a third party.

We continue to be responsible for certain liabilities following the divestiture of certain businesses.

Under the agreements reached with the buyers of certain divested businesses, including the Authentication Services business, we remain liable for certain liabilities related to the divested businesses. There is a possibility that we will incur unanticipated costs and expenses associated with management of liabilities relating to the businesses we have divested, including requests for indemnification by the buyers of the divested businesses. These liabilities could potentially relate to (i) breaches of contractual representations and warranties we gave to the buyers of the divested businesses, or (ii) certain liabilities relating to the divested businesses that we retained under the agreements reached with the buyers of the divested businesses. Such liabilities could include certain litigation matters, including actions brought by third parties. Where responsibility for such liabilities is to be contractually allocated to the buyer or shared with the buyer or another party, it is possible that the buyer or the other party may be in default for payments for which they are responsible, obligating us to pay amounts in excess of our agreed-upon share of those obligations.

Risks related to our securities

We have a considerable number of common shares subject to future issuance.

As of December 31, 2014, we had one billion authorized common shares, of which 118.5 million shares were outstanding. In addition, of our authorized common shares, 15.0 million common shares were reserved for issuance pursuant to outstanding equity and employee stock purchase plans (“Equity Plans”), and 36.4 million shares were reserved for issuance upon conversion of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures. As a result, we keep substantial amounts of our common stock available for issuance upon exercise or settlement of equity awards outstanding under our Equity Plans and/or the conversion of Subordinated Convertible Debentures into our common stock. Issuance of all or a large portion of such shares would be dilutive to existing security holders, could adversely affect the prevailing market price of our common stock and could impair our ability to raise additional capital through the sale of equity securities.

Our financial condition and results of operations could be adversely affected if we do not effectively manage our liabilities.

As a result of the sale of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures and our Senior Notes, we have a substantial amount of long-term debt outstanding. In addition to the Subordinated Convertible Debentures and the Senior Notes, we have an unsecured credit facility with a borrowing capacity of \$200.0 million (the “Unsecured Credit Facility”) and the ability to request from time to time that the lenders thereunder agree on a discretionary basis to increase the aggregate commitments amount by up to \$150.0 million. As of December 31, 2014, we had no borrowings under the Unsecured Credit Facility.

It is possible that we may need to incur additional indebtedness in the future in the ordinary course of business. The terms of our Unsecured Credit Facility and the Indenture governing the Senior Notes allow us to incur additional debt subject to certain limitations and will not prevent us from incurring obligations that do not constitute indebtedness under those agreements. If new debt is added to current debt levels, the risks and limitations related to our level of indebtedness could intensify. Specifically, a high level of indebtedness could have adverse effects on our flexibility to take advantage of corporate opportunities, including the following:

- making it more difficult for us to satisfy our debt obligations;
- limiting our ability to obtain additional financing to fund future working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions or other general corporate requirements, or requiring us to make non-strategic divestitures, particularly when the availability of financing in the capital markets is limited;
- requiring a substantial portion of our cash flows to be dedicated to debt service payments instead of other purposes, thereby reducing the amount of cash flows available for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions and other general corporate purposes;
- having to repatriate cash held by foreign subsidiaries which would require us to accrue and pay additional U.S. taxes;
- increasing our vulnerability to general adverse economic and industry conditions;
- limiting our flexibility in planning for and reacting to changes in our businesses and the markets in which we compete;
- placing us at a possible competitive disadvantage compared to other, less leveraged competitors and competitors that may have better access to capital resources; and
- increasing our cost of borrowing.

In addition, the Indenture that governs the Senior Notes and the credit agreement that governs our Unsecured Credit Facility contain restrictive covenants that will limit our ability to engage in activities that may be in our long-term best interest. Our failure to comply with those covenants could result in an event of default which, if not cured or waived, could result in the acceleration of our debt.

We may not be able to generate sufficient cash to service all of our indebtedness and may be forced to take other actions to satisfy our obligations under our indebtedness, which may not be successful.

Our ability to make scheduled payments on or refinance our debt obligations depends on our financial condition and operating performance, which are subject to prevailing economic and competitive conditions and to certain financial, business, legislative, regulatory and other factors beyond our control. Moreover, in the event funds from foreign operations are needed to repay our debt obligations and U.S. tax has not already been provided, we would be required to accrue and pay additional U.S. taxes in order to repatriate these funds. We may be unable to maintain a level of cash flows from operating activities sufficient to permit us to pay the principal, premium, if any, and interest on our indebtedness. If our cash flows and capital resources are insufficient to fund our debt service obligations, we could face substantial liquidity problems and could be forced to reduce or delay investments and capital expenditures or to dispose of material assets or operations, seek additional debt or equity capital or restructure or refinance our indebtedness. We may not be able to effect any such alternative measures, if necessary, on commercially reasonable terms or at all and, even if successful, those alternative actions may not allow us to meet our scheduled debt service obligations.

Our Unsecured Credit Facility restricts our ability to dispose of assets and use the proceeds from those dispositions and may also restrict our ability to raise debt or equity capital to be used to repay other indebtedness when it becomes due. We may not be able to consummate those dispositions or to obtain proceeds in an amount sufficient to meet any debt service obligations then due.

In addition, we conduct a significant portion of our operations through our subsidiaries, which are not guarantors of the Senior Notes or our other indebtedness. Repayment of our indebtedness is substantially dependent on the generation of cash flow by VeriSign, Inc. Our non-guarantor subsidiaries do not have any obligation to pay amounts due on our indebtedness or to make funds available for that purpose. Future guarantor subsidiaries, if any, may not be able to, or may not be permitted to, on commercially reasonable terms, or at all, make distributions to enable us to make payments in respect of our indebtedness. Such subsidiaries are distinct legal entities, and, under certain circumstances, legal and contractual restrictions may limit our ability to obtain cash from our subsidiaries on commercially reasonable terms, or at all. While our Unsecured Credit Facility limits the ability of our subsidiaries to incur consensual restrictions on their ability to pay dividends or make other intercompany payments to us, these limitations are subject to qualifications and exceptions. If we cannot service our debt obligations with our cash flows and domestic cash on hand, we may be required to repatriate cash from our foreign subsidiaries, which would be subject to U.S. federal income tax, or may otherwise be unable to make required principal and interest payments on our indebtedness.

Our inability to generate sufficient cash flows to satisfy our debt obligations or to refinance our indebtedness on commercially reasonable terms or at all, would materially and adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations and our ability to satisfy our debt obligations. If we cannot make scheduled payments on our debt, we will be in default and holders of the Senior Notes could declare all outstanding principal and interest to be due and payable, the lenders under our Unsecured Credit Facility could terminate their commitments to loan money, certain holders of our Subordinated Convertible Debentures could declare all outstanding principal and interest to be due and payable and we could be forced into bankruptcy or liquidation.

The terms of our Unsecured Credit Facility and the Indenture governing the Senior Notes restrict our current and future operations, particularly our ability to respond to changes or to take certain actions and create the risk of default on such indebtedness.

The credit agreement that governs our Unsecured Credit Facility and the Indenture governing the Senior Notes contain a number of restrictive covenants that impose significant operating and financial restrictions on us and may limit our ability to engage in acts that may be in our long-term best interest, including, subject to certain exceptions, restrictions on our ability to:

- permit our subsidiaries to incur or guarantee indebtedness;
- pay dividends or other distributions or repurchase or redeem our capital stock;
- prepay, redeem or repurchase certain debt;
- issue certain preferred stock or similar equity securities;
- make loans and investments;
- sell assets;
- incur liens;
- enter into transactions with affiliates;
- alter the businesses we conduct;
- enter into agreements restricting our subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends;
- consolidate, merge or sell all or substantially all of our assets; and
- engage in certain sale/leaseback transactions.

In addition, the restrictive covenants in our Unsecured Credit Facility require us to maintain specified financial ratios and satisfy other financial condition tests. Our ability to meet those financial ratios and tests can be affected by events beyond our control, and we may be unable to meet them.

A breach of the covenants or restrictions under our Unsecured Credit Facility or the Indenture governing the Senior Notes could result in an event of default under the applicable indebtedness. Such a default may allow the creditors to accelerate the related debt and may result in the acceleration of any other debt to which a cross-acceleration or cross-default provision applies. In addition, an event of default under our Unsecured Credit Facility would permit the lenders under our Unsecured Credit Facility to terminate all commitments to extend further credit under that agreement. In the event our lenders or noteholders accelerate the repayment of our borrowings, we and our subsidiaries may not have sufficient assets to repay that indebtedness. As a result of these restrictions, we may be:

- limited in how we conduct our business;
- unable to raise additional debt or equity financing to operate during general economic or business downturns; or
- unable to compete effectively or to take advantage of new business opportunities.

These restrictions may affect our ability to grow in accordance with our strategy. In addition, our financial results, our substantial indebtedness and our credit ratings could adversely affect the availability and terms of our financing.

Some of the cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities that appear on our consolidated balance sheet may not be available for use in our business or to meet our debt obligations without adverse income tax consequences.

As of December 31, 2014, the amount of cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities held by our foreign subsidiaries that are not guarantors of the Senior Notes or our other indebtedness, was \$939.0 million. During the second quarter of 2014, we completed the repatriation of approximately \$740.9 million, net of withholding taxes, of cash held by foreign subsidiaries. For any funds remaining in the foreign subsidiaries after the repatriation that have not been previously taxed in the U.S., our intent is to indefinitely reinvest those funds outside of the U.S.

In the event that funds from our foreign operations are needed to fund operations in the United States or to meet our debt obligations, and if U.S. tax has not already been provided, we would be required to accrue and pay additional U.S. taxes in order to repatriate those funds. In light of the foregoing, the amount of cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities that appear on our balance sheet may overstate the amount of liquidity we have available to meet our business or debt obligations, including obligations under the Senior Notes.

We may not be able to repurchase the Senior Notes upon a change of control.

Upon the occurrence of specific kinds of change of control events and if the Senior Notes are rated below investment grade by both rating agencies that rate the Senior Notes, we will be required to offer to repurchase all outstanding Senior Notes at 101% of their principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the repurchase date. Additionally, under our Unsecured Credit Facility, a change of control (as defined therein) constitutes an event of default that permits the lenders to accelerate the maturity of borrowings under the Unsecured Credit Facility and the commitments to lend would terminate. The source of funds for any repurchase of the Senior Notes and repayment of borrowings under our Unsecured Credit Facility would be our available cash or cash generated from our subsidiaries' operations or other sources, including borrowings, sales of assets or sales of equity. We may not be able to repurchase the Senior Notes upon a change of control because we may not have sufficient financial resources to purchase all of the debt securities that are tendered upon a change of control and repay our other indebtedness that will become due. If we fail to repurchase the Senior Notes in that circumstance, we will be in default under the Indenture that governs the Senior Notes. We may require additional financing from third parties to fund any such repurchases, and we may be unable to obtain financing on satisfactory terms or at all. Further, our ability to repurchase the Senior Notes may be limited by law. In order to avoid the obligation to repurchase the Senior Notes and events of default and potential breaches of our Unsecured Credit Facility, we may have to avoid certain change of control transactions that would otherwise be beneficial to us.

In addition, certain important corporate events, such as leveraged recapitalizations, may not, under the Indenture that governs the Senior Notes, constitute a "change of control" that would require us to repurchase the Senior Notes, even though those corporate events could increase the level of our indebtedness or otherwise adversely affect our capital structure, credit ratings or the value of the Senior Notes. Additionally, holders may not be able to require us to purchase their Senior Notes in certain circumstances involving a significant change in the composition of our board of directors, including a proxy contest where our board of directors approves for purposes of the change of control provisions of the Indenture, but does not endorse, a dissident slate of directors. In this regard, decisions of the Delaware Chancery Court (not involving us or our securities) considered a change of control redemption provision contained in an indenture governing publicly traded debt securities that was substantially similar to the change of control redemption provision in the Indenture that governs the Senior Notes with respect to "continuing directors." In these cases, the court noted that the board of directors may "approve" a dissident shareholder's nominees solely to avoid triggering the change of control redemption provision of the indenture without

supporting their election if the board determines in good faith that the election of the dissident nominees would not be materially adverse to the interests of the corporation or its stockholders (without taking into consideration the interests of the holders of debt securities in making this determination). Further, according to these decisions, the directors' duty of loyalty to shareholders under Delaware law may, in certain circumstances, require them to give such approval.

Furthermore, the exercise by the holders of Senior Notes of their right to require us to repurchase the Senior Notes pursuant to a change of control offer could cause a default under the agreements governing our other indebtedness, including future agreements, even if the change of control itself does not, due to the financial effect of such repurchases on us. In the event a change of control offer is required to be made at a time when we are prohibited from purchasing Senior Notes, we could attempt to refinance the borrowings that contain such prohibitions. If we do not obtain a consent or repay those borrowings, we will remain prohibited from purchasing Senior Notes. In that case, our failure to purchase tendered Senior Notes would constitute an event of default under the Indenture which could, in turn, constitute a default under our other indebtedness. Finally, our ability to pay cash to the holders of Senior Notes upon a repurchase pursuant to a change of control offer may be limited by our then existing financial resources.

A lowering or withdrawal of the ratings assigned to our debt securities by rating agencies may increase our future borrowing costs and reduce our access to capital.

Any rating assigned to our debt securities could be lowered or withdrawn entirely by a rating agency if, in that rating agency's judgment, future circumstances relating to the basis of the rating, such as adverse changes, so warrant. Consequently, real or anticipated changes in our credit ratings will generally affect the market value of our debt securities. Any lowering of our rating likely would make it more difficult or more expensive for us to obtain additional debt financing in the future.

We may not have the ability to repurchase the Subordinated Convertible Debentures in cash upon the occurrence of a fundamental change, or to pay cash upon the conversion of Subordinated Convertible Debentures; occurrence of certain events related to our Subordinated Convertible Debentures might have significant adverse accounting, disclosure, tax, and liquidity implications.

As a result of the sale of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures, we have a substantial amount of debt outstanding. Holders of our outstanding Subordinated Convertible Debentures will have the right to require us to repurchase the Subordinated Convertible Debentures upon the occurrence of a fundamental change as defined in the indenture governing the Subordinated Convertible Debentures dated as of August 20, 2007 between the Company and U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee (the "2007 Indenture"). Although, in certain situations, the 2007 Indenture requires us to pay this repurchase price in cash, we may not have sufficient funds to repurchase the Subordinated Convertible Debentures in cash or have the ability to arrange necessary financing on acceptable terms or at all.

The Subordinated Convertible Debentures continue to be convertible due to our stock price exceeding the conversion price threshold trigger, and, if holders elect to convert their Subordinated Convertible Debentures, we are permitted under the 2007 Indenture to pursue an exchange in lieu of conversion or to settle the Settlement Amount (as defined in the 2007 Indenture) in cash, stock, or a combination thereof. If we choose not to pursue or cannot complete an exchange in lieu of a conversion, we currently have the intent and the ability (based on current facts and circumstances) to settle the principal amount of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures in cash. However, if the principal amount of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures due to holders as a result of rights to convert or require repurchase exceeds our cash on hand and cash from operations, we will need to draw cash from existing financing or pursue additional sources of financing to settle the Subordinated Convertible Debentures in cash. We cannot provide any assurances that we will be able to obtain new sources of financing on terms acceptable to us or at all, nor can we assure that we will be able to obtain such financing in time to settle the Subordinated Convertible Debentures that holders elect to convert or require the Company to repurchase.

If we do not have adequate cash available, either from cash on hand, funds generated from operations or existing financing arrangements, or cannot obtain additional financing arrangements, we will not be able to settle the principal amount of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures in cash and, in the case of settlement of conversion elections, will be required to settle the principal amount of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures in stock. If we settle any portion of the principal amount of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures in stock, it will result in immediate dilution to the interests of existing security holders and the dilution could be material to such security holders.

If our intent to settle the principal amount in cash changes, or if we conclude that we no longer have the ability, in the future, we will be required to change our accounting policy for earnings per share from the treasury stock method to the if-converted method. Earnings per share will most likely be lower under the if-converted method as compared to the treasury stock method.

If the amount paid (in cash or stock) to settle the Subordinated Convertible Debentures (i.e., the Settlement Amount) is less than the adjusted issue price, under the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations thereunder, the difference is included in taxable income as recapture of previous interest deductions. The adjusted issue price grows over the term of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures due to the difference between the interest deduction for tax, using a comparable yield rate of 8.5%, and the coupon rate of 3.25%, compounded annually. The settlement amount will vary based on the stock price at settlement date. Depending on the Settlement Amount for the Subordinated Convertible Debentures at the settlement date, the amount included in taxable income as a result of this recapture could be substantial, which could adversely impact our cash flow.

A fundamental change may constitute an event of default or prepayment under, or result in the acceleration of the maturity of, our then-existing indebtedness. Our ability to repurchase the Subordinated Convertible Debentures in cash or make any other required payments may be limited by law or the terms of other agreements relating to our indebtedness outstanding at the time. Our failure to repurchase the Subordinated Convertible Debentures when required would result in an event of default with respect to the Subordinated Convertible Debentures.

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

Our corporate headquarters are located in Reston, Virginia. We have administrative, sales, marketing, research and development and operations facilities located in the U.S., Europe, Asia, and Australia. As of December 31, 2014, we owned approximately 454,000 square feet of space, which includes facilities in Reston and Dulles, Virginia and New Castle, Delaware. As of December 31, 2014 we leased approximately 60,000 square feet of space, in Asia and Europe and to a lesser extent in the U.S. These facilities are under lease agreements that expire at various dates through 2017.

We believe that our existing facilities are well maintained and in good operating condition, and are sufficient for our needs for the foreseeable future. The following table lists our major locations and primary use as of December 31, 2014 :

| <u>Major Locations</u> | <u>Approximate Square Footage</u> | <u>Use</u> |
|------------------------|---|---|
| United States: | | |
| Reston, Virginia | 221,000 | Corporate Headquarters; and Naming Services |
| New Castle, Delaware | 105,000 | Naming Services |
| Dulles, Virginia | 70,000 | Naming Services |
| Asia Pacific: | | |
| Bangalore, India | 25,000 | Naming Services; and Corporate Services |
| Europe: | | |
| Fribourg, Switzerland | 8,000 | Naming Services; and Corporate Services |

The table above does not include approximately 58,000 square feet of space owned by us and leased to third parties, and approximately 13,000 square feet of space leased by us and subleased to third parties.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

See Note 13, "Commitments and Contingencies," *Legal Proceedings*, of our Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 15 of this Form 10-K, which is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRANT

The following table sets forth information regarding our executive officers as of February 13, 2015:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Position</u> |
|------------------------|------------|---|
| D. James Bidzos | 59 | Executive Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer |
| George E. Kilguss, III | 54 | Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer |
| Thomas C. Indelicarto | 51 | Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary |

D. James Bidzos has served as Executive Chairman since August 2009 and President and Chief Executive Officer since August 2011. He served as Executive Chairman and Chief Executive Officer on an interim basis from June 2008 to August 2009 and served as President from June 2008 to January 2009. He served as Chairman of the Board since August 2007 and from April 1995 to December 2001. He served as Vice Chairman of the Board from December 2001 to August 2007. Mr. Bidzos served as a director of VeriSign Japan from March 2008 to August 2010 and served as Representative Director of VeriSign Japan from March 2008 to September 2008. Mr. Bidzos served as Vice Chairman of RSA Security Inc., an Internet identity and access management solution provider, from March 1999 to May 2002, and Executive Vice President from July 1996 to February 1999. Prior thereto, he served as President and Chief Executive Officer of RSA Data Security, Inc. from 1986 to February 1999.

George E. Kilguss, III has served as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since May 2012. From April 2008 to May 2012, he was the Chief Financial Officer of Internap Network Services Corporation, an IT infrastructure solutions company. From December 2003 to December 2007, he served as the Chief Financial Officer of Towerstream Corporation, a company that delivers high speed wireless Internet access to businesses using WiMAX microwave access. Mr. Kilguss holds an M.B.A. degree from the University of Chicago's Graduate School of Business and a B.S. degree in Economics and Finance from the University of Hartford.

Thomas C. Indelicarto has served as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary since November 2014. From September 2008 to November 2014, he served as Vice President and Associate General Counsel. From January 2006 to September 2008, he served as Litigation Counsel. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Indelicarto was in private practice as an associate at Arnold & Porter LLP and Buchanan Ingersoll (now, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney, PC). Mr. Indelicarto also served as a U.S. Army officer for nine years. Mr. Indelicarto holds a J.D. degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and a Bachelor of Science degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

PART II

ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

Price Range of Common Stock

Our common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "VRSN." The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, the high and low sales prices per share for our common stock as reported by the NASDAQ Global Select Market:

| | Price Range | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----------|
| | High | Low |
| Year ended December 31, 2014: | | |
| Fourth Quarter | \$ 61.25 | \$ 52.10 |
| Third Quarter | \$ 57.57 | \$ 48.50 |
| Second Quarter | \$ 54.47 | \$ 46.45 |
| First Quarter | \$ 62.96 | \$ 48.55 |
| Year ended December 31, 2013: | | |
| Fourth Quarter | \$ 59.89 | \$ 49.16 |
| Third Quarter | \$ 52.13 | \$ 44.38 |
| Second Quarter | \$ 49.62 | \$ 43.28 |
| First Quarter | \$ 47.50 | \$ 37.55 |

On February 6, 2015, there were 555 holders of record of our common stock. We cannot estimate the number of beneficial owners since many brokers and other institutions hold our stock on behalf of stockholders. On February 6, 2015, the reported last sale price of our common stock was \$59.97 per share as reported by the NASDAQ Global Select Market.

The market price of our common stock has been and is likely to continue to be volatile and significantly affected by factors such as:

- general market and economic conditions in the U.S., the eurozone and elsewhere;
- market conditions affecting technology and Internet stocks generally;
- announcements of earnings releases, material events, technological innovations, acquisitions or investments by us or our competitors;
- developments in Internet governance; and
- industry conditions and trends.

The market price of our common stock also has been and is likely to continue to be significantly affected by expectations of analysts and investors. Reports and statements of analysts do not necessarily reflect our views. To the extent we have met or exceeded analyst or investor expectations in the past does not necessarily mean that we will be able to do so in the future. In the past, securities class action lawsuits have often followed periods of volatility in the market price of a particular company's securities. This type of litigation could result in substantial costs and a diversion of our management's attention and resources. See Note 13, "Commitments and Contingencies," *Legal Proceedings* of our Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 15 of this Form 10-K.

We have not declared or paid any cash dividends on our common stock or any other securities in the last three years. We continually evaluate the overall cash and investing needs of the business and consider the best uses for our cash, including investments in the strengthening of our infrastructure and growth opportunities for our business, as well as potential share repurchases.

For information regarding securities authorized for issuance under our equity compensation plans, see Note 10, "Employee Benefits and Stock-based Compensation," of our Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 15 of this Form 10-K.

Share Repurchases

The following table presents the share repurchase activity during the three months ended December 31, 2014:

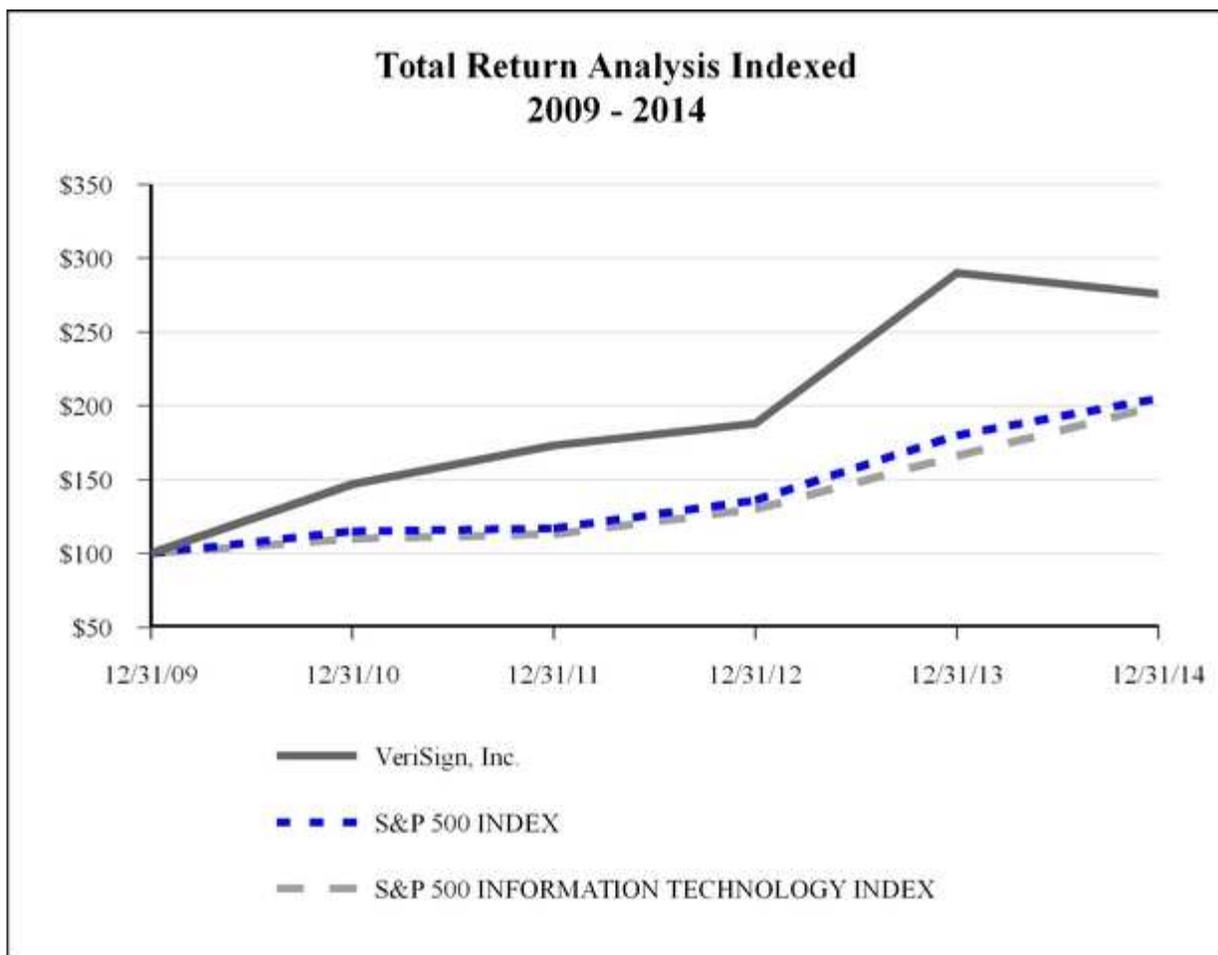
| | Total Number of Shares Purchased | Average Price Paid per Share | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs | Approximate Dollar Value of Shares That May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs (1) (2) |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|
| | | | (Shares in thousands) | |
| October 1 – 31, 2014 | 1,510 | \$55.11 | 1,510 | \$ 749.5 million |
| November 1 – 30, 2014 | 912 | \$59.80 | 912 | \$ 694.9 million |
| December 1 – 31, 2014 | 1,230 | \$58.07 | 1,230 | \$ 623.5 million |
| | <u>3,652</u> | | <u>3,652</u> | |

- (1) On July 23, 2014, our Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to \$490.6 million of our common stock, in addition to the \$509.4 million of our common stock remaining available for repurchase under the previous share repurchase program, for a total repurchase authorization of up to \$1.0 billion of our common stock.
- (2) Effective January 30, 2015, our Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of approximately \$452.9 million of our common stock, in addition to the \$547.1 million of our common stock remaining available for repurchase under the previous share repurchase program, for a total repurchase authorization of up to \$1.0 billion of our common stock. The share repurchase program has no expiration date. Purchases made under the program could be effected through open market transactions, block purchases, accelerated share repurchase agreements or other negotiated transactions.

Performance Graph

The information contained in the Performance Graph shall not be deemed to be “soliciting material” or “filed” with the SEC or subject to the liabilities of Section 18 of the Exchange Act, except to the extent that we specifically incorporate it by reference into a document filed under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”), or the Exchange Act.

The following graph compares the cumulative total stockholder return on our common stock, the Standard and Poor’s (“S&P”) 500 Index, and the S&P 500 Information Technology Index. The graph assumes that \$100 (and the reinvestment of any dividends thereafter) was invested in our common stock, the S&P 500 Index and the S&P 500 Information Technology Index on December 31, 2009, and calculates the return annually through December 31, 2014. The stock price performance on the following graph is not necessarily indicative of future stock price performance.



| | 12/31/09 | 12/31/10 | 12/31/11 | 12/31/12 | 12/31/13 | 12/31/14 |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| VeriSign, Inc | \$ 100 | \$ 147 | \$ 173 | \$ 188 | \$ 290 | \$ 276 |
| S&P 500 Index | \$ 100 | \$ 115 | \$ 117 | \$ 136 | \$ 180 | \$ 205 |
| S&P 500 Information Technology Index | \$ 100 | \$ 110 | \$ 113 | \$ 130 | \$ 166 | \$ 200 |

ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The following table sets forth selected financial data as of and for the last five fiscal years. The information set forth below is not necessarily indicative of results of future operations, and should be read in conjunction with Item 7, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations,” and our Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 15 of this Form 10-K, to fully understand factors that may affect the comparability of the information presented below.

Selected Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income Data: (in millions, except per share data)

| | Year Ended December 31, | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|----------|---------|----------|----------|
| | 2014 (1) | 2013 (2) | 2012 | 2011 (3) | 2010 (4) |
| Revenues | \$ 1,010 | \$ 965 | \$ 874 | \$ 772 | \$ 681 |
| Operating income | \$ 564 | \$ 528 | \$ 457 | \$ 329 | \$ 232 |
| Income from continuing operations | \$ 355 | \$ 544 | \$ 312 | \$ 139 | \$ 70 |
| Income from continuing operations per share: | | | | | |
| Basic | \$ 2.80 | \$ 3.77 | \$ 1.99 | \$ 0.84 | \$ 0.39 |
| Diluted | \$ 2.52 | \$ 3.49 | \$ 1.91 | \$ 0.83 | \$ 0.39 |
| Cash dividend declared and paid per share | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 2.75 | \$ 3.00 |

- (1) Income from continuing operations for 2014 is reduced by \$9.8 million for a non-U.S. income tax charge related to a reorganization of certain international operations and changes in estimates during 2014 for U.S. income taxes related to the 2013 worthless stock deduction and the 2014 repatriation of funds held by foreign subsidiaries.
- (2) Income from continuing operations for 2013 includes a \$375.3 million income tax benefit related to a worthless stock deduction, net of valuation allowances, and accrual for uncertain tax positions, partially offset by \$167.1 million of income tax expense related to the repatriation of cash held by foreign subsidiaries.
- (3) Income from continuing operations for 2011 is reduced by pre-tax amounts of \$15.5 million in restructuring charges and \$100.0 million in contingent interest paid to holders of our Subordinated Convertible Debentures, as a result of the special dividend to stockholders.
- (4) Income from continuing operations for 2010 is reduced by pre-tax amounts of \$16.9 million in restructuring charges and \$109.1 million in contingent interest paid to holders of our Subordinated Convertible Debentures, as a result of the special dividend to stockholders.

Consolidated Balance Sheet Data: (in millions)

| | As of December 31, | | | | |
|---|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
| Cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities (1) (2) | \$ 1,425 | \$ 1,723 | \$ 1,556 | \$ 1,346 | \$ 2,061 |
| Total assets (2) | \$ 2,155 | \$ 2,661 | \$ 2,062 | \$ 1,856 | \$ 2,444 |
| Deferred revenues | \$ 890 | \$ 856 | \$ 813 | \$ 729 | \$ 663 |
| Subordinated Convertible Debentures, including contingent interest derivative | \$ 631 | \$ 624 | \$ 598 | \$ 590 | \$ 582 |
| Long-term debt (3) | \$ 750 | \$ 750 | \$ 100 | \$ 100 | \$ — |

- (1) Cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities and total assets decreased from 2013 to 2014 because of the repurchase of \$867.1 million worth of common stock under our share buyback program. Total assets also decreased due to the use of a majority of our net operating loss carryforwards to offset the income generated in the U.S. as a result of the repatriation discussed in Note 12, “Income taxes” in Part IV, Item 15 of this Form 10-K.
- (2) Cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities and total assets decreased from 2010 to 2011 because of a dividend payment of \$463.5 million and contingent interest of \$100.0 million paid in May 2011.
- (3) The increase in Long-term debt from 2012 to 2013 was due to the issuance of \$750.0 million aggregate principal amount of 4.625% senior unsecured notes due 2023. We used a portion of the net proceeds to repay the \$100.0 million of outstanding indebtedness under our Unsecured Credit Facility.

ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Report on Form 10-K contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, including, among other things, statements regarding our anticipated costs and expenses and revenue mix. Forward-looking statements include, among others, those statements including the words "expects," "anticipates," "intends," "believes" and similar language. Our actual results may differ significantly from those projected in the forward-looking statements. Factors that might cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited to, those discussed in the section titled "Risk Factors" in Part I, Item 1A of this Form 10-K. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on the forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this Form 10-K. We undertake no obligation to publicly release any revisions to the forward-looking statements or reflect events or circumstances after the date of this document.

Overview

We are a global provider of domain name registry services and Internet security, enabling Internet navigation for many of the world's most recognized domain names and providing protection for websites and enterprises around the world. Our Registry Services ensure the security, stability and resiliency of key Internet infrastructure and services, including the .com and .net domains, two of the Internet's root servers, and operation of the root-zone maintainer functions for the core of the Internet's DNS. Our product suite also includes NIA Services consisting of DDoS Protection Services, Verisign iDefense Services and Managed DNS Services. As of December 31, 2014, we had approximately 130.6 million domain names registered under the .com and .net registries, our principal registries. The number of domain names registered is largely driven by continued growth in online advertising, e-commerce, and the number of Internet users, which is partially driven by greater availability of broadband, as well as advertising and promotional activities carried out by us and third-party registrars. Growth in the number of domain names has been hindered by certain factors, including changes to the marketing strategies of certain registrars, overall economic conditions, the introduction of new gTLDs, and ongoing changes to search algorithms used by Google and other Internet search engines that negatively affect the profitability of certain types of websites, and as a result, reduce demand for new domain name registrations and renewals. Revenues from NIA Services are not significant in relation to our consolidated revenues.

2014 Business Highlights and Trends

- We recorded revenues of \$1,010.1 million in 2014, which represents an increase of 5% compared to 2013.
- During 2014, domain names registered under the .com and .net TLDs increased by 3.4 million to end the year at 130.6 million domain names in the domain name base, which was an increase of 3% compared to December 31, 2013.
- We recorded operating income of \$564.4 million during 2014, which represents an increase of 7% as compared to 2013.
- During 2014, we processed 34 million new domain name registrations for .com and .net, the same as compared to 2013.
- The final .com and .net renewal rate for the third quarter of 2014 was 72.0% compared with 72.7% for the same quarter in 2013. Renewal rates are not fully measurable until 45 days after the end of the quarter.
- During the second quarter of 2014, we completed the repatriation of \$740.9 million of cash held by foreign subsidiaries, net of \$28.1 million of foreign withholding taxes.
- We repurchased 16.3 million shares of our common stock for an aggregate cost of \$867.1 million in 2014. As of December 31, 2014, there was \$623.5 million remaining for future share repurchases under the share buyback program.
- Effective January 30, 2015, the Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of approximately \$452.9 million of our common stock, in addition to the \$547.1 million of our common stock remaining available for repurchase under the previous share repurchase program, for a total repurchase authorization of up to \$1.0 billion of our common stock. Through February 12, 2015, we repurchased an additional 2.0 million shares for \$112.6 million under our share buyback program.

- We generated cash flows from operating activities of \$600.9 million in 2014, which represents an increase of 4% as compared to 2013.
- On July 24, 2014, we announced an increase in the annual fee for a .net domain name registration from \$6.18 to \$6.79, which became effective February 1, 2015.

Critical Accounting Policies and Significant Management Estimates

The discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations are based upon our Consolidated Financial Statements, which have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. The preparation of these financial statements requires management to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses, and related disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities. On an ongoing basis, management evaluates those estimates. Management bases its estimates on historical experience and on various assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily available from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions.

An accounting estimate is considered critical if the nature of the estimates or assumptions is material due to the levels of subjectivity and judgment involved, and the impact of changes in the estimates and assumptions would have a material effect on the consolidated financial statements. We believe the following critical accounting estimates and policies have the most significant impact on our consolidated financial statements:

Revenue recognition

We generate revenues by providing services over a period of time. Fees for these services are deferred and recognized as performance occurs. The majority of our revenue transactions contain standard business terms and conditions. However, at times, we enter into non-standard arrangements including multiple-element arrangements. As a result, we must evaluate (1) whether an arrangement exists; (2) how the arrangement consideration should be allocated among the deliverables; (3) when to recognize revenue on the deliverables; and (4) whether all elements of the arrangement have been delivered. Our revenue recognition policy also requires an assessment as to whether collection is reasonably assured, which requires us to evaluate the creditworthiness of our customers.

Fair value of financial instruments

Our Subordinated Convertible Debentures have a contingent interest payment provision that is identified as an embedded derivative. The embedded derivative is accounted for separately at fair value, and is marked to market at the end of each reporting period. We utilize a valuation model based on stock price, bond price, risk free interest rates, volatility, and credit spread observations to estimate the value of the derivative. Several of these inputs to the model are not observable and require management judgment.

Income taxes

Accounting for income taxes requires significant judgments in the development of estimates used in income tax calculations. Such judgments include, but are not limited to, the likelihood we would realize the benefits of net operating loss carryforwards, domestic and/or foreign tax credit carryforwards, the adequacy of valuation allowances, and the rates used to measure transactions with foreign subsidiaries. To the extent recovery of deferred tax assets is not likely, we record a valuation allowance to reduce our deferred tax assets to the amount that is more likely than not to be realized.

Our operations involve dealing with uncertainties and judgments in the application of complex tax regulations in multiple jurisdictions. The final taxes payable are dependent upon many factors, including negotiations with taxing authorities in various jurisdictions and resolution of disputes arising from U.S. federal, state, and international tax audits. We only recognize or continue to only recognize tax positions that are more likely than not to be sustained upon examination. We adjust these amounts in light of changing facts and circumstances; however, due to the complexity of some of these uncertainties, the ultimate resolution may result in a payment that is materially different from our current estimate of the tax liabilities.

During the second quarter of 2014, we completed the repatriation of \$740.9 million of cash held by foreign subsidiaries, in a tax efficient manner by using the tax benefits resulting from the 2013 worthless stock deduction to offset the taxable income generated in the U.S. as a result of the repatriation. The repatriation utilized substantially all of the capital reserves of our foreign subsidiaries that were legally distributable under applicable foreign statutes. Deferred income taxes are not provided for any funds remaining in the foreign subsidiaries after the repatriation because these earnings are intended to be indefinitely reinvested. We consider the following matters, among others, in evaluating our plans for indefinite reinvestment: the forecasts, budgets and financial requirements of the parent and subsidiaries for both the long and short term; the tax consequences of a

decision to reinvest; and any U.S. and foreign government programs designed to influence remittances. If factors change and as a result we are unable to indefinitely reinvest the foreign earnings, the income tax expense and payments may differ significantly from the current period and could materially adversely affect our results of operations.

Earnings per Share

We use the treasury stock method to calculate the impact of our Subordinated Convertible Debentures on diluted earnings per share. Under this method, only a positive conversion spread related to the Subordinated Convertible Debentures is included in the diluted earnings per share calculations. This is based on our intent and ability to settle the principal amount of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures in cash. A change in our intent and ability would require us to use the if-converted method, which could have a material impact on our diluted earnings per share.

Results of Operations

The following table presents information regarding our results of operations as a percentage of revenues:

| | Year Ended December 31, | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------|-------|
| | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Revenues | 100 % | 100 % | 100 % |
| Costs and expenses: | | | |
| Cost of revenues | 19 | 20 | 19 |
| Sales and marketing | 9 | 9 | 11 |
| Research and development | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| General and administrative | 9 | 9 | 11 |
| Total costs and expenses | 44 | 45 | 48 |
| Operating income | 56 | 55 | 52 |
| Interest expense | (9) | (8) | (6) |
| Non-operating income, net | 1 | — | 1 |
| Income from continuing operations before income taxes | 48 | 47 | 47 |
| Income tax (expense) benefit | (13) | 9 | (11) |
| Income from continuing operations, net of tax | 35 | 56 | 36 |
| Income from discontinued operations, net of tax | — | — | 1 |
| Net income | 35 % | 56 % | 37 % |

Revenues

Revenues related to our Registry Services are primarily derived from registrations for domain names in the *.com* and *.net* domain name registries. We also derive revenues from operating domain name registries for several other TLDs which are not significant in relation to our consolidated revenues. For domain names registered with the *.com* and *.net* registries, we receive a fee from third-party registrars per annual registration that is fixed pursuant to our agreements with ICANN. Individual customers, called registrants, contract directly with third-party registrars or their resellers, and the third-party registrars in turn register the domain names with Verisign. Changes in revenues are driven largely by changes in the number of new domain name registrations and the renewal rate for existing registrations as well as the impact of new and prior price increases, to the extent permitted, by ICANN and the DOC. New registrations and the renewal rate for existing registrations are impacted by continued growth in online advertising, e-commerce, and the number of Internet users, which is partially driven by greater availability of broadband, as well as advertising and promotional activities carried out by us and third-party registrars. We increased the annual fee for a *.net* domain name registration from \$5.11 to \$5.62 on July 1, 2013, from \$5.62 to \$6.18 on February 1, 2014, and from \$6.18 to \$6.79 on February 1, 2015. We have the contractual right to increase the fees for *.net* domain name registrations by up to 10% each year during the term of our *.net* agreement with ICANN through June 30, 2017. The annual fee for a *.com* domain name registration is fixed at \$7.85 for the duration of the current *.com* Registry Agreement through November 30, 2018, except that prices may be raised by up to 7% each year due to the imposition of any new Consensus Policy or documented extraordinary expense resulting from an attack or threat of attack on the Security and Stability (each as defined in the *.com* Registry Agreement) of the DNS, subject to approval of the DOC. We offer promotional marketing programs for our registrars based upon market conditions and the business environment in which the registrars operate. All fees paid to us for *.com* and *.net* registrations are in U.S. dollars. Revenues from NIA Services are not significant in relation to our total consolidated revenues.

A comparison of revenues is presented below:

| | 2014 | % Change | 2013 | % Change | 2012 |
|----------|------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| | (Dollars in thousands) | | | | |
| Revenues | \$ 1,010,117 | 5% | \$ 965,087 | 10% | \$ 873,592 |

The following table compares domain names ending in *.com* and *.net* managed by our Registry Services business:

| | December 31, 2014 | % Change | December 31, 2013 | % Change | December 31, 2012 |
|--|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Domain names ending in <i>.com</i> and <i>.net</i> | 130.6 million | 3% | 127.2 million | 5% | 121.1 million |

2014 compared to 2013: Revenues increased by \$ 45.0 million, primarily due to a 3% increase in the number of domain names ending in *.com* and *.net* and increases in the *.net* domain name registration fees in July 2013 and February 2014.

2013 compared to 2012: Revenues increased by \$91.5 million, primarily due to an \$80.8 million increase in revenues from the operation of the registries for the *.com* and *.net* TLDs and a \$10.7 million increase from other service revenues. The increase in revenues from operation of the registries for the *.com* and *.net* TLDs is primarily due to a 5% increase in the number of domain names ending in *.com* and *.net* and increases in the *.com* domain name registration fees in January 2012 and *.net* domain name registration fees in January 2012 and July 2013 as per our agreements with ICANN.

The growth in the domain name base was primarily driven by continued Internet growth and new domain name promotional programs. However, ongoing economic uncertainty, the introduction of new gTLDs and changing marketing strategies by certain registrars has limited the rate of growth of the domain name base in 2014 and to a lesser extent in 2013. Further, according to published reports, Google periodically makes changes to its search algorithms, which may decrease traffic to certain websites, and pay-per-click advertising policies, which may provide less compensation for certain types of websites. This could make such websites less profitable and hinder domain name registration growth. We believe these algorithm changes had a negative effect on the first time renewal rate for registrations in recent years.

We expect to see continued growth in the domain name base during 2015 as a result of further Internet growth. In addition we expect to see continued growth internationally in the domain name base, resulting from greater broadband availability, Internet adoption, and expanding e-commerce. However, we expect the rate of growth to be limited because of the same factors described above which limited growth in 2014. We expect revenues will continue to increase in fiscal 2015, albeit at a slower rate, as compared to fiscal 2014 as a result of continued growth in the aggregate number of active domain names ending in *.com* and *.net* and increases in the *.net* domain name registration fees in February 2014 and 2015.

We generate revenue in the U.S.; Europe, the Middle East and Africa (“EMEA”); Australia, China, India, and other Asia Pacific countries (“APAC”); and certain other countries, including Canada and Latin American countries.

The following table presents a comparison of the Company’s geographic revenues:

| | Year Ended December 31, | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| | 2014 | % Change | 2013 | % Change | 2012 |
| | (Dollars in thousands) | | | | |
| U.S | \$ 616,125 | 5 % | \$ 585,201 | 10 % | \$ 530,111 |
| EMEA | 182,897 | 8 % | 169,767 | 26 % | 135,084 |
| APAC | 133,748 | 3 % | 129,664 | (1)% | 130,648 |
| Other | 77,347 | (4)% | 80,455 | 3 % | 77,749 |
| Total revenues | \$ 1,010,117 | 5 % | \$ 965,087 | 10 % | \$ 873,592 |

Revenues for our Registry Services business are attributed to the country of domicile and the respective regions in which our registrars are located, however, this may differ from the regions where the registrars operate or where registrants are located. Revenue growth for each region may be impacted by registrars reincorporating, relocating, or from acquisitions or changes in affiliations of resellers. Revenue growth for each region may also be impacted by registrars domiciled in one region, registering domain names in another region. These factors are reflected in the higher revenue growth in EMEA in 2014 and 2013, lower revenue growth in APAC during 2014, and declining revenue in APAC during 2013 and in the Other region during 2014.

We applied for 14 new gTLDs, including 12 IDN gTLDs, which are transliterations of “.com” or “.net” in various languages. We executed registry agreements to become the registry operator for 12 of these new gTLDs, including 11 IDNs as well as .comsec. The remaining IDN application was for a transliteration of “.com” in Traditional Chinese script, which was a variant of a string we applied for in another IDN application (“.com” in Simplified Chinese), and has been withdrawn at the request of ICANN, because ICANN had not yet developed a policy to address such variants. We may continue with this application, or a new one for the same string, once ICANN develops and implements a policy to address variant strings. The deadline to execute the registry agreement for our .verisign application is July 29, 2015. There is no certainty that we will enter into the registry agreement for .verisign or ultimately operate any of these new gTLDs.

ICANN has stated that it will need to limit the maximum number of new gTLDs that may be delegated in a year to 1,000, which could delay the activation of some approved new gTLDs. Even though IDN gTLDs have been given priority, other factors related to the application process could delay or disrupt an application and the timing of revenue generation, if any, from these gTLDs. Further, there is no guarantee that such new gTLDs will be any more successful than the new gTLDs obtained by our competitors. For example, some of the new gTLDs including our new gTLD strings, may face additional universal acceptability and usability challenges in that current desktop and mobile device software does not ubiquitously recognize these new gTLDs and may be slow to adopt standards or support these gTLDs, even if demand for such products is strong. This is particularly true for IDN gTLDs, but applies to conventional gTLDs as well.

Similarly, while we originally entered into agreements to provide back-end registry services to other applicants for approximately 220 new gTLDs, and applicants for approximately 170 new gTLDs currently continue to contract with us to provide back-end registry services, there is no guarantee that such applicants with which we have entered into agreements will be successful in obtaining one or more of these new gTLDs or that such new gTLDs will be successful due to some or all of the factors discussed above in connection with our new gTLDs. We also cannot guarantee that we will ultimately provide back-end registry services for all of these new gTLDs. ICANN’s Registry Agreement for new gTLDs requires the distribution of new gTLDs only through registrars who have executed the 2013 RAA. If registrars do not execute the 2013 RAA, our ability to provide back-end registry services would be reduced, negatively impacting the sale of our back-end registry services for new gTLDs. Even if we are able to provide such services, the timing of revenue may also be dependent on how diligently our customers proceed to delegation and launch following the completion of the application process and our customers’ respective launch plans for the new gTLDs. In addition, we may face risks regarding ICANN requirements for mitigating name collisions in the new gTLDs which we operate or for which we provide back-end registry services.

We cannot assess the impact, if any, the introduction of these new gTLDs will have on our revenues and results of operations. See Item 1A. “Risk Factors—We may face additional competition, operational and other risks from the introduction of new gTLDs by ICANN, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition and cash flows,” of this Form 10-K.

Cost of revenues

Cost of revenues consist primarily of salaries and employee benefits expenses for our personnel who manage the operational systems, depreciation expenses, operational costs associated with the delivery of our services, fees paid to ICANN, customer support and training, consulting and development services, costs of facilities and computer equipment used in these activities, telecommunications expense and allocations of indirect costs such as corporate overhead.

A comparison of cost of revenues is presented below:

| | 2014 | % | 2013 | % | 2012 |
|------------------|------------------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|
| | | Change | | Change | |
| | (Dollars in thousands) | | | | |
| Cost of revenues | \$ 188,425 | 1% | \$ 187,013 | 12% | \$ 167,600 |

2014 compared to 2013: Cost of revenues increased slightly, primarily due to increases in allocated overhead expenses and depreciation expenses. Allocated overhead expenses increased by \$1.8 million, primarily due to an increase in allocable indirect costs. Depreciation expenses increased by \$1.5 million, primarily due to an increase in hardware and equipment purchases to support our network infrastructure in recent years.

2013 compared to 2012: Cost of revenues increased primarily due to increases in registry fees, depreciation expenses, and salary and employee benefits expenses, including stock-based compensation expenses. Registry fees increased by \$9.2 million, due to increased registry fees required to be paid under the renewed .com Registry Agreement which became effective in the fourth quarter of 2012. Depreciation expenses increased by \$7.0 million, primarily due to an increase in capital expenditures in 2013, the acceleration of depreciation on an abandoned software project in 2013, and a change in the estimated useful lives of computer

hardware and equipment assets from three years to four years in 2012. Salary and employee benefits expenses, including stock-based compensation expenses, increased by \$4.2 million primarily due to an increase in bonus expenses as a result of a lower payout of fiscal 2012 bonuses.

We expect cost of revenues as a percentage of revenues to remain consistent in 2015 as compared to 2014.

Sales and marketing

Sales and marketing expenses consist primarily of salaries, sales commissions, sales operations and other personnel-related expenses, travel and related expenses, gTLD application costs, trade shows, costs of lead generation, costs of computer and communications equipment and support services, facilities costs, consulting fees, costs of marketing programs, such as online, television, radio, print and direct mail advertising costs, and allocations of indirect costs such as corporate overhead.

A comparison of sales and marketing expenses is presented below:

| | 2014 | % Change | 2013 | % Change | 2012 |
|---------------------|------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| | (Dollars in thousands) | | | | |
| Sales and marketing | \$ 92,001 | 3% | \$ 89,337 | (9)% | \$ 97,809 |

2014 compared to 2013: Sales and marketing expenses increased primarily due to increases in advertising and marketing expenses and stock-based compensation expenses, partially offset by a decrease in contract and professional services expenses. Advertising and marketing expenses increased by \$2.7 million primarily due to an increase in advertising expenses for product marketing initiatives promoting Registry and NIA services and an increase in general corporate marketing expenses. Stock-based compensation expenses increased by \$1.8 million, primarily due to additional expense recognized for certain performance-based RSUs which was recorded based on their period-end fair value as well as an increase in expense related to higher expected attainment levels for performance-based RSUs granted in 2013 and 2014, and lower expense recognized during 2013 as a result of lower actual attainment level for performance-based RSUs granted in 2012. Contract and professional services expenses decreased by \$2.0 million, primarily due to a decrease in strategy consulting costs related to new gTLDs and other marketing research expenses.

2013 compared to 2012: Sales and marketing expenses decreased primarily due to decreases in advertising and consulting services expenses, fees paid to ICANN for new gTLD applications, and allocated overhead expenses. Advertising and consulting services expenses decreased by \$2.5 million, due to changes in product marketing programs and the timing of marketing initiatives in our Registry Services business. During 2012, we applied for 14 new gTLDs and incurred fees of \$2.6 million related to those applications. Allocated overhead expenses decreased by \$1.6 million primarily due to a decrease in average headcount relative to other functions and a decrease in allocable expenses.

We expect sales and marketing expenses as a percentage of revenues to remain consistent in 2015 as compared to 2014.

Research and development

Research and development expenses consist primarily of costs related to research and development personnel, including salaries and other personnel-related expenses, consulting fees, facilities costs, computer and communications equipment, support services used in our service and technology development, and allocations of indirect costs such as corporate overhead.

A comparison of research and development expenses is presented below:

| | 2014 | % Change | 2013 | % Change | 2012 |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| | (Dollars in thousands) | | | | |
| Research and development | \$ 67,777 | (4)% | \$ 70,297 | 14% | \$ 61,694 |

2014 compared to 2013: Research and development expenses decreased primarily due to a \$1.7 million decrease in contract and professional services expenses from lower consulting costs on various development projects as we have shifted more development work to our employees.

2013 compared to 2012: Research and development expenses increased primarily due to an increase in salary and employee benefits expenses, including stock-based compensation expenses, and a decrease in capitalized labor, partially offset by a decrease in contract and professional services expenses. Salary and employee benefits expenses, including stock-based compensation expenses, increased by \$8.5 million, primarily due to an increase in average headcount to support the development of our DNS infrastructure and new services and higher bonus expenses as a result of a lower payout of fiscal 2012 bonuses. Capitalized labor

decreased by \$2.0 million in 2013 due to a decrease in the volume of work performed on internally developed software projects. Contract and professional services expenses decreased by \$3.4 million due to lower consulting costs on various projects.

We expect research and development expenses as a percentage of revenues to remain consistent in 2015 as compared to 2014.

General and administrative

General and administrative expenses consist primarily of salaries and other personnel-related expenses for our executive, administrative, legal, finance, information technology and human resources personnel, costs of facilities, computer and communications equipment, management information systems, support services, professional services fees, certain tax and license fees, and bad debt expense, offset by allocations of indirect costs such as facilities and shared services expenses to other cost types.

A comparison of general and administrative expenses is presented below:

| | 2014 | % | 2013 | % | 2012 |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| | | Change | | Change | |
| | (Dollars in thousands) | | | | |
| General and administrative | \$ 97,487 | 8% | \$ 90,208 | 1% | \$ 89,162 |

2014 compared to 2013: General and administrative expenses increased primarily due to increases in salary and employee benefit expenses, stock-based compensation expenses, contract and professional services expenses, and depreciation expenses, partially offset by an increase in overhead expenses allocated to other cost types and a decrease in legal expenses. Salary and employee benefits expenses increased by \$3.8 million, primarily due to higher average headcount and increase in severance expenses. Stock-based compensation expenses increased by \$5.5 million due to additional expense recognized for certain performance-based RSUs which were recorded based on their period-end fair value as well as an increase in expense related to higher expected attainment levels for performance-based RSUs granted in 2013 and 2014, and lower expense recognized during 2013 as a result of lower actual attainment level for performance-based RSUs granted in 2012. Contract and professional services expenses increased by \$2.0 million, primarily due to increases in strategic consulting costs. Depreciation expenses increased by \$1.5 million, primarily due to the additional depreciation related to an internal use software product being placed into service in 2014. Overhead expenses allocated to other cost types increased by \$3.5 million due to an increase in total allocable indirect costs. Legal expenses decreased by \$2.7 million primarily due to a reduction in legal services related to income tax matters and our patent portfolio.

2013 compared to 2012: General and administrative expenses remained consistent in 2013 compared to 2012 as an increase in salary and employee benefits expenses, including stock-based compensation in 2013, and the 2012 reimbursement of previously incurred legal costs, received upon settlement of indemnification claims with the selling shareholders of a previously acquired business, were offset by decreases in legal expenses, occupancy expenses, and contract and professional services expenses. Salary and employee benefits expenses increased by \$7.5 million, including a \$1.6 million increase in stock-based compensation expenses, primarily due to an increase in average headcount and higher bonus expenses as compared to 2012 as a result of a lower payout of fiscal 2012 bonuses. Stock-based compensation expenses increased due to higher expected attainment levels for performance based RSUs granted to the Company's executives in 2013. In the fourth quarter of 2012, we recognized a credit of \$4.5 million related to reimbursement of previously incurred legal costs, received upon settlement of indemnification claims with the selling shareholders of a previously acquired business. Legal expenses decreased by \$8.3 million due to costs incurred in 2012 to support the DOC's review of our renewal of the .com Registry Agreement with ICANN, in addition to decreases in patent and trademark related expenses and legal advice related to ICANN's new gTLD program. Occupancy expenses decreased by \$2.6 million primarily due to the reversal of certain accrued expenses upon the resolution of a dispute related to a vacated office lease and a decrease in leased space. Contract and professional services expenses decreased by \$1.7 million due to an increase in costs capitalized related to development and implementation of internal use software.

We expect general and administrative expenses as a percentage of revenues to remain consistent in 2015 as compared to 2014.

Interest expense

See Note 6, "Debt and interest expense" of our Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 15 of this Form 10-K. We expect interest expense to remain consistent in 2015 as compared to 2014.

Non-operating income, net

See Note 11, "Non-operating income, net" of our Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 15 of this Form 10-K.

Income tax (benefit) expense

| | Year Ended December 31, | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------|------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
| | (Dollars in thousands) | | |
| Income tax (benefit) expense from continuing operations | \$ 128,051 | \$ (87,679) | \$ 100,210 |
| Effective tax rate | 26% | (19)% | 24% |

Our effective tax rate for 2014 was lower than the statutory federal rate of 35% primarily due to benefits from foreign income taxed at lower rates, partially offset by state income taxes and net income tax expense of \$9.8 million due to a non-U.S. income tax charge in the fourth quarter of 2014 related to a reorganization of certain international operations and changes in estimates during 2014 for U.S. income taxes related to the 2013 worthless stock deduction and the 2014 repatriation of earnings from foreign subsidiaries.

During the fourth quarter of 2013, we liquidated for tax purposes one of our domestic subsidiaries, which allowed us to claim a worthless stock deduction on our 2013 federal income tax return. We recorded an income tax benefit during the fourth quarter of 2013 of \$375.3 million related to the worthless stock deduction, net of valuation allowances and accrual for uncertain tax positions. The financial statement carrying value of this subsidiary was not material. The worthless stock deduction may be subject to audit and adjustment by the IRS, which could result in reversal of all, part or none of the income tax benefit, or could result in a benefit higher than the net amount recorded. If the IRS rejects or reduces the amount of the income tax benefit related to the worthless stock deduction, we may have to pay additional cash income taxes, which could adversely affect our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows. We cannot guarantee what the ultimate outcome or amount of the benefit we receive, if any, will be. During the fourth quarter of 2013, we recorded an income tax expense of \$167.1 million related to taxable income generated in the U.S. as a result of the 2014 repatriation. For funds remaining in the foreign subsidiaries after the repatriation that have not been previously taxed in the U.S., our intent remains to indefinitely reinvest those funds outside of the U.S. and accordingly we have not provided deferred U.S. taxes. See Note 12, "Income Taxes," of our Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 15 of this Form 10-K.

Our effective tax rate for 2013 was lower than the statutory federal rate of 35% primarily due to benefits from the worthless stock deduction, net of valuation allowances and accrual for uncertain tax positions and tax benefits from foreign income taxed at lower rates, partially offset by the expense related to the repatriation of cash held by foreign subsidiaries and state income taxes.

Our effective tax rate for 2012 was lower than the statutory federal rate of 35% primarily due to tax benefits from foreign income taxed at lower rates and a decrease in valuation allowances related to deferred tax assets, partially offset by state income taxes and non-deductible stock based compensation.

As of December 31, 2014, we had deferred tax assets arising from deductible temporary differences, tax losses, and tax credits of \$304.3 million, net of valuation allowances, but before the offset of certain deferred tax liabilities. With the exception of deferred tax assets related to capital loss carryforwards, we believe it is more likely than not that the tax effects of the deferred tax liabilities, together with future taxable income, will be sufficient to fully recover the remaining deferred tax assets. Our deferred tax assets related to net operating loss carryforwards decreased in 2014 as the net operating loss carryforwards were utilized to offset 2014 taxable income, including the repatriation of foreign earnings.

We qualified for two tax holidays in Switzerland. The tax holidays provide reduced rates of taxation on certain types of income and also require certain thresholds of foreign source income. One of the tax holidays is effective through December 31, 2016, and upon expiration may be subject to renewal if certain criteria are satisfied. The other tax holiday in Switzerland expired on December 31, 2014, and has not been extended. These two tax holidays increased our earnings per share by \$ 0.50, \$ 0.18 and \$ 0.11 in 2014, 2013, and 2012, respectively. We qualify for an additional tax holiday in Switzerland which will take effect beginning in 2015. This tax holiday is indefinite, unless the required thresholds are no longer met, or there is a law change which eliminates the holiday. In the fourth quarter of 2014, we incurred a charge of \$ 14.5 million in non-US income taxes as a result of a reorganization of certain international operations. As a result of the tax holiday which becomes effective in 2015, and the reorganization, we do not believe there will be a significant change to our international tax rate after the expiration of the tax holiday in Switzerland.

Income from discontinued operations, net of tax

See Note 4, "Discontinued Operations," of our Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 15 of this Form 10-K.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

| | As of December 31, | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 |
| | (In thousands) | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 191,608 | \$ 339,223 |
| Marketable securities | 1,233,076 | 1,384,062 |
| Total | <u>\$ 1,424,684</u> | <u>\$ 1,723,285</u> |

As of December 31, 2014, our principal source of liquidity was \$191.6 million of cash and cash equivalents and \$1.2 billion of marketable securities. The marketable securities consist of debt securities issued by the U.S. Treasury meeting the criteria of our investment policy, which is focused on the preservation of our capital through investment in investment grade securities. The cash equivalents consist mainly of amounts invested in money market funds and U.S. Treasury bills purchased with original maturities of less than 90 days. As of December 31, 2014, all of our marketable securities have contractual maturities of less than one year. Our cash and cash equivalents are readily accessible. For additional information on our investment portfolio, see Note 2, “Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Marketable Securities,” of our Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 15 of this Form 10-K.

During the second quarter of 2014, we completed the repatriation of approximately \$740.9 million of cash held by foreign subsidiaries, net of foreign withholding taxes of \$28.1 million. As of December 31, 2014, the amount of cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities held by foreign subsidiaries was \$939.0 million. Our intent remains to indefinitely reinvest these funds outside of the U.S. and accordingly, we have not provided deferred U.S. taxes for these funds. In the event funds from foreign operations are needed to fund operations in the U.S. and if U.S. tax has not already been provided, we would be required to accrue and pay additional U.S. taxes in order to repatriate these funds. We utilized substantially all of the remaining net operating losses generated from the 2013 worthless stock deduction to offset current year taxable income including the taxable income recognized in the U.S. as a result of the repatriation. The repatriation generated foreign source income in the U.S. which allows the Company to claim eligible foreign taxes amounting to \$187.7 million paid in the current year and prior years as foreign tax credits instead of as deductions. The majority of these foreign tax credits will expire in 2024. See “Risk Factors - Changes in, or interpretations of, tax rules and regulations or our tax positions may adversely affect our effective tax rates.” As of December 31, 2014, the amount of undistributed earnings of foreign subsidiaries for which deferred income taxes have not been provided was \$447.0 million.

In 2014, proceeds from sales and maturities of marketable securities, net of purchases were \$151.6 million compared with \$59.0 million in 2013. In 2012, purchases of marketable securities were \$1.4 billion, net of sales and maturities.

In 2014, we repurchased 16.3 million shares of our common stock at an average stock price of \$53.15 for an aggregate cost of \$867.1 million. In 2013, we repurchased 21.0 million shares of our common stock at an average stock price of \$48.65 for an aggregate cost of \$1.0 billion. In 2012, we repurchased 7.7 million shares of our common stock at an average stock price of \$40.90 for an aggregate cost of \$314.6 million. As of December 31, 2014, there was \$623.5 million remaining for future share repurchases under the Share Buyback Program. Effective January 30, 2015, the Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of approximately \$452.9 million of our common stock, in addition to the \$547.1 million of our common stock remaining available for repurchase under the previous share repurchase program, for a total repurchase authorization of up to \$1.0 billion of our common stock.

As of December 31, 2014, we had \$1.25 billion principal amount outstanding of 3.25% Subordinated Convertible Debentures due 2037 (See Note 6 “Debt and Interest Expense” of the accompanying consolidated financial statements).

The price of our common stock exceeded the conversion price threshold trigger during the fourth quarter of 2014. Accordingly, the Subordinated Convertible Debentures are convertible at the option of each holder through March 31, 2015. We do not expect a material amount of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures to be converted in the near term as the trading price of the debentures exceeds the value that is likely to be received upon conversion. However, we cannot provide any assurance that the trading price of the debentures will continue to exceed the value that would be derived upon conversion or that the holders will not elect to convert the Subordinated Convertible Debentures.

If a holder elects to convert its Subordinated Convertible Debentures, we are permitted under the Indenture to pursue an exchange in lieu of conversion or to settle the conversion value (as defined in the Indenture) in cash, stock, or a combination thereof. If we choose not to pursue or cannot complete an exchange in lieu of conversion, we currently have the intent and the ability (based on current facts and circumstances) to settle the principal amount of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures in cash. However, if the principal amount of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures that holders actually elect to convert exceeds our cash on hand and cash from operations, we will need to draw cash from existing financing or pursue additional

sources of financing to settle the Subordinated Convertible Debentures in cash. We cannot provide any assurances that we will be able to obtain new sources of financing on terms acceptable to us or at all, nor can we assure that we will be able to obtain such financing in time to settle the Subordinated Convertible Debentures that holders elect to convert.

On August 14, 2014, the upside trigger on the Subordinated Convertible Debentures was met for the six month interest period from August 15, 2014 through February 14, 2015. On February 15, 2015, we will pay contingent interest of \$5.2 million in addition to the normal coupon interest to holders of record of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures as of February 1, 2015. The upside trigger is met if the Subordinated Convertible Debentures' average trading price is at least 150% of par during the 10 trading days before each semi-annual interest period. The upside trigger is tested semi-annually for the following six months. The semi-annual upside contingent interest payment, for a given period, can be approximated by applying the annual rate of 0.5% to the aggregate market value of all outstanding Subordinated Convertible Debentures and dividing by two for that semi-annual period payment amount.

On April 16, 2013, we issued \$750.0 million aggregate principal amount of 4.625% senior unsecured notes due 2023 in a private offering. The Senior Notes will mature in May 2023. We used a portion of the net proceeds to repay the \$100.0 million of outstanding indebtedness under our Unsecured Credit Facility. The remaining portion of the proceeds were used for general corporate purposes including the repurchase of shares under the Share Buyback Program. The Unsecured Credit Facility remains available with a borrowing capacity of \$200.0 million.

We believe existing cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities, and funds generated from operations, together with our ability to arrange for additional financing should be sufficient to meet our working capital, capital expenditure requirements, and to service our debt for the next 12 months. We regularly assess our cash management approach and activities in view of our current and potential future needs.

In summary, our cash flows for 2014, 2013, and 2012 were as follows:

| | Year Ended December 31, | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
| | (In thousands) | | |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | \$ 600,949 | \$ 579,397 | \$ 537,630 |
| Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities | 112,688 | (11,062) | (1,442,353) |
| Net cash used in financing activities | (859,752) | (357,333) | (277,752) |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents | (1,500) | (2,515) | (138) |
| Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents | <u>\$ (147,615)</u> | <u>\$ 208,487</u> | <u>\$ (1,182,613)</u> |

Net cash provided by operating activities

Our largest source of operating cash flows is cash collections from our customers. Our primary uses of cash from operating activities are for personnel related expenditures, and other general operating expenses, as well as payments related to taxes, interest and facilities.

2014 compared to 2013: Cash provided by operating activities increased primarily due to an increase in cash received from customers partially offset by increases in cash paid for interest and cash paid to employees and vendors. Cash received from customers increased primarily due to an increase in new and renewed domain name registrations during 2014. Cash paid for interest increased due to the issuance of the Senior Notes in April 2013. Payments to employees and vendors increased primarily due to an increase in operating expenses.

2013 compared to 2012: Cash provided by operating activities increased primarily due to an increase in cash received from customers, and decreases in cash paid to employees and vendors offset by increases in interest paid and income taxes paid. Cash received from customers increased primarily due to an increase in new and renewed domain name registrations during 2013. Payments to employees and vendors decreased primarily due to the timing of payments to vendors. Interest paid increased in 2013 as a result of the issuance of our Senior Notes in April 2013. Income taxes paid increased primarily due to federal income tax payments made during 2013 based on estimated taxable income before we determined that we would claim a worthless stock deduction that ultimately resulted in a tax loss for the year.

Net cash provided by (used in) by investing activities

The changes in cash flows from investing activities primarily relate to purchases, maturities and sales of marketable securities, and purchases of property and equipment.

2014 compared to 2013: The change in cash provided by (used in) investing activities was primarily due to an increase in proceeds from maturities and sales of marketable securities, net of purchases of marketable securities and a decrease in purchases of property and equipment.

2013 compared to 2012: Cash used in investing activities decreased primarily due to \$1.4 billion of purchases of marketable securities, net of sales and maturities, during 2012 compared to \$58.5 million of sales and maturities of marketable securities, net of purchases, in 2013, partially offset by an increase in purchases of property and equipment as we continue to invest in our infrastructure.

Net cash used in financing activities

The changes in cash flows from financing activities primarily relate to share repurchases, proceeds from and repayment of borrowings, stock option exercises, our employee stock purchase plan (“ESPP”), and excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation.

2014 compared to 2013: Net cash used in financing activities increased due to the proceeds received in 2013 from the issuance of Senior Notes and a decrease in proceeds from stock options exercises and ESPP as well as lower recognized excess tax benefits associated with stock-based compensation, partially offset by a decrease in share repurchases and the repayment of borrowings under our credit facility in 2013.

2013 compared to 2012: Net cash used in financing activities increased primarily due to an increase in share repurchases during 2013 and repayment of the outstanding indebtedness under our Unsecured Credit Facility in 2013, partially offset by proceeds received from the issuance of Senior Notes in 2013.

Impact of Inflation

We do not believe that inflation has had a significant impact on our operations in any of the periods presented.

Income taxes

We derive significant tax savings from the Subordinated Convertible Debentures. During 2014 and 2013, the interest deduction, for income tax purposes, related to our Subordinated Convertible Debentures was \$154.9 million and \$145.8 million, respectively, compared to coupon interest expense of \$40.6 million for each of the same periods. For income tax purposes, we deduct interest expense on the Subordinated Convertible Debentures calculated at 8.5% of the adjusted issue price, subject to adjustment for actual versus projected contingent interest. The adjusted issue price, and consequently the interest deduction for income tax purposes, grows over the term due to the difference between the interest deduction taken using a comparable yield of 8.5% on the adjusted issue price, and the coupon rate of 3.25% on the principal amount, compounded annually. The interest deduction taken is subject to recapture upon settlement to the extent that the amount paid (in cash or stock) to settle the Subordinated Convertible Debentures is less than the adjusted issue price. Interest recognized in accordance with GAAP, which is calculated at 8.39% of the liability component of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures, will also grow over the term, but at a slower rate. This difference will result in a continuing increase in the deferred tax liability on our Consolidated Balance Sheet.

If the amount paid (in cash or stock) to settle the Subordinated Convertible Debentures (i.e., the Settlement Amount) is less than the adjusted issue price, under the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations thereunder, the difference is included in taxable income as recapture of previous interest deductions. The Settlement Amount will vary based on the stock price at settlement date. Depending on the Settlement Amount for the Subordinated Convertible Debentures at the settlement date, the amount included in taxable income as a result of this recapture could be substantial, which could adversely impact our cash flow.

We do not expect to pay U.S. federal income taxes during 2015 as a result of the interest deduction on our Subordinated Convertible Debentures, and the use of foreign tax credits and research tax credits. We expect the amount of cash paid for non-U.S. income taxes in 2015 to be consistent with 2014.

Property and Equipment Expenditures

Our planned property and equipment expenditures for 2015 are anticipated to be between \$40.0 million and \$50.0 million and will primarily be focused on infrastructure upgrades and enhancements to our product portfolio.

Contractual Obligations

See Note 13, “Commitments and Contingencies,” *Purchase Obligations and Contractual Agreements*, of our Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 15 of this Form 10-K.

We enter into indemnification agreements with many of our customers in the ordinary course of business. We also entered into indemnification agreements with Symantec in connection with the sale of the Authentication Services business. See Note 13, “Commitments and Contingencies,” *Indemnifications*, of our Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 15 of this Form 10-K.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

It is not our business practice to enter into off-balance sheet arrangements. As of December 31, 2014, we did not have any significant off-balance sheet arrangements. See Note 13, “Commitments and Contingencies,” *Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements*, of our Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 15 of this Form 10-K for further information regarding off-balance sheet arrangements.

Dilution from Subordinated Convertible Debentures, RSUs and Stock Options

The conversion of our Subordinated Convertible Debentures may dilute the holdings of existing shareholders due to the potential number of shares that could be required to settle the Subordinated Convertible Debentures. We have the intent and ability to settle the principal amount of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures in cash, but the excess of the conversion value over the principal amount (“the conversion spread”) may be settled in shares of common stock. As of December 31, 2014, there are 36.4 million shares of common stock reserved for issuance upon conversion or repurchase of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures. Based on the if-converted value of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures as of December 31, 2014, the conversion spread could have required us to issue up to 14.4 million shares of common stock. See Item 1A. “Risk Factors—We may not have the ability to repurchase the Subordinated Convertible Debentures in cash upon the occurrence of a fundamental change, or to pay cash upon the conversion of Subordinated Convertible Debentures; Occurrence of certain events related to our Subordinated Convertible Debentures might have significant adverse accounting, disclosure, tax, and liquidity implications,” of this Form 10-K.

Grants of stock-based awards are key components of the compensation packages we provide to attract and retain certain of our talented employees and align their interests with the interests of existing stockholders. We recognize that these stock-based awards dilute existing stockholders and have sought to control the number granted while providing competitive compensation packages. As of December 31, 2014, there are a total of 2.2 million unvested RSUs which represent potential dilution of 1.8%. This maximum potential dilution will only result if all outstanding RSUs vest and are settled. There were no stock options granted in the last three years. In recent years, our stock repurchase program has more than offset the dilutive effect of our stock option and RSU programs; however, we may reduce the level of our stock repurchases in the future as we may use our available cash for other purposes.

ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

We are exposed to financial market risks, including changes in interest rates, foreign exchange rates and market risks. We have not entered into any market risk sensitive instruments for trading purposes.

Interest rate sensitivity

Our marketable securities consist of fixed income securities which are subject to interest rate risk. As of December 31, 2014, we had \$1.2 billion of fixed income securities, which consisted of U.S. Treasury bills with maturities of less than one year. A hypothetical change in interest rates by 100 basis points would not have a significant impact on the fair value of our investments.

Foreign exchange risk management

We conduct business throughout the world and transact in multiple foreign currencies. Our foreign currency risk management program is designed to mitigate foreign exchange risks associated with monetary assets and liabilities of our operations that are denominated in non-functional currencies. The primary objective of this program is to minimize the gains and losses to income resulting from fluctuations in exchange rates. We may choose not to hedge certain foreign exchange exposures due to immateriality, prohibitive economic cost of hedging particular exposures, and limited availability of appropriate hedging instruments. We do not enter into foreign currency transactions for trading or speculative purposes, nor do we hedge foreign currency exposures in a manner that entirely offsets the effects of changes in exchange rates. The program may entail the use of forward or option contracts, which are usually placed and adjusted monthly. These foreign currency forward contracts are derivatives and are recorded at fair market value. We attempt to limit our exposure to credit risk by executing foreign exchange contracts with financial institutions that have investment grade ratings.

As of December 31, 2014, we held foreign currency forward contracts in notional amounts totaling \$29.7 million to mitigate the impact of exchange rate fluctuations associated with certain foreign currencies. Gains or losses on the foreign currency forward contracts would be largely offset by the remeasurement of our foreign currency denominated assets and liabilities, resulting in an insignificant net impact to income.

A hypothetical uniform 10% strengthening or weakening in the value of the U.S. dollar relative to the foreign currencies in which our revenues and expenses are denominated would not result in a significant impact to our financial statements.

Market risk management

The fair market values of our Subordinated Convertible Debentures and the Senior Notes are subject to interest rate risk. Generally, the fair market value of fixed interest rate debt will increase as interest rates fall and decrease as interest rates rise. The Subordinated Convertible Debentures are subject to market risk due to the convertible feature of the debentures, the fair market value will increase as the market price of our common stock increases, and decrease as the market price of our common stock falls. The interest and market value changes affect the fair market value of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures and the Senior Notes but do not impact our financial condition, cash flows or results of operations. As of December 31, 2014, the fair value of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures was approximately \$2.2 billion and the fair value of the Senior Notes was \$727.6 million, based on available market information from public data sources.

The fair market value of the contingent interest derivative on Subordinated Convertible Debentures is also subject to market risk and, to a lesser extent, to interest rate risk. Generally, the fair market value of the contingent interest derivative will increase or decrease with the fair market value of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Financial Statements

Verisign's financial statements required by this Item are set forth as a separate section of this Form 10-K. See Item 15 for a listing of financial statements provided in the section titled "Financial Statements."

Supplementary Data (Unaudited)

The following tables set forth unaudited supplementary quarterly financial data for the two year period ended December 31, 2014. In management's opinion, the unaudited data has been prepared on the same basis as the audited information and includes all adjustments (consisting only of normal recurring adjustments) necessary for a fair presentation of the data for the periods presented.

| | 2014 | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| | Quarter Ended | | | | Year Ended | |
| | March 31 (2) | June 30 (3) | September 30 (4) | December 31 (5) | December 31, | |
| | (In thousands, except per share data) | | | | | |
| Revenues | \$ 248,796 | \$ 250,382 | \$ 255,022 | \$ 255,917 | \$ 1,010,117 | |
| Gross Profit | \$ 200,770 | \$ 204,393 | \$ 208,089 | \$ 208,440 | \$ 821,692 | |
| Operating Income | \$ 139,585 | \$ 143,121 | \$ 139,500 | \$ 142,221 | \$ 564,427 | |
| Net income | \$ 94,423 | \$ 100,176 | \$ 95,189 | \$ 65,472 | \$ 355,260 | |
| Net income per share (1): | | | | | | |
| Basic | \$ 0.71 | \$ 0.77 | \$ 0.77 | \$ 0.54 | \$ 2.80 | |
| Diluted | \$ 0.64 | \$ 0.71 | \$ 0.69 | \$ 0.48 | \$ 2.52 | |

- Net income per share for the year is computed independently and may not equal the sum of the quarterly net income per share.
- Net income for the quarter ended March 31, 2014 was increased by \$5.3 million pre-tax unrealized gain due to a decrease in the fair value of the embedded contingent interest derivative related to our Subordinated Convertible Debentures.
- Net income for the quarter ended June 30, 2014 was increased by \$5.2 million pre-tax unrealized gain due to a decrease in the fair value of the embedded contingent interest derivative related to our Subordinated Convertible Debentures and an additional \$5.2 million discrete tax benefit recognized due to changes in estimates of U.S. income taxes related to the 2013 worthless stock deduction and the 2014 repatriation of earnings from foreign subsidiaries.
- Net income for the quarter ended September 30, 2014 was increased by an \$11.4 million discrete income tax benefit recognized due to changes in estimates of U.S. income taxes related to the 2014 repatriation of earnings from foreign subsidiaries, partially offset by \$6.6 million pre-tax unrealized loss due to an increase in the fair value of the embedded contingent interest derivative related to our Subordinated Convertible Debentures.
- Net income for the fourth quarter of 2014 was reduced by an income tax expense of \$26.4 million due to non-U.S. income taxes related to a reorganization of certain international operations and changes in estimates of U.S. income taxes related to the 2013 worthless stock deduction and the 2014 repatriation of earnings from foreign subsidiaries.

| | 2013 | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| | Quarter Ended | | | | Year Ended | |
| | March 31 | June 30 | September 30 (2) | December 31 (3) | December 31, | |
| | (In thousands, except per share data) | | | | | |
| Revenues | \$ 236,447 | \$ 239,332 | \$ 243,678 | \$ 245,630 | \$ 965,087 | |
| Gross Profit | \$ 189,193 | \$ 192,702 | \$ 197,124 | \$ 199,055 | \$ 778,074 | |
| Operating Income | \$ 133,264 | \$ 132,081 | \$ 132,713 | \$ 130,174 | \$ 528,232 | |
| Net income | \$ 84,513 | \$ 86,890 | \$ 80,898 | \$ 292,149 | \$ 544,450 | |
| Net income per share (1): | | | | | | |
| Basic | \$ 0.55 | \$ 0.58 | \$ 0.57 | \$ 2.15 | \$ 3.77 | |
| Diluted | \$ 0.52 | \$ 0.55 | \$ 0.53 | \$ 1.94 | \$ 3.49 | |

- Net income per share for the year is computed independently and may not equal the sum of the quarterly net income per share.
- Net income for the quarter ended September 30, 2013 was reduced by \$5.3 million pre-tax unrealized loss due to an increase in the fair value of the embedded contingent interest derivative related to our Subordinated Convertible Debentures.
- Net income for the quarter ended December 31, 2013 includes a \$375.3 million income tax benefit related to a worthless stock deduction net of valuation allowances and accrual for uncertain tax positions, and \$15.8 million pre-tax gain on sale of certain cost method investments, partially offset by \$167.1 million income tax expense related to the repatriation of cash held by foreign subsidiaries in 2014, and \$8.1 million pre-tax unrealized loss due to an increase in the fair value of the embedded contingent interest derivative related to our Subordinated Convertible Debentures. Income tax benefit related to the worthless stock deduction and income tax expense related to the repatriation of cash held by foreign subsidiaries is further described in Note 12, "Income Taxes," of our Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 15 of this Form 10-K.

Our quarterly revenues and operating results are difficult to forecast. Therefore, we believe that period-to-period comparisons of our operating results will not necessarily be meaningful, and should not be relied upon as an indication of future performance. Also, operating results may fall below our expectations and the expectations of securities analysts or investors in one or more future quarters. If this were to occur, the market price of our common stock would likely decline. For further information regarding the quarterly fluctuation of our revenues and operating results, see Item 1A, “Risk Factors-Our operating results may fluctuate and our future revenues and profitability are uncertain” of this Form 10-K.

ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

Not applicable.

ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

a. Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Based on our management’s evaluation, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer (our principal executive officer) and our Chief Financial Officer (our principal financial officer), as of December 31, 2014, our principal executive officer and principal financial officer have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, (the “Exchange Act”)) are effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in SEC rules and forms and is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

b. Management’s Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act. Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, we conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014 using the criteria established in *Internal Control-Integrated Framework* (2013 Framework) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (“COSO”).

Based on our evaluation under the COSO framework, management has concluded that our internal control over financial reporting is effective to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

KPMG LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, has issued a report concerning the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014. See “Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm” in Item 15 of this Form 10-K.

c. Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

There was no change in our internal control over financial reporting (as such term is defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act) during the three months ended December 31, 2014 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company’s internal control over financial reporting.

d. Inherent Limitations of Disclosure Controls and Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Because of their inherent limitations, our disclosure controls and procedures and our internal control over financial reporting may not prevent material errors or fraud. A control system, no matter how well conceived and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the control system are met. The effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures and our internal control over financial reporting is subject to risks, including that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the degree of compliance with our policies or procedures may deteriorate.

ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION

Not applicable.

PART III

ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The information required by this item relating to our directors and nominees, regarding compliance with Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act, and regarding our Audit Committee, Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee and Compensation Committee will be included under the captions “Proposal No. 1: Election of Directors,” “Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management-Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance,” and “Corporate Governance” in our Proxy Statement related to the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and is incorporated herein by reference (“2015 Proxy Statement”).

Pursuant to General Instruction G(3) of Form 10-K, the information required by this item relating to our executive officers is included under the caption “Executive Officers of the Registrant” in Part I of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

We have adopted a code of ethics that applies to our principal executive officer, principal financial officer and other senior accounting officers. This code of ethics, titled “Code of Ethics for the Chief Executive Officer and Senior Financial Officers,” is posted on our website along with the “Verisign Code of Conduct” that applies to all officers and employees, including the aforementioned officers. The Internet address for our website is *VerisignInc.com*, and the “Code of Ethics for the Chief Executive Officer and Senior Financial Officers” may be found from our main Web page by clicking first on “INVESTORS,” next on “Corporate Governance,” next on “Ethics and Business Conduct,” and finally on “Code of Ethics for the Chief Executive Officer and Senior Financial Officers.” The “Verisign Code of Conduct” applicable to all officers and employees can similarly be found on the Web page for “Ethics and Business Conduct” under the link entitled “Verisign Code of Conduct-2012.”

We intend to satisfy any disclosure requirement under Item 5.05 of Form 8-K regarding an amendment to, or waiver from, a provision of the “Code of Ethics for the Chief Executive Officer and Senior Financial Officers” or, to the extent also applicable to the principal executive officer, principal financial officer, or other senior accounting officers, the “Verisign Code of Conduct-2012” by posting such information on our website, on the Web page found by clicking through to “Ethics and Business Conduct” as specified above.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Information required by this item is incorporated herein by reference to our 2015 Proxy Statement from the discussions under the captions “Compensation of Directors,” “Non-Employee Director Retainer Fees and Equity Compensation Information” and “Non-Employee Director Compensation Table for Fiscal 2014,” and “Executive Compensation.”

ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

Information required by this item is incorporated herein by reference from the discussions under the captions “Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management” and “Equity Compensation Plan Information” in our 2015 Proxy Statement.

ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

Information required by this item is incorporated herein by reference to our 2015 Proxy Statement from the discussions under the captions “Policies and Procedures with Respect to Transactions with Related Persons,” “Certain Relationships and Related Transactions” and “Independence of Directors.”

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES

Information required by this item is incorporated herein by reference to our 2015 Proxy Statement from the discussions under the captions “Principal Accountant Fees and Services” and “Policy on Audit Committee Pre-Approval of Audit and Permissible Non-Audit Services of Independent Auditors.”

PART IV

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS, FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

(a) Documents filed as part of this report

1. Financial statements

- Reports of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm
- Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2014 and 2013
- Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for the Years Ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012
- Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Deficit for the Years Ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012
- Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Years Ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012
- Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

2. Financial statement schedules

Financial statement schedules are omitted because the information called for is not material or is shown either in the consolidated financial statements or the notes thereto.

3. Exhibits

(a) Index to Exhibits

Pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), the Company has filed certain agreements as exhibits to this Form 10-K. These agreements may contain representations and warranties by the parties thereto. These representations and warranties have been made solely for the benefit of the other party or parties to such agreements and (1) may be intended not as statements of fact, but rather as a way of allocating the risk to one of the parties to such agreements if those statements prove to be inaccurate, (2) may have been qualified by disclosures that were made to such other party or parties and that either have been reflected in the Company's filings or are not required to be disclosed in those filings, (3) may apply materiality standards different from what may be viewed as material to investors and (4) were made only as of the date of such agreements or such other date(s) as may be specified in such agreements and are subject to more recent developments. Accordingly, these representations and warranties may not describe the Company's actual state of affairs at the date hereof or at any other time.

| Exhibit Number | Exhibit Description | Incorporated by Reference | | | Filed Herewith |
|----------------|---|---------------------------|----------|--------|----------------|
| | | Form | Date | Number | |
| 2.01 | Agreement and Plan of Merger dated as of March 6, 2000, by and among the Registrant, Nickel Acquisition Corporation and Network Solutions, Inc. | 8-K | 3/8/00 | 2.1 | |
| 2.02 | Agreement and Plan of Merger dated September 23, 2001, by and among the Registrant, Illinois Acquisition Corporation and Illuminet Holdings, Inc. | S-4 | 10/10/01 | 4.03 | |
| 2.03 | Purchase Agreement dated as of October 14, 2003, as amended, among the Registrant and the parties indicated therein. | 8-K | 12/10/03 | 2.1 | |
| 2.04 | Sale and Purchase Agreement Regarding the Sale and Purchase of All Shares in Jamba! AG dated May 23, 2004 between the Registrant and certain other named individuals. | 10-K | 3/16/05 | 2.04 | |
| 2.05 | Asset Purchase Agreement dated October 10, 2005, as amended, among the Registrant, eBay, Inc. and the other parties thereto. | 8-K | 11/23/05 | 2.1 | |

| Exhibit Number | Exhibit Description | Incorporated by Reference | | | Filed Herewith |
|----------------|---|---------------------------|---------|--------|----------------|
| | | Form | Date | Number | |
| 3.01 | Fifth Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Registrant. | 10-Q | 7/24/14 | 3.01 | |
| 3.02 | Seventh Amended and Restated Bylaws of VeriSign, Inc. | 10-Q | 7/24/14 | 3.02 | |
| 4.01 | Indenture dated as of August 20, 2007 between the Registrant and U.S. Bank National Association. | 8-K/A | 9/6/07 | 4.1 | |
| 4.02 | Registration Rights Agreement dated as of August 20, 2007 between the Registrant and J.P. Morgan Securities, Inc. Indenture, dated as of April 16, 2013, between VeriSign, Inc., each of the subsidiary guarantors party thereto and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee. Form of Note (included in Exhibit 4.03). | 8-K/A | 9/6/07 | 4.2 | |
| 4.03 | Indenture, dated as of April 16, 2013, between VeriSign, Inc., each of the subsidiary guarantors party thereto and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee. | 8-K | 4/17/13 | 4.1 | |
| 4.04 | Form of Note (included in Exhibit 4.03). | 8-K | 4/17/13 | 4.2 | |
| 10.01 | Form of Revised Indemnification Agreement entered into by the Registrant with each of its directors and executive officers. | 10-K | 3/31/03 | 10.02 | |
| 10.02 | 409A Options Election Form and related documentation. + | 8-K | 1/4/07 | 99.01 | |
| 10.03 | Registrant's 1998 Directors Stock Option Plan, as amended through May 22, 2003, and form of stock option agreement. + | S-8 | 6/23/03 | 4.02 | |
| 10.04 | Registrant's 2001 Stock Incentive Plan, as amended through November 22, 2002. + | 10-K | 3/31/03 | 10.08 | |
| 10.05 | Registrant's 2006 Equity Incentive Plan, as adopted May 26, 2006. + | 10-Q | 7/12/07 | 10.02 | |
| 10.06 | Registrant's 2006 Equity Incentive Plan, form of Stock Option Agreement. + | 10-Q | 7/12/07 | 10.03 | |
| 10.07 | Registrant's 2006 Equity Incentive Plan, form of Directors Nonqualified Stock Option Grant. + | 10-Q | 8/9/07 | 10.01 | |
| 10.08 | Nonqualified Registrant's 2006 Equity Incentive Plan, amended form of Nonqualified Directors Stock Option Grant. + | S-1 | 11/5/07 | 10.15 | |
| 10.09 | Registrant's 2006 Equity Incentive Plan, form of Employee Restricted Stock Unit Agreement. + | 10-Q | 7/12/07 | 10.04 | |
| 10.10 | Registrant's 2006 Equity Incentive Plan, form of Non-Employee Director Restricted Stock Unit Agreement. + | 10-Q | 7/12/07 | 10.05 | |
| 10.11 | Registrant's 2006 Equity Incentive Plan, form of Performance-Based Restricted Stock Unit Agreement. + | 8-K | 8/30/07 | 99.1 | |
| 10.12 | Registrant's 2007 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, as adopted August 30, | S-1 | 11/5/07 | 10.10 | |

2007. +

| | | | | |
|-------|---|-----|---------|-------|
| 10.13 | Assignment Agreement, dated as of April 18, 1995 between the Registrant and RSA Data Security, Inc. | S-1 | 1/29/98 | 10.15 |
| 10.14 | BSAFE/TIPEM OEM Master License Agreement, dated as of April 18, 1995, between the Registrant and RSA Data Security, Inc., as amended. | S-1 | 1/29/98 | 10.16 |

| Exhibit Number | Exhibit Description | Incorporated by Reference | | | Filed Herewith |
|----------------|---|---------------------------|---------|--------|----------------|
| | | Form | Date | Number | |
| 10.15 | Amendment Number Two to BSAFE/TIPEM OEM Master License Agreement dated as of December 31, 1998 between the Registrant and RSA Data Security, Inc. | S-1 | 1/5/99 | 10.31 | |
| 10.16 | Non-Compete and Non-Solicitation Agreement, dated April 18, 1995, between the Registrant and RSA Security, Inc. | S-1 | 1/29/98 | 10.17 | |
| 10.17 | Microsoft/VeriSign Certificate Technology Preferred Provider Agreement, effective as of May 1, 1997, between the Registrant and Microsoft Corporation.* | S-1 | 1/29/98 | 10.18 | |
| 10.18 | Master Development and License Agreement, dated as of September 30, 1997, between the Registrant and Security Dynamics Technologies, Inc.* | S-1 | 1/29/98 | 10.19 | |
| 10.19 | Amendment Number One to Master Development and License Agreement dated as of December 31, 1998 between the Registrant and Security Dynamics Technologies, Inc. | S-1 | 1/5/99 | 10.30 | |
| 10.20 | Amendment No. Thirty (30) to Cooperative Agreement - Special Awards Conditions NCR-92-18742, between VeriSign and U.S. Department of Commerce managers. | 10-K | 7/12/07 | 10.27 | |
| 10.21 | Confirmation of Accelerated Purchase of Equity Securities dated August 14, 2007 between the Registrant and J P Morgan Securities, Inc. * | S-1 | 11/5/07 | 10.44 | |
| 10.22 | Limited Liability Company Agreement by and among Fox US Mobile Holdings, Inc., News Corporation, VeriSign U.S. Holdings, Inc. and US Mobile Holdings, LLC, dated January 31, 2007.* | 10-Q | 7/16/07 | 10.03 | |
| 10.23 | Confirmation of Accelerated Repurchase of Common Stock dated February 8, 2008 between the Registrant and J.P. Morgan Securities, Inc., as agent to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, London Branch. * | 10-Q | 5/12/08 | 10.01 | |
| 10.24 | Settlement Agreement and General Release by and between VeriSign, Inc. and William A. Roper, Jr., dated June 30, 2008. + | 10-Q | 8/8/08 | 10.02 | |
| 10.25 | Release and Waiver of Age Discrimination Claims by William A. Roper, Jr., dated June 30, 2008. + | 10-Q | 8/8/08 | 10.03 | |
| 10.26 | Assignment of Invention, Nondisclosure and Nonsolicitation Agreement between VeriSign, Inc. and D. James Bidzos, dated August 20, 2008. | 10-Q | 11/7/08 | 10.03 | |
| 10.27 | Assignment of Invention, Nondisclosure and Nonsolicitation Agreement between VeriSign, Inc. and Roger Moore, dated October 1, 2008. | 10-Q | 11/7/08 | 10.05 | |
| 10.28 | Purchase and Termination Agreement dated as of October 6, 2008, by and among Fox Entertainment Group, Inc., Fox US Mobile Holdings, Inc., US Mobile Holdings, LLC, Fox Dutch Mobile B.V., Jamba Netherlands Mobile Holdings GP B.V., Netherlands Mobile Holdings C.V., VeriSign, Inc., VeriSign US Holdings, Inc., VeriSign Netherlands Mobile Holdings B.V., and VeriSign Switzerland S.A. | 10-Q | 11/7/08 | 10.06 | |
| 10.29 | VeriSign, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan, adopted May 26, 2006, as amended August 5, 2008. + | 10-Q | 11/7/08 | 10.07 | |

| | | | | |
|-------|---|------|---------|-------|
| 10.30 | Form of VeriSign, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan Stock Option Agreement. + | 10-Q | 11/7/08 | 10.08 |
| 10.31 | Form of VeriSign, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan Employee Restricted Stock Unit Agreement. + | 10-Q | 11/7/08 | 10.09 |

| Exhibit Number | Exhibit Description | Incorporated by Reference | | | Filed Herewith |
|----------------|--|---------------------------|----------|--------|----------------|
| | | Form | Date | Number | |
| 10.32 | Form of VeriSign, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan Performance Based Restricted Stock Unit Agreement. + | 10-Q | 11/7/08 | 10.10 | |
| 10.33 | Arrangement Agreement dated as of January 23, 2009 between VeriSign, Inc. and Certicom Corp. | 10-K | 3/3/09 | 10.59 | |
| 10.34 | Asset Purchase Agreement between VeriSign, Inc. and Transaction Network Services, dated March 2, 2009. | 10-Q | 5/8/09 | 10.03 | |
| 10.35 | Letter Agreement dated May 1, 2009 to Asset Purchase Agreement between VeriSign, Inc. and Transaction Network Services, Inc., dated March 2, 2009. | 10-Q | 8/6/09 | 10.01 | |
| 10.36 | Acquisition Agreement by and among VeriSign, Inc., a Delaware corporation, VeriSign S.À.R.L., VeriSign Do Brasil Serviços Para Internet Ltda, VeriSign Digital Services Technology (China) Co., Ltd., VeriSign Services India Private Limited, and Syniverse Holdings, Inc., a Delaware corporation dated as of August 24, 2009. * | 10-Q | 11/6/09 | 10.05 | |
| 10.37 | Letter Amendment to the Acquisition Agreement by and among VeriSign, Inc., a Delaware corporation, VeriSign S.À.R.L., VeriSign Do Brasil Serviços Para Internet Ltda, VeriSign Digital Services Technology (China) Co., Ltd., VeriSign Services India Private Limited, and Syniverse Holdings, Inc., a Delaware corporation dated as of August 24, 2009, by and among each of the parties thereto, dated October 2, 2009. | 10-Q | 11/6/09 | 10.06 | |
| 10.38 | Letter Amendment No. 2 to the Amendment to the Acquisition Agreement by and among VeriSign, Inc., a Delaware corporation, VeriSign S.À.R.L., VeriSign Do Brasil Serviços Para Internet Ltda, VeriSign Digital Services Technology (China) Co., Ltd., VeriSign Services India Private Limited, and Syniverse Holdings, Inc., a Delaware corporation dated as of August 24, 2009, by and among each of the parties thereto, Syniverse Technologies Services (India) Private Limited, dated October 23, 2009. | 10-Q | 11/6/09 | 10.07 | |
| 10.39 | Form of Indemnity Agreement entered into by the Registrant with each of its directors and executive officers. + | 10-Q | 4/28/10 | 10.01 | |
| 10.40 | Acquisition Agreement between VeriSign, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and Symantec Corporation, a Delaware corporation, dated as of May 19, 2010. * | 10-Q | 8/3/10 | 10.01 | |
| 10.41 | VeriSign, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan Form of Stock Option Agreement. + | 10-Q | 8/3/10 | 10.02 | |
| 10.42 | VeriSign, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan Form of Employee Restricted Stock Unit Agreement. + | 10-Q | 8/3/10 | 10.03 | |
| 10.43 | VeriSign, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan Form of Directors Nonqualified Stock Option Grant Agreement. + | 10-Q | 8/3/10 | 10.04 | |
| 10.44 | VeriSign, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan Form of Non-Employee Director Restricted Stock Unit Agreement. + | 10-Q | 8/3/10 | 10.05 | |
| 10.45 | Deed of Lease between 12061 Bluemont Owner, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company as Landlord, and VeriSign, Inc., a Delaware corporation as Tenant, dated as of September 15, 2010. | 10-Q | 10/29/10 | 10.01 | |

| | | | | |
|-------|--|------|---------|-------|
| 10.46 | VeriSign, Inc. Annual Incentive Compensation Plan. + | 10-K | 2/24/11 | 10.64 |
| 10.47 | VeriSign, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan Form of Performance-Based Restricted Stock Unit Agreement. + | 10-K | 2/24/11 | 10.65 |

| Exhibit Number | Exhibit Description | Incorporated by Reference | | | Filed Herewith |
|----------------|---|---------------------------|----------|--------|----------------|
| | | Form | Date | Number | |
| 10.48 | Registry Agreement between VeriSign, Inc. and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, entered into as of June 27, 2011. | 8-K | 6/28/11 | 10.01 | |
| 10.49 | Amended and Restated VeriSign, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan, as amended and restated May 26, 2011. + | 10-Q | 7/29/11 | 10.02 | |
| 10.50 | Form of Amended and Restated Change-in-Control and Retention Agreement. + | 10-Q | 7/29/11 | 10.03 | |
| 10.51 | Amended and Restated Change-in-Control and Retention Agreement [CEO Form of Agreement]. + | 10-Q | 7/29/11 | 10.04 | |
| 10.52 | Separation & General Release of Claims Agreement between VeriSign, Inc. and Kevin Werner, effective as of May 3, 2011. + | 10-Q | 7/29/11 | 10.05 | |
| 10.53 | Separation & General Release of Claims Agreement between VeriSign, Inc. and Christine Brennan, effective as of July 13, 2011. + | 10-Q | 7/29/11 | 10.06 | |
| 10.54 | Purchase and Sale Agreement for 12061 Bluemont Way Reston, Virginia between 12061 Bluemont Owner, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, as Seller and VeriSign, Inc., a Delaware corporation, as Purchaser Dated August 18, 2011. | 8-K | 9/7/11 | 10.01 | |
| 10.55 | Credit Agreement, dated as of November 22, 2011 among VeriSign, Inc., the borrowing subsidiaries party thereto, the lenders party thereto, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent, and J.P. Morgan Europe Limited, as London Agent. | 8-K | 11/29/11 | 10.01 | |
| 10.56 | Guarantee Agreement, dated as of November 22, 2011, among VeriSign, Inc., the other guarantors identified therein and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent. | 8-K | 11/29/11 | 10.02 | |
| 10.57 | VeriSign, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan Form of Performance-Based Restricted Stock Unit Agreement. + | 10-K | 2/24/12 | 10.75 | |
| 10.58 | Employment Offer Letter between the Registrant and George E. Kilguss, III dated April 20, 2012+ | 10-Q | 7/27/12 | 10.01 | |
| 10.59 | Letter Agreement between the Registrant and George E. Kilguss, III dated June 28, 2012. + | 10-Q | 7/27/12 | 10.02 | |
| 10.60 | VeriSign, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan Form of Non-Employee Director Restricted Stock Unit Agreement. + | 10-Q | 7/27/12 | 10.03 | |
| 10.61 | Registry Agreement between VeriSign, Inc. and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, entered into on November 29, 2012. | 8-K | 11/30/12 | 10.1 | |
| 10.62 | Amendment Number Thirty-Two (32) to the Cooperative Agreement between VeriSign, Inc. and Department of Commerce, entered into on November 29, 2012. | 8-K | 11/30/12 | 10.2 | |
| 10.63 | VeriSign, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan Employee Restricted Stock Unit Agreement. + | 10-Q | 4/25/13 | 10.02 | |

| | | | | |
|-------|--|------|---------|-------|
| 10.64 | VeriSign, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan Performance-Based Restricted Stock Unit Agreement. + | 10-Q | 4/25/13 | 10.03 |
| 10.65 | VeriSign, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan Performance-Based Restricted Stock Unit Agreement. + | 10-Q | 4/25/13 | 10.04 |

| Exhibit Number | Exhibit Description | Incorporated by Reference | | | Filed Herewith |
|----------------|--|---------------------------|---------|--------|----------------|
| | | Form | Date | Number | |
| 10.66 | Registration Rights Agreement, dated April 16, 2013, by and among VeriSign, Inc., VeriSign Information Services, Inc. and J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, as representative of the several initial purchasers. | 8-K | 4/17/13 | 10.01 | |
| 10.67 | VeriSign, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan Performance-Based Restricted Stock Unit Agreement + | 10-Q | 4/24/14 | 10.01 | |
| 10.68 | Amendment No. 1 to VeriSign, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan Performance Based Restricted Stock Unit Agreement(s). + | | | | X |
| 10.69 | Separation and General Release Agreement between VeriSign, Inc. and Richard H. Goshorn, effective as of November 29, 2014.+ | | | | X |
| 21.01 | Subsidiaries of the Registrant. | | | | X |
| 23.01 | Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm. | | | | X |
| 24.01 | Powers of Attorney (Included as part of the signature pages hereto). | | | | X |
| 31.01 | Certification of Principal Executive Officer pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 13a-14(a). | | | | X |
| 31.02 | Certification of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 13a-14(a). | | | | X |
| 32.01 | Certification of Principal Executive Officer pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 13a-14(b) and Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the U.S. Code (18 U.S.C. 1350). ** | | | | X |
| 32.02 | Certification of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 13a-14(b) and Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the U.S. Code (18 U.S.C. 1350). ** | | | | X |
| 101.INS | XBRL Instance Document. | | | | X |
| 101.SCH | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema. | | | | X |
| 101.CAL | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase. | | | | X |
| 101.DEF | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase. | | | | X |
| 101.LAB | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase. | | | | X |
| 101.PRE | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase. | | | | X |

* Confidential treatment was received with respect to certain portions of this agreement. Such portions were omitted and filed separately with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

** As contemplated by SEC Release No. 33-8212, these exhibits are furnished with this Annual Report on Form 10-K and are not deemed filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and are not incorporated by reference in any filing of VeriSign, Inc. under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, whether made before or after the date hereof and irrespective of any general incorporation language in such filings.

+ Indicates a management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As required under Item 8—Financial Statements and Supplementary Data, the consolidated financial statements of Verisign, Inc. are provided in this separate section. The consolidated financial statements included in this section are as follows:

| Financial Statement Description | Page |
|--|---------------------------|
| <u>Reports of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u> | <u>60</u> |
| <u>Consolidated Balance Sheets</u> <u>As of December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013</u> | <u>62</u> |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income</u> <u>For the Years Ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012</u> | <u>63</u> |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Deficit</u> <u>For the Years Ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012</u> | <u>64</u> |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows</u> <u>For the Years Ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012</u> | <u>65</u> |
| <u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u> | <u>66</u> |

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Stockholders
VeriSign, Inc.:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of VeriSign, Inc. and subsidiaries (the Company) as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related consolidated statements of comprehensive income, stockholders' deficit, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2014. These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2014, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), VeriSign, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, based on criteria established in *Internal Control-Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO), and our report dated February 13, 2015 expressed an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of VeriSign, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting.

/s/ KPMG LLP

McLean, Virginia
February 13, 2015

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Stockholders
VeriSign, Inc.:

We have audited VeriSign, Inc.'s (the Company) internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, based on criteria established in *Internal Control-Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting (Item 9A.b). Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audit also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, based on criteria established in *Internal Control-Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheets of VeriSign, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related consolidated statements of comprehensive income, stockholders' deficit, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2014, and our report dated February 13, 2015 expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements.

/s/ KPMG LLP

McLean, Virginia
February 13, 2015

VERISIGN, INC.
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(In thousands, except par value)

| | <u>December 31,</u> <u>2014</u> | <u>December 31,</u> <u>2013</u> |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <u>ASSETS</u> | | |
| Current assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 191,608 | \$ 339,223 |
| Marketable securities | 1,233,076 | 1,384,062 |
| Accounts receivable, net | 13,448 | 13,631 |
| Other current assets | 52,475 | 66,283 |
| Total current assets | <u>1,490,607</u> | <u>1,803,199</u> |
| Property and equipment, net | 319,028 | 339,653 |
| Goodwill | 52,527 | 52,527 |
| Long-term deferred tax assets | 266,954 | 437,643 |
| Other long-term assets | 25,743 | 27,745 |
| Total long-term assets | <u>664,252</u> | <u>857,568</u> |
| Total assets | <u>\$ 2,154,859</u> | <u>\$ 2,660,767</u> |
| <u>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' DEFICIT</u> | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | \$ 190,278 | \$ 149,276 |
| Deferred revenues | 621,307 | 595,221 |
| Subordinated convertible debentures, including contingent interest derivative | 631,190 | 624,056 |
| Deferred tax liabilities | 477,781 | 660,633 |
| Total current liabilities | <u>1,920,556</u> | <u>2,029,186</u> |
| Long-term deferred revenues | 269,047 | 260,615 |
| Senior notes | 750,000 | 750,000 |
| Other long-term tax liabilities | 98,722 | 44,524 |
| Total long-term liabilities | <u>1,117,769</u> | <u>1,055,139</u> |
| Total liabilities | <u>3,038,325</u> | <u>3,084,325</u> |
| Commitments and contingencies | | |
| Stockholders' deficit: | | |
| Preferred stock—par value \$.001 per share; Authorized shares: 5,000; Issued and outstanding shares: none | — | — |
| Common stock—par value \$.001 per share; Authorized shares: 1,000,000; Issued shares: 321,699 at December 31, 2014 and 320,358 at December 31, 2013; Outstanding shares: 118,452 at December 31, 2014 and 133,724 at December 31, 2013 | 322 | 320 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 18,120,045 | 18,935,302 |
| Accumulated deficit | (19,000,835) | (19,356,095) |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | (2,998) | (3,085) |
| Total stockholders' deficit | <u>(883,466)</u> | <u>(423,558)</u> |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' deficit | <u>\$ 2,154,859</u> | <u>\$ 2,660,767</u> |

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

VERISIGN, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
(In thousands, except per share data)

| | Year Ended December 31, | | |
|---|-------------------------|------------|------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Revenues | \$ 1,010,117 | \$ 965,087 | \$ 873,592 |
| Costs and expenses: | | | |
| Cost of revenues | 188,425 | 187,013 | 167,600 |
| Sales and marketing | 92,001 | 89,337 | 97,809 |
| Research and development | 67,777 | 70,297 | 61,694 |
| General and administrative | 97,487 | 90,208 | 89,162 |
| Total costs and expenses | 445,690 | 436,855 | 416,265 |
| Operating income | 564,427 | 528,232 | 457,327 |
| Interest expense | (85,994) | (74,761) | (50,196) |
| Non-operating income, net | 4,878 | 3,300 | 5,564 |
| Income from continuing operations before income taxes | 483,311 | 456,771 | 412,695 |
| Income tax (expense) benefit | (128,051) | 87,679 | (100,210) |
| Income from continuing operations, net of tax | 355,260 | 544,450 | 312,485 |
| Income from discontinued operations, net of tax | — | — | 7,547 |
| Net income | 355,260 | 544,450 | 320,032 |
| Realized foreign currency translation adjustments, included in net income | — | 81 | — |
| Unrealized gain (loss) on investments, net of tax | 84 | (369) | 2,757 |
| Realized loss (gain) on investments, net of tax, included in net income | 3 | (2,409) | (61) |
| Other comprehensive income (loss) | 87 | (2,697) | 2,696 |
| Comprehensive income | \$ 355,347 | \$ 541,753 | \$ 322,728 |
| Basic income per share: | | | |
| Continuing operations | \$ 2.80 | \$ 3.77 | \$ 1.99 |
| Discontinued operations | — | — | 0.05 |
| Net income | \$ 2.80 | \$ 3.77 | \$ 2.04 |
| Diluted income per share: | | | |
| Continuing operations | \$ 2.52 | \$ 3.49 | \$ 1.91 |
| Discontinued operations | — | — | 0.04 |
| Net income | \$ 2.52 | \$ 3.49 | \$ 1.95 |
| Shares used to compute net income per share | | | |
| Basic | 126,710 | 144,591 | 156,953 |
| Diluted | 140,895 | 155,786 | 163,909 |

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

VERISIGN, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' DEFICIT
(In thousands)

| | Common Stock | | Additional Paid-In Capital | Accumulated Deficit | Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss | Total Stockholders' Deficit |
|---|----------------|---------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| | Shares | Amount | | | | |
| Balance at December 31, 2011 | 159,422 | \$ 317 | \$ 20,135,237 | \$ (20,220,577) | \$ (3,084) | \$ (88,107) |
| Net income | — | — | — | 320,032 | — | 320,032 |
| Other comprehensive income | — | — | — | — | 2,696 | 2,696 |
| Issuance of common stock under stock plans | 1,941 | 2 | 29,301 | — | — | 29,303 |
| Stock-based compensation | — | — | 36,199 | — | — | 36,199 |
| Net excess income tax benefits associated with stock-based compensation | — | — | 16,045 | — | — | 16,045 |
| Repurchase of common stock | (7,971) | — | (325,680) | — | — | (325,680) |
| Other | — | — | 189 | — | — | 189 |
| Balance at December 31, 2012 | <u>153,392</u> | <u>319</u> | <u>19,891,291</u> | <u>(19,900,545)</u> | <u>(388)</u> | <u>(9,323)</u> |
| Net income | — | — | — | 544,450 | — | 544,450 |
| Other comprehensive loss | — | — | — | — | (2,697) | (2,697) |
| Issuance of common stock under stock plans | 1,636 | 1 | 20,666 | — | — | 20,667 |
| Stock-based compensation | — | — | 39,642 | — | — | 39,642 |
| Net excess income tax benefits associated with stock-based compensation | — | — | 19,320 | — | — | 19,320 |
| Repurchase of common stock | (21,304) | — | (1,035,617) | — | — | (1,035,617) |
| Balance at December 31, 2013 | <u>133,724</u> | <u>320</u> | <u>18,935,302</u> | <u>(19,356,095)</u> | <u>(3,085)</u> | <u>(423,558)</u> |
| Net income | — | — | — | 355,260 | — | 355,260 |
| Other comprehensive income | — | — | — | — | 87 | 87 |
| Issuance of common stock under stock plans | 1,341 | 2 | 17,595 | — | — | 17,597 |
| Stock-based compensation | — | — | 46,728 | — | — | 46,728 |
| Net excess income tax benefits associated with stock-based compensation | — | — | 3,823 | — | — | 3,823 |
| Repurchase of common stock | (16,613) | — | (883,403) | — | — | (883,403) |
| Balance at December 31, 2014 | <u>118,452</u> | <u>\$ 322</u> | <u>\$ 18,120,045</u> | <u>\$ (19,000,835)</u> | <u>\$ (2,998)</u> | <u>\$ (883,466)</u> |

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

VERISIGN, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(In thousands)

| | Year Ended December 31, | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Cash flows from operating activities: | | | |
| Net income | \$ 355,260 | \$ 544,450 | \$ 320,032 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | | |
| Depreciation of property and equipment and amortization of other intangible assets | 63,690 | 60,655 | 54,819 |
| Stock-based compensation | 43,977 | 36,649 | 33,362 |
| Excess tax benefit associated with stock-based compensation | (6,054) | (19,320) | (18,436) |
| Unrealized (gain) loss on contingent interest derivative on Subordinated Convertible Debentures | (2,249) | 17,801 | (422) |
| Loss (gain) on sale of investments | 5 | (18,861) | (102) |
| Other, net | 11,353 | 14,182 | 11,505 |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities | | | |
| Accounts receivable | (73) | (2,500) | 3,327 |
| Prepaid expenses and other assets | 11,571 | (2,694) | (9,344) |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | 45,419 | 19,065 | (13,534) |
| Deferred revenues | 34,518 | 43,254 | 84,011 |
| Net deferred income taxes and other long-term tax liabilities | 43,532 | (113,284) | 72,412 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | <u>600,949</u> | <u>579,397</u> | <u>537,630</u> |
| Cash flows from investing activities: | | | |
| Proceeds from maturities and sales of marketable securities and investments | 3,428,659 | 3,508,569 | 1,234,156 |
| Purchases of marketable securities | (3,277,096) | (3,450,068) | (2,622,898) |
| Purchases of property and equipment | (39,327) | (65,594) | (53,023) |
| Other investing activities | 452 | (3,969) | (588) |
| Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities | <u>112,688</u> | <u>(11,062)</u> | <u>(1,442,353)</u> |
| Cash flows from financing activities: | | | |
| Proceeds from issuance of common stock from option exercises and employee stock purchase plans | 17,597 | 20,667 | 29,303 |
| Repurchases of common stock | (883,403) | (1,035,617) | (325,680) |
| Proceeds from senior notes, net of issuance costs | — | 738,297 | — |
| Repayment of borrowings | — | (100,000) | — |
| Excess tax benefit associated with stock-based compensation | 6,054 | 19,320 | 18,436 |
| Other financing activities | — | — | 189 |
| Net cash used in financing activities | <u>(859,752)</u> | <u>(357,333)</u> | <u>(277,752)</u> |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents | (1,500) | (2,515) | (138) |
| Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents | (147,615) | 208,487 | (1,182,613) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period | 339,223 | 130,736 | 1,313,349 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of period | <u>\$ 191,608</u> | <u>\$ 339,223</u> | <u>\$ 130,736</u> |
| Supplemental cash flow disclosures: | | | |
| Cash paid for interest, net of capitalized interest | \$ 75,088 | \$ 58,928 | \$ 41,276 |
| Cash paid for income taxes, net of refunds received | <u>\$ 35,201</u> | <u>\$ 26,133</u> | <u>\$ 19,436</u> |

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

VERISIGN, INC.
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2014, 2013 AND 2012

Note 1. Description of Business and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Description of Business

VeriSign, Inc. (“Verisign” or “the Company”) was incorporated in Delaware on April 12, 1995. The Company has one reportable segment, which consists of Registry Services and Network Intelligence and Availability (“NIA”) Services. Registry Services ensure the security, stability and resiliency of key Internet infrastructure and services, including the .com and .net domains, two of the Internet’s root servers, and operation of the root-zone maintainer functions for the core of the Internet’s Domain Name System (DNS). NIA Services provides infrastructure assurance services consisting of Distributed Denial of Services (“DDoS”) Protection Services, Verisign iDefense Security Intelligence Services (“iDefense”) and Managed Domain Name System (“Managed DNS”).

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying consolidated financial statements of Verisign and its subsidiaries have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) in the United States (“U.S.”). All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated.

The preparation of these consolidated financial statements requires management to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses, and related disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions.

Reclassifications

Certain reclassifications have been made to prior period amounts to conform to current period presentation. Such reclassifications have no effect on net income as previously reported.

Significant Accounting Policies

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Verisign considers all highly-liquid investments purchased with original maturities of three months or less to be cash equivalents. Cash and cash equivalents include certain money market funds, debt securities and various deposit accounts. Verisign maintains its cash and cash equivalents with financial institutions that have investment grade ratings and, as part of its cash management process, performs periodic evaluations of the relative credit standing of these financial institutions.

Marketable Securities

Marketable securities consist of debt securities issued by the U.S. Treasury. All marketable securities are classified as available-for-sale and are carried at fair value. Unrealized gains and losses, net of taxes, are reported as a component of Accumulated other comprehensive loss. The specific identification method is used to determine the cost basis of the marketable securities sold. The Company classifies its marketable securities as current based on their nature and availability for use in current operations.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets of 35 to 47 years for buildings, 10 years for building improvements and three to five years for computer equipment, purchased software, office equipment, and furniture and fixtures. Leasehold improvements are amortized using the straight-line method over the lesser of the estimated useful lives of the assets or associated lease terms. The Company capitalizes interest on facility assets under construction and on significant software development projects.

VERISIGN, INC.
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)
DECEMBER 31, 2014, 2013 AND 2012

Capitalized Software

Software included in property and equipment includes amounts paid for purchased software and development costs for software used internally that have been capitalized. The following table summarizes the costs capitalized during 2014 and 2013, related to third-party implementation and consulting services as well as costs related to internally developed software.

| | Year Ended December 31, | |
|--|-------------------------|-----------|
| | 2014 | 2013 |
| | (In thousands) | |
| Third-party implementation and consulting services | \$ 1,305 | \$ 6,361 |
| Internally developed software | \$ 20,039 | \$ 22,138 |

Goodwill and Other Long-lived Assets

Goodwill represents the excess of purchase consideration over fair value of net assets of businesses acquired. Goodwill is not amortized, but instead tested for impairment. All of the Company's goodwill is included in the Registry Services reporting unit which has a negative carrying value. The Company performs a qualitative analysis at the end of each reporting period to determine if any events have occurred or circumstances exist that would indicate that it is more likely than not that a goodwill impairment exists. The qualitative factors the Company reviews include, but are not limited to: (a) macroeconomic conditions; (b) industry and market considerations such as a deterioration in the environment in which an entity operates; (c) a significant adverse change in legal factors or in the business climate; (d) an adverse action or assessment by a regulator; (e) unanticipated competition; (f) loss of key personnel; (g) a more-likely-than-not expectation of sale or disposal of a reporting unit or a significant portion thereof; or (h) testing for recoverability of a significant asset group within a reporting unit.

Long-lived assets, such as property, plant, and equipment are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset, or asset group, may not be recoverable. Such events or circumstances include, but are not limited to, a significant decrease in the fair value of the underlying business, a significant decrease in the benefits realized from an acquired business, difficulties or delays in integrating the business or a significant change in the operations of an acquired business. Recoverability of assets to be held and used is measured by a comparison of the carrying amount of an asset, or asset group, to estimated undiscounted future cash flows expected to be generated by the asset, or asset group. An impairment charge is recognized in the amount by which the carrying amount of the asset exceeds its fair value.

3.25% Junior Subordinated Convertible Debentures Due 2037 ("Subordinated Convertible Debentures")

Verisign separately accounts for the liability (debt) and equity (conversion option) components of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures in a manner that reflects the borrowing rate for a similar non-convertible debt. The liability component is recognized at fair value on the issuance date, based on the fair value of a similar instrument that does not have a conversion feature at issuance. The excess of the principal amount of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures over the fair value of the liability component is the equity component or debt discount. Such excess represents the estimated fair value of the conversion feature and is recorded as Additional paid-in capital. The debt discount is amortized using the Company's effective interest rate over the term of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures as a non-cash charge to interest expense. The Subordinated Convertible Debentures also have a contingent interest payment provision that may require the Company to pay interest based on certain thresholds, beginning with the semi-annual interest period which commenced on August 15, 2014, and upon the occurrence of certain events, as outlined in the Indenture governing the Subordinated Convertible Debentures. The contingent interest payment provision has been identified as an embedded derivative, to be accounted for separately at fair value, and is marked to market at the end of each reporting period, with any gains and losses recorded in Non-operating income, net.

Foreign Currency Remeasurement

Verisign conducts business throughout the world and transacts in multiple currencies. The functional currency for all of Verisign's international subsidiaries is the U.S. Dollar. The Company's subsidiaries' financial statements are remeasured into U.S. Dollars using a combination of current and historical exchange rates and any remeasurement gains and losses are included in Non-operating income, net. The Company recorded a remeasurement gain of \$1.0 million in 2014, a loss of \$3.1 million in 2013, and a loss of \$ 0.9 million in 2012.

VERISIGN, INC.
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)
DECEMBER 31, 2014, 2013 AND 2012

Verisign maintains a foreign currency risk management program designed to mitigate foreign exchange risks associated with the monetary assets and liabilities that are denominated in non-functional currencies. The primary objective of this program is to minimize the gains and losses resulting from fluctuations in exchange rates. The Company does not enter into foreign currency transactions for trading or speculative purposes, nor does it hedge foreign currency exposures in a manner that entirely offsets the effects of changes in exchange rates. The program may entail the use of forward or option contracts, which are usually placed and adjusted monthly. These foreign currency forward contracts are derivatives and are recorded at fair market value. The Company records gains and losses on foreign currency forward contracts in Non-operating income, net. The Company recorded gains of \$ 1.5 million in 2013 related to foreign currency forward contracts. The Company recorded losses related to foreign currency forward contracts of less than \$1.0 million in 2014 and 2012.

As of December 31, 2014 , Verisign held foreign currency forward contracts in notional amounts totaling \$29.7 million to mitigate the impact of exchange rate fluctuations associated with certain assets and liabilities held in foreign currencies.

Revenue Recognition

Verisign recognizes revenues when the following four criteria are met:

- Persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists: It is the Company's customary practice to have a written contract, signed by both the customer and Verisign or a service order form from those customers who have previously negotiated a standard master services agreement with Verisign.
- Delivery has occurred or services have been rendered: The Company's services are usually delivered continuously from service activation date through the term of the arrangement.
- The fee is fixed or determinable: Substantially all of the Company's revenue arrangements have fixed or determinable fees.
- Collectability is reasonably assured: Collectability is assessed on a customer-by-customer basis. Verisign typically sells to customers for whom there is a history of successful collection. The majority of customers either maintain a deposit with Verisign or provide an irrevocable letter of credit in excess of the amounts owed. New customers are subjected to a credit review process that evaluates the customer's financial condition and, ultimately, their ability to pay. If Verisign determines from the outset of an arrangement that collectability is not probable based upon its credit review process, revenues are recognized as cash is collected.

Substantially all of the Company's revenue arrangements have multiple service deliverables. However, all service deliverables in those arrangements are usually delivered over the same term and, in the absence of a discernible pattern of performance, are presumed to be delivered ratably over that service term.

If the Company enters into an arrangement with multiple elements where standalone value exists for each element and the delivery of the elements occur at different times, revenue for such arrangement is allocated to the elements based on the best estimate of selling prices of the elements and recognized based on applicable service term for each element.

Registry Services

Registry Services revenues primarily arise from fixed fees charged to registrars for the initial registration or renewal of *.com* , *.net* , and other domain names. Revenues from the initial registration or renewal of domain names are deferred and recognized ratably over the registration term, generally one year and up to ten years. Fees for renewals and advance extensions to the existing term are deferred until the new incremental period commences. These fees are then recognized ratably over the renewal term.

Verisign also offers promotional marketing programs to its registrars based upon market conditions and the business environment in which the registrars operate. Amounts payable to these registrars for such promotional marketing programs are usually recorded as a reduction of revenue. If Verisign obtains an identifiable benefit separate from the services it provides to the registrars, then amounts payable up to the fair value of the benefit received are recorded as advertising expenses and the excess, if any, is recorded as a reduction of revenue.

NIA Services

Following the revenue recognition criteria above, revenues from NIA Services are usually deferred and recognized over the service term, generally one to two years.

VERISIGN, INC.
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)
DECEMBER 31, 2014, 2013 AND 2012

Advertising Expenses

Advertising costs are expensed as incurred and are included in Sales and marketing expenses. Advertising expenses were \$10.4 million , \$13.2 million , and \$10.2 million in 2014 , 2013 , and 2012 , respectively.

Income Taxes

Verisign uses the asset and liability method to account for income taxes. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases and net operating loss carryforwards. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. The effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date. The Company records a valuation allowance to reduce deferred tax assets to an amount whose realization is more likely than not. The Company allocates valuation allowances between current deferred tax assets and long-term deferred tax assets in proportion to the related classification of gross deferred tax assets for each tax jurisdiction.

Deferred tax liabilities and assets are classified as current or noncurrent based on the financial reporting classification of the related asset or liability, or, for deferred tax liabilities or assets that are not related to an asset or liability for financial reporting, according to the expected reversal date of the temporary difference. For every tax-paying component and within each tax jurisdiction, (a) all current deferred tax liabilities and assets are offset and presented as a single amount and (b) all noncurrent deferred tax liabilities and assets are offset and presented as a single amount.

The Company's income taxes payable is reduced by the tax benefits from employee stock option exercises and restricted stock unit ("RSU") vesting. The Company's income tax benefit related to stock options is calculated as the tax effect of the difference between the fair market value of the stock and the exercise price at the time of option exercise. The Company's income tax benefit related to RSUs is equal to the fair market value of the stock at the vesting date. If the income tax benefit at exercise or vesting date is greater than the income tax benefit recorded based on the grant date fair value of the stock options or RSUs, such excess tax benefit is recognized as an increase to Additional paid-in capital. If the income tax benefit at exercise or vesting date is less than the income tax benefit recorded based on the grant date fair value of the stock options or RSUs, the shortfall is recognized as a reduction of Additional paid-in capital to the extent of previously recognized excess tax benefits.

Verisign's global operations involve dealing with uncertainties and judgments in the application of complex tax regulations in multiple jurisdictions. The final taxes payable are dependent upon many factors, including negotiations with taxing authorities in various jurisdictions and resolution of disputes arising from U.S. federal, state, and international tax audits. The Company may only recognize or continue to recognize tax positions that are more likely than not to be sustained upon examination. The Company adjusts these reserves in light of changing facts and circumstances; however, due to the complexity of some of these uncertainties, the ultimate resolution may result in a payment that is materially different from its current estimate of the tax liabilities.

The Company's assumptions, judgments and estimates relative to the value of a deferred tax asset take into account predictions of the amount and character of future taxable income, such as income from operations or capital gains income. Actual operating results and the underlying amount and character of income in future years could render the Company's current assumptions, judgments and estimates of recoverable net deferred taxes inaccurate. Any of the assumptions, judgments and estimates mentioned above could cause the Company's actual income tax obligations to differ from its estimates, thus materially impacting its financial condition and results of operations.

Stock-based Compensation

During 2014, the Company's stock-based compensation was primarily related to RSUs granted to employees. There were no stock options granted in any period presented. The Company used the Black-Scholes option pricing model to determine the fair value of its employee stock purchase plan ("ESPP") offerings. The determination of the fair value of stock-based payment awards using an option-pricing model is affected by the Company's stock price as well as assumptions regarding a number of complex and subjective variables. For the awards that are expected to vest, after considering estimated forfeitures, stock-based compensation expense is typically recognized on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period for each such award. The Company also grants RSUs which include performance conditions, and in some cases market conditions, to certain executives. The expense for these performance-based RSUs is recognized on a graded vesting schedule over the term of the award based on

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the probable outcome of the performance conditions, The expense recognized for awards with market conditions is based on the grant date fair value of the awards including the impact of the market conditions.

Earnings per Share

The Company computes basic net income per share by dividing net income by the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted net income per share gives effect to dilutive potential common shares, including outstanding stock options, unvested RSUs, ESPP offerings and the conversion spread related to the Subordinated Convertible Debentures using the treasury stock method.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The Company applies the following fair value hierarchy, which prioritizes the inputs used to measure fair value into three levels and bases the categorization within the hierarchy upon the lowest level of input that is available and significant to the fair value measurement:

- Level 1: Observable inputs that reflect quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets.
- Level 2: Inputs reflect quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in markets that are not active; quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets; inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the assets or liabilities; or inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.
- Level 3: Unobservable inputs reflecting the Company's own assumptions incorporated in valuation techniques used to determine fair value. These assumptions are required to be consistent with market participant assumptions that are reasonably available.

The Company measures and reports certain financial assets and liabilities at fair value on a recurring basis, including its investments in money market funds classified as Cash and cash equivalents, marketable debt securities, foreign currency forward contracts, and the contingent interest derivative associated with the Subordinated Convertible Debentures.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

On May 28, 2014, the FASB issued ASU No. 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*, which requires an entity to recognize the amount of revenue to which it expects to be entitled for the transfer of promised goods or services to customers. The ASU will replace most existing revenue recognition guidance in U.S. GAAP when it becomes effective. The new standard will become effective for the Company on January 1, 2017. Early application is not permitted. The standard permits the use of either the retrospective or cumulative effect transition method. The Company is evaluating the effect that ASU 2014-09 will have on its consolidated financial statements and related disclosures. The Company has not yet selected a transition method nor has it determined the effect of the standard on its ongoing financial reporting.

Note 2. Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Marketable Securities

The following table summarizes the Company's cash, cash equivalents, and marketable securities:

| | As of December 31, | |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 |
| | (In thousands) | |
| Cash | \$ 110,799 | \$ 72,232 |
| Money market funds | 85,453 | 246,492 |
| Time deposits | 3,383 | 3,978 |
| Debt securities issued by the U.S. Treasury | 1,233,076 | 1,409,062 |
| Total | \$ 1,432,711 | \$ 1,731,764 |
| Included in Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 191,608 | \$ 339,223 |
| Included in Marketable securities | \$ 1,233,076 | \$ 1,384,062 |
| Included in Other long-term assets (Restricted cash) | \$ 8,027 | \$ 8,479 |

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The fair value of the debt securities held as of December 31, 2014 was \$1.2 billion, including less than \$ 0.1 million of gross and net unrealized gains. All of the debt securities held as of December 31, 2014 have contractual maturities of less than one year.

Note 3. Fair Value of Financial Instruments

Assets and Liabilities Measured at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis

The following table summarizes the Company's financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 :

| | Total Fair Value | Fair Value Measurement Using | | |
|---|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| | | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 |
| (In thousands) | | | | |
| As of December 31, 2014: | | | | |
| Assets: | | | | |
| Investments in money market funds | \$ 85,453 | \$ 85,453 | \$ — | \$ — |
| Debt securities issued by the U.S. Treasury | 1,233,076 | 1,233,076 | — | — |
| Foreign currency forward contracts (1) | 330 | — | 330 | — |
| Total | <u>\$ 1,318,859</u> | <u>\$ 1,318,529</u> | <u>\$ 330</u> | <u>\$ —</u> |
| Liabilities: | | | | |
| Contingent interest derivative on Subordinated Convertible Debentures | \$ 26,755 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 26,755 |
| Foreign currency forward contracts (2) | 169 | — | 169 | — |
| Total | <u>\$ 26,924</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ 169</u> | <u>\$ 26,755</u> |
| As of December 31, 2013: | | | | |
| Assets: | | | | |
| Investments in money market funds | \$ 246,492 | \$ 246,492 | \$ — | \$ — |
| Debt securities issued by the U.S. Treasury | 1,409,062 | 1,409,062 | — | — |
| Foreign currency forward contracts (1) | 141 | — | 141 | — |
| Total | <u>\$ 1,655,695</u> | <u>\$ 1,655,554</u> | <u>\$ 141</u> | <u>\$ —</u> |
| Liabilities: | | | | |
| Contingent interest derivative on Subordinated Convertible Debentures | \$ 29,004 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 29,004 |
| Foreign currency forward contracts (2) | 131 | — | 131 | — |
| Total | <u>\$ 29,135</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ 131</u> | <u>\$ 29,004</u> |

(1) Included in Other current assets

(2) Included in Accounts payable and accrued liabilities

The fair value of the Company's investments in money market funds approximates their face value. Such instruments are classified as Level 1 and are included in Cash and cash equivalents.

The fair value of the debt securities consisting of U.S. Treasury bills is based on their quoted market prices and are classified as Level 1. Debt securities purchased with original maturities in excess of three months are included in Marketable securities.

The fair value of the Company's foreign currency forward contracts is based on foreign currency rates quoted by banks or foreign currency dealers and other public data sources.

The Company utilizes a valuation model to estimate the fair value of the contingent interest derivative on the Subordinated Convertible Debentures. The inputs to the model include stock price, bond price, risk free interest rates, volatility, and credit spread observations. As several significant inputs are not observable, the overall fair value measurement of the derivative is

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classified as Level 3. The volatility and credit spread assumptions used in the calculation are the most significant unobservable inputs. As of December 31, 2014, the valuation of the contingent interest derivative assumed a volatility rate of approximately 32%. A hypothetical 5% increase or decrease in the volatility rate would not significantly change the fair value of the contingent interest derivative. The credit spread assumed in the valuation was approximately 4% at December 31, 2014. A hypothetical 1% increase or decrease in the credit spread would not significantly change the fair value of the contingent interest derivative.

The following table summarizes the change in the fair value of the Company's contingent interest derivative on Subordinated Convertible Debentures during the year ended December 31, 2014 and 2013:

| | Year Ended December 31, | |
|---|-------------------------|------------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 |
| | (In thousands) | |
| Beginning balance | \$ 29,004 | \$ 11,203 |
| Unrealized (gain) loss on contingent interest derivative on Subordinated Convertible Debentures | (2,249) | 17,801 |
| Ending balance | <u>\$ 26,755</u> | <u>\$ 29,004</u> |

On August 14, 2014, the upside trigger on the Subordinated Convertible Debentures was met for the six month interest period from August 15, 2014 through February 14, 2015. On February 15, 2015, the Company will pay contingent interest of \$ 5.2 million in addition to the normal coupon interest to holders of record of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures as of February 1, 2015. The value of the contingent interest payable in February 2015 is included in the balance of the contingent interest derivative on the Subordinated Convertible Debentures as of December 31, 2014.

Other

As of December 31, 2014, the Company's other financial instruments include cash, accounts receivable, restricted cash, and accounts payable whose carrying values approximated their fair values. The fair values of the Company's Subordinated Convertible Debentures and the Company's senior notes due 2023 (the "Senior Notes") as of December 31, 2014, were \$2.2 billion and \$727.6 million, respectively, and are based on available market information from public data sources. These fair value measurements are classified as Level 2.

Note 4. Discontinued Operations

Income from discontinued operations in 2012 is primarily related to the reimbursement of previously incurred litigation and legal defense costs received upon the settlement of indemnification claims with selling shareholders of a previously acquired business that was later divested. Income from discontinued operations in 2012 also includes the reversal of certain retained liabilities and the reversal of certain accruals for retained litigation related to the prior operations of a divested business.

Note 5. Other Balance Sheet Items

Other Current Assets

Other current assets consist of the following:

| | As of December 31, | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 |
| | (In thousands) | |
| Prepaid expenses | \$ 16,190 | \$ 13,502 |
| Income tax and other receivables | 24,821 | 39,884 |
| Debt issuance costs | 10,570 | 10,705 |
| Deferred tax assets | 247 | 1,743 |
| Other | 647 | 449 |
| Total other current assets | <u>\$ 52,475</u> | <u>\$ 66,283</u> |

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Income tax and other receivables, includes a federal income tax receivable recognized in connection with a worthless stock deduction as discussed in Note 12, "Income Taxes."

Property and Equipment, Net

The following table presents the detail of property and equipment, net:

| | As of December 31, | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 |
| | (In thousands) | |
| Land | \$ 31,141 | \$ 31,141 |
| Buildings and building improvements | 243,300 | 240,572 |
| Computer equipment and software | 403,945 | 359,331 |
| Capital work in progress | 7,520 | 16,213 |
| Office equipment and furniture | 6,341 | 6,305 |
| Leasehold improvements | 1,858 | 2,189 |
| Total cost | 694,105 | 655,751 |
| Less: accumulated depreciation | (375,077) | (316,098) |
| Total property and equipment, net | \$ 319,028 | \$ 339,653 |

Goodwill

The following table presents the detail of goodwill:

| | As of December 31, | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 |
| | (In thousands) | |
| Goodwill, gross | \$ 1,537,843 | \$ 1,537,843 |
| Accumulated goodwill impairment | (1,485,316) | (1,485,316) |
| Total goodwill | \$ 52,527 | \$ 52,527 |

There was no impairment of goodwill or other long-lived assets recognized in any of the periods presented.

Other Long-Term Assets

Other long-term assets consist of the following:

| | As of December 31, | |
|---|--------------------|-----------|
| | 2014 | 2013 |
| | (In thousands) | |
| Debt issuance costs | \$ 10,160 | \$ 11,521 |
| Long-term restricted cash | 8,028 | 8,479 |
| Other tax receivable | 5,673 | 5,811 |
| Long-term prepaid expenses and other assets | 1,882 | 1,934 |
| Total other long-term assets | \$ 25,743 | \$ 27,745 |

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Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities consist of the following:

| | As of December 31, | |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 |
| | (In thousands) | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 29,335 | \$ 24,843 |
| Accrued employee compensation | 49,470 | 49,974 |
| Customer deposits, net | 30,103 | 20,869 |
| Taxes payable and other tax liabilities | 47,079 | 19,853 |
| Other accrued liabilities | 34,291 | 33,737 |
| Total accounts payable and accrued liabilities | <u>\$ 190,278</u> | <u>\$ 149,276</u> |

Accrued employee compensation primarily consists of liabilities for employee leave, salaries, payroll taxes, employee contributions to the employee stock purchase plan, and incentive compensation. Other accrued liabilities include miscellaneous vendor payables, interest on the Subordinated Convertible Debentures which is paid semi-annually in arrears on August 15 and February 15, and interest on the Senior Notes which is paid semi-annually in arrears on May 1 and November 1.

Note 6. Debt and Interest Expense

Senior Notes due 2023

On April 16, 2013, the Company issued \$ 750.0 million principal amount of 4.625% senior notes due May 1, 2023 at an issue price of 100%. The Senior Notes were issued pursuant to an indenture, dated as of April 16, 2013 (the "Indenture"), among the Company, each of the subsidiary guarantors party thereto and U.S. Bank National Association. The Indenture provides that the Senior Notes are general unsecured obligations of the Company. The Company's Restricted Subsidiaries (as defined in the Indenture) may be required to guarantee the Senior Notes if they incur or guarantee certain indebtedness. The Company used a portion of the net proceeds from the sale of the Senior Notes to repay in full the \$ 100.0 million of outstanding indebtedness under its unsecured credit facility ("Unsecured Credit Facility") and to pay accrued and unpaid interest thereunder. The Company has used the remaining amount of the net proceeds for general corporate purposes, including, but not limited to, the repurchase of shares under its share repurchase program. In connection with the offering the Company incurred \$ 12.0 million of issuance costs which were deferred and included in Other long-term assets. The issuance costs are being amortized to Interest expense over the 10 year term of the Senior Notes.

The Company pays interest on the Senior Notes at 4.625% per annum, semi-annually on May 1 and November 1, commencing on November 1, 2013. The Company may redeem all or a portion of the Senior Notes at any time prior to May 1, 2018 at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Senior Notes plus a make-whole premium, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date. In addition, on or before May 1, 2018, the Company may redeem up to 35% of the aggregate principal amount of the Senior Notes with the net proceeds of certain equity offerings at a redemption price of 104.625% of the principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date, subject to compliance with certain conditions. The Company may redeem all or a portion of the Senior Notes at any time on or after May 1, 2018 at the applicable redemption prices set forth in the Indenture plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date. If the Company experiences specific kinds of changes in control and if the Senior Notes are rated below investment grade by both rating agencies that rate the Senior Notes, the Company will be required to make an offer to purchase the Senior Notes at a price equal to 101% of the principal amount of the Senior Notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the date of purchase.

The Indenture contains covenants that limit the ability of the Company and/or its Restricted Subsidiaries, under certain circumstances, to, among other things: (i) pay dividends or make distributions on, or redeem or repurchase, its capital stock; (ii) make certain investments; (iii) create liens on assets; (iv) enter into sale/leaseback transactions and (v) merge or consolidate or sell all or substantially all of its assets. These covenants are subject to a number of important limitations and exceptions. The Indenture also provides for events of default, which, if any of them occurs, may permit or, in certain circumstances, require the principal, premium, if any, accrued and unpaid interest and any other monetary obligations on all the then outstanding Notes to be due and payable immediately.

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2011 Credit Facility

On November 22, 2011, Verisign entered into a credit agreement with a syndicate of lenders led by JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as the administrative agent. The credit agreement provides for a \$200.0 million committed senior unsecured revolving credit facility, under which Verisign and certain designated subsidiaries may be borrowers. Loans under the 2011 Facility may be denominated in U.S. dollars and certain other currencies. The Company has the option under the Unsecured Credit Facility to invite lenders to make competitive bid loans at negotiated interest rates. The facility expires on November 22, 2016 at which time any outstanding borrowings are due.

On November 28, 2011, the Company borrowed \$100.0 million as a LIBOR revolving loan denominated in US dollars to be used in connection with the purchase of Verisign's headquarters facility in Reston, Virginia and for general corporate purposes. In April 2013, the company repaid the \$100.0 million of borrowings that were outstanding under the Unsecured Credit Facility using proceeds from the issuance of the Senior Notes. The Unsecured Credit Facility remains open with a borrowing capacity of \$200.0 million available to the Company.

The Company is required to pay a commitment fee between 0.2% and 0.3% per year of the amount committed under the facility, depending on the Company's leverage ratio. The credit agreement contains customary representations and warranties, as well as covenants limiting the Company's ability to, among other things, incur additional indebtedness, merge or consolidate with others, change its business, sell or dispose of assets. The covenants also include limitations on investments, limitations on dividends, share redemptions and other restricted payments, limitations on entering into certain types of restrictive agreements, limitations on entering into hedging agreements, limitations on amendments, waivers or prepayments of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures, limitations on transactions with affiliates and limitations on the use of proceeds from the facility.

The facility includes financial covenants requiring that the Company's interest coverage ratio not be less than 3.0 to 1.0 for any period of four consecutive quarters and the Company's leverage ratio not exceed 2.0 to 1.0. As of December 31, 2014, the Company was in compliance with the financial covenants of the Unsecured Credit Facility.

Verisign may from time to time request lenders to agree on a discretionary basis to increase the commitment amount by up to an aggregate of \$150.0 million during the term of the Unsecured Credit Facility.

Subordinated Convertible Debentures

In August 2007, Verisign issued \$1.25 billion principal amount of 3.25% subordinated convertible debentures due August 15, 2037, in a private offering. The Subordinated Convertible Debentures are initially convertible, subject to certain conditions, into shares of the Company's common stock at a conversion rate of 29.0968 shares of common stock per \$1,000 principal amount of Subordinated Convertible Debentures, representing an initial effective conversion price of approximately \$34.37 per share of common stock. The conversion rate will be subject to adjustment for certain events as outlined in the Indenture governing the Subordinated Convertible Debentures but will not be adjusted for accrued interest. As of December 31, 2014, approximately 36.4 million shares of common stock were reserved for issuance upon conversion or repurchase of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures.

On or after August 15, 2017, the Company may redeem all or part of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures for the principal amount plus any accrued and unpaid interest if the closing price of the Company's common stock has been at least 150% of the conversion price then in effect for at least 20 trading days during any 30 consecutive trading-day period prior to the date on which the Company provides notice of redemption.

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Holders of the debentures may convert their Subordinated Convertible Debentures at the applicable conversion rate, in multiples of \$1,000 principal amount, only under the following circumstances:

- during any fiscal quarter beginning after December 31, 2007, if the last reported sale price of the Company's common stock for at least 20 trading days during the period of 30 consecutive trading days ending on the last trading day of the immediately preceding fiscal quarter is greater than or equal to 130% of the applicable conversion price in effect on the last trading day of such preceding fiscal quarter (the "Conversion Price Threshold Trigger"). The Conversion Price Threshold Trigger is currently \$ 44.68 ;
- during the five business-day period after any 10 consecutive trading-day period in which the trading price per \$1,000 principal amount of Subordinated Convertible Debentures for each day of that 10 consecutive trading-day period was less than 98% of the product of the last reported sale price of the Company's common stock and the conversion rate on such day;
- if the Company calls any or all of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures for redemption pursuant to the terms of the Indenture, at any time prior to the close of business on the trading day immediately preceding the redemption date;
- upon the occurrence of any of several specified corporate transactions as specified in the Indenture governing the Subordinated Convertible Debentures; or
- at any time on or after May 15, 2037, and prior to the maturity date.

The Company's common stock price exceeded the Conversion Price Threshold Trigger during the fourth quarter of 2014. Accordingly, the Subordinated Convertible Debentures were convertible at the option of each holder during the first quarter of 2015. Further, in the event of conversion, the Company intends, and has the ability, to settle the principal amount of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures in cash, and therefore, classified the debt component of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures, the embedded contingent interest derivative and the related deferred tax liability as current liabilities, and also classified the related debt issuance costs as a current asset as of December 31, 2014. The determination of whether or not the Subordinated Convertible Debentures are convertible, and accordingly, the classification of the related liabilities and assets as long-term or current, must continue to be performed quarterly. As of December 31, 2014, the if-converted value of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures exceeded its principal amount. Based on the if-converted value of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures as of December 31, 2014, the conversion spread could have required the Company to issue up to an additional 14.4 million shares of common stock.

In addition, holders of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures who convert their Subordinated Convertible Debentures in connection with a fundamental change may be entitled to a make-whole premium in the form of an increase in the conversion rate. Additionally, in the event of a fundamental change, the holders of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures may require Verisign to purchase all or a portion of their Subordinated Convertible Debentures at a purchase price equal to 100% of the principal amount of Subordinated Convertible Debentures, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any.

On August 14, 2014, the upside contingent interest trigger on the Subordinated Convertible Debentures was met for the six month interest period from August 15, 2014 through February 14, 2015. On February 15, 2015 the Company will pay contingent interest of \$ 5.2 million in addition to the normal coupon interest to holders of record of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures as of February 1, 2015. The upside trigger is met if the Subordinated Convertible Debentures' average trading price is at least 150% of par during the 10 trading days before each semi-annual interest period. The upside trigger is tested semi-annually for the following six months.

The Company calculated the carrying value of the liability component at issuance as the present value of its cash flows using a discount rate of 8.5% (borrowing rate for similar non-convertible debt with no contingent payment options), adjusted for the fair value of the contingent interest feature, yielding an effective interest rate of 8.39%. The excess of the principal amount of the debt over the carrying value of the liability component is also referred to as the "debt discount" or "equity component" of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures. The debt discount is being amortized using the Company's effective interest rate of 8.39% over the term of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures as a non-cash charge included in Interest expense. As of December 31, 2014, the remaining term of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures is 22.6 years. Interest is payable semiannually in arrears on August 15 and February 15.

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Proceeds upon issuance of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures were as follows (in thousands):

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Principal value of Subordinated Convertible Debentures | \$ 1,250,000 |
| Less: Issuance costs | (25,777) |
| Net proceeds, Subordinated Convertible Debentures | <u>\$ 1,224,223</u> |
| Amounts recognized at issuance: | |
| Subordinated Convertible Debentures, including contingent interest derivative | \$ 558,243 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 418,996 |
| Long-term deferred tax liabilities | 267,225 |
| Other long-term assets | (11,328) |
| Non-operating loss | (8,913) |
| Net proceeds, Subordinated Convertible Debentures | <u>\$ 1,224,223</u> |

The table below presents the carrying amounts of the liability and equity components:

| | As of December 31, | |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 |
| | (In thousands) | |
| Debt discount upon issuance (net of issuance costs of \$14,449) | \$ 686,221 | \$ 686,221 |
| Deferred taxes associated with the debt discount upon issuance | (267,225) | (267,225) |
| Carrying amount of equity component | <u>\$ 418,996</u> | <u>\$ 418,996</u> |
| Principal amount of Subordinated Convertible Debentures | \$ 1,250,000 | \$ 1,250,000 |
| Unamortized discount of liability component | (645,565) | (654,948) |
| Carrying amount of liability component | 604,435 | 595,052 |
| Contingent interest derivative | 26,755 | 29,004 |
| Subordinated Convertible Debentures, including contingent interest derivative | <u>\$ 631,190</u> | <u>\$ 624,056</u> |

The following table presents the components of the Company's interest expense:

| | Year Ended December 31, | | |
|--|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
| | (In thousands) | | |
| Contractual interest on Subordinated Convertible Debentures | \$ 40,625 | \$ 40,625 | \$ 40,625 |
| Contractual interest on Senior Notes | 34,688 | 24,570 | — |
| Amortization of debt discount on the Subordinated Convertible Debentures | 9,412 | 8,670 | 7,986 |
| Interest capitalized to Property and equipment, net | (707) | (1,218) | (934) |
| Credit facility and other interest expense | 1,976 | 2,114 | 2,519 |
| Total interest expense | <u>\$ 85,994</u> | <u>\$ 74,761</u> | <u>\$ 50,196</u> |

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Note 7. Stockholders' Deficit

Treasury Stock

Treasury stock is accounted for under the cost method. Treasury stock includes shares repurchased under Stock Repurchase Programs and shares withheld in lieu of minimum tax withholdings due upon vesting of RSUs.

On July 23, 2014, the Board of Directors approved an additional authorization for share repurchases of approximately \$490.6 million of common stock in addition to the \$509.4 million remaining available for repurchases of common stock under the previous share buyback program for a total purchase authorization of up to \$1.0 billion of its common stock. The share buyback program has no expiration date. Purchases made under the program could be effected through open market transactions, block purchases, accelerated share repurchase agreements or other negotiated transactions.

Effective January 30, 2015, our Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of approximately \$452.9 million of our common stock, in addition to the \$547.1 million of our common stock remaining available for repurchase under the previous share repurchase program, for a total repurchase authorization of up to \$1.0 billion of our common stock. The share repurchase program has no expiration date. Purchases made under the program could be effected through open market transactions, block purchases, accelerated share repurchase agreements or other negotiated transactions.

The summary of the Company's common stock repurchases for 2014, 2013 and 2012 are as follows:

| | 2014 | | 2013 | | 2012 | |
|--|------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| | Shares | Average Price | Shares | Average Price | Shares | Average Price |
| (In thousands, except average price amounts) | | | | | | |
| Total repurchases under the repurchase plans | 16,316 | \$ 53.15 | 21,006 | \$ 48.65 | 7,692 | \$ 40.90 |
| Total repurchases for tax withholdings | 297 | \$ 54.73 | 298 | \$ 46.16 | 279 | \$ 39.63 |
| Total repurchases | 16,613 | \$ 53.18 | 21,304 | \$ 48.61 | 7,971 | \$ 40.86 |
| Total costs | \$ 883,403 | | \$ 1,035,617 | | \$ 325,680 | |

Since inception, the Company has repurchased 203.2 million shares of its common stock for an aggregate cost of \$6.9 billion, which is recorded as a reduction of Additional paid-in capital.

Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss

The following table summarizes the changes in the components of Accumulated other comprehensive loss for 2014 and 2013:

| | Foreign Currency Translation Adjustments Loss | | Unrealized Gain On Investments, net of tax | | Total Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss | |
|----------------------------|---|---------|--|---------|--|---------|
| | | | | | | |
| (In thousands) | | | | | | |
| Balance, December 31, 2012 | \$ | (3,241) | \$ | 2,853 | \$ | (388) |
| Changes | | 81 | | (2,778) | | (2,697) |
| Balance, December 31, 2013 | | (3,160) | | 75 | | (3,085) |
| Changes | | — | | 87 | | 87 |
| Balance, December 31, 2014 | \$ | (3,160) | \$ | 162 | \$ | (2,998) |

The change in the unrealized gain on investments, net of tax during 2013 was due primarily to the sale of the Company's investment in the equity securities of a public company and the reclassification of the related gain out of Accumulated other comprehensive loss and into net income. This gain is included in Non-operating income, net as discussed in Note 11, "Non-Operating Income, net".

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Note 8. Calculation of Net Income per Share

The following table presents the computation of weighted-average shares used in the calculation of basic and diluted net income per share:

| | Year Ended December 31, | | |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
| | (In thousands) | | |
| Weighted-average shares of common stock outstanding | 126,710 | 144,591 | 156,953 |
| Weighted-average potential shares of common stock outstanding: | | | |
| Conversion spread related to Subordinated Convertible Debentures | 13,384 | 10,361 | 5,944 |
| Unvested RSUs | 740 | 709 | 763 |
| Stock Options | 27 | 92 | 174 |
| Employee stock purchase plan | 34 | 33 | 75 |
| Shares used to compute diluted net income per share | <u>140,895</u> | <u>155,786</u> | <u>163,909</u> |

The calculation of diluted weighted average shares outstanding, excludes potentially dilutive securities, the effect of which would have been anti-dilutive, as well as performance based RSUs granted by the Company for which the relevant performance criteria have not been achieved. The number of potential shares excluded from the calculation was not significant in any period presented.

Note 9. Geographic and Customer Information

The Company generates revenue in the U.S.; Europe, the Middle East and Africa (“EMEA”); Australia, China, India, and other Asia Pacific countries (“APAC”); and certain other countries, including Canada and Latin American countries.

The following table presents a comparison of the Company’s geographic revenues:

| | Year Ended December 31, | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
| | (In thousands) | | |
| U.S | \$ 616,125 | \$ 585,201 | \$ 530,111 |
| EMEA | 182,897 | 169,767 | 135,084 |
| APAC | 133,748 | 129,664 | 130,648 |
| Other | 77,347 | 80,455 | 77,749 |
| Total revenues | <u>\$ 1,010,117</u> | <u>\$ 965,087</u> | <u>\$ 873,592</u> |

Revenues for our Registry Services business are generally attributed to the country of domicile and the respective regions in which the Company’s registrars are located, however, this may differ from the regions where the registrars operate or where registrants are located. Revenue growth for each region may be impacted by registrars reincorporating, relocating, or from acquisitions or changes in affiliations of resellers. Revenue growth for each region may also be impacted by registrars domiciled in one region, registering domain names in another region.

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The following table presents a comparison of property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation, by geographic region:

| | As of December 31, | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 |
| | (In thousands) | |
| U.S | \$ 308,563 | \$ 325,636 |
| EMEA | 9,919 | 13,317 |
| APAC | 546 | 700 |
| Total property and equipment, net | <u>\$ 319,028</u> | <u>\$ 339,653</u> |

Major Customers

One customer accounted for approximately 31% of revenues in 2014 and 30% in 2013 and 2012. The Company does not believe that the loss of this customer would have a material adverse effect on the Company's business because, in that event, end-users of this customer would transfer to the Company's other existing customers.

Note 10. Employee Benefits and Stock-based Compensation

401(k) Plan

The Company maintains a defined contribution 401(k) plan (the "401(k) Plan") for substantially all of its U.S. employees. Under the 401(k) Plan, eligible employees may contribute up to 50% of their pre-tax salary, subject to the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") annual contribution limits. In 2014, 2013 and 2012, the Company matched 50% of the employee's contribution up to a total of 6% of the employee's annual salary. The Company contributed \$3.4 million in 2014, \$3.1 million in 2013, and \$2.8 million in 2012 under the 401(k) Plan. The Company can terminate matching contributions at its discretion at any time.

Stock Option and Restricted Stock Plans

The majority of Verisign's stock-based compensation relates to RSUs. As of December 31, 2014, a total of 13.3 million shares of common stock were reserved for issuance upon the exercise of stock options and for the future grant of stock options or awards under Verisign's stock option and restricted stock plans.

On May 26, 2006, the stockholders of Verisign approved the 2006 Equity Incentive Plan (the "2006 Plan"). The 2006 Plan replaces Verisign's previous 1998 Directors Plan, 1998 Equity Incentive Plan, and 2001 Stock Incentive Plan. The 2006 Plan authorizes the award of incentive stock options to employees and non-qualified stock options, restricted stock awards, RSUs, stock bonus awards, stock appreciation rights and performance shares to eligible employees, officers, directors, consultants, independent contractors and advisers. The 2006 Plan is administered by the Compensation Committee which may delegate to a committee of one or more members of the Board or Verisign's officers the ability to grant certain awards and take certain other actions with respect to participants who are not executive officers or non-employee directors. RSUs are awards covering a specified number of shares of Verisign common stock that may be settled by issuance of those shares (which may be restricted shares). RSUs generally vest in four installments with 25% of the shares vesting on each anniversary of the first four anniversaries of the grant date. Certain performance-based RSUs, granted to the Company's executives, vest over two and three year terms. Additionally, the Company has granted fully vested RSUs to members of its Board of Directors in each of the last three years. The Compensation Committee may authorize grants with a different vesting schedule in the future. A total of 27.0 million common shares were authorized and reserved for issuance under the 2006 Plan.

2007 Employee Stock Purchase Plan

On August 30, 2007, the Company's stockholders approved the 2007 Employee Stock Purchase Plan which replaced the previous 1998 Employee Stock Purchase Plan. A total of 6.0 million common shares were authorized and reserved for issuance under the ESPP. Eligible employees may purchase common stock through payroll deductions by electing to have between 2% and 25% of their compensation withheld to cover the purchase price. Each participant is granted an option to purchase common stock on the first day of each 24-month offering period and this option is automatically exercised on the last day of each six-

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month purchase period during the offering period. The purchase price for the common stock under the ESPP is 85% of the lesser of the fair market value of the common stock on the first day of the applicable offering period or the last day of the applicable purchase period. Offering periods begin on the first business day of February and August of each year. As of December 31, 2014, 1.7 million shares of the Company's common stock are reserved for issuance under this plan.

Stock-based Compensation

Stock-based compensation is classified in the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income in the same expense line items as cash compensation. The following table presents the classification of stock-based compensation:

| | Year Ended December 31, | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
| | (In thousands) | | |
| Stock-based compensation: | | | |
| Cost of revenues | \$ 6,400 | \$ 6,156 | \$ 5,754 |
| Sales and marketing | 8,023 | 6,252 | 6,091 |
| Research and development | 7,018 | 7,199 | 6,023 |
| General and administrative | 22,536 | 17,042 | 15,494 |
| Total stock-based compensation | \$ 43,977 | \$ 36,649 | \$ 33,362 |

The following table presents the nature of the Company's total stock-based compensation:

| | Year Ended December 31, | | |
|--|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
| | (In thousands) | | |
| RSUs | \$ 32,304 | \$ 29,123 | \$ 28,874 |
| Performance-based RSUs | 10,232 | 5,033 | 1,933 |
| ESPP | 4,192 | 5,307 | 4,436 |
| Stock options | — | 179 | 956 |
| Capitalization (Included in Property and equipment, net) | (2,751) | (2,993) | (2,837) |
| Total stock-based compensation expense | \$ 43,977 | \$ 36,649 | \$ 33,362 |

The income tax benefit recognized on stock-based compensation within Income tax expense for 2014, 2013, and 2012 was \$ 15.1 million, \$ 11.9 million, and \$ 9.4 million, respectively.

The following table sets forth the weighted-average assumptions used to estimate the fair value of ESPP awards:

| | Year Ended December 31, | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Volatility | 24% | 26% | 26% |
| Risk-free interest rate | 0.16% | 0.14% | 0.16% |
| Expected term | 1.25 years | 1.25 years | 1.25 years |
| Dividend yield | Zero | Zero | Zero |

The Company's expected volatility is based on the average of the historical volatility over the period commensurate with the expected term of the awards and the mean historical implied volatility of traded options. The risk-free interest rates are derived from the average U.S. Treasury constant maturity rates during the respective periods commensurate with the expected term. On the ESPP offering dates, the Company did not anticipate paying any cash dividends and therefore used an expected dividend yield of zero. The Company estimates forfeitures at the time of grant and revises those estimates in subsequent periods if actual forfeitures differ from those estimates. The Company uses historical data to estimate pre-vesting forfeitures and records stock-based compensation only for those awards that are expected to vest.

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RSUs Information

The following table summarizes unvested RSUs activity:

| | Year Ended December 31, | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--------------|--|--------------|--|
| | 2014 | | 2013 | | 2012 | |
| | Shares | Weighted-Average Grant-Date Fair Value | Shares | Weighted-Average Grant-Date Fair Value | Shares | Weighted-Average Grant-Date Fair Value |
| | (Shares in thousands) | | | | | |
| Unvested at beginning of period | 2,442 | \$ 38.00 | 2,478 | \$ 32.07 | 2,345 | \$ 27.33 |
| Granted | 909 | 55.05 | 1,132 | 45.08 | 1,341 | 38.20 |
| Vested and settled | (878) | 35.99 | (900) | 30.73 | (881) | 27.57 |
| Forfeited | (294) | 44.00 | (268) | 36.09 | (327) | 32.34 |
| | <u>2,179</u> | <u>\$ 46.36</u> | <u>2,442</u> | <u>\$ 38.00</u> | <u>2,478</u> | <u>\$ 32.07</u> |

The RSUs in the table above include certain RSUs granted to the Company's executives that are subject to performance conditions, and in some cases, market conditions. The unvested RSUs as of December 31, 2014 include approximately 0.3 million RSUs subject to performance and/or market conditions. The number of RSUs that ultimately vest may range from zero to a maximum of 0.6 million RSUs depending on the level of performance achieved and whether any market conditions are satisfied.

The closing price of Verisign's stock was \$ 57.00 on December 31, 2014. As of December 31, 2014, the aggregate intrinsic value of unvested RSUs was \$ 124.3 million. The fair values of RSUs that vested during 2014, 2013, and 2012 were \$ 47.9 million, \$ 41.5 million, and \$ 31.7 million, respectively. As of December 31, 2014, total unrecognized compensation cost related to unvested RSUs was \$ 56.4 million which is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 2.3 years.

Stock Options Information

The Company has not granted any stock options in each of the last three years. The number of remaining options outstanding is not material. As of December 31, 2014, all of the compensation cost related to the Company's stock options has been recognized.

Modifications

Under the ESPP, if the market price of the stock at the end of any six-month purchase period is lower than the stock price at the offering date, the plan is immediately cancelled after that purchase date and a new two-year plan is established using the then-current stock price as the base purchase price. The Company also allows its employees to increase their payroll withholdings during the offering period. The Company accounts for these increases in employee payroll withholdings and the plan rollover as modifications. Modification expenses for the ESPP were not material in any period presented.

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Note 11. Non-operating Income, Net

The following table presents the components of Non-operating income, net:

| | Year Ended December 31, | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
| | (In thousands) | | |
| Realized net (loss) gain on investments | \$ (5) | \$ 18,861 | \$ 102 |
| Unrealized gain (loss) on contingent interest derivative on Subordinated Convertible Debentures | 2,249 | (17,801) | 422 |
| Interest and dividend income | 922 | 1,897 | 2,957 |
| Income from transition services agreements | — | — | 2,541 |
| Other, net | 1,712 | 343 | (458) |
| Total non-operating income, net | <u>\$ 4,878</u> | <u>\$ 3,300</u> | <u>\$ 5,564</u> |

The realized net gain on investments in 2013 included gains of \$15.8 million from the sale of certain cost method investments, and \$3.0 million from the sale of the Company's investment in the equity securities of a public company. The unrealized gains and losses on the contingent interest derivative on the Subordinated Convertible Debentures reflects the change in value of the derivative that results primarily from the changes in the Company's stock price. Interest and dividend income is earned principally from the Company's surplus cash balances and marketable securities. Income from transition services agreements includes fees generated from services provided to the purchasers of divested businesses for a certain period of time to facilitate the transfer of business operations. All transition services were completed in 2012.

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Note 12. Income Taxes

Income from continuing operations before income taxes is categorized geographically as follows:

| | Year Ended December 31, | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
| | (In thousands) | | |
| United States | \$ 270,373 | \$ 250,041 | \$ 245,745 |
| Foreign | 212,938 | 206,730 | 166,950 |
| Total income from continuing operations before income taxes | <u>\$ 483,311</u> | <u>\$ 456,771</u> | <u>\$ 412,695</u> |

The provision for income taxes consisted of the following:

| | Year Ended December 31, | | |
|---|-------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
| | (In thousands) | | |
| Continuing Operations: | | | |
| Current (expense) benefit: | | | |
| Federal | \$ (4,643) | \$ (1,104) | \$ (13,553) |
| State | 14 | (8,150) | (7,960) |
| Foreign, including foreign withholding tax | (69,614) | (13,613) | (8,498) |
| | <u>(74,243)</u> | <u>(22,867)</u> | <u>(30,011)</u> |
| Deferred (expense) benefit: | | | |
| Federal | (76,614) | 53,629 | (67,700) |
| State | (15,402) | 66,701 | (6,760) |
| Foreign | 38,208 | (9,784) | 4,261 |
| | <u>(53,808)</u> | <u>110,546</u> | <u>(70,199)</u> |
| Total income tax expense (benefit) from continuing operations | <u>\$ (128,051)</u> | <u>\$ 87,679</u> | <u>\$ (100,210)</u> |
| Income tax (expense) benefit from discontinued operations | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ (3,594)</u> |

The difference between income tax expense and the amount resulting from applying the federal statutory rate of 35 % to Income from continuing operations before income taxes is attributable to the following:

| | Year Ended December 31, | | |
|---|-------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
| | (In thousands) | | |
| Income tax expense at federal statutory rate | \$ (169,159) | \$ (159,870) | \$ (144,443) |
| State taxes, net of federal benefit | (11,308) | (13,821) | (10,003) |
| Differences between statutory rate and foreign effective tax rate | 57,876 | 51,016 | 51,780 |
| Reorganization of certain non-U.S. operations | (14,474) | — | — |
| Tax (expense) benefit from worthless stock deduction | (14,497) | 1,717,466 | — |
| Change in valuation allowance | 41,700 | (1,195,303) | 5,760 |
| Repatriation of foreign earnings | 4,164 | (167,115) | — |
| Accrual for uncertain tax positions | (22,719) | (140,596) | (306) |
| Other | 366 | (4,098) | (2,998) |
| | <u>\$ (128,051)</u> | <u>\$ 87,679</u> | <u>\$ (100,210)</u> |

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During 2014 the Company completed the previously disclosed repatriation of \$ 740.9 million of cash held by foreign subsidiaries, net of \$ 28.1 million of foreign withholding taxes which were accrued during 2013. The Company utilized the majority of the remaining deferred tax asset for net operating loss carryforwards generated from the 2013 worthless stock deduction to offset the income tax resulting from current year income and the repatriation. The repatriation amount utilized substantially all of the available capital reserves of the Company's foreign subsidiaries that were legally distributable under applicable foreign statutes. During the fourth quarter of 2013, the Company recorded income tax expense of \$ 167.1 million related to taxable income generated in the U.S. as a result of the intended repatriation. For funds remaining in the foreign subsidiaries after the repatriation that have not been previously taxed in the U.S., the Company's intention remains to indefinitely reinvest those funds outside of the U.S. and accordingly deferred U.S. taxes have not been provided. As of December 31, 2014, the amount of undistributed earnings of foreign subsidiaries for which deferred income taxes have not been provided was \$447.0 million. As a result of the completion of the repatriation during 2014 and changes to estimates related to the 2013 worthless stock deduction, the Company recognized a net income tax benefit of \$8.6 million during 2014. The components of this net benefit are included in the table above for changes in valuation allowances, adjustments to the benefit from the worthless stock deduction, changes to the accrual for uncertain tax positions and the repatriation of foreign earnings.

The Company qualifies for two tax holidays in Switzerland. The tax holidays provide reduced rates of taxation on certain types of income and also require certain thresholds of foreign source income. One of the tax holidays is effective through December 31, 2016, and upon expiration may be subject to renewal if certain criteria are satisfied. The other tax holiday in Switzerland expired on December 31, 2014, and has not been extended. These two tax holidays increased the Company's earnings per share by \$ 0.50, \$ 0.18 and \$ 0.11 in 2014, 2013, and 2012, respectively. The Company qualifies for an additional tax holiday in Switzerland which will take effect beginning in 2015. This tax holiday is indefinite, unless the required thresholds are no longer met, or there is a law change which eliminates the holiday. In the fourth quarter of 2014, the Company incurred a charge of \$ 14.5 million in non-US income taxes as a result of a reorganization of certain international operations. As a result of the tax holiday which becomes effective in 2015, and the reorganization, the Company believes it will not have a significant change to its international tax rate after the expiration of the tax holiday in Switzerland.

During 2013, the Company liquidated for tax purposes one of its domestic subsidiaries, which allowed the Company to claim a worthless stock deduction on its 2013 federal income tax return. During the fourth quarter of 2013 the Company recorded an income tax benefit of \$ 375.3 million related to the worthless stock deduction, net of valuation allowances and accrual for uncertain tax positions. The financial statement carrying value of this subsidiary was not material. The worthless stock deduction may be subject to audit and adjustment by the IRS, which could result in reversal of all, part or none of the income tax benefit, or could result in a benefit higher than the net amount recorded. If the IRS rejects or reduces the amount of the income tax benefit related to the worthless stock deduction, the Company may have to pay additional cash income taxes, which could adversely affect the Company's results of operations, financial condition and cash flows. The Company cannot guarantee what the ultimate outcome or amount of benefit it receives, if any, will be.

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The tax effects of temporary differences that give rise to significant portions of the Company's deferred tax assets and liabilities are as follows:

| | As of December 31, | |
|---|--------------------|--------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 |
| (In thousands) | | |
| Deferred tax assets: | | |
| Net operating loss carryforwards | \$ 61,059 | \$ 260,253 |
| Deductible goodwill and intangible assets | 34,586 | 48,365 |
| Tax credit carryforwards | 100,190 | 4,432 |
| Deferred revenue, accruals and reserves | 103,794 | 99,934 |
| Capital loss carryforwards and book impairment of investments | 1,161,896 | 1,210,529 |
| Other | 4,956 | 5,060 |
| Total deferred tax assets | 1,466,481 | 1,628,573 |
| Valuation allowance | (1,162,170) | (1,203,870) |
| Net deferred tax assets | 304,311 | 424,703 |
| Deferred tax liabilities: | | |
| Property and equipment | (16,115) | (19,354) |
| Unremitted foreign earnings | — | (167,115) |
| Subordinated Convertible debentures | (494,625) | (453,825) |
| Other | (4,151) | (5,656) |
| Total deferred tax liabilities | (514,891) | (645,950) |
| Total net deferred tax liabilities | \$ (210,580) | \$ (221,247) |

With the exception of deferred tax assets related to capital loss carryforwards, management believes it is more likely than not that the tax effects of the deferred tax liabilities together with future taxable income, will be sufficient to fully recover the remaining deferred tax assets.

As of December 31, 2014, the Company had federal, state and foreign net operating loss carryforwards of approximately \$ 39.7 million, \$ 1.6 billion, and \$ 22.1 million, respectively, before applying tax rates for the respective jurisdictions. As of December 31, 2014, the Company had federal and state research tax credits of \$ 41.3 million and \$ 2.1 million, respectively, and alternative minimum tax credits of \$ 22.4 million available for future years. Certain net operating loss carryforwards and credits are subject to an annual limitation under Internal Revenue Code Section 382, but are expected to be fully realized. In future periods, an aggregate, tax effected amount of \$ 71.3 million will be recorded to Additional paid-in capital when carried forward excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation are utilized to reduce future cash tax payments. The federal and state net operating loss and federal tax credit carryforwards expire in various years from 2015 through 2034. The foreign net operating loss can be carried forward indefinitely. As of December 31, 2014, the Company had federal and state capital loss carryforwards of \$ 3.0 billion and \$ 3.1 billion, respectively, before applying tax rates for the respective jurisdictions. The capital loss carryforwards expire in 2018 and are also subject to annual limitations under Internal Revenue Code Section 382. The Company does not expect to realize any tax benefits from the capital loss carryforwards and accordingly has reserved the entire amount through valuation allowance and accrual for uncertain tax positions. There is a foreign tax credit carryforward of \$ 187.7 million as a result of the repatriation. The repatriation generated foreign source income in the U.S. which should enable the Company to claim eligible foreign taxes paid in the current year and prior years as foreign tax credits instead of as deductions. The benefit from these foreign tax credits was included in the computation of the deferred tax liability on unremitted foreign earnings as of December 31, 2013. The majority of these foreign tax credits will expire in 2024.

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The deferred tax liability related to the Subordinated Convertible Debentures is driven by the excess of the tax deduction taken for interest expense over the amount of interest expense recognized in the consolidated financial statements. The interest expense deducted for tax purposes is based on the adjusted issue price of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures, while the interest expense recognized in accordance with GAAP is based only on the liability portion of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures. The adjusted issue price of the Subordinated Convertible Debentures grows over the term due to the difference between the interest deduction taken for income tax, using a comparable yield of 8.5% , and the coupon rate of 3.25% , compounded annually.

In 2014, the Company adopted Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2013-11, "Income Taxes - Presentation of an Unrecognized Tax Benefit When a Net Operating Loss Carryforward, a Similar Tax Loss, Or a Tax Credit Carryforward Exists." This ASU generally requires that unrecognized tax benefits be presented as a reduction to a deferred tax asset for a net operating loss, similar tax loss or a tax credit carryforward that is available to settle additional income taxes that would result from the disallowance of a tax position, presuming disallowance at the reporting date. The amount of unrecognized tax benefits that were offset against deferred tax assets was \$ 108.1 million and \$ 140.6 million as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

The Company maintains liabilities for uncertain tax positions. These liabilities involve considerable judgment and estimation and are continuously monitored by management based on the best information available including changes in tax regulations and other information. A reconciliation of the beginning and ending balances of the total amounts of gross unrecognized tax benefits is as follows:

| | As of December 31, | |
|--|--------------------|------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 |
| | (In thousands) | |
| Gross unrecognized tax benefits at January 1 | \$ 197,189 | \$ 56,593 |
| Increases in tax positions for prior years | 22,538 | 83 |
| Increases in tax positions for current year | 181 | 140,513 |
| Gross unrecognized tax benefits at December 31 | \$ 219,908 | \$ 197,189 |

As of December 31, 2014 , approximately \$ 210.3 million of unrecognized tax benefits, including penalties and interest, could affect the Company's tax provision and effective tax rate. The IRS is examining the Company's federal income tax returns for fiscal years 2010 through 2012. It is reasonably possible that during the next twelve months, the Company's unrecognized tax benefits may change by a significant amount as a result of the audit. However the timing of completion and ultimate outcome of the audit remains uncertain. Therefore, the Company cannot currently estimate the impact on the balance of unrecognized tax benefits.

In accordance with its accounting policy, the Company recognizes accrued interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits as a component of tax expense. These accruals were not material in any period presented.

The Company's major taxing jurisdictions are the U.S., the state of Virginia, and Switzerland. As stated previously, the Company's federal income tax returns are currently under examination by the Internal Revenue Service for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2011 and 2012. The Company's other tax returns are not currently under examination by their respective taxing jurisdictions. Because the Company uses historic net operating loss carryforwards and other tax attributes to offset its taxable income in current and future years' income tax returns for the U.S. and Virginia, such attributes can be adjusted by these taxing authorities until the statute closes on the year in which such attributes were utilized. The open years in Switzerland are the 2013 tax year and forward.

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Note 13. Commitments and Contingencies

Purchase Obligations and Contractual Agreements

The following table represents the minimum payments required by Verisign under certain purchase obligations, leases, the .tv Agreement with the Government of Tuvalu, and the interest payments and principal on the Subordinated Convertible Debentures and the Senior Notes:

| | Purchase Obligations | Leases | .tv Agreement | Senior Notes | Subordinated Convertible Debentures | Total |
|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| (In thousands) | | | | | | |
| 2015 | \$ 20,894 | \$ 1,920 | \$ 5,000 | \$ 34,688 | \$ 45,851 | \$ 108,353 |
| 2016 | 6,036 | 1,346 | 5,000 | 34,688 | 40,625 | 87,695 |
| 2017 | 1,369 | 252 | 5,000 | 34,688 | 40,625 | 81,934 |
| 2018 | — | — | 5,000 | 34,688 | 40,625 | 80,313 |
| 2019 | — | — | 5,000 | 34,688 | 40,625 | 80,313 |
| Thereafter | — | — | 10,000 | 888,747 | 1,966,016 | 2,864,763 |
| Total | \$ 28,299 | \$ 3,518 | \$ 35,000 | \$ 1,062,187 | \$ 2,174,367 | \$ 3,303,371 |

The amounts in the table above exclude \$ 210.3 million of income tax related uncertain tax positions, as the Company is unable to reasonably estimate the ultimate amount or time of settlement of those liabilities.

Verisign enters into certain purchase obligations with various vendors. The Company's significant purchase obligations primarily consist of firm commitments with telecommunication carriers and other service providers. The Company does not have any significant purchase obligations beyond 2017.

Verisign leases a portion of its facilities under operating leases that extend through 2017. Rental expenses under operating leases were \$1.6 million in 2014, \$1.9 million in 2013, and \$3.0 million in 2012 .

On November 29, 2012, the Company renewed its agreement with Internet Corporation for Assigned Name and Numbers ("ICANN") to be the sole registry operator for domain names in the .com TLD through November 30, 2018 . Under this agreement, the Company pays ICANN on a quarterly basis, \$ 0.25 for each annual increment of a domain name registered or renewed during such quarter. As of December 31, 2014, there were 115.6 million domain names in the . com TLD. However, the number of domain names registered and renewed each quarter may vary significantly. The Company incurred registry fees for the . com TLD of \$ 28.4 million in 2014, \$ 27.9 million in 2013, and \$ 18.7 million in 2012. Registry fees for other generic TLDs have been excluded from the table above because the amounts are variable or passed through to registrars.

In 2011, the Company renewed its agreement with the Government of Tuvalu to be the sole registry operator for .tv domain names through December 31, 2021. Registry fees were \$ 4.5 million in 2014, \$ 4.5 million in 2013, and \$ 4.0 million in 2012.

In April 2013, the Company issued \$ 750 million principal amount of Senior Notes. The Company will pay cash interest at an annual rate of 4.625% payable semi-annually on May 1 and November 1 of each year until maturity on May 1, 2023.

In August 2007, the Company issued \$ 1.25 billion principal amount of Subordinated Convertible Debentures. The Company will pay cash interest at an annual rate of 3.25% payable semi-annually on February 15 and August 15 of each year, until maturity on August 15, 2037. Interest on the Subordinated Convertible Debentures for 2015 in the table above, includes \$5.2 million of contingent interest which will be paid in February 2015, as discussed in Note 6, "Debt and interest expense" of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

VERISIGN, INC.
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Continued)
DECEMBER 31, 2014, 2013 AND 2012

Legal Proceedings

Verisign is involved in various investigations, claims and lawsuits arising in the normal conduct of its business, none of which, in its opinion, will have a material adverse effect on its financial condition, results of operations, or cash flows. The Company cannot assure you that it will prevail in any litigation. Regardless of the outcome, any litigation may require the Company to incur significant litigation expense and may result in significant diversion of management attention.

While certain legal proceedings and related indemnification obligations to which the Company is a party specify the amounts claimed, such claims may not represent reasonably possible losses. Given the inherent uncertainties of the litigation, the ultimate outcome of these matters cannot be predicted at this time, nor can the amount of possible loss or range of loss, if any, be reasonably estimated, except in circumstances where an aggregate litigation accrual has been recorded for probable and reasonably estimable loss contingencies. A determination of the amount of accrual required, if any, for these contingencies is made after careful analysis of each matter. The required accrual may change in the future due to new developments in each matter or changes in approach such as a change in settlement strategy in dealing with these matters. The Company does not believe that any such matter currently being reviewed will have a material adverse effect on its financial condition, results of operations, or cash flows.

Indemnifications

In connection with the sale of the Authentication Services business to Symantec in August 2010, the Company has agreed to indemnify Symantec for certain potential legal claims arising from the operation of the Authentication Services business for a period of sixty months after the closing of the sale transaction. The Company's indemnification obligations in this regard are triggered only when indemnifiable claims exceed in the aggregate \$4.0 million. Thereafter, the Company is obligated to indemnify Symantec for 50% of all indemnifiable claims. The Company's maximum indemnification obligation with respect to these claims is capped at \$50.0 million.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, the Company did not have any relationships with unconsolidated entities or financial partnerships, such as entities often referred to as structured finance or special purpose entities, which would have been established for the purpose of facilitating off-balance sheet arrangements or other contractually narrow or limited purposes. As such, the Company is not exposed to any financing, liquidity, market or credit risk that could arise if the Company had engaged in such relationships.

It is not the Company's business practice to enter into off-balance sheet arrangements. However, in the normal course of business, the Company does enter into contracts in which it makes representations and warranties that guarantee the performance of the Company's products and services. Historically, there have been no significant losses related to such guarantees.

EXHIBITS

As required under Item 15—Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules, the exhibits filed as part of this report are provided in this separate section. The exhibits included in this section are as follows:

| Exhibit Number | Exhibit Description |
|-------------------|--|
| 10.68 | Amendment No. 1 to VeriSign, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan Performance Based Restricted Stock Unit Agreement(s). + |
| 10.69 | Separation and General Release Agreement between VeriSign, Inc. and Richard H. Goshorn, effective as of November 29, 2014.+ |
| 21.01 | Subsidiaries of the Registrant. |
| 23.01 | Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm. |
| 24.01 | Powers of Attorney (Included as part of the signature pages hereto). |
| 31.01 | Certification of Principal Executive Officer pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 13a-14(a). |
| 31.02 | Certification of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 13a-14(a). |
| 32.01 | Certification of Principal Executive Officer pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 13a-14(b) and Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the U.S. Code (18 U.S.C. 1350). * |
| 32.02 | Certification of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 13a-14(b) and Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the U.S. Code (18 U.S.C. 1350). * |
| 101.INS | XBRL Instance Document |
| 101.SCH | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema |
| 101.CAL | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase |
| 101.DEF | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase |
| 101.LAB | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase |
| 101.PRE | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase |

* As contemplated by SEC Release No. 33-8212, these exhibits are furnished with this Annual Report on Form 10-K and are not deemed filed with the SEC and are not incorporated by reference in any filing of VeriSign, Inc. under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, whether made before or after the date hereof and irrespective of any general incorporation language in such filings.

+ Indicates a management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

**AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO VERISIGN, INC. 2006
EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN PERFORMANCE-BASED RESTRICTED STOCK UNIT AGREEMENT(S)**

This Amendment No. 1 amends the VeriSign, Inc. 2006 Equity Incentive Plan Performance-Based Restricted Stock Unit Agreement(s) (“the PSU Agreements”) identified below and entered into between [insert Section 16 Officer] and VeriSign, Inc.:

[insert agreement grant dates and grant numbers as needed]

AMENDMENT NO. 1

1. Section 13 - VeriSign Incentive Compensation Recovery Policy in the Case of Inaccurate Financial Statements. Section 13 of the PSU Agreements is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

“The Committee has adopted an incentive compensation recovery policy (the “Policy”) which applies to all Section 16 executive officers and such other officers as the Committee may designate. The Policy applies whenever there is an Inaccurate Financial Statement (as such term is defined in the Policy), and, as a result, a covered executive has received more incentive compensation than would have otherwise occurred. To the extent you are subject to the Policy, you agree that the Committee can seek recovery of any such overpayment received under this Agreement per the terms of the Policy.”

2. General. This Amendment No. 1 amends only those terms of the PSU Agreement(s) identified in paragraph 1 above. All other terms and conditions of the PSU Agreements shall remain in full force and effect. In the event of any conflict between the terms and conditions in this Amendment No. 1 and the PSU Agreements, the terms and conditions of this Amendment No. 1 shall control.

VeriSign, Inc.

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____



SEPARATION AND GENERAL RELEASE AGREEMENT

I, Richard H. Goshorn, acknowledge that my employment with VeriSign, Inc. (“Verisign” or the “Company”) terminated on November 14, 2014 (the “Termination Date”). In consideration of the mutual promises, covenants, and conditions set forth herein, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, I hereby agree to be bound by the terms of this Separation and General Release Agreement (this “Agreement”) as follows:

1. Severance Pay and Benefits:

(a) **In General:** I understand and agree that Verisign shall provide me with the severance pay and benefits set forth in Paragraphs 1 (b) and 1(c) below (the “Separation Package”) only if I sign this Agreement and return it in a timely manner, do not revoke my acceptance, and provided that I have complied and continue to comply with my obligations as set forth in this Agreement. I understand and agree that I am not otherwise entitled to receive any of the Separation Package specified in this Section, and I am receiving the below Separation Package only because of my acceptance and non-revocation of the terms of this Agreement and fulfillment of the promises contained herein.

(b) **Cash Severance Payment:** Subject to the foregoing, Verisign will pay me a one-time lump sum cash severance payment of One Million, Three Hundred, Seventy-Nine dollars and zero cents (\$1,000,379.00), less income tax withholding and other standard payroll deductions (“Cash Severance Payment”). This gross amount constitutes the total of the following components:

(i) base severance pay in the gross amount of Three Hundred, Thirteen Thousand, Eight Hundred, Forty-Seven dollars and Zero cents (\$313,847.00), which represents forty (40) weeks of my current base salary;

(ii) a cash equivalent in the gross amount of Two Hundred, Twelve Thousand, Nine Hundred, Seventy-Six dollars and Zero cents (\$212,976.00), which represents my VPP bonus assuming achievement of the bonus target, prorated at 87%;

(iii) additional severance pay in the gross amount of Thirteen Thousand, Five Hundred Fifty-Six dollars and Zero cents (\$13,556.00), which represents forty (40) weeks of my COBRA premiums for medical, dental, and vision insurance based on my participation as of the Termination Date; and

(iv) additional severance pay in the gross amount of Four Hundred, Sixty Thousand dollars and Zero cents (\$460,000.00).

All lawful withholdings and deductions, including for income tax withholdings and employment taxes, will be made from the Cash Severance Payment made under this Agreement. The Cash Severance Payment will be direct deposited into the bank account last given to Verisign by me. For purposes of any 401(k) plan or other retirement plans, I understand and agree that the Cash Severance Payment does not constitute salary and wages to which existing employee contribution elections and/or employer match, if any, apply. Subject to the foregoing, this Cash Severance Payment shall be made within 30 days after January 1, 2015.

Richard H. Goshorn

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(c) **Outplacement Assistance:** Verisign will provide outplacement services to assist me with my external job search for up to fifty-two (52) weeks following the Termination Date. These services will be provided by the outplacement services vendor designated by Verisign, and the nature and amount of outplacement services that will be provided by the vendor within that period will be determined by Verisign in its sole discretion. I understand that no outplacement services will be provided to me unless I activate this service on or before the thirtieth (30th) calendar day following the Termination Date. I also understand and agree that any such outplacement services will immediately cease and no additional outplacement services will be provided upon the occurrence of any of the following: (i) Verisign withdraws this Agreement for any reason before it is executed by me; (ii) I fail to return a signed copy of this Agreement in a timely manner; or (iii) I revoke my acceptance of this Agreement in a timely manner.

2. **Taxes:** All lawful withholdings and deductions, including for income tax withholdings and employment taxes, will be made from the Cash Severance Payment made under this Agreement. I understand and agree that I am solely and entirely responsible for paying and discharging any taxes on amounts I receive because I signed this Agreement or because of the Separation Package. I agree to cooperate fully with Verisign in the event of a tax audit involving the Separation Package and in the administration of the Separation Package. I agree to indemnify and hold harmless Verisign against any claim or liability for any such taxes and any related penalties and/or interest in the event any federal, state, or local taxing authority assesses any such taxes, penalties and/or interest.

3. **No Further Benefits:** I acknowledge that I have been paid all wages, bonuses, compensation, and accrued, unused vacation earned during my employment with Verisign through the Termination Date and have been reimbursed for all business expenses that I have incurred. Except as otherwise provided herein, I shall not be entitled to any other or further compensation, remuneration, benefits, payments, or any equity issue of or from Verisign; *provided, however*, that nothing in this Agreement affects any vested benefits that I may have under any retirement plan. I understand and agree that the terms and conditions of the plans and agreements under which my stock options and restricted stock units, if any, were granted shall continue to control, including, for example, the limitations on the period within which the stock options may be exercised following the Termination Date. I further understand, acknowledge and agree that certain equity grants made to me continue to be subject to additional restrictions imposed by the Verisign Stock Retention Policy for Verisign Board of Directors and Section 16 Officers (the "Verisign Stock Retention Policy") and I agree to comply with all such applicable restrictions. I understand and agree that any remaining continuation and/or conversion rights that I may have to health or other insurance benefits will be as provided by the terms and conditions of those plans and applicable law and have or will be provided under separate cover.

4. **Complete and General Release:**

(a) **In General:** Except as otherwise provided in this Section, I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, executors, administrators, and personal representatives, hereby irrevocably, unconditionally, and absolutely release and forever discharge Verisign and all of the Released Parties (as defined below) of and from any and all grievances, liens, suits, judgments, claims, demands, debts, defenses, actions, causes of action, obligations, damages, and liabilities whatsoever that I now have, have had, or may have, whether the same be known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, at law/in equity/or mixed, in any way arising out of or relating in any way to any matter, act, occurrence, omission, practice, conduct, policy, event, or transaction on or before the Effective Date of this Agreement. **This is a general release. By signing this Agreement, I knowingly and voluntarily agree to forego all claims and potential claims against Verisign and the other Released Parties. I agree that this release will extinguish all claims that have arisen at any time up through the Effective Date of this Agreement.**

I understand and agree that I am releasing all known and unknown claims, promises, causes of action, or similar rights of any type that I may have with respect to Verisign or any of the Released Parties, including, but not limited to, claims that in any way relate to: (1) my employment with Verisign or the ending of that employment; (2) any claimed rights I may have to any severance/separation pay, bonuses, compensation, equity, or other benefits; (3) any and all issues raised or that could have been raised in any litigation against Verisign or any of the Released Parties; and (4) any claims to attorneys' fees or costs.

Richard H. Goshorn



I further understand that the claims that I am releasing may arise under many different laws, including the following: the Older Workers Benefit Protection Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, as amended (“ADEA”), the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1991; Section 1981 of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1991; Section 1981 of the Civil Rights Act of 1866; the Equal Pay Act of 1963; the Americans With Disabilities Act; the Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978; Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Executive Orders 11141 and 11246; any other federal, state, or local law prohibiting employment discrimination, including the Virginia Human Rights Act, and Title 40.1 Labor and Employment of the Code of Virginia; the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act; the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974; the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (“FLSA”); the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (“FMLA”); the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985; the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act; the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, federal and state securities laws, and the rules promulgated thereunder; any federal, state, or local law restricting an employer’s right to terminate employees or otherwise regulating employment, enforcing express or implied contracts, requiring an employer to deal with employees fairly or in good faith, or governing or affecting any short-term or long-term disability plans; any other federal, state, or local law providing recourse for whistleblowing or alleged violations of wage and hour law, labor relations laws, wrongful or abusive discharge, physical or personal injury, intentional or negligent infliction of emotional distress, fraud, negligent misrepresentations, defamation, interference with contract or employment, assault and battery, and other tort claims.

The laws referred to in this subsection include statutes, ordinances, regulations and other administrative guidance, including any amendments thereto, and common law doctrines. If any claim is not subject to release, to the maximum extent permitted by law, I waive any right or ability to be a class or collective action representative or to otherwise participate in any putative or certified class, collective, or multi-party action or proceeding based on such a claim in which Verisign or any of the other Released Parties is a party.

(b) Unknown Claims: I understand that I am releasing claims that I may not know about. That is my knowing and voluntary intent, even though I recognize that someday I might learn that some or all of the facts I currently believe to be true are untrue and even though I might then regret having signed this Agreement or otherwise agreeing to its terms. Nevertheless, I am assuming that risk and I agree that this Agreement shall remain effective in all respects in any such case. I expressly waive all rights that I might have under any law that is intended to protect me from waiving unknown claims. I understand the significance of doing so. I am not waiving any future claims that arise after the execution of this Agreement and that do not exist at the time I execute this Agreement.

(c) Acknowledgment: By signing this Agreement, I agree that: (i) I have not suffered any injuries or occupational diseases relating to or arising out of my employment with Verisign; (ii) I have received all wages and leave to which I was entitled as an employee of Verisign; (iii) I am not aware of any facts or evidence of any discrimination or retaliation by Verisign; and (iv) I am not currently aware of any facts or circumstances constituting a violation of the FMLA or the FLSA, or any similar state law. I acknowledge and waive any claim for any attorneys’ fees, costs, and expenses.

(d) Released Parties: I unconditionally, knowingly, and voluntarily release and forever discharge the following persons and entities from the above claims: VeriSign, Inc., its subsidiaries, affiliates, partnerships, joint ventures, benefit plans, and, with respect to each of them, their former and current parents, subsidiaries, predecessors, purchasers, and successors; and, with respect to each such entity, all of its past and present directors, officers, employees, shareholders, advisors, consultants, suppliers, attorneys, assigns, fiduciaries, insurers, agents and representatives (collectively, the “Released Parties”).

Richard H. Goshorn
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5. **Additional Promises:**

(a) **Agreement Not to File Actions:** I agree not to file, join in, or prosecute further any lawsuits against Verisign and the other Released Parties concerning any matter in any way arising out of or relating in any way to any matter, act, occurrence, omission, practice, conduct, policy, event, or transaction on or before the date of this Agreement. **By signing this Agreement, I agree not to sue Verisign and/or any of the other Released Parties for anything arising up through the Effective Date of this Agreement.** I further represent that as of the date that I sign this Agreement, I have no pending grievances, claims, complaints, administrative charges, or lawsuits against Verisign or any of the Released Parties in or with any administrative, state, federal, or governmental entity, agency, board, or court or before any other tribunal or panel of arbitrators, public or private, based upon any actions or omissions by the Released Parties occurring prior to my execution of this Agreement.

(b) **No Admission of Liability:** I understand that by offering me the Separation Package under this Release Agreement, Verisign and the other Released Parties make no admission that they have engaged, or are now engaging, in any unlawful conduct. I understand and agree that this Agreement is not an admission by Verisign or the other Released Parties of any liability, guilt, wrongdoing, fault, liability, or generally and shall not be used or construed as such in any legal or administrative proceeding, arbitration, or otherwise.

(c) **Duty to Cooperate in Litigation Matters:** I agree to cooperate fully, in good faith, and to the best of my ability with Verisign in connection with any and all pending, potential, or future claims, investigations, or actions that directly or indirectly relate to any action, event, or activity about which I may have knowledge in connection with Verisign. Such cooperation shall include all assistance that Verisign, its counsel, or its representatives may reasonably request, including but not limited to, reviewing documents, meeting with counsel, providing factual information and material, and appearing or testifying as a witness; provided, however, that Verisign shall reimburse me for all pre-approved and reasonable expenses actually incurred by me in fulfilling my obligations hereunder, although I agree I shall not be compensated for my time for such cooperation. Nothing herein shall in any way impact my obligation to give truthful testimony under oath in any legal proceeding.

(d) **Duty to Cooperate in Transition:** I agree to answer any practical administration or business questions which may arise and to make myself reasonably available to assist Verisign in its transition of my duties following my employment and to cooperate with any other reasonable request by Verisign which may require my services after the end of my employment as related to such transition of duties. For the purpose of this paragraph, the transition period shall be six (6) months following the Termination Date and I shall not be required to spend more than five (5) hours per month answering such questions. I agree that I will not seek or be entitled to any additional compensation for such assistance or cooperation.

(e) **Non-Disparagement:** I agree that I will not make, publish, write, disseminate, communicate, or directly or indirectly make or cause any person or entity to communicate or make, any critical, disparaging, derogatory, adverse, libelous, slanderous, or defamatory remarks, comments, statements, or communications about Verisign or any of the Released Parties, including, but not limited to, Verisign's business and the business and/or personal policies, practices, decisions, reputations, or conduct of any of the Released Parties. Verisign agrees to instruct the Chief Executive Officer of the Company, all members of the Board of Directors, and all Senior Vice Presidents, all who are in such positions as of the Effective Date, not to defame or disparage me.

(f) **No Public Statements:** I will not make any public statement about Verisign or my separation from Verisign, without the advance written approval of the Board. In connection with this Agreement, Verisign is permitted to make all filings required under the federal securities laws or otherwise.

Richard H. Goshorn

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(g) Return of Company Property: I understand and agree that as a condition of receiving any of the Separation Package under this Agreement, all Verisign property and Proprietary Information (as defined below) must be returned to Verisign. I have returned to Verisign all property and Proprietary Information belonging or entrusted to Verisign, wherever stored or located and in whatever form, in my possession, custody, or control. Such property and Proprietary Information includes, but is not limited to: laptops, iPads, and other computers; Blackberries, iPhones, or other handheld electronic devices; hard drives, thumb drives, or other electronic storage devices; security badges, access cards, and credit cards; and emails, correspondence, notes, files, and other documents. I have not retained any copies of Proprietary Information, whether in hard copy, electronic, or otherwise.

(h) Implementation: I agree to sign any documents and complete anything else that is necessary in the future to implement this Agreement, including, but not limited to, any documents reflecting my resignation as an officer and/or a member of the Board of Directors of any affiliate or subsidiary of VeriSign, Inc. and any other documents required to effectuate such resignations.

(i) Medicare Representation: I have fully considered Medicare's interests pursuant to the Medicare Secondary Payer rules, and in doing so, I declare that as of the Effective Date of this Agreement: (i) I am not Medicare eligible (*i.e.* , I am not 65 years of age or older; I am not suffering from end stage renal failure; and I have not received Social Security benefits for 24 months or longer), and (ii) I have not made a claim against Verisign (this does not include any group health plans of Verisign) involving any illness, injury, incident, or accident in which medical expenses were, or are expected to be, incurred. Based on these representations, Verisign and I have determined that Medicare has no interest in any payments hereunder and no reporting is required to Medicare. However, if Medicare (or the agency representing Medicare's interests) later determines that it does have an interest in any payments to me under this Agreement, I agree to indemnify Verisign promptly for any payments Verisign makes to Medicare (or the agency collecting on behalf of Medicare) as a result of any payments under this Agreement.

6. Proprietary Information; Continuing Obligations:

(a) I acknowledge that during the course of my employment with Verisign, I have acquired knowledge of, and/or had access to, trade secrets, material non-public information, and confidential and proprietary information of Verisign, its subsidiaries, and affiliates, and of third parties that is subject to confidentiality and other agreements by and between Verisign and those third parties ("Proprietary Information"). Such Proprietary Information, includes, but is not limited to: financial and pricing information; business, purchasing, research, development, and product plans and strategies (including, without limitation, any financial or other corporate strategies); strategic roadmaps; patent applications and invention disclosures; customer lists and information; vendor lists; key contacts and habits; performance metrics; marketing information, plans, and strategies; existing and anticipated agreements with customers, vendors, and other third parties; specific contract terms; product design information; information regarding Verisign employees, their projects, salaries, benefits, and other personnel information.

(b) I acknowledge and agree that I have undertaken an obligation, both during and after my employment with Verisign ends, not to use, disclose, or make available to others any Proprietary Information except as authorized by Verisign.

(c) I understand and agree that I will continue to be bound by my obligations with respect to Proprietary Information, inventions, and non-solicitation as set forth in my Assignment of Invention, Nondisclosure and Nonsolicitation Agreement and any other agreements previously entered into by me with Verisign or its predecessors. I agree that such agreements shall remain in effect and will continue to be binding on me after the ending of my employment with Verisign notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary.

(d) I understand, acknowledge and agree that notwithstanding anything else in this Agreement I will continue to be subject to the Verisign Incentive Compensation Recovery Policy even after the termination of my employment with Verisign.

Richard H. Goshorn



(e) I represent and warrant that I have not, directly or indirectly, taken any action prior to signing this Agreement which if taken by me would be a breach of my obligations with respect to Proprietary Information, inventions, and non-solicitation.

7. Offer Period and Effective Date :

(a) I acknowledge that I am forty (40) years of age or older at the time I sign this Agreement.

(b) I further acknowledge and understand that I have twenty-one (21) calendar days from my receipt of this Agreement to consider my decision to sign it. I acknowledge that: (i) I took advantage of this period to consider this Agreement before signing it; (ii) I carefully read this Agreement; (iii) I fully understand it; (iv) I am entering into it voluntarily; and (v) Verisign strongly encourages me to discuss this Agreement with an attorney before signing it and that I did so to the extent I deemed appropriate. Acceptance must be made by delivering a signed copy of this Agreement to Verisign as instructed below the signature line. I understand and agree that for such acceptance to be effective, the Agreement must be signed no later than the twenty-first calendar day after I received this Agreement and must be promptly received by Verisign thereafter (i.e., no later than three business days after the end of this consideration period). I understand that this Agreement may be withdrawn if not executed within the twenty-one-calendar day consideration period and promptly returned to Verisign as described herein.

(c) I acknowledge and understand that I also may revoke this Agreement within seven (7) calendar days following my execution of this Agreement. I understand and agree that revocation by me under this Section must be in writing and faxed to and received by Ellen Petrocchi, Vice President, Human Resources, Verisign, Inc., at (703) 948-3855 (fax) no later than the final calendar day of the revocation period. I further understand and agree that this Agreement shall not become effective or enforceable until the revocation period has expired and the signed Agreement has been timely returned by me to Verisign, and that no monies shall be paid or benefits provided to me if I exercise my right to revocation. Accordingly, the "Effective Date" of this Agreement shall be the eighth calendar day following my signing of this Agreement, provided I have not previously revoked the Agreement and have timely returned the signed Agreement. I understand and agree that no court or agency must specifically approve this Agreement or its terms and conditions, including the release of claims herein, for it to become effective.

8. Enforcement; Consequences of Breach: I agree that my breach of any of the promises and covenants contained or referenced in this Agreement, including, without limitation, the filing of a lawsuit against Verisign, shall be considered a material breach of this Agreement and entitle Verisign to recover from me any monies paid to me, any other remedies available at law, and costs and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in enforcing this Agreement, unless otherwise specifically prohibited by statute or regulation. However, I understand that nothing in this Agreement will interfere with my right to challenge the enforceability of this Agreement's release of claims under the ADEA, and I shall not be required to tender back payments made to me, nor will I be liable for the costs and attorneys' fees that Verisign or any of the Released Parties incur in connection with a challenge by me of the foregoing release of claims under the ADEA. I agree that, in the event of a breach or threatened breach of any of the covenants herein, in addition to such other remedies as Verisign may have at law, without posting any bond or security, Verisign shall be entitled to seek and obtain equitable relief, in the form of specific performance, injunctive relief, or any other available equitable remedy. The seeking of an injunction or order shall not affect Verisign's right to seek and obtain damages or other equitable relief on account of any such actual or threatened breach.

9. Limitations: Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, nothing in this Agreement will waive, relinquish, diminish, or in any way affect: any vested rights that I may have under any Company retirement plan; my right to challenge the validity and enforceability of this Agreement's release of claims under the Age Discrimination In Employment Act; or my right to enforce this Agreement. Further, I understand that nothing in this Agreement precludes me from initiating, cooperating, or participating in a lawful governmental investigation, such as with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC"), including providing truthful information therewith. To the maximum extent permitted by law, I expressly waive any right to any monetary recovery or any other individual relief

Richard H. Goshorn



in connection with any such investigation, EEOC charge or other administrative charge or should any federal, state or local administrative agency or any other person or entity pursue any claims on my behalf arising out of or related to my employment and/or the ending of that employment with Verisign, or concerning any matter released herein.

10. Miscellaneous:

(a) Tax Code Compliance: This Agreement is intended to comply with, or otherwise be exempt from, Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended and any regulations and Treasury guidance promulgated thereunder. The preceding sentence, however, shall not be construed as a guarantee by Verisign of any particular tax effect to me under this Agreement.

(b) Reformation and Severability: Whenever possible, each provision of this Agreement will be interpreted in such manner as to be effective and valid under applicable law. If, however, any of the provisions contained in this Agreement is declared illegal, unenforceable, or ineffective in a legal forum of competent jurisdiction, I agree that such provision shall be modified and reformed, if possible, in order to achieve, to the extent possible, the intentions of the parties, and, if necessary, such provision shall be deemed severable, such that all other provisions contained in this Agreement shall remain valid and binding ; *provided , however* , that if any portion of the general release is held to be invalid or unenforceable, then the entire Agreement, including any obligation for Verisign to provide any payments or benefits hereunder, shall be voidable at the option of Verisign.

(c) Full Defense: This Agreement may be pled as a full and complete defense to, and may be used as a basis for an injunction against, any action, suit or other proceeding that may be prosecuted, instituted, or attempted by me or on my behalf in breach hereof.

(d) No Waiver: The parties recognize, acknowledge, and agree that the failure by Verisign to enforce any term of this Agreement shall not constitute a waiver of any rights or deprive Verisign of the right to insist thereafter upon strict adherence to that or any other term of this Agreement, nor shall a waiver of any breach of this Agreement constitute a waiver of any preceding or succeeding breach. No waiver of a right under any provision of this Agreement shall be binding on Verisign unless made in writing and signed by an authorized representative of Verisign.

(e) Interpretation; Applicable Law; Jurisdiction: This Agreement shall be construed as a whole and according to its fair meaning. It shall not be construed strictly for or against any of the parties, notwithstanding any statutory or common law provisions that would suggest otherwise. Section headings are inserted for convenience of reference only and shall not affect the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement or any Section thereof. The validity, interpretation and performance of this Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, regardless of any principles of conflicts of laws or choice of laws of any jurisdiction. I agree that the exclusive jurisdiction and venue of any lawsuit arising under this Agreement shall be the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Alexandria Division, and if there is no jurisdiction in that court, jurisdiction shall be in Virginia state court in Fairfax County, and I hereby irrevocably agree, acknowledge, and submit to the exclusive jurisdiction and venue of such courts for the purposes of any such lawsuit.

(f) Jury Trial Waiver: I understand and agree that Verisign and I each waive our right to a trial by jury in any proceeding brought with respect to this Agreement or any right or obligation hereunder or any matter covered by this Agreement. I understand that by giving up the right to a jury trial by this subsection, Verisign and I are not giving up our right to make a legal claim against the other Party with respect to matters concerning this Agreement; we are only giving up our right to have a jury decide that claim.

(g) Successors: I understand and agree that this Agreement shall be binding upon my assigns, heirs, executors, and administrators and shall inure to the benefit of the officers, directors, employees, agents, subsidiaries, affiliates, predecessors, successors, purchasers, assigns, and representatives of Verisign.

Richard H. Goshorn



(h) No Transfer or Assignment of Claims: I represent and warrant that: (a) no person other than me had or has claimed any interest in the claims referred to anywhere in this Agreement; (b) I have the sole right and exclusive authority to execute this Agreement and to receive the consideration paid or given pursuant hereto; (c) I have not heretofore assigned or transferred, or purported to assign or transfer, to any person or entity, any claim against Verisign or any of the Released Parties or portion thereof or interest therein, and; (d) I will not assign or otherwise transfer any claim or demand relating to any matter covered by this Agreement or the consideration to be paid or given pursuant hereto.

(i) Entire Agreement: This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties regarding the subject matter herein and, except for Section 6 (Proprietary Information; Continuing Obligations), supersedes all prior agreements between the parties, whether written, oral, or otherwise, and all previous discussions, promises, representations, and understandings relating to the topics herein discussed are hereby merged into this Agreement. The parties agree that there are no additional promises or terms other than those contained or referred to herein. For avoidance of doubt, I acknowledge and agree that nothing in this Agreement is intended to supersede any obligations that I may have regarding confidential information, inventions, and non-solicitation set forth in any agreements previously signed by me, which shall remain in effect and continue to be binding on me after the ending of my employment.

(j) Modification: This Agreement shall not be modified, waived, or amended except in writing signed by me and an authorized executive of Verisign.

(k) Signature . I agree that this Agreement need not be signed by Verisign to be enforceable and the presentation of this Agreement to me constitutes Verisign's acceptance of its terms and agreement to be bound thereto. I understand and agree that I must return this signed Agreement via facsimile transmission to Verisign as instructed below the signature line by the applicable deadline set forth in Section 7, and a facsimile, PDF or email copy of my signature on this Agreement shall be deemed the equivalent of an original.

(l) Headings: The headings and other captions in this Agreement are for convenience and reference only and shall not be used in interpreting, construing or enforcing any of the provisions of this Agreement or to define or limit the scope of any Paragraph of this Agreement.

** * * Rest of this page intentionally left blank * * **



BY SIGNING MY NAME BELOW, I ACKNOWLEDGE AND REPRESENT THAT I AM ENTERING INTO THIS AGREEMENT FREELY, KNOWINGLY, AND VOLUNTARILY AND WITH A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF ITS TERMS AND EFFECT. I AM ADVISED TO CONSULT WITH MY OWN PERSONAL ATTORNEY BEFORE SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT. I ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE AND REPRESENT THAT I HAVE NOT RELIED ON ANY REPRESENTATION OR STATEMENT OTHER THAN THOSE CONTAINED IN THIS AGREEMENT.

Employee:

November 21, 2014

Date

/s/ Richard H. Goshorn

Signature

Richard H. Goshorn

Printed Name

Please remember to sign this Agreement and, by the applicable deadline set forth above, either: (a) fax the entire Agreement to Ellen Petrocci, Vice President, Human Resources , , at (703) 948-3855; or (b) mail a complete copy of the entire Agreement in the enclosed pre-addressed and stamped overnight mail envelope to Ellen Petrocci, Vice President, Human Resources .

Subsidiaries of the Registrant

Name of Subsidiary

eNIC Cocos (Keeling) Island Pty. Ltd.
eNIC Corporation
Global Registration Services Limited
Thawte Consulting (Pty) Limited
Thawte Holdings (Pty) Limited
The .tv Corporation International
The .TV Corporation (Tuvalu) Pty Ltd.
VeriSign Deutschland GmbH
VeriSign Digital Services Technology (China) Co. Ltd.
VeriSign do Brasil Servicos para Internet Ltda
VeriSign Holdings Limited
VeriSign India Private Limited
VeriSign International Holdings, Inc.
VeriSign Internet Services Srl
VeriSign Internet Technology Services (Beijing) Co., Ltd.
VeriSign Israel Ltd.
VeriSign Naming and Directory Services, LLC
VeriSign Netherlands B.V.
VeriSign Srl
VeriSign Services India Private Limited
VeriSign Spain S.L.
VeriSign Switzerland SA
Whiteley Investments, Ltd.

Jurisdiction

Australia
U.S. - Washington
United Kingdom
South Africa
South Africa
U.S. - Delaware
Tuvalu
Germany
China
Brazil
Cayman Islands
India
U.S. - Delaware
Switzerland
China
Israel
U.S. - Delaware
Netherlands
Switzerland
India
Spain
Switzerland
United Kingdom

Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors

VeriSign, Inc.:

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the registration statements (Nos. 333-39212, 333-45237, 333-46803, 333-50072, 333-53230, 333-58583, 333-59458, 333-69818, 333-75236, 333-82941, 333-86178, 333-86188, 333-106395, 333-113431, 333-117908, 333-123937, 333-125052, 333-126352, 333-127249, 333-132988, 333-134026, 333-144590, and 333-147136) on Form S-8, the registration statements (Nos. 333-74393, 333-77433, 333-89991, 333-94445, 333-72222, and 333-76386) on Forms S-3 and registration statement No. 333-190732 on Form S-4 of VeriSign, Inc. (the Company) of our reports dated February 13, 2015 with respect to the consolidated balance sheets of VeriSign, Inc., as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related consolidated statements of comprehensive income, stockholders' deficit, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2014, and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, which reports appear in the December 31, 2014 annual report on Form 10-K of the Company.

/s/ KPMG LLP

McLean, Virginia
February 13, 2015

**CERTIFICATION OF PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER PURSUANT TO
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 906
OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

I, D. James Bidzos, Chief Executive Officer of VeriSign, Inc. (the “Company”), do hereby certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that, to my knowledge:

1. the Annual Report on Form 10-K of the Company for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Report”), fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
2. the information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Date: February 13, 2015

/S/ D. J AMES B IDZOS

D. James Bidzos

*Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)*

**CERTIFICATION OF PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL OFFICER PURSUANT TO
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 906
OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

I, George E. Kilguss, III, Chief Financial Officer of VeriSign, Inc. (the “Company”), do hereby certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that, to my knowledge:

1. the Annual Report on Form 10-K of the Company for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Report”), fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
2. the information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Date: February 13, 2015

/S/ G EORGE E. K ILGUSS , III

George E. Kilguss, III
Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial Officer)