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

**SCHEDULE 14A**  
(Rule 14a-101)

**INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT  
SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION**

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

Filed by the Registrant                       Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to Rule 14a-12

**QuinStreet, Inc.**

(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

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(5) Total fee paid:

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

(1) Amount previously paid:

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

\_\_\_\_\_

(3) Filing Party:

\_\_\_\_\_

(4) Date Filed:

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**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS  
TO BE HELD OCTOBER 26, 2012**

To our stockholders:

We will hold our annual meeting of stockholders at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1221 Chess Drive, Foster City, CA 94404 on Friday, October 26, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. local time. We are holding this meeting for the purpose of considering and voting on:

- (1) Election of two Board nominees to serve as Class III directors for a three-year term expiring on the date of the 2015 annual meeting of stockholders or until their successors have been duly elected and qualified;
- (2) Ratification of the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the current year;
- (3) Approval by non-binding advisory vote of the fiscal year 2012 compensation awarded to our named executive officers; and
- (4) The transaction of any other business that properly comes before the meeting.

The stockholders of record at the close of business on September 12, 2012 will be entitled to vote at the meeting or any postponements or adjournments of the meeting.

Whether or not you expect to attend, we urge you to sign, date and promptly return the enclosed proxy card in the enclosed postage prepaid envelope or vote via telephone or the Internet in accordance with the instructions on the enclosed proxy card. If you attend the meeting, you may vote your shares in person, which will revoke any prior vote.

**Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Stockholder Meeting To Be Held on October 26, 2012: This Proxy Statement, along with the 2012 Annual Report to Stockholders, are available on the following website: <http://investor.quinstreet.com/governance.cfm>.**

By order of the Board of Directors,

/s/ Greg Wong  
Greg Wong  
Assistant Secretary

September 14, 2012  
Foster City, California

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950 Tower Lane, Suite 600, Foster City, California 94404

## PROXY STATEMENT

This proxy statement is furnished to you by the Board of Directors of QuinStreet, Inc. (the "Board" or "Board of Directors") and contains information related to the 2012 annual meeting of our stockholders to be held on Friday, October 26, 2012, beginning at 3:00 p.m., local time, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1221 Chess Drive, Foster City, CA 94404, and at any postponements or adjournments thereof. The enclosed form of proxy is solicited by our Board. This proxy statement is first being mailed to our stockholders of record on or about September 20, 2012.

References in this proxy statement to "we," "us," "our," "the Company" and "QuinStreet" refer to QuinStreet, Inc.

## ABOUT THE MEETING

### Purpose of the 2012 annual meeting of stockholders

The purpose of the 2012 annual meeting of stockholders is:

- (1) To elect two Board nominees to serve as Class III directors for a three-year term expiring on the date of the 2015 annual meeting of stockholders or until their respective successors have been duly elected and qualified;
- (2) To ratify the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the current year;
- (3) To approve by non-binding advisory vote the fiscal year 2012 compensation awarded to our named executive officers; and
- (4) To transact any other business that properly comes before the meeting.

### Quorum

A quorum is the minimum number of shares required to hold and transact business at a meeting. The presence in person or by proxy of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the meeting. Votes cast by proxy or in person at the meeting will be counted by the persons appointed by the Company to act as election inspectors for the meeting. The election inspectors will treat shares represented by proxies that reflect abstentions as shares that are present and entitled to vote for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum.

The election inspectors will treat shares referred to as "broker nonvotes" (i.e., shares held by brokers or nominees over which the broker or nominee lacks discretionary power to vote and for which the broker or nominee has not received specific voting instructions from the beneficial owner) as shares that are present and entitled to vote for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum.

### Who May Vote

Holders of record of our common stock at the close of business on September 12, 2012 ("Record Date") may vote at the annual meeting of stockholders. As of the Record Date, the Company had 42,762,445 issued and outstanding shares of common stock. Each share of QuinStreet common stock that you own entitles you to one vote.

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### **How to Vote**

You may vote in person at the meeting or by proxy. We recommend that you vote by proxy even if you plan to attend the meeting. You can always change your vote at the meeting.

If you are a registered stockholder (meaning your name is included on the stockholder file maintained by our transfer agent, BNY Mellon Shareowner Services), you can vote by proxy in any of the following ways:

*By Internet.* You may submit your proxy by following the “Internet” instructions on the proxy card. The deadline for voting electronically is 11:59 p.m. (Eastern Time) on October 25, 2012.

*By Telephone.* You may submit your proxy by following the “Telephone” instructions on the proxy card. The deadline for voting by telephone is 11:59 p.m. (Eastern Time) on October 25, 2012.

*In Writing.* You may do this by completing and signing your proxy card, or for shares held in street name, the voting instruction card included by your broker, bank or other nominee, and mailing it in the accompanying enclosed, pre-addressed envelope. If you provide specific voting instructions, your shares will be voted as you instruct. If you sign, but do not provide instructions, we will vote your shares as recommended by the Board of Directors. If you return your signed proxy card to us before the annual meeting of stockholders, we will vote your shares as you direct.

If your shares are held in the name of a bank, broker or other nominee, you will receive instructions from such nominee that you must follow in order for your shares to be voted.

### **How Proxies Work**

Our Board of Directors is asking for your proxy. Giving us your proxy means you authorize us to vote your shares at the meeting in the manner you direct. You may abstain from voting from any of the proposals. With respect to the nominees proposed to be elected to the Board at the meeting, you may vote for all, some or none of them. However, if you sign your proxy card but do not provide instructions, we will vote your shares as recommended by the Board of Directors.

### **Proposals You Are Asked To Vote On and the Board’s Voting Recommendation**

If you properly fill in your proxy card and send it to us in time to vote, or vote by Internet or telephone, one of the individuals named on your proxy card will vote your shares as your proxy and as you have directed. If you sign the proxy card but do not make specific choices, your proxy will follow the Board’s recommendations and vote your shares:

- “FOR” the election of two Board nominees to serve as Class III directors for a three-year term expiring on the date of the 2015 annual meeting of stockholders or until their respective successors have been duly elected and qualified (see “Proposal 1 — Election of Class III Directors”);
- “FOR” ratification of the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the current year (see “Proposal 2 — Ratification of the Selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as Our Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm”); and
- “FOR” the approval of fiscal year 2012 compensation awarded to our named executive officers (see “Proposal 3 — Approval of Fiscal year 2012 Compensation Awarded to Named Executive Officers”).

If any other matter is properly presented at the meeting, your proxy will vote in accordance with the best judgment of the individual voting your shares as your proxy. At the time this proxy statement went to press, we knew of no other matters to be acted on at the meeting.

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### **Vote Necessary to Approve Proposals**

Directors are elected by a plurality, and the nominees who receive the most votes will be elected. The two Class III director nominees with the most votes will be elected as Class III directors to serve terms ending at our 2015 annual meeting of stockholders. Abstentions and broker nonvotes will not be taken into account in determining the outcome of the election. We did not receive any nominations from any stockholders.

Approval of the ratification of the selection of our independent registered public accounting firm and approval by non-binding advisory vote of the fiscal year 2012 compensation of our named executive officers each requires the affirmative vote of the majority of the shares of common stock present or represented by proxy with respect to such proposal. For these proposals, abstentions are treated as shares present or represented and voting, so abstaining has the same effect as a negative vote.

If you hold your shares through a broker and do not provide your broker with specific voting instructions, under the rules that govern brokers in such circumstances, your broker will have the discretion to vote such shares on routine matters but not on non-routine matters. Even though we are a NASDAQ-listed company, the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) rules govern how a broker licensed by the NYSE can vote shares it holds on behalf of stockholders of NASDAQ-listed companies. As a result:

- Your broker will not have the authority to exercise discretion to vote your shares with respect to the election of directors and the advisory vote on executive compensation because NYSE rules treat those matters as non-routine.
- Your broker will have the authority to exercise discretion to vote your shares with respect to the ratification of the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the current fiscal year, because that matter is treated as routine under NYSE rules.

Because the proposals to be acted upon at the annual meeting of stockholders include both routine and non-routine matters, if you do not give voting instructions to your broker, trustee or nominee, your broker, trustee or nominee may either (1) vote your shares on routine matters or (2) leave your shares unvoted.

### **Revoking Your Proxy**

You may revoke your proxy by: (1) sending in another signed proxy card with a later date; (2) providing subsequent Internet or telephone voting instructions; (3) notifying our Corporate Secretary in writing before the meeting that you have revoked your proxy; or (4) voting in person at the meeting.

### **Proxy Solicitation Costs**

The Company will bear the costs of soliciting proxies.

PROPOSAL 1:  
ELECTION OF CLASS III DIRECTORS

**Recommendation of the Board of Directors**

*The Board of Directors recommends that you vote "FOR" the election of each of the nominees for election as Class III directors described below, which proposal is designated as Proposal 1 on the enclosed proxy card.*

Our Certificate of Incorporation currently provides for a classified Board of Directors. Our Board has nominated William Bradley and Douglas Valenti for election as Class III directors at the 2012 annual meeting of stockholders. We did not receive any nominations from stockholders. Glenn Solomon's term as a Class III director will terminate as of the conclusion of the 2012 annual meeting of stockholders and Mr. Solomon is not standing for re-election. As a result, there will be one (1) vacancy on the Board of Directors. Each person elected as a Class III director at the annual meeting of stockholders will serve a three-year term expiring on the date of the 2015 annual meeting of stockholders or until their respective successors have been duly elected and qualified.

Unless authority to vote for any of these two nominees is withheld, the shares represented by your properly returned proxy will be voted **FOR** the election of William Bradley and Douglas Valenti as Class III directors. In the event that either William Bradley or Douglas Valenti becomes unable or unwilling to serve, the shares represented by your properly returned proxy will be voted for the election of such other person as the Board may recommend in his or her place. We have no reason to believe that any nominee will be unable or unwilling to serve as a director.

Directors are elected by a plurality, and the two nominees who receive the most votes will be elected. Abstentions and broker nonvotes will not be taken into account in determining the outcome of the election.

**Nominees for Election as Class III Directors (Terms Expiring on the Date of the 2015 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, if Elected)**

<i>William Bradley</i>	Director since August 2004
<i>Douglas Valenti</i>	Director since July 1999

**Continuing Class I Directors (Terms Expiring on the Date of the 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders)**

<i>James Simons</i>	Director since July 1999
<i>Dana Stalder</i>	Director since May 2003

**Continuing Class II Directors (Terms Expiring on the Date of the 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders)**

<i>John G. McDonald</i>	Director since September 2004
<i>Gregory Sands</i>	Director since July 1999
<i>Bronwyn Syiek</i>	Director since January 2011

Set forth below is each Director's and each Board Nominee's name and age as of the date of the annual meeting of stockholders and his or her principal occupation, business history and public company directorships held during the past five years. Each of our nominees has been chosen to stand for election in part because of his or her ability and willingness to ask relevant questions, understand QuinStreet's challenges, and evaluate the strategies proposed by management, as well as the implementation of such strategies. Each of the nominees has a long record of professional integrity, a dedication to his or her profession, a strong work ethic that includes coming fully prepared to meetings and being willing to spend the time and effort needed to fulfill his or her professional obligations, the ability to maintain a collegial environment, and, in most cases, the experience of having served as a board member of several privately-held companies and, in some cases, of several public companies. Specific experience, qualifications, attributes and skills of each nominee are described in each nominee's biography below.

***Douglas Valenti***

Mr. Valenti, age 52, has served as our Chief Executive Officer and member of our board of directors since July 1999 and as our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer since March 2004. Prior to QuinStreet, Mr. Valenti served as a partner at Rosewood Capital, a venture capital firm, for five years; at McKinsey & Company as a strategy consultant and engagement manager for three years; at Procter & Gamble in various management roles for three years; and for the U.S. Navy as a nuclear submarine officer for five years. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he graduated with highest honors and was named the Georgia Tech Outstanding Senior in 1982, and an M.B.A. from the Stanford Graduate School of Business, where he was an Arjay Miller Scholar. As a seasoned executive and Chief Executive Officer of QuinStreet since 1999, Mr. Valenti brings in-depth knowledge of QuinStreet's operations and strategy that is important to the Board's oversight of long-term strategy, enterprise risk management, compensation, and corporate governance practices for the Company.

***Bronwyn Syiek***

Bronwyn Syiek, age 48, has served as a member of our board of directors since January 2011 and has served as our President since May 2012, as our President and Chief Operating Officer from February 2007 to May 2012, as our Chief Operating Officer from April 2004 to February 2007, as Senior Vice President from September 2000 to April 2004, as Vice President from her start date in March 2000 to September 2000 and as a consultant to us from July 1999 to March 2000. Prior to joining us, Ms. Syiek served as Director of Business Development and member of the Executive Committee at De La Rue Plc, a banknote printing and security product company, for three years. She previously served as a strategy consultant and engagement manager at McKinsey & Company for four years and held various investment management and banking positions with Lloyds Bank and Charterhouse Bank. She holds an M.A. in Natural Sciences from Cambridge University in the United Kingdom. As our President, Ms. Syiek brings in-depth knowledge of QuinStreet's operations and strategy that is important to the Board's oversight of long-term strategy and enterprise risk management for the Company.

***William Bradley***

Former Senator Bradley, age 69, has served as a member of our board of directors since August 2004. Former Senator Bradley is a Managing Director of Allen & Company LLC, an investment bank, which he joined in November 2000. From April 2001 to June 2004, Former Senator Bradley also served as chief outside advisor to the nonprofit practice of McKinsey & Company. Former Senator Bradley served in the U.S. Senate from 1979 to 1997, representing the state of New Jersey, and previously was a professional basketball player with the New York Knicks from 1967 to 1977. Former Senator Bradley also currently serves on the boards of directors of Starbucks Coffee Company (NASDAQ: SBUX) and Willis Group Holdings (NYSE: WSH), and he served on the board of directors of Seagate Technology (NASDAQ: STX) until August 2010. Former Senator Bradley received a B.A. in American History from Princeton University and an M.A. in American History from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. Former Senator Bradley brings insight into governmental affairs which can assist the Company and the Board in evaluating regulatory matters. In addition, with his experience in the investment banking industry and as a director on several public-company boards, Former Senator Bradley brings valuable insight important to the Board in overseeing risk management, strategy and corporate governance practices.

***John G. McDonald***

Professor McDonald, age 75, has served as a member of our board of directors since September 2004. Professor McDonald is the Stanford Investors Professor in the Stanford Graduate School of Business, where he has been a faculty member since 1968, specializing in investment management, entrepreneurial finance, principal investing, venture capital, and private equity investing. Professor McDonald also serves on the board of directors of Plum Creek Timber Company (NYSE: PCL), Scholastic Corporation (NASDAQ: SCHL), iStar Financial, Inc. (NYSE: SFI), and 13 mutual funds managed by Capital Research and Management Company, and he served on



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the Board of Varian Inc. from 1999 until May 2010, when Varian was acquired by Agilent Technologies. He holds a B.A. in Engineering, an M.B.A., and a Ph.D. from Stanford University. He is a retired officer in the U.S. Army and was a Fulbright Scholar. Professor McDonald's deep knowledge of finance and investing and his experience as a director bring valuable insight to the Board regarding oversight of our financial reporting, risk management and corporate finance matters, as well as compensation and other corporate governance practices.

### ***Gregory Sands***

Mr. Sands, age 46, has served as a member of our board of directors since July 1999. Mr. Sands is the founder and, since January 2012, has served as a Managing Partner of Costanoa Venture Capital, an early-stage venture capital firm. From September 1998 through December 31, 2011, Mr. Sands served as a Managing Director at Sutter Hill Ventures, a venture capital firm. Previously, Mr. Sands held various operational roles at Netscape Communications Corporation and was a management consultant with Mercer Management Consulting. Mr. Sands also serves on the boards of several privately-held companies. He holds a B.A. in Government from Harvard College and an M.B.A. from the Stanford Graduate School of Business. Mr. Sands is a seasoned Internet executive and investor with an in-depth knowledge of our business. His business experience and history as a director on our Board bring knowledge that is important to the Board's oversight of our business and operations, strategy and risk management.

### ***James Simons***

Mr. Simons, age 49, has served as a member of our board of directors since July 1999. Mr. Simons is a Managing Director of Split Rock Partners, a venture capital firm, which he founded in June 2004. Prior to founding Split Rock Partners, Mr. Simons served as General Partner of St. Paul Venture Capital, a venture capital firm, from November 1996 to June 2004. Previously, Mr. Simons was a partner at Marquette Venture Partners and held banking positions at Trammell Crow Company and First Boston Corporation. Mr. Simons also serves on the boards of several privately-held companies. He holds a B.A. in Economics and History from Stanford University and an M.S. in Management from the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University. Mr. Simons has deep expertise in marketing and customer acquisition on the Internet and has many years of experience as an investor in Internet marketing and other companies. He has been a QuinStreet director since 1999 and has an in-depth knowledge of our business. His business experience and history as a director on our Board bring knowledge that is important to the Board's oversight of our business and operations, strategy and risk management.

### ***Dana Stalder***

Mr. Stalder, age 44, has served as a member of our board of directors since May 2003. Since August 2008, Mr. Stalder has been a General Partner of Matrix Partners, a venture capital firm. Prior to joining Matrix Partners, Mr. Stalder served in various executive roles, including Senior Vice President at eBay, Inc., an online marketplace company, from December 2001 to August 2008. Previously, he was the Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Business Development of Respond.com, Vice President of Finance and Operations at Netscape Communication Corporation and an associate and manager at Ernst & Young LLP. Mr. Stalder also serves on the boards of several privately-held companies. He holds a B.A. in Commerce from Santa Clara University. Mr. Stalder has significant operational experience as an executive, as well as deep knowledge of finance and financial reporting. His experience is important to the Board's oversight of strategy, operations, risk management and financial reporting.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors held four meetings and took action by written consent two times during fiscal year 2012. All directors attended more than 75% of the total number of meetings of the Board and the committees on which they served in fiscal year 2012. The Board and its committees regularly hold executive sessions of non-management directors without management present. As a matter of policy, directors are encouraged, but not required, to attend our Annual Meeting of Stockholders. One director attended our 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

### Compensation of Board of Directors

In January 2010, our Compensation Committee adopted a compensation policy that is applicable to all of our non-employee directors. This policy was amended by the Compensation Committee in April 2012. The compensation policy, as amended, provides that each such non-employee director will receive the following compensation for Board services:

- \$34,000 per year for service as a Board member;
- \$15,000 per year for service as a chairperson of the Audit Committee, Compensation Committee or Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee;
- \$2,000 for each in-person Board meeting and \$1,000 for each telephonic Board meeting;
- \$2,000 for each in-person, and \$1,500 for each telephonic, Audit Committee and Compensation Committee meeting; and
- \$1,500 for each in-person, and \$1,000 for each telephonic, Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee meeting.

In addition, our non-employee director compensation plan provides that non-employee directors will be granted an option to purchase 20,000 shares of our common stock under the Non-Employee Directors' Stock Award Plan in connection with their initial election or appointment to our Board of Directors. These initial grants vest monthly over a period of four years. The plan also provides that on the date of each annual meeting of stockholders each non-employee directors will receive an annual grant of an option to purchase 25,000 shares of our common stock. The annual option grants to non-employee directors vest monthly over a period of one year.

We reimburse our non-employee directors for their travel, lodging and other reasonable expenses incurred in attending our Board and Committee meetings.

Beginning with fiscal year 2013, our non-employee directors have been given the choice to elect to receive stock options in lieu of the cash fees that would otherwise be payable to them for their service on our Board of Directors and its Committees. Under this program, non-employee directors must make an irrevocable election prior to the start of the fiscal year to receive options in lieu of all cash they would otherwise earn during the year. The options will be granted after the end of each quarter, and will have an "aggregate grant date fair value," computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718, equal to the value of the cash that would otherwise have been payable for the quarter. Messrs. Bradley and Sands have elected to receive options in lieu of cash in fiscal year 2013.

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*Fiscal Year 2012 Compensation of Non-Employee Directors.* The following table sets forth information regarding compensation earned by or paid to our non-employee directors during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012.

**DIRECTOR COMPENSATION**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)</u>	<u>Option Awards (\$)(1)</u>	<u>Total (\$)</u>
William Bradley	56,500	130,053	186,553
John McDonald	75,500	130,053	205,553
Gregory Sands	53,500	130,053	183,553
James Simons	43,500	130,053	173,553
Glenn Solomon(2)	51,000	130,053	181,053
Dana Stalder	75,000	130,053	205,053

- (1) The amounts in this column do not reflect actual value realized by the director. Instead, as required by SEC rules, these amounts represent the “aggregate grant date fair value” for grants made in fiscal year 2012, computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718 (Compensation — Stock Compensation). The calculations of these values are determined by accounting requirements and may include vested as well as unvested awards, so they do not necessarily correspond to the actual value that may be realized by the directors with respect to the awards. The assumptions used in the valuation of these awards are set forth in the notes to our consolidated financial statements, which are included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended June 30, 2012, filed with the SEC on August 22, 2012. See the following table for more information about the equity compensation of our non-employee directors.
- (2) Mr. Solomon’s term as a Class III director will expire at the 2012 stockholder meeting on October 26, 2012, and he will cease to be a director as of that date.

The following table sets forth information regarding the individual options granted during fiscal year 2012 to the non-employee directors, including the exercise price (which was the fair market value of the stock on the grant date) and the per-share “grant date fair value” for each option used in calculating the amounts in the table above:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Grant Date</u>	<u>Securities Underlying Options (#)</u>	<u>Per Share Exercise Price of Option (\$)</u>	<u>Per Share Grant Date Fair Value of Option (\$)(a)</u>	<u>Grant Date Fair Value of Option (\$)(a)</u>	<u>Current Per Share Intrinsic Value of Option (\$)(b)</u>	<u>Current Total Intrinsic Value of Option (\$)(b)(c)</u>
William Bradley	November 3, 2011	25,000	11.26	5.20	130,053	—	—
John McDonald	November 3, 2011	25,000	11.26	5.20	130,053	—	—
Gregory Sands	November 3, 2011	25,000	11.26	5.20	130,053	—	—
James Simons	November 3, 2011	25,000	11.26	5.20	130,053	—	—
Glenn Solomon(d)	November 3, 2011	25,000	11.26	5.20	130,053	—	—
Dana Stalder	November 3, 2011	25,000	11.26	5.20	130,053	—	—

- (a) See note (1) in the “Director Compensation” table above.
- (b) The intrinsic value represents the excess, if any, of the stock price of \$8.57 at the closing of the market as of August 31, 2012 over the exercise price of the option award.
- (c) As of the end of fiscal year 2012, Mr. Bradley held an aggregate of 225,000 options, Mr. McDonald held an aggregate of 245,000 options, Mr. Stalder held an aggregate of 270,000 options, and each of Messrs. Sands, Simons and Solomon held 70,000 options, in each case including both vested and unvested options and the options granted during fiscal year 2012.
- (d) See note (2) in the “Director Compensation” table above.

## Committees of the Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors has standing Audit, Compensation and Nominating & Corporate Governance Committees. The Board Committees regularly meet in executive session with no members of management present. Copies of the charters for each of these Committees are available by using the “Investor Relations” and then “Corporate Governance” links on the Company’s website at [www.quinstreet.com](http://www.quinstreet.com). The following table lists members of the Committees as of the date of the Proxy Statement.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Audit Committee</u>	<u>Compensation Committee</u>	<u>Governance Committee</u>
William Bradley	—	—	Chair
John McDonald	Member	Chair	—
Gregory Sands	—	Member	Member
James Simons	Member	—	Member
Glenn Solomon(1)	—	—	—
Dana Stalder	Chair	Member	—

- (1) Mr. Solomon’s term as a director will expire at the 2012 stockholder meeting on October 26, 2012, and, as a result, there will be one Class III vacancy on the Board of Directors until the vacancy is filled by the Board of Directors pursuant to our bylaws and certificate of incorporator.

*Audit Committee.* During fiscal year 2012, our Audit Committee, which has been established in accordance with Section 3(a)(58)(A) of the Exchange Act, consisted of Messrs. Stalder and Solomon and Professor McDonald, and met eight times during fiscal year 2012. The chair of our Audit Committee is Mr. Stalder. In August 2012, Mr. Solomon stepped off of the Audit Committee and Mr. Simons was appointed to replace him. The functions of this Committee include:

- reviewing and pre-approving the engagement of our independent registered public accounting firm to perform audit services and any permissible non-audit services;
- evaluating the performance of our independent registered public accounting firm and deciding whether to retain their services;
- reviewing our annual and quarterly financial statements and reports and discussing the statements and reports with our independent registered public accounting firm and management;
- providing oversight with respect to related party transactions;
- reviewing, with our independent registered public accounting firm and management, significant issues that may arise regarding accounting principles and financial statement presentation, as well as matters concerning the scope, adequacy and effectiveness of our financial controls;
- reviewing reports from management and auditors regarding our procedures to monitor and ensure compliance with our legal and regulatory responsibilities, our code of business conduct and ethics and our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; and
- establishing procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by us regarding financial controls, accounting or auditing matters.

A detailed list of the Audit Committee’s functions is included in its charter, which can be accessed by using the “Investor Relations” and then “Corporate Governance” links on the Company’s website at [www.quinstreet.com](http://www.quinstreet.com).

*Nominating and Corporate Governance (“Governance”) Committee.* Our Governance Committee consists of Former Senator Bradley and Messrs. Sands and Simons, and met four times during fiscal year 2012. The chair of our Governance Committee is Former Senator Bradley. The functions of this Committee include:

- reviewing periodically director performance on our Board of Directors and its Committees and performance of management, and recommending to our Board of Directors and management areas of improvement;
- interviewing, evaluating, nominating and recommending individuals for membership on our Board of Directors;

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- evaluating nominations by stockholders of candidates for election to our Board of Directors and establishing policies and procedures for such nominations;
- reviewing with our Chief Executive Officer plans for succession to the offices of Chief Executive Officer or any other executive officer, as it sees fit; and
- reviewing and recommending to our Board of Directors changes with respect to corporate governance practices and policies.

Our Governance Committee met in July 2012 to, among other things, recommend the director nominees for nomination to our Board at our 2012 annual meeting of stockholders. A detailed list of the Governance Committee's functions is included in its charter, which can be accessed by using the "Investor Relations" and then "Corporate Governance" links on the Company's website at [www.quinstreet.com](http://www.quinstreet.com).

*Compensation Committee.* Our Compensation Committee consists of Professor McDonald and Messrs. Sands and Stalder, and met six times during fiscal year 2012. The chair of our Compensation Committee is Professor McDonald. The functions of this Committee include:

- determining the compensation and other terms of employment of our chief executive officer and our other executive officers and reviewing and approving corporate performance goals and objectives relevant to such compensation;
- reviewing and approving the compensation of our directors;
- evaluating and recommending to our Board of Directors the equity incentive plans, compensation plans and similar programs advisable for us, as well as modification or termination of existing plans and programs;
- establishing policies with respect to equity compensation arrangements;
- reviewing with management our disclosures under the caption "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" and preparing the Compensation Committee Report that the SEC requires to be included in our annual proxy statement; and
- assessing risks arising from our compensation policies and practices and whether any such risks are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect.

A detailed list of the Compensation Committee's functions is included in its charter and can be accessed by using the "Investor Relations" and then "Corporate Governance" links on the Company's website at [www.quinstreet.com](http://www.quinstreet.com).

*Compensation Advisors.* Since November 2009, QuinStreet has engaged Compensia, Inc. ("Compensia"), an executive compensation consulting firm, as the Company's executive compensation advisor. No member of the Compensation Committee or of management has any affiliation with Compensia. Although Compensia is retained by the Company, and not directly by the Compensation Committee, the Compensation Committee has unfettered access to Compensia without the participation of management and periodically seeks input from Compensia on a range of external market factors, including evolving executive compensation trends, general observations on the Company's executive compensation programs and market data on a peer group of companies in the Internet marketing and media sector and other high-growth companies. The Compensation Committee also considers input from Compensia on Board compensation matters for non-executive Board members. Other than as described above, Compensia provides no other services to the Company.

*Management Input to the Compensation Committee.* The Compensation Committee frequently requests management to assist in accomplishing its work, including requests for specific analyses to assist with decision making. The QuinStreet Employee Benefits and Compliance, Finance, and Legal departments, as well as our Chief Executive Officer, work with the Compensation Committee Chair to help set meeting agendas, to provide

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data analysis, and to coordinate the distribution of materials to the Committee in advance of its meetings. Generally, our Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel attend Committee meetings. In addition, the Compensation Committee meets in executive session with no members of management present, but with Compensia or others present at the Committee's discretion.

*Compensation Committee Meetings.* For more information on the process for determining executive compensation, see the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" in this proxy statement.

*Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation.* None of the members of our Compensation Committee had any "interlock" relationships to report during our fiscal year ended June 30, 2012.

## **Corporate Governance**

*Code of Business Conduct and Ethics.* Our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics applies to all of our employees, officers (including our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions), agents and representatives, including directors and consultants. We will disclose future amendments to our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, or waivers of such provisions, applicable to any principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions or our directors at [www.quinstreet.com](http://www.quinstreet.com).

*Board Leadership Structure.* The Board of Directors is responsible for determining its leadership structure, which currently consists of a Chairman of the Board and a Chairman leading each Board committee. Currently, the Chairman of the Board, Douglas Valenti, also serves as our Chief Executive Officer. The Board believes that the Company and its stockholders are best served by maintaining the flexibility to have any person serve as Chairman of the Board based on what is in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders at a given point in time, and therefore the Board does not support placing restrictions on who may serve as Chairman. The Board does not have a lead independent director. The Board has concluded that having Mr. Valenti serve as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer is the most effective leadership structure at this time because that individual is an effective chairman and is able to provide the best link between the Board and management.

In order to enhance the independence of the Board from management, the Board believes that a substantial majority of the Board should consist of independent directors. All of our current directors except for Mr. Valenti and Ms. Syiek are independent, as determined in accordance with NASDAQ Listing Standards.

*Board's Role in Risk Oversight.* Management, which is responsible for day-to-day risk management, continually monitors the material enterprise risks facing the Company, including strategic risks, operational risks, financial risks, credit risks, liquidity risks, and legal and compliance risks.

The Board of Directors is responsible for exercising oversight of management's identification and management of, and planning for, those risks. The Board has delegated to certain Committees oversight responsibility for those risks that are directly related to their area of focus (see descriptions of our Audit Committee, Compensation Committee and Governance Committee's areas of responsibilities discussed under "Audit Committee", "Compensation Committee" and "Nominating and Corporate Governance ("Governance") Committee" above). The Board and its Committees exercise their risk oversight function by carefully evaluating the reports they receive from management and by making inquiries of management with respect to areas of particular interest to the Board. In addition, the Board and its Committees receive reports from our auditors and other consultants, such as Compensia, and meet in executive session with these outside consultants. Board oversight of risk is enhanced by the fact that our Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board attends many Committee meetings and that Committee reports are provided to the full Board following each regular quarterly Committee meeting. In addition, the full Board receives updates and in-depth information specifically related to the Company's enterprise risk management.

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*Information on Compensation Risk Assessment.* Management periodically reviews the Company's incentive compensation programs at all levels within the organization. Employee cash bonuses are based on Company and individual performance, and management (with respect to non-executive bonuses) or the Compensation Committee (with respect to executive officers' bonuses) has discretion to reduce bonus payouts. Equity awards for new hires are based on the employee's level in the Company, prior experience, qualifications, and the market for particular types of talent, and any additional grants are based on employee performance. Equity awards have long-term vesting requirements to ensure that there are not undue incentives for short-lived stock performance. The incentive compensation structure was reviewed during fiscal year 2012 by the Compensation Committee and the Company's compensation advisor, Compensia, Inc. Based on the findings of this review and input from Compensia, the Compensation Committee believes that risks arising from the Company's compensation policies and programs are not reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company.

### **Independence Determination for Directors**

The Board of Directors has determined that, with the exception of Mr. Valenti, who is our Chief Executive Officer, and Ms. Syiek, who is our President, all of its current members qualify as independent directors pursuant to the rules adopted by the SEC applicable to the corporate governance standards for companies listed on the NASDAQ National Market System. The Board of Directors has determined that all of our director nominees except Mr. Valenti are independent within the meaning of the applicable NASDAQ listing standards. The Audit, Compensation and Governance Committees of the Board of Directors consist entirely of independent directors.

### **Audit Committee Financial Qualifications**

Our Board of Directors has determined that each member of the Audit Committee: (1) meets the independence criteria prescribed by applicable law and rules of the SEC for Audit Committee membership and (2) is "independent" within the meaning of the NASDAQ listing standards and the standards established by the Company. Each member of our Audit Committee can read and understand fundamental financial statements in accordance with audit committee requirements. In addition, the Board of Directors has designated Dana Stalder as an "audit committee financial expert" as such term is defined in Item 407(d)(5)(ii) of Regulation S-K promulgated by the SEC.

### **Director Nominations**

*General Criteria and Process.* Our Governance Committee has the responsibility of identifying, reviewing and evaluating candidates to serve on the Company's Board of Directors consistent with any criteria approved by the Board of Directors, including consideration of any potential conflicts of interest as well as applicable independence and experience requirements. As expressed in the Governance Committee charter, in nominating candidates, the Governance Committee shall comply with the requirements of the Company's Bylaws and take into consideration such other factors as it deems appropriate. These factors may include judgment, skill, diversity, experience with businesses and other organizations of comparable size, the interplay of the candidate's experience with the experience of other Board members, and the extent to which the candidate would be a desirable addition to the Board and any committees of the Board. The Governance Committee may use and pay for assistance from consultants, including obtaining background checks, and advice from outside counsel, to assist its review and evaluation.

In evaluating candidates, the Governance Committee considers a wide variety of qualifications, attributes and other factors, and recognizes that a diversity of viewpoints and practical experiences can enhance the effectiveness of the Board. Accordingly, as part of its evaluation of each candidate, the Governance Committee takes into account how that candidate's background, experience, qualifications, attributes, and skills may complement, supplement or duplicate those of other Board members.

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*Stockholder Nominations and Bylaw Procedures.* Stockholders who wish to recommend nominees for consideration by the Governance Committee for nomination may submit their recommendation in writing to our Corporate Secretary at the address set forth below under “Annual Report.” The Governance Committee may consider such stockholder recommendations when it evaluates and recommends nominees to the Board of Directors for submission to the stockholders at each annual meeting of stockholders. Before the Governance Committee will consider stockholder recommendations, stockholders must comply with the eligibility, advance notice and other provisions of our Policy on Stockholder Recommendations of Director Nominees. Under this policy, the stockholder must provide timely notice of the recommendation to us to be considered by the Governance Committee in connection with the Company’s next annual meeting of stockholders. To be timely, the Corporate Secretary must receive the stockholder’s recommendation and the information required in the policy at least 120 days prior to the anniversary date of the mailing of this proxy statement. A copy of the policy is available on the Investor Relations section of the Company’s website, [www.quinstreet.com](http://www.quinstreet.com). The Governance Committee does not intend to alter the manner in which it evaluates candidates based on whether the candidate was recommended by a stockholder.

In addition, our Bylaws establish procedures pursuant to which a stockholder may nominate a person for election to the Board of Directors. To nominate a person for election to the Board of Directors, a stockholder must set forth all information relating to the nominee that is required to be disclosed in solicitations of proxies for election of directors, or is otherwise required, in each case pursuant to Regulation 14A under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. We may require any proposed nominee to furnish information concerning his or her eligibility to serve as an independent director or that could be material to a reasonable stockholder’s understanding of the independence of the nominee. To nominate a person for election to the Board of Directors at our 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, written notice of a stockholder nomination must be delivered to our Corporate Secretary between June 28, 2013 and July 28, 2013. However, if our annual meeting is advanced or delayed by more than 30 days from October 26, 2013 (the anniversary of the prior year’s meeting of stockholders), a stockholder’s written notice will be timely if it is delivered no earlier than the 120th day prior to such annual meeting and no later than the later of the 90th day prior to such annual meeting or the 10th day following the announcement of the date of the meeting.

### **Contacting the Board and Further Information on Corporate Governance**

Any interested person who desires to communicate with our non-management directors may do so by writing to the Board of Directors. The Corporate Secretary will promptly forward such interested person communications so received to our Board of Directors, to the individual director or directors to whom the communication was addressed or other appropriate departments or outside advisors, depending on the nature of the concern. Interested persons who wish to communicate directly with the Board of Directors may do so by writing to our Corporate Secretary, QuinStreet, Inc., 950 Tower Lane, Suite 600, Foster City, California 94404.

Our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, stockholder nominations policy and committee charters are accessible by following the links to “Investor Relations” and then “Corporate Governance” on our website at [www.quinstreet.com](http://www.quinstreet.com). Furthermore, upon request by a stockholder to our Corporate Secretary at the address set forth in the preceding paragraph, we will provide copies of our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, stockholder nominations policy and committee charters without charge.



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

The following table shows the amount of common stock beneficially owned (unless otherwise indicated) by our directors, our named executive officers (as set forth in the Summary Compensation Table set forth below), our directors and executive officers as a group, and beneficial owners of more than 5% of our common stock. Except as otherwise indicated, all information is as of August 31, 2012. At August 31, 2012, there were 42,760,435 shares of common stock outstanding. Unless otherwise indicated, the address of each beneficial owner listed in the table below is c/o QuinStreet, Inc., 950 Tower Lane, Suite 600, Foster City, California 94404.

Name	Common Stock	
	Share Beneficially Owned	% of Class
<b>Directors:</b>		
William Bradley (1)	226,916	*
John McDonald (2)	262,916	*
Gregory Sands (3)	289,317	*
James Simons (4)	3,421,179	8.0%
Glenn Solomon (5)	2,834,891	6.6%
Dana Stalder (6)	271,816	*
<b>Named Executive Officers:</b>		
Douglas Valenti (7)	5,348,308	12.4%
Bronwyn Syiek (8)	1,080,832	2.5%
Kenneth Hahn (9)	339,790	*
Scott Mackley (10)	834,374	1.9%
Nina Bhanap (11)	368,256	*
<b>Executive Officers and Directors, as a group (11 persons) (12)</b>	<b>15,278,595</b>	<b>32.8%</b>
<b>Other 5% Stockholders:</b>		
Entities affiliated with Split Rock Partners (13), 10400 Viking Drive, Suite 550, Minneapolis, MN 55344	3,318,422	7.8%
Entities affiliated with GGV Capital (14), 2494 Sand Hill Road, Suite 100, Menlo Park, CA 94025	2,766,975	6.5%
Frontier Capital Management Co., LLC (15), 99 Summer Street, Boston, MA 02110	4,592,070	10.7%
FMR LLC (16), 82 Devonshire Street, Boston, MA 02109	6,772,984	15.8%

\* Represents less than 1% of our outstanding common stock.

- (1) Includes stock options exercisable for 222,916 shares of our common stock within 60 days of August 31, 2012.
- (2) Includes 20,000 shares held in a family trust of which Mr. McDonald is a trustee. Also, includes stock options exercisable for 242,916 shares of our common stock within 60 days of August 31, 2012.
- (3) Includes 202,761 shares held in a living trust of which Mr. Sands and his spouse are trustees, 3,728 shares held in a charitable remainder unitrust of which Mr. Sands is the trustee and 14,912 shares held in irrevocable trusts of which Mr. Sands and his spouse are trustees for the benefit of Mr. Sands' minor children. Also includes stock options exercisable for 67,916 shares of our common stock within 60 days of August 31, 2012.
- (4) Includes 3,247,578 shares held by SPVC V, LLC and 70,844 shares held by SPVC Affiliates Fund I, LLC, each of which is jointly managed by Split Rock Partners, LLC and Vesbridge Partners, LLC. Voting and investment power over the shares, however, has been delegated solely to Split Rock Partners, LLC. Split Rock Partners, LLC has delegated voting and investment decisions with respect to the shares to three individuals (one of whom is James Simons) who require a two-thirds vote to act. Mr. Simons disclaims beneficial ownership of the reported securities, except to the extent of any pecuniary interest therein. Includes 34,841 shares held by the James Rexroad Simons Trust. Also includes stock options exercisable for

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67,916 shares of our common stock within 60 days of August 31, 2012 which are held directly by Mr. Simons. Pursuant to a letter agreement, Mr. Simons holds this option for the sole benefit of SPVC V, LLC.

- (5) Includes 1,163,163 shares held by Granite Global Ventures II L.P., 1,541,880 shares held by Granite Global Ventures III L.P., 24,341 shares held by GGV II Entrepreneurs Fund L.P. and 37,591 shares held by GGV III Entrepreneurs Fund L.P. Mr. Solomon is a Managing Director of Granite Global Ventures III L.L.C., the General Partner of Granite Global Ventures III L.P. and GGV III Entrepreneurs Fund L.P. He is also a Managing Director of Granite Global Ventures II, L.L.C., the General Partner of Granite Global Ventures II L.P. and GGV II Entrepreneurs Fund L.P. Mr. Solomon, Mr. Ng, Mr. Nada, Mr. Bonham, Mr. Foo, Ms. Lee, Mr. Zhuo and Ms. Jin share voting and investment authority over the shares held by Granite Global Ventures III L.P. and GGV III Entrepreneurs Fund L.P. Mr. Solomon, Mr. Ng, Mr. Nada, Mr. Bonham, Mr. Foo and Ms. Lee share voting and investment authority over the shares held by Granite Global Ventures II L.P. and GGV II Entrepreneurs Fund L.P. Mr. Solomon disclaims beneficial ownership of these shares except to the extent of his proportionate pecuniary interest therein. Also includes stock options exercisable for 67,916 shares of our common stock within 60 days of August 31, 2012. Mr. Solomon will cease to be a director at the conclusion of the 2012 annual meeting of stockholders. Pursuant to the terms of the 2010 Non-Employee Directors' Stock Award Plan, Mr. Solomon will be able to exercise his vested options until the earlier of (1) six (6) months from the expiration of his term on the Board of Directors or (2) the expiration of the term of the option.
- (6) Includes 3,900 shares held in a family trust for which Mr. Stalder is the trustee. Also includes stock options exercisable for 267,916 shares of our common stock within 60 days of August 31, 2012.
- (7) Includes 2,924,527 shares held by The Valenti Living Trust of which Mr. Valenti and his spouse are co-trustees, 2,046,034 shares held by DJ & TL Valenti Investments, LP, of which The Valenti Living Trust is the general partner, and 6,903 shares held by Mr. Valenti and his immediate family members. Each of Mr. Valenti and his spouse have voting and investment power with respect to the shares held by The Valenti Living Trust and share beneficial ownership in such shares. Each of Mr. Valenti and his spouse also have voting and investment power with respect to the shares held by DJ and TL Valenti Investments, LP, through their control as co-trustees of the general partner, The Valenti Living Trust. Also includes stock options exercisable for 370,844 shares of our common stock within 60 days of August 31, 2012.
- (8) Includes stock options exercisable for 1,080,832 shares of our common stock within 60 days of August 31, 2012.
- (9) Represents stock options exercisable for 339,790 shares of our common stock within 60 days of August 31, 2012.
- (10) Includes stock options exercisable for 710,374 shares of our common stock within 60 days of August 31, 2012.
- (11) Includes stock options exercisable for 340,756 shares of our common stock within 60 days of August 31, 2012.
- (12) Includes stock options exercisable for an aggregate of 3,780,092 shares of our common stock within 60 days of August 31, 2012.
- (13) Includes 3,247,578 shares held by SPVC V, LLC and 70,844 shares held by SPVC Affiliates Fund I, LLC, each of which is jointly managed by Split Rock Partners, LLC and Vesbridge Partners, LLC. Voting and investment power over the shares, however, has been delegated solely to Split Rock Partners, LLC. Split Rock Partners, LLC has delegated voting and investment decisions with respect to the shares to three individuals (one of whom is James R. Simons) who require a two-thirds vote to act. Split Rock Partners, LLC and Mr. Simons disclaim beneficial ownership of the reported securities, except to the extent of any pecuniary interest therein. Also includes stock options exercisable for 67,916 shares of our common stock within 60 days of August 31, 2012 which are held directly by Mr. Simons for the sole benefit of SPVC V, LLC. Split Rock Partners, LLC disclaims beneficial ownership of the reported securities, except to the extent of any pecuniary interest therein.
- (14) Includes 1,163,163 shares held by Granite Global Ventures II L.P., 1,541,880 shares held by Granite Global Ventures III L.P., 24,341 shares held by GGV II Entrepreneurs Fund L.P. and 37,591 shares held by GGV III Entrepreneurs Fund L.P. Mr. Solomon is a Managing Director of Granite Global Ventures III L.L.C., the

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General Partner of Granite Global Ventures III L.P. and GGV III Entrepreneurs Fund L.P. He is also a Managing Director of Granite Global Ventures II, L.L.C., the General Partner of Granite Global Ventures II L.P. and GGV II Entrepreneurs Fund L.P. Mr. Solomon, Mr. Ng, Mr. Nada, Mr. Bonham, Mr. Foo, Ms. Lee, Mr. Zhuo and Ms. Jin share voting and investment authority over the shares held by Granite Global Ventures III L.P. and GGV III Entrepreneurs Fund L.P. Mr. Solomon, Mr. Ng, Mr. Nada, Mr. Bonham, Mr. Foo and Ms. Lee share voting and investment authority over the shares held by Granite Global Ventures II L.P. and GGV II Entrepreneurs Fund L.P. Mr. Solomon disclaims beneficial ownership of these shares except to the extent of his proportionate pecuniary interest therein.

(15) Based on the Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on March 9, 2012 by Frontier Capital Management Co., LLC.

(16) Based on the Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on May 10, 2012 by FMR LLC.

### **Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance**

Based upon a review of filings with the SEC and/or written representations that no other reports were required, we believe that all reports for the Company's executive officers and directors that were required to be filed under Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 were timely filed, except for a late Form 4 filed on August 8, 2011, reporting options to purchase an aggregate of 25,000 shares of our common stock granted to Timothy Stevens on July 29, 2010, and a late Form 4 filed on September 13, 2012, reporting 69 shares and 46 shares of our common stock which Mr. Valenti received on January 12, 2011 and January 14, 2011, respectively, as a result of a pro rata distribution from a limited partnership.

### **Certain Relationships and Related Party Transactions**

#### *Second Amended and Restated Investor Rights Agreement*

We have entered into an investor rights agreement with certain holders of our common stock that provides for certain rights relating to the registration of their shares of common stock, including those issued upon conversion of their previously-held preferred stock.

#### *Other Transactions*

Katrina Boydon, the sister of Bronwyn Syiek, the Company's President and Director, serves as the Company's Vice President of Content and Compliance. In fiscal years 2012, 2011 and 2010, Ms. Boydon received a base salary of \$214,000, \$203,000 and \$193,000 per year, respectively, and a bonus payout of \$60,000, \$69,000 and \$67,000, respectively. In fiscal years 2012 and 2010, Ms. Boydon was granted options to purchase an aggregate of 40,000 shares and 45,000 shares, respectively, of our common stock. Ms. Boydon's fiscal year 2013 base salary is \$220,000 per year, and she has a fiscal year 2013 target bonus of \$80,000.

From March 2009 through January 2012, Rian Valenti, the son of Doug Valenti, the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chairman, served as a client strategy and development senior manager. In fiscal years 2012, 2011 and 2010, Mr. Rian Valenti received a base salary of \$41,000, \$62,000 and \$54,000 per year, respectively, and a commission payout of \$28,000, \$32,000 and \$23,000, respectively. In fiscal year 2012 and 2011, Mr. Rian Valenti was granted 1,250 restricted stock units and 750 restricted stock units, respectively, of our common stock.

In fiscal year 2012, the Company's president, Bronwyn Syiek, informed QuinStreet that she desired to start a company using her own resources that would develop and offer websites serving local communities such as parent-teacher associations and other locally-affiliated groups. The Company had previously explored a similar business opportunity and had concluded that the opportunity was not consistent with its business direction and did not address a sufficiently large market to justify further investment. Accordingly, the Company had discontinued its investment in this business opportunity in fiscal year 2011. During the time that the Company considered this business opportunity and tested the market with a product offering, Ms. Syiek, within the scope

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of her employment by QuinStreet, gained certain know-how about the community-based website business. In January 2012, Ms. Syiek's proposal to pursue the business opportunity for herself was presented to the Company's Board of Directors for their consideration under the Company's Related Person Transactions Policy. The Board of Directors, with Mr. Valenti and Ms. Syiek abstaining, concluded that Ms. Syiek's proposal did not present a conflict of interest and directed management to negotiate agreements to document the arrangement. On August 23, 2012 the Company, Ms. Syiek and TownB Corporation, a company founded and substantially owned by Ms. Syiek, entered into a License and Investment Agreement pursuant to which QuinStreet provided TownB with a license to Ms. Syiek's community-based website business know-how and QuinStreet will receive a 15% ownership interest in TownB, preemptive rights to maintain its ownership level and a right of first refusal in the event that Ms. Syiek chooses to sell her shares or TownB should be sold. Other than the know-how held by Ms. Syiek, no other Company intellectual property has been licensed to TownB or Ms. Syiek. The Company believes that both the know-how licensed, and the minority interest and associated rights in TownB that the Company will receive, have a nominal fair market value.

We have entered into indemnification agreements with each of our directors and executive officers. These indemnification agreements require us to indemnify each of our directors and executive officers to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law.

### **Policies and Procedures for Transactions with Related Persons**

Our Board of Directors has adopted a written related person transaction policy, which sets forth the policies and procedures for the review and approval or ratification of related person transactions. This policy covers any transaction, arrangement or relationship, or any series of similar transactions, arrangements or relationships, in which we were or are to be a participant, the amount involved exceeds \$60,000 and a related person had or will have a direct or indirect material interest. While the policy covers related party transactions in which the amount involved exceeds \$60,000, only related party transactions in which the amount involved exceeds \$120,000 will be required to be disclosed in applicable filings as required by the Securities Act, Exchange Act and related rules. Our Board of Directors set the \$60,000 threshold for approval of related party transactions in the policy at an amount lower than that which is required to be disclosed under the Securities Act, Exchange Act and related rules because we believe it is appropriate for our Audit Committee to review transactions or potential transactions in which the amount involved exceeds \$60,000, as opposed to \$120,000. Pursuant to this policy, our Audit Committee will (i) review the relevant facts and circumstances of each proposed related party transaction, including if the transaction is on terms comparable to those that could be obtained in arm's-length dealings with an unrelated third-party and the extent of the related party's interest in the transaction and (ii) take into account the conflicts of interest and corporate opportunity provisions of our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics. Management will present to our Audit Committee each proposed related party transaction, including all relevant facts and circumstances relating thereto, and will update the Audit Committee as to any material changes to any related party transaction.

Any related party transactions may only be consummated if our Audit Committee has approved or ratified such transaction in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the policy. Certain types of transactions are not subject to the policy, including: (i) compensation arrangements approved by our Compensation Committee; (ii) transactions in the ordinary course of business where the related party's interest arises only (a) from his or her position as an employee (other than a position as an executive officer, partner, principal or similar control position) of another entity that is party to the transaction or (b) from an equity interest of less than 5% in another entity that is party to the transaction; and (iii) transactions in the ordinary course of business where the interest of the related party arises solely from the ownership of a class of equity securities in our company where all holders of such class of equity securities will receive the same benefit on a pro rata basis. No director may participate in the approval of a related party transaction for which he or she is a related party.

**COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

*The following Report of the Compensation Committee does not constitute soliciting material and should not be deemed filed or incorporated by reference into any other QuinStreet filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, except to the extent we specifically incorporate this Report by reference therein.*

The Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors has furnished the following report.

The Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed the “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” section of the proxy statement with management of QuinStreet, and based on this review and discussion, recommended to the Board of Directors of QuinStreet that such “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” be included in QuinStreet’s proxy statement for the 2012 annual meeting of stockholders for filing with the SEC.

Members of the Compensation Committee  
of the Board of Directors of QuinStreet Inc.

*John G. McDonald (Chair)*  
*Gregory Sands*  
*Dana Stalder*

## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

### Compensation Discussion and Analysis

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis provides an overview of the material components of our executive compensation program for:

- Douglas Valenti, our Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer;
- Bronwyn Syiek, our President;
- Kenneth Hahn, our Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer;
- Scott Mackley, our Executive Vice President; and
- Nina Bhanap, our Chief Technology Officer.

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

Specifically, this Compensation Discussion and Analysis provides an overview of our executive compensation philosophy, the overall objectives of our executive compensation program and each component of compensation that we provide. In addition, we explain how and why the compensation committee of our Board of Directors arrived at the specific compensation policies and decisions involving our executive officers, including the Named Executive Officers, for fiscal 2012.

### Executive Summary

#### *Financial Highlights*

We continued to manage through challenges and uncertainties in fiscal 2012, particularly in our core education and financial services client verticals. Revenues and operating income were down in fiscal 2012. Through continued discipline in our approach to controlling operating costs during fiscal 2012, we were able to maintain our targeted Adjusted EBITDA margin of 20% which, as described below, was one of the targets under our performance bonus plan.

We recorded the following financial results for fiscal 2012:

- For the year, we generated total revenues of \$370.5 million, compared to \$403 million for fiscal 2011. GAAP net income for the year was \$13 million, or \$0.28 per diluted share, compared to \$27.2 million, or \$0.55 per diluted share, for fiscal 2011. Adjusted net income excludes stock-based compensation expense and amortization of intangible assets, net of estimated tax.
- Adjusted EBITDA (as defined below) for the year was \$72.6 million, or 20% of revenue, compared to \$90.3 million, or 22% of revenue for fiscal 2011.

#### *Executive Compensation Actions*

As reflected in our compensation philosophy below, we set the compensation of our executive officers, including the Named Executive Officers, based on their ability to successfully execute our annual operational plan, which is intended to further our long-term business objectives and to create sustainable long-term stockholder value in a cost-effective manner. Accordingly, our fiscal 2012 compensation actions and decisions were based on our executive officers' accomplishments in these areas, and highlight our pay for performance philosophy. As described below, bonuses and total cash compensation were significantly reduced for fiscal 2012 due to our operational challenges noted above.

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For fiscal 2012, the Compensation Committee took the following actions with respect to the compensation of the Named Executive Officers:

- With one exception, increased base salaries between 3% and 4% of their fiscal 2011 levels;
- Awarded annual bonus payments ranging from 60% to 70% of each Named Executive Officer's target bonus opportunity pursuant to the Company's Annual Incentive Plan based primarily on the Compensation Committee's consideration of the Company's financial performance, its assessment of the Named Executive Officers' individual efforts, and its assessment of the achievement of business goals that enabled us to position the Company for sustained growth in the future;
- Determined that no payouts were to be made under our Incremental Bonus Plan, based on the Company's fiscal 2012 performance; and
- Approved equity awards in the form of stock options at levels that the Compensation Committee believes met competitive market concerns, satisfied our retention objectives and rewarded corporate and individual performance for fiscal 2012.

In deciding to make new equity grants to our Named Executive Officers for the first time since our initial public offering, the Compensation Committee took into consideration the desire to maintain market-competitive compensation and the desire to provide our Named Executive Officers with an incentive to manage our business as owners. The equity awards have the effect of subjecting a significant portion of our Named Executive Officers' total compensation to fluctuations in the market price of our common stock, thus helping to align the interests of our Named Executive Officers' with stockholder interests.

### *Effect of Our Decisions on Fiscal 2012 Executive Compensation.*

Taking into account that the Company missed its revenue targets but achieved its Adjusted EBITDA margin target for fiscal 2012, our Compensation Committee determined to decrease bonus payouts and, accordingly, total cash compensation for our executive officers including the Named Executive Officers by an amount that exceeded the revenue growth target shortfall. Thus, while we missed our 2012 revenue target by approximately 22%, total cash compensation (that is, base salary plus actual bonus payouts) for fiscal 2012 was 29% less on average than for fiscal 2011. The chart below shows the reduction in total cash compensation for each of the Named Executive Officers between fiscal years 2011 and 2012:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Fiscal 2011 Total Cash</u>	<u>Fiscal 2012 Total Cash</u>	<u>Fiscal 2012 v. Fiscal 2011 Decrease in Total Cash</u>	
			<u>(\$)</u>	<u>(%)</u>
Doug Valenti	\$1,108,545	\$757,936	(\$350,609)	-32%
Bronwyn Syiek	\$ 963,545	\$656,648	(\$306,897)	-32%
Kenneth Hahn	\$ 623,800	\$505,704	(\$118,096)	-19%
Scott Mackley	\$ 847,500	\$549,775	(\$297,725)	-35%
Nina Bhanap	\$ 599,757	\$454,892	(\$144,865)	-24%

### *Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation*

We conducted our first stockholder advisory vote on executive compensation at our 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. While this vote was not binding on the Company, we believe that it is important for our stockholders to have an opportunity to have an advisory vote on executive compensation on an annual basis as a means to express their views regarding our executive compensation philosophy, our compensation policies and programs, and our decisions regarding executive compensation, all as disclosed in our proxy statements. The Board of Directors and the Compensation Committee value the opinions of our stockholders and, to the extent that there is any significant vote against the compensation of the Named Executive Officers as disclosed in this

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proxy statement, we will consider our stockholders' concerns and the Compensation Committee will evaluate whether any actions are necessary to address those concerns.

At the 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, more than 99% of the votes cast on the advisory vote on executive compensation proposal were in favor of the Named Executive Officers' compensation as disclosed in the 2011 proxy statement. The Compensation Committee reviewed the final vote results and, partly based on this significant level of support, determined that no changes to our executive compensation policies and decisions were necessary at this time.

We have determined that our stockholders should have the opportunity to cast an advisory vote on executive compensation each year, consistent with the preference expressed by our stockholders at the 2011 Annual Meeting.

### **Compensation Objectives**

We recognize that our success is in large part dependent on our ability to attract and retain talented employees. We endeavor to create and maintain compensation programs based on performance, teamwork and rapid progress and to effectively align the interests of our executive officers and stockholders. The principles and objectives of our compensation and benefits programs for our employees generally, and for our executive officers specifically, are to:

- attract, motivate and retain highly-talented individuals who are incented to achieve our strategic objectives;
- closely align compensation with our business and financial objectives and the long-term interests of our stockholders;
- motivate and reward individuals whose skills and performance promote our continued success; and
- offer total compensation that is competitive and fair.

The compensation of our executive officers consists of the following primary components:

- base salary;
- performance-based cash bonuses;
- long-term incentive compensation;
- employee health and welfare benefits; and
- limited change in control benefits.

Each compensation component has a role in meeting the objectives described above. While we offer competitive base salaries and performance-based cash bonuses, we believe that long-term incentive compensation is a critical compensation component for Internet and other emerging companies. We believe that stock options and restricted stock units compensation provide long-term incentives that align the interests of employees and executive officers alike with the long-term interests of stockholders.

We strive to achieve an appropriate mix between cash and equity compensation to meet our objectives. We do not apply any formal or informal policies or guidelines for allocating compensation between current and long-term compensation, between cash and equity compensation or among different forms of equity compensation. As a result, the allocation between cash and equity varies between executive officers. The mix of compensation components is designed to reward short-term results and motivate long-term performance through a combination of cash and equity awards. We believe the most important indicator of whether our compensation objectives are being met is our ability to motivate our executive officers to deliver superior performance and retain them to continue their careers with us on a cost-effective basis.



## **Compensation-Setting Process**

### *Role of the Compensation Committee*

The Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors is responsible for administering and overseeing the executive compensation program for our executive officers, including the Named Executive Officers, and reports to the full Board of Directors on its discussions, decisions and other actions.

Our management and the Compensation Committee conduct an annual analysis of senior management compensation for purposes of setting executive compensation for the upcoming fiscal year. For fiscal 2012, this analysis occurred in June and August 2011. At that time, management and the Compensation Committee reviewed the information provided by their compensation consultant, as well as industry survey results and other information described further below, in light of the compensation we offer, to ensure that the executive compensation program established for the applicable fiscal year is competitive and fair.

At that time, the Compensation Committee (together with our Chief Executive Officer with respect to performance of the other executive officers) reviews the performance of each executive officer on an annual basis and, based on this review and the factors described below, sets his or her compensation package for the coming fiscal year.

The Compensation Committee expects to continue to conduct an annual review process of all compensation components at the end of each fiscal year to ensure consistency with our compensation philosophy and as part of its responsibilities in administering our executive compensation program. The Compensation Committee is authorized to retain the services of third-party executive compensation specialists from time to time, as the committee sees fit, in connection with the establishment of cash and equity compensation and related policies.

### *Role of our Chief Executive Officer*

Our Chief Executive Officer makes recommendations to the Compensation Committee, attends committee meetings (except for sessions discussing and setting his compensation) and has been and will continue to be involved in the determination of compensation for our executive officers. Typically, our Chief Executive Officer makes recommendations to the Compensation Committee regarding annual and long-term incentive compensation for our executive officers (other than himself). Our Chief Executive Officer bases his recommendations upon the Company's financial and operational results, individual executive officers' contribution toward these results, performance toward goal achievement, an analysis of competitive market data (including data from the peer companies as described below), input from our President and our Chief Financial Officer as to certain other executives and input from our compensation consultant. Our Chief Executive Officer does not make any recommendation as to his own compensation.

The Compensation Committee reviews our Chief Executive Officer's recommendations, the competitive market data and other relevant information and determines each executive officer's total compensation, as well as each individual compensation component. The Compensation Committee's decisions regarding executive compensation are based on its subjective evaluation of the performance of the Company and each individual executive officer, a review of market data as described below and other factors, such as prevailing industry trends.

### *Role of Compensation Consultant*

Since November 2009, we have engaged Compensia, Inc., a national consulting firm providing executive compensation advisory services, as a compensation consultant to help evaluate our compensation philosophy and provide guidance in administering our executive compensation program. Since fiscal 2010, Compensia has also assisted the Compensation Committee in developing the compensation peer groups described above and in providing market data based on the compensation practices of the peer groups.

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### *Competitive Positioning*

We believe it is important when making compensation-related decisions to be informed as to current practices of similarly-situated companies. Consequently, we select a group of companies that provide Internet marketing and media and software services that are broadly similar to the Company as a reference point for evaluating the market practices of our “peers” in formulating compensation recommendations and to assist the Compensation Committee in its consideration of executive compensation.

For fiscal 2012, our compensation peer group (the “Peer Group”) consisted of the following companies:

Ancestry.com	Infospace
Ansys	Liquidity Services
Blackboard	Pega Systems
Commvault Systems	Rackspace Hosting
Concur Technologies	Tibco Software
Demand Media	Valueclick
Digital River	Verisign
Informatica	WebMD Health

These companies were selected after consideration of their revenue, revenue growth, profitability, market capitalization, headcount and industry. Each of the companies in the Peer Group had annual revenues between 0.5x to 2.0x that of the Company’s revenues. In addition, all are headquartered in the United States and had positive growth rates or strong profitability, similar to the Company.

We supplement the data derived from the Peer Group with broader compensation market data provided by market surveys. Consistent with its prior practice, the Compensation Committee reviewed summary cash compensation data from Salary.com for positions comparable to those of the executive officers at Internet companies with revenues between \$200 million and \$500 million in the San Francisco Bay Area.

While the Compensation Committee does not “benchmark” pay levels against the Peer Group due to the unique aspects of our business, it believes that evaluating market data is useful to understand market practice and to provide a general context for its decisions. The Compensation Committee exercises its discretion in determining the nature and extent of the use of market data, which may vary by executive officer.

### **Compensation Components**

#### *Base Salaries*

The initial base salaries for our executive officers, including the Named Executive Officers, are established through arm’s-length negotiation at the time of hire, taking into account each individual’s qualifications, experience and prior salary history, and prevailing market compensation for similar roles among the companies in the Peer Group and other comparable companies. Thereafter, the base salaries of our executive officers are reviewed annually by the Compensation Committee, with significant input from our Chief Executive Officer (except with respect to his own base salary) to determine whether any adjustment is warranted. Base salaries are also reviewed in the case of promotions or other significant changes in responsibility.

In determining a base salary adjustment, the Compensation Committee considers several factors, including the Company’s overall performance, an executive officer’s relative job scope, individual performance history, prior and anticipated future contributions to the Company, responsibilities, prior experience and an analysis of competitive market data (including the base salary practices of the Peer Group). The Compensation Committee may also take into account the executive officer’s current base salary, equity ownership and the amounts paid to the executive officer’s peers inside the Company. We also draw upon the experience of members of the Compensation Committee with other companies.

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In June 2011, the Compensation Committee reviewed the base salaries of our executive officers, including the Named Executive Officers, for fiscal 2012. Consistent with its prior practice, the Compensation Committee reviewed salary data derived from the Peer Group and summary cash compensation data from Salary.com for positions comparable to those of the executive officers at Internet companies with revenues between \$200 million and \$500 million in the San Francisco Bay Area.

After reviewing input from Compensia and taking into consideration the recommendations of our Chief Executive Officer (except with respect to his own base salary), the Compensation Committee determined that, using the factors described above, base salaries for the Named Executive Officers be increased by between 3% and 8% per individual. Ms. Bhanap's base salary was increased by 8% in recognition of her contributions to the Company and her ongoing responsibilities. The increase was intended to provide Ms. Bhanap with a more equivalent level of base compensation in comparison to our other top executives. Accordingly, the base salaries of the Named Executive Officers for fiscal 2012 were adjusted as follows:

<u>Named Executive Officer</u>	<u>Fiscal 2011 Base Salary</u>	<u>Fiscal 2012 Base Salary</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
Mr. Valenti	\$ 497,500	\$ 512,425	3.0%
Ms. Syiek	\$ 435,000	\$ 448,050	3.5%
Mr. Hahn	\$ 365,000	\$ 379,600	4.0%
Mr. Mackley	\$ 347,500	\$ 361,400	4.0%
Ms. Bhanap	\$ 324,000	\$ 350,000	8.0%

The actual base salaries paid to the Named Executive Officers in fiscal 2012 are set forth in the "Summary Compensation Table" below.

### *Performance-Based Cash Bonuses*

We use performance-based bonuses to motivate our executive officers, including the Named Executive Officers, to achieve our short-term financial and operational goals while making rapid and sustainable progress towards our longer-term objectives. These bonuses are designed to reward both Company and individual performance.

Under our Annual Incentive Plan for fiscal 2012, the Compensation Committee was able to award bonuses to any of our employees, including our executive officers, according to bonus targets and criteria set by the Compensation Committee in accordance with the plan. The Compensation Committee has the discretion to reduce the amount of any actual award under the Annual Incentive Plan below the amount calculated under the terms of the plan.

### Target Bonus Opportunities

Under the Annual Incentive Plan for fiscal 2012, each executive officer's target bonus opportunity was expressed as a total dollar amount, with individual target award opportunities ranging from 43% to 80% of base salary. Target bonus opportunities were determined based on the Compensation Committee's analysis of total cash compensation as described above, with generally higher target levels for the individuals with the most responsibility for the success of the business.

### Performance Measures

For fiscal 2012, under the Annual Incentive Plan, the financial goals were the achievement of revenue growth and Adjusted EBITDA margin objectives. In addition, the Compensation Committee considered the following in determining whether to give full credit for the achievement of the performance goals:

- The assessed sustainability of the revenue growth,
- The development of future growth potential and diversification of our revenue streams; and

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- The individual contributions of the executive.

Our fiscal 2012 performance goals were based on our annual projections and budget, with our revenue growth target for fiscal 2012 set at approximately 12% over fiscal 2011 and our Adjusted EBITDA margin target set at 20%, consistent with prior years. For purposes of the Annual Incentive Plan, “Adjusted EBITDA” was defined as net income less interest income plus interest expense, provision for taxes, depreciation expense, amortization expense, stock-based compensation expense and other income (expense).

### Fiscal 2012 Bonus Decisions

To determine actual bonus awards under the Annual Incentive Plan for fiscal 2012, the Compensation Committee first reviewed the Company’s overall financial results for fiscal 2012 and our Chief Executive Officer’s recommendations for bonus payments (except with respect to his own bonus) based on both Company and individual performance calculated versus the performance measures above. In the case of our Chief Executive Officer’s bonus payment, the Compensation Committee evaluated his performance and determined his bonus.

The Compensation Committee then considered the additional factors as outlined above. The Committee noted that the Company had accomplished further diversification and strengthening of its revenue streams, which are expected to lay the foundation for future sustainable revenue growth. The Committee also determined that all of the executives had performed well given a very challenging year for the Company, largely driven by external economic and regulatory factors, many largely out of the control of the executives.

Based on these reviews, and with the objective of tying bonuses and total cash compensation to Company performance, but without specific weight being applied to any factor, the Compensation Committee approved bonus payments that ranged from 60% to 70% of the target bonus amounts for the executives, with our Chief Executive Officer’s bonus approved at 60% of target and our President’s bonus approved at 65% of target given their greater authority and responsibility.

The Compensation Committee also wanted to ensure that the fiscal 2012 bonuses and total cash compensation were tied closely to performance. Thus, while we missed our 2012 revenue target by approximately 22%, the approved bonus payouts were 59% less on average than the actual bonuses paid out for fiscal 2011, and total cash compensation (that is, base salary plus actual bonus payouts) for fiscal 2012 was 29% less on average than for fiscal 2011.

The chart below shows, for the Named Executive Officers, their fiscal 2011 bonus payouts (including payouts under both the Annual Bonus Plan and the Incremental Bonus Plan described below), their fiscal 2012 bonus targets and payouts as well as the fiscal 2012 bonus payout as a percent of target and the percent decline in bonus from fiscal 2011 to fiscal 2012:

<u>Named Executive Officer</u>	<u>Fiscal 2011 Bonus Payout</u>	<u>Fiscal 2012 Target Bonus Opportunity</u>	<u>Fiscal 2012 Bonus Payout</u>	<u>Fiscal 2012 Bonus Payout as a % of Target</u>	<u>% Decrease in Fiscal 2012 Bonus Compared to Fiscal 2011</u>
Mr. Valenti	\$ 611,045	\$ 407,575	\$ 244,545	60%	-60%
Ms. Syiek	\$ 258,800	\$ 319,950	\$ 207,968	65%	-52%
Mr. Hahn	\$ 528,545	\$ 179,300	\$ 125,510	70%	-61%
Mr. Mackley	\$ 500,000	\$ 268,600	\$ 188,020	70%	-62%
Ms. Bhanap	\$ 275,450	\$ 150,000	\$ 105,000	70%	-62%

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### Fiscal 2012 Incremental Bonus Plan

In addition to the Annual Incentive Plan for fiscal 2012, the Compensation Committee also approved the Fiscal 2012 Incremental Bonus Plan for our executive officers, including the Named Executive Officers. The Incremental Bonus Plan acts as an incentive for key senior managers to achieve aggressive, above-operating plan growth and margin targets, and enables us to provide total compensation commensurate with higher peer company compensation percentiles if and as warranted by the Company's growth and margin performance.

Under the Fiscal 2012 Incremental Bonus Plan, to the extent that actual Adjusted EBITDA exceeded a level represented by 20% revenue growth and 20% Adjusted EBITDA margin, the senior management team was eligible to receive an aggregate of 15% of the excess of actual Adjusted EBITDA over the threshold amount. The Fiscal 2012 Incremental Bonus Plan allocated differing amounts of the aggregate Incremental Bonus pool to each executive officer based on his or her role and responsibilities and contributions to the Company. Our Chief Executive Officer and our President received the largest allocations because they have the most responsibility for the overall business. For the Named Executive Officers, these allocations ranged between 1% and 2.15% of any Adjusted EBITDA over the 20% margin target. The Fiscal 2012 Incremental Bonus Plan allocated the following amounts of the aggregate Incremental Bonus pool to the Named Executive Officers based on their role and responsibilities and contributions to the Company:

<u>Named Executive Officer</u>	<u>Fiscal 2012 Allocation</u>
Mr. Valenti	2.00%
Ms. Syiek	2.00%
Mr. Hahn	0.95%
Mr. Mackley	1.60%
Ms. Bhanap	1.40%

Because the Company did not exceed our Adjusted EBITDA margin target for fiscal 2012, there was no payout of the incremental bonus for fiscal 2012.

The aggregate cash bonuses paid to the Named Executive Officers for fiscal 2012 are set forth in the "Summary Compensation Table" below.

### *Long-Term Equity Incentive Awards*

We use long-term incentive awards, in the form of options to purchase shares of our common stock, to attract and reward our executive officers, including the Named Executive officers, to motivate and reward them for outstanding Company and individual performance and to align their interests with those of our stockholders. We believe that stock options are an effective tool for meeting our compensation goal of increasing long-term stockholder value because the value of the shares of common stock subject to the options is closely tied to our future performance. Since our executive officers are able to profit from stock options only if the market price of our common stock increases relative to the option's exercise price, we believe stock options provide meaningful incentives to them to achieve increases in the value of our common stock over time. We also believe that stock options serve as an effective retention tool due to vesting requirements that are based on continued service with the Company and help create an ownership culture. These vesting requirements are designed to encourage long-term employment with the Company while allowing our executive officers to realize compensation in line with the value they have created for our stockholders.

We grant stock options both at the time of initial hire and then through annual additional or "refresher" awards for key executive officers and executive officers approaching full vesting of prior awards. To date, there has been no set program for the award of "refresher" awards, and the Compensation Committee retains discretion to grant stock options to our executive officers at any time, including in connection with a promotion, to reward an executive officer, for retention purposes or for other circumstances recommended by management. Typically, "refresher" awards have been made shortly after the end of the fiscal year.

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In determining the size of the equity awards to be granted to our executive officers, including the Named Executive Officers, the Compensation Committee takes into account several factors, including our short-term and long-term financial and strategic objectives, an executive officer's relative job scope, the value of his or her then-current equity incentive award holdings, individual performance history, prior and anticipated future contributions to the Company, the size of prior awards, an analysis of competitive market data (including the equity award practices of the Peer Group) and the aggregate amount of the shares proposed to be awarded to all employees for the fiscal year. After considering these factors, the Compensation Committee determines the size of the equity awards at levels it considers appropriate to create a meaningful opportunity for reward predicated on the creation of long-term stockholder value.

In August 2011, the Compensation Committee determined to grant stock options to our executive officers, including the Named Executive Officers. After reviewing a compensation analysis prepared by Compensia and taking into consideration the recommendations of our Chief Executive Officer, the Compensation Committee determined the size of each executive officer's stock option grant using the factors described above. Our Chief Executive Officer did not receive a new stock option grant because the Compensation Committee felt that his existing equity holdings in the Company offered sufficient alignment with other stockholders and incentive to improve our long-term stock performance.

The stock options granted to the Named Executive Officers in fiscal 2012 were as follows:

<u>Named Executive Officer</u>	<u>Number of Shares Subject to Stock Option Grant</u>	<u>Grant Date Fair Value of Stock Option Grant</u>
Mr. Valenti	—	—
Ms. Syiek	100,000	\$ 534,510
Mr. Hahn	65,000	\$ 347,432
Mr. Mackley	150,000	\$ 801,765
Ms. Bhanap	65,000	\$ 347,432

The equity awards granted to the Named Executive Officers during fiscal 2012 are set forth in the "Summary Compensation Table" and the "Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table" below.

### *Equity Award Grant Policy*

The Compensation Committee has adopted a practice regarding the timing of stock option grants to our executive officers coinciding with the release of material non-public information. The Compensation Committee determined that, following the Company's long-standing historical practice, stock option grants would be made on or about the date of meetings of the Board of Directors.

### **Welfare and Other Employee Benefits**

We have established a tax-qualified Section 401(k) retirement plan for all employees who satisfy certain eligibility requirements, including requirements relating to age and length of service. We currently do not match any contributions made to the plan by our employees, including executive officers. We intend for the plan to qualify under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code so that contributions by employees to the plan, and income earned on plan contributions, are not taxable to employees until withdrawn from the plan.

Our executive officers are entitled to participate in the same employee benefit plans, and on the same terms and conditions, as our other full-time, salaried employees. These benefits include medical, dental and vision benefits, medical and dependent care flexible spending accounts, short-term and long-term disability insurance, accidental death and dismemberment insurance and basic life insurance coverage.

We believe these benefits are generally consistent with those of companies with which we compete for executive talent.

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

### **Perquisites and Other Personal Benefits**

Currently, we do not view perquisites or other personal benefits as a significant component of our executive compensation program. Accordingly, we do not provide perquisites to our executive officers, except in limited situations where we believe it is appropriate to assist an individual in the performance of his or her duties, to make our executive officers more efficient and effective and for recruitment, motivation or retention purposes.

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

### **Employment Arrangements**

We do not have any employment agreements with any of our executive officers, including the Named Executive Officers.

### **Post-Employment Compensation**

Our equity incentive plan provides for full acceleration of vesting of outstanding stock options in the event of a change in control of the Company if the options are not assumed or replaced with substitute awards by a successor. In the event stock options are assumed or replaced, then 25% of the unvested shares of common stock subject to each option vest if the employment of the executive officer is terminated under circumstances described under “— Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control” below following the change in control of the Company.

The Compensation Committee approved these provisions for senior management (meaning executive officers with the title of the Vice-President and above) because equity compensation is an important part of our executive compensation program, and so these partial double-triggers are intended to keep these executive officers engaged in the event of a potential change in control that would be beneficial to stockholders but could otherwise result in them not having the opportunity to continue to vest in this equity compensation. However, this acceleration benefit is limited to an amount that the Compensation Committee believes represents a reasonable portion of the awards.

For a summary of the material terms and conditions of these post-employment compensation arrangements, see “Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control” below.

### **Other Compensation Policies**

#### *Stock Ownership Guidelines*

Currently, we have not implemented a policy regarding minimum stock ownership requirements for our executive officers, including the Named Executive Officers. As of August 31, 2012, our Chief Executive Officer beneficially owned approximately 12.4% of our outstanding common stock. Based on this substantial level of holdings by our Chief Executive Officer, we have not found minimum stock ownership requirements necessary at this time to align our executives with our stockholders. We review the need for ownership requirements periodically to determine their potential benefits to the Company.

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### *Compensation Recovery Policy*

Currently, we have not implemented a policy regarding retroactive adjustments to any cash or equity-based incentive compensation paid to our executive officers and other employees where the payments were predicated upon the achievement of financial results that were subsequently the subject of a financial restatement. We intend to adopt a general compensation recovery (“clawback”) policy covering our annual and long-term incentive award plans and arrangements after the SEC adopts final rules implementing the requirement of Section 954 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

### *Derivatives Trading and Hedging Policy*

We have a policy that prohibits our employees, including our executive officers and directors, from trading derivatives, or the hedging, of our equity securities.

## **Tax and Accounting Considerations**

### *Deductibility of Executive Compensation*

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code generally disallows public companies a tax deduction for federal income tax purposes of remuneration in excess of \$1 million paid to the chief executive officer and each of the three other most highly-compensated executive officers (other than the chief financial officer) in any taxable year. Generally, remuneration in excess of \$1 million may only be deducted if it is “performance-based compensation” within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code. In this regard, the compensation income realized upon the exercise of stock options granted under a stockholder-approved stock option plan generally will be deductible so long as the options are granted by a committee whose members are non-employee directors and certain other conditions are satisfied.

The Compensation Committee considers the anticipated tax treatment to the Company and our executive officers when reviewing our executive and other compensation programs. While the tax impact of any compensation arrangement is one factor to be considered, such impact is evaluated in light of the Compensation Committee’s overall compensation philosophy and objectives. The Compensation Committee will consider ways to maximize the deductibility of executive compensation, while retaining the discretion it deems necessary to compensate our executive officers in a manner commensurate with performance and the competitive environment for executive talent. In addition, the Compensation Committee reserves the right to exercise its judgment to award compensation to our executive officers that may be subject to the deduction limit when it believes that such compensation is appropriate, consistent with the its philosophy and in the Company’s and our stockholders’ best interests.

Generally, the Compensation Committee seeks to structure our incentive-based compensation to satisfy the “performance-based compensation” exemption from the deduction limit. Nevertheless, there can be no assurance that our incentive-based compensation will be treated as qualified “performance-based compensation” under Section 162(m).

### *Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation*

We follow Financial Accounting Standard Board Accounting Standards Codification Topic 718 (“ASC 718”) for our stock-based compensation awards. ASC 718 requires companies to measure the compensation expense for all share-based payment awards made to employees and directors, including stock options, based on the grant date “fair value” of these awards. This calculation is performed for accounting purposes and reported in the compensation tables below, even though our executive officers may never realize any value from their awards. ASC 718 also requires companies to recognize the compensation cost of their stock-based awards in their income statements over the period that an employee is required to render service in exchange for the award.



**Compensation-Related Risk**

From time to time, the Compensation Committee reviews the potential risks associated with the structure and design of our various compensation plans. For fiscal years 2012 and 2013, the Compensation Committee requested that our management, assisted by Compensia, our compensation adviser, undertake a comprehensive review of the material compensation plans and programs for all employees and determined that none of our compensation policies and practices is reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company. Overall, the Compensation Committee believes that our programs generally contain a balance of fixed and variable features, as well as complementary metrics and reasonable goals, all of which operate to mitigate risk and reduce the likelihood of employees engaging in excessive risk-taking behavior with respect to the compensation-related aspects of their jobs. In addition, the material plans and programs operate within the governance and review structure that serves and supports risk mitigation.

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**Summary Compensation Table**

The following table sets forth information regarding the compensation paid to, or earned by, our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and our other three most highly-compensated executive officers for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012, which we collectively refer to as our Named Executive Officers.

<u>Name and Principal Position</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Salary (\$)</u>	<u>Option Awards (\$ (1))</u>	<u>Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$ (2))</u>	<u>All Other Compensation (\$ (3))</u>	<u>Total Compensation (\$)</u>
Douglas Valenti	2012	512,425	—	244,545	966	757,936
<i>Chairman and Chief Executive Officer</i>	2011	497,500	—	611,045	200	1,108,745
	2010	474,075	1,468,369	532,718	240	2,475,898
Kenneth Hahn	2012	379,600	347,432	125,510	594	853,136
<i>Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer</i>	2011	365,000	—	258,800	189	623,989
	2010	346,500	753,920	220,458	208	1,321,570
Bronwyn Syiek	2012	448,050	534,510	207,968	630	1,191,158
<i>President</i>	2011	435,000	—	528,545	200	963,745
	2010	413,700	2,357,225	459,173	240	3,20,834
Scott Mackley	2012	361,400	801,765	188,020	354	1,351,540
<i>Executive Vice President</i>	2011	347,500	—	500,000	180	847,680
	2010	330,750	1,414,825	370,958	199	2,117,211
Nina Bhanap	2012	343,480	347,432	105,000	6,412	802,324
<i>Chief Technology Officer</i>						

- (1) The amounts reported in this column represent the aggregate grant date fair value for stock option awards granted in the applicable fiscal year, computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718 (*Compensation — Stock Compensation*). The assumptions used in the valuation of these awards are set forth in the notes to our consolidated financial statements, which are included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended June 30, 2012, filed with the SEC on August 22, 2012.
- (2) The amounts reported in this column are performance-based cash bonuses under our annual incentive plans in respect of performance for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2010, 2011 and 2012. See the discussion in the “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” above.
- (3) The amounts reported in this column represent amounts paid towards life insurance on behalf of the Named Executive Officers. The amount for Ms. Bhanap represents \$317 for amounts paid for life insurance on her behalf and \$6,095 for amounts paid by the Company for Ms. Bhanap’s children to accompany her on a business trip.

[Table of Contents](#)**Grant of Plan-Based Awards**

The following table provides information regarding all grants of plan-based awards that were made to or earned by the Named Executive Officers during fiscal 2012. Disclosure on a separate line item is provided for each award granted to a Named Executive Officer.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Grant Date</u>	<u>Estimated Future Payouts Under Non- Equity Incentive Plan Awards(\$)<sup>(1)</sup></u>	<u>All Other Option Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Options(#)</u>	<u>Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards (\$/Sh)</u>	<u>Grant Date Fair Value of Option Awards(\$)</u>
Mr. Valenti	—	407,575	—	—	—
Mr. Hahn	August 4, 2011	179,300	65,000	11.67	347,432
Ms. Syiek	August 4, 2011	319,950	100,000	11.67	534,510
Mr. Mackley	August 4, 2011	268,600	150,000	11.67	801,765
Ms. Bhanap	August 4, 2011	150,000	65,000	11.67	347,432

- (1) Represents the executive officer's target bonus opportunity under our Annual Incentive Plan for fiscal 2012. The plan provided for individual target bonus opportunities ranging from 43% to 80% of base salary. Payout of the bonuses was dependent on achievement against our plan for revenue growth and Adjusted EBITDA and the individual executives' achievement against that plan and against strategic objectives, as further described in "Compensation Discussion and Analysis." The actual payments for fiscal 2012 are set forth in the "Summary Compensation Table" above.

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**Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End**

The following table presents information regarding outstanding equity awards held by the Named Executive Officers as of June 30, 2012.

Name	Grant Date	Option Awards		Option Exercise Price(\$)	Option Expiration Date
		Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable (1)		
Douglas Valenti:	April 30, 2010	46,093	39,002	16.89	April 29, 2017
	August 7, 2009	62,124	25,581	9.91	August 6, 2016
	July 25, 2008	83,229	1,771	10.28	July 24, 2015
	January 31, 2007	165,000	—	10.34	January 30, 2017
Kenneth Hahn:	August 4, 2011	—	65,000	11.67	August 3, 2018
	November 17, 2009	25,833	14,167	19.00	November 16, 2016
	August 7, 2009	28,333	11,667	9.01	August 6, 2016
	July 25, 2008	48,958	1,042	10.28	July 24, 2015
	May 17, 2006	210,000	—	9.01	May 16, 2016
Bronwyn Syiek:	August 4, 2011	—	100,000	11.67	August 3, 2018
	November 17, 2009	64,583	35,417	19.00	November 16, 2016
	August 7, 2009	106,250	43,750	9.01	August 6, 2016
	July 25, 2008	122,395	2,605	10.28	July 24, 2015
	May 31, 2007	100,000	—	10.28	May 30, 2014
	May 17, 2006	100,000	—	9.01	May 16, 2016
	September 23, 2005	100,000	—	7.74	September 22, 2015
	May 20, 2005	185,000	—	6.38	May 19, 2015
	July 28, 2004	150,000	—	4.60	July 27, 2014
	November 19, 2003	100,000	—	4.60	November 18, 2013
Scott Mackley:	August 4, 2011	—	150,000	11.67	August 3, 2018
	November 17, 2009	32,291	17,709	19.00	November 16, 2016
	August 7, 2009	70,833	29,167	9.01	August 6, 2016
	July 25, 2008	73,437	1,563	10.28	July 24, 2015
	May 31, 2007	50,000	—	10.28	May 30, 2014
	May 17, 2006	100,000	—	9.01	May 16, 2016
	September 23, 2005	100,000	—	7.74	September 22, 2015
	May 20, 2005	80,000	—	6.38	May 19, 2015
	July 28, 2004	120,000	—	4.60	July 27, 2014
	July 22, 2003	76,000	—	2.00	July 21, 2013
Nina Bhanap	August 4, 2011	—	65,000	11.67	August 3, 2018
	November 17, 2009	32,291	17,709	19.00	November 16, 2016
	August 7, 2009	70,833	29,167	9.01	August 6, 2016
	July 25, 2008	73,437	1,563	10.28	July 24, 2015
	May 31, 2007	25,000	—	10.28	May 30, 2014
	December 1, 2006	25,000	—	9.40	November 30, 2016
	May 17, 2006	25,000	—	9.01	May 16, 2016
	December 1, 2005	25,000	—	9.00	November 30, 2015
	March 23, 2005	25,000	—	6.38	March 22, 2015
	July 28, 2004	6,174	—	4.60	July 27, 2014

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- (1) Each stock option granted to our executive officers vests over a four-year period as follows: 25% of the shares of our common stock underlying the option vest on the first anniversary of the date of the vesting commencement date, which is the date of grant, and the remainder of the shares of our common stock underlying the option vest in equal monthly installments over the remaining 36 months thereafter. Each option also provides that 25% of the unvested shares subject to such option will vest if the employment of the executive officer is terminated without cause following a change in control of the Company.

### **Option Exercises in Fiscal 2012**

There were no option exercises by the Named Executive Officers during fiscal 2012.

### **Pension Benefits**

We do not maintain any defined benefit pension plans.

### **Nonqualified Deferred Compensation**

We do not maintain any nonqualified deferred compensation plans.

### **Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control**

The following table sets forth quantitative estimates of the benefits that would have been received by the Named Executive Officers pursuant to the agreements for their outstanding stock options if, within six months following a change in control of the Company, their employment had been terminated by the Company without cause or they had resigned for good reason (which includes actions by the Company to materially reduce the executive officer's duties, salary or benefits or relocate his or her business office to more than 50 miles away). These estimates assume the change in control transaction and termination of employment both occurred on June 30, 2012 and, as provided in their agreements, the vesting of their outstanding stock options had been accelerated as to 25% of the unvested shares of our common stock covered by such agreements.

<u>Named Executive Officer</u>	<u>Value of Stock Option Acceleration Benefit (1)</u>
Mr. Valenti	\$ —
Ms. Syiek	\$ 2,734
Mr. Hahn	\$ 729
Mr. Mackley	\$ 1,823
Ms. Bhanap	\$ 1,823

- (1) The aggregate dollar value reported in connection with the acceleration of the outstanding stock options represents the difference between the aggregate fair market value of our common stock underlying the accelerated options that were "in-the-money" as of June 30, 2012, and the aggregate exercise price of the accelerated options.

[Table of Contents](#)**Equity Compensation Plan Information**

The following table provides information as of June 30, 2012 with respect to shares of our common stock issuable under our existing equity compensation plans:

<u>Plan Category</u>	<u>Number of Securities to be Issued upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights (#)(a)</u>	<u>Weighted-average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights (\$)(b)(1)</u>	<u>Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities Reflected in Column (a)) (#) (c)</u>
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	10,091,871	10.62	4,343,174(2)
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,091,871</b>	<b>10.62</b>	<b>4,343,174</b>

- (1) The weighted-average exercise price excludes shares issuable upon vesting of outstanding stock awards, which have no exercise price.
- (2) The number of shares available under our 2010 Equity Incentive Plan automatically increases each year, beginning July 1, 2010 through July 1, 2019, by an amount equal to the lesser of (i) 5% of the total number of shares of our outstanding common stock on June 30th of the preceding fiscal year or (ii) an amount determined by our Board. Subject to our Board providing that there shall be a lesser increase for a given fiscal year, the number of shares available under our 2010 Non-Employee Directors' Stock Award Plan automatically increases each year, beginning July 1, 2010 through July 1, 2019, by an amount equal to the sum of (i) 200,000 shares, plus (ii) the aggregate number of shares of our common stock subject to stock awards granted pursuant to Section 5 of the 2010 Non-Employee Directors' Stock Award Plan during the immediately preceding fiscal year.

**PROPOSAL 2:  
RATIFICATION OF THE SELECTION OF PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP  
AS OUR INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

**Recommendation of the Board of Directors**

*The Board of Directors recommends that you vote “FOR” the ratification of the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (“PwC”) as our independent registered public accounting firm for the current fiscal year, which is designated as Proposal No. 2 on the enclosed proxy card.*

PwC served as QuinStreet’s independent registered public accounting firm for the 2011 fiscal year. PwC has advised QuinStreet that it has no direct or indirect financial interest in QuinStreet. Representatives of PwC are expected to be present at the 2012 annual meeting of stockholders, with the opportunity to make a statement should they desire to do so, and will be available to respond to appropriate questions from stockholders. Our Audit Committee has retained PwC to continue to serve as QuinStreet’s independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal year 2012. See “Report of the Audit Committee.”

The following table sets forth fees for professional services rendered by PwC, our independent auditors, for fiscal years 2012 and 2011.

	<u>Fiscal Year 2012</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2011</u>
Audit Fees	\$ 1,242,000	\$ 1,211,974
Audit-Related Fees	\$ 115,900	104,300
Tax Fees	357,222	210,000
Total	<u>\$ 1,715,122</u>	<u>\$ 1,526,274</u>

Audit Fees consist of professional services rendered for the audit of our consolidated financial statements; the review of our interim consolidated financial statements included in quarterly reports; and services provided in connection with comfort letters, consents, and statutory and regulatory filings.

Audit-Related Fees consist of assurance and related services that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of our consolidated financial statements and are not reported under “Audit Fees.” These services include due diligence in connection with our acquisitions; other accounting consultations in connection with transactions; attest services that are not required by statute or regulation; and consultations concerning financial accounting and reporting standards.

Tax Fees consist of professional services rendered for tax advice, planning and compliance (domestic and international). These services include the preparation and review of income tax returns, VAT tax returns and international returns and assistance regarding: transfer pricing; VAT matters; federal, state and international tax compliance; acquisitions; and international tax planning.

Other than the fees described above, we were not billed for any other fees for products or services provided by PwC in either of our last two fiscal years.

Management is required to review and obtain the prior approval of the Audit Committee for all non-audit services proposed to be provided by the independent accountants. We review whether the provision of such services by the independent accountants would be compatible with the maintenance of PwC’s independence in the performance of its auditing functions for us.

The Audit Committee annually reviews its policy on audit and non-audit services performed by QuinStreet’s independent registered public accounting firm. Unless a proposed service to be provided by QuinStreet’s independent registered public accounting firm has received general pre-approval in accordance with the guidelines discussed below, it will require specific pre-approval by the Audit Committee. Any proposed services exceeding pre-approved fee levels will require additional pre-approval by the Audit Committee.

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The annual audit services engagement terms and fees are subject to the specific pre-approval of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee must approve any significant changes in terms, conditions and fees resulting from changes in audit scope, company structure or other matters. Additional fees in excess of the amount initially approved in connection with the annual audit services require additional pre-approval by the Audit Committee. With respect to certain categories of non-audit services, the Audit Committee has concluded that the provision of such services does not impair QuinStreet's independent registered public accounting firm's independence, and the Audit Committee has provided (and the Audit Committee will annually review and provide) general pre-approved categories of services that may be provided by QuinStreet's independent registered public accounting firm without obtaining pre-approval for each specific non-audit assignment.

The term of any pre-approval is generally twelve months from the date of pre-approval, unless the Audit Committee provides for a different period. The Audit Committee may revise the list of general pre-approved services from time to time, based on subsequent determinations. The Audit Committee may delegate pre-approval authority to one or more of its members. The member or members to whom such authority is delegated shall report any pre-approval decisions to the Audit Committee at its next scheduled meeting. In addition, on a periodic basis, QuinStreet's management reports to the Audit Committee the services actually provided by QuinStreet's independent registered public accounting firm pursuant to the Audit Committee's pre-approval policy.

All audit and non-audit services described above were provided pursuant to pre-approval policies of the Audit Committee.

### **REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

*The following Report of the Audit Committee does not constitute soliciting material and should not be deemed filed or incorporated by reference into any other QuinStreet filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, except to the extent we specifically incorporate this Report by reference therein.*

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors has furnished the following report.

The charter of the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of QuinStreet, Inc. ("QuinStreet") specifies that the purpose of the Audit Committee is to act on behalf of the Board of Directors (the "Board") of QuinStreet in fulfilling the Board's oversight responsibilities with respect to:

- QuinStreet's corporate accounting and financial reporting processes, systems of internal control over financial reporting and audits of financial statements, as well as the quality and integrity of QuinStreet's financial statements;
- reports and the qualifications, independence and performance of the independent registered public accounting firm or firms engaged as QuinStreet's independent outside auditors for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing audit services and the performance of QuinStreet's internal audit function, if applicable; and
- QuinStreet's legal, regulatory and ethical compliance programs as established by management and the Board.

In addition, the Audit Committee is charged with providing an avenue of open communication among QuinStreet's independent registered public accounting firm, financial management and any internal auditors.

The Audit Committee expects to consider further amendments to its Charter from time to time as rules and standards are revised and/or finalized by various regulatory agencies, including the SEC and The NASDAQ Stock Market, and to address any changes in QuinStreet's operations, organization or environment.



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The Audit Committee meets with management periodically to consider the adequacy of QuinStreet's disclosure and internal controls and compliance with applicable laws and company policies, as well as the quality of its financial reporting, including the application of critical accounting policies.

As part of its oversight activities, the Audit Committee monitors the scope and adequacy of QuinStreet's internal auditing program, including reviewing staffing levels and steps taken to implement recommended improvements in internal controls. The Audit Committee discusses these matters with QuinStreet's independent registered public accounting firm and with appropriate Company financial personnel and internal auditors.

The Audit Committee's meetings include, whenever appropriate, executive sessions with QuinStreet's independent registered public accounting firm, in each case without the presence of QuinStreet's management.

The Audit Committee appoints QuinStreet's independent registered public accounting firm for the purpose of issuing an audit report on QuinStreet's annual financial statements or performing related work and approves the firm's compensation.

As part of its oversight of QuinStreet's financial statements, the Audit Committee reviews and discusses with both management and QuinStreet's independent registered public accounting firm all annual and quarterly financial statements, including reviewing QuinStreet's specific disclosures under "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" prior to their issuance.

During fiscal year 2012, the Audit Committee reviewed and discussed QuinStreet's financial statements with management, including significant accounting and disclosure matters. Management has represented to the Audit Committee that the financial statements were prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The Audit Committee also discussed QuinStreet's earnings press releases, as well as financial information and earnings guidance, in accordance with The NASDAQ Stock Market corporate governance rules.

The Audit Committee received and reviewed the written disclosures and the letter from PwC required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding PwC's communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence.

The Audit Committee discussed with PwC matters relating to its independence, including monitoring compliance with QuinStreet's pre-approval of non-audit services and performing a review of audit and non-audit fees. The Audit Committee also discussed with PwC the matters required to be discussed by the statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, as amended (AICPA, *Professional Standards*, Vol. 1. AU Section 380), as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board in Rule 3200T, including the quality of QuinStreet's accounting principles, the reasonableness of significant judgments and the clarity of disclosures in the financial statements.

Based on the reviews and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited financial statements be included in QuinStreet's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012, for filing with the SEC.

Members of the Audit Committee  
of the Board of Directors of QuinStreet, Inc.

*Dana Stalder (Chair)*  
*James Simons*  
*John G. McDonald*

**PROPOSAL 3:  
APPROVAL OF FISCAL YEAR 2012 COMPENSATION AWARDED TO  
NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

**Recommendation of the Board of Directors**

*The Board of Directors recommends that you vote “FOR” the approval of fiscal year 2012 compensation awarded to our Named Executive Officers, which is designated as Proposal No. 3 on the enclosed proxy card.*

We are seeking an advisory, non-binding stockholder vote with respect to compensation awarded to our Named Executive Officers for fiscal year 2012. This proposal, commonly known as a “say-on-pay” proposal, gives our stockholders the opportunity to express their views on our Named Executive Officers’ compensation as a whole. This vote is not intended to address any specific item of compensation or any specific Named Executive Officer but rather the overall compensation of all of our Named Executive Officers and the compensation philosophy, policies and practices described in this Proxy Statement.

The say-on-pay vote is advisory, and therefore not binding on QuinStreet, the Compensation Committee or our Board of Directors. The say-on-pay vote will, however, provide information to us regarding investor sentiment about our executive compensation philosophy, policies and practices, which the Compensation Committee will be able to consider when determining executive compensation for the remainder of the current fiscal year and beyond. Our Board of Directors and our Compensation Committee value the opinions of our stockholders and to the extent there is any significant vote against the Named Executive Officer compensation as disclosed in this proxy statement, we will consider our stockholders’ concerns, and the Compensation Committee will evaluate whether any actions are necessary to address those concerns.

We believe that the information we have provided in the “Executive Compensation” section of this Proxy Statement, and in particular the information discussed in “Executive Compensation — Compensation Discussion and Analysis” above, demonstrates that our executive compensation program was designed appropriately and is working to ensure management’s interests are aligned with our stockholders’ interests. Accordingly, we ask our stockholders to vote “FOR” the compensation awarded to our Named Executive Officers for fiscal year 2012, as disclosed under SEC rules, including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the compensation tables, and related narrative disclosures included in this proxy statement.

**HOUSEHOLDING OF PROXY MATERIALS**

The SEC has adopted rules that permit companies and intermediaries (e.g., brokers) to satisfy the delivery requirements for proxy statements and annual reports with respect to two or more stockholders sharing the same address by delivering a single proxy statement addressed to those stockholders. This process, which is commonly referred to as “householding,” potentially means extra convenience for stockholders and cost savings for companies.

This year, a number of brokers with account holders who are QuinStreet stockholders will be “householding” our proxy materials. A single proxy statement may be delivered to multiple stockholders sharing an address unless contrary instructions have been received from the affected stockholders. Once you have received notice from your broker that it will be “householding” communications to your address, “householding” will continue until you are notified otherwise or until you notify your broker or the Company that you no longer wish to participate in “householding.”

If, at any time, you no longer wish to participate in “householding” and would prefer to receive a separate proxy statement and annual report, you may (1) notify your broker, (2) direct your written request to: Investor Relations, QuinStreet, Inc., 950 Tower Lane, Suite 600, Foster City, California 94404 or (3) contact our Investor Relations department by telephone at (650) 578-7950. Stockholders who currently receive multiple copies of the

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proxy statement or annual report at their address and would like to request “householding” of their communications should contact their broker. In addition, the Company will promptly deliver, upon written or oral request to the address or telephone number above, a separate copy of the annual report and proxy statement to a stockholder at a shared address to which a single copy of the documents was delivered.

### **ANNUAL REPORT**

Our annual report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012, including the consolidated financial statements audited by PwC, an independent registered public accounting firm, and their report thereon dated August 22, 2012, is being mailed to all stockholders with this proxy statement. In addition, a copy of our annual report, which includes our Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012, as filed with the SEC, will be sent to any stockholder without charge upon written request to: QuinStreet, Inc., 950 Tower Lane, Suite 600, Foster City, California 94404, Attention: Investor Relations Department. Our annual report on Form 10-K can also be reviewed by accessing the SEC’s Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov> or our Internet site at <http://investor.quinstreet.com/governance.cfm>. This text is not an active link and our Internet site and the information contained on that site, or connected to that site, is not incorporated into this proxy statement.

### **OTHER MATTERS**

As of the date of this proxy statement, we know of no business that will be presented for consideration at the annual meeting of stockholders other than the items referred to above. If any other matter is properly brought before the meeting for action by stockholders, proxies in the enclosed form returned to us will be voted in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Directors or, in the absence of such a recommendation, in accordance with the judgment of the proxy holders.

### **STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS**

Stockholders interested in submitting a proposal for inclusion in the proxy materials for our 2013 annual meeting of stockholders may do so by following the procedures prescribed in SEC Exchange Act Rule 14a-8. To be eligible for inclusion, our Corporate Secretary must receive stockholder proposals no later than May 23, 2013.

Stockholders may wish to have a proposal presented at the annual meeting of stockholders in 2013, but without the Company being required to include that proposal in the Company’s proxy statement relating to that annual meeting of stockholders. Such proposals must be received by the Corporate Secretary not later than the close of business on July 28, 2013 and no earlier than the close of business on June 28, 2013, so long as the 2013 annual meeting of stockholders is not advanced by more than 30 days or delayed by more than 30 days from October 26, 2013 (the anniversary date of the prior year’s annual meeting of stockholders), in which case a stockholder’s proposal will be timely if it is delivered no earlier than the 120th day prior to such annual meeting and no later than the later of the 90<sup>th</sup> day prior to such annual meeting or the 10th day following the announcement of the date of the meeting. If QuinStreet does not receive notification of the proposal within that time frame it will be considered untimely, and we will not be required to present it at the 2013 annual meeting of stockholders.

By order of the Board of Directors,

/s/ Greg Wong

*Greg Wong*  
Assistant Secretary

September 14, 2012  
Foster City, California



**IMPORTANT ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION**

ENDORSEMENT\_LINE \_\_\_\_\_ SACKPACK \_\_\_\_\_



MR A SAMPLE  
 DESIGNATION (IF ANY)  
 ADD 1  
 ADD 2  
 ADD 3  
 ADD 4  
 ADD 5  
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**Electronic Voting Instructions**

**Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!**

Instead of mailing your proxy, you may choose one of the voting methods outlined below to vote your proxy.

VALIDATION DETAILS ARE LOCATED BELOW IN THE TITLE BAR.

Proxies submitted by the Internet or telephone must be received by 11:59 PM PST, on October 25, 2012.



**Vote by Internet**

- Go to [www.investorvote.com/QNST](http://www.investorvote.com/QNST)
- Or scan the QR code with your smartphone
- Follow the steps outlined on the secure website

**Vote by telephone**

- Call toll free 1-800-652-VOTE (8683) within the USA, US territories & Canada on a touch tone telephone
- Follow the instructions provided by the recorded message

Using a black ink pen, mark your votes with an X as shown in this example. Please do not write outside the designated areas.



**Annual Meeting Proxy Card**

1234 5678 9012 345

▼ IF YOU HAVE NOT VOTED VIA THE INTERNET OR TELEPHONE, FOLD ALONG THE PERFORATION, DETACH AND RETURN THE BOTTOM PORTION IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE. ▼

**A Proposals — The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR all the nominees listed and FOR Proposals 2 and 3.**

**1. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.**

Nominees:

	For	Withhold		For	Withhold
01 - William Bradley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	02 - Douglas Valenti	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



2. Ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm for the current year.

For    Against    Abstain

      

3. Approval, by advisory vote, of the compensation of the named executive officers as disclosed in the proxy statement.

For    Against    Abstain

      

**NOTE:** The named proxies are further authorized to vote, in their discretion, upon such other business as may properly come before the 2012 annual meeting of stockholders and any adjournments thereof.

**B Non-Voting Items**

**Change of Address —** Please print new address below.

**Comments —** Please print your comments below.

**C Authorized Signatures — This section must be completed for your vote to be counted. — Date and Sign Below**

**NOTE:** Please sign as name appears hereon. Joint owners should each sign. When signing as attorney, executor, administrator, trustee or guardian, please give full title as such.

Date (mm/dd/yyyy) — Please print date below.

Signature 1 — Please keep signature within the box.

Signature 2 — Please keep signature within the box.



C 1234567890

J N T

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**Proxy — QuinStreet, Inc.**

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**2012 Meeting of Stockholders — October 26, 2012**

**THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMPANY**

The undersigned hereby appoints Douglas Valenti, Kenneth Hahn and Greg Wong, and each of them, with power to act without the other and with power of substitution, as proxies and attorneys-in-fact and hereby authorizes them to represent and vote, as provided on the other side, all the shares of QuinStreet, Inc. Common Stock which the undersigned is entitled to vote, and, in their discretion, to vote upon such other business as may properly come before the 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the company to be held October 26, 2012 or at any adjournment or postponement thereof, with all powers which the undersigned would possess if present at the Meeting.

**THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED AS DIRECTED, OR IF NO DIRECTION IS INDICATED, WILL BE VOTED "FOR" THE ELECTION OF DIRECTORS AND "FOR" ITEMS 2 AND 3.**

**Important notice regarding the Internet availability of proxy materials for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders.** The Proxy Statement and the 2012 Annual Report to Shareholders are available at: <http://investor.quinstreet.com/governance.cfm>

(Continued and to be marked, dated and signed, on the other side)