

MICROSTRATEGY INC  
Form 10-Q  
November 03, 2011

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM 10-Q**

(Mark One)

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

For the Quarterly Period Ended September 30, 2011

OR

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

For the transition period from            to

Commission File Number 000-24435

**MICROSTRATEGY INCORPORATED**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**

**(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)**

**51-0323571**

**(I.R.S. Employer**

**Identification Number)**

**1850 Towers Crescent Plaza, Tysons Corner, VA**

**(Address of Principal Executive Offices)**

**22182**

**(Zip Code)**

**(703) 848-8600**

**(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)**

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

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

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

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer

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

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

The number of shares of the registrant's class A common stock and class B common stock outstanding on October 27, 2011 was 8,268,570 and 2,492,830, respectively.



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**MICROSTRATEGY INCORPORATED**

**FORM 10-Q**

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**PART I - FINANCIAL INFORMATION****Item 1. Financial Statements****MICROSTRATEGY INCORPORATED****CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS****(in thousands, except per share data)**

	<b>September 30, 2011</b>	<b>December 31, 2010</b>
	(unaudited)	(audited)
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 186,300	\$ 174,097
Restricted cash and short-term investments	413	284
Accounts receivable, net	77,084	82,056
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	19,956	26,751
Deferred tax assets, net	26,640	13,670
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>310,393</b>	<b>296,858</b>
Property and equipment, net	87,497	65,033
Capitalized software development costs, net	9,188	9,059
Deposits and other assets	5,807	5,587
Deferred tax assets, net	2,309	5,029
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 415,194</b>	<b>\$ 381,566</b>
<b>Liabilities and Stockholders Equity</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 40,754	\$ 36,683
Accrued compensation and employee benefits	54,875	60,201
Deferred revenue and advance payments	97,452	89,331
Deferred tax liabilities	371	355
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>193,452</b>	<b>186,570</b>
Deferred revenue and advance payments	11,039	7,878
Other long-term liabilities	42,992	37,946
Deferred tax liabilities	3,733	0
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>251,216</b>	<b>232,394</b>
<b>Commitments and Contingencies</b>		
<b>Stockholders Equity</b>		
Preferred stock undesignated, \$0.001 par value; 5,000 shares authorized; no shares issued or outstanding	0	0
Class A common stock, \$0.001 par value; 330,000 shares authorized; 14,673 shares issued and 8,268 shares outstanding, and 14,351 shares issued and 7,947 shares outstanding, respectively	15	14
Class B common stock, \$0.001 par value; 165,000 shares authorized; 2,493 and 2,694 shares issued and outstanding, respectively	2	3
Additional paid-in capital	461,469	455,374
Treasury stock, at cost; 6,405 shares	(475,184)	(475,184)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(1,684)	(1,455)

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Retained earnings	179,360	170,420
<b>Total Stockholders' Equity</b>	163,978	149,172
<b>Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity</b>	<b>\$ 415,194</b>	<b>\$ 381,566</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these Consolidated Financial Statements.

## MICROSTRATEGY INCORPORATED

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

(in thousands, except per share data)

	Three Months Ended September 30,	
	2011 (unaudited)	2010 (unaudited)
<b>Revenues:</b>		
Product licenses	\$ 39,262	\$ 32,180
Product support and other services	102,442	82,350
<b>Total revenues</b>	141,704	114,530
<b>Cost of revenues:</b>		
Product licenses	2,284	1,966
Product support and other services	34,380	25,274
<b>Total cost of revenues</b>	36,664	27,240
<b>Gross profit</b>	105,040	87,290
<b>Operating expenses:</b>		
Sales and marketing	61,451	42,002
Research and development	20,434	13,675
General and administrative	21,618	21,816
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	103,503	77,493
<b>Income from operations before financing and other income and income taxes</b>	1,537	9,797
<b>Financing and other income (expense):</b>		
Interest income, net	18	192
Gain on sale of investment	3,371	0
Other income (expense), net	969	(1,817)
<b>Total financing and other income (expense)</b>	4,358	(1,625)
<b>Income from operations before income taxes</b>	5,895	8,172
Provision for income taxes	974	821
<b>Net Income</b>	\$ 4,921	\$ 7,351
Basic earnings per share (1)	\$ 0.46	\$ 0.66
Weighted average shares outstanding used in computing basic earnings per share	10,729	11,206
Diluted earnings per share (1)	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.63

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Weighted average shares outstanding used in computing diluted earnings per share	11,072	11,603
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- (1) Basic and fully diluted earnings per share for class A and class B common stock are the same.  
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these Consolidated Financial Statements.



## MICROSTRATEGY INCORPORATED

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

(in thousands, except per share data)

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2011 (unaudited)	2010 (unaudited)
<b>Revenues:</b>		
Product licenses	\$ 100,072	\$ 79,064
Product support and other services	301,812	236,393
<b>Total revenues</b>	401,884	315,457
<b>Cost of revenues:</b>		
Product licenses	6,514	5,741
Product support and other services	97,854	67,472
<b>Total cost of revenues</b>	104,368	73,213
<b>Gross profit</b>	297,516	242,244
<b>Operating expenses:</b>		
Sales and marketing	173,904	114,750
Research and development	50,306	36,818
General and administrative	67,218	58,950
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	291,428	210,518
<b>Income from operations before financing and other income and income taxes</b>	6,088	31,726
<b>Financing and other income:</b>		
Interest income, net	139	309
Gain on sale of investment	3,371	0
Other income, net	22	3,176
<b>Total financing and other income</b>	3,532	3,485
<b>Income from operations before income taxes</b>	9,620	35,211
Provision for income taxes	680	9,341
<b>Net Income</b>	\$ 8,940	\$ 25,870
Basic earnings per share (1)	\$ 0.84	\$ 2.24
Weighted average shares outstanding used in computing basic earnings per share	10,703	11,572

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Diluted earnings per share (1)	\$ 0.81	\$ 2.16
Weighted average shares outstanding used in computing diluted earnings per share	11,061	11,976

- (1) Basic and fully diluted earnings per share for class A and class B common stock are the same.  
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these Consolidated Financial Statements.

## MICROSTRATEGY INCORPORATED

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(in thousands)

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2011	2010
	(unaudited)	(unaudited)
<b>Operating activities:</b>		
Net income	\$ 8,940	\$ 25,870
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	12,905	9,313
Bad debt expense	941	2,429
Deferred taxes	(2,734)	(509)
Excess tax benefits from share-based compensation arrangements	(3,791)	(115)
Gain on sale of investment	(3,371)	0
Other, net	0	26
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	4,389	(4,180)
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	4,960	(2,615)
Deposits and other assets	(316)	(707)
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	(762)	1,462
Accrued compensation and employee benefits	(5,261)	1,243
Deferred revenue and advance payments	11,411	12,922
Other long-term liabilities	5,065	10,799
Net cash provided by operating activities	32,376	55,938
<b>Investing activities:</b>		
Proceeds from sale of investment	3,371	0
Purchases of property and equipment	(29,128)	(11,817)
Capitalized software development costs	(5,907)	(2,185)
Insurance proceeds	5,675	0
(Increase) decrease in restricted cash and investments	(161)	248
Net cash used in investing activities	(26,150)	(13,754)
<b>Financing activities:</b>		
Proceeds from sale of class A common stock under exercise of employee stock options	2,207	240
Excess tax benefits from share-based compensation arrangements	3,791	115
Purchases of treasury stock	0	(81,618)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	5,998	(81,263)
Effect of foreign exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	(21)	(1,388)
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>12,203</b>	<b>(40,467)</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period</b>	<b>174,097</b>	<b>224,769</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents, end of period</b>	<b>\$ 186,300</b>	<b>\$ 184,302</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these Consolidated Financial Statements.



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**MICROSTRATEGY INCORPORATED**
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(unaudited)

**(1) Basis of Presentation**

Except for the Consolidated Balance Sheet of MicroStrategy Incorporated ( MicroStrategy or the Company ) as of December 31, 2010, which was audited, the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements are unaudited. In the opinion of management, all adjustments necessary for a fair statement of such financial position and results of operations have been included. All such adjustments are of a normal recurring nature unless otherwise disclosed. Interim results are not necessarily indicative of results for a full year.

The Consolidated Financial Statements and notes are presented as required by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission ( SEC ) and do not contain certain information included in the Company's annual financial statements and notes. These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the Company's audited financial statements and the notes thereto filed with the SEC in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010.

The accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements include the accounts of the Company and its subsidiaries. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation. The Company is not aware of any subsequent event which would require recognition.

**(2) Recent Accounting Standards**

On June 16, 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ( FASB ) issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2011-05, *Presentation of Comprehensive Income* (ASU 2011-05). This standard eliminates the current option to report other comprehensive income and its components in the statement of changes in equity. Under this standard, an entity can elect to present items of net income and other comprehensive income in one continuous statement referred to as the statement of comprehensive income or in two separate, but consecutive, statements. This standard is effective as of the beginning of a fiscal year that begins after December 15, 2011, which for the Company would be January 1, 2012. The Company has determined that other than the change in presentation, ASU 2011-05 will not have a material impact on the Consolidated Financial Statements.

**(3) Fair Value of Financial Instruments**

The Company estimates the fair value of financial instruments, which consist of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, prepaid expenses and other current assets, accounts payable and accrued expenses, and accrued compensation and employee benefits. The Company considers the carrying value of these instruments in the financial statements to approximate fair value due to their short maturities.

**(4) Accounts Receivable**

Accounts receivable (in thousands) consisted of the following, as of:

	September 30, 2011	December 31, 2010
Billed and billable	\$ 139,909	\$ 163,939
Less: unpaid deferred revenue	(56,536)	(77,063)
	83,373	86,876
Less: allowance for doubtful accounts	(6,289)	(4,820)
Accounts receivable, net	\$ 77,084	\$ 82,056

The Company offsets accounts receivable and deferred revenue for any unpaid items included in deferred revenue and advance payments.



**MICROSTRATEGY INCORPORATED**

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(unaudited)

**(5) Deferred Revenue and Advance Payments**

Deferred revenue and advance payments (in thousands) from customers consisted of the following, as of:

	September 30, 2011	December 31, 2010
Current:		
Deferred product licenses revenue	\$ 11,259	\$ 13,881
Deferred product support revenue	125,109	129,766
Deferred other services revenue	14,376	18,136
<b>Gross current deferred revenue and advance payments</b>	<b>150,744</b>	<b>161,783</b>
Less: unpaid deferred revenue	(53,292)	(72,452)
<b>Net current deferred revenue and advance payments</b>	<b>\$ 97,452</b>	<b>\$ 89,331</b>
Non-current:		
Deferred product licenses revenue	\$ 4,121	\$ 3,732
Deferred product support revenue	9,672	8,436
Deferred other services revenue	490	321
<b>Gross non-current deferred revenue and advance payments</b>	<b>14,283</b>	<b>12,489</b>
Less: unpaid deferred revenue	(3,244)	(4,611)
<b>Net non-current deferred revenue and advance payments</b>	<b>\$ 11,039</b>	<b>\$ 7,878</b>

The Company offsets accounts receivable and deferred revenue for any unpaid items included in deferred revenue and advance payments.

**(6) Cost Method Investment**

In 2000, in exchange for licenses to MicroStrategy software, the Company acquired approximately 1.7 million shares of common stock of a provider of online software for event management, web surveys and event marketing (the Investee). The shares represented less than 5% of the total outstanding equity interests of the Investee at the date of the transaction. The Company accounted for this investment under the cost method of accounting and previously recorded a permanent impairment for this investment. In July 2011, the Company sold all of its equity interest in the Investee for approximately \$3.4 million, which the Company recorded as a gain on sale of investment in the Company's operating results for the quarter ended September 30, 2011. As of the date of the July 2011 sale transaction, Sanju K. Bansal, the Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Company and the Company's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, held approximately 10% of the total outstanding equity of the Investee and was also a member of the board of directors of the Investee.

**(7) Commitments and Contingencies**

The Company leases office space and computer and other equipment under operating lease agreements. Under these agreements, in addition to base rent, the Company is generally responsible for certain taxes, utilities and maintenance costs, and other fees, and several leases include options for renewal or purchase. In January 2010, the Company entered into a lease for approximately 142,000 square feet of office space at a location in Northern Virginia that began serving as its new corporate headquarters in October 2010. The lease granted an abatement of base rent until March 2011. In May 2010 and May 2011, the Company entered into amendments to the lease pursuant to which, in each instance, it leased

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an additional 24,000 square feet of office space, for a cumulative total of 48,000 square feet of additional office space, at the same location. The May 2010 amendment provided an abatement of base rent on the additional space until



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**MICROSTRATEGY INCORPORATED**

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(unaudited)

July 2011. The May 2011 amendment provided for an abatement of base rent on the additional space until February 2012. The lease, as amended, includes tenant incentives and allowances that the Company may use for leasehold improvements. The term of the lease, as amended, expires in December 2020. At September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, deferred rent of \$24.7 million and \$22.1 million, respectively, is included in other long-term liabilities and \$1.1 million and \$0.2 million, respectively, is included in current accrued expenses.

In July 2011, the Company entered into a lease of a 37.5% fractional interest in a corporate aircraft owned and managed by a fractional interest program operator. The term of the lease expires in July 2014, subject to the Company's right to terminate the lease after the first year of the term. Management estimates that the cost of the lease arrangement for a one-year period will be approximately \$4.2 million.

On November 8, 2007, Diagnostic Systems Corp., a subsidiary of Acacia Research Corporation (Acacia Research), filed a complaint for patent infringement against the Company and a number of other unrelated defendants in the United States District Court for the Central District of California, Southern Division. On December 14, 2009, the Company and Acacia Research, Acacia Patent Acquisition LLC, and Acacia Technology Services LLC reached a settlement with respect to the consolidated complaint (the Settlement Agreement), and on December 28, 2009, the court dismissed all parties' claims with prejudice. On June 29, 2010, the Company received correspondence from a law firm representing Database Application Solutions LLC (DAS), an affiliate of Acacia Research, alleging that the Company infringes U.S. Patent Number 5,444,842 (the 842 Patent) and requesting a meeting to discuss whether the Company would be willing to pay DAS to license the 842 Patent. On August 17, 2010, the Company sued Acacia Research and DAS in the Delaware Court of Chancery alleging, among other things, breach of the Settlement Agreement and breach of representations and warranties made in the Settlement Agreement. In addition, the Company brought a fraudulent inducement claim against Acacia Research relating to the Settlement Agreement. Acacia Research and DAS filed separate motions to dismiss the Company's lawsuit. On December 30, 2010, the court dismissed the Company's breach of contract claim against Acacia Research and DAS, denied Acacia Research's and DAS' motions to dismiss the breach of representation and warranty claim against both Acacia Research and DAS, and permitted the Company to continue to pursue its fraudulent inducement claim against Acacia Research. Discovery is ongoing, and trial is scheduled for May 29, 2012. On October 31, 2011, the Company received correspondence from the law firm representing Acacia Research and DAS containing a purported unilateral release and covenant not to sue the Company on the 842 Patent. On October 31, 2011, Acacia Research and DAS filed a motion for summary judgment alleging that their purported unilateral release and covenant not to sue the Company moots the Company's breach of contract and fraudulent inducement claims. Acacia Research and DAS also filed a motion for leave to file a counterclaim against the Company seeking to recover their legal fees for the Company's alleged breach of the Settlement Agreement. The court has not ruled on either motion. The outcome of this matter is not presently determinable. Accordingly, no estimated liability for this matter has been accrued in the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements.

In December 2009, the Company took delivery of a corporate aircraft pursuant to an aircraft purchase agreement it had entered into in 2007. In February 2010, the Company's owned corporate aircraft was damaged when the hangar space that the Company leases at Dulles International Airport to house the aircraft collapsed during snowfall in the Washington, DC area. The Company reported the hangar collapse to United States Aviation Underwriters, Inc. and United States Aircraft Insurance Group (collectively, the USAU Group), the agents for the aircraft's insurance carriers and to the carriers themselves, who are Ace American Insurance Company and Liberty Mutual Insurance Company (collectively, the Insurance Carriers). On April 8, 2010, the Company sent a proof of loss statement to the Insurance Carriers in the amount of \$50.0 million (the insured value of the aircraft) for the physical loss of the aircraft. On April 19, 2010, the Insurance Carriers rejected the Company's proof of loss. On May 14, 2010, the Company sent a second proof of loss statement to USAU Group and the Insurance Carriers in the amount of \$50.0 million for the accidental physical damage of the aircraft. On February 4, 2011, 821,393 LLC, a subsidiary of MicroStrategy Services Corporation (MSC), MSC, and the Company (collectively, the MicroStrategy Group), filed a complaint against the Insurance Carriers and the USAU Group in the Circuit Court of Fairfax County, Virginia (Virginia Litigation). The complaint seeks damages from the Insurance Carriers and the USAU Group resulting from their alleged breach of contract for failure to pay the Company's claim resulting from the physical loss of the aircraft and breach of contract for failure to pay the Company's claim resulting from the damage to the aircraft. On March 11, 2011, the Insurance Carriers and the USAU Group filed an answer to the MicroStrategy Group's complaint.

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(unaudited)

On October 24, 2011, the MicroStrategy Group, the USAU Group, and the Insurance Carriers entered into a Dismissal and Tolling Agreement in which the parties agreed that the MicroStrategy Group would dismiss its claims in the Virginia Litigation without prejudice and the USAU Group and the Insurance Carriers would not assert any statute of limitations, common law limitations, statute of repose, laches, or contractual limitations if the MicroStrategy Group were to re-file claims on or before September 30, 2012. The USAU Group and the Insurance Carriers also agreed to pay an additional \$0.4 million to the MicroStrategy Group for reimbursement of certain expenses covered under the insurance policy for the Company's use of replacement aircraft and for the cost of certain fees paid to a consultant to oversee the repair of the aircraft. The parties have filed an agreed order of dismissal with respect to the Virginia Litigation, which is under consideration by the court.

As of December 31, 2010, the Company recorded a \$3.6 million impairment charge for the estimated loss of property and equipment related to the Company's owned corporate aircraft. The \$3.6 million estimate reflected only the approximate cost of the damaged components of the aircraft as identified during a visual inspection. During the first quarter of 2011, the initial damage assessments were refined, raising the minimum damage estimate by approximately \$2.9 million and, accordingly, the Company recorded an additional impairment charge of \$2.9 million during the three months ended March 31, 2011. As of September 30, 2011, the damage assessments were further refined, raising the minimum damage estimate by \$1.2 million and, accordingly, the Company recorded an additional impairment charge of \$1.2 million during the three months ended September 30, 2011, for a total estimated loss of \$7.7 million related to the Company's owned corporate aircraft through such date.

However, the estimated damage to the aircraft could be as much as \$45.6 million, the carrying value that was reflected on the Company's balance sheet at September 30, 2011 prior to any impairment. Since the Company does not believe that any amount within the range of \$7.7 million to \$45.6 million is a better estimate at this time than any other amount within such range, the Company has recorded the minimum of the range. As the inspection and damage assessment process continues, additional information may become available that would enable the Company to make a more accurate estimate of the damage to the aircraft, and would help to determine whether the aircraft must be deemed a total loss.

The Company carries insurance that covers both accidental damage to and physical loss of the aircraft. The Company's insurance policy will pay up to \$50.0 million in repair costs to the extent the aircraft is repairable or \$50.0 million if the aircraft is determined to be a total loss. Alternatively, the policy will pay \$50.0 million in the event that the aircraft is physically lost. As of December 31, 2010, the Company had recorded a \$3.6 million receivable for the insurance recovery for the preliminary minimum estimated aircraft loss through such date, which was received in full in the first quarter of 2011. During the three months ended March 31, 2011, the Company recorded an additional \$2.9 million receivable for the insurance recovery based on the updated minimum estimated aircraft loss through such date, of which \$2.1 million in cash was received during the second quarter of 2011, and the balance was received in the fourth quarter of 2011. During the three months ended September 30, 2011, the Company recorded an additional \$1.2 million receivable for the insurance recovery based on the updated minimum estimated aircraft loss through such date.

The Company is also involved in various other legal proceedings arising in the normal course of business. Although the outcomes of these other legal proceedings are inherently difficult to predict, management does not expect the resolution of these other legal proceedings to have a material adverse effect on its financial position, results of operations, or cash flows.

From time to time, the Company enters into certain types of contracts that require it to indemnify parties against third party claims. These contracts primarily relate to agreements under which the Company has agreed to indemnify customers and partners for claims arising from intellectual property infringement. The conditions of these obligations vary and generally a maximum obligation is explicitly stated. Because the

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**MICROSTRATEGY INCORPORATED**

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(unaudited)

conditions of these obligations vary and the maximum is not always explicitly stated, the overall maximum amount of the Company's indemnification obligations cannot be reasonably estimated. Historically, the Company has not been obligated to make significant payments for these obligations, and accordingly has not recorded an indemnification liability on its balance sheets as of September 30, 2011 or December 31, 2010.

**(8) Treasury Stock**

On July 28, 2005, the Company announced that its Board of Directors had authorized the Company's repurchase of up to an aggregate of \$300.0 million of its class A common stock from time to time on the open market (the 2005 Share Repurchase Program). On April 29, 2008, the Company's Board of Directors amended the 2005 Share Repurchase Program to increase the amount of class A common stock that the Company is authorized to repurchase from \$300.0 million to \$800.0 million in the aggregate. The term of the 2005 Share Repurchase Program was also extended to April 29, 2013, although the program may be suspended or discontinued by the Company at any time. The timing and amount of any shares repurchased will be determined by the Company's management based on its evaluation of market conditions and other factors. The 2005 Share Repurchase Program may be funded using the Company's working capital, as well as proceeds from any credit facilities and other borrowing arrangements which the Company may enter into in the future. During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011, the Company did not repurchase any shares of its class A common stock pursuant to the 2005 Share Repurchase Program. As of September 30, 2011, the Company had repurchased an aggregate of 3,826,947 shares of its class A common stock at an average price per share of \$90.23 and an aggregate cost of \$345.3 million pursuant to the 2005 Share Repurchase Program.

The average price per share and aggregate cost amounts disclosed above include broker commissions.

**(9) Income Taxes**

The Company and its subsidiaries conduct business in the U.S. and various foreign countries and are subject to taxation in numerous domestic and foreign jurisdictions. As a result of its business activities, the Company files tax returns that are subject to examination by various federal, state, local, and foreign tax authorities. With few exceptions, the Company is no longer subject to U.S. federal, state and local, or foreign income tax examination by tax authorities for years before 2001; however, due to its use of federal and state net operating loss (NOL) and tax credit carryovers in the U.S., U.S. tax authorities may attempt to reduce or fully offset the amount of NOL or tax credit carryovers from tax years ended in 2001 and forward that were used in later tax years. The Company is currently under tax examination in Germany.

As of September 30, 2011, the Company has recorded uncertain income tax positions of \$16.7 million, which are primarily recorded in other long-term liabilities. If recognized, \$15.7 million of these unrecognized tax benefits would impact the effective tax rate. The Company recognizes estimated accrued interest related to unrecognized income tax benefits in the provision for income tax accounts. Penalties relating to income taxes, if incurred, would also be recognized as a component of the Company's provision for income taxes. Over the next 12 months, the amount of the Company's net liability for unrecognized tax benefits is expected to increase by approximately \$0.5 million for additional accrued interest. As of September 30, 2011, the amount of accrued interest expense on unrecognized income tax benefits was approximately \$0.8 million.

## MICROSTRATEGY INCORPORATED

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(unaudited)

The following table summarizes the Company's deferred tax assets, net of deferred tax liabilities and valuation allowance (in thousands), as of:

	September 30, 2011	December 31, 2010
Net deferred tax assets	\$ 27,590	\$ 21,054
Valuation allowance	(2,745)	(2,710)
<b>Deferred tax assets, net of valuation allowance</b>	<b>\$ 24,845</b>	<b>\$ 18,344</b>

The valuation allowance as of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010 primarily relates to certain foreign net operating loss carryforward tax assets. The Company has determined that there is insufficient positive evidence that it is more likely than not that such deferred tax assets will be realized.

The Company has estimated its annual effective tax rate for the full fiscal year 2011 and applied that rate to its income from operations before income taxes in determining its provision for income taxes for the nine months ended September 30, 2011. The Company also records discrete items in each respective period as appropriate. For the nine months ended September 30, 2011, the Company recorded a provision for income taxes from operations of \$0.7 million that resulted in an effective tax rate of 7.1%, as compared to a provision for income taxes from operations of \$9.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010 that resulted in an effective tax rate of 26.5% for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. The lower effective tax rate for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 was primarily due to a decrease in income from operations before income taxes, stronger results outside the U.S. where the Company's effective tax rate is significantly lower than its U.S. effective tax rate, a favorable settlement with the U.K. tax authority, and discrete benefits resulting from tax return to provision adjustments. The estimated effective tax rate is subject to fluctuation based upon the level and mix of earnings and losses by tax jurisdiction, foreign tax rate differentials, and the relative impact of permanent book to tax differences (e.g., non-deductible expenses). Each quarter, a cumulative adjustment is recorded for any fluctuations in the estimated annual effective tax rate as compared to the prior quarter. As a result of these factors, and due to potential changes in the Company's period to period results, fluctuations in the Company's effective tax rate and respective tax provisions or benefits may occur.

Except as discussed below, the Company intends to indefinitely reinvest its undistributed earnings of certain foreign subsidiaries. Therefore, the annualized effective tax rate applied to the Company's pre-tax income does not include any provision for U.S. federal and state income taxes on the amount of the undistributed foreign earnings. U.S. federal tax laws, however, require the Company to include in its U.S. taxable income certain investment income earned outside of the U.S. in excess of certain limits (Subpart F deemed dividends). Because Subpart F deemed dividends are already required to be recognized in the Company's U.S. federal income tax return, the Company regularly repatriates Subpart F deemed dividends to the U.S. and no additional tax is incurred on the distribution. As of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, the amount of cash and cash equivalents held by U.S. entities was \$27.2 million and \$33.1 million, respectively, and by non-U.S. entities was \$159.1 million and \$141.0 million, respectively. If the cash and cash equivalents held by non-U.S. entities were to be repatriated to the U.S., the Company would generate U.S. taxable income to the extent of the Company's undistributed foreign earnings, which amounted to \$140.4 million at December 31, 2010. Although the tax impact of repatriating these earnings is difficult to determine, we would not expect the maximum effective tax rate that would be applicable to such repatriation to exceed the U.S. statutory rate of 35.0%, after considering applicable foreign tax credits.

In determining the Company's benefit or provision for income taxes, net deferred tax assets, liabilities, and valuation allowances, management is required to make judgments and estimates related to projections of domestic and foreign profitability, the timing and extent of the utilization of net operating loss carryforwards, applicable tax rates, transfer pricing methods, and prudent and feasible tax planning strategies. As a multinational company, the Company is required to calculate and provide for estimated income tax liabilities for each of the tax jurisdictions in which it operates. This process involves estimating current tax obligations and exposures in each jurisdiction, as well as making judgments



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**MICROSTRATEGY INCORPORATED**

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regarding the future recoverability of deferred tax assets. Changes in the estimated level of annual pre-tax income, changes in tax laws particularly related to the utilization of net operating losses in various jurisdictions, and changes resulting from tax audits can all affect the overall effective income tax rate which, in turn, impacts the overall level of income tax expense and net income.

Judgments and estimates related to the Company's projections and assumptions are inherently uncertain; therefore, actual results could differ materially from projections. The timing and manner in which the Company will use research and development tax credit carryforward tax assets, alternative minimum tax credit carryforward tax assets, and foreign tax credit carryforward tax assets in any year, or in total, may be limited by provisions of the Internal Revenue Code regarding changes in the Company's ownership. Currently, the Company expects to use the tax assets, subject to Internal Revenue Code limitations, within the carryforward periods. Valuation allowances have been established where the Company has concluded that it is not more likely than not that such deferred tax assets are realizable.

**(10) Share-Based Compensation**

The Company has share-based compensation arrangements under which directors, officers, employees, and other eligible participants have previously received stock option awards to purchase the Company's class A common stock, but no shares are currently authorized for additional awards under the plans. All stock options granted under the Company's stock plans have terms of five to ten years and are fully vested. The Company has not granted any new share-based awards to purchase the Company's class A common stock since the first quarter of 2004.

MicroStrategy's subsidiary, Angel.com Incorporated (Angel.com), has a stock incentive plan under which employees, officers, directors, consultants, and advisors of (i) Angel.com, (ii) any present or future parent or subsidiary corporation of Angel.com, (iii) any present or future subsidiary corporation of any present or future parent corporation of Angel.com, and (iv) any other business venture in which Angel.com or any present or future parent corporation of Angel.com has a controlling interest, may be granted options, restricted stock awards, and other awards with respect to, in the aggregate, up to 1.5 million shares of the class A common stock of Angel.com, representing 9.4% of the outstanding equity of Angel.com on a fully diluted basis as of September 30, 2011. During the nine months ended September 30, 2011, Angel.com granted options to purchase 0.1 million shares of class A common stock of Angel.com. During the nine months ended September 30, 2010, Angel.com granted options to purchase 0.5 million shares of class A common stock of Angel.com. These options contain certain performance and service conditions that have not yet been met and therefore no expense has been recorded on the grant date. There were 0.2 million shares of class A common stock of Angel.com authorized for additional option grants as of September 30, 2011.

There was no share-based compensation expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010.

**(11) Comprehensive Income**

Comprehensive income includes foreign currency translation adjustments and unrealized gains and losses on short-term investments, net of related tax effects that have been excluded from net income and reflected in stockholders' equity as accumulated other comprehensive income.

## MICROSTRATEGY INCORPORATED

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(unaudited)

The Company's comprehensive income (in thousands) consisted of the following for the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
Net income	\$ 4,921	\$ 7,351	\$ 8,940	\$ 25,870
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(118)	297	(218)	(1,615)
Unrealized (loss) gain on short-term investments, net of applicable taxes	(9)	4	(11)	(3)
Comprehensive income	\$ 4,794	\$ 7,652	\$ 8,711	\$ 24,252

**(12) Common Equity and Earnings per Share**

The Company has two classes of common stock: class A common stock and class B common stock. Holders of class A common stock generally have the same rights, including rights to dividends, as holders of class B common stock, except that holders of class A common stock have one vote per share while holders of class B common stock have ten votes per share. Each share of class B common stock is convertible at any time, at the option of the holder, into one share of class A common stock. As such, basic and fully diluted earnings per share for class A common stock are the same as basic and fully diluted earnings per share for class B common stock. The Company has never declared or paid any cash dividends on either class A or class B common stock.

Potential common shares are included in the diluted earnings per share calculation when dilutive. Potential common shares consisting of common stock issuable upon exercise of outstanding stock options are computed using the treasury stock method.

**(13) Segment Information**

The Company manages its business in two operating segments—core business intelligence software and services, and other. The operating segment—other—consists of the Company's Angel.com business, which provides interactive voice response and call center solutions. The following table presents total revenues and long-lived assets, excluding long-term deferred tax assets, (in thousands) according to geographic region:

Geographic regions:	Core Business Intelligence Software and Services			Other Domestic	Consolidated
	Domestic	EMEA	Other Regions		
<b>Three months ended September 30, 2011</b>					
Total revenues	\$ 78,469	\$ 43,401	\$ 13,953	\$ 5,881	\$ 141,704
Long-lived assets	86,274	8,152	4,635	3,431	102,492
<b>Three months ended September 30, 2010</b>					
Total revenues	\$ 63,927	\$ 34,399	\$ 11,607	\$ 4,597	\$ 114,530
Long-lived assets	71,221	3,303	2,360	1,550	78,434
<b>Nine months ended September 30, 2011</b>					
Total revenues	\$ 215,777	\$ 126,582	\$ 40,840	\$ 18,685	\$ 401,884
Long-lived assets	86,274	8,152	4,635	3,431	102,492
<b>Nine months ended September 30, 2010</b>					
Total revenues	\$ 180,407	\$ 91,007	\$ 31,268	\$ 12,775	\$ 315,457
Long-lived assets	71,221	3,303	2,360	1,550	78,434

The domestic region consists of the United States and Canada. The EMEA region includes operations in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. The other regions include all other foreign countries, generally comprising Latin America and the Asia Pacific region. For the three and nine

months ended September 30,



**MICROSTRATEGY INCORPORATED**

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2011, no individual foreign country accounted for 10% or more of total consolidated revenues. For the three months ended September 30, 2010, no individual foreign country other than Germany accounted for 10% or more of total consolidated revenues. For the nine months ended September 30, 2010, no individual foreign country accounted for 10% or more of total consolidated revenues.

As of September 30, 2011 and 2010, no individual foreign country accounted for 10% or more of total consolidated assets. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, no individual customer accounted for 10% or more of total consolidated revenues.

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**Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations**

**FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION**

This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). For this purpose, any statements contained herein that are not statements of historical fact, including without limitation, certain statements regarding industry prospects and our results of operations or financial position, may be deemed to be forward-looking statements. Without limiting the foregoing, the words believes, anticipates, plans, expects, and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. The important factors discussed below under Item 1A. Risk Factors, among others, could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated by forward-looking statements made herein and presented elsewhere by management from time to time. Such forward-looking statements represent management's current expectations and are inherently uncertain. Investors are warned that actual results may differ from management's expectations.

**Overview**

We are a worldwide provider of business intelligence (BI) software that enables companies to analyze the data stored across or derived from their enterprises to make better business decisions. MicroStrategy's business intelligence software platform delivers actionable information to business users via the web and mobile devices, including the iPad®, iPhone®, and BlackBerry®. MicroStrategy facilitates customer BI solutions utilizing MicroStrategy® software with a comprehensive offering of consulting, education, technical support, and technical advisory services for our customers and strategic partners.

The MicroStrategy 9™ software platform enables users to query and analyze the most detailed, transaction-level databases, turning data into business intelligence and delivering reports and information dashboards about the users' business performance. MicroStrategy 9 can be used by companies to provide their employees with information to make data-driven business and management decisions. By integrating information from across the enterprise, solutions built on the MicroStrategy platform are designed to give analysts, managers, and executives the critical insight they need to reduce costs, better allocate resources, improve efficiencies, and optimize operations. MicroStrategy 9 can also be used to build stronger relationships with business partners and suppliers by providing insights used to manage inventory levels, analyze supply chains, and track vendor performance.

Our core BI business derives its revenues from product licenses and product support and other services. Product licenses revenues are derived from the sale of software licenses for our MicroStrategy 9 business intelligence platform and related products. We license our software to end users through our direct sales organization and through indirect sales channels, such as resellers, systems integrators, and original equipment manufacturers, or OEMs. Our arrangements with customers typically include: (a) an end user license fee paid for the use of our products in perpetuity or over a specified term; (b) an annual maintenance agreement that provides for software updates and upgrades and technical support for an annual fee; and (c) a services work order for implementation, consulting and training, generally for a fee determined on a time-and-materials basis or, in certain circumstances, a fixed-fee.

In July 2011, we announced the general availability of MicroStrategy 9.2.1 and MicroStrategy Cloud™, and introduced two new social media technologies, Gateway™ for Facebook and Alert. These innovative technologies are designed to enable companies to capitalize on the big data, mobile, cloud, and social media trends in the marketplace.

MicroStrategy 9.2.1, the latest release of the MicroStrategy Business Intelligence Platform™, features a new product, MicroStrategy Transaction Services™, which allows users to initiate actions and transactions from a mobile device. MicroStrategy Transaction Services helps companies increase the speed and productivity of their businesses by building mobile applications that connect to back-end transactional systems and databases. MicroStrategy 9.2.1 also includes enhancements to MicroStrategy Visual Insight™, which helps business people explore data quickly and without assistance from their information technology teams.

MicroStrategy Cloud, a cloud-based platform-as-a-service, enables rapid, cost-effective development of business intelligence and mobile and social media applications.

Gateway for Facebook is a new cloud-based service that can interconnect enterprise IT environments and enterprise applications with the Facebook social graph.

Alert is a mobile Facebook application that gives Facebook users a new way to follow all of their favorite celebrity and brand Facebook pages. Alert presents users with a consolidated view of the news, events, photos, and videos from their favorite pages, while allowing users to organize those pages into customized groups.

In September 2011, MicroStrategy announced the release of Cloud Personal<sup>™</sup>, introduced Wisdom for Facebook and MicroStrategy Wisdom<sup>™</sup>, and announced the release of Emma<sup>™</sup>.

Cloud Personal is a free cloud-based business intelligence service. Cloud Personal combines the Company's latest technology innovations, enabling users to easily upload data to the MicroStrategy cloud, analyze it via rich visualizations, and share powerful insights with colleagues or friends as a mobile application or web browser dashboard.

Wisdom for Facebook is a free application that is now available worldwide for both the iPhone and iPad on the Apple iTunes<sup>®</sup> App Store, as well as in a web-based Facebook application format. Wisdom organizes a user's Facebook content and provides insights into the user's network of Facebook friends, so that they do not have to contend with information overload and can easily learn from the collective experience of their friends.

MicroStrategy Wisdom is a cloud-based application that injects social intelligence into the Facebook applications of corporations.

Emma is a new marketplace for Facebook users. Emma enhances the concept of free classifieds by attaching Facebook credentials to classified listings.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, we operated one non-core business, Angel.com, a provider of interactive voice response and call center solutions.

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The following table sets forth certain operating highlights (in thousands) for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010:

	Core BI Business Three Months Ended September 30,		Other Three Months Ended September 30,		Consolidated Three Months Ended September 30,	
	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010
<b>Revenues</b>						
Product licenses	\$ 39,262	\$ 32,180	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 39,262	\$ 32,180
Product support and other services	96,561	77,753	0	0	96,561	77,753
Angel.com services	0	0	5,881	4,597	5,881	4,597
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>135,823</b>	<b>109,933</b>	<b>5,881</b>	<b>4,597</b>	<b>141,704</b>	<b>114,530</b>
<b>Cost of revenues</b>						
Product licenses	2,284	1,966	0	0	2,284	1,966
Product support and other services	31,478	23,162	0	0	31,478	23,162
Angel.com services	0	0	2,902	2,112	2,902	2,112
<b>Total cost of revenues</b>	<b>33,762</b>	<b>25,128</b>	<b>2,902</b>	<b>2,112</b>	<b>36,664</b>	<b>27,240</b>
<b>Gross profit</b>	<b>102,061</b>	<b>84,805</b>	<b>2,979</b>	<b>2,485</b>	<b>105,040</b>	<b>87,290</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>						
Sales and marketing	58,494	39,979	2,957	2,023	61,451	42,002
Research and development	19,144	12,773	1,290	902	20,434	13,675
General and administrative	20,793	21,223	825	593	21,618	21,816
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>98,431</b>	<b>73,975</b>	<b>5,072</b>	<b>3,518</b>	<b>103,503</b>	<b>77,493</b>
<b>Income (loss) from operations before financing and other income and income taxes</b>	<b>\$ 3,630</b>	<b>\$ 10,830</b>	<b>\$ (2,093)</b>	<b>\$ (1,033)</b>	<b>\$ 1,537</b>	<b>\$ 9,797</b>

	Core BI Business Nine Months Ended September 30,		Other Nine Months Ended September 30,		Consolidated Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010
<b>Revenues</b>						
Product licenses	\$ 100,072	\$ 79,064	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 100,072	\$ 79,064
Product support and other services	283,127	223,618	0	0	283,127	223,618
Angel.com services	0	0	18,685	12,775	18,685	12,775
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>383,199</b>	<b>302,682</b>	<b>18,685</b>	<b>12,775</b>	<b>401,884</b>	<b>315,457</b>
<b>Cost of revenues</b>						
Product licenses	6,514	5,741	0	0	6,514	5,741
Product support and other services	89,385	61,716	0	0	89,385	61,716
Angel.com services	0	0	8,469	5,756	8,469	5,756
<b>Total cost of revenues</b>	<b>95,899</b>	<b>67,457</b>	<b>8,469</b>	<b>5,756</b>	<b>104,368</b>	<b>73,213</b>

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<b>Gross profit</b>	<b>287,300</b>	<b>235,225</b>	<b>10,216</b>	<b>7,019</b>	<b>297,516</b>	<b>242,244</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>						
Sales and marketing	164,876	109,642	9,028	5,108	173,904	114,750
Research and development	46,917	34,416	3,389	2,402	50,306	36,818
General and administrative	64,949	57,415	2,269	1,535	67,218	58,950
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>276,742</b>	<b>201,473</b>	<b>14,686</b>	<b>9,045</b>	<b>291,428</b>	<b>210,518</b>
<b>Income (loss) from operations before financing and other income and income taxes</b>	<b>\$ 10,558</b>	<b>\$ 33,752</b>	<b>\$ (4,470)</b>	<b>\$ (2,026)</b>	<b>\$ 6,088</b>	<b>\$ 31,726</b>

The business intelligence market is highly competitive and our results of operations depend on our ability to market and sell product offerings that provide customers with greater value than those offered by our competitors. Organizations recently have sought, and we expect may continue to seek, to standardize their various business intelligence applications around a single software platform. This trend presents both opportunities and challenges for our business. It offers us the opportunity to increase the size of transactions with new customers and to expand the size of our business intelligence installations with existing customers. On the other hand, it presents the challenge that we may not be able to penetrate accounts that a competitor has penetrated or in which a competitor is the incumbent business intelligence application provider. In addition, companies with industry leading positions in certain software markets, such as Microsoft, Oracle, IBM, and SAP, have incorporated business intelligence capabilities into their product suites. As a result, our products need to be sufficiently differentiated from these bundled software offerings to create customer demand for our platform and products.

To address these opportunities and challenges, we have implemented a number of initiatives, including:

concentrating our research and development efforts on maintaining our position as a technology leader by continuing to innovate and lead in enterprise business intelligence, improving the capability of our products to efficiently handle the ever increasing volume of data and user scalability needs of our current and future customers, and adding analytical and end user features to support the increasing levels of sophistication in our customers' business intelligence needs and applications, such as the incorporation of dynamic enterprise dashboards to our interfaces and transactional services features that connect to back-end transactional systems and databases;

introducing MicroStrategy Cloud and Cloud Personal;

offering mobile application platforms for creating and deploying BI applications to the expanding community of users of mobile devices;

introducing social media technologies, such as Gateway for Facebook, Alert, Wisdom for Facebook, MicroStrategy Wisdom and Emma;

focusing our sales and marketing activities to create brand awareness in an effort to obtain new customer relationships, as well as to expand and strengthen our existing customer base; and

creating a dedicated performance engineering team, and focusing specific research and development efforts on providing our customers with the highest levels of performance for BI applications of all sizes.

As part of these initiatives, we have invested significantly in our research and development, sales and marketing, and consulting capabilities during 2011. We generated net income for the nine months ended September 30, 2011. However, if our revenues are not sufficient to offset increased operating expenses or we are unable to timely adjust our operating expenses in response to any shortfall in anticipated revenue, our profitability may decrease or we may cease to be profitable or incur operating losses.

We believe that effective recruiting, education, and nurturing of human resources are critical to our success and we have traditionally made investments in these areas in order to differentiate ourselves from our competition, increase employee loyalty, and create a culture conducive to creativity, cooperation, and continuous improvement.

As of September 30, 2011, we had a total of 3,069 employees, of whom 1,504 were based in the United States and 1,565 were based internationally. Of our 3,069 employees, 895 were engaged in sales and marketing, 731 in research and development, 1,033 in technical support, consulting, and education services, and 410 in finance, administration, and corporate operations.

In January 2010, we entered into a lease for approximately 142,000 square feet of office space at a location in Northern Virginia that began serving as our new corporate headquarters in October 2010. The lease

granted an abatement of base rent until March 2011. In May 2010 and May 2011, we entered into amendments to the lease pursuant to which, in each instance, we leased an additional 24,000 square feet of office space, for a cumulative total of 48,000 square feet of additional office space, at the same location. The May 2010 amendment provided an abatement of base rent on the additional space until July 2011. The May 2011 amendment provided for an abatement of base rent on the additional space until February 2012. The lease, as amended, includes tenant incentives and allowances that we may use for leasehold improvements. The term of the lease, as amended, expires in December 2020. Notwithstanding the rent abatements, we are recognizing lease expense ratably over the term of the lease. As we continued to pay rent and recognize lease expense on our former corporate headquarters through October 2010, we incurred a non-recurring increase in operating expenses of approximately \$4.2 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2010.

We base our internal operating expense forecasts on expected revenue trends and strategic objectives. Many of our expenses, such as office leases and certain personnel costs, are relatively fixed. We may be unable to adjust spending quickly enough in any particular period to offset any unexpected revenue shortfall in that period. Accordingly, any shortfall in revenue may cause significant variation in our operating results. We therefore believe that quarter-to-quarter comparisons of our operating results may not be a good indication of our future performance.

### **Critical Accounting Policies**

Our discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations are based upon our Consolidated Financial Statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

The preparation of our Consolidated Financial Statements requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, and equity and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. These estimates, particularly estimates relating to revenue recognition, allowance for doubtful accounts, valuation of property and equipment, litigation and contingencies, and valuation of net deferred tax assets, have a material impact on our financial statements and are discussed in detail throughout our analysis of the results of operations discussed below. In some cases, changes in accounting estimates are reasonably likely to occur from period to period.

In addition to evaluating estimates relating to the items discussed above, we also consider other estimates and judgments, including, but not limited to, those related to software development costs, provision for income taxes, and other contingent liabilities, including liabilities that we deem not probable of assertion. We base our estimates on historical experience and various other assumptions that we believe are reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying value of assets, liabilities, and equity that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results and outcomes could differ from these estimates and assumptions.

MicroStrategy does not have any material ownership interest in any special purpose or other entities that are not wholly-owned and/or consolidated into our Consolidated Financial Statements. Except for the sale of an investment as noted in Footnote 6, Cost Method Investment, of notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, MicroStrategy does not have any material related party transactions.

For a more detailed explanation of the judgments made in these areas and a discussion of our accounting estimates and policies in which, in each case, there have been no significant changes since December 31, 2010, refer to *Critical Accounting Estimates* included in Item 7 and *Summary of Significant Accounting Policies* (Note 2) included in Item 15 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010.

**Impact of Foreign Currency Exchange Rate Fluctuations on Results of Operations**

We conduct a significant portion of our business in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, the currency in which we report our Consolidated Financial Statements. Historically, we have generated a significant portion of our revenues and incurred a significant portion of our expenses in euros and British pounds sterling. As currency rates change from quarter to quarter and year over year, our results of operations may be impacted. The table below summarizes the impact (in thousands) of fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates on certain components of our Consolidated Statements of Operations by showing the increase (decrease) in revenues or expenses, as applicable, from the prior year. The term *international* refers to operations outside of the United States and Canada.

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
International product licenses revenues	\$ 972	\$ (802)	\$ 2,897	\$ (361)
International product support revenues	2,193	(1,178)	5,748	34
International other services revenues	1,113	(371)	3,349	96
Cost of product support revenues	56	(22)	179	55
Cost of other services revenues	946	(430)	2,492	180
Sales and marketing expenses	2,037	(668)	5,562	313
Research and development expenses	241	2	503	5
General and administrative expenses	392	(72)	1,151	202

For example, if there had been no change to foreign currency exchange rates from 2010 to 2011, international product licenses revenues would have been \$13.3 million rather than \$14.2 million and \$38.7 million rather than \$41.6 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011, respectively. If there had been no change to foreign currency exchange rates from 2010 to 2011, sales and marketing expenses for our core BI business would have been \$56.5 million rather than \$58.5 million and \$159.3 million rather than \$164.9 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011, respectively.



## Results of Operations

### Comparison of the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010

#### Revenues

Except as otherwise indicated herein, the term "domestic" refers to operations in the United States and Canada, and the term "international" refers to operations outside of the United States and Canada.

**Product licenses revenues.** The following table sets forth product licenses revenues (in thousands) and percentage changes for the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2011		% Change	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011		% Change
<b>Product Licenses Revenues:</b>						
Domestic	\$ 25,018	\$ 17,727	41.1%	\$ 58,487	\$ 46,771	25.0%
International	14,244	14,453	-1.4%	41,585	32,293	28.8%
Total product licenses revenues	\$ 39,262	\$ 32,180	22.0%	\$ 100,072	\$ 79,064	26.6%

The following table sets forth a summary, grouped by size, of the number of recognized product licenses transactions for the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2011		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2011	
<b>Product Licenses Transactions with Recognized Licenses Revenue in the Applicable Period:</b>				
More than \$1.0 million in licenses revenue recognized	4	4	11	7
Between \$0.5 million and \$1.0 million in licenses revenue recognized	9	8	21	13
Total	13	12	32	20
<b>Domestic:</b>				
More than \$1.0 million in licenses revenue recognized	4	1	8	4
Between \$0.5 million and \$1.0 million in licenses revenue recognized	6	7	15	10
Total	10	8	23	14
<b>International:</b>				
More than \$1.0 million in licenses revenue recognized	0	3	3	3
Between \$0.5 million and \$1.0 million in licenses revenue recognized	3	1	6	3
Total	3	4	9	6

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The following table sets forth the recognized revenue (in thousands) attributable to product licenses transactions, grouped by size, for the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended		% Change	Nine Months Ended		% Change
	September 30, 2011	September 30, 2010		September 30, 2011	September 30, 2010	
<b>Product Licenses Revenue Recognized in the Applicable Period (in thousands):</b>						
More than \$1.0 million in licenses revenue recognized	\$ 8,025	\$ 7,335	9.4%	\$ 19,504	\$ 14,207	37.3%
Between \$0.5 million and \$1.0 million in licenses revenue recognized	5,474	5,390	1.6%	13,250	8,978	47.6%
Less than \$0.5 million in licenses revenue recognized	25,763	19,455	32.4%	67,318	55,879	20.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,262</b>	<b>32,180</b>	<b>22.0%</b>	<b>100,072</b>	<b>79,064</b>	<b>26.6%</b>
<b>Domestic:</b>						
More than \$1.0 million in licenses revenue recognized	8,025	1,240	547.2%	13,960	8,112	72.1%
Between \$0.5 million and \$1.0 million in licenses revenue recognized	3,712	4,787	-22.5%	9,537	6,846	39.3%
Less than \$0.5 million in licenses revenue recognized	13,281	11,700	13.5%	34,990	31,813	10.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,018</b>	<b>17,727</b>	<b>41.1%</b>	<b>58,487</b>	<b>46,771</b>	<b>25.0%</b>
<b>International:</b>						
More than \$1.0 million in licenses revenue recognized	0	6,095	-100.0%	5,544	6,095	-9.0%
Between \$0.5 million and \$1.0 million in licenses revenue recognized	1,762	603	192.2%	3,713	2,132	74.2%
Less than \$0.5 million in licenses revenue recognized	12,482	7,755	61.0%	32,328	24,066	34.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 14,244</b>	<b>\$ 14,453</b>	<b>-1.4%</b>	<b>\$ 41,585</b>	<b>\$ 32,293</b>	<b>28.8%</b>

For the three months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, product licenses transactions with more than \$0.5 million in recognized revenue represented 34.4% and 39.5%, respectively, of our product licenses revenues. For the nine months ended September 30, 2011, our top three product licenses transactions totaled \$9.1 million in recognized revenue, or 9.1% of total product licenses revenues, as compared to \$8.3 million, or 10.4% of total product licenses revenues, for the nine months ended September 30, 2010.

Product licenses revenues increased \$7.1 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011, as compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily due to an increase in the number and average deal size of domestic transactions.

Product licenses revenues increased \$21.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, as compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily due to an increase in the number and average deal size of both domestic and international transactions.

**Domestic product licenses revenues.** Domestic product licenses revenues increased 41.1% for the three months ended September 30, 2011, as compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily due to an increase in the number and average deal size of transactions with recognized revenue less than \$0.5 million and more than \$1.0 million, partially offset by a decrease in the number and average deal size of transactions with recognized revenue between \$0.5 million and \$1.0 million.

Domestic product licenses revenues increased 25.0% for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, as compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily due to an increase in the number of transactions with more than \$0.5 million in recognized revenue.

**International product licenses revenues.** International product licenses revenues decreased 1.4% for the three months ended September 30, 2011, as compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily due to a decrease in the number of transactions with more than \$1.0 million in recognized revenue, partially offset by an increase in the number of transactions with less than \$1.0 million in recognized revenue, an increase in the average deal size of transactions with less than \$0.5 million in recognized revenue, and favorable changes in foreign currency exchange rates.

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International product licenses revenues increased 28.8% for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, as compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily due to an increase in the number of transactions with less than \$1.0 million in recognized revenue, an increase in the average deal size of transactions with less than \$0.5 million in recognized revenue, and favorable changes in foreign currency exchange rates.

**Product support and other services revenues for our core BI business.** The following table sets forth product support and other services revenues (in thousands) for our core BI business and related percentage changes in these revenues for the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		% Change	Nine Months Ended September 30,		% Change
	2011	2010		2011	2010	
<b>Product Support and Other Services Revenues:</b>						
<b>Product Support</b>						
Domestic	\$ 34,599	\$ 30,734	12.6%	\$ 100,600	\$ 89,667	12.2%
International	27,477	21,921	25.3%	80,154	64,230	24.8%
<b>Total product support revenues</b>	<b>62,076</b>	<b>52,655</b>	<b>17.9%</b>	<b>180,754</b>	<b>153,897</b>	<b>17.5%</b>
Consulting	29,943	21,068	42.1%	88,798	57,860	53.5%
Education	4,542	4,030	12.7%	13,575	11,861	14.5%
<b>Total product support and other services revenues</b>	<b>\$ 96,561</b>	<b>\$ 77,753</b>	<b>24.2%</b>	<b>\$ 283,127</b>	<b>\$ 223,618</b>	<b>26.6%</b>

**Product support revenues.** Product support revenues are derived from providing technical software support and software updates and upgrades to customers. Product support revenues are recognized ratably over the term of the contract, which in most cases is one year.

Both domestic and international product support revenues increased for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011, as compared to the same periods in the prior year, primarily due to a 12.0% and an 11.7% increase, respectively, in the number of technical support contracts, which accounted for an increase of \$6.3 million and \$18.0 million, respectively, in recognized revenue, and favorable changes in foreign currency exchange rates.

**Consulting revenues.** Consulting revenues are derived from helping customers plan and execute the deployment of our software. Consulting revenues increased for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011, as compared to the same periods in the prior year, primarily due to an increase in billable hours.

**Education revenues.** Education revenues are derived from the education and training that we provide to our customers to enhance their ability to fully utilize the features and functionality of our software. Education revenues increased for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011, as compared to the same periods in the prior year, primarily due to an increase in the number of students trained.

**Angel.com services revenues.** The following table sets forth Angel.com services revenues (in thousands) and the percentage changes in Angel.com revenues for the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		% Change	Nine Months Ended September 30,		% Change
	2011	2010		2011	2010	
Angel.com services	\$ 5,881	\$ 4,597	27.9%	\$ 18,685	\$ 12,775	46.3%

Angel.com services revenues increased \$1.3 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011, as compared to the same period in the prior year, due to a \$0.8 million increase in the usage of Angel.com's interactive voice response services and a \$0.5 million increase in professional services rendered.

Angel.com services revenues increased \$5.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, as compared to the same period in the prior year due to a \$4.4 million increase in the usage of Angel.com's interactive voice response services and a \$1.5 million increase in professional services rendered.

## Costs and Expenses

**Cost of revenues.** The following table sets forth cost of revenues (in thousands) and percentage changes in cost of revenues for the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		% Change	Nine Months Ended September 30,		% Change
	2011	2010		2011	2010	
Cost of Revenues:						
Product licenses	\$ 2,284	\$ 1,966	16.2%	\$ 6,514	\$ 5,741	13.5%
Product support	3,359	2,837	18.4%	10,044	8,237	21.9%
Consulting	25,938	18,396	41.0%	72,575	47,919	51.5%
Education	2,181	1,929	13.1%	6,766	5,560	21.7%
Angel.com services	2,902	2,112	37.4%	8,469	5,756	47.1%
Total cost of revenues	\$ 36,664	\$ 27,240	34.6%	\$ 104,368	\$ 73,213	42.6%

**Cost of product licenses revenues.** Cost of product licenses revenues consists of amortization of capitalized software development costs and the costs of product manuals, media, and royalties paid to third-party software vendors. Capitalized software development costs are generally amortized over a useful life of three years.

The increase in cost of product licenses revenues for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011, as compared to the same periods in the prior year, was primarily due to the increase in amortization of capitalized software development costs related to the release of our MicroStrategy 9.2 software in March 2011. We expect to amortize the remaining balance of \$2.8 million of capitalized software development costs related to the development of our MicroStrategy 9 software as of September 30, 2011 ratably over the remaining six month amortization period. We expect to amortize the remaining balance of \$3.1 million of capitalized software development costs related to the development of our MicroStrategy 9.2 software as of September 30, 2011 ratably over the remaining 30 month amortization period. We expect to amortize the remaining balance of \$2.0 million of capitalized software development costs related to the development of our MicroStrategy 9.2.1 software as of September 30, 2011 ratably over the remaining 33 month amortization period. We expect to amortize the remaining balance of \$1.3 million of capitalized software development costs related to the development of MicroStrategy Mobile as of September 30, 2011 ratably over the remaining 21 month amortization period.

**Cost of product support revenues.** Cost of product support revenues consists of product support personnel and related overhead costs.

The increase in cost of product support revenues for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011, as compared to the same periods in the prior year, was primarily due to an increase in staffing levels to support an expanding customer base. Product support headcount increased 14.3% to 152 at September 30, 2011 from 133 at September 30, 2010.

**Cost of consulting revenues.** Cost of consulting revenues consists of personnel and related overhead costs. Cost of consulting revenues increased \$7.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011, as compared to the same period in the prior year, due to a \$5.7 million increase in compensation and related costs due to an increase in staffing levels, a \$1.4 million increase in travel and entertainment expenditures, and a \$0.4 million increase in facility and other related support costs. Consulting headcount increased 17.6% to 800 at September 30, 2011 from 680 at September 30, 2010.

Cost of consulting revenues increased \$24.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, as compared to the same period in the prior year, due to a \$19.3 million increase in compensation and related costs due to an increase in staffing levels, a \$3.9 million increase in travel and entertainment expenditures, and a \$1.5 million increase in facility and other related support costs.

**Cost of education revenues.** Cost of education revenues consists of personnel and related overhead costs. Cost of education revenues increased \$0.3 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011, as compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily due to an increase in compensation and related costs due to an increase in staffing levels and an increase in travel and entertainment expenditures. Education headcount increased 3.9% to 53 at September 30, 2011 from 51 at September 30, 2010.

Cost of education revenues increased \$1.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, as compared to the same period in the prior year, due to a \$0.8 million increase in compensation and related costs due to an increase in staffing levels, a \$0.3 million increase in travel and entertainment expenditures, and a \$0.1 million increase in consulting services.

**Cost of Angel.com services revenues.** Cost of Angel.com services revenues includes hardware and hosting costs, and personnel and related overhead costs. The increase in cost of Angel.com services revenues for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011, as compared to the same periods in the prior year, was primarily due to an increase in staffing levels as well as an increase in hosting and related costs to support an increased customer base. Angel.com consulting and technical support headcount increased 47.4% to 28 at September 30, 2011 from 19 at September 30, 2010.

**Sales and marketing and general and administrative expenses for our core BI business.** The following table sets forth sales and marketing and general and administrative expenses (in thousands) for our core BI business and percentage changes in these expenses for the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended September 30,			Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	2011	2010	% Change	2011	2010	% Change
Sales and marketing	\$ 58,494	\$ 39,979	46.3%	\$ 164,876	\$ 109,642	50.4%
General and administrative	20,793	21,223	-2.0%	64,949	57,415	13.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 79,287</b>	<b>\$ 61,202</b>	<b>29.5%</b>	<b>\$ 229,825</b>	<b>\$ 167,057</b>	<b>37.6%</b>

**Sales and marketing expenses for our core BI business.** Sales and marketing expenses for our core BI business consists of personnel costs, commissions, office facilities, travel, advertising, public relations programs, and promotional events, such as trade shows, seminars, and technical conferences.

Sales and marketing expenses increased \$18.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011, as compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily due to a \$13.0 million increase in compensation and related costs due to an increase in staffing levels, higher compensation levels, and increased variable compensation, a \$2.5 million increase in marketing costs and computer supplies costs due to increased sponsorships as well as an increased number of marketing events to promote our social media technologies and MicroStrategy Mobile for the iPhone and iPad, a \$1.6 million increase in travel and entertainment expenditures, and a \$1.0 million increase in facility and other related support costs. Sales and marketing headcount increased 29.9% to 847 at September 30, 2011 from 652 at September 30, 2010. We do not expect to increase sales and marketing headcount significantly in the near term.

Sales and marketing expenses increased \$55.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, as compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily due to a \$39.8 million increase in compensation and related costs due to an increase in staffing levels, higher compensation levels, and increased variable compensation, a \$5.5 million increase in marketing costs and computer supplies costs due to increased sponsorships as well as an increased number of marketing events to promote our social media technologies and MicroStrategy Mobile for the iPhone and iPad, a \$5.2 million increase in travel and entertainment expenditures, and a \$3.4 million increase in facility and other related support costs.

**General and administrative expenses for our core BI business.** General and administrative expenses consists of personnel and other costs of our executive, finance, human resources, information systems, and administrative departments, as well as third-party consulting, legal, and other professional fees.

General and administrative expenses decreased \$0.4 million for the three months ended September 30, 2011, as compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily due to a \$1.9 million decrease in facility and other related support costs primarily due to the increased rent expense incurred during the three months ended September 30, 2010 for carrying two headquarters leases, a \$0.7 million decrease in certain variable compensation costs, and a \$0.1 million decrease in legal, consulting and other advisory costs, partially offset by a \$1.8 million increase in compensation and related costs due to an increase in staffing levels, a \$0.3 million increase in recruiting costs, and a \$0.3 million increase in travel and entertainment expenditures. General and administrative headcount increased 13.4% to 405 at September 30, 2011 from 357 at September 30, 2010. We do not expect to increase general and administrative headcount significantly in the near term.

General and administrative expenses increased \$7.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, as compared to the same period in the prior year, due to a \$5.5 million increase in compensation and related costs due to an increase in staffing levels, a \$1.8 million increase in recruiting costs, a \$1.4 million increase in legal, consulting and other advisory costs, a \$1.3 million increase attributable to operating costs of our leased fractional interest in a corporate aircraft, and a \$0.7 million increase in travel and entertainment expenditures, partially offset by a \$2.5 million decrease in facility and other related support costs primarily due to the increased rent expense incurred during the nine months ended September 30, 2010 for carrying two headquarters leases, and a \$0.7 million decrease in certain variable compensation costs.

**Angel.com sales and marketing and general and administrative expenses.** The following table sets forth sales and marketing and general and administrative expenses (in thousands) for our Angel.com business and percentage changes for these expenses for the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended			Nine Months Ended		
	September 30, 2011	September 30, 2010	% Change	September 30, 2011	September 30, 2010	% Change
Sales and marketing	\$ 2,957	\$ 2,023	46.2%	\$ 9,028	\$ 5,108	76.7%
General and administrative	825	593	39.1%	2,269	1,535	47.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,782</b>	<b>\$ 2,616</b>	<b>44.6%</b>	<b>\$ 11,297</b>	<b>\$ 6,643</b>	<b>70.1%</b>

The increase in Angel.com sales and marketing expenses for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011, as compared to the same periods in the prior year, was primarily due to increases in compensation and related costs associated with an increase in staffing levels to assist in expanding the Angel.com customer base and an increase in travel and entertainment expenditures. Angel.com sales and marketing headcount increased 6.7% to 48 at September 30, 2011 from 45 at September 30, 2010.

The increase in Angel.com general and administrative expenses for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011, as compared to the same period in the prior year, was primarily due to an increase in recruiting costs, facility and other related support costs, and an increase in compensation and related costs. Angel.com general and administrative headcount increased to 5 at September 30, 2011 from 4 at September 30, 2010.

**Research and development expenses.** Research and development expenses consists of the personnel costs for our software engineering personnel, depreciation of equipment and other related costs.

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The following table summarizes research and development expenses and amortization of capitalized software development costs (in thousands) and percentage changes for these expenses during the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		% Change	Nine Months Ended September 30,		% Change
	2011	2010		2011	2010	
<b>Gross research and development expenses:</b>						
Core research and development activities	\$ 19,619	\$ 12,773	53.6%	\$ 52,824	\$ 36,601	44.3%
Angel.com research and development activities	1,290	902	43.0%	3,389	2,402	41.1%
Total research and development expenses before capitalized software development costs						
Capitalized software development costs	(475)	0	n/a	(5,907)	(2,185)	170.3%
Total research and development expenses	\$ 20,434	\$ 13,675	49.4%	\$ 50,306	\$ 36,818	36.6%
<b>Amortization of capitalized software development costs included in cost of product licenses revenues</b>						
	\$ 2,117	\$ 1,683	25.8%	\$ 5,777	\$ 4,892	18.1%

Research and development expenses, before capitalization of software development costs, increased \$7.2 million, or 52.9%, for the three months ended September 30, 2011, as compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily due to an increase in compensation and related costs due to an increase in staffing levels, partially offset by a \$1.0 million decrease in certain variable compensation costs. During the three months ended September 30, 2011, we capitalized \$0.5 million in costs associated with the development of our MicroStrategy 9.2.1 software, while no software development costs were capitalized in the same period in the prior year. Core BI research and development headcount increased 53.2% to 703 at September 30, 2011 from 459 at September 30, 2010. Angel.com research and development headcount increased 27.3% to 28 at September 30, 2011 from 22 at September 30, 2010.

Research and development expenses, before capitalization of software development costs, increased \$17.2 million, or 44.1%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, as compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily due to an increase in compensation and related costs due to an increase in staffing levels, partially offset by a \$1.0 million decrease in certain variable compensation costs. During the nine months ended September 30, 2011, we capitalized \$5.9 million in costs associated with the development of our MicroStrategy 9.2 and 9.2.1 software, as compared to \$2.2 million in software development costs associated with the development of MicroStrategy Mobile that were capitalized in the same period in the prior year.

For the three months ended September 30, 2011, our research and development personnel were focused on the following projects: 48.6% to MicroStrategy 9.2, including MicroStrategy Mobile, 25.9% to our social media technologies, including MicroStrategy Wisdom, Wisdom for Facebook, Alert, and Emma, and 25.5% to other research and development, including new product initiatives, our Cloud services, and our Angel.com business.

**Provision for Income Taxes.** For the nine months ended September 30, 2011, we recorded a provision for income taxes from operations of \$0.7 million that resulted in an effective tax rate of 7.1%, as compared to a provision for income taxes from operations of \$9.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010, that resulted in an effective tax rate of 26.5% for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. The lower effective tax rate for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 was primarily due to a decrease in income from operations before income taxes, stronger results outside the U.S. where the Company's effective tax rate is significantly lower than its U.S. effective tax rate, a favorable settlement with the U.K. tax authority, and discrete benefits resulting from tax return to provision adjustments. The estimated effective tax rate is subject to fluctuation based upon the level and mix of earnings and losses by tax jurisdiction, foreign tax rate differentials, and the relative impact of permanent book to tax differences (i.e., non-deductible expenses). Each quarter, a cumulative adjustment is recorded for any fluctuations in the estimated annual effective tax rate as compared to the prior quarter. As a result of these factors, and due to potential changes in the Company's period to period results, fluctuations in the Company's effective tax rate and respective tax provisions or benefits may occur.



As of September 30, 2011, we had U.S. federal net operating loss carryforwards of \$9.9 million and foreign net operating loss carryforwards of \$7.3 million, and other temporary differences, carryforwards, and credits, which resulted in net deferred tax assets of \$24.8 million. Also, as of September 30, 2011, we had a valuation allowance of \$2.7 million (after-tax) primarily related to certain foreign net operating loss carryforwards and other deferred tax assets that we have concluded are not more likely than not of being realized.

Except as discussed below, we intend to indefinitely reinvest the accumulated undistributed earnings of certain foreign subsidiaries. Therefore, the annualized effective tax rate applied to our pre-tax income from operations for the period ended September 30, 2011 did not include any provision for U.S. federal and state taxes on the amount of the undistributed foreign earnings. U.S. federal tax laws, however, require us to include in our U.S. taxable income certain investment income earned outside of the U.S. in excess of certain limits ( Subpart F deemed dividends ). Because Subpart F deemed dividends are already required to be recognized in our U.S. federal income tax return, we regularly repatriate Subpart F deemed dividends to the U.S. and no additional tax is incurred on the distribution. If the cash and cash equivalents held by non-U.S. entities were to be repatriated to the U.S., the Company would generate U.S. taxable income to the extent of the Company's undistributed foreign earnings, which amounted to \$140.4 million at December 31, 2010. Although the tax impact of repatriating these earnings is difficult to determine, we would not expect the maximum effective tax rate that would be applicable to such repatriation to exceed the U.S. statutory rate of 35.0%, after considering applicable foreign tax credits.

**Deferred Revenue and Advance Payments.** Deferred revenue and advance payments represent product support and other services fees that are collected in advance and recognized over the contract service period and product licenses revenues relating to multiple element software arrangements that include future deliverables.

The following table summarizes deferred revenue and advance payments (in thousands), as of the dates indicated:

	September 30, 2011	December 31, 2010	September 30, 2010
<b>Current:</b>			
Deferred product licenses revenue	\$ 11,259	\$ 13,881	\$ 11,613
Deferred product support revenue	125,109	129,766	114,114
Deferred other services revenue	14,376	18,136	13,052
<b>Gross current deferred revenue and advance payments</b>	<b>150,744</b>	<b>161,783</b>	<b>138,779</b>
Less: unpaid deferred revenue	(53,292)	(72,452)	(52,977)
<b>Net current deferred revenue and advance payments</b>	<b>\$ 97,452</b>	<b>\$ 89,331</b>	<b>\$ 85,802</b>
<b>Non-current:</b>			
Deferred product licenses revenue	\$ 4,121	\$ 3,732	\$ 4,455
Deferred product support revenue	9,672	8,436	8,394
Deferred other services revenue	490	321	1,844
<b>Gross non-current deferred revenue and advance payments</b>	<b>14,283</b>	<b>12,489</b>	<b>14,693</b>
Less: unpaid deferred revenue	(3,244)	(4,611)	(6,264)
<b>Net non-current deferred revenue and advance payments</b>	<b>\$ 11,039</b>	<b>\$ 7,878</b>	<b>\$ 8,429</b>

We offset our accounts receivable and deferred revenue for any unpaid items included in deferred revenue and advance payments.

The increase in net deferred revenue and advance payments as of September 30, 2011, as compared to December 31, 2010, was primarily due to an increase in the number of technical support contracts in our installed customer base. The increase in gross current deferred revenue and advance payments as of September 30, 2011, as compared to September 30, 2010, was primarily due to the increase in the number of technical support contracts in our installed customer base and an increase in the deferral of product licenses revenues for which revenue recognition criteria have not been satisfied.

We expect to recognize approximately \$150.7 million of deferred revenue and advance payments over the next 12 months. However, the timing and ultimate recognition of our deferred revenue and advance payments depend on our performance of various service obligations, and the amount of deferred revenue and advance payments at any date should not be considered indicative of revenues for any succeeding period.

As of September 30, 2011, we had additional agreements that included future minimum commitments by our customers to purchase products, product support or other services through 2016 totaling approximately \$119.0 million. Revenue relating to such future commitments by our customers is not included in our deferred revenue balances.

Revenue relating to such agreements will be recognized during the period in which all revenue recognition criteria are met. The timing and ultimate recognition of any revenue from such customer purchase commitments depend on our customers meeting their future purchase commitments and our meeting our associated performance obligations related to those purchase commitments.

### **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

**Liquidity.** Our principal sources of liquidity are cash, cash equivalents, and on-going collection of our accounts receivable. Cash and cash equivalents include holdings in money market funds and U.S. Treasury bills.

We earn a significant amount of our revenues outside the U.S. and, except for Subpart F deemed dividends, we intend to indefinitely reinvest undistributed earnings of certain non-U.S. entities. We believe that existing cash and cash equivalents held by the Company and anticipated to be generated by the Company are sufficient to meet working capital requirements, anticipated capital expenditures, and contractual obligations for at least the next 12 months, and accordingly, we do not expect that we will need to borrow money to finance our operations. However, we may elect to borrow money in future periods in order to take advantage of favorable pricing in the credit markets.

As of September 30, 2011 and December 31, 2010, the amount of cash and cash equivalents held by U.S. entities was \$27.2 million and \$33.1 million, respectively, and by non-U.S. entities was \$159.1 million and \$141.0 million, respectively. We do not anticipate needing to repatriate the cash or cash equivalents held by non-U.S. entities to the U.S. to finance our U.S. operations. However, if we elected to repatriate these amounts, we would generate U.S. taxable income to the extent of our undistributed foreign earnings, which amounted to \$140.4 million at December 31, 2010. Although the tax impact of repatriating these earnings is difficult to determine and our effective tax rate could increase as a result of any such repatriation, we would not expect the maximum effective tax rate that would be applicable to such repatriation to exceed the U.S. statutory rate of 35.0%, after considering applicable foreign tax credits.

The following table sets forth a summary of our cash flows (in thousands) and percentage changes for the periods indicated:

	Nine Months Ended		%
	September 30,		
	2011	2010	Change
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 32,376	\$ 55,938	-42.1%
Net cash used in investing activities	(26,150)	(13,754)	90.1%
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	5,998	(81,263)	107.4%

**Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities.** The primary source of our net cash provided by operating activities is cash collections of our accounts receivable from customers following the sales and renewals of our software licenses, technical software support, software updates and upgrades, as well as consulting, education, and other services. Our primary uses of cash from operating activities are for personnel related expenditures for software development, personnel related expenditures for providing consulting, education and other services, and for sales and marketing costs, general and administrative costs, and income taxes.

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$32.4 million and \$55.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively. We incurred net non-cash expenses of \$4.0 million and \$11.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively. Non-cash items primarily consist of depreciation and amortization, bad debt expense, deferred taxes, and excess tax benefits from share-based compensation arrangements.

**Net Cash Used in Investing Activities.** The changes in net cash used in investing activities primarily relate to expenditures on property, plant and equipment, capitalized software development costs, receipts of insurance proceeds related to our owned corporate aircraft, and proceeds from the sale of an investment. Net cash used in investing activities was \$26.2 million and \$13.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively. The increase in net cash used in investing activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, as compared to the same period in the prior year, was primarily due to a \$17.3 million increase in purchases of property and equipment, comprised primarily of computer equipment and leasehold improvements, and a \$3.7 million increase in capitalized software development costs, partially offset by the receipt of \$5.7 million of insurance proceeds related to our corporate aircraft and the receipt of \$3.4 million of proceeds from the sale of an investment.

**Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Financing Activities.** The changes in net cash provided by (used in) financing activities primarily relate to the exercise of employee stock options and stock repurchases. Net cash provided by financing activities was \$6.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011. Net cash used in financing activities was \$81.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2010. The increase in net cash provided by financing activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2011, as compared to the same period in the prior year, was due to a decrease in purchases of treasury stock of \$81.6 million, a \$3.7 million increase in excess tax benefits from share-based compensation arrangements, and a \$2.0 million increase in proceeds from the exercise of employee stock options.

**Share Repurchases.** On July 28, 2005, we announced that our Board of Directors had authorized our repurchase of up to an aggregate of \$300.0 million of our class A common stock from time to time on the open market (the 2005 Share Repurchase Program). On April 29, 2008, our Board of Directors amended the 2005 Share Repurchase Program to increase the amount of class A common stock that we are authorized to repurchase from \$300.0 million to \$800.0 million in the aggregate. The term of the 2005 Share Repurchase Program was also extended to April 29, 2013, although the program may be suspended or discontinued by us at any time. The timing and amount of any shares repurchased will be determined by our management based on its evaluation of market conditions and other factors. The 2005 Share Repurchase Program may be funded using our working capital, as well as proceeds from any credit facilities and other borrowing arrangements which we may enter into in the future. During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011, we did not repurchase any shares of our class A common stock pursuant to the 2005 Share Repurchase Program. As of September 30, 2011, we had repurchased an aggregate of 3,826,947 shares of our class A common stock at an average price per share of \$90.23 and an aggregate cost of \$345.3 million pursuant to the 2005 Share Repurchase Program.

The average price per share and aggregate cost amounts disclosed above include broker commissions.

**Contractual Obligations.** As disclosed in Footnote 7, Commitments and Contingencies, of notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, we lease office space and computer and other equipment under operating lease agreements. Under these agreements, in addition to base rent, we are generally responsible for certain taxes, utilities and maintenance costs, and other fees, and several leases include options for renewal or purchase. We also lease a fractional interest in a corporate aircraft owned and operated by a fractional interest program operator. The following table shows future minimum rent payments under noncancellable operating leases and agreements with initial terms of greater than one year, net of total future minimum rent payments to be received under noncancellable sublease agreements (in thousands), based on the expected due dates of the various installments as of September 30, 2011:

	Payments due by period ended September 30,				
	Total	2012	2013-2014	2015-2016	Thereafter
<i>Contractual Obligations:</i>					
Operating leases	\$ 154,760	\$ 22,834	\$ 42,408	\$ 31,718	\$ 57,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 154,760</b>	<b>\$ 22,834</b>	<b>\$ 42,408</b>	<b>\$ 31,718</b>	<b>\$ 57,800</b>

**Unrecognized Tax Benefits.** As of September 30, 2011, we had \$16.7 million of total gross unrecognized tax benefits. The timing of any payments which could result from these unrecognized tax benefits will depend on a number of factors, and accordingly the amount and period of any future payments cannot be estimated. We do not expect a significant tax payment related to these obligations within the next year.

**Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements.** As of September 30, 2011, we did not have any off-balance sheet arrangements that had or were reasonably likely to have a current or future material impact on our financial condition, changes in financial condition, revenues or expenses, results of operations, liquidity, capital expenditures or capital resources.

#### Recent Accounting Standards

On June 16, 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ( FASB ) issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2011-05, *Presentation of Comprehensive Income* (ASU 2011-05). This standard eliminates the current option to report other comprehensive income and its components in the statement of changes in equity. Under this standard, an entity can elect to present items of net income and other comprehensive income in one continuous statement referred to as the statement of comprehensive income or in two separate, but consecutive, statements. This standard is effective as of the beginning of a fiscal year that begins after December 15, 2011, which for us would be January 1, 2012. We have determined that other than the change in presentation, ASU 2011-05 will not have a material impact on the Consolidated Financial Statements.

**Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk**

The following discussion about our market risk exposures involves forward-looking statements. Actual results could differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements.

We are exposed to the impact of both interest rate changes and foreign currency fluctuations.

**Interest Rate Risk.** We face exposure to changes in interest rates primarily relating to our investments. We generally invest our excess cash in short-term, highly-rated, fixed-rate financial instruments. These fixed-rate instruments are subject to interest rate risk and may fall in value if interest rates increase.

As of September 30, 2011, we did not have any material investments, other than our cash and cash equivalents.

**Foreign Currency Risk.** We conduct a significant portion of our business in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, the currency in which we report our Consolidated Financial Statements. International revenues accounted for 40.5% and 40.2% of our total revenues for the three months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively, and 41.7% and 38.8% of our total revenues for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively. We anticipate that international revenues will continue to account for a significant portion of our total revenues. The functional currency of each of our foreign subsidiaries is the local currency.

Assets and liabilities of our foreign subsidiaries are translated into U.S. dollars at exchange rates in effect as of the applicable balance sheet date and any resulting translation adjustments are included as an adjustment to stockholders' equity. Revenues and expenses generated from these subsidiaries are translated at average monthly exchange rates during the quarter in which the transactions occur. Gains and losses from transactions in local currencies are included in net income.

Historically, we have generated a significant portion of our revenues and incurred a significant portion of our expenses in euros and British pounds sterling. As a result of transacting in multiple currencies and reporting our financial statements in U.S. dollars, our operating results may be adversely impacted by currency exchange rate fluctuations in the future. Further information on the impact of foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations on current and comparable periods is described in Item 2, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

We cannot predict the effect of exchange rate fluctuations upon our future results. We attempt to minimize our foreign currency risk by converting our excess foreign currency held in foreign jurisdictions to U.S. dollar denominated cash and investment accounts. To date, we have not hedged the risks associated with foreign currency exchange exposure. Although we may do so in the future, we cannot be sure that any hedging techniques will be successful or that our business, results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows will not be materially adversely affected by exchange rate fluctuations.

As of September 30, 2011 and 2010, a 10% adverse change in foreign currency exchange rates versus the U.S. dollar would have decreased our aggregate reported cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash and investments by 0.7% and 0.5%, respectively. The increase in exposure as of September 30, 2011 was primarily due to our increase of cash balances in non-U.S. dollar based bank accounts. If average exchange rates during the nine months ended September 30, 2011 had changed unfavorably by 10%, our revenues for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 would have decreased by 3.8%. During the nine months ended September 30, 2011, our revenues increased 3.0% as a result of a 12.0% favorable change in weighted average exchange rates, as compared to the same period in the prior year.

**Item 4. Controls and Procedures**

**Evaluation of disclosure controls and procedures.** Our management, with the participation of our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act) as of the end of the

period covered by this quarterly report. Management recognizes that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving their objectives and management necessarily applies its judgment in evaluating the cost-benefit relationship of possible controls and procedures. Our disclosure controls and procedures are designed to provide reasonable assurance of achieving their control objectives. Based on the evaluation of our disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this quarterly report, our chief executive officer and chief financial officer concluded that, as of such date, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective at the reasonable assurance level.

***Changes in internal controls.*** No change in our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act) occurred during the fiscal quarter ended September 30, 2011 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

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**PART II - OTHER INFORMATION****Item 1. Legal Proceedings**

On November 8, 2007, Diagnostic Systems Corp., a subsidiary of Acacia Research Corporation ( Acacia Research ), filed a complaint for patent infringement against the Company and a number of other unrelated defendants in the United States District Court for the Central District of California, Southern Division. On December 14, 2009, the Company and Acacia Research, Acacia Patent Acquisition LLC, and Acacia Technology Services LLC reached a settlement with respect to the consolidated complaint (the Settlement Agreement ), and on December 28, 2009, the court dismissed all parties' claims with prejudice. On June 29, 2010, the Company received correspondence from a law firm representing Database Application Solutions LLC ( DAS ), an affiliate of Acacia Research, alleging that the Company infringes U.S. Patent Number 5,444,842 (the 842 Patent ) and requesting a meeting to discuss whether the Company would be willing to pay DAS to license the 842 Patent. On August 17, 2010, the Company sued Acacia Research and DAS in the Delaware Court of Chancery alleging, among other things, breach of the Settlement Agreement and breach of representations and warranties made in the Settlement Agreement. In addition, the Company brought a fraudulent inducement claim against Acacia Research relating to the Settlement Agreement. Acacia Research and DAS filed separate motions to dismiss the Company's lawsuit. On December 30, 2010, the court dismissed the Company's breach of contract claim against Acacia Research and DAS, denied Acacia Research's and DAS' motions to dismiss the breach of representation and warranty claim against both Acacia Research and DAS, and permitted the Company to continue to pursue its fraudulent inducement claim against Acacia Research. Discovery is ongoing, and trial is scheduled for May 29, 2012. On October 31, 2011, the Company received correspondence from the law firm representing Acacia Research and DAS containing a purported unilateral release and covenant not to sue the Company on the 842 Patent. On October 31, 2011, Acacia Research and DAS filed a motion for summary judgment alleging that their purported unilateral release and covenant not to sue the Company moots the Company's breach of contract and fraudulent inducement claims. Acacia Research and DAS also filed a motion for leave to file a counterclaim against the Company seeking to recover their legal fees for the Company's alleged breach of the Settlement Agreement. The court has not ruled on either motion. The outcome of this matter is not presently determinable. Accordingly, no estimated liability for this matter has been accrued in the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements.

In February 2010, our owned corporate aircraft was damaged when the hangar space that we lease at Dulles International Airport to house the aircraft collapsed during snowfall in the Washington, DC area. We reported the hangar collapse to United States Aviation Underwriters, Inc. and United States Aircraft Insurance Group (collectively, the USAU Group ), the agents for the aircraft's insurance carriers and to the carriers themselves, who are Ace American Insurance Company and Liberty Mutual Insurance Company (collectively, the Insurance Carriers ). On April 8, 2010, we sent a proof of loss statement to the Insurance Carriers in the amount of \$50.0 million (the insured value of the aircraft) for the physical loss of the aircraft. On April 19, 2010, the Insurance Carriers rejected our proof of loss. On May 14, 2010, we sent a second proof of loss statement to the USAU Group and the Insurance Carriers in the amount of \$50.0 million for the accidental physical damage of the aircraft. On February 4, 2011, 821,393 LLC, a subsidiary of MicroStrategy Services Corporation ( MSC ), MSC, and the Company (collectively, the MicroStrategy Group ), filed a complaint against the Insurance Carriers and the USAU Group in the Circuit Court of Fairfax County, Virginia (the Virginia Litigation ). The complaint seeks damages from the Insurance Carriers and the USAU Group resulting from their alleged breach of contract for failure to pay the Company's claim resulting from the physical loss of the aircraft and breach of contract for failure to pay the Company's claim resulting from the damage to the aircraft. On March 11, 2011, the Insurance Carriers and the USAU Group filed an answer to the MicroStrategy Group's complaint.

On October 24, 2011, the MicroStrategy Group, the USAU Group, and the Insurance Carriers entered into a Dismissal and Tolling Agreement in which the parties agreed that the MicroStrategy Group would dismiss its claims in the Virginia Litigation without prejudice and the USAU Group and the Insurance Carriers would not assert any statute of limitations, common law limitations, statute of repose, laches, or contractual limitations if the MicroStrategy Group were to re-file claims on or before September 30, 2012. The USAU Group and the Insurance Carriers also agreed to pay an additional \$0.4 million to the MicroStrategy Group for reimbursement of certain expenses covered under the insurance policy for the Company's use of replacement aircraft and for the cost of certain fees paid to a consultant to oversee the repair of the aircraft. The parties have filed an agreed order of dismissal with respect to the Virginia Litigation, which is under consideration by the court.

We are also involved in various other legal proceedings arising in the normal course of business. Although the outcomes of these other legal proceedings are inherently difficult to predict, we do not expect the resolution of these other legal proceedings to have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations, or cash flows.



**Item 1A. Risk Factors**

You should carefully consider the risks described below before making an investment decision. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only ones facing MicroStrategy. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business operations.

If any of the following risks actually occur, our business, financial condition or results of operations could be materially adversely affected. In such case, the trading price of our class A common stock could decline and you may lose all or part of your investment.

**Our quarterly operating results, revenues, and expenses may fluctuate significantly, which could have an adverse effect on the market price of our stock**

For a number of reasons, including those described below, our operating results, revenues, and expenses have in the past varied and may in the future vary significantly from quarter to quarter. These fluctuations could have an adverse effect on the market price of our class A common stock.

*Fluctuations in Quarterly Operating Results.* Our quarterly operating results may fluctuate, in part, as a result of:

the size, timing, volume, and execution of significant orders and shipments;

the mix of products and services of customer orders, which can affect whether we recognize revenue upon the signing and delivery of our software products or whether revenue must be recognized as work progresses or over the entire contract period;

the timing of the release or delivery of new or enhanced products, which may affect the period in which we are able to recognize revenue;

the timing of new product announcements by us or our competitors;

changes in our pricing policies or those of our competitors;

market acceptance of business intelligence software generally and of new and enhanced versions of our products in particular;

the length of our sales cycles;

seasonal factors, such as our traditionally lower pace of new product licenses transactions in the summer;

changes in our operating expenses;

personnel changes;

our use of direct and indirect distribution channels;

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utilization of our consulting and education services, which can be affected by delays or deferrals of customer implementation of our software products;

the quarterly performance of our Angel.com business, which is highly variable and particularly difficult to forecast;

changes in foreign currency exchange rates;

our profitability and expectations for future profitability and its effect on our deferred tax assets and net income for the period in which any adjustment to our net deferred tax asset valuation allowance may be made;

increases or decreases in our liability for unrecognized tax benefits; and

changes in customer budgets.

*Limited Ability to Adjust Expenses.* We base our operating expense budgets on expected revenue trends. Many of our expenses, such as office leases and certain personnel costs, are relatively fixed. We may be unable to adjust spending quickly enough to offset any unexpected revenue shortfall. Accordingly, any shortfall in revenue may cause significant variation in operating results in any quarter.

Based on the above factors, we believe that quarter-to-quarter comparisons of our operating results are not a good indication of our future performance. It is possible that in one or more future quarters, our operating results may be below the expectations of public market analysts and investors. In that event, the trading price of our class A common stock may fall.

**The trading price of our class A common stock has been and may continue to be volatile**

The trading price of our class A common stock historically has been volatile and may continue to be volatile. The trading price of our class A common stock may fluctuate widely in response to various factors, some of which are beyond our control. These factors include, but are not limited to:

quarterly variations in our results of operations or those of our competitors;

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

the emergence of new sales channels in which we are unable to compete effectively;

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

commencement of, or our involvement in, litigation;

any major change in our board or management;

changes in governmental regulations or in the status of our regulatory approvals;

recommendations by securities analysts or changes in earnings estimates;

announcements about our earnings that are not in line with analyst expectations, the likelihood of which may be enhanced because it is our policy not to give guidance relating to our anticipated financial performance in future periods;

announcements by our competitors of their earnings that are not in line with analyst expectations;

the volume of shares of class A common stock available for public sale;

sales of stock by us or by our stockholders;

short sales, hedging, and other derivative transactions involving shares of our class A common stock; and

general economic conditions and slow or negative growth of related markets.

In addition, the stock market in general, and the market for technology companies in particular, have experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations that have often been unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of those companies. These broad market and industry factors may seriously harm the market price of our class A common stock, regardless of our actual operating performance.

**We may not be able to sustain or increase profitability in the future**

We generated net income for each of the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010; however, we may not be able to sustain or increase profitability on a quarterly or annual basis in the future.

We have significantly increased our headcount as part of our initiatives to focus specific research and development efforts on providing our customers with high levels of performance for BI applications of all sizes and introducing a number of innovative technologies designed to enable companies to capitalize on the big data, mobile, cloud, and social media trends in the marketplace. Similarly, we have increased the size of our sales and services teams to better serve new and existing customers. As a result, our cost of revenues and operating expenses have significantly increased. If our revenues are not sufficient to offset these increased operating expenses or we are unable to timely adjust our operating expenses in response to any shortfall in anticipated revenue, our profitability may decrease or we may cease to be profitable or incur operating losses. As a result, our business, results of operations, and financial condition may be materially and adversely affected.

As of September 30, 2011, we had \$28.9 million of deferred tax assets, net of a \$2.7 million valuation allowance, and if we are unable to sustain profitability, we may be required to increase the valuation allowance against these deferred tax assets, which would result in a charge that would adversely affect net income in the period in which the charge is incurred.

**Current economic uncertainties, particularly in the financial services and retail industries, could adversely affect our business and results of operations**

General worldwide economic conditions have experienced a significant prolonged downturn and remain uncertain. Economic uncertainty makes it extremely difficult for our customers and us to accurately forecast and plan future business activities, and could cause our customers to slow spending on our products and services, which could delay and lengthen sales cycles. Furthermore, during uncertain economic times our customers may face issues gaining timely access to sufficient credit, which could result in an impairment of their ability to make timely payments to us. If that were to occur, we may be required to increase our allowance for doubtful accounts and our results would be negatively impacted.

Furthermore, we have a significant number of customers in the financial services and retail industries. A significant downturn in these industries may cause firms to react by reducing their capital expenditures in general or by specifically reducing their spending on information technology. In addition, customers in these industries may delay or cancel information technology projects or seek to lower their costs by renegotiating vendor contracts. Customers with excess information technology resources may choose to develop in-house software solutions rather than obtain those solutions from us. Moreover, competitors may respond to challenging market conditions by lowering prices and attempting to lure away our customers. In addition, consolidation in the financial services industry may result in reduced overall spending on our products and services.

We cannot predict the timing, strength or duration of any economic slowdown or any subsequent recovery generally, or in the financial services and retail industries in particular. If the conditions in the general economy and the markets in which we operate worsen from present levels, our business, financial condition, and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected.

**We may have exposure to greater than anticipated tax liabilities**

We are subject to income taxes and non-income taxes in a variety of domestic and foreign jurisdictions. Our future income taxes could be adversely affected by earnings that are lower than anticipated in jurisdictions where we have lower statutory rates and earnings that are higher than anticipated in jurisdictions where we have higher statutory rates, by changes in the valuation of our deferred tax assets and liabilities, changes in the amount of unrecognized tax benefits, or by changes in tax laws, regulations, accounting principles, or interpretations thereof.

Our determination of our tax liability is subject to review by applicable domestic and foreign tax authorities. For example, we are currently under tax examination in Germany. Any adverse outcome of such a review could have an adverse effect on our operating results and financial condition. The determination of our worldwide provision for income taxes and other tax liabilities requires significant judgment and, in the ordinary course of business, there are many transactions and calculations where the ultimate tax determination is uncertain. Moreover, as a multinational business, we have subsidiaries that engage in many intercompany transactions in a variety of tax jurisdictions where the ultimate tax determination is uncertain.

We also have contingent tax liabilities that, in management's judgment, are not probable of assertion. If such unasserted contingent liabilities were to be asserted, or become probable of assertion, we may be required to record significant expenses and liabilities in the period in which these liabilities are asserted or become probable of assertion.

As a result of these and other factors, the ultimate amount of tax obligations owed may differ from the amounts recorded in our financial statements and any such difference may materially affect our financial results in future periods in which we change our estimates of our tax obligations or in which the ultimate tax outcome is determined.

**If the market for business intelligence software fails to grow as we expect, or if businesses fail to adopt our products, our business, operating results, and financial condition could be materially adversely affected**

Nearly all of our revenues to date have come from sales of business intelligence software and related technical support, consulting, and education services. We expect these sales to account for a large portion of our revenues for the foreseeable future. Although demand for business intelligence software has grown in recent years, the market for business intelligence software applications is still evolving. Resistance from consumer and privacy groups to increased commercial collection and use of data on spending patterns and other personal behavior and governmental restrictions on the collection and use of personal data may impair the further growth of this market, as may other developments. We cannot be sure that this market will continue to grow or, even if it does grow, that businesses will adopt our solutions. We have spent, and intend to keep spending, considerable resources to educate potential customers about business intelligence software in general and our solutions in particular. However, we cannot be sure that these expenditures will help our products achieve any additional market acceptance. If the market fails to grow or grows more slowly than we currently expect, our business, operating results, and financial condition would be materially adversely affected.

**We face intense competition, which may lead to lower prices for our products, reduced gross margins, loss of market share, and reduced revenue**

The markets for business intelligence software, analytical applications, and information delivery are intensely competitive and subject to rapidly changing technology. In addition, many companies in these markets are offering, or may soon offer, products and services that may compete with MicroStrategy products.

MicroStrategy faces competitors in several broad categories, including business intelligence software, analytical processes, query and web-based reporting tools, mobile capabilities, and report delivery. Independent competitors that are primarily focused on business intelligence products include, among others, Actuate, arcplan, Information Builders, LogiXML, Qlik Technologies, Roambi, the SAS Institute, Tableau Software, and TIBCO Spotfire. We also compete with large software corporations, including suppliers of enterprise resource planning software that provide one or more capabilities competitive with our products, such as IBM, Microsoft, Oracle, SAP, and Infor, and with open source business intelligence vendors, including Pentaho and JasperSoft.

Some of our competitors have longer operating histories, significantly greater financial, technical, marketing, or other resources, or greater name recognition than we do. In addition, many of our competitors have strong relationships with current and potential customers and extensive knowledge of the business intelligence industry. As a result, they may be able to respond more quickly to new or emerging technologies and changes in customer requirements or devote greater resources to the development, promotion, sale, and marketing of their products than we can, such as offering certain business intelligence products free of charge when bundled with other software offerings. Increased competition may lead to price cuts, reduced gross margins, and loss of market share. We may not be able to compete successfully against current and future competitors and the failure to meet the competitive pressures we face may have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results, and financial condition.

Current and future competitors may also make strategic acquisitions or establish cooperative relationships among themselves or with others. For example, SAP acquired Sybase in July 2010 and IBM acquired Netezza in November 2010. By doing so, these competitors may increase their ability to meet the needs of our potential customers. Our current or prospective indirect channel partners may establish cooperative relationships with our current or future competitors. These relationships may limit our ability to sell our products through specific distribution channels. Accordingly, new competitors or alliances among current and future competitors may emerge and rapidly gain significant market share. These developments could limit our ability to obtain revenues from new customers and to maintain technical support revenues from our installed customer base. In addition, basic office productivity suites, such as Microsoft Office, could evolve to offer analysis and reporting capabilities that may reduce the demand for our products and services.

**We depend on revenue from a single suite of products**

Our MicroStrategy business intelligence platform and related products account for a substantial portion of our revenue. Because of this revenue concentration, our business could be harmed by a decline in demand for, or in the prices of, our MicroStrategy business intelligence platform software as a result of, among other factors, any change in our pricing model, increased competition, a maturation in the markets for these products, or other risks described in this document.

**If we are unable to develop and release product enhancements and new products to respond to rapid technological change in a timely and cost-effective manner, our business, operating results, and financial condition could be materially adversely affected**

The market for our products is characterized by rapid technological change, frequent new product introductions and enhancements, changing customer demands, and evolving industry standards. The introduction of products embodying new technologies can quickly make existing products obsolete and unmarketable. We believe that our future success depends largely on three factors:

our ability to continue to support a number of popular operating systems and databases;

our ability to maintain and improve our current product line; and

our ability to rapidly develop new products that achieve market acceptance, maintain technological competitiveness, and meet an expanding range of customer requirements.

Business intelligence applications are inherently complex, and it can take a long time and require significant research and development expenditures to develop and test new products and product enhancements. In addition, customers may delay their purchasing decisions because they anticipate that new or enhanced versions of our products will soon become available. We cannot be sure that we will succeed in developing, marketing, and delivering on a timely and cost-effective basis, product enhancements or new products that respond to technological change or new customer requirements, nor can we be sure that any new products and product enhancements will achieve market acceptance. Moreover, even if we introduce a new product, we may experience a decline in revenues of our existing products that is not fully matched by the new product's revenue. For example, customers may delay making purchases of a new product to permit them to make a more thorough evaluation of the product, or until industry and marketplace reviews become widely available. Some customers may hesitate migrating to a new product due to concerns regarding the complexity of migration and product infancy issues on performance. In addition, we may lose existing customers who choose a competitor's product rather than migrate to our new product. This could result in a temporary or permanent revenue shortfall and materially affect our business.

**Our investment in new business strategies and initiatives could disrupt the operations of our ongoing business and present risks that we have not adequately anticipated**

We have invested, and in the future may invest, in new business strategies and initiatives. For example, we recently introduced a number of innovative technologies designed to enable companies to capitalize on the big data, mobile, cloud, and social media trends in the marketplace. These endeavors may involve significant risks and uncertainties, including distraction of management from other business operations, the dedication of significant research and development, sales and marketing, and other resources to these new initiatives at the expense of our other business operations, generation of insufficient revenue to offset expenses associated with new initiatives, inadequate return of capital, and other risks that we have not adequately anticipated. Because new strategies and initiatives are inherently risky, these strategies and initiatives may not be successful and could materially adversely affect our financial condition and operating results.

**Business disruptions could affect our operating results**

A significant portion of our research and development activities and certain other critical business operations are concentrated in a single facility in Northern Virginia. We are also a highly automated business and a disruption or failure of our systems could cause delays in completing sales and providing services. A major earthquake, fire, act of terrorism, or other catastrophic event that results in the destruction or disruption of any of our critical business operations or information technology systems could severely affect our ability to conduct normal business operations and as a result our future operating results could be materially and adversely affected.

**If we are required to further write down the value of our owned corporate aircraft or to reduce its estimated salvage value as a result of damage to the aircraft sustained in connection with the collapse of the hangar in which it was located, such loss could materially and adversely affect our results of operations**

In December 2009, we took delivery of a corporate aircraft. Our balance sheet as of September 30, 2011 includes as part of property and equipment, net, an asset of \$37.9 million representing the capitalized costs of the aircraft and aircraft-related equipment, net of accumulated depreciation, and net of an aggregate \$7.7 million impairment charge.

In February 2010, the aircraft was damaged when the hangar space that we lease at Dulles International Airport to house the aircraft collapsed during snowfall in the Washington, DC area. Our ability to assess the damage to the aircraft was impeded for months due to the state of the collapsed hangar. The aircraft was extracted from the hangar in July 2010. Inspections and assessments of the aircraft are ongoing to determine the full extent of the damage, including whether the aircraft is repairable at all. As the inspection and damage assessment process continues, additional information may become available that would enable us to make a more accurate estimate of the damage to the aircraft, and would help to determine whether the



aircraft must be deemed a total loss. Consequently, we may record additional impairment charges in one or more future periods in amounts that may be up to and including the remaining carrying value of the aircraft. We carry insurance that covers both accidental damage to and physical loss of the aircraft. Our insurance policy will pay up to \$50.0 million in repair costs to the extent the aircraft is repairable or \$50.0 million if the aircraft is determined to be a total loss. Alternatively, the policy will pay \$50.0 million in the event that the aircraft is physically lost. Litigation with our insurance carriers may determine the amount that is recoverable under our insurance policy and the period in which we may realize any such recovery. If any future aircraft impairment charge is not offset by insurance proceeds of an equivalent amount, or if such offset does not occur in the same period as the impairment charge, our reported results of operations and stockholders' equity in the period in which the impairment charge occurs may be adversely affected.

In addition, if in the future we determine that the estimated salvage value of the aircraft has been reduced as a result of this event, the aggregate amount of depreciation expense that we would incur over the useful life of the aircraft could increase, which in turn may reduce our net income in future periods.

**We use strategic channel partners and if we are unable to maintain successful relationships with them, our business, operating results, and financial condition could be materially adversely affected**

In addition to our direct sales force, we use strategic channel partners such as value-added resellers, system integrators, and original equipment manufacturers to license and support our products. For the nine months ended September 30, 2011, transactions by channel partners for which we recognized revenues accounted for 17.0% of our total product licenses revenues. Our channel partners generally offer customers the products of several different companies, including products that compete with ours. Because our channel partners generally do not have an exclusive relationship with us, we cannot be certain that they will prioritize or provide adequate resources to selling our products. Moreover, divergence in strategy or contract defaults by any of these channel partners may materially adversely affect our ability to develop, market, sell, or support our products.

Although we believe that direct sales will continue to account for a majority of product licenses revenues, we seek to maintain a significant level of indirect sales activities through our strategic channel partners. There can be no assurance that our strategic channel partners will continue to cooperate with us. In addition, there can be no assurance that actions taken or omitted to be taken by such parties will not adversely affect us. Our ability to achieve revenue growth in the future will depend in part on our success in maintaining successful relationships with our strategic partners. If we are unable to maintain our relationships with these strategic partners, our business, operating results, and financial condition could be materially adversely affected.

In addition, we rely on our strategic channel partners to operate in accordance with the terms of their contractual agreements with us. For example, our agreements with our channel partners limit the terms and conditions pursuant to which they are authorized to resell or distribute our software and offer technical support and related services. We also typically require our channel partners to represent to us the dates and details of product licenses transactions sold through to end user customers. If our strategic channel partners do not comply with their contractual obligations to us, our business, results of operations, and financial condition may be materially and adversely affected.

**Our recognition of deferred revenue and advance payments and future customer purchase commitments is subject to future performance obligations and may not be representative of revenues for succeeding periods**

Our gross current and non-current deferred revenue and advance payments totaled \$165.0 million as of September 30, 2011. We offset our accounts receivable and deferred revenue for any unpaid items, which totaled \$56.5 million, resulting in net deferred revenue and advance payments of \$108.5 million as of September 30, 2011. The timing and ultimate recognition of our deferred revenue and advance payments depend on various factors, including our performance of various service obligations.

We have also entered into certain additional agreements that include future minimum commitments by our customers to purchase products, product support, or other services through 2016 totaling \$119.0 million. These future commitments are not included in our deferred revenue balances. Because of the possibility of customer changes or delays in customer development or implementation schedules or budgets, and the need for us to satisfactorily perform product support services, deferred revenue and advance payments at any particular date may not be representative of actual revenue for any succeeding period.

**Managing our international operations is complex and our failure to do so successfully or in a cost-effective manner could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results, and financial condition**

We receive a significant portion of our total revenues from international sales from foreign direct and indirect operations. International revenues accounted for 40.5% and 40.2% of our total revenues for the three months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively, and 41.7% and 38.8% of our total revenues for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, respectively. Our international operations require significant management attention and financial resources.

There are certain risks inherent in our international business activities including:

- changes in foreign currency exchange rates;
- unexpected changes in regulatory requirements;
- tariffs, export restrictions, and other trade barriers;
- costs of localizing products;
- lack of acceptance of localized products;
- difficulties in and costs of staffing, managing, and operating our international operations;
- tax issues, including restrictions on repatriating earnings;
- weaker intellectual property protection;
- economic weakness or currency related crises;
- the burden of complying with a wide variety of laws, including labor laws;
- generally longer payment cycles and greater difficulty in collecting accounts receivable;
- our ability to adapt to sales practices and customer requirements in different cultures; and

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political instability in the countries where we are doing business.

On February 14, 2011, President Obama's administration submitted its fiscal year 2012 budget to Congress. Included in the submission were several proposals to reform U.S. tax laws, including proposals to further limit foreign tax credits and tax excess returns associated with the transfer of intangibles offshore. These same proposals were resubmitted to Congress on September 19, 2011 as part of the proposed American Jobs Act. It is unclear whether these proposals will be enacted or, if enacted, what the scope of the reforms will be.

From time to time, we may undertake various potential intercompany transactions and legal entity restructurings that involve our international subsidiaries. We consider various factors in evaluating these potential transactions and restructurings, including the alignment of our corporate structure with our

organizational objectives, the operational and tax efficiency of our corporate structure, and the long-term cash flows and cash needs of our business. Such transactions and restructurings could negatively impact our overall tax rate and result in additional tax liabilities.

In addition, compliance with foreign and U.S. laws and regulations that are applicable to our international operations is complex and may increase our cost of doing business in international jurisdictions, and our international operations could expose us to fines and penalties if we fail to comply with these regulations. These laws and regulations include import and export requirements, U.S. laws such as the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, the U.K. Bribery Act of 2010, which took effect on July 1, 2011, and local laws prohibiting corrupt payments to governmental officials. Although we have implemented policies and procedures designed to help ensure compliance with these laws, there can be no assurance that our employees, partners, and other persons with whom we do business will not take actions in violation of our policies or these laws. Any violations of these laws could subject us to civil or criminal penalties, including substantial fines or prohibitions on our ability to offer our products and services to one or more countries, and could also materially damage our reputation, our brand, and our international expansion efforts.

These factors may have a material adverse effect on our future sales and, consequently, on our business, operating results, and financial condition.

**We may lose sales, or sales may be delayed, due to the long sales and implementation cycles for our products, which could reduce our revenues**

To date, our customers have typically invested substantial time, money, and other resources and involved many people in the decision to license our software products and purchase our consulting and other services. As a result, we may wait nine months or more after the first contact with a customer for that customer to place an order while it seeks internal approval for the purchase of our products or services. During this long sales cycle, events may occur that affect the size and/or timing of the order or even cause it to be canceled. For example, our competitors may introduce new products, or the customer's own budget and purchasing priorities may change.

Even after an order is placed, the time it takes to deploy our products and complete consulting engagements can vary widely. Implementing our product can take several months, depending on the customer's needs, and may begin only with a pilot program. It may be difficult to deploy our products if the customer has complicated deployment requirements, which typically involve integrating databases, hardware, and software from different vendors. If a customer hires a third party to deploy our products, we cannot be sure that our products will be deployed successfully.

**Our results in any particular period may depend upon the number and volume of large transactions in that period and these transactions may involve more lengthy, complex, and unpredictable sales cycles than other transactions**

As existing and potential customers seek to standardize on a single business intelligence vendor, our business may experience larger transactions at the enterprise level and larger transactions may account for a greater proportion of our business. The presence or absence of one or more large transactions in a particular period may have a material positive or negative effect on our revenue and operating results for that period. For the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2010, our top three product licenses transactions with recognized revenue totaled \$9.1 million and \$8.3 million, respectively, or 9.1% and 10.4% of total product licenses revenues, respectively. These transactions represent significant business and financial decisions for our customers and require considerable effort on the part of customers to assess alternative products and require additional levels of management approval before being concluded. They are also often more complex than smaller transactions. These factors generally lengthen the typical sales cycle and increase the risk that the customer's purchasing decision may be postponed or delayed from one period to another subsequent or later period or that the customer will alter his purchasing requirements. The sales effort and service delivery scope for larger transactions also require additional resources to execute the transaction. These factors could result in lower than anticipated revenue and earnings for a particular period or in the reduction of estimated revenue and earnings in future periods.

**We face a variety of risks in doing business with the U.S. and foreign governments, various state and local governments, and agencies, including risks related to the procurement process, budget constraints and cycles, termination of contracts, and audits**

Our customers include the U.S. government and a number of state and local governments and agencies. There are a variety of risks in doing business with government entities, including:

*Procurement.* Contracting with public sector customers is highly competitive and can be time-consuming and expensive, requiring that we incur significant up-front time and expense without any assurance that we will win a contract.

*Budgetary Constraints and Cycles.* Demand and payment for our products and services are impacted by public sector budgetary cycles and funding availability, with funding reductions or delays adversely impacting public sector demand for our products and services.

*Termination of Contracts.* Public sector customers often have contractual or other legal rights to terminate current contracts for convenience or due to a default. If a contract is terminated for convenience, which can occur if the customer's needs change, we may only be able to collect for products or services delivered prior to termination and settlement expenses. If a contract is terminated because of default, we may not recover even those amounts, and we may be liable for excess costs incurred by the customer for procuring alternative products or services.

*Audits.* The U.S. government and state and local governments and agencies routinely investigate and audit government contractors for compliance with a variety of complex laws, regulations, and contract provisions relating to the formation, administration, or performance of government contracts, including provisions governing reports of and remittances of fees based on sales under government contracts, price protection, compliance with socio-economic policies, and other terms that are particular to government contracts. If, as a result of an audit or review, it is determined that we have failed to comply with such laws, regulations, or contract provisions, we may be subject to civil and criminal penalties and administrative sanctions, including termination of contracts, forfeiture of profits, cost associated with the triggering of price reduction clauses, fines, and suspensions or debarment from future government business, and we may suffer harm to our reputation.

Our customers also include a number of foreign governments and agencies. Similar procurement, budgetary, contract, and audit risks also apply to our doing business with these entities. In addition, compliance with complex regulations and contracting provisions in a variety of jurisdictions can be expensive and consume significant management resources. In certain jurisdictions our ability to win business may be constrained by political and other factors unrelated to our competitive position in the market. Each of these difficulties could adversely affect our business and results of operations.

**We depend on technology licensed to us by third parties, and the loss of this technology could impair our software, delay implementation of our products, or force us to pay higher license fees**

We license third-party technologies that we incorporate into our existing products. There can be no assurance that the licenses for such third-party technologies will not be terminated or that we will be able to license third-party software for future products. In addition, we may be unable to renegotiate acceptable third-party license terms. Changes in or the loss of third party licenses could lead to a material increase in the costs of licensing or to our software products becoming inoperable or their performance being materially reduced, with the result that we may need to incur additional development costs to ensure continued performance of our products, and we may experience a decreased demand for our products.

**If we are unable to recruit or retain skilled personnel, or if we lose the services of any of our key management personnel, our business, operating results, and financial condition could be materially adversely affected**

Our future success depends on our continuing ability to attract, train, assimilate, and retain highly skilled personnel. Competition for these employees is intense. We may not be able to retain our current key employees or attract, train, assimilate, or retain other highly skilled personnel in the future. Our future success also depends in large part on the continued service of key management personnel, particularly Michael J. Saylor, our Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, and Sanju K. Bansal, our Vice Chairman, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. If we lose the services of one or both of these individuals or other key personnel, or if we are unable to attract, train, assimilate, and retain the highly skilled personnel we need, our business, operating results, and financial condition could be materially adversely affected.

**The emergence of new industry standards may adversely affect the demand for our existing products**

The emergence of new industry standards in related fields may adversely affect the demand for our existing products. This could happen, for example, if new web standards and technologies emerged that were incompatible with customer deployments of our products. MicroStrategy currently supports SQL and MDX standards in database access technology. If we are unable to adapt our products on a timely basis to new standards in database access technology, the ability of MicroStrategy's products to access customer databases could be impaired. In addition, the emergence of new standards in the field of operating system support could adversely affect the demand for our existing products. MicroStrategy technology is currently compatible with most major operating systems, including, among others, Windows Server, Sun Solaris, IBM AIX, HP's HP-UX, Red Hat Linux AS, SuSE Linux Enterprise Server, Apple's iOS, and RIM's Blackberry OS. If a different operating system were to gain widespread acceptance, we may not be able to achieve compatibility on a timely basis, resulting in an adverse effect on the demand for our products.

**The nature of our products makes them particularly vulnerable to undetected errors, or bugs, which could cause problems with how the products perform and which could in turn reduce demand for our products, reduce our revenue and lead to product liability claims against us**

Software products as complex as ours may contain errors and/or defects. Although we test our products extensively, we have in the past discovered software errors in our products after their introduction. Despite testing by us and by our current and potential customers, errors may be found in new products or releases after commercial shipments begin. This could result in lost revenue, damage to our reputation, or delays in market acceptance, which could have a material adverse effect upon our business, operating results, and financial condition. We may also have to expend resources and capital to correct these defects.

Our license agreements with customers typically contain provisions designed to limit our exposure to product liability, warranty, and other claims. It is possible, however, that these provisions may not be effective under the laws of certain domestic or international jurisdictions and we may be exposed to product liability, warranty, and other claims. A successful product liability claim against us could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results, and financial condition.

**Changes in laws or regulations relating to privacy or protection of personal data, or any failure by us to comply with such laws and regulations or our privacy policies, could adversely affect our business**

Aspects of our business involve processing and storing personal data, which is subject to our privacy policies and certain federal, state, and international laws and regulations relating to privacy and data protection. The amount of data that we store for our customers on our servers, including personal data, is increasing. Any systems failure or security breach that results in the release of personal data, or any failure or perceived failure by us to comply with our privacy policies or any applicable laws or regulations relating to privacy or data protection, could result in proceedings against us by governmental entities or others. Such proceedings could result in the imposition of fines, penalties, liabilities, and/or governmental orders requiring that we change our data practices, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results, and financial condition. Further, any systems failure or security breach that results in the release of personal data, or any failure or perceived failure by us to comply with our privacy policies or applicable laws or regulations relating to privacy or data protection, could result in a loss of customer confidence in us and damage to our brand, which could adversely affect our business.

The interpretation and application of laws and regulations relating to privacy and data protection are currently unsettled both in the U.S. and internationally. These laws and regulations may be interpreted and applied inconsistently from country to country, and these interpretations and applications may be inconsistent with our policies and practices. In addition, various federal, state, and foreign legislative or regulatory bodies may enact new or additional laws or regulations concerning privacy and data protection that could adversely impact our business. Complying with these varying requirements could cause us to incur substantial costs or require us to change our business practices, either of which could adversely affect our business and operating results.

**Our intellectual property is valuable, and any inability to protect it could reduce the value of our products, services, and brand**

We rely on a combination of copyright, patent, trade secrets, confidentiality procedures, and contractual commitments to protect our intellectual property. Despite our efforts, these measures can only provide limited protection. Unauthorized third parties may try to copy or reverse engineer portions of our products or otherwise obtain and use our intellectual property. Any patents owned by us may be invalidated, circumvented, or challenged. Any of our pending or future patent applications, whether or not being currently challenged, may not be issued with the scope of the claims we seek, if at all. Moreover, recent amendments to U.S. patent law may affect our ability to protect our intellectual property and defend against claims of patent infringement. In addition, the laws of some countries do not provide the same level of protection of our intellectual property as do the laws of the United States. If we cannot protect our intellectual property against unauthorized copying or use, we may not remain competitive.

**Third parties may claim we infringe their intellectual property rights**

We periodically receive notices from others claiming we are infringing their intellectual property rights, principally patent rights. We expect the number of such claims will increase as the number of products and level of competition in our industry segments grow, the functionality of products overlap, and the volume of issued software patents and patent applications continues to increase. Responding to any infringement claim, regardless of its validity, could:

be time-consuming, costly, and/or result in litigation;

divert management's time and attention from developing our business;

require us to pay monetary damages or enter into royalty and licensing agreements that we would not normally find acceptable;

require us to stop selling certain of our products;

require us to redesign certain of our products using alternative non-infringing technology or practices, which could require significant effort and expense; or

require us to satisfy indemnification obligations to our customers.

If a successful claim is made against us and we fail to develop or license a substitute technology, our business, results of operations, financial condition, or cash flows could be adversely affected.

For example, on November 8, 2007, Diagnostic Systems Corp., a subsidiary of Acacia Research Corporation (Acacia Research), filed a complaint for patent infringement against the Company and a number of other unrelated defendants in the United States District Court for the Central District of California, Southern Division. On December 14, 2009, the Company and Acacia Research, Acacia Patent Acquisition LLC, and Acacia Technology Services LLC reached a settlement with respect to the

consolidated complaint (the Settlement Agreement), and on December 28, 2009, the court dismissed all parties' claims with prejudice. On June 29, 2010, the Company received correspondence from a law firm representing Database Application Solutions LLC (DAS), an affiliate of Acacia Research, alleging that the Company infringes U.S. Patent Number 5,444,842 (the 842 Patent) and requesting a meeting to discuss whether the Company would be willing to pay DAS to license the 842 Patent. On August 17, 2010, the Company sued Acacia Research and DAS in the Delaware Court of Chancery alleging, among other things, breach of the Settlement Agreement and breach of representations and warranties made in the Settlement Agreement. In addition, the Company brought a fraudulent inducement claim against Acacia Research relating to the Settlement Agreement. Acacia Research and DAS filed separate motions to dismiss the Company's lawsuit. On December 30, 2010, the court dismissed the Company's breach of contract claim against Acacia Research and DAS, denied Acacia Research's and DAS' motions to dismiss the breach of representation and warranty claim against both Acacia Research and DAS, and permitted the Company to continue to pursue its fraudulent inducement claim against Acacia Research. Discovery is ongoing, and trial is scheduled for May 29, 2012. On October 31, 2011, the Company received correspondence from the law firm representing Acacia Research and DAS containing a purported unilateral release and covenant not to sue the Company on the 842 Patent. On October 31, 2011, Acacia Research and DAS filed a motion for summary judgment alleging that their purported unilateral release and covenant not to sue the Company moots the Company's breach of contract and fraudulent inducement claims. Acacia Research and DAS also filed a motion for leave to file a counterclaim against the Company seeking to recover their legal fees for the Company's alleged breach of the Settlement Agreement. The court has not ruled on either motion. The outcome of this matter is not presently determinable.

#### **Pending or future litigation could have a material adverse impact on our results of operation and financial condition**

In addition to intellectual property litigation, from time to time, we have been subject to other litigation. Regardless of the merits of any claims that may be brought against us, such litigation could result in a diversion of management's attention and resources and we may be required to incur significant expenses defending against these claims. If we are unable to prevail in litigation we could incur substantial liabilities. Where we can make a reasonable estimate of the liability relating to pending litigation and determine that it is probable, we record a related liability. As additional information becomes available, we assess the potential liability and revise estimates as appropriate. However, because of uncertainties relating to litigation, the amount of our estimates could be wrong. In addition to the related cost and use of cash, pending or future litigation could cause the diversion of management's attention and resources.

#### **Because of the rights of our two classes of common stock, and because we are controlled by our existing holders of class B common stock, these stockholders could transfer control of MicroStrategy to a third party without the approval of our Board of Directors or our other stockholders, prevent a third party from acquiring MicroStrategy, or limit your ability to influence corporate matters**

We have two classes of common stock: class A common stock and class B common stock. Holders of our class A common stock generally have the same rights as holders of our class B common stock, except that holders of class A common stock have one vote per share while holders of class B common stock have ten votes per share. As of October 27, 2011, holders of our class B common stock owned 2,492,830 shares of class B common stock, or 75.1% of the total voting power. Michael J. Saylor, our Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, beneficially owned 393,146 shares of class A common stock and 2,157,168 shares of class B common stock, or 65.4% of the total voting power, as of October 27, 2011. Accordingly, Mr. Saylor is able to control MicroStrategy through his ability to determine the outcome of elections of our directors, amend our certificate of incorporation and by-laws, and take other actions requiring the vote or consent of stockholders, including mergers, going-private transactions, and other extraordinary transactions and their terms.

Our certificate of incorporation allows holders of class B common stock, all of whom are current employees or directors of our company or related parties, to transfer shares of class B common stock, subject to the approval of stockholders possessing a majority of the outstanding class B common stock. Mr. Saylor or a group of stockholders possessing a majority of the outstanding class B common stock could, without the approval of our Board of Directors or our other stockholders, transfer voting control of MicroStrategy to a third party. Such a transfer of control could have a material adverse effect on our business, operating results, and financial condition. Mr. Saylor or a group of stockholders possessing a majority of the outstanding class B common stock will also be able to prevent a change of control of MicroStrategy, regardless of whether holders of class A common stock might otherwise receive a premium for their shares over the then current market price. In addition, this concentrated control limits stockholders' ability to influence corporate matters and, as a result, we may take actions that our non-controlling stockholders do not view as beneficial. As a result, the market price of our class A common stock could be adversely affected.



**Revenue recognition accounting pronouncements may adversely affect our reported results of operations**

We continuously review our compliance with all new and existing revenue recognition accounting pronouncements. Depending upon the outcome of these ongoing reviews and the potential issuance of further accounting pronouncements, implementation guidelines, and interpretations, we may be required to modify our reported results, revenue recognition policies, or business practices, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

**Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds**

During the nine months ended September 30, 2011, we did not repurchase any equity securities registered by us pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act.

On July 28, 2005, we announced that our Board of Directors had authorized our repurchase of up to an aggregate of \$300.0 million of our class A common stock from time to time on the open market (the 2005 Share Repurchase Program). On April 29, 2008, our Board of Directors amended the 2005 Share Repurchase Program to increase the amount of class A common stock that we are authorized to repurchase from \$300.0 million to \$800.0 million in the aggregate. The term of the 2005 Share Repurchase Program was also extended to April 29, 2013, although the program may be suspended or discontinued by us at any time. The timing and amount of any shares repurchased will be determined by our management based on its evaluation of market conditions and other factors. The 2005 Share Repurchase Program may be funded using our working capital, as well as proceeds from any credit facilities and other borrowing arrangements which we may enter into in the future. During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011, we did not repurchase any shares of our class A common stock pursuant to the 2005 Share Repurchase Program. As of September 30, 2011, we had repurchased an aggregate of 3,826,947 shares of our class A common stock at an average price per share of \$90.23 and an aggregate cost of \$345.3 million pursuant to the 2005 Share Repurchase Program.

The average price per share and aggregate cost amounts disclosed above include broker commissions.

**Item 6. Exhibits**

We hereby file as part of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q the exhibits listed in the Index to Exhibits.

All other items not included in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q are omitted because they are not applicable or the answers thereto are none.

**SIGNATURES**

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

**MICROSTRATEGY INCORPORATED**

By: /s/ Michael J. Saylor  
Michael J. Saylor  
Chairman of the Board of Directors,  
President and Chief Executive Officer

By: /s/ Douglas K. Thede  
Douglas K. Thede  
Executive Vice President, Finance & Chief  
Financial Officer

Date: November 3, 2011

**INDEX TO EXHIBITS**

Exhibit Number	Description
3.1	Second Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the registrant (filed as Exhibit 3.1 to the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2003 (File No. 000-24435) and incorporated by reference herein).
3.2	Amended and Restated By-Laws of the registrant (filed as Exhibit 3.2 to the registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003 (File No. 000-24435) and incorporated by reference herein).
4.1	Form of Certificate of Class A Common Stock of the registrant (filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2003 (File No. 000-24435) and incorporated by reference herein).
10.1	Summary of 2011 Compensation Arrangements for Named Executive Officers.* (filed as Exhibit 10.1 to the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2011 (File No. 000-24435) and incorporated by reference herein).
10.2	Summary of 2011 Compensation Arrangements for Non-Employee Directors.* (filed as Exhibit 10.2 to the registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2011 (File No. 000-24435) and incorporated by reference herein).
31.1	Certification pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a) of the Chairman of the Board of Directors, President and Chief Executive Officer.
31.2	Certification pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a) of the Executive Vice President, Finance & Chief Financial Officer.
32	Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
101.INS	XBRL Instance Document+
101.SCH	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema+
101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase+
101.DEF	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase+
101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase+
101.PRE	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase+

\* Management contracts and compensatory plans or arrangements.

+ furnished, not filed, herewith