

THINKORSWIM GROUP INC.

Form 10-Q

November 06, 2008

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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549



## **Form 10-Q**



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



**FOR QUARTER ENDED September 30, 2008**





**Commission File Number: 000-52012**



**thinkorswim Group Inc.**

(Formerly known as Investools Inc.)

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

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**Delaware**

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

**45 Rockefeller Plaza, Suite 2012, New York, New York**

(Address of principal executive offices)

**76-0685039**

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

**10111**

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:

**(801) 816-6918**





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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 and 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 ☒ x

No ☐ o

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer. See definition of accelerated filer and large accelerated filer in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer ☐ o

Accelerated filer ☒ x

Non-accelerated filer ☐ o

Small reporting company ☐ o

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes ☐ o

No ☒ x

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date:

Common Stock: 66,499,785 as of November 3, 2008



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**THINKORSWIM GROUP INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

Report on Form 10-Q

Quarter Ended September 30, 2008

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**PART I - FINANCIAL INFORMATION**



**Item 1. Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements**





**THINKORSWIM GROUP INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets**

(in thousands)  
(unaudited)

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	September 30, 2008	December 31, 2007
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 72,952	\$ 61,579
Marketable securities		1,501
Accounts receivable, net of allowance (\$186 and \$198, respectively)	7,472	11,131
Receivable from clearing brokers	12,111	5,503
Income tax receivable	804	
Deferred tax assets	15,304	13,496
Other current assets	12,306	9,622
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>120,949</b>	<b>102,832</b>
Long-term restricted cash	373	389
Goodwill	208,477	208,776
Intangible assets, net of accumulated amortization (\$28,544 and \$17,330, respectively)	121,373	132,587
Software development cost, net of accumulated depreciation (\$7,147 and \$3,363, respectively)	26,637	26,939
Furniture and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation (\$11,867 and \$8,726, respectively)	6,599	8,007
Other long-term assets	27,402	29,800
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 511,810</b>	<b>\$ 509,330</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Current portion of deferred revenue	\$ 94,090	\$ 124,486
Other current liabilities	19,747	17,825
Accounts payable	11,194	8,896
Accrued payroll	11,088	13,278
Accrued tax liabilities	6,402	7,544
Current portion of capitalized lease obligations	231	212
Current portion of notes payable	17,500	17,500
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>160,252</b>	<b>189,741</b>
Long-term portion of deferred revenue	25,872	37,384
Long-term portion of capitalized lease obligations	164	330
Long-term portion of notes payable	79,400	100,000
Deferred tax liabilities	28,191	18,487
Other long-term accrued liabilities	1,424	1,493
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>295,303</b>	<b>347,435</b>
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock \$0.01 par value (66,500 and 65,655 shares issued and outstanding, respectively)	665	656
Additional paid-in capital	335,832	331,006
Accumulated other comprehensive income	(12)	20
Accumulated deficit	(119,978)	(169,787)
<b>Total stockholders' equity</b>	<b>216,507</b>	<b>161,895</b>
<b>Total liabilities and stockholders' equity</b>	<b>\$ 511,810</b>	<b>\$ 509,330</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements



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**THINKORSWIM GROUP INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income**

(in thousands, except per share amounts)  
(unaudited)



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	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
<b>Revenue</b>	\$ 98,065	\$ 89,332	\$ 286,046	\$ 223,934
<b>Costs and expenses</b>				
Cost of revenue	36,707	35,656	106,608	105,620
Selling expense	12,114	16,165	45,451	52,531
General and administrative expense	18,943	15,337	57,462	52,346
Special charges	1,087	310	2,206	1,275
Total costs and expenses	68,851	67,468	211,727	211,772
Income from operations	29,214	21,864	74,319	12,162
<b>Other income (expense)</b>				
Interest expense, net	(2,140)	(3,903)	(6,594)	(7,681)
Interest income	384	433	1,111	1,294
Other	(13)	(6)	1	2
Other expense	(1,769)	(3,476)	(5,482)	(6,385)
<b>Net income before income taxes</b>	27,445	18,388	68,837	5,777
Income tax provision	7,806		19,028	1,150
<b>Net income</b>	\$ 19,639	\$ 18,388	\$ 49,809	\$ 4,627
<b>Net income per common share:</b>				
Basic	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.28	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.07
Diluted	\$ 0.29	\$ 0.27	\$ 0.73	\$ 0.07
Weighted average common shares outstanding basic	66,406	65,437	66,101	62,076
Weighted average common shares outstanding diluted	68,531	68,383	68,528	64,468

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.

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**THINKORSWIM GROUP INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows**

(in thousands)  
(unaudited)

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	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2008	2007
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>		
Net income	\$ 49,809	\$ 4,627
Reconciling adjustments:		
Depreciation and amortization	18,139	14,182
Deferred taxes	9,299	173
Stock compensation expense	6,292	13,391
Amortization of exclusivity rights	915	879
Contingent shares in connection with exclusivity rights and intellectual property acquired		2,191
Amortization of debt issuance costs	804	768
(Decrease) increase in fair value of interest rate swap, included in interest expense	(69)	479
Provision for sales return reserve	1,125	892
Provision for lease termination		136
Provision for bad debt		243
Provision for inventory reserve		70
Loss on sale of assets	4	22
(Gain) loss on marketable securities	(7)	4
Changes in operating assets and liabilities, net of the effect of acquired businesses:		
Accounts receivable	3,659	(11,417)
Receivable from clearing brokers	(6,608)	(6,114)
Income tax receivable	(804)	62
Other assets	(3,063)	5,619
Accounts payable	2,175	(2,345)
Deferred revenue	(41,908)	7,792
Accrued payroll	(2,190)	4,677
Other liabilities	2,356	(5,847)
Accrued tax liabilities	(1,142)	(170)
Net cash provided by operating activities	38,786	30,314
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>		
Proceeds from the sale or maturity of marketable securities	1,501	19,341
Proceeds from the sale of equipment		25
Payments for capitalized software development costs	(5,122)	(11,469)
Purchases of furniture and equipment	(1,655)	(3,102)
Cash held in escrow	1,058	(8,400)
Cash paid in business acquisitions, net of cash received	(1,058)	(149,347)
Net cash used in investing activities	(5,276)	(152,952)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>		
Payments on capital leases	(147)	(139)
Payments on notes payable	(20,600)	(5,000)
Changes in restricted cash	16	(8)
Proceeds from notes payable		125,000
Payment of debt issuance costs		(4,539)
Minimum tax withholding on restricted stock awards	(430)	
Repurchase of stock	(1,455)	
Proceeds from exercise of stock options	504	661
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	(22,112)	115,975
<b>Effect of exchange rate on cash and cash equivalents</b>	(25)	27
<b>Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	11,373	(6,636)
<b>Cash and cash equivalents:</b>		
Beginning of period	61,579	52,923
End of period	\$ 72,952	\$ 46,287

**Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information:**

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Cash paid for interest, net	\$	5,590	\$	6,368
Cash paid for taxes	\$	10,100	\$	547

**Supplemental non-cash disclosures:**

Equipment financed with capital lease obligations	\$		\$	52
Exclusivity rights and intellectual property financed through stock	\$		\$	10,710
Litigation settled with stock	\$		\$	2,762
Software development costs financed with stock	\$	(122)	\$	138
Software development, and furniture and equipment costs financed through accounts payable and other liabilities	\$	467	\$	3,436
Reversal of deferred tax valuation allowance through goodwill	\$	1,042	\$	1,048
Benefit taken on amortization of certain tax deductible acquisition costs	\$	315	\$	

*See Note 3 for additional information about the merger with thinkorswim Holdings Inc.*

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.

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**THINKORSWIM GROUP INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**(unaudited)**





**1. Basis of Presentation**



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thinkorswim Group Inc., a leading provider of online brokerage and investor education services completed the conversion of its corporate identity from Investools Inc. on June 6, 2008. The Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements include the accounts of thinkorswim Group Inc. and its wholly-owned subsidiaries (the Company or thinkorswim ). All intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

The accompanying Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2007 included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K.

The accompanying unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with Rule 10-01 of Regulation S-X for interim financial statements required to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ( SEC ) and do not include all the information and footnotes required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. However, in the opinion of management, the information furnished reflects all adjustments, consisting of normal recurring adjustments, which are necessary to make a fair presentation of financial position and operating results for the interim periods. The results of operations for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2008 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the full year.

### 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies



**Use of Estimates**



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Preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosed amounts of contingent assets and liabilities and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses. Management believes the most significant estimates and assumptions are associated with the valuation of intangibles, goodwill, income taxes, and revenue recognition. If the underlying estimates and assumptions, upon which the financial statements are based, change in future periods, actual amounts may differ from those included in the accompanying Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Except as described in the following paragraphs, there have been no changes in significant accounting policies from those included in the Company's Annual Report filed on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007.

### Reclassifications

Certain prior period amounts in the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements have been reclassified to conform to the current period's presentation. In the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income for the nine months ended September 30, 2008, \$1.1 million of trade errors and customer debit write-offs were reclassified from General and Administrative expense to Cost of Revenue related to the six month period ended June 30, 2008. In addition, for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, \$0.2 and \$0.3 million were reclassified from General and Administrative expense to Cost of Revenue in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income.

### Fair Value Measurements

In February 2007, the FASB issued Statement No. 159, *Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities – Including an amendment of FASB Statement No. 115* (FAS 159). This Statement permits entities to choose to measure selected financial assets and liabilities at fair value and report unrealized gains and losses on these instruments in earnings. FAS 159 was effective January 1, 2008. The Company did not elect the fair value option. The Company's adoption of FAS 159 did not have a material impact on its results of operations or financial position.

### Income Taxes

The Company accounts for income taxes using the asset and liability method. Deferred income taxes are recognized by applying enacted statutory tax rates applicable to future years to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases and operating loss and tax carryforwards. The effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date. The measurement of deferred tax assets



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is reduced, if necessary, by a valuation allowance for any tax benefits for which future realization is uncertain. The Company recognizes interest and penalties related to uncertain tax positions in income tax expense.

The Company has utilized an estimated effective annual tax rate for interim reporting for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2008. Under this method generally accepted accounting principles require that the interim period tax provision be determined as follows:

- At the end of each quarter, the Company estimates the tax that will be provided for the fiscal year stated as a percentage of estimated ordinary income for the fiscal year. The term ordinary income refers to income from continuing operations before income taxes, excluding significant unusual or infrequently occurring items.
- The estimated annual effective tax rate is applied to the year-to-date ordinary income at the end of each quarter to compute the year-to-date tax applicable to ordinary income. The tax expense or benefit related to ordinary income in each quarter is the difference between the most recent year-to-date and the prior quarter year-to-date computations.
- The tax effects of significant unusual or infrequently occurring items are recognized as discrete items in the interim period in which the event occurs.

The determination of the annual effective tax rate is based upon a number of significant estimates and judgments, including the estimated annual pretax income of the Company in each tax jurisdiction in which it operates and the development of tax planning strategies during the year. In addition, the Company's tax expense can be impacted by changes in tax rates or laws, the finalization of tax audits and reviews, as well as other factors that cannot be predicted with certainty. As such, there can be significant volatility in interim tax positions.

**Accounting Pronouncements Issued Not Yet Adopted**

On January 1, 2008, the Company adopted certain provisions of Financial Accounting Standards Board ( FASB ) Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ( SFAS ) No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements* ( FAS 157 ), which establishes a single authoritative definition of fair value, sets out a framework for measuring fair value and expands on required disclosures about fair value measurement. The provisions of FAS 157 adopted on January 1, 2008 relate to financial assets and liabilities as well as other assets and liabilities carried at fair value on a recurring basis and did not have a material impact on the Company's Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements. The provisions of FAS 157 related to other nonfinancial assets and liabilities will be effective for the Company on January 1, 2009, and will be applied prospectively. The Company is currently evaluating the impact that these additional FAS 157 provisions will have on the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 141 (Revised 2007), *Business Combinations* . This standard establishes that an acquiring entity will be required to recognize all the assets acquired and liabilities assumed in a transaction at the acquisition-date fair value with limited

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exceptions. This standard also defines how goodwill acquired in a business combination or a gain from a bargain purchase should be recognized and updates certain disclosure requirements for business combinations. This standard applies prospectively to business combinations for which the acquisition date is on or after the fiscal year beginning after December 15, 2008.

In March 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 161, *Disclosure about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities, an Amendment of FASB Statement No. 133* ( SFAS No. 161 ). SFAS No. 161 is intended to improve transparency in financial reporting by requiring enhanced disclosures of an entity's derivative instruments and hedging activities and their effects on the entity's financial position, financial performance, and cash flows. SFAS No. 161 applies to all derivative instruments within the scope of SFAS No. 133. It also applies to non-derivative hedging instruments and all hedged items designated and qualifying as hedges under SFAS No. 133. SFAS No. 161 amends the current qualitative and quantitative disclosure requirements for derivative instruments and hedging activities set forth in SFAS No. 133 and generally increases the level of disaggregation that will be required in an entity's financial statements. SFAS No. 161 requires qualitative disclosures about objectives and strategies for using derivatives, quantitative disclosures about fair value amounts of gains and losses on derivative instruments, and disclosures about credit-risk related contingent features in derivative agreements. SFAS No. 161 is effective prospectively for financial statements issued for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after November 15, 2008. The Company is currently evaluating the impact that SFAS 161 will have on our consolidated financial statements.

In April 2008, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position FAS 142-3, *Determination of Useful Life of Intangible Assets* ( FSP 142-3 ). FSP 142-3 amends the factors that should be considered in developing the renewal or extension assumptions used to determine the useful life of a recognized intangible asset under FAS 142, *Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets*. FSP 142-3 also requires expanded disclosure regarding the determination of intangible asset useful lives. FSP 142-3 is effective for fiscal years beginning after

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December 15, 2008. Earlier adoption is not permitted. We are currently evaluating the potential impact the adoption of FSP 142-3 will have on our consolidated financial statements.

In May 2008, the FASB issued Statement No. 162, The Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (FAS 162). FAS 162 identifies the sources of accounting principles and the framework for selecting the principles to be used in the preparation of financial statements that are presented in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States. FAS 162 is effective 60 days following the SEC's approval of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board amendments to AU Section 411, The Meaning of Present fairly in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. FAS 162 is not expected to have a material impact on our financial statements.

**3. Acquisitions**



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## thinkorswim Holdings, Inc.

In September 2006, the Company and thinkorswim Holdings, Inc. ( thinkorswim Holdings ), prior to June 6, 2008 known as thinkorswim Group Inc., a Delaware corporation, entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger pursuant to which the Company would acquire 100% of the outstanding stock of thinkorswim Holdings. On February 15, 2007, the Company's wholly-owned subsidiary, Atomic Acquisition Corp., merged with and into thinkorswim Holdings, and the results of thinkorswim Holdings' operations have been included in the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements since that date. The total purchase price of \$360.9 million included cash of \$182.8 million, shares of common stock worth \$167.1 million (19.1 million shares of common stock), and \$11.0 million in direct acquisition costs. In connection with the merger, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. and J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. provided the Company a senior secured term loan of \$125.0 million to fund a portion of the cash purchase price.

As part of the Merger Agreement, the Company agreed to issue up to a maximum of 728,608 additional shares of common stock to thinkorswim Holdings shareholders in the event the stock's average trading price fell below \$8.75 per share during the twenty-day period prior to certain dates subsequent to the Merger (with an \$8.00 floor on such share price). No such additional shares have been issued as of September 30, 2008. Of the remaining additional shares that may be issuable under the Merger Agreement, up to a maximum of 117,586 and 100,788 shares could be issuable as of February 15, 2009 and February 15, 2010, respectively (or, in each case, such later date when a shelf registration statement is first effective for the shares that become freely transferable as of such date) if the trading price falls below \$8.75 as described above prior to such dates. At the time the Merger was announced, the fair market value of the Company's stock was \$8.59. Because the additional shares are contingently issuable if the price falls below \$8.75 per share, the value of the portion of the purchase price attributable to the issuance of common stock has been increased to \$8.75 per share in accordance with EITF No. 97-15, *Accounting for Contingency Arrangements Based on Security Prices in a Purchase Business Combination*.

The purchase price has been allocated to tangible and intangible assets acquired and liabilities assumed based on their respective fair values. The excess purchase price over the fair value of tangible and intangible assets and liabilities assumed was recorded as goodwill. The fair values of intangible assets were based upon cash flow analysis and other market considerations of identifiable intangible assets acquired, including useful lives. The following table summarizes the allocation of the purchase consideration (in thousands) and the estimated amortization period for the acquired intangibles:

Current assets (including cash of \$40.9 million)	\$	57,280
Property and equipment		2,411
Intangible assets:		
Customer relationships (13 years)		93,400
Trade name (indefinite)		16,100
Non-compete agreements (3 years)		2,500
Technology (7 years)		28,950
Goodwill		191,543
Deferred tax assets		48,533
Total assets acquired		440,717
Current liabilities		(25,392)
Deferred tax liability related to value assigned to intangibles		(54,385)
Total liabilities assumed		(79,777)
Net assets acquired	\$	360,940

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The goodwill that was recorded in this acquisition is associated with the Brokerage Services segment. None of the recorded goodwill is tax deductible. Of the total value assigned to intangible assets, \$16.1 million was allocated to trade names, which are not subject to amortization.

In connection with the merger with thinkorswim Holdings, certain employees and consultants of thinkorswim Holdings have the opportunity to participate in a retention bonus pool which equals, in the aggregate, \$20 million conditioned upon continued employment. The bonus pool does not extend to Messrs. Sosnoff, President, thinkorswim Holdings, Inc. and Sheridan, Executive Vice President, thinkorswim Holdings, Inc. The bonuses will be paid in equal annual installments over the three-year period following the closing of the Merger. Such amounts are being expensed on a straight-line basis over the retention period of three years. The first payments, totaling approximately \$6.5 million were made in the quarter ending March 31, 2008. The accrual for retention bonuses is included in the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets within accrued payroll.

In addition, the Company granted certain employees and consultants of thinkorswim Holdings options to purchase 2,255,563 shares of Common Stock which vest over four years, under the Company's 2001 Stock Option Plan, half with an exercise price equal to the fair market value of the underlying Common Stock at the time of grant, and half with an exercise price equal to 150% of such fair market value. Approximately 125,000 of these stock options were granted to consultants to thinkorswim Holdings. We have accounted for stock options granted to consultants in accordance with EITF No. 96-18, *Accounting for Equity Instruments That Are Issued to Other Than Employees for Acquiring or in Conjunction with Selling Goods or Services*.

At the time of the acquisition, approximately \$8.5 million was placed in escrow pending the resolution of various contingencies and tax-related matters. When the resolution of these contingencies is determinable beyond a reasonable doubt, this amount will be recorded as goodwill. Subsequent to the merger date cash payments and deductions made from funds held in escrow totaled \$1.1 million as of September 30, 2008 and are included in the total purchase price. The remaining escrow balance related to these contingencies was \$7.4 million as of September 30, 2008.

Additionally, in November 2007, the Company received a refund of approximately \$8.5 million related to carryback claims generated by stock option exercises of pre-merger thinkorswim Holdings shareholders. This amount was recorded as an income tax receivable and as a corresponding payable at the time of the merger representing the funds due to former pre-merger thinkorswim Holdings shareholders. The refund was placed in escrow upon receipt. The refund is currently under audit by the Internal Revenue Service ( IRS ). Upon completion of the IRS audit the escrow funds will be paid to the pre-merger thinkorswim Holdings shareholders less any claims paid to the IRS, if any. The escrow amounts of \$15.9 million as of September 30, 2008 are included in the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets within Other long-term assets.

The following table contains unaudited and pro forma results of operations for the nine month period ended September 30, 2007. The pro forma results of operations give pro forma effect as if the thinkorswim Holdings merger had occurred on January 1, 2007, after giving effect to certain adjustments including the amortization of the intangible assets, interest expense, tax adjustments, and assumes the purchase price has been allocated to the assets purchased and the liabilities assumed based on their values at the date of purchase. The effect of the change in fair value of the interest rate swap (See Note 4) has not been included in the following pro forma results of operations. The following unaudited pro forma results of operations are presented for illustrative purposes only, and are not necessarily indicative of the operating results that would have occurred had the transaction been consummated for the dates indicated. Furthermore, such unaudited pro forma results of operations are not necessarily indicative of future operating results of the combined companies, due to changes in operating activities following the purchase, and should not be construed as representative of the operating results of the combined companies for any future dates or periods.

(in thousands, except per share data)

**Nine Months Ended  
September 30, 2007**

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(unaudited)

Revenue	\$	234,051
Net income	\$	3,923
Net income per share:		
Basic	\$	0.06
Diluted	\$	0.06

4. Fair Value Measurements





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Effective January 1, 2008, the Company adopted FAS 157, *Fair Value Measurements*, for all financial assets and liabilities and non-financial assets and liabilities accounted for at fair value on a recurring basis. FAS 157 establishes a new framework for measuring fair value and expands related disclosures. Broadly, the FAS 157 framework requires fair value to be determined based on the exchange price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in the principal or most advantageous market for

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the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market participants. FAS 157 establishes market or observable inputs as the preferred source of values, followed by assumptions based on hypothetical transactions in the absence of market inputs.

The valuation techniques required by FAS 157 are based upon observable and unobservable inputs. Observable inputs reflect market data obtained from independent sources, while unobservable inputs reflect our market assumptions. These two types of inputs create the following fair value hierarchy:

Level 1 Quoted prices for identical instruments in active markets.

Level 2 Quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active; and model-derived valuations whose inputs are observable or whose significant value drivers are observable.

Level 3 Significant inputs to the valuation model are unobservable.

The following table presents information about assets and liabilities required to be carried at fair value on a recurring basis as of September 30, 2008 (in thousands):

Description	Fair Value as of September 30, 2008		(Level 1)	(Level 2)	(Level 3)
<b>Assets</b>					
Securities Owned (1)	\$	3,783	\$ 3,783	\$	\$
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Securities Sold, Not Yet Purchased (2)		(3,050)	(3,050)		
Interest Rate Swap (3)		(1,408)		(1,408)	
Total	\$	(675)	\$ 733	\$ (1,408)	\$

(1) Securities owned are included in Other current assets on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet.

(2) Securities sold, not yet purchased are included in Other current liabilities on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet.

(3) Interest Rate Swap is included in Other long-term accrued liabilities on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet.

The Company primarily applies the market approach for recurring fair value measurements. In addition, the Company uses the income approach with significant observable market inputs to value the Company's interest rate swap.

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, the company recorded \$0.2 million loss and \$0.1 million gain from change in fair value of the swap, respectively. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007 the company recorded \$1.0 million and \$0.5 million losses from change in fair value of the swap, respectively. These amounts were classified into interest expense as a yield adjustment to that portion of the term loans designated as a hedged debt obligation. The Company's adoption of FAS 157 had no impact on net income and no impact on earnings per share.

5. Capitalized Software Development Costs



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The Company complies with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants ( AICPA ) Statement of Position ( SOP ) No. 98-1, *Accounting For Costs of Computer Software Developed or Obtained for Internal Use*, and EITF No. 00-2, *Accounting for Website Development Costs* when accounting for internal use software . In accordance with SOP 98-1, software development costs incurred as part of an approved project plan that result in additional functionality to internal use software are capitalized and amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the software. The Company capitalized \$1.3 million and \$3.5 million during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, respectively, and \$4.4 million and \$13.3 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, respectively, of software development costs related to internal use software for the implementation of the Company 's integrated enterprise resource planning and customer relationship management software solution and software and website assets developed for internal use by the brokerage services segment.

Amortization of software developed for internal use begins when the internal use software is ready for its intended use. The integrated enterprise resource planning software was placed in service in March 2007. The customer relationship management software was placed in service in December 2007, except for certain functionality that will be placed in service when completed in 2008. Internally developed software and website assets developed for internal use by the brokerage services segment have been placed in service on various dates during 2007 and 2008. Amortization expense was approximately \$1.4 million and \$3.8 million during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, respectively, and \$0.6 million and \$2.3 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, respectively.

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6. Securities Owned and Securities Sold, Not Yet Purchased



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Securities owned and securities sold, not yet purchased, are carried at market value and recorded on a trade date basis. The Company does not actively trade securities for its own benefit. Securities sold, not yet purchased represent obligations of the Company to make future delivery of specified securities and correspondingly create an obligation to purchase securities at prevailing market prices. Equities and options included in securities owned and securities sold, not yet purchased generally result from trade corrections.

Securities owned and securities sold, not yet purchased, are composed of the following (in thousands):

	Securities Owned		Securities Sold, Not Yet Purchased	
	September 30, 2008	December 31, 2007	September 30, 2008	December 31, 2007
Options	\$ 77	\$ 152	\$ 104	\$ 240
Equities and other	3,706	553	2,946	2
Total	\$ 3,783	\$ 705	\$ 3,050	\$ 242

Securities owned and securities sold, not yet purchased are included in Other current assets and Other current liabilities, respectively, within the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets.

### 7. Acquired Intangibles and Goodwill

#### *Amortizable Intangibles*





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Amortizable acquired intangibles with finite lives as of September 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007 were as follows (in thousands):

	As of September 30, 2008			As of December 31, 2007		
	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Weighted Average Remaining Useful Life	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Weighted Average Remaining Useful Life
Customer relationships	\$ 93,440	\$ (14,709)	11.9 years	\$ 93,440	\$ (7,927)	12.6 years
Technology and other	35,920	(11,553)	5.4 years	35,920	(7,790)	6.2 years
Non competition	3,630	(2,282)	1.8 years	3,630	(1,613)	2.4 years
Total amortizable intangibles	\$ 132,990	\$ (28,544)	10.2 years	\$ 132,990	\$ (17,330)	10.9 years

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, amortization expense was \$3.7 million and \$11.2 million, respectively as compared to \$3.7 million and \$9.4 million for the same periods in 2007. Customer relationships are being amortized on an accelerated basis.

Estimated future amortization expense is as follows (in thousands):

2008 Remaining	\$ 3,734
2009	15,343
2010	13,641
2011	12,831
2012	12,147
Thereafter	46,750
Total estimated amortization expense	\$ 104,446

### *Non-amortizable Intangibles*

Trademarks and trade names are not amortized and have indefinite lives as of September 30, 2008. The Company recorded \$0.8 million as a result of the acquisition of Prophet Financial Systems, Inc. ( Prophet ) in 2005 and \$16.1 million as a result of the acquisition of thinkorswim Holdings in the first quarter of 2007.

### *Goodwill*

The Company has recorded goodwill for purchase business combinations to the extent the purchase price of each completed

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acquisition exceeded the fair value of the net identifiable tangible and intangible assets of the acquired company. The changes in the carrying amount of goodwill as of September 30, 2008 are as follows (in thousands):

Balance at December 31, 2007	\$	208,776
thinkorswim Holdings acquisition related disbursements from escrow		1,058
Reversal of deferred tax valuation allowance through goodwill		(1,042)
Benefit taken on amortization of certain tax deductible acquisition costs		(315)
Balance at September 30, 2008	\$	208,477

8. Stock-Based Compensation



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The Company's purpose of granting stock options is to attract, retain, motivate and reward officers, directors and employees of the Company.

### *Employee Stock Option Plan Activity*

The following table represents stock option activity for the nine months ended September 30, 2008:

	Number of shares	Weighted- average exercise price	Weighted-average remaining contractual life
Outstanding options at January 1, 2008	6,129,122	\$ 9.05	
Granted	357,750	12.81	
Exercised	(737,809)	0.69	
Forfeited	(133,741)	10.97	
Outstanding at September 30, 2008	5,615,322	10.34	6.5 years
Exercisable September 30, 2008	3,047,265	5.37	5.0 years

At September 30, 2008, the aggregate intrinsic value of options outstanding was \$17.1 million and the aggregate intrinsic value of exercisable options was \$16.0 million. The total intrinsic value of options exercised was \$5.4 million and \$7.2 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, respectively, and \$0.3 million and \$1.6 million for the three and nine months ending September 30, 2007, respectively.

At September 30, 2008, there was \$14.6 million of unrecognized compensation cost related to options which is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 2.5 years.

The total compensation expense related to the Company's stock option plans, which is included in results of operations within the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income, was \$1.5 million and \$4.7 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, respectively, and \$1.6 million and \$12.6 million for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2007, respectively. Of the expense during the nine months ended September 30, 2007, \$8.5 million relates to a grant to the Company's chief executive which terms were modified.

The Company uses the Black-Scholes option pricing model to estimate the fair value of option awards with the following weighted average assumptions for the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
Dividend yield				
Risk-free interest rate	3.49%	4.89%	2.94%	4.71%
Volatility	53.0%	54.8%	51.6%	55.2%
Expected lives	6.3 years	6.3 years	6.3 years	6.7 years
Weighted average fair value of options granted	\$ 4.58	\$ 6.08	\$ 6.75	\$ 8.61



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On April 25, 2008 the Compensation Committee approved and the Board ratified, an amendment to the 2001 Stock Option Plan to make mandatory, instead of permissive, adjustments in the number of shares awarded and the number of shares available for award under the 2001 Stock Option Plan in the event of a reorganization, merger, consolidation, reclassification, recapitalization, combination or exchange of share, stock split, stock dividend, rights offering, or other similar transaction or event occurs of or by the Company.

For the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2008, the Company repurchased and retired 0.1 million shares of common stock for a total cost of \$1.5 million or \$9.72 per share, under the terms of the program. The price of the shares was the closing market price on the date of repurchase. At September 30, 2008, 4,850,209 shares may be repurchased under the stock repurchase plan.

**Restricted Stock**

On June 6, 2008, the shareholders approved an amendment to the 2004 restricted stock plan increasing the amount of common stock available for issuance under the plan from 500,000 to 1,500,000. There are 1,122,075 shares of Company common stock available for issuance under the 2004 Restricted Stock Plan as of September 30, 2008, as amended. Shares of Company common stock awarded under the plan may be either previously authorized but unissued shares or issued shares which have been reacquired by the Company after their original issuance (including but not limited to shares purchased on the open market).

A summary of the status of the Company's non-vested shares as of September 30, 2008, and changes during the nine months ended September 30, 2008, is as follows:

	<b>Number of nonvested shares</b>	<b>Weighted-average fair value at the grant date</b>
Nonvested shares at January 1, 2008	204,750	\$ 14.43
Granted	163,000	13.02
Vested	(83,600)	13.91
Forfeited	(9,825)	13.79
Nonvested shares at September 30, 2008	274,325	13.77

As of September 30, 2008, there was \$2.2 million of total unrecognized compensation cost related to nonvested share-based compensation arrangements granted under the 2004 Plan. The expense is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 1.6 years. The compensation cost related to restricted stock issued under the 2004 Plan and included in operating expenses within the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income was \$0.5 million and \$1.6 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, respectively, and \$0.3 million and \$0.8 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, respectively. The fair value of the restricted stock awards is recognized in compensation expense as the restrictions lapse over their respective vesting periods based on their fair value on the date of grant.

The total fair value of shares vested during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007 was \$5,245 and \$1.2 million and \$0 and \$47,070, respectively.

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In conjunction with the vesting of restricted stock, several individuals elected to pay the taxes on the vested shares by allowing the Company to withhold some of the shares to cover the amount of required minimum tax withholdings. For the three month period ended September 30, 2008, the Company withheld no shares and for the nine month period ended September 30, 2008 the Company withheld 26,482 shares worth \$0.4 million or \$16.27 per share. The price of the shares was the closing market price on the date repurchased.

### 9. Net Income Per Share





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Basic net income per share is computed using the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted net income per share is computed using the weighted-average number of common shares and dilutive common stock equivalents outstanding during the period. Potential common stock equivalents amounting to 2.9 million and 2.8 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, respectively, and 2.5 million and 2.4 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, respectively, are excluded from the computation because their effect is anti-dilutive.

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The following table presents the calculation for the number of shares used in the basic and diluted net income (loss) per share computations (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
Weighted average shares used to calculate basic net income per share	66,406	65,437	66,101	62,076
Stock options	1,843	2,778	2,163	2,232
Non-vested restricted stock	282	168	264	160
Weighted average shares used to calculate diluted net income per share	68,531	68,383	68,528	64,468
Basic	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.28	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.07
Diluted	\$ 0.29	\$ 0.27	\$ 0.73	\$ 0.07

## 10. Comprehensive Income

Comprehensive income includes changes to equity accounts that were not the result of transactions with stockholders. Supplemental information on comprehensive income is as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
Net income	\$ 19,639	\$ 18,388	\$ 49,809	\$ 4,627
Foreign currency translation gain	(25)	27	(25)	27
Net unrealized gain on marketable securities		11	(7)	8
Net comprehensive income	\$ 19,614	\$ 18,426	\$ 49,777	\$ 4,662

## 11. Notes Payable



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Notes payable amounts outstanding as of September 30, 2008, were \$96.9 million. In addition, as of September 30, 2008, there were no outstanding letters of credit against the revolving loan facility. Accordingly, the remaining borrowing capacity under the revolving loan facility is \$25.0 million. The weighted average interest rate as of September 30, 2008, was 6.44 percent.

The aggregate maturities of notes payable were as follows as of September 30, 2008 (in thousands):

2008 Remaining	\$	2,500
2009		17,500
2010		17,500
2011		17,500
2012		41,900
Total	\$	96,900

The Company incurred approximately \$4.5 million of debt issuance costs related to these notes payable during the first quarter of 2007. The debt issuance costs are being amortized using the effective interest rate method over the notes payable term. Amortization expense was \$0.2 million and \$0.8 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, respectively, and \$0.3 million and \$0.8 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, respectively. In April 2008, the Company made a voluntary principal prepayment on the term loan A and B facilities of \$5.6 million.

## 12. Regulatory Requirements



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thinkorswim, Inc., the registered broker dealer, is subject to the SEC Uniform Net Capital Rule (Rule 15c3-1) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, administered by the SEC and FINRA, which requires the maintenance of minimum net capital. thinkorswim, Inc. is required to maintain net capital of the greater of 6 2/3% of aggregate indebtedness, or \$0.25 million and requires that the ratio of aggregate indebtedness to net capital, both as defined, shall not exceed 15 to 1. thinkorswim, Inc. is also subject to the CTFC Regulation 1.17 ( Reg 1.17 ) under the Commodity Exchange Act, administered by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the National Futures Association, which also requires the maintenance of minimum net capital to be the greater of its SEC and FINRA net capital requirement or \$45,000. At September 30, 2008, the Company had net capital of \$40.4 million, which was \$38.3 million in excess of its required net capital of \$2.2 million. The Company's net capital ratio was 0.80 to 1.

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**13.** Segment Reporting



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During 2007, the operations of the Brokerage Services segment have been included in the consolidated operations since the date of the merger of thinkorswim Holdings. As a result of the merger, the Company operates in the following two principal business segments:

**Brokerage Services segment** This business segment is an online brokerage firm specializing in options and offers customers a broad range of products including options, equities, futures, mutual funds and bonds. The Company supports retail and active traders through its own trading platforms.

**Investor Education segment** This business segment provides a full range of investor education products and services that provide lifelong learning and support to self-directed investors. The investor education products and services are offered in a variety of learning formats with courses ranging from beginning to advanced to address the needs of students on all investor levels.

Information concerning our operations by reportable segment is as follows (in thousands):

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Three Months Ended September 30,</b>		<b>Nine Months Ended September 30,</b>	
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Brokerage Services segment	\$ 56,990	\$ 32,586	\$ 148,413	\$ 69,441
Investor Education segment	41,075	56,746	137,633	154,493
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 98,065</b>	<b>\$ 89,332</b>	<b>\$ 286,046</b>	<b>\$ 223,934</b>

<b>Income from Operations</b>	<b>Three Months Ended September 30,</b>		<b>Nine Months Ended September 30,</b>	
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Brokerage Services segment	\$ 26,176	\$ 12,375	\$ 66,891	\$ 23,971
Investor Education segment	3,038	9,489	7,428	(11,809)
<b>Income from operations</b>	<b>\$ 29,214</b>	<b>\$ 21,864</b>	<b>\$ 74,319</b>	<b>\$ 12,162</b>

<b>Identifiable Assets</b>	<b>As of September 30, 2008</b>	<b>As of December 31, 2007</b>
Brokerage Services segment	\$ 441,285	\$ 423,457
Investor Education segment	70,525	85,873
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 511,810</b>	<b>\$ 509,330</b>

### 14. Commitments and Contingencies



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At September 30, 2008, future minimum lease payments under non-cancelable operating leases, related sub-leases, and capital leases were as follows:

	Capital leases	Operating leases	Sub-lease income	Net operating leases
For the fiscal years:				
2008 Remaining	\$ 64	\$ 463	\$ (42)	\$ 421
2009	253	1,845	(169)	1,676
2010	106	1,401	(129)	1,272
2011		627		627
2012		294		294
Total Lease Payments	423	\$ 4,630	\$ (340)	\$ 4,290
Less: Amount representing interest (average of 8%)				
	28			
Present value of lease payments	395			
Less: Current portion				
	231			
Long-term portion	\$ 164			

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The Company establishes liabilities when a particular contingency is probable and estimable. During the quarter ended September 30, 2008, amounts were accrued for certain contingencies which are both probable and estimable. The Company has certain contingencies which are reasonably possible, with an exposure to loss which is in excess of the amount accrued. However, the remaining reasonably possible exposure to loss cannot currently be estimated.

Approximately \$8.5 million was placed in escrow at the date of the merger with thinkorswim Holdings, pending resolution of various contingencies involving legal and tax-related matters existing prior to the merger; see Note 3 for further discussion of the escrow amount.

The Company has applied for rulings from various states on the taxability of its products to determine if its sales tax policy is supported by the various state taxing jurisdictions. During 2006, the Company received rulings from a majority of the states to which it applied. Based on these rulings, the Company accrued sale tax reserves. The Company reversed \$0.5 million and \$1.5 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, respectively, and \$0.1 million and \$0.3 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, respectively, of the previously accrued sales tax payable, due to the expiration of state statutes, which is included in Selling expense.

Occasionally, the Company is involved in certain legal actions arising in the ordinary course of business, including inquiries, investigations and proceedings with government agencies and other regulators. The Company is cooperating with a non-public, formal inquiry by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ( SEC ) relating to representations by certain presenters in certain portions of their presentations at some of the Company's seminars. The Company has been cooperating with and intends to continue to cooperate with the SEC. Because it is ongoing, the Company cannot predict the outcome of this formal inquiry at this time, and, as a result, no conclusion can be reached as to what impact, if any, this inquiry may have on the Company or its operations.

The Company is not aware of pending claims or assessments, other than as described above, which may have a material adverse impact on the Company's liquidity, financial position or results of operations.

**15. Concentration and Credit Risk**



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The Company accessed approximately 39% and 41% for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, respectively, and 38% and 43% for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, respectively, of sales transaction volume for the Investor Education segment through marketing relationships. During 2007, these marketing relationships were with Success Magazine and NET Marketing Alliance. Effective August 2007, the Company ceased its relationship with NET Marketing Alliance and, therefore, this partner was not included in 2008.

The Company entered into an amended marketing agreement with one of our marketing partners on January, 29, 2008. Under the agreement, the Company has agreed, as a portion of the consideration for services to be provided, to issue up to 150,000 shares of the Company's common stock on each of January 2010, 2011, and 2012, contingent and based upon certain levels of sales of investor education products and services originating from the marketing partner channel. The value of the contingent shares will be measured in accordance with EITF 96-18 *Accounting for Equity Instruments That Are Issued to Other Than Employees for Acquiring or in Conjunction with Selling Goods or Services* based upon the value of the common shares at the time the contingent shares are earned. As of September 30, 2008, the Company did not record any expense related to the contingent shares as it is not probable that the marketing partner will meet the 2008 required performance criteria.

Credit risk is the amount of loss we would incur if a counterparty failed to perform its obligations under contractual terms. Substantially all of the clearing and depository operations of the Brokerage Services segment are performed by its clearing brokers on a fully disclosed basis pursuant to a clearance agreement.

In the normal course of business, the Company's clearing brokers make margin loans to our customers which are collateralized by customer securities. In permitting the customers to purchase securities on margin, the clearing broker is exposed to the risk of a market decline that could reduce the value of the collateral held below the customers' indebtedness before the collateral can be sold which could result in losses to the clearing broker. The Company's agreement with the clearing brokers is to reimburse the clearing brokers for any losses incurred related to customers introduced by it. The exposure to credit risk associated with the nonperformance of counterparties in fulfilling their contractual obligations pursuant to securities transactions can be directly impacted by volatile securities markets, credit markets and regulatory changes. The Company attempts to control the risk associated with customer activities by making credit inquiries when establishing customer relationships and by monitoring customer trading activity. Customer debit write-offs were \$1.1 million and \$1.6 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, respectively, zero and \$0.1 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, respectively.

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**16. Brokerage Service Agreement**





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On February 27, 2007, the Company entered into a long-term relationship and acquired certain exclusive rights and intellectual property of a group of active option traders, which was an existing customer of thinkorswim Holdings. Pursuant to a definitive agreement, the Company issued 650,000 unregistered common shares, and subject to meeting certain thresholds over annual and cumulative three-year periods, agreed to issue an additional 950,000 contingent shares of unregistered common shares. The value of the contingent shares was measured in accordance with EITF 96-18 *Accounting for Equity Instruments That Are Issued to Other Than Employees for Acquiring or in Conjunction with Selling Goods or Services* based upon the value of the common shares at the time the contingent shares are earned. Under the agreement the Company would have indefinitely been the exclusive provider for brokerage services for this group of active option traders and its customers.

Of the \$10.7 million of consideration in shares issued, \$1.0 million was recorded based upon the fair value of the intellectual property received and recorded in Intangible assets and the remaining \$9.7 million was recorded in Other long-term assets in the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets. Both of these assets are being amortized over a useful life of 11 years on an accelerated basis. The Company has amortized \$0.3 million and \$1.0 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, respectively, and \$0.3 million and \$1.0 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, respectively. The amount of amortization expense recorded as an offset to Revenue within the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income was \$0.3 million and \$0.9 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, respectively, and \$0.2 million and \$0.8 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, respectively. The amount of amortization expense recorded in Cost of revenue within the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations was zero and \$0.1 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, and \$0.1 million and \$0.2 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, respectively.

Shares that are contingent upon certain thresholds being met are recorded over the remaining performance period at the time it is probable that the performance conditions will be met. Included in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income is zero for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, and \$0.9 million and \$2.2 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, respectively, related to the contingent shares. The amount of expense which has been recorded as an offset to Revenue based on the provisions of EITF 01-9,

*Accounting for Consideration Given By a Vendor to a Customer (Including a Reseller of the Vendor's Products)* was zero for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, respectively, and \$0.8 million and \$2.0 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, respectively. The amount of expense which has been recorded in Cost of revenue was zero for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, and \$0.1 million and \$0.2 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, respectively.

In July 2008, the Company entered into a revised agreement with the group of active option traders related to certain exclusive rights and intellectual property. Under this revised agreement the Company will remain the exclusive provider for brokerage services for this group of active option traders for a seven year term. This revised agreement eliminates the contingent share provision that was part of the original agreement, therefore the Company has no further obligation to issue contingent shares of its common stock associated with performance thresholds of the active option trader group. The new agreement also contains a change of control provision that entitles the group of active traders to 750,000, 500,000 or 250,000 common shares of the Company's stock if a change of control event, as defined by the agreement, occurs within the calendar years of 2008, 2009 or 2010, respectively. Furthermore, the Company will continue to amortize the \$0.8 million remaining in Intangible assets and the \$7.6 million remaining in Other long-term assets in the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets at September 30, 2008 over the seven year term of the revised agreement.

### 17. Special Charges



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Special charges consisted of the following (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
Severance costs	\$ 372	\$ 165	\$ 631	\$ 165
Litigation settlement charges	715	310	1,575	1,110
Total	\$ 1,087	\$ 310	\$ 2,206	\$ 1,275

The Company recorded severance costs associated with the involuntary termination of 10 and 54 employees for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008 and zero and 15 employees for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, respectively. The Company recorded charges related to estimated litigation settlement amounts of \$0.7 million and \$1.6 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, respectively, and \$0.3 million and \$1.1 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, respectively. Legal costs incurred in connection with these settlements have been included in General and administrative expense in the Condense Consolidated Statements of Income.

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



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The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements and accompanying notes included elsewhere in this Form 10-Q and the audited Consolidated Financial Statements and accompanying notes and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Income included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007.

### Forward Looking Statement

Certain statements in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q that are not purely historical information, including, without limitation, estimates, projections, statements relating to our business plans, objectives and expected operating results, and the assumptions upon which those statements are based, are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Examples of such forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, the statements concerning trends in revenue, costs and expenses; our accounting estimates, assumptions and judgments; our business plans relating to each of our products and services; the outcome of contingencies; our ability to scale our operations in response to changing demands and expectations of our customers; the level of demand for our products and services; and the competitive nature of and anticipated growth in our markets. Such forward-looking statements may be identified by words such as believe, intend, expect, may, could, would, will, will be, will continue, should, plan, estimate, project, contemplate, anticipate, or other words and terms of similar meaning.

Forward-looking statements are based on current expectations and assumptions that are subject to risks and uncertainties, many of which are beyond our control, which may cause actual results, performance or trends to differ materially from those expressed in the forward-looking statements. Potential risks, among others, that could cause actual results to differ materially are discussed under Item 1A Risk Factors of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007 as updated herein, and include but are not limited to: the success of brand development efforts and strategic alliances; regulatory developments; the ability to compete effectively and adjust to changing market conditions; economic and political conditions generally; and the effect of competition in the brokerage and investor education markets. We assume no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements made herein or any other forward-looking statements we make, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.

### Business Overview

On June 6, 2008, thinkorswim Group Inc., a leading provider of online brokerage and investor education services completed the conversion of its corporate identity from Investools Inc. thinkorswim Group Inc. offers market-leading on-line brokerage, investor education and related financial products and services for self-directed investors and active traders. thinkorswim Inc., our online brokerage division, provides a suite of trading platforms serving self-directed and institutional traders and money managers. thinkorswim customers trade a broad range of products including stocks and stock options, index options, futures and futures options, forex, mutual funds and fixed income. Investools Education Group, a subsidiary of thinkorswim Group Inc., offers a full range of investor education products and services that provide lifelong learning in a variety of interactive delivery formats. Our educational products and services cover a broad range of financial products, including equity securities, options, fixed income, index products, futures, other derivatives and foreign exchange.

On February 15, 2007, we merged with thinkorswim Holdings Inc. (thinkorswim Holdings), prior to June 6, 2008 known as thinkorswim Group, Inc. All securities transactions are cleared on a fully disclosed basis pursuant to a clearing agreement with our primary clearing broker, Penson Financial Services. See Note 3 to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for further discussion regarding Acquisitions.

### Segment Summary Results of Operations



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We operate in the following two principal business segments:

**Brokerage Services segment** This business segment is a leading online brokerage firm specializing in options and offers customers a broad range of products including stock and stock options, index options, futures and futures options, foreign exchange, mutual funds and fixed income. We support retail and active traders through our own trading platforms and are widely recognized as a premier option software for order entry, professional analytical tools and real-time position management. thinkorswim was ranked by Barron's as its top rated software-based online broker and best for options traders for 2006 and 2007.



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**Investor Education segment** This business segment provides a full range of investor education products and services that provide lifelong learning and support to self-directed investors. The investor education products and services are offered in a variety of learning formats with courses ranging from beginning to advanced, to address the needs of students on all investor levels.

The operations of thinkorswim Holdings have been included in our operations since the date of the merger, February 15, 2007. See Note 13 to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for additional disclosure regarding Segment Reporting.

**Consolidated Revenue**

Our primary source of revenue for the Brokerage Services segment, which represented approximately 70% and 61% of total consolidated sales transaction volume ( STV ), a non-GAAP measure, during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, respectively, is commissions earned from our brokerage activities, which are driven largely by our customers' trading activities. We derive commission revenues from customer transactions in options, stock, mutual funds, fixed income securities and futures and fees for spot foreign exchange ( forex ). Commission revenues and related brokerage and clearing related costs are recognized on a trade-date basis. Interest revenue and fees consists primarily of income generated by customer cash and money market funds held by our clearing broker, net of interest paid to customers on their credit balances and charged to customers on margin balances. Interest income is recorded when earned. We receive payment for order flow from liquidity providers where customers' orders are routed. Payment for order flow is accrued when earned based on the respective trades generating such payments. The Investor Education segment represented approximately 30% and 39% of total consolidated STV during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, respectively. Investor Education segment STV, a non-GAAP measure, represents sales transactions generated in each period before the impact of recognition of deferred revenue from prior periods for services performed in the current period, and the deferral of current period sales for services to be performed in the future. We believe that STV is an important measure of business performance for the Investor Education segment.

Revenue from our Investor Education segment is derived from: (i) the initial education sales of our products and services as a result of marketing efforts from us or one of our marketing partners across multiple marketing channels which include, but are not limited to, television, online banner, paid and organic search, print, direct mail, radio and email direct marketing campaigns which drive customers to either a free preview of investor education products offered at locations near the prospect or the opportunity to speak with a telesales representative about the products offered; and (ii) the continuing education sales of products and services to graduates as a result of continued interaction with us in workshops, periodic email and direct mail communications and through access to coaches and instructors.

The combined sales volume of our Brokerage Services and Investor Education segments is as follows (in thousands):

	<b>Three Months Ended September 30,</b>		<b>Nine Months Ended September 30,</b>	
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Brokerage Services segment revenue				
Commissions	\$ 39,290	\$ 19,637	\$ 98,674	\$ 42,424
Interest and dividends	7,109	5,960	20,975	12,976
Payment for order flow	8,451	5,036	22,894	10,107
Other brokerage related revenue	2,140	1,953	5,870	3,934
Brokerage Services segment revenue	56,990	32,586	148,413	69,441

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Investor Education segment revenue

Workshop	3,872	8,052	15,214	32,844
Coaching services	10,598	17,281	37,610	62,947
Home study/Online courses	4,623	12,566	23,788	43,183
Webtime renewals	5,516	6,877	18,315	22,685
Other revenue	215	460	798	1,859
Total Investor Education sales transaction volume ( STV )	24,824	45,236	95,725	163,518
Change in deferred revenue	16,251	11,510	41,908	(9,025)
Investor Education segment revenue	41,075	56,746	137,633	154,493
Total Consolidated Revenue	\$ 98,065	\$ 89,332	\$ 286,046	\$ 223,934

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The largest components of cost of revenue include investor education solicitation and fulfillment costs, which include employee sales commissions, partner commissions, travel and venue expenditures and credit card fees paid in connection with education sales. These costs are expensed as incurred at the inception of the sales transaction and are therefore recorded in the period of sale, not as the revenue is recognized. Employee compensation and benefits include salaries, bonuses, and related benefit costs for employees in both segments. Brokerage, clearing and other related fees include fees to clearing organizations, exchanges, third-party broker dealers and independent registered representatives. In the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income for the nine months ended September 30, 2008, \$1.1 million of trade errors and customer debit write-offs were reclassified from General and Administrative expense to Cost of Revenue related to the six month period ended June 30, 2008. In addition, for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2007, \$0.2 million and \$0.2 million were reclassified from General and Administrative expense to Cost of Revenue in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income. Our cost of sales is detailed as follows (in thousands, except percentages):

	Three Months Ended September 30,				Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	2008	2007	% Change		2008	2007	% Change
Partner commissions	\$ 4,259	\$ 6,143	(31)%	\$	16,561	\$ 25,770	(36)%
Payroll costs	8,257	11,168	(26)%		28,404	33,925	(16)%
Clearing and brokerage fees and other related expenses	9,859	5,616	76%		24,312	10,471	132%
Depreciation and amortization	5,021	4,277	17%		14,637	11,121	32%
Other	9,311	8,452	10%		22,694	24,333	(7)%
Total cost of revenue	\$ 36,707	\$ 35,656	3%	\$	106,608	\$ 105,620	1%

	Three Months Ended September 30,			Nine Months Ended September 30,	
Percentage of Revenue	2008	2007		2008	2007
Total revenue	100%	100%		100%	100%
Partner commissions	4%	7%		6%	12%
Payroll costs	8%	13%		10%	15%
Clearing and brokerage fees and other related expenses	10%	6%		8%	4%
Depreciation and amortization	5%	5%		5%	5%
Other	10%	9%		8%	11%
Total cost of revenue	37%	40%		37%	47%

	Three Months Ended September 30,			Nine Months Ended September 30,	
Percentage of STV	2008	2007		2008	2007
Total sales transaction volume	100%	100%		100%	100%
Partner commissions	5%	8%		7%	11%
Payroll costs	10%	14%		12%	15%
Clearing and brokerage fees and other related expenses	12%	7%		10%	4%
Depreciation and amortization	6%	6%		6%	5%

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Other	12%	11%	9%	10%
Total cost of revenue	45%	46%	44%	45%

### Selling Expense

The largest component of selling expense is the marketing costs across multiple marketing channels which include, but are not limited to, television, online banners, paid and organic search, print, direct mail, radio and email direct marketing campaigns. These marketing efforts, primarily for the Investor Education segment, drive customers to either a free preview of investor education products offered at nearby locations, to purchase online and/or the opportunity to speak with a telesales representative about the products offered.

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Advertising costs are expensed as incurred, except for production costs, which are expensed when the first broadcast airs. Payroll costs included in selling expenses, which encompass both segments, relate to the salaries, commissions and associated employee benefit costs paid to certain employees for customer acquisition, at our live education events. Our selling expense is detailed as follows (in thousands, except percentages):

	Three Months Ended September 30,				Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	2008	2007	% Change		2008	2007	% Change
Marketing	\$ 9,058	\$ 12,210	(26)%	\$ 33,870	\$ 39,504	(14)%	
Payroll costs	2,077	2,042	2%	7,177	6,358	13%	
Other	979	1,913	(49)%	4,404	6,669	(34)%	
Total selling expense	\$ 12,114	\$ 16,165	(25)%	\$ 45,451	\$ 52,531	(13)%	

Percentage of Revenue	Three Months Ended September 30,			Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2008	2007		2008	2007
Total revenue	100%	100%		100%	100%
Marketing	9%	14%		12%	18%
Payroll costs	2%	2%		3%	3%
Other	1%	2%		2%	3%
Total selling expense	12%	18%		17%	24%

## General and Administrative Expense

The largest component of general and administrative expenses is the salary, bonus and related benefit costs for employees in both segments. Lease expenses on office space, professional fees, technology, licensing, hosting, depreciation expenses related to the deployment of internal systems and general travel are also included in general and administrative expenses. The following table details our general and administrative expenses (in thousands, except percentages):

	Three Months Ended September 30,				Nine Months Ended September 30,		
	2008	2007	% Change		2008	2007	% Change
Payroll	\$ 8,981	\$ 7,718	16%	\$ 25,902	\$ 30,690	(16)%	
Other	9,962	7,619	31%	31,560	21,656	46%	
Total general and administrative expense	\$ 18,943	\$ 15,337	24%	\$ 57,462	\$ 52,346	10%	

Percentage of Revenue	Three Months Ended September 30,			Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2008	2007		2008	2007
Total revenue	100%	100%		100%	100%
Payroll	9%	9%		9%	14%

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Other	10%	9%	11%	10%
Total general and administrative expense	19%	18%	20%	24%

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**Operating Data**





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The following table sets forth certain statistical data for each segment for the periods presented below:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2008	2007	2008	2007
Brokerage Services segment operating data:				
Trading Days	64	63	189	187
New Retail Accounts Opened (1)	24,525	18,525	76,150	53,200
New Funded Retail Accounts	10,125	9,400	33,025	27,250
Ending Funded Retail Accounts	87,025	47,850	87,025	47,850
Retail Daily Average Revenue Trades ( DARTS ) (2)	57,300	29,600	51,800	22,000
Active Trader DARTs (3)	105,800	25,100	65,100	24,300
Total DARTs	163,100	54,700	116,900	46,300
Total Trades (MM)	10,361	3,413	22,036	8,626
Ending Client Assets (\$MM)	\$ 3,120	\$ 2,180	\$ 3,120	\$ 2,180
Average Client Equity/Retail Account	\$ 36,600	\$ 43,500	\$ 38,600	\$ 44,500
Retail Commission Per Trade	\$ 9.67	\$ 9.25	\$ 9.08	\$ 9.84
Investor Education segment operating data:				
Initial Education Sales Transaction Volume % (4)	4	9	8	15
Continuing Education Sales Transaction Volume % (5)	96	91	92	85
Total Paid Graduates (6)	7,620	9,470	29,560	30,830
Ending Active Subscribers (7)	93,900	98,000	93,900	98,000

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- (1) Accounts opened represent accounts that have initiated the application process with the intent to fund.
- (2) Retail DARTs are trades executed using our retail platform.
- (3) Active Trader DARTs are trades executed using an active trader platform such as thinkpipes.
- (4) Initial education revenues consist of the sales to students at the initial workshops and sales to new students via our telesales groups. Once the student completes this initial education, which consists primarily of the Investing Foundation Course and/or the Forex Course, they are considered a graduate. This metric is a percentage of total Investor Education sales transaction volume.
- (5) Continuing education revenues consist of sales of advanced products and services sold to graduates. This metric is a percentage of total Investor Education sales transaction volume.
- (6) Total graduates include customers who purchased the Investing Foundation Course and/or the Forex Course as a result of direct or indirect marketing efforts.
- (7) Active subscribers are those customers who have an active subscription to Investools Online, Investools FX Online or Prophet.net as of the end of the period.

### Three Months Ended September 30, 2008 Versus Three Months Ended September 30, 2007

thinkorswim Holdings operations have been included in the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements since the merger date of February 15, 2007.

**Consolidated Revenue**

Revenue increased by \$8.7 million for the three month period ended September 30, 2008, when compared to the same period in 2007, due to continued growth of the Brokerage Services segment in 2008.

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**Brokerage Services Segment**

We entered into the Brokerage Services segment on February 15, 2007 with the merger with thinkorswim Holdings. During the three month period ended September 30, 2008, the Brokerage Services segment generated approximately \$57.0 million of revenue. Commission revenue, which made up \$39.3 million was primarily a result of the commissions earned on the trading activity of the 87,025 retail funded accounts that existed at September 30, 2008. Those accounts had daily average revenue trades of 57,300 during this period. Interest income is primarily earned from our clearing firm based on a negotiated rate that takes into account interest earned by our clearing firm on customer credit cash balances and charges to customers on margin balances. As of September 30, 2008, the average client balance was \$36,600, of which approximately 56 percent was held in cash. Also, revenue earned for payment for order flow increased by \$3.4 million due to an increase in eligible trades made during the quarter. Total trades were approximately 10.4 million during the three months ended September 30, 2008.

**Investor Education Segment**

Investor Education Sales Transaction Volume decreased approximately 45 percent for the three month period ended September 30, 2008, when compared to the same period in 2007. The decrease was attributed to an approximate 20 percent decrease in the total number of graduates acquired during the period at lower price points for their initial education. In addition, fewer students purchased continuing education at workshop events. The workshop sales rates, which are the sales that take place at the initial workshop of advanced products, dropped from 44 percent in the three months ended September 30, 2007 to 33 percent in the current three month period.

**Change in Deferred Revenue**

Change in deferred revenue increased \$4.7 million for the three months ended September 30, 2008, compared to the same period in 2007. The change in deferred revenue is made up of two components. First, additions to deferred revenue include current period sales of products and services that have a future fulfillment date, which include coaching services, workshops, online courses and website subscription renewals. Bundled sales including deferred revenue components are added to deferred revenue and revenue is recognized as services to the student are rendered. Second, recognition of previously deferred revenue includes revenue recognized over either (1) the passage of time for subscription based products such as toolbox, coaching subscriptions or online courses or (2) based on fulfillment of products or services for certain coaching services and workshops. The primary reason for the change was the decrease in overall sales transaction volume in the comparative quarters, the combination of products and services sold during the current year, as well as the mix of products that existed in our deferred revenue liability account.

**Cost of Revenues**

Overall cost of revenue increased approximately 3 percent during the three month period ended September 30, 2008, compared to the same period in 2007. As a percentage of STV, cost of revenues decreased during the three months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2007, as the Brokerage Services segment grew as a percent of overall top line sales and has a lower cost of revenue as a percentage of STV.

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Partner commissions, which relate solely to the Investor Education segment, decreased \$1.9 million for the three month period ended September 30, 2008 compared to the same period in 2007, due to fewer sales generated through partner channels. This is partially due to the loss of a marketing partner during 2007.

Payroll costs include employee commissions based on a percentage of sales achieved from our Investor Education events or telesales groups, certain fixed wages related to the brokerage trade desk and education coaching services and the associated employee benefit costs. Payroll costs, which decreased by \$2.9 million in the three month period ended September 30, 2008, when compared to the same period in 2007, were impacted by lower levels of STV and decreased headcount in certain departments in the Investor Education segment.

Brokerage, clearing and other related fees, which relate solely to the Brokerage Services segment, increased approximately \$4.2 million during the third quarter of 2008 compared to the third quarter of 2007. These expenses include fees to clearing organizations, exchanges, third-party broker dealers and independent registered representatives. The increase is primarily attributable to increased sales volumes.

Depreciation and amortization increased approximately \$0.7 million during the three month period ended September 30, 2008, when compared to the same period in 2007, primarily due to amortization of intangibles and other assets related to the thinkorswim Holdings merger.

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Other cost of revenue is primarily comprised of amounts directly related to Investor Education sales transaction volume including travel expenditures, venue costs, material costs and credit card fees. In addition, data and quotation service costs and charges associated with trade errors and customer debit balance write-offs related to brokerage services are also included in other cost of revenue. Travel and venue were impacted by a decrease in costs due to a decreased number of events in the quarter ended September 30, 2008 and efforts to fulfill more products and services online.

**Selling Expense**

Total selling expense decreased by approximately \$4.1 million during the three month period ended September 30, 2008, when compared to the same period in 2007, primarily due to a decrease in marketing expense associated with customer acquisition activities in the Investor Education segment.

Marketing costs decreased approximately 26 percent during the three month period ended September 30, 2008, when compared to the same period in 2007, primarily due to decreased spending related to our Investools branded events, which are marketed via various media channels including television, online, print and radio and also due to a lower overall number of events.

Payroll expense was relatively flat during the three month period ended September 30, 2008, when compared to the same period in 2007, primarily as a result of incremental payroll costs associated with the education group within thinkorswim Holdings, known as OptionPlanet, offset by a reduction in payroll cost for the Investor Education segment due to a lower number of events.

**General and Administrative**

General and administrative expenses increased \$3.6 million for the three month period ended September 30, 2008, when compared to the same period in 2007. The increase was attributed primarily to an increase in technology, licensing, professional fees and hosting expenses as well as depreciation expenses related to internal systems.

**Income from Operations**

The Brokerage Services segment had operating margin of \$26.2 million during the three months ended September 30, 2008, compared to an operating margin of \$12.4 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2007. This increase in operating margin is due to the growth in operations for the Brokerage Services segment. The Investor Education segment operating margin decreased by \$6.5 million for the three month period ended September 30, 2008, when compared to the same period in 2007. The decrease in income from operations is primarily attributable to a decrease in revenue due to lower STV in the current period, offset by a \$9.2 million decrease in operating costs and expenses.

### **Interest Expense, Net**

Interest expense for the three month period ended September 30, 2008, when compared to the same period in 2007, decreased by \$1.8 million due to less interest incurred on notes payable resulting from decreased principal balances, reductions in interest rates, and the interest expense effect associated with changes in the fair value of the interest rate swap. The principal balances decreased due to scheduled principal payments and a \$5.6 million voluntary principal prepayment made in the second quarter of 2008. The effect on interest expense from changes in the fair value of the interest rate swap were a increase of \$0.2 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2008, and an increase of \$1.0 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2007.

### **Interest Income**

Interest income for the three month period ended September 30, 2008, when compared to the same period in 2007, was relatively flat even though cash balances have increased, primarily due to reduced returns on cash and investment balances as interest rates have declined.

### **Income Taxes**

During the three month period ended September 30, 2008, income tax expense of approximately \$7.8 million was recorded and was based on a review of our overall estimated effective tax rate applied to income from operations during the nine months ended September 30, 2008, with any necessary adjustments being made during the three months ended September 30, 2008. Certain discrete or unusual items are separately recognized in the quarter during which they occur and can be a source of variability in our effective tax rates from quarter to quarter.

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The utilization of net operating losses and associated valuation allowance reductions have been considered in estimating our annual effective tax rate. Additionally, part of the tax expense is due to the utilization of net operating losses associated with a prior acquisition that had a valuation allowance established in purchase accounting and subsequent recognition and usage of these net operating losses in fiscal year 2008 resulted in a decrease to goodwill for the reversal of the valuation allowance and an offsetting increase in income tax expense.

During the three month period ended September 30, 2007, no income tax expense was recorded. A portion of our net operating losses ( NOLs ) was used during the quarter, creating deferred tax expense which was offset by a corresponding deferred tax benefit related to the release of valuation allowance on those NOLs.

**Nine months Ended September 30, 2008 Versus Nine months Ended September 30, 2007**

thinkorswim Holdings operations have been included in the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements since the merger date of February 15, 2007.

**Consolidated Revenue**

Revenue increased by \$62.1 million for the nine month period ended September 30, 2008, when compared to the same period in 2007; the majority of the increase is attributable to the Brokerage Services segment and resulted from the partial period revenue of thinkorswim Holdings in 2007 and continued revenue growth in 2008.

**Brokerage Services Segment**

We entered into the Brokerage Services segment on February 15, 2007 with the merger with thinkorswim Holdings. During the nine month period ended September 30, 2008, the Brokerage Services segment generated approximately \$148.4 million of revenue. Commission revenue, which made up \$98.7 million was primarily a result of the commissions earned on the trading activity of the 87,025 retail funded accounts that existed at September 30, 2008. Those accounts had daily average revenue trades of 51,800 during this period. Interest income is primarily earned from our clearing firm based on a negotiated rate that takes into account interest earned by our clearing firm on customer credit cash balances and charges to customers on margin balances. As of September 30, 2008, the average client balance was \$36,600, of which 56% was held in cash. Also, revenue earned for payment for order flow increased \$12.8 million due to an increase in eligible trades made during the year. Total trades were approximately 22.0 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2008.

**Investor Education Segment**

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Investor Education Sales Transaction Volume decreased approximately 41 percent for the nine month period ended September 30, 2008, when compared to the same period in 2007. The decrease was attributed to a slight decrease in the number of total graduates acquired during the period at lower price points for their initial education. In addition, fewer students purchased continuing education at workshop events. The workshop sales rates, which are the sales that take place at the initial workshop of advanced products, dropped from 44 percent in the nine months ended September 30, 2007 to 33 percent in the current nine month period. In addition, during the third quarter of 2007, we lost one of our marketing partners.

### **Change in Deferred Revenue**

Change in deferred revenue increased \$50.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008, compared to the same period in 2007. The change in deferred revenue is made up of two components. First, additions to deferred revenue include current period sales of products and services that have a future fulfillment date, which include coaching services, workshops, online courses and website subscription renewals. Bundled sales including deferred revenue components are added to deferred revenue and revenue is recognized as services to the student are rendered. Second, recognition of previously deferred revenue includes revenue recognized over either (1) the passage of time for subscription based products such as toolbox, coaching subscriptions or online courses or (2) based on fulfillment of products or services for certain coaching services and workshops. The primary reason for the change was the decrease in overall sales transaction volume in the comparative period, the combination of products and services sold during the current year, as well as the mix of products that existed in our deferred revenue liability account.

### **Cost of Revenues**

Overall cost of revenue increased approximately 1 percent during the nine month period ended September 30, 2008, compared to the same period in 2007. As a percentage of STV, cost of revenues decreased 1 percent during the nine months ended September 30, 2008



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compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2007, as the Brokerage Services segment grew as a percent of overall top line sales and has a lower cost of revenues as a percentage of STV.

Partner commissions, which relate solely to the Investor Education segment, decreased \$9.2 million for the nine month period ended September 30, 2008 compared to the same period in 2007, due to fewer sales generated through partnership channels. This is partially due to the loss of a marketing partner during 2007.

Payroll costs include employee commissions based on a percentage of sales achieved from our Investor Education events or telesales groups, certain fixed wages related to the brokerage trade desk and education coaching services and the associated employee benefit costs. Payroll costs, which decreased by \$5.5 million in the nine month period ended September 30, 2008, when compared to the same period in 2007, were impacted by incremental costs associated with accounting for the Brokerage Services segment for the full nine month period offset by reduced commissions on lower levels of STV and decreased headcount in certain departments within the Investor Education segment.

Brokerage, clearing and other related fees, which relate solely to the Brokerage Services segment, increased approximately \$13.8 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to the same period in 2007. These expenses include fees to clearing organizations, exchanges, third-party broker dealers and independent registered representatives. The increase is also impacted by incremental costs associated with accounting for the Brokerage Services segment for the full nine month period as well as to increased sales volumes.

Depreciation and amortization increased approximately \$3.5 million during the nine month period ended September 30, 2008, when compared to the same period in 2007, primarily due to amortization of intangibles and other assets related to the thinkorswim Holdings merger for a full nine months of expense in 2008 versus seven and a half months of expense in 2007.

Other cost of revenue is primarily comprised of amounts directly related to Investor Education sales transaction volume including travel expenditures, venue costs, material costs and credit card fees. In addition, data and quotation service costs and charges associated with trade errors and customer debit balance write-offs related to brokerage services are also included in other cost of revenue since the merger, resulting in three full quarters of expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 compared to seven and a half months of expense for 2007. Travel and venue were impacted by incremental costs associated with the education segment investor conferences held during each year. In 2007 there were investor conferences held in the first and third quarters, while in 2008 there was only one investor conference held in the third quarter. The additional conference held in 2007 resulted in increased costs of approximately \$1.5 million. Additionally, there was a decrease in costs due to a decreased number of events in the nine month period ended September 30, 2008 and efforts to fulfill more products and services online.

**Selling Expense**

Total selling expense decreased by approximately \$7.1 million during the nine month period ended September 30, 2008, when compared to the same period in 2007, primarily due to a decrease in marketing expense associated with customer acquisition activities in the Investor Education segment offset by incremental costs associated with the Brokerage Services segment.

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Marketing costs decreased approximately 14 percent during the nine month period ended September 30, 2008, when compared to the same period in 2007, primarily due to decreased spending related to our Investools branded events, which are marketed via various media channels including television, online, print and radio and also due to a lower overall number of events.

Payroll expense increased approximately 13 percent during the nine month period ended September 30, 2008, when compared to the same period in 2007, primarily as a result of the incremental payroll costs associated with the education group within thinkorswim Holdings, known as OptionPlanet. The costs associated with delivering the OptionPlanet courses are included in selling expense from the date of the merger in 2007 and for the entire nine month period ended September 30, 2008.

### **General and Administrative**

General and administrative expenses increased \$5.1 million for the nine month period ended September 30, 2008, when compared to the same period in 2007. The primary drivers of the increase were the incremental increases in general and administrative expenses associated with thinkorswim Holdings as the nine months ended September 30, 2007 included seven and a half months of expense compared to the nine month period ended September 30, 2008 combined with the current year increases we have experienced in technology, licensing, professional fees and hosting expenses as well as depreciation expenses related to the timing of the deployment of internal systems. This net increase in costs and expenses was offset by a decrease in compensation expense relating to the modification of an option agreement of the chief executive in connection with the merger with thinkorswim Holdings, resulting in additional compensation expense in the nine months ended September 30, 2007 of approximately \$8.5 million.

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**Income from Operations**

The Brokerage Services segment had an operating margin of \$66.9 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2008, compared to an operating margin of \$24.0 million for the seven and a half months from the merger date through September 30, 2007. This increase in operating margin is due to the growth in operations for the Brokerage Services segment. The Investor Education segment operating margin improved by \$19.2 million for the nine month period ended September 30, 2008, when compared to the same period in 2007. The improvement from a loss to income from operations is mostly attributed to a \$36.1 million decrease in operating costs and expenses offset by a decrease in revenue.

**Interest Expense, Net**

Interest expense for the nine month period ended September 30, 2008, when compared to the same period in 2007, decreased by \$1.1 million due to less interest incurred on notes payable resulting from decreased principal balances, reductions in interest rates, and the interest expense effect associated with a change in fair value of the interest rate swap. Principal balances decreased due to scheduled principal payments and a \$5.6 million voluntary principal prepayment made in the second quarter of 2008. The effect on interest expense from changes in the fair value of the interest rate swap were a decrease of \$0.1 million for the period ended September 30, 2008, and an increase of \$0.5 million for the period ended September 30, 2007.

**Interest Income**

Interest income for the nine month period ended September 30, 2008, when compared to the same period in 2007, remained relatively flat even though cash balances increased, primarily due to reduced returns on cash and investment balances as interest rates have declined.

**Income Taxes**

During the nine month period ended September 30, 2008, income tax expense of approximately \$19.0 million was recorded based on our estimated effective tax rate applied to income from operations during the first nine months of the fiscal year. This amount was based on a review of our overall estimated tax rate applied to income from operations during the nine months ended September 30, 2008, with any adjustments being made during the three months ended September 30, 2008. Certain discrete or unusual items are separately recognized in the quarter during which they occur and can be a source of variability in our effective tax rates from quarter to quarter.

The utilization of net operating losses and associated valuation allowance reductions have been considered in estimating our annual effective tax rate. Additionally, part of the tax expense is due to the utilization of net operating losses associated with a prior acquisition that had a valuation allowance established in purchase accounting and subsequent recognition and usage of these net operating losses in fiscal year 2008 resulted in a decrease to goodwill for the reversal of the valuation allowance and an offsetting increase in income tax expense.

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During the nine month period ended September 30, 2007, income tax expense of approximately \$1.2 million was recorded and relates to income offset by a portion of our net operating losses ( NOLs ) which created deferred tax expense that was not offset by the related release of valuation allowance on those NOLs. The tax benefit resulting from valuation release was credited to goodwill instead of tax expense, since the valuation allowance on those NOLs was originally established in purchase accounting.

### **Liquidity**

#### *Cash Flows*

At September 30, 2008, our principal sources of liquidity consisted of \$73.0 million of cash and cash equivalents, as compared to \$63.1 million of cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities at December 31, 2007.

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$38.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008, compared to \$30.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2007. Net income for the first nine months of 2008 was \$49.8 million, compared to a net income of \$4.6 million for the same period of 2007. In addition, included in operating results for the first nine months of 2008 were decreases in non-cash charges such as stock compensation and exclusivity rights expenses associated with the contingent shares, offset by increases in depreciation and amortization and deferred tax expenses. We also experienced decreases in accounts receivable, and other operating assets. However, these increases were offset by a \$42.0 million decrease in operating cash flow resulting from the change to deferred revenue balances, along with \$2.2 million in cash flow decreases attributable to the change in accrued payroll. Also reducing the increase in operating cash flows was a \$1.1 million increase related to accrued tax liability levels which includes income

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taxes payable.

At September 30, 2008, net working capital increased by \$17.2 million to \$54.8 million, compared to \$37.6 million at December 31, 2007, after excluding the change in the current portion of deferred revenue which is substantially a non-cash liability. The primary reason for the increase in net working capital was a \$11.4 million increase in cash and cash equivalents, and a \$6.6 million increase in accounts receivable from clearing brokers.

At September 30, 2008, we had no marketable securities compared to \$1.5 million at December 31, 2007. During the nine months ended September 30, 2008 we redeemed our two remaining securities which provided \$1.5 million in proceeds, as compared to \$19.3 million in proceeds provided from the sale of investments during the nine months ended September 30, 2007. The sales of investments during the nine months ended September 30, 2007, were primarily in connection with the February 15, 2007 merger with thinkorswim Holdings.

At September 30, 2008, we had notes payable of \$96.9 million compared to \$117.5 million at December 31, 2007. During the nine months ended September 30, 2008 we made principal payments of \$20.6 million, compared to \$5.0 million in the same period in 2007. The principal payments made during the nine months ended September 30, 2008 include a \$5.6 million voluntary principal prepayment.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2008 several individuals elected to pay the taxes on the vested shares by allowing us to withhold some of the shares to cover the amount of required minimum taxes. We withheld 26,482 shares worth \$0.4 million. In addition, the Company repurchased 0.1 million shares of common stock in open market transactions for a total cost of \$1.5 million or an average of \$9.72 per share, under the terms of the Company's buy-back program approved in 2008.

We expect to continue to use our liquid assets to invest in our infrastructure and fund our operations.

*Credit Agreement with JPMorgan*

In connection with the merger with thinkorswim Holdings (see Note 3), on February 15, 2007 we entered into a Credit Agreement with JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. ( "JPMorgan" ), as administrative agent, and with other lenders from time to time parties thereto.

The Credit Agreement provides for \$125 million in senior secured term loan facilities and a \$25 million senior secured revolving loan facility. The senior secured term loan facilities are comprised of a five-year \$50 million senior secured term loan A facility, and a five-and-a-half year \$75 million senior secured term loan B facility. The revolving loan facility has a five-year term. The Credit Agreement includes an expansion feature with respect to the term loans pursuant to which we may request an increase in the permitted aggregate term loan borrowings of up to \$25 million. Accordingly, the remaining borrowing capacity under the revolving facility is \$25.0 million. The borrowings under the new senior credit facilities are guaranteed by substantially all of the material wholly-owned domestic subsidiaries of thinkorswim (other than thinkorswim, Inc. and certain immaterial subsidiaries).

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Loans under the facility bear interest, at the borrower's option, at either (1) a rate equal to the London interbank offered rate (LIBOR), plus an applicable margin, or (2) a rate equal to the higher of (a) the prime rate of JPMorgan and (b) the federal funds effective rate plus 0.50 percent (the ABR), plus an applicable margin.

Interest payments on both the term loan A and B facilities are due at the end of every calendar quarter. In addition to interest, principal payments of \$2.5 million are due on the term loan A facility at the end of every calendar quarter, beginning September 30, 2007 through February 2012. In addition to quarterly interest payments, principal payments of \$7.5 million are due annually on the term loan B facility, beginning at the end of March 2008 through March 2012. In August 2012, a \$37.5 million balloon payment on the term loan B facility is due.

The Credit Agreement also calls for prepayment of loan facilities if certain conditions are met. This prepayment requirement commenced with fiscal year ended December 31, 2007, and is calculated as an amount equal to 50% of excess cash flow for each fiscal year as defined in the agreement.

The Credit Agreement contains customary representations and warranties and customary affirmative and negative covenants applicable to thinkorswim, including, among other things, restrictions on indebtedness, liens, fundamental changes, investments and acquisitions, sales of assets, sale leasebacks, mergers and consolidations, dividends and other distributions, redemptions, hedging agreements, transactions with affiliates, and maximum fixed charge and total leverage ratios. The Credit Agreement also includes customary events of default, including the occurrence of a change in control.

If an event of default under the Credit Agreement occurs and is continuing, the commitments thereunder may be terminated and the

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principal amount outstanding thereunder, together with all accrued unpaid interest and other amounts owed thereunder, may be declared immediately due and payable.

*Summary*

We expect that our current cash, cash equivalents and credit amounts available through JPMorgan, along with our cash flows from operations, will be sufficient to meet our working capital and other capital requirements for the foreseeable future. We anticipate allocating our cash resources among three primary areas: internal growth strategies, additional acquisition opportunities, and the continuing buyback of our common stock.

*Contractual Obligations and Commercial Commitments*

We have various financial obligations and commitments in the ordinary course of conducting business. We have contractual obligations requiring future cash payments under existing contractual arrangements, such as management and consulting agreements.

The following table details our known future cash payments (on an undiscounted basis) related to various contractual obligations as of September 30, 2008 (in thousands):

Payments due by period	Capital leases(1)	Operating leases(2)	Data & communication purchase agreements(3)	Notes Payable(4)	Management employment agreements(5)	Total contractual obligations
Remaining 2008	\$ 64	\$ 463	\$ 2,760	\$ 2,500	\$ 625	\$ 6,412
1 3 Years	359	3,246	2,178	35,000	2,930	43,713
Thereafter		921		59,400		60,321
Total Payments	423	\$ 4,630	\$ 4,938	\$ 96,900	\$ 3,555	\$ 110,446
Less: Amount representing interest (8.0%)	28					
Present value of lease payments	395					
Less: Current portion	231					
Long-term portion	\$ 164					

(1) Our capital leases include telecommunications equipment. The agreements terminate in 2010.

(2) Our operating leases include office space and operating facilities. The agreements have termination dates from 2008 until 2012.

(3)

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We have supply contracts with various vendors of financial data and communications services providing for minimum monthly commitments. These contracts have termination dates from 2008 to 2009.

- (4) In connection with the note payable outstanding as of September 30, 2008, the interest rate on the term A facility of \$32.9 million was 5.45 percent and on the term B facility of \$64.0 million was 6.95 percent. Rates are subject to change. The Credit Agreement requires that we enter into, and for a period of not less than three years, beginning March 30, 2007, maintain in effect, one or more hedging agreements, the effect of which is to fix or cap the interest rates applicable to at least 50 percent of the loan amounts. The interest amounts, adjusted for the market value of any hedging agreements, are not included in the table above. At the current interest rates, estimated interest paid would be approximately \$16.4 million over the remaining life of the notes payable, without adjustment for the market value of any hedging agreements. In April 2008, we made a \$5.6 million voluntary prepayment on our notes payable.
- (5) We have entered into agreements with certain senior executives that require us to make cash payments over contractual periods. The amounts in the table above relate to obligations owing at September 30, 2008. During February 2007, we renewed the employment contracts of three senior executives over two and three-year terms.



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**Critical Accounting Policies**

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations is based upon the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements, which have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States. The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses, and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Except as discussed in the paragraph below, there have been no significant changes to our critical accounting policies during the first three months of 2008 from those disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007.

**Recently Issued Accounting Standards**

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 141 (Revised 2007), *Business Combinations*. This standard establishes that an acquiring entity will be required to recognize all the assets acquired and liabilities assumed in a transaction at the acquisition-date fair value with limited exceptions. This standard also defines how goodwill acquired in a business combination or a gain from a bargain purchase should be recognized and updates certain disclosure requirements for business combinations. This standard applies prospectively to business combinations for which the acquisition date is on or after the fiscal year beginning after December 15, 2008.

On January 1, 2008, we adopted certain provisions of Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements* (FAS 157), which establishes a single authoritative definition of fair value, sets out a framework for measuring fair value and expands on required disclosures about fair value measurement. The provisions of FAS 157 adopted on January 1, 2008 relate to financial assets and liabilities as well as other assets and liabilities carried at fair value on a recurring basis and did not have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements. The provisions of FAS 157 related to other nonfinancial assets and liabilities will be effective for us on January 1, 2009, and will be applied prospectively. We are currently evaluating the impact that these additional FAS 157 provisions will have on our consolidated financial statements.

In March 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 161, *Disclosure about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities, an Amendment of FASB Statement No. 133* (SFAS No. 161). SFAS No. 161 is intended to improve transparency in financial reporting by requiring enhanced disclosures of an entity's derivative instruments and hedging activities and their effects on the entity's financial position, financial performance, and cash flows. SFAS No. 161 applies to all derivative instruments within the scope of SFAS No. 133. It also applies to non-derivative hedging instruments and all hedged items designated and qualifying as hedges under SFAS No. 133. SFAS No. 161 amends the current qualitative and quantitative disclosure requirements for derivative instruments and hedging activities set forth in SFAS No. 133 and generally increases the level of disaggregation that will be required in an entity's financial statements. SFAS No. 161 requires qualitative disclosures about objectives and strategies for using derivatives, quantitative disclosures about fair value amounts of gains and losses on derivative instruments, and disclosures about credit-risk related contingent features in derivative agreements. SFAS No. 161 is effective prospectively for financial statements issued for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after November 15, 2008. We are currently evaluating the impact that SFAS 161 will have on our consolidated financial statements.

In April 2008, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position FAS 142-3, *Determination of Useful Life of Intangible Assets* (FSP 142-3). FSP 142-3 amends the factors that should be considered in developing the renewal or extension assumptions used to determine the useful life of a recognized intangible asset under FAS 142, *Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets*. FSP 142-3 also requires expanded disclosure regarding the determination of intangible asset useful lives. FSP 142-3 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2008. Earlier adoption is not permitted. We are currently evaluating the potential impact the adoption of FSP 142-3 will have on our consolidated financial statements.

In May 2008, the FASB issued Statement No. 162, The Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (FAS 162). FAS 162 identifies the sources of accounting principles and the framework for selecting the principles to be used in the preparation of financial statements that are presented in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States. FAS 162 is effective 60 days following the SEC's approval of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board amendments to AU Section 411, The Meaning of Present fairly in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. FAS 162 is not expected to have a material impact on our financial statements.

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

Market risk generally represents the risk of loss that may result from the potential change in the value of a financial instrument as a result of fluctuations in interest rates or market prices. We are subject to the risk of fluctuating interest rates in the normal course of business, primarily as a result of our credit agreement with JPMorgan Chase Bank, investment activities that generally bear interest at

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variable rates, and net interest spread earned through our subsidiary, thinkorswim, Inc. We do not hold any market risk sensitive instruments for proprietary trading purposes.

As an introducing broker, our subsidiary, thinkorswim, Inc., is the guarantor on margin credit and leverage extended to customers by our outsourced clearing firm, subject to various regulatory and clearing firm margin requirements. Margin credit is collateralized by cash and securities in the customers' accounts. Leverage involves securing a large potential future obligation with a proportional amount of cash or securities. The risks associated with margin credit and leverage increase during periods of fast market movements or in cases where leverage or collateral is concentrated and market movements occur. During such times, customers who utilize margin credit or leverage and who have collateralized their obligations with securities may find that the securities have a rapidly depreciating value and may not be sufficient to cover their obligations in the event of liquidation. We are also exposed to credit risk when customers execute transactions, such as short sales of options and equities that can expose them to risk beyond their invested capital. Our clearing firm's account level margin credit and leverage requirements meet or exceed those required by Regulation T of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve. thinkorswim, Inc. monitors required margin levels on an intra-day basis and pursuant to such guidelines, requires customers to deposit additional collateral, or to reduce positions, when necessary.

In connection with the merger with thinkorswim Holdings on February 15, 2007, we entered into a credit agreement with JPMorgan Chase Bank wherein we were provided a senior secured variable rate term loan of \$125 million to fund a portion of the cash purchase price. On March 30, 2007, we entered into an interest rate swap that fixed approximately half of the loan facility. Based on this outstanding debt obligation, a 1.0% increase in interest rates would increase our annual interest expense and related cash payments by approximately \$0.5 million; a decrease of 1.0% in interest rates would decrease our annualized interest expense and related cash payments by approximately \$0.5 million. Such potential increases or decreases are based on certain simplified assumptions, including minimum quarterly principal repayments made on variable-rate debt for all maturities and an immediate, across-the-board increase or decrease in the level of interest rates with no other subsequent changes for the remainder of the periods.

thinkorswim, Inc. earns a net interest spread from our outsourced clearing firm on the difference between amounts earned on customer margin loans and amounts paid on customer cash balances. The profitability of our margin lending activities depends to a great extent on the difference between interest income earned on margin loans and investments of customer cash and the interest expense paid on customer cash balances and borrowings through our clearing firms. Based on our interest income during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, a 1.0% decline in interest rates would have resulted in a \$3.0 million and \$7.4 million decline in interest income for the three and nine month periods, respectively. Further, during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008, a 1.0% increase in interest rates would have resulted in a \$2.6 million and \$7.1 million increase in interest income for the three and nine month periods, respectively.

**Item 4. Controls and Procedures**

Our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures as of September 30, 2008. Our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended) were effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

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There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the nine months ended September 30, 2008, that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Our disclosure controls and procedures are designed to provide reasonable assurance of achieving their objectives. However, our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, does not expect that our disclosure controls and procedures will prevent all error and all fraud. A control system, no matter how well conceived and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the control system are met. Further, the design of a control system must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints, and the benefits of controls must be considered relative to their costs. Because of the inherent limitations in all control systems, no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, have been detected.

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**PART II - OTHER INFORMATION**

**Item 1. Legal Proceedings**

We are cooperating with a non-public, formal inquiry by the SEC relating to representations by certain presenters in certain portions of their presentations at some of our seminars. We have been cooperating with and intend to continue to cooperate with the SEC. Because it is ongoing, we cannot predict the outcome of this formal inquiry at this time, and, as a result, no conclusion can be reached as to what impact, if any, this inquiry may have on us or our operations.

We are involved in various other claims, suits, investigations and legal proceedings that arise from time to time in the ordinary course of our business. Additional information regarding legal proceeding can be found under the Commitments and Contingencies footnote to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements. Although we do not expect that the outcome in any of these other legal proceedings, individually or collectively, will have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations, litigation is inherently unpredictable. Therefore, we could in the future incur judgments or enter into settlements of claims that could adversely affect our operating results or cash flows in a particular period.

**Item 1a. Risk Factors**

A wide range of risks may affect our business and financial results, now and in the future; however, we consider the risks described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007, including the update below, to be the most significant. There may be other currently unknown or unpredictable economic, business, competitive, regulatory or other factors that could have material adverse effects on our business or future results.

***Global Economic Conditions and Volatile Securities Markets May Continue to Impact our Business.***

The second half of 2008 has seen a rapid softening of the economy, volatile securities markets, and tightening of the credit markets. The continuation, or worsening, of domestic and global economic conditions could adversely affect our revenues. Sharp drops or sustained or gradual declines in securities prices or other developments in the securities markets typically could cause individual investors to be less inclined to invest in the securities markets, which would be likely to result in reduced interest in our investor educational products and services.

Many of the customer accounts of our brokerage business are margin accounts. Our customer futures accounts trade on margin as well. In margin transactions, we may be obligated for credit extended to our customers by our clearing firms, because we indemnify our clearing firms for our customers' debits and defaults. Margin credit is collateralized by cash and securities in the customers' accounts. We also execute customer transactions involving the sale of securities not yet purchased which result in our clearing firms extending leverage to our customers for which we may be ultimately responsible. Leverage involves securing a large potential future obligation with a proportional amount of cash or securities. During periods of fast market movements, as the securities markets have recently and continue to experience, and in cases where

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leverage or collateral is concentrated and market movements occur, the risks associated with margin credit and leverage increase. During such times, customers who utilize margin credit or leverage and who have collateralized their obligations with securities may find that the securities have a rapidly depreciating value and may not be sufficient to cover their obligations in the event of liquidation. When our clearing firms extend margin or our customers use leverage, our clearing firms may be exposed to significant off-balance-sheet credit risk in the event customer collateral is not sufficient to fully cover losses that customers may incur.

In addition, our expenses could increase if the volatility in the credit markets results in an increase in interest rates on bank financings. Our results of operations may be negatively affected as a result.

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

(a) Not applicable.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) The following table provides information with respect to the shares of common stock repurchased by us during the third quarter of fiscal year 2008.

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Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid Per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs (1)
July 1, 2008 July 31, 2008		\$		
August 1, 2008 August 31, 2008		\$		
September 1, 2008 September 30, 2008	149,791	\$ 9.72	149,791(2)	
Total	149,791	\$ 9.72	149,791	4,850,209

(1) In June 2008, the board of directors authorized a stock repurchase program under which we can repurchase up to 5.0 million shares of our common stock over a two-year period.

(2) Represents open market purchases made under the Company's stock repurchase plan.

**Item 3. Defaults upon Senior Securities**

None.

**Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders**

None.

**Item 5. Other Information**

None.

**Item 6. Exhibits**

(a) Exhibits:

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- 31.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
- 31.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
- 32.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
- 32.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

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.

thinkorswim Group Inc.

/s/ IDA K. KANE

Ida K. Kane

Chief Financial Officer

A duly authorized officer of the Registrant

Date: November 6, 2008