VERISIGN INC/CA
Form S-1/A
March 03, 2008
Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 3, 2008

Registration No. 333-147135

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Pre-Effective Amendment No. 1 to

FORM S-1

Registration Statement

Under

The Securities Act of 1933

VeriSign, Inc.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware	**7372**	**94-3221585**
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	**(Primary Standard Industrial Classification Code Number)**	**(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)**

VeriSign, Inc.

487 E. Middlefield Road

Mountain View, California 94043

(650) 961-7500

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of Registrant s principal executive offices)

William A. Roper, Jr.

President and Chief Executive Officer

VeriSign, Inc.

487 E. Middlefield Road

Mountain View, California 94043

(650) 961-7500

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Please send copies of all communications to:

Richard H. Goshorn, Esq.	**David Lopez, Esq.**
Senior Vice President, General Counsel	**Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP**
VeriSign, Inc.	**One Liberty Plaza**
21351 Ridgetop Circle	**New York, New York 10006**
Dulles, Virginia 20166	**(212)225-2000**
(703)948-3200	

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: As soon as practicable after this registration statement becomes effective.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act, check the following box. x

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. ¨

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. ¨

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(d) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. ¨

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered	Proposed Maximum Offering Price per Share (1)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee
3.25% Junior Subordinated Convertible Debentures due 2037	$1,250,000,000(2)	100%	$1,250,000,000	$38,375
Common Stock, $0.001 par value(3)	36,371,000 (2)(4)	(5)	(5)	(5)
Total				$38,375(6)

(1) Estimated solely to compute the amount of the registration fee under Rule 457 under the Securities Act of 1933.
(2) Although the total holding of the selling securityholders listed in the registration statement exceeds $1,250,000,000 (aggregate principal amount of debentures outstanding), the aggregate principal amount of debentures outstanding has not been and will not be increased. The number of shares of common stock that may be sold upon conversion of the debentures will not be more than 36,371,000 unless the conversion rate is adjusted in accordance with the terms of the debentures. See Description of Debentures Conversion Rights Adjustment to shares delivered upon conversion in connection with certain fundamental changes in the accompanying prospectus. We believe that the excess listed in the registration statement reflects the fact that certain selling securityholders have transferred unregistered debentures without notifying us.
(3) Includes the rights issuable pursuant to the rights agreement dated as of September 27, 2002 between VeriSign, Inc. and Mellon Investor Services, LLC, as amended by the amendment to rights agreement dated as of February 11, 2003 between VeriSign, Inc. and Mellon Investor Services, LLC, upon the terms and conditions described therein.
(4) Represents the number of shares of common stock that are currently issuable upon conversion of the 3.25% Junior Subordinated Convertible Debentures due 2037, calculated based on a conversion rate of 29.0968 shares per $1,000 principal amount of the debentures. Pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant is also registering an indeterminable number of shares of common stock as may be issued from time to time upon conversion of the debentures and as a result of stock splits and stock dividends.
(5) Under Rule 457(i) under the Securities Act of 1933, no registration fee is required for these shares because no additional consideration will be received upon conversion of the debentures.
(6) Previously paid.

The Registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

Table of Contents

THE INFORMATION IN THIS PROSPECTUS IS NOT COMPLETE AND MAY BE CHANGED. NEITHER WE NOR THE SELLING SECURITYHOLDERS MAY SELL THESE SECURITIES UNTIL THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT FILED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION IS EFFECTIVE. THIS PROSPECTUS IS NOT AN OFFER TO SELL THESE SECURITIES, AND NEITHER WE NOR THE SELLING SECURITYHOLDERS ARE SOLICITING AN OFFER TO BUY THESE SECURITIES IN ANY STATE WHERE THE OFFER OR SALE IS NOT PERMITTED.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION DATED MARCH 3, 2008

PROSPECTUS

$1,250,000,000

3.25% Junior Subordinated Convertible Debentures due 2037 and

36,371,000 Shares of Common Stock Issuable Upon Conversion of the Debentures

We originally issued 3.25% Junior Subordinated Convertible Debentures due 2037 in a private placement transaction in August 2007. This prospectus will be used by selling securityholders to resell their debentures and the common stock issuable upon conversion of the debentures.

The debentures will bear ordinary interest at a rate of 3.25% per year until August 15, 2037, the maturity date. Interest on the debentures will be payable semi-annually in arrears on February 15 and August 15 of each year, beginning February 15, 2008. In addition to ordinary interest on the debentures, beginning with the semi-annual interest period commencing on August 15, 2014, contingent interest will accrue during any semi-annual interest period where the average trading price of a debenture for the 10 trading day period immediately preceding the first day of such semi-annual period is greater than or equal to $1,500 per $1,000 principal amount of the debentures or is less than or equal to a threshold that will initially be set at $500 per $1,000 principal amount of the debentures and that will increase over time. We will also pay contingent interest equal to any extraordinary cash dividend or distribution that our board of directors designates as payable to the holders of the debentures. In addition, so long as we are not in default in the payment of interest on the debentures, we may defer payment of interest on the debentures for a period not exceeding 10 consecutive semi-annual interest payment periods, during which time interest will continue to accrue on a compounded basis.

Holders may convert their debentures based on a conversion rate of 29.0968 shares of our common stock per $1,000 principal amount of debentures, equivalent to a conversion price of approximately $34.37 per share, subject to adjustment, at their option at any time prior to May 15, 2037, under the following circumstances: (1) during any fiscal quarter commencing after December 31, 2007, if the last reported sale price of our common stock for at least 20 trading days during the period of 30 consecutive trading days ending on the last trading day of the preceding fiscal quarter is greater than or equal to 130% of the applicable conversion price on the last trading day of such preceding fiscal quarter; (2) during the five business day period after any ten consecutive trading day period in which the trading price per $1,000 principal amount of debentures for each day of that 10 consecutive trading day period was less than 98% of the product of the last reported sale price of our common stock and the conversion rate on such day; (3) if we call any or all of the debentures for redemption, at any time prior to the close of business on the trading day immediately preceding the redemption date; or (4) upon the occurrence of specified corporate transactions described in this prospectus. On or after May 15, 2037, holders may convert their debentures at any time prior to the close of business on the business day immediately preceding the maturity date. The conversion rate will be subject to adjustment in some events but will not be adjusted for accrued interest. Upon conversion, we will satisfy our conversion obligation by delivering cash, shares of our common stock or any combination thereof, at our option. In addition, we will increase the conversion rate for holders who elect to convert debentures in connection with certain fundamental changes as described in this prospectus.

We may not redeem the debentures prior to August 15, 2017. On or after that date and prior to the maturity date, we may redeem all or part of the debentures for cash at 100% of the principal amount of the debentures to be redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the redemption date, if the last reported sale price of our common stock has been at least 150% of the conversion price then in effect for at least 20 trading days during any 30 consecutive trading day period prior to the date on which we provide notice of redemption.

If we undergo a fundamental change, holders may require us to repurchase all or a portion of their debentures at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the debentures to be purchased plus any accrued and unpaid interest up to, but excluding, the repurchase date. We will pay cash for all debentures so repurchased.

The debentures are our unsecured junior obligations subordinated in right of payment to our existing and future senior debt and effectively subordinated in right of payment to all indebtedness and other liabilities of our subsidiaries. As of January 31, 2008, we did not have any senior debt outstanding, and the aggregate amount of indebtedness and other liabilities of our subsidiaries was approximately $218.2 million, excluding deferred revenue, intercompany liabilities and liabilities of a type not required to be reflected on the balance sheet of such subsidiaries in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Since their initial issuance, the debentures have been eligible for trading on the PORTAL Market, the Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc. s screen-based automated market (the PORTAL Market). However, debentures sold by means of this prospectus will no longer be eligible for trading on the PORTAL Market. We do not intend to list the debentures on any other automated quotation system or any securities exchange.

Our common stock is listed on The Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol VRSN. The last reported sale price of our common stock on The Nasdaq Global Select Market on February 28, 2008 was $36.00 per share.

See Risk Factors beginning on page 6 for a discussion of certain risks that you should consider in connection with an investment in the debentures.

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES OR DETERMINED IF THIS PROSPECTUS IS TRUTHFUL OR COMPLETE. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

This prospectus is dated , 2008.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

In making your investment decision, you should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. Neither we nor the selling securityholders are making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus or the documents incorporated by reference herein is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of this prospectus or the date of such document, as the case may be.

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act) and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). All statements, other than statements of historical facts, included or incorporated herein regarding our strategy, future operations, financial position, future revenues, projected costs, prospects, plans and objectives are forward-looking statements. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as anticipates, believes, estimates, expects, intends, may, plans, projects, will, similar expressions or expressions of the negative of these terms. Such statements are only predictions and, accordingly, are subject to substantial risks, uncertainties and assumptions.

Actual events and results may differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements and are subject to risks and uncertainties, including, among others, the uncertainty of future revenue and profitability and operating results due to such factors as increasing competition and pricing pressure from competing services offered at prices below our prices and market acceptance of our existing services and the inability of VeriSign to successfully develop and market new services, the uncertainty, cost and risk related to VeriSign s proposed divestiture plan, the uncertainty of whether new services as provided by VeriSign will achieve market acceptance or result in any revenues and the uncertainty that VeriSign will be able to execute successfully on its restructuring program, and other risk factors contained in this prospectus under the heading Risk Factors and in our Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filings, including our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007.

Except as required by law, we undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements to reflect events or developments after the date of this prospectus.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information contained elsewhere or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and may not contain all the information that you need to consider in making your investment decision. You should read the entire prospectus, as well as the information incorporated by reference, before making an investment decision. When used in this prospectus, the terms the Company, VeriSign, the issuer, we, our and us refer to VeriSign, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries, unless otherwise specified.

VeriSign, Inc.

VeriSign operates infrastructure services that enable and protect billions of interactions every day across the world s voice, video and data networks. We offer a variety of Internet and communications-related services which are marketed through Web site sales, direct field sales, channel sales, telesales, and member organizations in our global affiliate network.

Our business consists of two reportable segments: the Internet Services Group and the Communications Services Group. The Internet Services Group consists of the Information and Security Services business and the Naming Services business. The Information and Security Services business provides products and services that protect online and network interactions, enabling companies to manage reputational, operational and compliance risks. The Naming Services business is the authoritative directory provider of all *.com, .net, .cc, and .tv* domain names. The Communications Services Group provides communications services, such as connectivity and interoperability services and intelligent database services; commerce services, such as billing and operational support system services, and mobile commerce services; and content services, such as digital content and messaging services.

We were incorporated in Delaware on April 12, 1995. Our principal executive offices are located at 487 East Middlefield Road, Mountain View, California 94043. Our telephone number at that address is (650) 961-7500. Our primary website is www.verisign.com. Information contained, or referred to, on our website is not part of this prospectus.

Table of Contents

THE OFFERING

The following summary contains basic information about the debentures and is not intended to be complete. It does not contain all the information that is important to you. For a more complete understanding of the debentures, you should read the section of this prospectus entitled Description of Debentures. For purposes of this summary and the Description of Debentures, references to the Company, VeriSign, the issuer, we, our and us refer only to VeriSign, Inc. and not to its subsidiaries.

Issuer	VeriSign, Inc., a Delaware corporation.
Securities Offered	$1,250,000,000 principal amount of 3.25% Junior Subordinated Convertible Debentures due 2037 and 36,371,000 shares of our common stock into which the debentures are convertible.
Maturity	August 15, 2037, unless earlier redeemed, repurchased or converted.
Interest	3.25% per year, payable semiannually in arrears on February 15 and August 15 of each year, beginning February 15, 2008.

In addition to ordinary interest on the debentures, beginning with the semi-annual interest period commencing on August 15, 2014, contingent interest will accrue:

- during any semi-annual ordinary interest period where the average trading price of a debenture for the 10 trading day period immediately preceding the first day of such semi-annual period is greater than or equal to $1,500 per $1,000 principal amount of the debentures, in which case contingent interest will accrue at a rate of 0.50% of such average trading price per annum; and
- during any semi-annual ordinary interest period where the average trading price of a debenture for the 10 trading day period immediately preceding the first day of such semi-annual period is less than or equal to a threshold that will initially be set at $500 per $1,000 principal amount of the debentures and that will increase over time, in which case contingent interest will accrue at a rate of 0.25% of such average trading price per annum.

In addition, we will pay contingent interest at any time the debentures are outstanding in the event that we pay an extraordinary cash dividend or distribution to holders of our common stock that our board of directors designates as payable to the holders of the debentures.

So long as we are not in default in the payment of interest on the debentures, we may defer payment of interest on the debentures (other than contingent interest relating to extraordinary dividends) for a period not exceeding 10 consecutive semi-annual interest payment periods, during which time interest will continue to accrue on a compounded basis.

2

Table of Contents

For purposes of this summary, references to interest include ordinary interest, contingent interest, reporting additional interest, additional interest, deferred interest and compounded interest except as otherwise indicated.

Conversion rights	Prior to May 15, 2037, holders may convert their debentures at the applicable conversion rate, in multiples of $1,000 principal amount, at their option, under the following circumstances:

- during any fiscal quarter beginning after December 31, 2007 (and only during such fiscal quarter), if the last reported sale price of our common stock for at least 20 trading days during the 30 consecutive trading days ending on the last trading day of the immediately preceding fiscal quarter is greater than or equal to 130% of the applicable conversion price on the last trading day of such preceding fiscal quarter;
- during the five business day period after any 10 consecutive trading day period in which the trading price per $1,000 principal amount of debentures for each day of that 10 consecutive trading day period was less than 98% of the product of the last reported sale price of our common stock and the conversion rate on such day;
- if we call any or all of the debentures for redemption, at any time prior to the close of business on the trading day immediately preceding the redemption date; or
- upon the occurrence of specified corporate transactions described under Description of Debentures Conversion rights.

On or after May 15, 2037, holders may convert their debentures at the applicable conversion rate, in multiples of $1,000 principal amount, at their option, at any time prior to the close of business on the business day immediately preceding the maturity date.

The initial conversion rate for the debentures is 29.0968 shares per $1,000 principal amount of debentures (equal to an initial conversion price of approximately $34.37 per share), subject to adjustment.

Upon conversion, we will satisfy our conversion obligation by delivering cash, shares of our common stock or any combination thereof, at our option. If we satisfy our conversion obligation solely in cash or through delivery of a combination of cash and shares of our common stock, the settlement amount will be based on a daily conversion value (as described herein) calculated on a proportionate basis for each trading day in the 30 trading day observation period (as described herein). See Description of Debentures Conversion rights Payment upon conversion.

We will increase the conversion rate for a holder who elects to convert its debentures in connection with certain fundamental

Table of Contents

changes as described under Description of Debentures Conversion rights Adjustment to shares delivered upon conversion in connection with certain fundamental changes.

Holders will not receive any cash payment or additional shares representing accrued and unpaid interest, if any, upon conversion of a debenture, except in limited circumstances. Instead, interest will be deemed paid by the cash and/or shares of common stock delivered to holders upon conversion.

Redemption at our option	We may not redeem the debentures prior to August 15, 2017. On or after August 15, 2017 and prior to the maturity date, we may redeem for cash all or part of the debentures if the last reported sale price of our common stock has been at least 150% of the conversion price then in effect for at least 20 trading days during any 30 consecutive trading day period prior to the date on which we provide notice of redemption. We may not redeem the debentures at our option or give notice of redemption unless we have paid any accrued deferred interest with respect to the debentures. The redemption price will equal 100% of the principal amount of the debentures to be redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest to but excluding the redemption date.

We will give notice of redemption not less than 45 nor more than 75 days before the redemption date by mail to the trustee, the paying agent and each holder of debentures.

Covenants	Neither we nor any of our subsidiaries are subject to any financial covenants under the indenture governing the debentures. In addition, neither we nor any of our subsidiaries are restricted under the indenture from incurring debt, paying dividends or issuing or repurchasing our securities (except, with respect to our paying dividends or repurchasing our securities, during any extension of the interest payment period for the debentures).
Fundamental change	If we undergo a fundamental change (as defined in this prospectus under Description of Debentures Fundamental change permits holders to require us to repurchase debentures), you will have the option to require us to repurchase all or any portion of your debentures. The fundamental change repurchase price will be 100% of the principal amount of the debentures to be repurchased plus any accrued and unpaid interest to but excluding the fundamental change repurchase date. We will pay the fundamental change repurchase price in cash.
Events of default	If there is an event of default under the debentures, the principal amount of the debentures, plus accrued and unpaid interest, may be declared immediately due and payable. These amounts automatically become due and payable if an event of default relating to certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occurs.

Table of Contents

Ranking	The debentures are our unsecured junior obligations subordinated in right of payment to our existing and future unsecured senior debt and effectively subordinated in right of payment to all indebtedness and other liabilities of our subsidiaries.
Use of proceeds	We will not receive any proceeds from sales by the selling securityholders.
Book-entry form	The debentures are issued in book-entry form and will be represented by permanent global certificates deposited with, or on behalf of, DTC and registered in the name of a nominee of DTC. Beneficial interests in any of the debentures will be shown on, and transfers will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC or its nominee, and any such interest may not be exchanged for certificated securities, except in limited circumstances.
Absence of a public market for the debentures	Since their initial issuance, the debentures have been eligible for trading in the PORTAL Market. However, debentures sold by means of this prospectus will no longer be eligible for trading on the PORTAL Market. We do not intend to list the debentures on any other automated quotation system or any securities exchange. Furthermore, we can provide no assurances as to the liquidity of, or trading market for, the debentures. Our common stock is listed on The Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol VRSN.
Risk Factors	Investment in the debentures involves risk. You should carefully consider the information under the section titled Risk Factors and all other information included in this prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference before investing in the debentures.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Investing in the debentures and our common stock involves a high degree of risk. In addition, our business, operations and financial condition are subject to various risks. You should carefully consider the risks described below with all of the other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus before making an investment decision. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only ones we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that our management currently deems immaterial also may impair our business operations. If any of the risks described below were to occur, our business, financial condition, operating results and cash flows could be materially adversely affected. In such an event, the trading price of the debentures and our common stock could decline and you could lose all or part of your investment.

Risks relating to our business

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

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

- the uncertainties, costs and risks related to our proposed divestiture plan, including any income statement charges we incur in connection therewith;
- the long sales and implementation cycles for, and potentially large order sizes of, some of our security services and the timing and execution of individual customer contracts;
- volume of domain name registrations and customer renewals in our naming services business;
- the mix of all our services sold during a period;
- our success in marketing and market acceptance of our services by our existing customers and by new customers;
- changes in marketing expenses related to promoting and distributing our services;
- customer renewal rates and turnover of customers of our services;
- continued development of our direct and indirect distribution channels for our information and security services, both in the United States and abroad;
- changes in the level of spending for information technology-related products and services by enterprise customers;
- the impact of price changes in our communications services and information and security services or our competitors products and services; and

- general economic and market conditions as well as economic and market conditions specific to the telecommunications and Internet industries.

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

Due to all of the above factors, our revenues and operating results are difficult to forecast. Therefore, we believe that period-to-period comparisons of our operating results will not necessarily be meaningful, and you should not rely upon them as an indication of future performance. Also, operating results may fall below our expectations and the expectations of securities analysts or investors in one or more future periods. If this were to occur, the market price of our common stock would likely decline.

Table of Contents

Our operating results may be adversely affected by the uncertain geopolitical environment and unfavorable economic and market conditions.

Adverse economic conditions worldwide have contributed to downturns in the telecommunications and technology industries in the past and could impact our business in the future, resulting in:

- reduced demand for our services as a result of a decrease in information technology and telecommunications spending by our customers;
- increased price competition for our products and services; and
- higher overhead costs as a percentage of revenues.

Recent political turmoil in many parts of the world, including terrorist and military actions, may continue to put pressure on global economic conditions. If the economic and market conditions in the United States and globally do not improve, or if they deteriorate, we may experience material adverse impacts on our business, operating results and financial condition as a consequence of the above factors or otherwise.

Our diversified business structure may result in significant fluctuations of our financial results.

Many of the companies we have acquired during the past seven years operated in different businesses from our then-current business. Although we plan on divesting many of these businesses, until our divestiture plan is complete, our success will depend on many factors, many of which are not entirely under our control, including, but not limited to, the following:

- the use of the Internet and other Internet Protocol (IP) networks for electronic commerce and communications;
- the extent to which digital certificates and domain names are used for electronic commerce or communications;
- growth in demand for our services;
- the competition for any of our services;
- the perceived security of electronic commerce and communications over the Internet and other IP networks;
- the perceived security of our services, technology, infrastructure and practices;
- the success in marketing and overall demand for our content services to consumers and businesses;
- the loss of customers through industry consolidation or customer decisions to deploy in-house or competitor technology and services; and

- our continued ability to maintain our current, and enter into additional, strategic relationships.

To address these risks we must, among other things, continue to:

- successfully market our services to new and existing customers;
- attract, integrate, train, retain and motivate qualified personnel;
- respond to competitive developments;
- successfully introduce new services; and
- successfully introduce enhancements to our services to address new technologies and standards and changing market conditions.

Table of Contents

We may not realize the benefits we are seeking from our investments in the Jamba joint ventures as a result of lower than predicted operating results, larger funding requirements or lower cash distributions or otherwise.

We have a 49% equity interest in two joint ventures related to our former Jamba business. We will recognize our proportionate share of the income or losses of these joint ventures in our consolidated statements of operations. We do not have control over the budget, day-to-day management or many of the other operating expenditures of the joint ventures, and therefore, we cannot predict with certainty the extent of the impact on our financial statements of these joint ventures for any particular period. Accordingly, our share of the income or losses of these joint ventures could materially affect our results of operations in future periods.

The joint venture agreements contain provisions requiring minimum cash distributions to the members. However, these provisions are subject to conditions and limitations, and therefore, we cannot assure you that we will ever receive cash distributions from these joint ventures. If the joint ventures require capital to fund their operations, we could be required to make capital contributions or loans to the joint ventures. The business operated by the U.S. joint venture is a newer business and therefore it may be more likely to require additional funding, although we cannot assure you that the Netherlands joint venture will not require additional funding as well. Additionally, we could be required to pay additional amounts to the joint ventures if it is later determined that we breached any of the representations or warranties in the formation agreement for the joint ventures.

The value of our investment in these joint ventures is subject to general economic, technological and market trends, as well as to the operating and financial decisions of the management team of the joint venture, all of which are outside of our control. In addition, these joint ventures may not gain the expected number of customers and/or generate the expected level of revenues, and consequently, we may never receive any cash distributions from these joint ventures, and in fact, they may require additional funding, any of which could diminish the value of or dilute our investment. Our investments in these joint ventures may not provide the economic returns we are seeking and may not increase in value above the minimum amounts at which we can require Fox or News Corporation to buy our shares from us. We cannot assure you that the commercial agreements, including the Gateway Services Agreement, will provide us any benefit. It is also possible that Fox and News Corporation could purchase our shares from us in the future, prior to the businesses of the joint ventures reaching their full potential. Therefore, we cannot provide you with any assurance as to whether we will achieve a favorable return on our investment.

We also entered into various other commercial relationships with the joint ventures; however, we cannot assure you that we will derive significant revenues from these other relationships.

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

As of December 31, 2007, we had approximately 1,200 employees outside the United States, including Europe, Asia, Australia, and the Americas. Expansion into international markets has required and will continue to require significant management attention and resources. We may also need to tailor some of our other services for a particular market and to enter into international distribution and operating relationships. We have limited experience in localizing our services and in developing international distribution or operating relationships. We may not succeed in expanding our services into international markets. Failure to do so could harm our business. Moreover, local laws and customs in many countries differ significantly from those in the United States. In many foreign countries, particularly in those with developing economies, it is common for others to engage in business practices that are prohibited by our internal policies and procedures or United States regulations applicable to us. There can be no assurance that all of our employees, contractors and agents will not take actions in violations of them. Violations of laws or key control policies by our employees, contractors or agents could result in financial

Table of Contents

reporting problems, fines, penalties, or prohibition on the importation or exportation of our products and could have a material adverse effect on our business. In addition, there are risks inherent in doing business on an international basis, including, among others:

- competition with foreign companies or other domestic companies entering the foreign markets in which we operate;
- differing and uncertain regulatory requirements;
- legal uncertainty regarding liability and compliance with foreign laws;
- export and import restrictions on cryptographic technology and products incorporating that technology;
- tariffs and other trade barriers and restrictions;
- difficulties in staffing and managing foreign operations;
- longer sales and payment cycles;
- problems in collecting accounts receivable;
- currency fluctuations, as our international revenues from Europe, South Africa, Japan, South America and Australia are not denominated in U.S. Dollars;
- potential problems associated with adapting our services to technical conditions existing in different countries;
- the necessity of developing foreign language portals and products for our services;
- difficulty of authenticating customer information for digital certificates and other purposes;
- political instability;
- failure of foreign laws to protect our U.S. proprietary rights adequately;
- more stringent privacy policies in foreign countries;

- additional vulnerability from terrorist groups targeting U.S. interests abroad;
- seasonal reductions in business activity; and
- potentially adverse tax consequences.

Governmental regulation and the application of existing laws may slow business growth, increase our costs of doing business and create potential liability.

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

Foreign, federal or state laws could have an adverse impact on our business. For example, recent laws include those designed to restrict the on-line distribution of certain materials deemed harmful to children and impose additional restrictions or obligations for on-line services when dealing with minors. Such legislation may impose significant additional costs on our business or subject us to additional liabilities.

Due to the nature of the Internet, it is possible that the governments of other states and foreign countries might attempt to regulate Internet transmissions or prosecute us for violations of their laws. We might unintentionally violate such laws, such laws may be modified and new laws may be enacted in the future. Any such developments could increase the costs of regulatory compliance for us, force us to change our business practices or otherwise materially harm our business.

Table of Contents

We have identified a material weakness in our internal controls over financial reporting that could cause investors to lose confidence in the reliability of our financial statements and result in a decrease in the value of our securities.

Our management has identified a material weakness in our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2007, arising from internal control deficiencies in our stock administration policies and practices, as discussed in Part II, Item 9A, Controls and Procedures of our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, incorporated by reference into this prospectus. In addition, due to the identification of a material weakness in internal control over financial reporting, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that, as of December 31, 2007 our disclosure controls and procedures were not effective.

We will continue to evaluate, upgrade and enhance our internal controls. Because of inherent limitations, our internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements, errors or omissions, and any projections of any evaluation of effectiveness of internal controls to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the degree of compliance with our policies or procedures may deteriorate. We cannot be certain in future periods that other control deficiencies that may constitute one or more significant deficiencies (as defined by the relevant auditing standards) or material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting will not be identified. If we fail to maintain the adequacy of our internal controls, including any failure to implement or difficulty in implementing required new or improved controls, our business and results of operations could be harmed, the results of operations we report could be subject to adjustments, we could fail to be able to provide reasonable assurance as to our financial results or the effectiveness of our internal controls or meet our reporting obligations and there could be a material adverse effect on the price of our securities.

We have expended significant resources in connection with our efforts to comply with the requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. In future periods, we will likely continue to expend substantial amounts in connection with these compliance efforts and with ongoing evaluation of, and improvements and enhancements to, our internal control over financial reporting. These expenditures may make it difficult for us to control or reduce the growth of our general and administrative and other expenses, which could adversely affect our results of operations and the price of our securities.

Issues arising from our agreements with ICANN and the DOC could harm our registry business.

The U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) has adopted a plan for the phased transition of the DOC s responsibilities for the domain name system to Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). As part of this transition, as the exclusive registry of domain names within the .*.com* and *.net* generic top-level domains (gTLDs), we have entered into agreements with ICANN and with the DOC.

We face risks from the transition of the DOC s responsibilities for the domain name system to ICANN, including the following:

- ICANN could adopt or promote policies, procedures or programs that are unfavorable to us as the registry operator of the *.com* and *.net* gTLDs or that are inconsistent with our current or future plans;
- the DOC or ICANN could terminate our agreements to be the registry for the *.com* or *.net* gTLDs under certain circumstances;
- if the *.com* and/or *.net* Registry Agreements are terminated, it could have a material adverse impact on our business;
- the renewal of the *.com* Registry Agreement is not approved by the DOC;
- DOC s or ICANN s interpretation of provisions of our agreements with either of them could differ from ours;

10

Table of Contents

- the DOC could revoke its recognition of ICANN, as a result of which the DOC could take the place of ICANN for purposes of our agreements with ICANN, and could take actions that are harmful to us and could disrupt current or future business plans;

- the U.S. Government could refuse to transfer certain responsibilities for domain name system administration to ICANN due to security, stability or other reasons, resulting in fragmentation or other instability in domain name system administration; and

- our registry business could face legal or other challenges resulting from our activities or the activities of registrars and registrants.

Challenges to ongoing privatization of Internet administration could harm our domain name registry business.

Risks we face from challenges by third parties, including governmental authorities in the United States and other countries, to our role in the ongoing privatization of the Internet include:

- legal, regulatory or other challenges could be brought, including challenges to the agreements governing our relationship with the DOC or ICANN, or to the legal authority underlying the roles and actions of the DOC, ICANN or us;

- the U.S. Congress could take action that is unfavorable to us;

- ICANN could fail to maintain its role, potentially resulting in instability in domain name system administration; and

- some governments and governmental authorities outside the United States have in the past disagreed with, and may in the future disagree with, the actions, policies or programs of ICANN, the U.S. Government and us relating to the domain name system. These foreign governments or governmental authorities may take actions or adopt policies or programs that are harmful to our business.

As a result of these and other risks, it may be difficult for us to introduce new services in our domain name registry business and we could also be subject to additional restrictions on how this business is conducted.

We rely on third parties who maintain and control root zone servers and route Internet communications.

We currently administer and operate only two of the thirteen root zone servers. The others are administered and operated by independent operators on a non-regulated basis. Because of the importance to the functioning of the Internet of these root zone servers, our registry services business could be harmed if these independent operators fail to maintain these servers properly or abandon these servers, which would place additional capacity demands on the two root zone servers we operate.

Further, our registry services business could be harmed if any of these volunteer operators fail to include or provide accessibility to the data that it maintains in the root zone servers that it controls. In the event and to the extent that ICANN is authorized to set policy with regard to an authoritative root server system, as provided in our registry agreement with ICANN, it is required to ensure that the authoritative root will point to the top-level domain zone servers designated by us. If ICANN does not do this, our business could be harmed.

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

Services as complex as those we offer or develop frequently contain undetected defects or errors. Despite testing, defects or errors may occur in our existing or new services, which could result in loss of or delay in revenues, loss of market share, failure to achieve market acceptance, diversion of development resources, injury to our reputation, tort or warranty claims, increased insurance costs or increased service and warranty costs, any

Table of Contents

of which could harm our business. The performance of our services could have unforeseen or unknown adverse effects on the networks over which they are delivered as well as on third-party applications and services that utilize our services, which could result in legal claims against us, harming our business. Furthermore, we often provide implementation, customization, consulting and other technical services in connection with the implementation and ongoing maintenance of our services, which typically involves working with sophisticated software, computing and communications systems. Our failure or inability to meet customer expectations in a timely manner could also result in loss of or delay in revenues, loss of market share, failure to achieve market acceptance, injury to our reputation and increased costs.

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

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

- power loss, transmission cable cuts and other telecommunications failures;
- damage or interruption caused by fire, earthquake, and other natural disasters;
- computer viruses or software defects; and
- physical or electronic break-ins, sabotage, intentional acts of vandalism, terrorist attacks and other events beyond our control.

Most of our systems are located at, and most of our customer information is stored in, our facilities in Mountain View, California and Kawasaki, Japan, both of which are susceptible to earthquakes; Providence, Rhode Island; Dulles, Virginia; Lacey, Washington; Overland Park, Kansas; Melbourne, Australia; and Berlin, Hamburg and Verl, Germany. Any damage or failure that causes interruptions in any of these facilities or our other computer and communications systems could materially harm our business. Although we carry insurance for property damage and business interruption, we do not carry insurance or financial reserves for interruptions or potential losses arising from earthquakes or terrorism.

In addition, our ability to issue digital certificates, our domain name registry services and other of our services depend on the efficient operation of the Internet connections from customers to our secure data centers and from our customers to the shared registration system. These connections depend upon the efficient operation of Internet service providers and Internet backbone service providers, all of which have had periodic operational problems or experienced outages in the past.

A failure in the operation of our domain name zone servers, the domain name root servers, or other events could result in the deletion of one or more domain names from the Internet for a period of time. A failure in the operation of our shared registration system could result in the inability of one or more other registrars to register and maintain domain names for a period of time. A failure in the operation or update of the master database that we maintain could result in the deletion of one or more top-level domains from the Internet and the discontinuation of second-level domain names in those top-level domains for a period of time. Any of these problems or outages could decrease customer satisfaction, which could harm our business.

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

We retain certain confidential customer information in our secure data centers and various registration systems. It is critical to our business strategy that our facilities and infrastructure remain secure and are perceived by the marketplace to be secure. Our domain name registry operations also depend on our ability to maintain our computer and telecommunications equipment in effective working order and to reasonably protect our systems against interruption, and potentially depend on protection by other registrars in the shared registration system.

Table of Contents

The root zone servers and top-level domain name zone servers that we operate are critical hardware to our registry services operations. Therefore, we may have to expend significant time and money to maintain or increase the security of our facilities and infrastructure.

Despite our security measures, our infrastructure may be vulnerable to physical break-ins, computer viruses, attacks by hackers or similar disruptive problems. It is possible that we may have to expend additional financial and other resources to address such problems. Any physical or electronic break-in or other security breach or compromise of the information stored at our secure data centers and domain name registration systems may jeopardize the security of information stored on our premises or in the computer systems and networks of our customers. In such an event, we could face significant liability and customers could be reluctant to use our services. Such an occurrence could also result in adverse publicity and therefore adversely affect the market s perception of the security of electronic commerce and communications over IP networks as well as of the security or reliability of our services.

The reliance of our network connectivity and interoperability services and content services on third-party communications infrastructure, hardware and software exposes us to a variety of risks we cannot control.

The success of our network connectivity and interoperability services and content services depends on our network infrastructure, including the capacity leased from telecommunications suppliers. In particular, we rely on AT&T, Sprint and other telecommunications providers for leased long-haul and local loop transmission capacity. These companies provide the dedicated links that connect our network components to each other and to our customers. Our business also depends upon the capacity, reliability and security of the infrastructure owned by third parties that is used to connect telephone calls. Specifically, we currently lease capacity from regional providers on four of the fourteen mated pairs of SS7 signal transfer points that comprise our network.

We have no control over the operation, quality or maintenance of a significant portion of that infrastructure or whether or not those third parties will upgrade or improve their equipment. We depend on these companies to maintain the operational integrity of our connections. If one or more of these companies is unable or unwilling to supply or expand its levels of service to us in the future, our operations could be severely interrupted. In addition, rapid changes in the telecommunications industry have led to the merging of many companies. These mergers may cause the availability, pricing and quality of the services we use to vary and could cause the length of time it takes to deliver the services that we use to increase significantly.

Our signaling and SS7 services rely on links, equipment and software provided to us from our vendors, the most important of which are gateway equipment and software from Tekelec and Agilent Technologies, Inc. We cannot assure you that we will be able to continue to purchase equipment from these vendors on acceptable terms, if at all. If we are unable to maintain current purchasing terms or ensure product availability with these vendors, we may lose customers and experience an increase in costs in seeking alternative suppliers of products and services.

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

Our success depends on our internally developed technologies, patents and other intellectual property. Despite our precautions, it may be possible for a third party to copy or otherwise obtain and use our trade secrets or other forms of our intellectual property without authorization. Furthermore, the laws of foreign countries may not protect our proprietary rights in those countries to the same extent U.S. law protects these rights in the United States. In addition, it is possible that others may independently develop substantially equivalent intellectual property. If we do not effectively protect our intellectual property, our business could suffer. Additionally, we have filed patent applications with respect to certain of our technology in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and patent offices outside the United States. Patents may not be awarded with respect to these applications and even if such patents are awarded, such patents may not provide us with sufficient protection of our intellectual property. In the future, we may have to resort to litigation to enforce our intellectual property rights, to protect our trade secrets or to determine the validity and scope of the proprietary rights of others. This type of litigation, regardless of its outcome, could result in substantial costs and diversion of management and technical resources.

We also license third-party technology that is used in our products and services to perform key functions. These third-party technology licenses may not continue to be available to us on commercially reasonable terms or at all. Our business could suffer if we lost the rights to use these technologies. Additionally, another party could claim that the licensed software infringes a patent or other proprietary right. Litigation between the licensor and a third-party or between us and a third-party could lead to royalty obligations for which we are not indemnified or for which indemnification is insufficient, or we may not be able to obtain any additional license on commercially reasonable terms or at all. The loss of, or our inability to obtain or maintain, any of these technology licenses could delay the introduction of our Internet infrastructure services until equivalent technology, if available, is identified, licensed and integrated. This could harm our business.

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

Claims relating to infringement of intellectual property of others or other similar claims have been made against us in the past and could be made against us in the future. In addition, we provide links to news content as part of our real-time publisher service. It is possible that we could become subject to additional claims for infringement of the intellectual property of third parties. Any claims, with or without merit, could be time-consuming, result in costly litigation and diversion of technical and management personnel, cause delays or require us to develop non-infringing technology or enter into royalty or licensing agreements. Royalty or licensing agreements, if required, may not be available on acceptable terms or at all. If a successful claim of infringement were made against us, we could be required to pay damages or have portions of our business enjoined. If we could not develop non-infringing technology or license the infringed or similar technology on a timely and cost-effective basis, our business could be harmed.

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

We must establish and maintain strategic and other relationships.

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

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

Furthermore, our ability to achieve future growth will also depend on our ability to continue to establish direct seller channels and to develop multiple distribution channels. Failure of one or more of our strategic relationships to result in the development and maintenance of a market for our services could harm our business. If we are unable to maintain our relationships or to enter into additional relationships, this could harm our business.

Table of Contents

We depend on key personnel to manage our business effectively and may not be successful in attracting and retaining such personnel.

We depend on the performance of our senior management team and other key employees. Our success also depends on our ability to attract, integrate, train, retain and motivate these individuals and additional highly skilled technical and sales and marketing personnel, both in the United States and abroad. In addition, our stringent hiring practices for some of our key personnel, which consist of background checks into prospective employees criminal and financial histories, further limit the number of qualified persons for these positions.

We have no employment agreements with any of our key executives that prevent them from leaving VeriSign at any time. In addition, we do not maintain key person life insurance for any of our officers or key employees. The loss of the services of any of our senior management team or other key employees or failure to attract, integrate, train, retain and motivate additional key employees could harm our business.

Compliance with rules and regulations concerning corporate governance is costly and could harm our business.

Ongoing compliance with the corporate governance requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and the NASDAQ Stock Market has increased the scope, complexity and cost of our corporate governance, reporting and disclosure practices, and our compliance efforts have required significant management attention. It is more difficult and more expensive for us to obtain director and officer liability insurance, and we have been required to accept reduced coverage and incur substantially higher costs to obtain the reduced level of coverage. Further, our board members, chief executive officer and chief financial officer face an increased risk of personal liability in connection with the performance of their duties. As a result, we may have difficulty attracting and retaining qualified board members and executive officers, which could harm our business.

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

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

- our stockholders may take action only at a meeting and not by written consent;
- our board must be given advance notice regarding stockholder-sponsored proposals for consideration at annual meetings and for stockholder nominations for the election of directors;
- vacancies on our board may be filled until the next annual meeting of stockholders only by majority vote of the directors then in office; and
- special meetings of our stockholders may be called only by the chief executive officer, the president or the board, and not by our stockholders.

VeriSign has also adopted a stockholder rights plan that may discourage, delay or prevent a change of control and make any future unsolicited acquisition attempt more difficult. Under the rights plan:

- The rights will become exercisable only upon the occurrence of certain events specified in the plan, including the acquisition of 20% of VeriSign s outstanding common stock by a person or group.
- Each right entitles the holder, other than an acquiring person, to acquire shares of VeriSign s common stock at a 50% discount to the then-prevailing market price.

- VeriSign s Board of Directors may redeem outstanding rights at any time prior to a person becoming an acquiring person, at a price of $0.001 per right. Prior to such time, the terms of the rights may be amended by VeriSign s Board of Directors without the approval of the holders of the rights.

Table of Contents

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

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

Risks relating to the competitive environment in which we operate

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

Competition in Information and Security Services. Our information and security services are targeted at the rapidly evolving market for Internet security services, including network security, authentication and validation, which enable secure electronic commerce and communications over wireline and wireless IP networks. The market for information and security services is intensely competitive, subject to rapid change and significantly affected by new product and service introductions and other market activities of industry participants.

Principal competitors generally fall within one of the following categories: (1) companies such as RSA, the security division of EMC, and Entrust Technologies, which offer software applications and related digital certificate products that customers operate themselves; (2) companies such as Digital Signature Trust Company (a subsidiary of Identrus) that primarily offer digital certificate and certification authority-related services; (3) companies focused on providing a bundled offering of products and services; and (4) companies offering competing Secure Socket Layer (SSL) certificate and other security services, including GoDaddy and other domain name registrars. We also experience competition from a number of smaller companies, and we believe that our primary long-term competitors may not yet have entered the market. Furthermore, Netscape and Microsoft have introduced software products that enable the issuance and management of digital certificates, and we believe that other companies could introduce similar products.

In addition, browser companies that embed our interface technologies or otherwise feature them as a provider of digital certificate products and services in their Web browsers or on their Web sites could also promote our competitors or charge us substantial fees for promotions in the future.

Competition in Managed Security Services. Consulting companies or professional services groups of other companies with Internet expertise are current or potential competitors to our managed security services. These companies include large systems integrators and consulting firms, such as Accenture, IBM Global Services, Getronics and Lucent NetCare. We also compete with security product companies that offer managed security services in addition to other security services, such as Symantec and ISS, as well as a number of providers such as BT Counterpane that offer managed security services. Telecommunications providers, such as Verizon Business, a provider of managed security services, are also potential competitors. In addition, we compete with some companies that have developed products that automate the management of IP addresses and name maps throughout enterprise-wide intranets, and with companies with internally developed systems integration efforts.

Competition in Real-Time Publisher Services. We face competition from various smaller companies providing similar services.

Competition in Digital Brand Management Services. We face competition from companies providing services similar to some of our Digital Brand Management Services. In the monitoring services, registration and

Table of Contents

domain name asset management area of our business, our competition comes primarily from ICANN accredited registrars and various smaller companies providing similar services.

Competition in Communications Services. The market for communications services is extremely competitive and subject to significant pricing pressure. Competition in this area arises from two primary sources. Incumbent carriers provide competing in-house services in their respective regions. In addition, we face direct competition from national, unregulated companies, including Syniverse Technologies, Telcordia, NeuStar and other carriers such as Southern New England Telephone Diversified Group, a unit of AT&T. Furthermore, customers are increasingly likely to deploy internally developed communications technologies and services which may reduce the demand for technologies and services from third party providers, such as VeriSign, and further increase competitive pricing pressures.

Competition in Commerce Services. Our wireless billing and payment services are also subject to competition from providers such as Comverse, Amdocs, Convergys Corporation and Boston Communications Group. We are also aware of major Internet service providers, software developers and smaller entrepreneurial companies that are or may in the future be focusing significant resources on developing and marketing products and services that may compete directly with ours. Furthermore, customers are increasingly likely to deploy internally developed communications technologies and services which may reduce the demand for technologies and services from third-party providers such as VeriSign and further increase competitive pricing pressures.

Competition in Content Services. The market for content services is extremely competitive. Competitors include developers of content and entertainment products and services in a variety of domestic and international markets, such as Infospace, Itouch, Arvato mobile, Monstermob, and Motricity. This business also faces competition from mobile network operators such as Cingular, Verizon Wireless, Sprint Nextel Corporation, T-Mobile, Vodafone, O_2, Orange, E-Plus and Telefónica, as well as Internet portal operators such as Yahoo!, AOL, T-Online and Google. Additional competitors are handset manufacturers such as Nokia and software providers such as Microsoft and Apple. As the market for wireless data, including information and entertainment data, matures, new categories of competitors, such as mobile phone companies, broadcasters, music publishers, other content providers or others have begun to develop competing products or services.

Competition in Naming Services. We face competition in the domain name registry space from other gTLD and country code top-level domain (ccTLD) registries that are competing for the business of entities and individuals that are seeking to establish a Web presence, including registries offering services related to the *.info, .org, .mobi, .biz, .name, .pro, .aero, .museum* and *.coop* gTLDs and registries offering services related to ccTLDs. There are currently 16 gTLD registries and over 240 ccTLD registries.

We also face competition from service providers that offer outsourced domain name registration, resolutions and other Domain Name System (DNS) services to organizations that require a reliable and scalable infrastructure. Among the competitors are UltraDNS, NeuLevel, Afilias, Register.*com* and Tucows.com.

Several of our current and potential competitors have longer operating histories and significantly greater financial, technical, marketing and other resources than we do and therefore may be able to respond more quickly than we can to new or changing opportunities, technologies, standards and customer requirements. Many of these competitors also have broader and more established distribution channels that may be used to deliver competing products or services directly to customers through bundling or other means. If such competitors were to bundle competing products or services for their customers, the demand for our products and services might be substantially reduced and the ability to distribute our products successfully and the utilization of our services would be substantially diminished. New technologies and the expansion of existing technologies may increase the competitive pressure.

New technologies and the expansion of existing technologies may increase competitive pressure. We cannot assure you that competing technologies developed by others or the emergence of new industry standards will not adversely affect our competitive position or render our security services or technologies noncompetitive or obsolete.

Table of Contents

In addition, our markets are characterized by announcements of collaborative relationships involving our competitors. The existence or announcement of any such relationships could adversely affect our ability to attract and retain customers. As a result of the foregoing and other factors, we may not be able to compete effectively with current or future competitors, and competitive pressures that we face could materially harm our business.

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

The Internet and communications network services industry are characterized by rapid technological change and frequent new product and service announcements which require us continually to improve the performance, features and reliability of our services, particularly in response to competitive offerings. In order to remain competitive and retain our market share, we must continually improve our access technology and software, support the latest transmission technologies, and adapt our products and services to changing market conditions and customer preferences.

We cannot assure you that we will be able to adapt to these challenges or respond successfully or in a cost-effective way to adequately meet them. Our failure to do so would adversely affect our ability to compete and retain customers or market share.

Risks related to our divestiture plan

We may face difficulties and incur costs associated with our divestiture plan and our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows could be adversely affected.

Transitioning disposed businesses involves a number of risks, including, but not limited to difficulties separating operations, services, products and personnel; the potential impairment of relationships with our existing customers; the disruption of our business and the potential loss of key employees.

For example, our divestiture plan will require a substantial amount of management, administrative and operational resources. These demands may distract our employees from the day-to-day operation of VeriSign s core businesses.

There is also risk that we may incur additional charges associated with an impairment of a portion of goodwill and other intangible assets due to changes in market conditions for acquisitions and dispositions. Under generally accepted accounting principles, we are required to evaluate goodwill for impairment on an annual basis, and to re-evaluate goodwill and to evaluate other intangible assets as events or circumstances indicate that such assets may be impaired. Further, we are likely to incur income statement charges to complete the divestiture plan, which could be material.

If we are unable to successfully address any of these risks for future dispositions, our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows could be adversely affected.

We may be unable to achieve some or all of the benefits that we expect will result from the divestiture plan and such benefits may be delayed or not occur at all.

We may not be able to achieve the full strategic and financial benefits we expect from the divestiture of VeriSign s non-core businesses from our portfolio. For example, we may encounter difficulties identifying buyers for certain businesses or be unable to sell businesses identified for divestiture, and there can be no assurance that analysts and investors will place greater value on VeriSign following the divestiture plan than the value placed on us pre-divestiture.

Table of Contents

In addition, there is no guarantee that the planned divestitures will occur or will not be significantly delayed. Completion of the plan of divestiture is subject to a number of factors, including:

- business, political and economic conditions in the United States and in other countries in which the Company currently operates;
- governmental regulations and policies, actions and approvals of regulatory bodies;
- the operating performance of the Company; and
- identification of buyers and negotiation of sale agreements.

We may be adversely affected under certain covenants in our bank credit facility.

Our bank credit agreement contains a negative covenant that limits our ability to sell assets and freely deploy the proceeds we receive from such sales, subject to exceptions based on the size and timing of the sales. Therefore, depending on the size and timing of any dispositions that we decide to pursue as part of our divestiture plan, we may find it necessary to seek an amendment to our credit agreement or to structure the sales in a manner that complies with the covenant but that is potentially less favorable to the Company than would otherwise be the case. There can be no guarantee that we will be successful in obtaining any such amendment on acceptable terms or at all or be able to structure potential dispositions accordingly.

We may continue to be responsible for a portion of our contingent and other corporate liabilities following the divestiture of certain businesses.

It is possible that under the agreements reached with buyers for businesses divested under the plan, we may remain liable for certain contingent and corporate liabilities. There is a possibility that we will incur costs and expenses associated with the management of these contingent and other corporate liabilities. These contingent and other corporate liabilities could potentially relate to consolidated securities litigation, as well as actions brought by third parties as a result of the divestiture plan. Where responsibility for such liabilities is to be shared with the buyer, it is possible that the buyer or another party may be in default for payments for which they are responsible, obligating us to pay amounts in excess of our agreed-upon share of the assumed obligations.

Completion of the divestiture plan may restrict our ability to compete in certain market sectors.

It is possible that under the agreements reached with buyers for businesses divested under the plan, we will be restricted from competing, either directly or indirectly, with those businesses or from entering certain market sectors for a defined period of time pursuant to negotiated non-compete arrangements.

Risks related to our securities

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

As of January 31, 2008, we had one billion authorized common shares, of which 213.4 million shares were outstanding. In addition approximately, 46.6 million common shares were reserved for issuance pursuant to employee stock option and employee stock purchase plans (Equity Plans), and approximately 36.4 million shares were reserved for issuance upon conversion or repurchase of the debentures. The availability of substantial amounts of our common stock resulting from the exercise or settlement of equity awards outstanding under our Equity Plans or the conversion or repurchase of debentures using common stock, which would be dilutive to existing security holders, could adversely affect the prevailing market price of our common stock and could impair our ability to raise additional capital through the sale of equity securities.

We have not historically maintained substantial levels of indebtedness, and our financial condition and results of operations could be adversely affected if we do not effectively manage our liabilities.

As a result of the sale of the debentures, we have a substantially greater amount of long term debt than we have maintained in the past. In addition to the debentures, we have a revolving credit facility with a borrowing

Table of Contents

capacity of $500 million. While we currently have no outstanding borrowings under our credit facility, its availability allows us immediate access to working capital if we identify opportunities for the use of this cash. Our maintenance of substantial levels of debt could adversely affect our flexibility to take advantage of corporate opportunities and could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

There may be potential new accounting pronouncements or regulatory rulings which may have an impact on our future financial condition and results of operations.

There may be potential new accounting pronouncements or regulatory rulings, which may have an impact on our future financial condition and results of operations. For example, in August 2007, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued for comment, the proposed FASB Staff Position (FSP) No. APB 14-a (FSP APB 14-a), *Accounting for Convertible Debt Instruments that May be Settled in Cash upon Conversion (Including Partial Cash Settlement),* that would significantly affect the accounting for convertible debt. Our debentures would be affected by this proposed FSP. The proposed FSP would require the issuer to separately account for the liability and equity components of the instrument in a manner that reflects the issuer s economic interest cost. Further, the proposed FSP would require bifurcation of a component of the debt, classification of that component as equity, and then accretion of the resulting discount on the debt to result in the economic interest cost being reflected in the consolidated statement of income. In applying this FSP, the FASB emphasized that the FSP would be applied to the terms of the instruments as they existed for the time periods they existed, therefore, the application of the FSP would be applied retrospectively to all periods presented. If the FSP is approved, it is expected to be effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2007, and will require retrospective application. The Company would be required to implement the proposed standard during the first quarter of 2008, which begins on January 1, 2008. Although FSP APB 14-a would have no impact on our actual past or future cash flows, it would require us to record a significant amount of non-cash interest expense as the debt discount is amortized. In addition, if our convertible debt is redeemed or converted prior to maturity, any unamortized debt discount would result in a loss on extinguishment. As a result, there could be a material adverse impact on our results of operations and earnings per share. These impacts could adversely affect the trading price of our common stock and in turn negatively impact the trading price of the debentures.

Certain other risks

Our communications services business depends in part on the acceptance of our SS7 network and the telecommunications industry s continuing use of SS7 technology.

Our future growth in our communications services business depends, in part, on the commercial success and reliability of our SS7 network. Our SS7 network is a vital component of our network services and has been a significant source of revenues for our Communications Services Group. Our communications services business will suffer if our target customers do not use our SS7 network. Our future financial performance will also depend on the successful development, introduction and customer acceptance of new and enhanced SS7-based services. We are not certain that our target customers will choose our particular SS7 network solution or continue to use our SS7 network.

The inability of our customers to successfully implement our signaling and network services with their existing systems could adversely affect our business.

Significant technical challenges exist in our signaling and network services business because many of our customers:

- purchase and implement SS7 network services in phases;
- deploy SS7 connectivity across a variety of telecommunication switches and routes; and
- integrate our SS7 network with a number of legacy systems, third-party software applications and engineering tools.

Table of Contents

Customer implementation currently requires participation by our order management and our engineering and operations groups, each of which has limited resources. Some customers may also require us to develop costly customized features or capabilities, which increases our costs and consumes a disproportionate share of our limited customer service and support resources. Also, we typically charge one-time fees for initially connecting a customer to our SS7 network and a monthly recurring flat rate fee after the connection is established. If new or existing customers have difficulty deploying our products or require significant amounts of our engineering service support, we may experience reduced operating margins. Our customers ability to deploy our network services to their own customers and integrate them successfully within their systems depends on our customers capabilities and the complexity involved. Difficulty in deploying those services could reduce our operating margins due to increased customer support and could cause potential delays in recognizing revenues until the services are implemented.

Our failure to achieve or sustain market acceptance of our communications services at desired pricing levels and industry consolidation could adversely impact our revenues and cash flow.

The telecommunications industry is characterized by significant price competition. Competition and industry consolidation in our communications services could result in significant pricing pressure and an erosion in our market share. Pricing pressure from competition could cause large reductions in the selling price of our services. For example, our competitors may provide customers with reduced communications costs for Internet access or private network services, reducing the overall cost of services and significantly increasing pricing pressures on us. We would need to offset the effects of any price reductions by increasing the number of our customers, generating higher revenues from enhanced services or reducing our costs, and we may not be able to do so successfully. We believe that the business of providing network connectivity and related network services will see increased consolidation in the future. Consolidation could decrease selling prices and increase competition in these industries, which could erode our market share, revenues and operating margins in our Communications Services Group. Furthermore, customers may choose to deploy internally developed communications technologies and services thereby reducing the demand for technologies and services we offer which could harm our business.

Services offered by our Internet Services Group rely on public key cryptography technology that may compromise our system s security.

Services offered by our Internet Services Group depend on public key cryptography technology. With public key cryptography technology, a user is given a public key and a private key, both of which are required to perform encryption and decryption operations. The security afforded by this technology depends on the integrity of a user s private key and that it is not lost, stolen or otherwise compromised. The integrity of private keys also depends in part on the application of specific mathematical principles known as factoring. This integrity is predicated on the assumption that the factoring of large numbers into their prime number components is difficult. Should an easy factoring method be developed, the security of encryption products utilizing public key cryptography technology would be reduced or eliminated. Furthermore, any significant advance in techniques for attacking cryptographic systems could also render some or all of our existing public key infrastructure (PKI) services obsolete or unmarketable. If improved techniques for attacking cryptographic systems were ever developed, we would likely have to reissue digital certificates to some or all of our customers, which could damage our reputation and brand or otherwise harm our business. In the past there have been public announcements of the successful attack upon cryptographic keys of certain kinds and lengths and of the potential misappropriation of private keys and other activation data. This type of publicity could also hurt the public perception as to the safety of the public key cryptography technology included in our digital certificates. This negative public perception could harm our business.

Table of Contents

Our content services business depends on agreements with many different third parties, including wireless carriers and content providers. If these agreements are terminated or not renewed, or are amended to require us to change the way our content services are offered to customers, our business could be harmed.

Our content services business depends on our ability to enter into and maintain agreements with many different third parties including wireless carriers and other mobile phone service providers, upon which this business is highly dependent for billing its customers.

These agreements are typically for a short term, or are otherwise terminable upon short notice, and in the case of agreements with carriers, other mobile phone service providers and content developers, are non-exclusive. If these third parties reduce their commitment to us, terminate their agreements with us or enter into similar agreements with our competitors, our content services business could be materially harmed.

Failure of VeriSign Affiliates to follow our security and trust practices or to maintain the privacy or security of confidential customer information could have an adverse impact on our revenues and business.

We have licensed to VeriSign Affiliates our Processing Center platform, which is designed to replicate our own secure data centers and allows the VeriSign Affiliate to offer back-end processing of PKI services for enterprises. The VeriSign Processing Center platform provides a VeriSign Affiliate with the knowledge and technology to offer PKI services similar to those offered by us. It is critical to our business strategy that the facilities and infrastructure used in issuing and marketing digital certificates remain secure and we are perceived by the marketplace to be secure. Although we provide the VeriSign Affiliate with training in security and trust practices, network management and customer service and support, these practices are performed by the affiliate and are outside of our control. Any failure of a VeriSign Affiliate to maintain the privacy or security of confidential customer information could result in negative publicity and therefore adversely affect the market s perception of the security of our services as well as the security of electronic commerce and communication over IP networks generally.

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

We target our information and security services at the market for trusted and secure electronic commerce and communications over IP and other networks. Our Naming Services business unit is developing managed services designed to work with the EPCglobal Network and radio frequency identification (RFID), technology, point-of-sale data services and real-time publisher services. These are rapidly evolving markets that may not continue to grow. Even if these markets grow, our services may not be widely accepted. Accordingly, the demand for our services is very uncertain. The factors that may affect market acceptance of our services include the following:

- market acceptance of products and services based upon technologies other than those we use;
- public perception of the security of our technologies and of IP and other networks;
- the introduction and consumer acceptance of new generations of mobile handsets;
- demand for supply chain information services, including acceptance of RFID technology, the EPCglobal Network and point-of-sale data services;
- the ability of the Internet infrastructure to accommodate increased levels of usage; and
- government regulations affecting electronic commerce and communications over IP networks.

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

22

Table of Contents

Risks related to the debentures

The debentures are our unsecured junior obligations and are subordinated in right of payment to our existing and future senior debt obligations, including any secured debt we may incur.

The debentures are unsecured and subordinated in right of payment to all of our existing and future senior debt. Because the debentures are subordinated to our senior debt, if we experience:

- a bankruptcy, liquidation or reorganization, or

- an acceleration of the debentures due to an event of default under the indenture,

we will be permitted to make payments on the debentures only after we have satisfied all of our senior debt obligations. Also, if payment or other defaults occur on senior debt, payments on the debentures may be blocked indefinitely or for specified periods. Therefore, payments on the debentures may be delayed or not permitted or we may not have sufficient assets remaining to pay amounts due on any or all of the debentures.

The indenture for the debentures does not limit our ability, or that of any of our presently existing or future subsidiaries, to incur senior debt, other indebtedness or other liabilities. As of January 31, 2008, we did not have any senior debt outstanding, and our subsidiaries had approximately $218.2 million of outstanding indebtedness and other liabilities, excluding deferred revenue, intercompany liabilities and liabilities of a type not required to be reflected on the balance sheet of such subsidiaries in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. From time to time we and our subsidiaries may incur additional indebtedness, including senior debt, which could adversely affect our ability to pay our obligations under the debentures. We currently have a $500 million revolving credit facility. To the extent we make any borrowings under this facility, these amounts would constitute senior debt.

In addition, the debentures are not secured by any of our assets or those of our subsidiaries. As a result, the debentures are effectively subordinated to any secured debt we may incur. In any liquidation, dissolution, bankruptcy or other similar proceeding, holders of our secured debt may assert rights against any assets securing such debt in order to receive full payment of their debt before those assets may be used to pay the holders of the debentures. In such an event, we may not have sufficient assets remaining to pay amounts due on any or all of the debentures.

We rely on certain of our subsidiaries as sources of cash and your right to receive payments on the debentures is effectively subordinated to all existing and future liabilities of our subsidiaries.

The debentures are obligations exclusively of VeriSign, and we conduct a considerable portion of our operations through our subsidiaries. During the years ended December 31, 2006 and December 31, 2007, our subsidiaries generated 48% and 44%, respectively, of our consolidated revenue. Accordingly, dividends and advances from our subsidiaries are significant sources of cash for us. The amount of dividends available to us from our subsidiaries depends largely upon each subsidiary s earnings and operating capital requirements. The terms of some of our subsidiaries future borrowing arrangements may limit the transfer of funds to us. In addition, the ability of our subsidiaries to make any payments to us will depend on their business and tax considerations and legal restrictions.

None of our subsidiaries have guaranteed our obligations under, or have any obligation to pay any amounts due on, the debentures. As a result, the debentures are effectively subordinated to all liabilities, including trade payables, of our subsidiaries. Our rights and the rights of our creditors, including holders of the debentures, to participate in the assets of any of our subsidiaries upon their liquidation or recapitalization will generally be subordinated to the prior claims of those subsidiaries creditors. At January 31, 2008, our subsidiaries had approximately $218.2 million of outstanding indebtedness and other liabilities, excluding deferred revenue, intercompany liabilities and liabilities of a type not required to be reflected on the balance sheet of such subsidiaries in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Table of Contents

The debentures do not contain restrictive covenants and we may incur substantially more debt or take other actions which may affect our ability to satisfy our obligations under the debentures.

The indenture governing the debentures does not contain any financial or operating covenants or restrictions on the incurrence of indebtedness (including secured debt), the payments of dividends or the issuance or repurchase of securities by us or any of our subsidiaries, except, with respect to our payment of dividends or the repurchase of our securities, during any extension of the interest payment period for the debentures. See Description of Debentures Interest Option to extend interest payment period. In addition, the limited covenants applicable to the debentures do not require us to achieve or maintain any minimum financial results relating to our financial position or results of operations.

Our ability to recapitalize, incur additional debt and take a number of other actions that are not limited by the terms of the debentures could have the effect of diminishing our ability to make payments on the debentures when due, and require us to dedicate a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations to payments on our indebtedness, which would reduce the availability of cash flow to fund our operations, working capital and capital expenditures.

Some significant restructuring transactions may not constitute a fundamental change, in which case we would not be obligated to offer to repurchase the debentures.

Upon the occurrence of a fundamental change, you will have the right to require us to repurchase the debentures. However, the fundamental change provisions will not afford protection to holders of debentures in the event of certain transactions. For example, any leveraged recapitalization, refinancing, restructuring, or acquisition initiated by us will generally not constitute a fundamental change requiring us to repurchase the debentures. In the event of any such transaction, holders of the debentures will not have the right to require us to repurchase the debentures, even though any of these transactions could increase the amount of our indebtedness, or otherwise adversely affect our capital structure or any credit ratings, thereby adversely affecting the holders of debentures.

Restricted convertibility of the debentures could result in your receiving less than the value of the cash and common stock, if any, into which a debenture would otherwise be convertible.

The debentures are convertible only if specified conditions are met. If these conditions are not met, you will not be able to convert your debentures, and you will not be able to receive the cash and/or common stock, into which the debentures would otherwise be convertible.

Upon conversion of the debentures, we will pay a settlement amount consisting of cash and/or shares of our common stock based upon a specified observation period, and you may receive less proceeds than expected.

We will satisfy our conversion obligation to holders by delivering cash, shares of our common stock or any combination thereof, at our option. If we satisfy our conversion obligation solely in cash or through delivery of a combination of cash and shares of our common stock, the settlement amount will be based on a daily conversion value calculated on a proportionate basis for each trading day in the 30 trading day observation period, which generally will not commence until four trading days after the related conversion date. Accordingly, upon conversion of a debenture, holders might not receive any shares of our common stock, or they might receive fewer shares of common stock than would be implied by the conversion value of the debenture as of the conversion date (as defined under Description of Debentures). This is particularly true with respect to any conversion occurring after the date of issuance of a notice of redemption as described under Description of Debentures Optional redemption, for which the observation period will begin on the 32nd scheduled trading day prior to the applicable redemption date. In addition, because of the 30 trading day observation period and the date on which it commences, settlement of conversions settled solely in cash or in a combination of cash and shares of our common stock generally will be delayed until at the least the 37th trading day following the related conversion date. See Description of Debentures. Upon conversion of the debentures, you may receive

Table of Contents

consideration worth less than the conversion value of the debenture as of the conversion date because the value of our common stock may decline (or not appreciate as much as you may expect) between the conversion date and the end of the observation period.

Our failure to convert the debentures into cash and/or shares of our common stock upon exercise of a holder s conversion right in accordance with the provisions of the indenture would constitute a default under the indenture. In addition, a default under the indenture could lead to a default under existing and future agreements governing our indebtedness. If, due to a default, the repayment of related indebtedness were to be accelerated after any applicable notice or grace periods, we may not have sufficient funds to repay such indebtedness and the debentures.

The conversion rate of the debentures may not be adjusted for all dilutive events.

The conversion rate of the debentures is subject to adjustment for certain events, including, but not limited to, the issuance of stock dividends on our common stock, the issuance of certain rights or warrants, subdivisions, combinations, distributions of capital stock, indebtedness or assets, cash dividends and certain issuer tender or exchange offers as described under Description of Debentures Conversion rights Conversion rate adjustments. However, the conversion rate will not be adjusted for other events, such as a third-party tender or exchange offer or an issuance of common stock for cash, that may adversely affect the trading price of the debentures or the common stock. An event that adversely affects the value of the debentures may occur, and that event may not result in an adjustment to the conversion rate.

The adjustment to the conversion rate for debentures converted in connection with certain fundamental changes may not adequately compensate you for any lost value of your debentures as a result of such transaction.

If a fundamental change occurs, under certain circumstances we will increase the conversion rate by a number of additional shares of our common stock for debentures converted in connection with such fundamental change. The increase in the conversion rate will be determined based on the date on which the fundamental change becomes effective and the price paid per share of our common stock in such transaction, as described below under Description of Debentures Conversion rights Adjustments to shares delivered upon conversion in connection with certain fundamental changes. The adjustment to the conversion rate for debentures converted in connection with a fundamental change may not adequately compensate you for any lost value of your debentures as a result of such transaction. In addition, if the price of our common stock in the transaction is greater than $98.00 per share or less than $28.64 (in each case, subject to adjustment), no adjustment will be made to the conversion rate. In addition, in no event will the total number of shares of common stock issuable upon conversion exceed 34.9162 per $1,000 principal amount of debentures, subject to adjustments in the same manner as the conversion rate as set forth under Description of Debentures Conversion rights Conversion rate adjustments.

Our obligation to increase the conversion rate in connection with any such fundamental change could be considered a penalty, in which case the enforceability thereof would be subject to general principles of reasonableness of economic remedies.

If the market price of our common stock decreases, the market price of the debentures may similarly decrease.

We expect that the market price of the debentures will be significantly affected by the market price of our common stock. This may result in greater volatility in the market price of the debentures than would be expected for debt securities. The market price of our common stock will likely continue to fluctuate in response to factors including the factors discussed elsewhere in the sections of this prospectus titled Risk Factors many of which are beyond our control. For instance, the price of our common stock could be affected by sales of our common stock by investors who view the debentures as a more attractive means of equity participation in our company than our common stock, or by other hedging or arbitrage trading activity that may develop involving our common stock. This hedging or arbitrage could, in turn, affect the trading price of the debentures.

The debentures may not have an active market and their price may be volatile. You may be unable to sell your debentures at the price you desire or at all.

There is no existing trading market for the debentures. As a result, there can be no assurance that a liquid market will develop or be maintained for the debentures, that you will be able to sell any of the debentures at a particular time (if at all) or that the prices you receive if or when you sell the debentures will be above their initial offering price. We do not intend to list the debentures on any national securities exchange. The initial purchaser of the debentures has advised us that it intends to make a market in the debentures after this offering is completed, but it has no obligation to do so and may cease its market-making at any time without notice. In addition, market-making will be subject to the limits imposed by the Securities Act and the Exchange Act, and may be limited during the pendency of any shelf registration statement or exchange offer. The liquidity of the trading market in these debentures, and the market price quoted for these debentures, may be adversely affected by, among other things:

- changes in the overall market for debt securities;
- changes in our financial performance or prospects;
- the prospects for companies in our industry generally;
- the number of holders of the debentures;
- the interest of securities dealers in making a market for the debentures; and
- prevailing interest rates.

The debentures may not be rated or may receive a lower rating than anticipated.

We do not intend to seek a rating on the debentures. However, if one or more rating agencies rates the debentures and assigns the debentures a rating lower than the rating expected by investors, or reduces their rating in the future, the market price of the debentures and our common stock could be harmed.

We may not have the ability to repurchase the debentures in cash upon the occurrence of a fundamental change, or to pay cash upon the conversion of debentures, as required by the indenture governing the debentures.

Holders of our debentures will have the right to require us to repurchase the debentures upon the occurrence of a fundamental change as defined in Description of Debentures. Although we currently have the intent and the ability to settle the principal amount of the convertible debentures in cash as required under the Indenture (as defined below), we may not have sufficient funds to repurchase the debentures in cash or to make the required repayment at such time or have the ability to arrange necessary financing on acceptable terms. In addition, upon conversion of the debentures, we will be required to make cash payments to the holders of the debentures equal to the lesser of the principal amount of the debentures being converted and the conversion value of those debentures. Such payments could be significant, and we may not have sufficient funds to make them at such time.

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

While we currently have the intent and ability to settle the principal in cash, if, in the future, we conclude that we no longer have the ability to do so, we will be required to change our accounting policy for earnings per share from the treasury stock method to the if-converted method.

Table of Contents

Conversion of the debentures will dilute the ownership interest of existing stockholders, including holders who had previously converted their debentures.

The conversion of some or all of the debentures will dilute the ownership interests of existing stockholders. Any sales in the public market of the common stock issuable upon such conversion could adversely affect prevailing market prices of our common stock. In addition, the existence of the debentures may encourage short selling by market participants because the conversion of the debentures could be used to satisfy short positions, or anticipated conversion of the debentures into shares of our common stock could depress the price of our common stock.

If you hold debentures, you will not be entitled to any rights with respect to our common stock, but you will be subject to all changes made with respect to our common stock.

If you hold debentures, you will not be entitled to any rights with respect to our common stock (including, without limitation, voting rights and rights to receive any dividends or other distributions on our common stock, other than extraordinary dividends that our board of directors designates as payable to the holders of the debentures), but if you subsequently convert your debentures into common stock, you will be subject to all changes affecting the common stock. You will have rights with respect to our common stock only if and when we deliver shares of common stock to you upon conversion of your debentures and, to a limited extent, under the conversion rate adjustments applicable to the debentures. For example, in the event that an amendment is proposed to our restated certificate of incorporation or bylaws requiring stockholder approval and the record date for determining the stockholders of record entitled to vote on the amendment occurs prior to delivery of common stock to you, you will not be entitled to vote on the amendment, although you will nevertheless be subject to any changes in the powers or rights of our common stock that result from such amendment.

Our stock price has historically been volatile and may continue to be volatile. The price of our common stock, and therefore the price of the debentures, may fluctuate significantly, which may make it difficult for holders to resell the debentures or the shares of our common stock issuable upon conversion of the debentures when desired or at attractive prices.

The trading price of our common stock has been and may continue to be subject to wide fluctuations. Since the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006, the closing sale price of our common stock on The Nasdaq Global Select Market ranged from $22.93 to $40.90 per share, and the closing sale price on February 28, 2008 was $36.00 per share. Our stock price may fluctuate in response to a number of events and factors, such as quarterly variations in operating results, announcements of technological innovations or new products by us or our competitors, changes in financial estimates and recommendations by securities analysts, the operating and stock price performance of other companies that investors may deem comparable to us, and new reports relating to trends in our markets or general economic conditions.

In the past, many companies have been the subject of securities class action litigation following periods of volatility in the market price of their stock. If we become involved in securities class action litigation in the future, it could result in substantial costs and diversion of our management s attention and resources and could harm our stock price, business, prospects, results of operations and financial condition.

In addition, the stock market in general, and prices for companies in our industry, have experienced extreme volatility that often has been unrelated to the operating performance of such companies. These broad market and industry fluctuations may adversely affect the price of our stock, regardless of our operating performance. Because the debentures are convertible into shares of our common stock, volatility or depressed prices of our common stock could have a similar effect on the trading price of our debentures. Holders who receive common stock upon conversion also will be subject to the risk of volatility and depressed prices of our common stock. In addition, the existence of the debentures may encourage short selling in our common stock by market participants because the conversion of the debentures could depress the price of our common stock.

Additionally, volatility or a lack of positive performance in our stock price may adversely affect our ability to retain key employees.

Table of Contents

Sales of a significant number of shares of our common stock in the public markets, or the perception of such sales, could depress the market price of the debentures.

Sales of a substantial number of shares of our common stock or other equity-related securities in the public markets could depress the market price of the debentures, our common stock, or both, and impair our ability to raise capital through the sale of additional equity securities. We cannot predict the effect that future sales of our common stock or other equity-related securities would have on the market price of our common stock or the value of the debentures. The price of our common stock could be affected by possible sales of our common stock by investors who view the debentures as a more attractive means of equity participation in our company and by hedging or arbitrage trading activity which we expect to occur involving our common stock. This hedging or arbitrage could, in turn, affect the market price of the debentures.

You may be subject to tax if we make or fail to make certain adjustments to the conversion rate of the debentures even though you do not receive a corresponding cash distribution.

The conversion rate of the debentures is subject to adjustment in certain circumstances, including the payment of certain cash dividends. If the conversion rate is adjusted as a result of a distribution that is taxable to our common stockholders, such as a cash dividend, you may be deemed to have received a taxable dividend subject to U.S. federal income tax without the receipt of any cash. In addition, a failure to adjust (or to adjust adequately) the conversion rate after an event that increases your proportionate interest in our company could be treated as a deemed taxable dividend to you.

If certain types of fundamental changes occur on or prior to the maturity date of the debentures, under some circumstances, we will increase the conversion rate for debentures converted in connection with the fundamental change. Such increase may also be treated as a distribution subject to U.S. federal income tax as a dividend. See Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations.

If you are a non-U.S. holder (as defined in Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations), any deemed dividend would be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax at a 30% rate, or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable treaty, which may be set off against subsequent payments. See Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations.

U.S. holders will recognize income for U.S. federal income tax purposes in excess of the current cash payments on the debentures and will recognize ordinary income on the disposition of the debentures.

Pursuant to the terms of the indenture, we and each holder of the debentures agreed to treat the debentures, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, as contingent payment debt instruments. Under this characterization, the debentures will be treated as issued with original issue discount for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and each U.S. holder will be required to include such original issue discount in gross income as it accrues regardless of the holder s method of tax accounting. The amount of original issue discount required to be included in the holder s gross income for each year generally will be in excess of the payments and accruals on the debentures for non-tax purposes and in advance of the receipt of cash or other property attributable thereto in that year. A U.S. holder will recognize gain or loss on the sale, exchange, conversion, repurchase or redemption of a debenture in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized, including the fair market value of any of our common stock received, and the holder s adjusted tax basis in the debenture. Any such gain will be treated as ordinary interest income and any such loss will be ordinary loss to the extent of the interest previously included in gross income and, thereafter, capital loss. All holders should read the discussion of the United States federal income tax consequences of the purchase, ownership, and the disposition of the debentures that is contained in this prospectus under the heading Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations.

Table of Contents

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The financial information provided in the following table should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and the related notes incorporated by reference into this prospectus. The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the periods indicated:

Year ended December 31,				
2003	**2004**	**2005**	**2006**	**2007**
(136.5)	111.8	150.3	10.8	(1.9)

The ratio of earnings to fixed charges is computed by dividing (i) income from continuing operations before income taxes plus fixed charges by (ii) fixed charge**.** Our fixed charges consist of the portion of operating lease rental expense that is representative of the interest factor and interest expense on indebtedness.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We will not receive any proceeds from sales of the debentures or shares of our common stock underlying the debentures by the selling securityholders.

DIVIDEND POLICY

We have never declared or paid any cash dividends on our capital stock. We do not anticipate paying any cash dividends on our capital stock in the foreseeable future. In addition, the terms of our senior unsecured revolving credit facility which we entered into in June 2006 and amended in September 2007 restricts our ability to pay dividends if an event of default has occurred and is continuing.

Table of Contents

PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK

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

	High	Low
Year ending December 31, 2008:		
First Quarter (through February 28, 2008)	$ 38.06	$ 30.14
Year ending December 31, 2007:		
Fourth Quarter	41.96	31.52
Third Quarter	34.68	27.77
Second Quarter	32.12	24.83
First Quarter	26.78	22.92
Year ended December 31, 2006:		
Fourth Quarter	26.77	19.90
Third Quarter	23.27	15.95
Second Quarter	25.45	20.91
First Quarter	25.00	20.75

On January 31, 2008, there were approximately 809 registered holders of record of our common stock; although we believe there are approximately 150,000 beneficial owners since many brokers and other institutions hold our stock on behalf of stockholders. On February 28, 2008, the reported last sale price of our common stock was $36.00 per share as reported by The Nasdaq Global Select Market.

Table of Contents

SELECTED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA

The following table sets forth selected financial data as of and for the last five years. The information set forth below is not necessarily indicative of results of future operations, and should be read in conjunction with Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, and the Consolidated Financial Statements and related notes thereto included in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007 and incorporated herein by reference to fully understand factors that may affect the comparability of the information presented below.

We have completed a number of acquisitions since 2005 as described in Note 3, Business Combinations, of our Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements contained in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007. The results of the acquired companies operations are included in our Consolidated Financial Statements from their respective dates of acquisition.

We account for discontinued operations in accordance with SFAS 144, and accordingly, we have reclassified the selected financial data for all periods presented to reflect our discontinued operations as described in Note 4, Discontinued Operations, of our Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements contained in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007.

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

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2007(1)	**2006 (2)**	**2005 (3)**	**2004**	**2003 (4)**
Continuing Operations:					
Revenues	$ 1,496	$ 1,563	$ 1,605	$ 1,117	$ 1,017
Operating (loss) income	(222)	91	215	73	(241)