

**FORM 4****UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**OMB APPROVAL**

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☐ Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

<b>1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*</b> <u>HITZ DAVID</u>  (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>495 EAST JAVA DRIVE</u>  (Street) <u>SUNNYVALE CA 94089</u>  (City) (State) (Zip)	<b>2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol</b> <u>NETWORK APPLIANCE INC [ NTAP ]</u>	<b>5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer</b> (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>Executive Vice President</u>
	<b>3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)</b> <u>04/05/2006</u>	
	<b>4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)</b>	<b>6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	04/05/2006		M <sup>(1)</sup>		9,000	A	\$4.508	4,374,064	I	by Trust <sup>(2)</sup>
Common Stock	04/05/2006		M <sup>(1)</sup>		5,000	A	\$11.25	4,379,064	I	by Trust <sup>(2)</sup>
Common Stock	04/05/2006		S <sup>(3)</sup>		25,000	D	\$36.5773 <sup>(4)</sup>	4,354,064	I	by Trust <sup>(2)</sup>
Common Stock	04/05/2006		S <sup>(1)</sup>		25,000	D	\$36.5736 <sup>(5)</sup>	4,329,064	I	by Trust <sup>(2)</sup>
Common Stock								26,273	D	
Common Stock								200	I	by Trust <sup>(6)</sup>

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)		8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares				
Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)	\$4.508	04/05/2006		M <sup>(1)</sup>			9,000	(7)	04/30/2008	Common Stock	9,000	\$0	480,000	D	
Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)	\$11.25	04/05/2006		M <sup>(1)</sup>			5,000	(7)	05/24/2009	Common Stock	5,000	\$0	359,448	D	

**Explanation of Responses:**

1. The option exercises and sales were effected pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the reporting person on March 17, 2006

2. Shares held in trust by David Hitz, Trustee to the Sundance Trust UTA 1/17/02. The reporting person continues to report beneficial ownership of all the issuers common stock held by the trust but disclaims beneficial ownership except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.
3. The sale was effected pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the reporting person on April 1, 2005.
4. The sale prices for the reported transaction were in a range of \$35.92 to \$37.27 per share.
5. The sale prices for the reported transaction were in a range of \$35.92 to \$37.275 per share.
6. Shares held in trust by The XYZZY 2000 Charitable Remainder Trust, David Hitz, Trustee. The reporting person continues to report beneficial ownership of all the issuers common stock held by the trust but disclaims beneficial ownership except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.
7. Option vests with respect to 25% of the option shares on the first anniversary of the grant date and the balance in a series of equal monthly installments over the next 36 months of service thereafter.

By: Janice Mahoney by Power 04/07/2006  
of Attorney For: David Hitz

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person      Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.**