

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

<b>OMB APPROVAL</b>	
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**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>LAU JAMES K</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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>Executive VP, Corp Development</u>
	<b>3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)</b> <u>09/24/2004</u>	
<b>4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)</b>		

**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	09/24/2004		S		1,551	D	\$23.25	75,000	I	by GRAT1 <sup>(1)</sup>
Common Stock	09/24/2004		S		1,551	D	\$23.25	75,000	I	by GRAT2 <sup>(2)</sup>
Common Stock	09/24/2004		S <sup>(3)</sup>		33,000	D	\$22.968	4,723,933	I	by Trust3 <sup>(4)</sup>
Common Stock								41,497	D	
Common Stock								16,000	I	by Trust1 <sup>(5)</sup>
Common Stock								16,000	I	by Trust2 <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		Date Exercisable	Expiration Date					

**Explanation of Responses:**

- Shares held in grantor retained annuity trust by Nextgen-K1 Trust U/I DTD Jan 30 2003, James K. Lau, Trustee
- Shares held in grantor retained annuity trust by Nextgen-J1 Trust U/I DTD Jan 30 2003, James K. Lau, Trustee
- This sale was effected pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the reporting person on June 25, 2004.
- Shares held in trust by James K. Lau and Katherine S. Lau, trustees to the KNSK Trust UDT 9/18/00
- Shares held in trust by Koon H. Lau, trustee to The Jason A. Lau 1998 Trust. Reporting person disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares.
- Shares held in trust by Koon H. Lau, trustee to The Jonathan A. Lau 1998 Trust. Reporting person disclaims beneficial ownership of such shares.

By: Janice Mahoney by Power of Attorney For: James K. Lau 09/27/2004

\*\* 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.

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