FORM 4

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

Washington, D.C. 20549

| OMB APPROVAL             |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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| hours per response:      | 0.5       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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

| Name and Address of Reporting Person*     HITZ DAVID           |                                                                                                                                              |          |   |  |                                                             | NET                                                                                     | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol NETWORK APPLIANCE INC [ NTAP ] |  |                                         |          |                                                               |                                                 |                                            |                          |                                       | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issu<br>(Check all applicable)  Director 10% Own      |                                                                                                                     |                                                          |                                                                    |                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|---|--|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| (Last)<br>495 EAS                                              |                                                                                                                                              | (Firs    | , |  | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 07/15/2004 |                                                                                         |                                                                            |  |                                         |          |                                                               |                                                 |                                            | belo                     | ,                                     | P, Eng                                                                                          | Other (specify below) Engineering                                                                                   |                                                          |                                                                    |                            |
| (Street) SUNNYV                                                | UNNYVALE CA 94089                                                                                                                            |          |   |  |                                                             |                                                                                         | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)                   |  |                                         |          |                                                               |                                                 |                                            |                          |                                       | Form                                                                                            | I or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable rm filed by One Reporting Person rm filed by More than One Reporting rson |                                                          |                                                                    |                            |
|                                                                | Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned                                                             |          |   |  |                                                             |                                                                                         |                                                                            |  |                                         |          |                                                               |                                                 |                                            |                          |                                       |                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                     |                                                          |                                                                    |                            |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)  2. Transacti Date (Month/Day) |                                                                                                                                              |          |   |  | Execution Date,                                             |                                                                                         |                                                                            |  | 3.<br>Transaction<br>Code (Instr.<br>8) |          | 4. Securities Acquired (A<br>Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3,<br>5) |                                                 |                                            |                          | Secur<br>Benef<br>Owne                | ficially<br>d                                                                                   | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or<br>Indirect (I)<br>(Instr. 4)                                                |                                                          | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4)  |                            |
|                                                                |                                                                                                                                              |          |   |  |                                                             |                                                                                         |                                                                            |  |                                         | Code     | v                                                             | Amount                                          | (A)<br>(D)                                 | or Pri                   | ce                                    | Repo<br>Trans                                                                                   | Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4)                                                         |                                                          | . 4)                                                               | (111501. 4)                |
| Common Stock 07/15/2                                           |                                                                                                                                              |          |   |  |                                                             | 004                                                                                     |                                                                            |  | S <sup>(1)</sup>                        |          | 30,000                                                        | D                                               | \$1                                        | 7.987                    | 5,800,25                              |                                                                                                 | I                                                                                                                   |                                                          | by<br>Trust2 <sup>(2)</sup>                                        |                            |
| Common Stock                                                   |                                                                                                                                              |          |   |  |                                                             |                                                                                         |                                                                            |  |                                         |          |                                                               |                                                 |                                            |                          |                                       | 2                                                                                               | 26,536                                                                                                              |                                                          | D                                                                  |                            |
| Common Stock                                                   |                                                                                                                                              |          |   |  |                                                             |                                                                                         |                                                                            |  |                                         |          |                                                               |                                                 |                                            |                          |                                       |                                                                                                 | 200                                                                                                                 |                                                          | I                                                                  | by<br>Trust <sup>(3)</sup> |
|                                                                | Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) |          |   |  |                                                             |                                                                                         |                                                                            |  |                                         |          |                                                               |                                                 |                                            |                          |                                       |                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                     |                                                          |                                                                    |                            |
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3)            | 2.<br>Conversi<br>or Exerci<br>Price of<br>Derivativ<br>Security                                                                             | on<br>se |   |  |                                                             | ransaction of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) |                                                                            |  | 6. Date Expirati (Month/                | on Day/\ | ear)                                                          | 7. Title Amour Securi Under Deriva Securi 3 and | nt of<br>ties<br>ying<br>tive<br>ty (Instr | of<br>Dei<br>Sec<br>(Ins | Price<br>ivative<br>curity<br>str. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction (Instr. 4) | / Di<br>Or<br>Or<br>(I)<br>4)                                                                                       | wnership<br>orm:<br>irect (D)<br>r Indirect<br>) (Instr. | 11. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |                            |

## **Explanation of Responses:**

- 1. The sale(s) reported in this Form 4 was effected pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the reporting person on March 26, 2004.
- 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. 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.

By: Janice Mahoney by Power 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.