ALLIANCE DATA SYSTEMS CORP

Form 4

February 23, 2012

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB Number:

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January 31, 2005

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response...

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OMB APPROVAL

if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations

may continue.

See Instruction

Check this box

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section

30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * HEFFERNAN EDWARD J

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

Symbol

ALLIANCE DATA SYSTEMS

CORP [ADS]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Issuer

(Check all applicable)

President and CEO

(Last)

(First)

(Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

(Month/Day/Year)

X Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title Other (specify

below)

7500 DALLAS PARKWAY, SUITE 02/21/2012

(Street)

700

4. If Amendment, Date Original

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Applicable Line)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

PLANO, TX 75024

(City)	(State)	(Zip) Tab	le I - Non-	Derivative	Secui	ities Acqui	red, Disposed of	, or Beneficial	ly Owned	
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) our Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (A) or			5. Amount of Securities Ownership Beneficially Form: Owned Direct (D) Following or Indirect Reported (I) Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) (Instr. 3 and 4)		7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
Common Stock	02/21/2012		Code V $A_{\underline{(1)}}$	Amount 15,346	(D)	Price (1)	226,315	D		
Common Stock	02/21/2012		F(2)	5,625	D	\$ 119.7	220,690	D		
Common Stock	02/21/2012		A(3)	5,971	A	<u>(3)</u>	226,661	D		
Common Stock	02/21/2012		A(4)	23,885	A	<u>(4)</u>	250,546	D		
Common Stock	02/22/2012		F(2)	5,912	D	\$ 120.51	244,634 (5)	D		

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

> 9. Nu Deriv Secur Bene Own Follo Repo Trans

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

	1. Title of	2.	3. Transaction Date	3A. Deemed	4.	5.	6. Date Exerc	cisable and	7. Titl	e and	8. Price of	
	Derivative	Conversion	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if	Transact	tionNumber	Expiration D	ate	Amou	nt of	Derivative	
	Security	or Exercise		any	Code	of	(Month/Day/	Year)	Under	lying	Security	
(Instr. 3)	Price of		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	8) Derivative			Securities	(Instr. 5)			
D		Derivative				Securities			(Instr.	3 and 4)		
		Security				Acquired						
						(A) or						
						Disposed						
						of (D)						
						(Instr. 3,						
						4, and 5)						
										Amount		
							Date	Expiration		or		
						Exercisable	Date	Title	Number			
									of			
					Code V	I(A)(D)				Shares		

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

HEFFERNAN EDWARD J

7500 DALLAS PARKWAY, SUITE 700 X President and CEO

PLANO, TX 75024

Signatures

Cynthia L. Hageman, Attorney in Fact 02/23/2012

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * 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).
 - Based on the Company's EBT performance in 2011, 150% of the original award of 30,689 performance-based restricted stock units granted 3/21/11 were earned, resulting in an additional 15,346 units, for a total of 46,035 units. The restrictions will lapse with respect to
- (1) Is a total of 40,055 units. The restrictions will lapse with respect to 15,653 units on 2/21/14, subject to continued employment by the Reporting Person on the remaining vesting dates.
- (2) Shares withheld by the Company to satisfy the Reporting Person's tax withholding obligation upon the vesting of restricted stock units.
- The new grant is for 5,971 shares of common stock represented by time-based restricted stock units. The restrictions will lapse on 1,970
- (3) units on each of 2/21/13 and 2/21/14 and on 2,031 units on 2/23/15, subject to continued employment by the Reporting Person on the vesting dates.

Reporting Owners 2

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The new grant is for 23,885 shares of common stock represented by performance-based restricted stock units, which may be adjusted up or down at the time the performance restriction lapses. The restriction may lapse with respect to 33% of such shares on each of 2/21/13 and 2/21/14 and with respect to 34% of such shares on 2/23/15 contingent on meeting an EBT metric for 2012 and subject to continued employment by the Reporting Person on the vesting dates.

The total number of securities beneficially owned includes: (a) 144,531 unrestricted shares; (b) 17,952 unvested units from an award of 52,800 performance-based restricted stock units granted 2/23/09; (c) 3,139 unvested units from an award of 9,232 time-based restricted stock units granted 2/22/10; (d) 13,171 unvested units from an award of 39,511 performance-based restricted stock units granted 2/22/10; (e) 5,141 unvested units from an award of 7,672 time-based restricted stock units granted 3/21/11; (f) 30,844 unvested units from an

award of 46,035 performance-based restricted stock units granted 3/21/11; (g) the new grant for 5,971 time-based restricted stock units; and (h) the new grant for 23,885 performance-based restricted stock units.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.