

SOHU COM INC  
Form 10-K  
February 26, 2016  
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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

**FORM 10-K**

(MARK ONE)

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015**

**OR**

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_**

**COMMISSION FILE NUMBER 0-30961**

**SOHU.COM INC.**

**(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)**

**Delaware**  
**(State or other jurisdiction of**  
**incorporation or organization)**

**98-0204667**  
**(I.R.S. Employer**  
**Identification No.)**

**Level 18, Sohu.com Media Plaza**

**Block 3, No. 2 Kexueyuan South Road, Haidian District**

**Beijing 100190**

**People's Republic of China**

**(Address of principal executive offices)**

**(011) 8610-6272-6666**

**(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)**

**SECURITIES REGISTERED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OF THE ACT:**

**Common Stock, \$0.001 Par Value**

**SECURITIES REGISTERED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(g) OF THE ACT:**

**None**

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant: (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§ 229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form

10-K. "

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer "

Non-accelerated filer " Smaller reporting company "

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes " No

The aggregate market value of common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant, based upon the last sale price on June 30, 2015 as reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market, was approximately \$1.36 billion.

As of January 31, 2016, there were 38,666,434 shares of the registrant's common stock outstanding.

#### **DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

Portions of the Proxy Statement for Sohu's 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be filed on or about April 29, 2016 are incorporated into Part III of this report.

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**Table of Contents****PART I**

As used in this report, references to us, we, our, our company, our Group, the Sohu Group, the Group, and Sohu.com are to Sohu.com Inc. and, except where the context requires otherwise, our wholly-owned and majority-owned subsidiaries and variable interest entities ( VIEs ) Sohu.com Limited, Sohu.com (Hong Kong) Limited ( Sohu Hong Kong ), All Honest International Limited ( All Honest ), Sohu.com (Game) Limited ( Sohu Game ), Go2Map Inc., Sohu.com (Search) Limited ( Sohu Search ), Sogou Inc. ( Sogou ), Sogou (BVI) Limited ( Sogou BVI ), Sogou Hong Kong Limited ( Sogou HK ), Vast Creation Advertising Media Services Limited ( Vast Creation ), Sogou Technology Hong Kong Limited, Fox Video Investment Holding Limited ( Video Investment ), Fox Video Limited ( Sohu Video ), Fox Video (HK) Limited ( Video HK ), Focus Investment Holding Limited, Sohu Focus Limited, Sohu Focus (HK) Limited, Beijing Sohu New Era Information Technology Co., Ltd. ( Sohu Era ), Beijing Sohu Software Technology Co., Ltd., Beijing Sogou Technology Development Co., Ltd. ( Sogou Technology ), Beijing Sogou Network Technology Co., Ltd ( Sogou Network ), Fox Information Technology (Tianjin) Limited ( Video Tianjin ), Beijing Sohu New Media Information Technology Co., Ltd. ( Sohu Media ), Beijing Sohu New Momentum Information Technology Co., Ltd. ( Sohu New Momentum ), Beijing Century High Tech Investment Co., Ltd. ( High Century ), Beijing Heng Da Yi Tong Information Technology Co., Ltd. ( Heng Da Yi Tong , formerly known as Beijing Sohu Entertainment Culture Media Co., Ltd.), Beijing Sohu Internet Information Service Co., Ltd. ( Sohu Internet ), Beijing GoodFeel Technology Co., Ltd., Beijing Sogou Information Service Co., Ltd. ( Sogou Information ), Beijing 21 East Culture Development Co., Ltd., Beijing Sohu Donglin Advertising Co., Ltd. ( Donglin ), Beijing Pilot New Era Advertising Co., Ltd. ( Pilot New Era ), Beijing Focus Yiju Network Information Technology Co., Ltd., SohuPay Science and Technology Co., Ltd., Beijing Sohu Dianjin Information Technology Co., Ltd., Beijing Yi He Jia Xun Information Technology Co., Ltd., Tianjin Jinhua Culture Development Co., Ltd. ( Tianjin Jinhua ), Guangzhou Qianjun Network Technology Co., Ltd. ( Guangzhou Qianjun ), Shenzhen Shi Ji Guang Su Information Technology Co., Ltd., Chengdu Sogou Easypay Technology Co., Ltd., Beijing Shi Ji Si Su Technology Co., Ltd., Chongqing Qogir Enterprise Management Consulting Co., Ltd., SendCloud Technology Co., Ltd., Beijing Hua Yang Lian Zhong Advertising Co., Ltd, Beijing Focus Interactive Information Service Co., Ltd., Beijing Focus Xin Gan Xian Information Technology Co., Ltd., Beijing Focus Real Estate Agency Co., Ltd. and our independently-listed majority-owned subsidiary Changyou.com Limited ( Changyou, formerly known as TL Age Limited) as well as the following direct and indirect subsidiaries and VIEs of Changyou: Changyou.com HK Limited ( Changyou HK ) formerly known as TL Age Hong Kong Limited), Changyou.com Webgames (HK) Limited ( Changyou HK Webgames ), Changyou.com Gamepower (HK) Limited, ICE Entertainment (HK) Limited ( ICE HK ), Changyou.com Gamestar (HK) Limited, Changyou.com (US) LLC. (formerly known as AmazGame Entertainment (US) Inc.), Changyou.com Korea Limited, Changyou.com India Private Limited, Changyou BİLİŞİM HİZMETLERİ TİCARET LİMİTED ŞİRKETİ, Kylie Enterprises Limited, Mobogarden Enterprises Limited, Heroic Vision Holdings Limited, TalkTalk Limited, RaidCall (HK) Limited, 7Road.com Limited ( 7Road ), 7Road.com HK Limited ( 7Road HK ), Changyou.com (TH) Limited, Changyou.com Rus Limited, PT.CHANGYOU TECHNOLOGY INDONESIA, Changyou Middle East FZ-LLC, Changyou.com Technology Brazil Desenvolvimento De Programas LTDA, Greative Entertainment Limited (formerly known as Greative Digital Limited), Glory Loop Limited ( Glory Loop ), MoboTap Inc. ( MoboTap , a Cayman Islands company), MoboTap Inc. Limited ( MoboTap HK ), MoboTap Inc. (a Delaware corporation), Dolphin Browser Inc., TMobi Limited (formerly known as Muse Entertainment Limited), Dstore Technology Limited, Mobo Information Technology Pte. Ltd., Changyou Mobo Glint Limited, Global Cool Limited, Beijing AmazGame Age Internet Technology Co., Ltd. ( AmazGame ), Beijing Changyou Skyline Property Management Co. Ltd, Beijing Cruise stars Technology Co., Ltd., Beijing Changyou Gamespace Software Technology Co., Ltd. ( Gamespace ), ICE Information Technology (Shanghai) Co., Ltd. ( ICE Information ), Beijing Changyou RaidCall Internet Technology Co., Ltd. ( RaidCall ), Beijing Yang Fan Jing He Information Consulting Co., Ltd. ( Yang Fan Jing He ), Shanghai Jingmao Culture Communication Co., Ltd. ( Shanghai Jingmao ), Shanghai Hejin Data Consulting Co., Ltd., Beijing Changyou Jingmao Film & Culture Communication Co., Ltd. ( Beijing Jingmao ), Beijing Gamease Age Digital Technology Co., Ltd. ( Gamease ),

*Beijing Guanyou Gamespace Digital Technology Co., Ltd. ( Guanyou Gamespace ), Beijing Zhi Hui You Information Technology Co., Ltd., Shanghai ICE Information Technology Co., Ltd. ( Shanghai ICE ), Shenzhen 7Road Network Technologies Co., Ltd. ( 7Road Technology ), Beijing Changyou Star Digital Technology Co., Ltd ( Changyou Star ), Beijing Changyou Creation Information Technology Co., Ltd. (formerly known as Beijing Changyou e-pay Co. Ltd.), Beijing Changyou Aishouxin Ecological Technology Co., Ltd., Shenzhen Brilliant Imagination Technologies Co., Ltd. ( Brilliant Imagination ), Fujian Changyou Heguang Electronic Technology Co., Ltd., Beijing Baina Information Technology Co., Ltd., Baina Zhiyuan (Beijing) Technology Co., Ltd. ( Beijing Baina Technology ), Baina Zhiyuan (Chengdu) Technology Co., Ltd., Chengdu Xingyu Technology Co., Ltd., Baina (Wuhan) Information Technology Co., Ltd. ( Wuhan Baina Information ), Wuhan Xingyu Technology Co., Ltd., Wuhan Hualian Chuangke Technology Co., Ltd., Beijing Changyou Ledong Internet Technology Co., Ltd., Beijing Global Cool Technology Co., Ltd., and Beijing Changyou Creative Technology Co., Ltd., and these references should be interpreted accordingly. Unless otherwise specified, references to China or PRC refer to the People s Republic of China and do not include the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Macau Special Administrative Region or Taiwan. This report contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, including, without limitation, statements regarding our expectations, beliefs, intentions or future strategies that are signified by the words expect, anticipate, intend, believe, or similar language. All forward-looking statements included in this document are based on information available to us on the date hereof, and we assume no obligation to update any such forward-looking statements. Our business and financial performance are subject to substantial risks and uncertainties. Actual results could differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. In evaluating our business, you should carefully consider the information set forth under the heading Risk Factors. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements.*

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**ITEM 1. BUSINESS**

**OUR COMPANY**

Sohu.com Inc. (NASDAQ: SOHU), a Delaware corporation organized in 1996, is a leading Chinese online media, search and game service group providing comprehensive online products and services on PCs and mobile devices in the People's Republic of China (the PRC or China). Our businesses are conducted by Sohu.com Inc. and its subsidiaries and VIEs (collectively referred to as the Sohu Group). The Sohu Group consists of Sohu, which when referred to in this report, unless the context requires otherwise, excludes the businesses and the corresponding subsidiaries and VIEs of Sogou Inc. (Sogou) and Changyou.com Limited (Changyou), Sogou and Changyou. Sogou and Changyou are indirect controlled subsidiaries of Sohu.com Inc. Sohu is a leading Chinese language online media content and services provider. Sogou is a leading online search, client software and mobile Internet product provider in China. Changyou is a leading online game developer and operator in China as measured by the popularity of its PC game Tian Long Ba Bu (TLBB) and its mobile game TLBB 3D, and engages primarily in the development, operation and licensing of online games for PCs and mobile devices. Most of our operations are conducted through our indirect wholly-owned and majority-owned China-based subsidiaries and VIEs.

In August 1996, we were incorporated in Delaware as Internet Technologies China Incorporated, and in January 1997 we launched our original Website, itc.com.cn. In February 1998, we re-launched our Website under the domain name Sohu.com and, in September 1999, we renamed our company Sohu.com Inc. On July 17, 2000, we completed our initial public offering on NASDAQ.

**OUR BUSINESS**

Through the operation of Sohu, Sogou and Changyou, we generate online advertising revenues (including brand advertising revenues and search and search-related revenues (which we formerly referred to as search and Web directory revenues)), online games revenues and others revenues. Online advertising and online games are our core businesses. In the year ended December 31, 2015, total revenues generated by Sohu, Sogou and Changyou were approximately \$1.94 billion, including:

Sohu:

\$520.0 million in brand advertising revenues, of which \$197.6 million was from Sohu Media Portal, \$212.8 million was from Sohu Video, and \$109.6 million was from Focus; and

\$64.5 million in others revenues, mainly attributable to the filming business from the film Jian Bing Man and mobile-related services.

Total revenues generated by Sohu were \$584.5 million.

Sogou:

\$539.5 million in search and search-related revenues; and



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\$52.2 million in others revenues, primarily attributable to Sogou's offering of Internet value-added services (or IVAS) with respect to the operation of Web games and mobile games developed by third parties, as well as other services and products provided to users.

Total revenues generated by Sogou were \$591.7 million.

Changyou:

\$636.8 million in online game revenues;

\$57.1 million in brand advertising revenues, mainly attributable to Changyou's 17173.com Website; and

\$67.0 million in others revenues attributable to Changyou's cinema advertising revenues, and Changyou's operation of the platform channel business, which consists primarily of the 17173.com Website and also includes the Dolphin Browser and RaidCall.

Total revenues generated by Changyou were \$760.9 million.

For the year ended December 31, 2015, our total brand advertising revenues were \$577.1 million, total search and search-related revenues were \$539.5 million, total online game revenues were \$636.8 million, and total others revenues were \$183.6 million.

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### **Sohu s Business**

#### *Brand Advertising Business*

Sohu s main business is the brand advertising business, which offers to users, over our matrices of Chinese language online media, various content, products and services across multiple Internet-enabled devices, such as PCs, mobile phones and tablets. The majority of our products and services are provided through Sohu Media Portal, Sohu Video and Focus.

**Sohu Media Portal.** Sohu Media Portal is a leading online news and information provider in China. Sohu Media Portal provides users comprehensive content through [www.sohu.com](http://www.sohu.com) for PCs, the mobile portal [m.sohu.com](http://m.sohu.com) and the mobile phone application Sohu News APP;

**Sohu Video.** Sohu Video ([tv.sohu.com](http://tv.sohu.com)) is a leading online video content and service provider in China through [tv.sohu.com](http://tv.sohu.com) for PCs and the mobile phone application Sohu Video APP; and

**Focus.** Focus ([www.focus.cn](http://www.focus.cn)) is a leading online real estate information and services provider in China. Revenues generated by the brand advertising business are classified as brand advertising revenues in our consolidated statements of comprehensive income.

#### *Others Business*

Sohu also engages in the others business, which includes the filming business, mobile-related services, sub-licensing of purchased video content to third parties, and paid subscription services. Revenues generated by Sohu from the others business are classified as others revenues in our consolidated statements of comprehensive income.

### **Sogou s Business**

#### *Search and search-related Business*

The search and search-related business primarily offers advertisers pay-for-click services, as well as online marketing services on Web directories operated by Sogou. Pay-for-click services enable advertisers promotional links to be displayed on the Sogou search result pages and Sogou Website Alliance members Websites where the links are relevant to the subject and content of such Web pages. Both pay-for-click services and online marketing services on Web directories operated by Sogou expand the distribution of our advertisers promotional links and advertisements by leveraging traffic on Sogou Website Alliance members Websites. Our search and search-related business benefits significantly from our collaboration with Tencent Holdings Limited (together with its subsidiaries, Tencent ), which provides us access to traffic generated from users of products and services provided by Tencent.

Revenues generated by the search and search-related business are classified as search and search-related revenues in our consolidated statements of comprehensive income.

#### *Others Business*

Sogou also engages in the others business, primarily by offering IVAS with respect to the operation of Web games and mobile games developed by third parties, as well as other services and products provided to users. Revenues generated by Sogou from the others business are classified as others revenues in our consolidated statements of comprehensive income.

### **Changyou s Business**

Changyou has three businesses, consisting of the online game business, the platform channel business and the others business.

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### *Online Game Business*

Changyou's online game business offers to game players PC games, which are interactive online games that are accessed and played simultaneously by hundreds of thousands of game players through personal computers and require that local client-end game access software be installed on the computers used; mobile games, which are played on mobile devices and require an Internet connection; and Web games, which are online games that are played through a Web browser with no local game software installation requirements. Web games became a relatively insignificant part of Changyou's online games business following the sale of 7Road's operating company Shenzhen 7Road Technology Co., Ltd., or Shenzhen 7Road, in August 2015. Changyou's games are operated under the item-based revenue model, meaning that game players can play the games for free, but can choose to pay for virtual items, which are non-physical items that game players can purchase and use within a game, such as gems, pets, fashion items, magic medicine, riding animals, hierograms, skill books and fireworks. Revenues derived from the operation of online games are classified as online game revenues in our consolidated statements of comprehensive income.

### *Platform Channel Business*

Changyou's platform channel business consists primarily of the operation of the 17173.com Website, the Dolphin Browser and RaidCall. The 17173.com Website, which is one of the leading game information portals in China, provides news, electronic forums, online videos and other information services on online games to game players. The Dolphin Browser is a gateway to a host of user activities on mobile devices, with the majority of its users based in Europe, Russia and Japan. RaidCall provides online music and entertainment services, primarily in Taiwan. Revenues generated by the 17173.com Website are classified as brand advertising revenues and revenues generated by the Dolphin Browser and by RaidCall are classified as others revenues in the Group's consolidated statements of comprehensive income.

### *Others Business*

Changyou also operates a cinema advertising business, which consists of Changyou's offering of pre-film cinema advertising slots for advertisements that are shown before the screening of a movie in a cinema theatre. Revenues generated by Changyou's cinema advertising business are classified as others revenues in the Sohu Group's consolidated statements of comprehensive income.

## **Significant Business Transactions**

### *Changyou-Related Transactions*

On August 17, 2015, (i) Changyou's VIE Gamease completed the sale to Shanghai Yong Chong Investment Center LP, a PRC limited partnership, of all of the equity interests in Shenzhen 7Road Technology Co., Ltd. (Shenzhen 7Road), a PRC company primarily engaged in the Web game business, and (ii) Changyou.com (HK) Limited, a Hong Kong company that is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Changyou, completed the sale to Supermax Holdings Group Limited, a British Virgin Islands company, of all of the equity capital of Changyou My Sdn. Bhd, a Malaysia company, and Changyou.com (UK) Company Limited, a United Kingdom company, which are engaged in the online game business in Malaysia and the United Kingdom, respectively. The aggregate consideration for these transactions was \$205.0 million in cash. As of December 31, 2015, all the consideration had been paid to Changyou. In connection with these transactions, a disposal gain of \$55.1 million was recognized in the Sohu Group's consolidated statements of comprehensive income for the year of 2015.

***Sogou Transactions***

On October 22, 2010, Sogou issued and sold 24.0 million, 14.4 million and 38.4 million, respectively, of its newly-issued Series A Preferred Shares to Alibaba Investment Limited, a subsidiary of Alibaba Group Holding Limited ( Alibaba ); China Web Search (HK) Limited ( China Web ); and Photon Group Limited, the investment vehicle of the Sohu Group's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Charles Zhang ( Photon ), for \$15 million, \$9 million, and \$24 million, respectively. On June 29, 2012, Sohu purchased Alibaba's 24.0 million Sogou Series A Preferred Shares for a purchase price of \$25.8 million.

On September 16, 2013, Sogou entered into a series of agreements with Tencent, Sohu Search and Photon pursuant to which Sogou issued Series B Preferred Shares and Class B Ordinary Shares to Tencent for a net amount of \$448 million in cash and Tencent transferred its Soso search-related businesses and certain other assets to Sogou (collectively, the Sogou-Tencent Transactions ). Also on that date, Sogou entered into Repurchase Option Agreements with Sohu Search and Photon, and a Repurchase/Put Option Agreement with China Web, with respect to all of the Series A Preferred Shares of Sogou held by Sohu Search and China Web, and a portion of the Series A Preferred Shares of Sogou held by Photon. Also on that date, Sogou, Sohu Search, Photon, Mr. Xiaochuan Wang, four other members of Sogou's management (collectively, the Sohu Parties ) and Tencent entered into a Shareholders Agreement (the Shareholders Agreement ) under which the parties agreed to vote their Sogou voting shares in all elections of directors to elect three designees of Sohu Search and two designees of Tencent.

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On September 17, 2013, Sogou paid a special dividend to the three holders of Series A Preferred Shares of Sogou in the aggregate amount of \$300.9 million, of which Sohu Search received \$161.2 million, Photon received \$43.0 million, and China Web received \$96.7 million.

On December 2, 2013, Tencent invested \$1.5 million in cash in Sogou Information, which is a VIE of Sogou, as additional consideration in connection with the Sogou-Tencent Transactions, in return for a 45% equity interest in Sogou Information.

In March 2014, Sogou purchased from China Web, pursuant to the Repurchase/Put Option Agreement entered into in September 2013, 14.4 million Series A Preferred Shares of Sogou, for an aggregate purchase price of \$47.3 million.

In June 2014, Sogou repurchased approximately 4.2 million of its Class A Ordinary Shares from noncontrolling shareholders, a majority of whom were our employees, for an aggregate purchase price of \$41.6 million.

In September 2015, Sogou purchased from Sohu Search and Photon, pursuant to the Repurchase Option Agreements entered into in September 2013, 24.0 million and 6.4 million Series A Preferred Shares of Sogou, for aggregate purchase prices of \$78.8 million and \$21.0 million, respectively. After this repurchase, the Sohu Group holds an approximately 36% equity interest in Sogou, assuming all share options under the Sogou 2010 Share Incentive Plan and all share options under the Sohu Management Sogou Share Option Arrangement are granted and exercised and all of the 4.2 million Class A Ordinary Shares Sogou repurchased in June 2014 were issued to shareholders other than Sohu.

Pursuant to the Shareholders Agreement, the Sohu Group holds approximately 52% of the total voting power and controls the election of the Board of Directors of Sogou, assuming that Tencent's non-voting Class B Ordinary Shares are converted to voting shares, and all share options under the Sogou 2010 Share Incentive Plan and all share options under the Sohu Management Sogou Share Option Arrangement are granted and exercised. As Sohu.com Inc. is the controlling shareholder of Sogou, we consolidate Sogou in the Sohu Group's consolidated financial statements, and recognize noncontrolling interest reflecting economic interests in Sogou held by shareholders other than Sohu.com Inc.

## **PRODUCTS AND SERVICES**

### **Sohu's Business**

#### ***Brand Advertising Business***

Sohu's main business is the brand advertising business, which offers to users, over our matrices of Chinese language online media, various content, products and services across multiple Internet-enabled devices, such as PCs, mobile phones and tablets. The majority of our products and services are provided through Sohu Media Portal, Sohu Video and Focus.

#### *Sources*

#### **Sohu Media Portal**

Sohu Media Portal is a leading online news and information provider in China. Sohu Media Portal provides users comprehensive content through www.sohu.com for PCs, the mobile portal m.sohu.com and the mobile phone application Sohu News APP. We provide content by aggregating content from other media organizations and

partnering with independent contributors, and also use content generated by our in-house editorial teams. We use algorithms to recommend to users personalized content that may interest them.

*Sohu Video*

Sohu Video (tv.sohu.com) is a leading online video content and service provider in China. We deliver premium purchased video content, self-developed video content, and user-generated content, or UGC. Professional generated content (PGC) is a sub-category of UGC where the content is made by a large group of professional or semi-professional content studios. Sohu Video began to proactively develop this content category during 2015. We provide users free access to the majority of our extensive and comprehensive video content library, which includes popular domestic and overseas television dramas, variety shows, movies, self-developed shows and programs, news, documentaries, animations, entertainment-related content, and live television Webcasts. We also offer selected fee-based video content, including movies and educational video content. Users can access our video content via PCs through tv.sohu.com, or via mobile devices by visiting our mobile video site or installing Sohu Video APP, our mobile video application.

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### *Focus*

Focus (www.focus.cn) is a leading online real estate information and services provider in China. Focus provides diversified online content consisting of new homes for sale, properties for re-sale and home furnishing services, and other comprehensive services and solutions for house seekers, homeowners and buyers. Focus membership cards allow potential home buyers to purchase specified properties from real estate developers at a discount greater than the price that Focus charges for the card. Focus has also developed a transaction platform to offer online and offline services that facilitate the purchase of new homes by buyers.

### *Business Model*

In the brand advertising business, we enjoy a strong competitive position as one of the leading Internet companies in China. Through the platforms described above, we have built a sizeable user base through good user experiences provided by our products and services. This user base is appealing to advertisers. Through PCs and mobile devices, we provide advertisement placements to advertisers on our different Internet platforms and in different formats, including banners, links, logos, buttons, full screen, pre-roll, mid-roll, post-roll video screens, and pause video screens, as well as loading page ads and news feed ads. We rely on both direct sales by our internal sales force and sales by advertising agents for advertising on our Internet platforms. Our advertisers include multinational companies, many of which are Fortune 500 companies, as well as Chinese domestic medium and small companies.

Currently we have four main types of pricing models, consisting of the Fixed Price model, the Cost Per Impression ( CPM ) model, the E-commerce model, and the Cost Per click ( CPC ) model.

#### Fixed Price model

Under the Fixed Price model, a contract is signed to establish a fixed price for the advertising services to be provided.

#### CPM model

Under the CPM model, the unit price for each qualifying display is fixed, but there is no overall fixed price for the advertising services stated in the contract with the advertiser. A qualifying display is defined as the appearance of an advertisement, where the advertisement meets criteria specified in the contract. Advertising fees are charged to the advertisers based on the unit prices and the number of qualifying displays.

#### E-commerce model

The E-commerce model is used by Focus. Under this model, revenues are mainly generated from sales of membership cards which allow potential home buyers to purchase specified properties from real estate developers at a discount greater than the price that Focus charges for the card. Membership fees are refundable until the potential home buyer uses the discount to purchase a property. Focus recognizes such revenues upon obtaining confirmation that the membership card has been redeemed to purchase a property.

#### CPC model

Under the CPC model, there is no overall fixed price for advertising services stated in the contract with the advertiser. We charge advertisers on a per-click basis when the users click on the advertisements. The unit price for each click is fixed or auction-based.



***Others Business***

Sohu also engages in the others business, which includes the filming business, mobile-related services, sub-licensing of purchased video content to third parties, and paid subscription services. Revenues generated by Sohu from the others business are classified as others revenues in the Sohu Group's consolidated statements of comprehensive income.

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### **Sogou's Business**

#### ***Search and search-related Business***

##### *Products and Services for Users*

Sogou's main business is the search and search-related business. Sogou is a leading online search, client software and mobile Internet product provider in China. Sogou offers extensive products and services, including Sogou Search, Sogou Input Method, Sogou Browser and Sogou Web Directory to China's online users.

##### *Sogou Search*

Sogou Search, which means Search Dog, is Sogou's proprietary search engine and is conducted through Sogou.com. It performs interactive searches of billions of Web pages using advanced algorithms. Upon a search query, the user is taken through a fast and convenient interactive process to reach the most relevant selection of integrated Websites and search results pages through PCs and mobile devices. Sogou Search provides users with high updating speeds, short response times and accurate search results, based on a large database capacity of retrieved pages. We also provide mobile-specific search features to better serve users of mobile devices through Sogou Search APP, which embeds voice and image searches, intuitive display of search results and personalized features to retrieve search records. We have been proactively developing artificial intelligence technologies based on deep learning in many areas, including Chinese language processing, and image and voice recognition. Such technologies have been successfully applied to optimize our general search results ranking, voice search and image search to consistently improve search quality.

Sogou focuses its efforts on enhancing the overall user experience through differentiation. Through close cooperation with Tencent, Sogou provides a full range of search services for the users of Tencent's products and services on PCs and mobile devices. In 2014, Sogou launched a unique Weixin search function for both PCs and mobile devices, which allows users to search the content that is published on Weixin's accounts. In 2015, we further established exclusive access to QQ Interest Tribes, which enables users to search the content generated from these communities. In addition, we explored other channels to add more differentiated content to our search services. In October 2015, we launched a search function for both PCs and mobile devices using an online question and answer-based knowledge and information sharing platform operated by Zhihu Technology Limited ( Zhihu ), which pushes its specialized content to Sogou so that our users have immediate access to such content.

##### *Sogou Input Method*

Sogou Input Method is in-house developed software for the input of Chinese characters on PCs and mobile devices. It is among the most popular Internet products in China and has a dominant market share. Sogou Input Method uses search engine technology to capture and generate vocabularies and language models and can present the latest trends in words used by Internet users. In December 2015, Sogou Input Method's monthly active users on PCs reached 488 million, with a penetration rate over 90% in China, according to iResearch. Sogou Mobile Keyboard, the mobile version of Sogou Input Method, provides, in addition to character input, tailored features for smart phones, such as multimedia (voice and image) input, handwriting recognition, and vocabulary sync between mobile devices and PCs. In December 2015, Sogou Mobile Keyboard was the third largest mobile application in China in terms of daily active users, according to iResearch.

##### *Sogou Browser*

Sogou Browser is our self-developed browser for both PCs and mobile devices that is designed with technologies to make the Web-navigation faster, safer, and easier. Sogou Browser for PCs has an original dual-core network-layer system and a seven-stage acceleration mechanism, which can accelerate browsing speed and substantially enhance the experience of a user accessing the Internet. We also provide users with a mobile version of Sogou Browser. Our mobile browser has mobile-specific features, including file transfer from PC to mobile and smart detection of downloadable resources within the Webpage.

*Sogou Web Directory*

Sogou Web Directory is a popular Chinese Web directory navigation site for both PCs and mobile devices which serves as a key access point to popular and preferred Websites.

*Products and Services for Advertisers*

Search and search-related services include primarily pay-for-click services, as well as online marketing services on Web directories operated by Sogou.

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### ***Pay-for-click Services***

Pay-for-click services are services that enable our advertisers' promotional links to be displayed on Sogou search result pages and Sogou Website Alliance members' Websites where the links are relevant to the subject and content of such Web pages. For pay-for-click services, we introduce Internet users to our advertisers through our auction-based pay-for-click systems and charge advertisers on a per-click basis when the users click on the displayed links. Revenue for pay-for-click services is recognized on a per-click basis when the users click on the displayed links.

### ***Online Marketing Services on Web Directories Operated by Sogou***

Online marketing services on Web directories operated by Sogou mainly consist of displaying advertisers' promotional links on the Web pages of Web directories. Revenue for online marketing services on Web directories operated by Sogou is normally recognized on a straight-line basis over the contract period, provided our obligations under the contract have been met and all revenue recognition criteria have been met.

Both pay-for-click services and online marketing services on Web directories operated by Sogou expand the distribution of advertisers' promotional links or advertisements by leveraging traffic on Sogou Website Alliance members' Websites. We recognize gross revenue for the amount of fees we receive from advertisers, as we have the primary responsibility for fulfillment and acceptability. Payments made to Sogou Website Alliance members are included in cost of search and search-related revenues as traffic acquisition costs. We pay Sogou Website Alliance members based on either revenue-sharing arrangements, under which we pay a percentage of pay-for-click revenues generated from clicks by users of their properties, or on a pre-agreed unit price.

### ***Others***

Sogou also engages in the others business, primarily by offering IVAS with respect to the operation of Web games and mobile games developed by third parties, as well as other services and products provided to users. Revenues generated by Sogou from the others business are classified as others revenues in our consolidated statements of comprehensive income.

## **Changyou's Business**

### ***Online Game Business***

#### ***Business Model***

Changyou's game players typically access Changyou's games through personal computers and mobile devices, such as mobile phones and tablets, connected to the Internet. In order to access Changyou's PC games, game access software must be installed in the computer being used. Game players using PCs can typically download Changyou's game access software, interim updates and expansion packs directly from its official game Website. Game players access Changyou's mobile games by downloading its mobile game applications, primarily from third-party mobile application stores or, to a lesser extent, from Changyou's official game Website. Prior to the sale of Shenzhen 7Road in August 2015, Changyou's online games also included Web games, which became a relatively insignificant part of its online games business following the sale.

Changyou's online games include a variety of genres, including MMOGs, RPGs, MMORPGs, ARPGs, TPSs and CCGs. MMOGs are massive multiplayer online games that allow a large number of players to interact with one another within a virtual world. RPGs are role-playing games that allow users to take on the role of a character that can

interact within a game's imaginary world. MMORPGs and ARPGs are subsets of RPGs, with MMORPGs emphasizing the interaction of a large number of players and ARPGs emphasizing real-time action where a player has direct control over characters and enjoys various forms of combat systems. TPSs are third person shooter games that are structured around shooting, where a player can see and control an avatar on-screen in a third-person view. CCGs are collectible card games in which players collect cards and compete to win by using card sets with different functions.

Changyou's games are operated under the item-based revenue model, meaning game players can play Changyou's games for free, but may choose to pay for virtual items, which are non-physical items that game players can purchase and use within a game, such as gems, pets, fashion items, magic medicine, riding animals, hierograms, skill books and fireworks. Through virtual items, players are able to enhance or personalize their game environments or game characters, accelerate their progress in Changyou's games and share and trade with friends.

For players who choose to purchase virtual goods, Changyou delivers enhanced gameplay experiences and benefits, such as:

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*Accelerated Progress.* Many of Changyou's games offer players the option to purchase items that can accelerate their progress in the game and increase their capabilities, so that they level up more quickly and compete more effectively against others in the game. While Changyou sells many items that accelerate progress in its games, Changyou monitors and carefully balances the disparity in capabilities between paying and non-paying game players to avoid discouraging non-paying game players and to keep the game challenging and interesting for paying game players.

*Enhanced Social Interaction.* Changyou uses a variety of virtual items to promote interaction and to facilitate relationship-building among game players in its games.

*Personalized and Customized Appearance.* Many of Changyou's games offer players the option to purchase decorative and functional items to customize the appearance of their characters, pets, vehicles, houses and other in-game possessions to express their individuality.

*Gifts.* Many of Changyou's games offer players the option to purchase gift items to send to their friends. Examples of gift items include decorative items and time-limited items for special holiday events and festivals, such as Valentine's Day, Spring Festival (Chinese New Year) and Christmas.

Changyou's online games include games that it self-operates and games that it licenses out to third-party operators.

### **Self-Operated Games**

For self-operated games, Changyou determines the price of virtual items based on the demand or expected demand for such virtual items. Changyou may change the pricing of certain virtual items based on its consumption patterns. Changyou hosts the games on its own servers and is responsible for sales and marketing of the games as well as customer service. Changyou's self-operated games include PC games and mobile games developed in house as well as PC games and mobile games that Changyou licenses from or jointly develops with third party developers.

### **Licensed Out Games**

Changyou also authorizes third parties to operate its online games. Changyou currently licenses TLBB and Steel Ocean to third-party operators, including operators in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Taiwan. Changyou licenses its mobile games, including TLBB 3D, Qin Shi Min Yue 2, Dashfire and Feng Yun to third-party operators, including operators in Hong Kong, Korea, Macau, Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore, Taiwan, and Thailand. Changyou also licenses some of its games, including Feng Yun, to third-party operators in China.

The licensed-out games include PC games and mobile games developed in house as well as mobile games licensed from and jointly developed with third-party developers. Under Changyou's licensing arrangements with third-party operators, the operators pay Changyou upfront license fees and Changyou has revenue sharing rights over the terms of the licenses. The licenses are typically for a term of one to three years. Changyou provide updates and expansion packs for the licensed games, typically after it launches the updates and expansion packs in China.

For licensed-out games, the third-party operators are responsible for all operations and costs, including marketing and customer service, as well as the leasing and maintenance of servers.

### **Online Games in Operation**

#### **PC game TLBB**

TLBB is Changyou's flagship MMOG. TLBB is a popular martial arts MMOG in China that is adapted from the popular Chinese martial arts novel Tian Long Ba Bu, which means Novel of Eight Demigods, written by the famous writer Louis Cha. TLBB features a combination of martial arts-style-fighting and community-building among its game players with a variety of interesting and interactive gameplay.

Mobile game Tian Long Ba Bu 3D ( TLBB 3D )

TLBB 3D is an in-house developed mobile 3D martial arts MMO role-playing game. Adapted from Louis Cha's novel of the same name, the game re-enacts the story of the original novel and blends in some of the elements of the PC version of the game, including its gameplay, social elements, and multiple gaming systems, enabling players to enjoy exciting battles and interesting real-time interaction with other players. Changyou launched this game in October 2014.

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**Table of Contents*****Platform Channel Business***

Changyou's platform channel business consists primarily of the operation of the 17173.com Website, the Dolphin Browser and RaidCall. The 17173.com Website, one of the leading game information portals in China, provides news, electronic forums, online videos and other information services on online games to game players. The Dolphin Browser is a gateway to a host of user activities on mobile devices, with the majority of its users based in Europe, Russia and Japan. RaidCall provides online music and entertainment services, primarily in Taiwan. Revenues generated by the 17173.com Website are classified as brand advertising revenues and revenues generated by the Dolphin Browser and by RaidCall are classified as others revenues in the Group's consolidated statements of comprehensive income.

***Others Business***

Changyou also operates a cinema advertising business, which consists of Changyou's offering of pre-film cinema advertising slots for advertisements that are shown before the screening of a movie in a cinema theatre. Revenues generated by Changyou's cinema advertising business are classified as others revenues in the Sohu Group's consolidated statements of comprehensive income.

**COMPETITION**

The Internet and Internet-related markets in China are rapidly evolving. We believe the rapid increase in China's online population will draw more attention to the PRC Internet market from both domestic and multinational competitors. Our existing competitors may in the future achieve greater market acceptance and gain additional market share. It is also possible that new competitors may emerge and acquire significant market share. In addition, our competitors may leverage their existing Internet platforms to cross-sell newly launched products and services. It is also possible that, as a result of deficiencies in legal protections afforded intellectual property in the Internet industry in China, or inadequate enforcement of existing PRC laws protecting such intellectual property, we may not be able to prevent existing or new competitors from accessing and using our in-house developed Web content or technologies.

In recent years there have emerged three large conglomerates, Tencent, Alibaba and Baidu, Inc. ( Baidu ), that have a wide reach in the Internet industry in China, and between them tend to dominate key aspects of the industry through their own operations or through strategic investments in other companies. Each of these companies is in a position to compete very effectively against us. For example, Alibaba alone competes with us in almost every key aspect of our business, competing with us in media through its investment in Sina Corporation ( Sina ); in online video through its investment in, and pending acquisition of 100% of, Youku Tudou Inc. ( Youku Tudou ); and in online search through its subsidiary UCWeb Inc. ( UCWeb).

In addition, Qihoo, with which we compete in our search and search-related business, has entered into a proposed going private transaction that would result in the delisting of its shares from the New York Stock Exchange; Baidu recently announce a proposal to sell its majority interest in its online video subsidiary iQiyi to members of Baidu's and iQiyi's management; and there are indications that SouFun may spin off a portion of its business. These transactions could enhance Qihoo's, iQiyi's and SouFun's competitive positions relative to ours by giving them greater flexibility in their business operations and an opportunity to seek high valuations on alternative share exchanges, such as PRC exchanges, which could in turn provide them with increased capital resources, the ability to offer more valuable equity incentives for purposes of personnel recruiting, and valuable equity to use as consideration for strategic acquisitions.

***Sohu's Business***



In the PRC Internet space, competition for brand advertising business is intense and is expected to increase significantly in the future. We compete with our peers and competitors in China primarily on the following basis:

access to financial resources;

gateway to host of Internet users activities;

technological advancements;

attractiveness of products;

brand recognition;

volume of traffic and users;

quality of Internet platforms and content;

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quality and quantity of purchased video content, self-developed video content, and user-generated content;

strategic relationships;

quality of services;

effectiveness of sales and marketing efforts;

talent of staff; and

pricing.

Over time, our competitors may gradually build certain competitive advantages over us in terms of:

greater brand recognition among Internet users and clients;

better products and services;

larger user and advertiser bases;

more extensive and well developed marketing and sales networks; and

substantially greater financial and technical resources.

There are a number of existing or new PRC Internet companies, including those controlled or sponsored by private entities and by PRC government entities. As an Internet portal, we compete with various portals, including Tencent, Sina, NetEase.com, Inc. ( NetEase ), TouTiao.com and Phoenix New Media Limited ( Phoenix ), and vertical sites, such as Autohome Inc.( Autohome ), Bitauto Holdings Limited ( BitAuto ), Youku Tudou, Beijing Xin Lian Xin De Advertising Media Co., Ltd. ( iQIYI ), SouFun Holdings Limited ( SouFun ), Leju Holdings Limited ( Leju ), and YY Inc ( YY ).

We also compete with traditional forms of media, such as newspapers, magazines, radio and television, for advertisers, advertising revenues and content. Some of these traditional media, such as CCTV, Xinhua News Agency and People's Daily, have extended their businesses into the Internet market. As a result, we expect to face more intense competition with traditional media companies in both their traditional media and in the Internet-related markets.

***Sogou's Business***

Our search and search-related business mainly consists of pay-for-click services, as well as online marketing services on the Web directories operated by Sogou. Pay-for-click services face intense competition from other search engines, powered by Baidu, Inc. ( Baidu ), Qihoo 360 Technology Co., Ltd. ( Qihoo ), UCWeb, Google Inc. ( Google ), and Microsoft. Online marketing services on Web directories operated by Sogou also face intense competition from other Chinese Web directories, such as the 360 Personal Start-up Page of Qihoo, Hao123.com of Baidu, 2345.com of Shanghai Ruichuang Internet Technology Development Co., Ltd. and duba.com of Cheetah Mobile Inc. ( Cheetah ).

Moreover, we compete with other technology-driven companies on developing and promoting client-end software and mobile Internet products. For example, we launched our self-developed Sogou Input Method and Sogou Browser on both PCs and mobile devices in 2006, and have provided regular upgrades since then. However, many companies, such as Baidu, Alibaba, Qihoo, Cheetah, IFLYTEK Co., Ltd. and Maxthon International Limited have presented their own input methods or browsers that compete with us.

Our existing and potential competitors compete with us for users and advertisers on the basis of the quality and quantity of search results, the features, availability and ease of use of products and services, and the number of marketing and distribution channels. They also compete with us for talent with technological expertise, which is critical to the sustained development of our products and services. We also face competition from traditional forms of media.

### ***Changyou s Business***

#### *Online Game Business*

In the online games industry, we compete principally with the following three groups of competitors in China:

online game developers and/or operators in China that are publicly traded in the United States and in Hong Kong, including Tencent Holdings Limited, NetEase.com, Inc., Kingsoft Corporation Limited, IGG Inc. and NetDragon Websoft Inc.;

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other companies in China devoted to game development and/or operation that are publicly traded in China, such as Kalends Inc., Ourpalm Corporate limited and Century Cruises (formerly known as Giant Interactive Group Inc.), and privately-held companies, usually backed by venture capital or private equity, including Da Xing (formerly known as Perfect World Co., Ltd.) and Shulong Technologies (formerly known as Shanda Games Limited); and

international competitors.

The existing and potential competitors in the online games industry compete with Changyou for talent, game player spending, time spent on game playing, marketing activities, quality of games, and distribution network.

*Platform Channel Business*

In the platform channel business, we primarily compete with PRC-based and international Internet companies that build Internet platforms to offer online advertising and value-added services similar to those that Changyou offers.

Changyou's game information portal operated through the 17173.com Website currently competes in China with, among others, the following game information portals:

Duowan.com, operated by YY Inc; and

game.sina.com.cn, operated by Sina Corporation.

The existing and potential competitors in the online advertising industry compete with us for talent, advertiser spending, number of unique visitors, number of page views, visitors' time spent on Internet platforms, and quality of service.

For Changyou's other platform products, such as the Dolphin Browser, Changyou generally competes with other PC and mobile application developers, including developers who promote their products as offering similar functions to those offered by Changyou's products. In addition, Changyou competes with all major Internet companies for users.

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**OUR CORPORATE STRUCTURE**

The charts below present the principal consolidated entities of Sohu.com Inc. not including our consolidated Changyou entities, and our principal consolidated Changyou entities.

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***Principal Subsidiaries***

The following are our China-based principal direct or indirect operating subsidiaries, all of which were established as wholly foreign-owned enterprises (or WFOEs) under PRC law (collectively the China-Based Subsidiaries, or the PRC Subsidiaries):

*For Sohu's Business*

Sohu Era, established in 2003 as a WFOE of Sohu Hong Kong;

Sohu Media, established in 2006 as a WFOE of Sohu Hong Kong;

Sohu New Momentum, established in 2010 as a WFOE of Sohu Hong Kong; and

Video Tianjin, established in 2011 as a WFOE of Video HK.

*For Sogou's Business*

Sogou Technology, established in 2006 as a WFOE of Sogou HK; and

Sogou Network, established in 2012 as a WFOE of Vast Creation.

*For Changyou's Business*

AmazGame, established in 2007 as a WFOE of Changyou HK;

Gamespace, established in 2009 as a WFOE of Changyou HK;

Yang Fan Jing He, established in 2010 by AmazGame; Yang Fan Jing He's equity interests were transferred to Brilliant Imagination in June 2015;

Shanghai Jingmao, acquired in 2011 by Yang Fan Jing He;

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Beijing Jingmao, established in 2010 by Shanghai Jingmao and acquired in 2012 by Yang Fan Jing He;

Brilliant Imagination, established in 2014 as a WFOE of 7Road HK; and

Beijing Baina Technology, acquired in July 2014 as a WFOE of MoboTap HK.

***Principal Variable Interest Entities***

The following are our principal VIEs, which we established or acquired in China to perform value-added telecommunications services because of PRC restrictions on direct foreign investment in and operation of value-added telecommunications businesses, which restrictions are discussed further below under the heading Government Regulation and Legal Uncertainties-Specific Regulations-Regulation of Foreign Direct Investment in Value-Added Telecommunications Companies. We entered into contractual arrangements between our VIEs and our PRC Subsidiaries that govern a substantial portion of our operations, including those of the brand advertising business, the search and search-related business, the online game business and the others business. These entities are consolidated in Sohu's consolidated financial statements, and noncontrolling interest is recognized when applicable.

*For Sohu's Business*

High Century, a PRC company that we established in 2001. High Century is a holding company. Dr. Charles Zhang, our Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, and Wei Li held 80% and 20% interests, respectively, in High Century as of December 31, 2015;

Heng Da Yi Tong, formally known as Beijing Sohu Entertainment Culture Media Co., Ltd., a PRC company that we established in 2002. Dr. Charles Zhang and Wei Li held 80% and 20% interests, respectively, in Heng Da Yi Tong as of December 31, 2015;

Sohu Internet, a PRC company that we established in 2003. High Century held a 100% interest in Sohu Internet as of December 31, 2015;

Donglin, a PRC company that we established in 2010. Donglin engages in the advertising business. Sohu Internet held a 100% interest in Donglin as of December 31, 2015;

Pilot New Era, a PRC company that we established in 2010. Pilot New Era engages in the advertising and real estate business. Focus Interactive held a 100% interest in Pilot New Era as of December 31, 2015;

Tianjin Jinhu, a PRC company that we established in November 2011. Tianjin Jinhu provides video program production and performance and artist agency services in China. Ye Deng and Xuemei Zhang each held 50% interest in Tianjin Jinhu as of December 31, 2015;and

Focus Interactive, a PRC company that we established in 2014. Heng Da Yi Tong held a 100% interest in Focus Interactive as of December 31, 2015;

Guangzhou Qianjun, a PRC company that we acquired in November 2014. Tianjin Jinhu held a 100% interest in this entity as of December 31, 2015.

*For Sogou's Business*

Sogou Information, a PRC company that we established in December 2005. Sogou Information provides Search and other Internet information services in China. As of December 31, 2015, Xiaochuan Wang, Sogou's Chief Executive Officer, High Century and Tencent held 10%, 45% and 45% interests, respectively, in Sogou Information.

*For Changyou's Business*

Gamease, a PRC company that we established in August 2007. Gamease provides online game services in China. High Century held a 100% interest in Gamease as of December 31, 2015;

Guanyou Gamespace, a PRC company that we established in August 2010. Changyou Star held a 100% interest in Guanyou Gamespace as of December 31, 2015;

Shanghai ICE, a PRC company that we acquired in May 2010. Shanghai ICE provides online game services in China. Gamease held a 100% interest in Shanghai ICE as of December 31, 2015;



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Wuhan Baina Information, a PRC company acquired by Gamease in July 2014. Wuhan Baina Information engages in the Internet information services business. Changyou Star and Yongzhi Yang, the chief executive officer of MoboTap, held 60% and 40% interests, respectively, in this entity as of December 31, 2015.

We have extended interest-free loans to the individual shareholders of the VIEs to fund their capital investment in the VIEs. The loans are secured by pledges of the shareholders' equity interests in the VIEs, and can only be repaid by the shareholders by surrender of those equity interests to us. We have also entered into a series of agreements with the individual shareholders to transfer their equity interests in the VIEs to us when required to do so.

**GOVERNMENT REGULATION AND LEGAL UNCERTAINTIES**

*The following description of PRC laws and regulations is based upon the opinion of Haiwen & Partners, or Haiwen, our PRC legal counsel. The laws and regulations affecting China's Internet industry and other aspects of our business are at an early stage of development and are evolving. There are substantial uncertainties regarding the interpretation and enforcement of PRC laws and regulations. We cannot assure you that the PRC regulatory authorities would find that our corporate structure and business operations strictly comply with PRC laws and regulations. If we are found to be in violation of PRC laws and regulations by the PRC government, we may be required to pay fines, obtain additional or different licenses or permits, and/or change, suspend or discontinue our business operations until we are found to comply with applicable laws. For a description of legal risks relating to our ownership structure and business, see Risk Factors.*

**Overview**

The Chinese government has enacted an extensive regulatory scheme governing Internet-related areas, such as telecommunications, Internet information services, international connections to computer information networks, online game services, information security and censorship.

Various aspects of the PRC Internet industry are regulated by various PRC governmental authorities, including:

the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology ( MIIT );

the Ministry of Culture ( MOC );

the Ministry of Public Security ( MPS );

the Ministry of Commerce ( MOFCOM );

the State Administration of Industry and Commerce ( SAIC );

the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television ( SAPPRFT ), which resulted from the merger of the former General Administration of Press and Publication, or ( GAPP ), with the former State Administration of Radio, Film and Television ( SARFT ), in March 2013. The SAPPRFT as used in this

report refers to the governmental authority that resulted from the merger, as well as to the GAPP and the SARFT separately for periods prior to the merger;

the PRC State Council Information Office ( SCIO ); and

the State Administration of Foreign Exchange ( SAFE ).

### **Specific Statutes and Regulations**

#### ***Requirements for Establishment of WFOEs***

Under current PRC laws, the establishment of a WFOE must be approved by MOFCOM or one its local branches. Each of our WFOEs was established with such approval.

#### ***Requirements for Obtaining Business Licenses***

All China-based companies may commence operations only upon the issuance of a business license by the relevant local branch of the SAIC. All of our China-Based Subsidiaries and VIEs have been issued business licenses by the relevant local branches of the SAIC.

In the opinion of Haiwen, our principal China-Based Subsidiaries and principal VIEs have satisfied the requirements for business licenses.

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**Table of Contents*****Regulation of Value-added Telecommunications Services***

The *Telecommunications Regulations of the People's Republic of China* ( *Telecom Regulations* ), implemented on September 25, 2000 and amended on July 29, 2014, are the primary PRC law governing telecommunication services, and set out the general framework for the provision of telecommunication services by domestic PRC companies. The Telecom Regulations require that telecommunications service providers procure operating licenses prior to commencing operations. The Telecom Regulations draw a distinction between basic telecommunications services, which we generally do not provide, and value-added telecommunications services. The Telecom Regulations define value-added telecommunications services as telecommunications and information services provided through public networks. The *Catalogue of Telecommunications Business* ( *Catalogue* ), which was issued as an attachment to the Telecom Regulations and updated in February 2003, identifies online data and transaction processing, on-demand voice and image communications, domestic Internet virtual private networks, Internet data centers, message storage and forwarding (including voice mailbox, e-mail and online fax services), call centers, Internet access, and online information and data search as value-added telecommunications services. We engage in various types of business activities that are value-added telecommunications services as defined and described by the Telecom Regulations and the Catalogue.

On March 1, 2009, the MIIT issued the *Measures on the Administration of Telecommunications Business Operating Permits (the Telecom License Measures)* , which became effective on April 10, 2009, to supplement the Telecom Regulations and replace the previous *Administrative Measures for Telecommunications Business Operating Licenses*. The Telecom License Measures confirm that there are two types of telecom operating licenses for operators in China, one for basic telecommunications services and one for value-added telecommunications services. A distinction is also made as to whether a license is granted for intra-provincial or trans-regional (inter-provincial) activities. An appendix to each license granted will detail the permitted activities of the enterprise to which it was granted. An approved telecommunication services operator must conduct its business (whether basic or value-added) in accordance with the specifications recorded in its Telecommunications Services Operating License.

The business activities of Sohu Internet include the provision of a small portfolio of mobile-related services and mobile products offered in cooperation with China mobile network operators to mobile phone users and to China mobile network operators. An insignificant portion of our mobile revenues are currently derived through products such as SMS, RBT and IVR. On April 25, 2004, the MIIT issued a notice stating that China mobile network operators may only provide mobile network access to those mobile Internet service providers which have obtained licenses from the relevant local arm of the MIIT before conducting operations. On the basis of the notice, China Mobile has required each of its mobile Internet service providers to first obtain a license for trans-regional value-added telecommunications services in order to gain full access to its mobile network, which is a nationwide policy in line with a similar notice issued by the Beijing branch of China Mobile on April 12, 2004.

On August 8, 2014 and January 30, 2015, respectively, the MIIT issued to Sohu Internet and Guangzhou Qianjun renewed Value-Added Telecommunications Services Operating Licenses and on January 20, 2015, the MIIT issued to Sogou Information a Value-Added Telecommunications Services Operating License, which authorize the provision of trans-regional mobile services classified as value-added telecommunication services. The licenses are subject to annual inspection.

***Regulation of Foreign Direct Investment in Value-Added Telecommunications Companies***

Various PRC regulations currently restrict foreign-invested entities from engaging in value-added telecommunication services, including providing Internet information services and operating online games. Foreign direct investment in telecommunications companies in China is regulated by the *Regulations for the Administration of Foreign-Invested*

*Telecommunications Enterprises ( FITE Regulations )*, which were issued by the PRC State Council, or State Council, on December 11, 2001, became effective on January 1, 2002 and were amended on September 10, 2008. The FITE Regulations stipulate that foreign invested telecommunications enterprises in the PRC ( FITEs ) must be established as Sino-foreign equity joint ventures. Under the FITE Regulations and in accordance with WTO-related agreements, the foreign party to a FITE engaging in value-added telecommunications services may hold up to 50% of the equity of the FITE, with no geographic restrictions on its operations.

For a FITE to acquire any equity interest in a value-added telecommunications business in China, it must satisfy a number of stringent performance and operational experience requirements, including demonstrating a track record and experience in operating a value-added telecommunications business overseas. FITEs that meet these requirements must obtain approvals from the MIIT and the MOFCOM or their authorized local counterparts, which retain considerable discretion in granting approvals.

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On July 13, 2006, the MIIT issued the *Notice of the Ministry of Information Industry on Intensifying the Administration of Foreign Investment in Value-added Telecommunications Services (the MIIT Notice)*, which reiterates certain provisions of the FITE Regulations. Under the MIIT Notice, if a FITE intends to invest in a PRC value-added telecommunications business, the FITE must be established and must apply for a telecommunications business license applicable to the business. Under the MIIT Notice, a domestic company that holds a license for the provision of Internet content services, or an ICP license, is considered to be a type of value-added telecommunications business in China, and is prohibited from leasing, transferring or selling the license to foreign investors in any form, and from providing any assistance, including providing resources, sites or facilities, to foreign investors to conduct value-added telecommunications businesses illegally in China. Trademarks and domain names that are used in the provision of Internet content services must be owned by the ICP license holder. The MIIT Notice requires each ICP license holder to have appropriate facilities for its approved business operations and to maintain such facilities in the regions covered by its license. In addition, all value-added telecommunications service providers are required to maintain network and information security in accordance with standards set forth in relevant PRC regulations. Our VIEs, rather than our subsidiaries, hold ICP licenses, own our domain names, and hold or have applied for registration in the PRC of trademarks related to our business and own and maintain facilities that we believe are appropriate for our business operations.

In view of these restrictions on foreign direct investment in the value-added telecommunications sector, we established or acquired several domestic VIEs to engage in value-added telecommunications services. For a detailed discussion of our VIEs, please refer to *Our Corporate Structure* above. Due to a lack of interpretative materials from the relevant PRC authorities, there are uncertainties regarding whether PRC authorities would consider our corporate structure and contractual arrangements to constitute foreign ownership of a value-added telecommunications business. See *Risks Related to Our Corporate Structure*. In order to comply with PRC regulatory requirements, we operate our main business through companies with which we have contractual relationships but in which we do not have an actual ownership interest. If our current ownership structure is found to be in violation of current or future PRC laws, rules or regulations regarding the legality of foreign investment in the PRC Internet sector, we could be subject to severe penalties.

In the opinion of Haiwen, subject to the uncertainties and risks disclosed elsewhere in this report under the heading *Risk Factors* and *Government Regulation and Legal Uncertainties*, the ownership structures of our principal PRC Subsidiaries and our principal VIEs comply with all existing laws, rules and regulations of the PRC and each of such companies has the full legal right, power and authority, and has been duly approved, to carry on and engage in the business described in its business license.

***Regulation of the Provision of Internet Content******Internet Information Services***

On September 25, 2000, the State Council issued the *Measures for the Administration of Internet Information Services (ICP Measures)*. Under the ICP Measures, entities that provide information to online users on the Internet, or ICPs, are obliged to obtain an operating license from the MIIT or its local branch at the provincial or municipal level in accordance with the Telecom Regulations described above.

The ICP Measures further stipulate that entities providing online information services regarding news, publishing, education, medicine, health, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment must procure the consent of the national authorities responsible for such areas prior to applying for an operating license from the MIIT or its local branch at the provincial or municipal level. Moreover, ICPs must display their operating license numbers in conspicuous locations on their home pages. ICPs are required to police their Internet platforms and remove certain prohibited content. Many

of these requirements mirror Internet content restrictions that have been announced previously by PRC ministries, such as the MIIT, the MOC, and the SAPPRFT, that derive their authority from the State Council.

Most importantly for foreign investors, the ICP Measures stipulate that ICPs must obtain the prior consent of the MIIT prior to establishing an equity or cooperative joint venture with a foreign partner.

On November 23, 2015, October 10, 2014, and December 26, 2014, the Beijing Telecom Administration ( BTA ) issued to Sogou Information, Sohu Internet and Focus Interactive renewed Telecommunications and Information Services Operating Licenses (each an ICP license ). On January 12, 2015, the Guangdong Telecom Administration issued a renewed ICP license to Guangzhou Qianjun .On August 13, 2012, the Shanghai Telecom Administration issued a renewed ICP license to Shanghai ICE. On November 3, 2015, the BTA issued to Guanyou Gamespace a renewed ICP license. On May 22, 2014, the BTA issued to Gamease a renewed ICP license. On October 18, 2013, the Hubei Telecom Administration issued a renewed ICP license to Wuhan Baina Information. All of these ICP licenses are subject to annual inspection.

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In 2000, the MIIT promulgated the *Internet Electronic Bulletin Service Administrative Measures* ( BBS Measures ). The BBS Measures required ICPs to obtain specific approvals before they provided BBS services, which included electronic bulletin boards, electronic forums, message boards and chat rooms. On September 23, 2014, the MIIT abolished the BBS Measures in a *Decision on Abolishment and Amendment Certain Regulations and Rules*. However, in practice certain local authorities still require operating companies to obtain approvals or make filings for the operation of BBS services. The ICP licenses held by Sohu Internet, Sogou Information, Focus Interactive, Gamease and Guanyou Gamespace include such specific approval of the BBS services that they provide.

On December 29, 2011, the MIIT issued *Several Provisions for Standardizing the Market Order of Internet Information Services* (the Several Provisions ) which took effect on March 15, 2012. With the aim of promoting the healthy development of the Internet information services market in China, the Several Provisions strengthen the regulation of the operations of Internet information service providers, including prohibiting Internet information service providers from infringing the rights and interests of other Internet information service providers, regulating evaluations provided by Internet information service providers regarding the services and products of other Internet information service providers, and regulating the installation and running of software by Internet information service providers. The Several Provisions also provide various rules to protect the interests of Internet information users, such as requesting Internet information service providers to take measures to protect the privacy information of their users and prohibiting Internet information service providers from cheating and misleading their users.

#### *Online News Dissemination*

On September 25, 2005, the *Administrative Regulations for Internet News Information Services* ( News Regulations ) were jointly promulgated by the SCIO and the MIIT to replace the previous *Provisional Rules for the Administration of the Operation of News Publication Services by Web Sites* ( Old News Rules ) issued on November 7, 2000. The News Regulations stipulate that general Websites established by non-news organizations, such as Sohu, may publish news released by certain official news agencies if such Websites satisfy the requirements set forth in Article 8 of the News Regulations but may not publish news items produced by themselves or other news sources. The News Regulations also require the general Websites of non-news organizations to apply to the SCIO at the national level for approval after securing the consent of the SCIO at the provincial level before they commence providing news dissemination services.

Requirements specified in the News Regulations include the following:

non-news organizations Websites must comply with the constitution, laws and regulations of the PRC, uphold and not mislead the society's public opinion, and safeguard national and public interests;

non-news organizations must have sound administrative rules and regulations concerning Internet news services;

non-news organizations must have the necessary premises, equipment and legally-raised funds;

non-news organizations must have ten or more professional news editors, at least five of whom have worked at a news agency for a minimum of three years;

non-news organizations must be legal persons who have been legally established for at least two years, engaged in the operation of Internet news services and have not had administrative penalties imposed due to violation of laws and regulations on the administration of Internet news services within the last two years;

if the applicant for the SCIO approval is an entity, its registered capital must not be less than RMB10,000,000; and

non-news organizations must only republish or disseminate to the public news regarding current events and political affairs that has been published by State news agencies or news agencies directly subordinate to the respective governments of the provinces, autonomous regions or directly-administered municipalities, without distorting the news as reported by those agencies, and indicate the source of such news information; and shall not publish news gathered and edited by themselves.

In addition, general Websites intending to publish news released by approved agencies must enter into agreements with those agencies and submit copies of those agreements to the relevant administration department.

On May 11, 2004, Sohu Internet obtained a permit to engage in online news dissemination services, which was issued by the Information Office of the Beijing Municipal Government (the local arm of the SCIO) under the Old News Rules. On June 6, 2006, the permit was updated by the SCIO in accordance with the News Regulations.



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### *Internet Publishing*

The *Provisional Rules for the Administration for Internet Publishing* ( Internet Publishing Rules ), jointly issued by the SAPPRFT and the MIIT on June 27, 2002, define Internet publications as works that are either selected or edited to be published on the Internet or transmitted to end-users through the Internet for the purposes of browsing, reading, using or downloading by the general public. Such works primarily include content or articles (a) formerly published publicly in other media such as books, newspapers, periodicals, audio-visual products and electronic publications and (b) literature, art and articles on natural science, social science, engineering and other topics that have been edited. Under the Internet Publishing Rules, Web portals such as ours are required to apply to and register with the SAPPRFT before distributing Internet publications.

On December 22, 2010, Sohu Internet obtained a renewed Internet publishing license issued by the SAPPRFT. For the details of the Internet publishing licenses held by Changyou's VIEs, see Specific Statutes and Regulations Regulation of Online Game Services Online Games and Cultural Products.

### *Online Audiovisual Transmission*

On July 6, 2004, the SAPPRFT issued the *Measures for the Administration of the Transmission of Audiovisual Programs over Internet and other Information Networks*, which came into effect on October 11, 2004. These measures provide that Websites authorized to disseminate news may apply to the SAPPRFT to obtain a Permit for the Network Transmission of Audiovisual Programs, allowing the online dissemination of streaming video. On June 20, 2014, Sohu Internet received a renewed Permit for the Network Transmission of Audiovisual Programs issued by the SAPPRFT. Guangzhou Qianjun currently holds a Permit for the Network Transmission of Audiovisual Programs issued on September 7, 2014.

On December 20, 2007, the SAPPRFT and the MIIT jointly issued the *Rules for the Administration of Internet Audiovisual Program Services* ( Document 56 ), which came into effect as of January 31, 2008. Document 56 requires all online audio and video service providers to be either state-owned or state-controlled. They also encourage state-owned entities to actively invest in online audiovisual services. However, at a press conference held on February 3, 2008 the SAPPRFT and the MIIT clarified that online audio-visual service providers that were already lawfully operating prior to the issuance of Document 56 may re-register and continue to operate without becoming state-owned or controlled, provided that such providers do not engage in any unlawful activities. This exemption will not be granted to service providers set up after Document 56 was issued. As we were already engaged in online audiovisual transmission prior to the issuance of Document 56, we are presumably exempted from the requirement of being state-owned or state-controlled.

On March 30, 2009, the SAPPRFT released a *Notice on Strengthening the Administration of Online Audiovisual Content* (the March 2009 SAPPRFT notice ). March 2009 SAPPRFT notice requires the operators of audiovisual Websites to enhance their processes for protecting copyrights, and to take appropriate measures to protect the rights and interests of copyright holders. Operators of such sites must hold, or have a license to, the copyright to all content that they transmit. In addition, the March 2009 SAPPRFT notice stipulates that only those films or TV programs that have already obtained from the SAPPRFT a Film Public Screening Permit, TV Drama Distribution Permit, TV Animation Distribution Permit, or TV Documentary Film Screening Permit are allowed to be transmitted via audiovisual Websites. These permits are mandatory for all films and programs shown on TV and in cinemas in China and must be obtained before such film or TV or program is allowed to be released. The approval applications for the Film Public Screening Permit, Television Drama Distribution Permit, Television Animation Distribution Permit or Television Documentary Film Screening Permit are extremely difficult and time-consuming, and the SAPPRFT previously did not enforce very strictly the requirements regarding these permits. However, on September 2, 2014, the

SAPPRFT issued a *Notice on Further Strengthening the Administration of Online Foreign Audiovisual Content* ( September 2014 SAPPRFT Notice ), which requires that operators of audiovisual Websites to obtain from the SAPPRFT a Film Public Screening Permit, TV Drama Distribution Permit, or TV Animation Distribution Permit for all foreign films and TV dramas before they are transmitted via the Internet in China. The September 2014 SAPPRFT Notice further stipulates that before any foreign films or TV dramas for transmission exclusively via the Internet are purchased after the promulgation of the September 2014 SAPPRFT Notice, operators of audiovisual Websites must declare their annual purchasing plans with the SAPPRFT before the end of the year preceding the year of the intended broadcast and obtain the SAPPRFT's approval. The September 2014 SAPPRFT Notice also states that the number of foreign films and TV dramas to be purchased by an operator and transmitted via its Website in a single year may not exceed 30% of the total amount of the Chinese films and TV dramas purchased and transmitted by the same Website in the previous year.

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On July 6, 2012, the SAPPRFT issued a *Notice on Further Strengthening the Administration of Internet Dramas, Micro Movies and Other Internet Audiovisual programs* (the July 2012 SAPPRFT Notice ), which reiterates that online audio-visual service providers must obtain a Permit for the Network Transmission of Audiovisual Programs from the SAPPRFT. The July 2012 SAPPRFT Notice further stipulates that online audio-visual service providers must review the content of Internet audiovisual programs prior to their transmission and must file certain information, such as the names of the Internet audiovisual programs, summaries of their content and names of the persons conducting the reviews, with the appropriate provincial office of the SAPPRFT.

On January 2, 2014, the SAPPRFT issued a *Supplemental Notice on July 2012 SAPPRFT Notice*, which stipulates that producers of Internet dramas, micro movies and other Internet audiovisual programs must obtain a Permit for Radio and Television Program Production and Operation. Online audio-visual service providers may only retransmit dramas and micro movies produced and uploaded by individuals whose identities have been verified and the content of which complies with relevant regulations. Online audio-visual service providers must file with the provincial SAPPRFT the content of Internet audiovisual programs proposed for transmission prior to transmitting the programs.

*Online Cultural Products*

On May 10, 2003, the MOC issued the *Provisional Regulations for the Administration of Online Culture* ( Online Culture Regulations ), which took effect on July 1, 2003 and were amended on July 1, 2004. On February 17, 2011, the MOC issued the new *Provisional Regulations for the Administration of Online Culture* ( New Online Culture Regulations ), which took effect on April 1, 2011, to replace the previous regulations. The New Online Culture Regulations apply to entities engaging in activities related to Internet cultural products, which include those cultural products that are produced specially for Internet use, such as online music and entertainment, online games, online plays, online performances, online works of art and Web animations, and those cultural products that, through technical means, produce or reproduce music, entertainment, games, plays and other art works for Internet dissemination. Pursuant to the New Online Culture Regulations, commercial entities are required to apply to the relevant local branch of the MOC for an Online Culture Operating Permit if they engage in any of the following types of activities:

the production, duplication, importation, release or broadcasting of Internet cultural products;

the dissemination of online cultural products on the Internet or transmission thereof via Internet or mobile phone networks to user terminals such as computers, fixed-line or mobile phones, television sets ,gaming consoles and Internet surfing service sites such as Internet cafés for the purpose of browsing, using or downloading such products; or

the exhibition or holding of contests related to Internet cultural products.

In March 2014, November 2014, October 2015, November 2014 and January 2014, respectively, the MOC issued renewed Online Culture Operating Permits to Sogou Information, Sohu Internet, Gamease, Guanyou Gamespace and Shanghai ICE authorizing these entities to provide relevant online services. Wuhan Baina information, Focus Interactive and Guangzhou Qianjun currently hold Online Culture Operating Permits issued in July 2014, February 2015 and April 2015, respectively. These permits are subject to annual inspection.

*Internet Medical, Health and Pharmaceuticals Information Dissemination*

On May 1, 2009, the Ministry of Health ( MOH ) issued the *Measures for the Administration of Internet Medical and Healthcare Information Services* which replaced the previous *Measures for the Administration of Internet Medical and Health Information Services* issued by the MOH on January 8, 2001. These measures stipulate that the MOH is responsible for reviewing the qualifications of Websites and approving their publication of health-related information. In addition, under the *Measures for the Administration of Internet Pharmaceuticals Information Services* issued by the State Food and Drug Administration ( SFDA ) on July 8, 2004, the formal approval of the SFDA or one of its local branches is required before a Website may disseminate information concerning pharmaceuticals.

Under the aforementioned regulations, medical, health and pharmaceutical information provided by Websites must be scientific and accurate and must indicate the sources of such information. Websites that have received approval to disseminate such information must also publish or reprint health policies, information on epidemics and major health-related incidents, and other health-related information in accordance with law. Furthermore, medical and pharmaceutical advertisements published by such Websites must not exaggerate the efficacy or promote the medical uses of such products.

Sohu Internet received renewed SFDA approval on November 26, 2014. Guangzhou Qianjun received renewed SFDA approval on April 30, 2014. Sogou Information received SFDA approval on December 31, 2013. Sohu Internet obtained approval from the MOH and completed the registration process with the MOH on December 16, 2014.

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***Regulation of Online Advertising Services***

***Brand Advertising Services***

Under the *Administrative Regulations for Advertising Licenses* and the *Implementation Rules for the Administrative Regulations for Advertising*, both of which were issued by the SAIC on November 30, 2004 and effective as of January 1, 2005, enterprises (except for broadcast stations, television stations, newspapers and magazines, non-corporate entities and other specified entities) are generally exempted from the previous requirement to obtain an advertising license. Exempted enterprises are only required to apply for the inclusion of advertising services in their business licenses.

On April 24, 2015, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress enacted the *Advertising Law of the People's Republic of China* ( *New Advertising Law* ). The New Advertising Law, which was a major overhaul of an advertising law enacted in 1994, increases the potential legal liability of providers of advertising services, and includes provisions intended to strengthen identification of false advertising and the power of regulatory authorities. The New Advertising Law provides that advertisements posted or published through the Internet may not affect users normal usage of a network, and advertisements published in the form of pop-up windows on the Internet must display a close sign prominently and ensure one-key closing of the pop-up windows. The New Advertising Law will require us to conduct more stringent examination and monitoring of our advertisers and the content of their advertisements.

***Search and search-related Services***

On August 18, 2009, the MOC issued a *Notice on Strengthening and Improving the Content Censorship of Online Music Content* ( *MOC Notice* ). The MOC Notice provides that providing direct links to online music will constitute engaging in the online music business, and that therefore an Online Culture Operating Permit is required for providing such search services. Sogou Information applied for an Online Culture Operating Permit and received it on November 9, 2010. The permit was renewed on March 3, 2014.

***Regulation of Online Game Services***

***Online Games and Cultural Products***

In September 2009, the SAPPRFT, together with the National Copyright Administration, and the National Office of Combating Pornography and Illegal Publications jointly issued the *Notice on Further Strengthening on the Administration of Pre-examination and Approval of Online Game and the Examination and Approval of Imported Online Game* ( *SAPPRFT Online Game Notice* ). The SAPPRFT Online Game Notice states that foreign investors are not permitted to invest in online game operating businesses in China via wholly foreign-owned entities, China-foreign equity joint ventures or cooperative joint ventures or to exercise control over or participate in the operation of domestic online game businesses through indirect means, such as other joint venture companies or contractual or technical arrangements. If the VIE structure of Changyou was deemed under the SAPPRFT Online Game Notice to be an indirect means for foreign investors to exercise control over or participate in the operation of a domestic online game business, the VIE structure of Changyou might be challenged by the SAPPRFT. We are not aware of any online game companies which use the same or similar VIE contractual arrangements as those Changyou uses having been challenged by the SAPPRFT as using those VIE arrangements as an indirect means for foreign investors to exercise control over or participate in the operation of a domestic online game business or having been penalized or ordered to terminate operations since the SAPPRFT Online Game Notice first became effective, but it is unclear whether and how the SAPPRFT Online Game Notice might be interpreted or implemented in the future.



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On February 21, 2008, the SAPPRFT issued the *Rules for the Administration of Electronic Publications* (the Electronic Publication Rules ), which were amended on August 28, 2015. The Electronic Publication Rules regulate the production, publishing and importation of electronic publications in the PRC and outline a licensing system for business operations involving electronic publishing. Under the Electronic Publication Rules and other related regulations issued by the SAPPRFT, online games are classified as a type of electronic publication or Internet publication that may only be provided by a licensed electronic publishing entity with a standard publication code, and establishment of an electronic publishing entity must be approved by the SAPPRFT. Electronic publishing entities are responsible for assuring that the content of electronic publications comply with relevant PRC law and regulations, and must obtain the approval of the SAPPRFT before publishing foreign electronic publications. The *Tentative Measures for Internet Publication Administration* ( Internet Publication Measures ), which were jointly promulgated by the SAPPRFT and the MIIT and became effective in 2002, impose a license requirement for any company that intends to engage in Internet publishing, which is defined as any act by an ICP to select, edit and process content or programs and to make such content or programs publicly available on the Internet. As the provision of online games is deemed to be an Internet publication activity, an online game operator must obtain an Internet publishing license and an authorization codes for each of its games in operation in order to directly make those games publicly available in the PRC. Although the Internet Publication Measures do not specifically authorize such a practice, an online game operator is generally able to publish its games and obtain authorization codes for those games through third-party licensed electronic publishing entities and register the games with the SAPPRFT as electronic publications. The New Internet Publication Measures issued by the SAPPRFT and the MIIT, which will become effective on March 10, 2016 and will replace the Internet Publication Measures, require that entities in the Internet publishing business apply for a new online publication license and obtain approval from the SAPPRFT prior to the publication of new online games. In addition, under the New Internet Publication Measures Sino-foreign joint ventures and foreign-invested entities are not permitted to engage in Internet publication services, and the legal representative of an entity providing Internet publication services may not be a foreigner. As the New Internet Publication Measures are new and have not yet become effective, the actual implications and reach of the New Internet Publication Measures are still uncertain.

Gamease, which is the operator of TLBB, BO, BH2 and certain other licensed PC games, Guanyou Gamespace, which provides online game services, obtained Internet publishing licenses on December 10, 2010 and October 13, 2011, respectively. TLBB, BO, BH2 and some of Changyou 's other games were historically published through third parties that were licensed electronic publishing entities, because Gamease had not obtained an Internet publishing license at the time those online games were made publicly available. TLBB, BO, BH2, and certain of Changyou 's other existing games are currently published under an Internet publishing license held by Gamease. Current PRC regulations are not clear as to the consequences of obtaining authorization codes through third-party electronic publishing entities. While we believe that arrangements like Changyou 's are acknowledged by the SAPPRFT, in view of the lack of formal interpretation regarding this issue, the SAPPRFT might challenge Changyou 's current and past practices and could subject Changyou to various penalties, including fines, confiscation of publishing equipment and the revenues generated from the publishing activities, the revocation of Changyou 's business license, or the forced discontinuation of or restrictions on its operations.

The MOC issued the *New Provisional Regulations for the Administration of Online Culture*, ( Online Culture Regulations ), which took effect on April 1, 2011 and replaced the *Provisional Regulations for the Administration of Online Culture*. The Online Culture Regulations apply to entities engaging in activities related to Internet cultural products, which include cultural products that are produced specifically for Internet use, such as online music and entertainment, online games, online plays, online performances, online works of art and Web animation, and other online cultural products that through technical means, produce or reproduce music, entertainment, games, plays and other art works for Internet dissemination. Under the New Online Culture Regulations, commercial entities are required to apply to the relevant local branch of the MOC for an Online Culture Operating Permit if they engage in the production, duplication, importation, release or broadcasting of Internet cultural products; the dissemination of online

cultural products on the Internet or the transmission of such products via Internet or mobile phone networks to user terminals, such as computers, phones, television sets and gaming consoles, or Internet surfing service sites such as Internet cafés; or the holding or exhibition of contests related to Internet cultural products.

In October 2015, November 2014, and January 2014, respectively, the MOC issued renewed Online Culture Operating Permits to Gamease, Guanyou Gamespace and Shanghai ICE.



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The Interim Measures for the Administration of Online Games ( Online Game Measures ), issued by the MOC, which took effect on August 1, 2010, regulate a broad range of activities related to the online games business, including the development, production and operation of online games, the issuance of virtual currencies used for online games, and the provision of virtual currency trading services. The Online Game Measures provide that any entity that is engaged in online game operations must obtain an Online Culture Operating Permit, and require the content of an imported online game to be examined and approved by the MOC prior to the game's launch and a domestic online game to be filed with the MOC within 30 days after its launch. The Notice of the Ministry of Culture on the Implementation of the Interim Measures for the Administration of Online Games, which was issued by the MOC on July 29, 2010 to implement the Online Game Measures, (i) requires online game operators to protect the interests of online game users and specify certain terms that must be included in service agreements between online game operators and the users of their online games, (ii) specifies content review of imported online games and filing procedures for domestic online games, (iii) emphasizes the protection of minors playing online games and (iv) requests online game operators to promote real-name registration by their game users. Changyou has filed its games TLBB, BO, BH2, and certain of its other existing games with the MOC. If Changyou fails to maintain any of its permits, approvals or registrations, to make any necessary filings, or to apply for and obtain any required new permits, approvals or registrations or make any new filings on a timely basis, it may be subject to various penalties, including fines and a requirement that it discontinue or limit its operations.

The *Notice on Strengthening the Approval and Administration of Imported Online Games* ( SAPPRT Imported Online Game Notice ), which was issued by the SAPPRT and took effect in July 2009, states that the SAPPRT is the only governmental department authorized by the State Council to approve the importation of online games from offshore copyright owners, and that any enterprise which engages in online game publication and operation services within China must have the game examined and approved by the SAPPRT and receive from the SAPPRT an Internet publishing license. Our VIEs Gamease and Guanyou Gamespace have obtained Internet publishing licenses from the SAPPRT. In addition, the SAPPRT Imported Online Game Notice states that activities which involve the showing, exhibition, trading and promotion of offshore online games in China also must be examined and approved by the SAPPRT.

The *Notice Regarding Improving and Strengthening the Administration of Online Game Content* ( Online Game Content Notice ), issued by the MOC in November 2009, calls for online game operators to improve and adapt their game models by (i) mitigating the predominance of the upgrade by monster fighting model, (ii) limiting the use of the player kill model (where one player's character attempts to kill another player's character), (iii) limiting in-game marriages among game players, and (iv) improving their compliance with legal requirements for the registration of minors and game time-limits.

The *Administrative Measures for Content Self-review by Internet Culture Business Entities* (the Content Self-review Administrative Measure ), which took effect in December 2013, require Internet culture business entities to review the content of products and services to be provided prior to providing such content and services to the public. The content management system of an Internet culture business entity is required to specify the responsibilities, standards and processes for content review as well as accountability measures, and is required be filed with the local provincial branch of the MOC.

In January 2014 the SAIC promulgated the Administrative Measures for Online Trading (the Online Trading Measures ), which took effect on March 15, 2014, and replaced the Interim Measures for the Administration of Online Commodities Trading and Relevant Services, issued by the SAIC, which had taken effect on July 1, 2010. The Online Trading Measures regulate online commodity trading and related activities. The Online Trading Measures require that commodities or services transacted online comply with the provisions of all applicable laws, regulations and rules. When selling commodities or providing services to consumers, online operators must comply with all applicable laws

with respect to the protection of consumer rights/interests, intellectual property rights of others and the prevention of unfair competition. Information provided with respect to commodities and services provided by online commodity operators or related service operators must be authentic and accurate, and no false statements may be made. If we fail to comply with all requirements of the Online Trading Measures, the local branch of the SAIC or another governmental authority with jurisdiction might impose penalties on us, such as fines.

*Registration of Software Products*

The *Measures Concerning Software Products Administration* ( Software Measures ), issued by the MIIT, which became effective in April, 2009 and replaced measures which had been in effect since 2000, permit software developers and producers to sell or license their software products independently or through agents, and software products developed in the PRC can be registered with the local provincial government authorities in charge of the information industry and filed with the MIIT. Upon registration, the software products are granted registration certificates which are valid for five years and may be renewed upon expiration. Under policies promulgated by the State Council, software products developed in the PRC which satisfy the requirements of the Software Measures and have been registered and filed in accordance with the Software Measures may enjoy certain types of preferential treatment. State Council policies provide that the MIIT and other relevant departments may supervise and inspect the development, production, sale, import and export of software products in the PRC. Changyou has registered software copyrights covering all of its significant copyrightable products and enhancements.

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**Table of Contents***Import and Export of Software Technology*

China imposes controls on the import and export of technology and software products. Under the *Regulations on Administration of Import and Export of Technologies* promulgated by the State Council, the term “technology import and export” is defined to include, among other things, the transfer or licensing of patents and know-how, and the provision of services related to technology. Depending on the nature of the relevant technology, the import and export of technology require either approval by or registration with the relevant PRC governmental authorities. Under the *Software Export Management and Statistics Measures* promulgated in October 2001, if a company is classified as a Software Enterprise and has a minimum of RMB1 million in registered capital, it may engage in an export business after being registered with the relevant PRC governmental authorities. All contracts which relate to the export of software products, transfer of technology and provision of related services must be filed with the relevant PRC governmental authorities. The *Measures for the Administration of Registration of Technology Import and Export Contracts*, issued by the MOFCOM in February 2009, specify registration requirements related to the import and export of technology.

Changyou has entered into license agreements with third parties outside of China to license its games, which may be deemed to constitute the export of technology under the regulations. As a result, such licenses are required to be registered with applicable PRC governmental authorities. Although there are no explicit penalties set forth in these regulations for lack of such registration, failure to register an agreement where such registration is required may result in restrictions concerning foreign exchange, banking and taxation matters relating to such agreements. Changyou has not registered all of the game license agreements under which it authorize overseas third-party online game operators to operate its online games, and so far Changyou has not encountered any problems with respect to foreign exchange, banking and taxation matters relating to its license agreements, nor has it received any notice from any governmental authority requiring it to complete the registration of its game license agreements.

*Information Security and Censorship relating to Online Games*

Internet content in China is also regulated and restricted from a State security standpoint. The Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress enacted the Decision Regarding the Safeguarding of Internet Security in 2000, and amended it in August, 2009. The decision makes it unlawful to: (i) gain improper entry into a computer or system of strategic importance; (ii) disseminate politically disruptive information; (iii) leak State secrets; (iv) spread false commercial information; or (v) infringe intellectual property rights. The Ministry of Public Security has promulgated measures that prohibit the use of the Internet in ways which, among other things, result in a leakage of State secrets or distribution of socially destabilizing content. The Ministry of Public Security has supervision and inspection rights in this regard, and we may be subject to the jurisdiction of local security bureaus. If an ICP license holder violates these measures, the PRC government may revoke its ICP license and shut down its Websites.

In May, 2004, the MOC issued a *Notice Regarding the Strengthening of Online Game Censorship* (“Online Game Notice”). The Online Game Notice mandates the establishment of a new committee under the MOC that will screen the content of imported online games. In addition, all imported and domestic online games are required to be filed with the MOC. We have submitted the relevant filing documents to the MOC for the filing of all the games in operation.

In July, 2005, the MOC and the MIIT promulgated the *Opinions on the Development and Administration of Online Game* emphasizing the PRC government’s intent to foster and control the development of the online game industry in China and providing that the MOC will censor online games that “threaten state security, disturb the social order, or contain obscenity or violence.”

In April, 2009, the MOC issued a *Public Announcement on Regulating Applications for the Examination of the Content of Imported Online Game* ( *Announcement* ). The *Announcement* emphasizes that enterprises operating imported online games must have the content of those games examined and approved by the MOC.

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress released a draft Internet Security Law and began to solicit public opinion in July, 2015. The draft Internet Security Law, if enacted, will impose strict Internet security legal requirements particularly on network operators, and will call for strengthened protection of user information and privacy information.

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**Table of Contents***Internet Cafés*

Internet cafés are required to obtain an Online Culture Operating Permit from the MOC and to file the permit with the SAIC. Internet cafés are subject to requirements and regulations with respect to their locations, size, the number of computers, business hours and ages of their customers. In 2004, the MOC, the SAIC and some other governmental authorities jointly issued a notice to suspend issuance of new Internet café licenses. Though this nationwide suspension was generally lifted in 2005, local authorities have the authority in their discretion to control the number of new licenses and determine the recipients of new licenses. In addition, local and higher-level governmental authorities may from time to time strictly enforce customer age limits and other requirements relating to Internet cafés, as a result of the occurrence of, and media attention on, gang fights, arson or other incidents in or related to Internet cafés. On February 15, 2007, the MOC and other relevant government authorities jointly issued the *Notice on the Reinforcement of the Administration of Internet Cafés and Online Games* ( Internet Cafés Notice ), which imposed a nationwide suspension of approvals for the establishment of new Internet cafés in 2007 and imposed tougher penalties for Internet cafés that admitted minors. In 2008, 2009 and 2010, the MOC, the SAIC and other relevant government authorities, individually or jointly, issued several notices which provide various ways to strengthen the regulation of Internet cafés, including investigating and punishing the Internet cafés which accept minors, cracking down on Internet cafés without sufficient and valid licenses, limiting the total number of Internet cafés, screening unlawful games and Websites, and improving the coordination of regulation over Internet cafés and online games. As many of Changyou's customers access their games from Internet cafés, any reduction in the number, or any slowdown in the growth, of Internet cafés in China as a result of stricter Internet café regulation will limit Changyou's ability to maintain or increase its revenues and expand its customer base. In September 2015, the MOC and MPS issued a Notice on Further Strengthening the Supervision of Games and Entertainment Places to Promote the Healthy Development of the Industry, which specifies that regulatory authorities must examine the validity of the business license of a games and entertainment enterprise and inspect its place of operation before approving the enterprise's application for the issuance of a license for operation of an entertainment business.

*Protection of Minors*

On April 15, 2007, the MIIT, the SAPPRFT, the Ministry of Education and five other government authorities jointly issued a *Notice on the Implementation of Online Game Anti-Fatigue System to Protect the Physical and Psychological Health of Minors* ( Anti-Fatigue Notice ). Pursuant to the Anti-Fatigue Notice, online game operators are required to install an anti-fatigue system that discourages game players from playing games for more than five hours per day. Under the anti-fatigue system, three hours or less of continuous play by minors is considered to be healthy, three to five hours to be fatiguing, and five hours or more to be unhealthy. Game operators are required to reduce the value of in-game benefits to a game player by half if the game player has reached fatiguing level, and to zero in the case of unhealthy level.

To identify whether a game player is a minor and thus subject to the anti-fatigue system, there was adopted a real-name registration system, which requires online game players to register their real identity information before they play online games and requires us to submit the identity information of game players to the public security authorities for verification. On July 1, 2011, the SAPPRFT, the MIIT, the Ministry of Education and five other governmental authorities issued a *Notice on Initializing the verification of Real-name Registration for Anti-Fatigue System on Internet Games* ( Real-name Registration Notice ), to strengthen the implementation of the anti-fatigue system and real-name registration, which took effect on October 1, 2011. The Real-name Registration Notice's main focus is to prevent minors from using an adult's ID to play Internet games and, accordingly, the notice imposes stringent punishments on online game operators that do not implement the required anti-fatigue and real-name registration measures properly and effectively. The most severe punishment contemplated by the Real-name Registration Notice is to require termination of the operation of the online game if it is found to be in violation of the

Anti-Fatigue Notice, the Monitor System Circular or the Real-name Registration Notice. We developed our own anti-fatigue and real-name registration systems for our games, and implemented them beginning in 2007. Under our system, game players must use real identification in order to create accounts, and in this way, we are able to tell which of our game players are minors and thus subject to these regulations. For game players who do not register, we assume that they are minors. In order to comply with the anti-fatigue rules, game players under 18 years of age only receive half of the experience time they actually earn after three hours of play. And, after five hours of play, minors receive no experience points. We use this system to disincentivize minors from playing in excess of five hours at a time.

On January 15, 2011, the MOC, the MIIT and six other central government authorities jointly issued a circular entitled *Implementation of Online Game Monitor System of the Guardians of Minors* ( Monitor System Circular ), aiming to provide specific protection measures to monitor the online game activities of minors and curb addictive online game playing behaviors of minors. Under the Monitor System Circular, online game operators are required to adopt various measures to maintain a system to communicate with the parents or other guardians of minors playing online games and online game operators are required to monitor the online game activities of minors, and must suspend the account of a minor if so requested by the minor's parents or guardians. The monitor system was formally implemented commencing March 1, 2011.

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In February, 2013, 15 PRC government authorities, including the SAPPRFT, the Ministry of Education, the MOC and the MIIT, jointly issued the *Work Plan for the Integrated Prevention of Minors Online Game Addiction* ( *Work Plan* ), implementing integrated measures by different authorities to prevent minors from being addicted to online games. Under the *Work Plan*, the current relevant regulations regarding online games will be further clarified and additional implementation rules will be issued; and as a result, online game operators will be required to implement measures to protect minors.

On July 25, 2014, the SAPPRFT promulgated a *Notice on Further Carrying out the Verification of Real-name Registration for Anti-Fatigue System on Internet Games* ( *Verification of Real-name Registration Notice* ), which took effect on October 1, 2014. The *Verification of Real-name Registration Notice* requires local press and publication administrative departments to strengthen their administration over enterprises engaged in online game publication and operations, and requires such enterprises to strictly abide by anti-fatigue and real-name registration requirements when developing and promoting online games, excluding, at present, mobile games.

***Virtual Currency***

On February 15, 2007, the MOC, the PBOC and other relevant government authorities jointly issued the *Internet Cafés Notice*. Under the *Internet Cafés Notice*, the PBOC is directed to strengthen the administration of virtual currency in online games to avoid any adverse impact on the economy and financial system. The *Internet Cafés Notice* limits the total amount of virtual currency that may be issued by online game operators and the amount that may be purchased by individual game players, and includes a clear division between virtual transactions and real transactions carried out by way of electronic commerce. The *Internet Cafés Notice* also provides that virtual currency may only be used to purchase virtual items.

On June 4, 2009, the MOC and the MOFCOM jointly issued the *Notice on Strengthening the Administration of Online Game Virtual Currency*, or the *Virtual Currency Notice*, to regulate the trading of online game virtual currencies. The *Virtual Currency Notice* defines the meaning of virtual currency and places a set of restrictions on the trading and issuance of virtual currency. The *Virtual Currency Notice* also states that online game operators are not allowed to give out virtual items or virtual currency through lottery-based activities, such as lucky draws, betting or random computer sampling, in exchange for user's cash or virtual money. The *Virtual Currency Notice* is mainly targeted at lottery-based activities relating to the *treasure boxes* found in some online games.

On July 20, 2009, the MOC promulgated the *Filing Guidelines on Online Game Virtual Currency Issuing Enterprise and Online Game Virtual Currency Trading Enterprise*, which defines the terms *issuing enterprise* and *trading enterprise* and stipulates that the same enterprise may not be both an issuing enterprise and a trading enterprise.

***Regulation of Other Services******Online Payment Services***

On June 14, 2010, the PBOC issued the *Measures for the Administration of Payment Services Provided by Non-financial Institutions* (the *Payment Services Measures* ), which took effect on September 1, 2010. On December 1, 2010, the PBOC promulgated the *Implementing Rules for the Payment Services Measures*. The *Payment Services Measures* and their implementing rules require any non-financial institution engaging in payment services, such as online payment, issuance and acceptance of prepaid cards, and bill collection via bankcard, to obtain a *Payment Service License*. Any non-financial institution or individual engaged in the payment business without such a license may be ordered to cease its, his or her payment services and be subject to administrative sanctions and criminal liabilities. Applications for *Payment Service Licenses* are examined by the local branches of the PBOC and then

submitted to the PBOC for approval. The registered capital of an applicant that engages in a nationwide payment business must be at least RMB100 million, while that of an applicant engaging in a payment business within a province must be at least RMB30 million. The Payment Services Measures and their implementing rules further stipulate that a payment institution is required to conduct its business only within the scope of business indicated in its Payment Service License. No payment institution may transfer, lease or lend its Payment Service License.

In addition, on February 1, 2013, the SAFE issued *Guiding Opinions on the Pilot Services of Cross-Border E-commerce Foreign Exchange Payment by Payment Institutions* (the Guiding Opinions), pursuant to which a payment institution is required to obtain approval from the SAFE in order to provide pilot foreign exchange payment services for cross-border e-commerce transactions. Under the Guiding Opinions, payment institutions may only provide foreign exchange payment services for cross-border e-commerce transactions where there is a real underlying transaction. The payment institution must also verify the real names and identity information of the clients involved in cross-border transactions, maintain records of the relevant transactions and make monthly reports to the local branch of the SAFE.



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### *Production of Radio and Telecommunications Equipment*

On September 11, 1993, the State Council and Central Military Commission jointly issued the *Regulations on the Management of Radio Operation*, under which the working frequencies, bands, and related technical indices of radio transmission equipment must conform to relevant regulations regarding radio and are required to be submitted to the state radio administration authority or its local branches. Pursuant to the *Regulation on the Penalties of Radio Management* issued by State Radio Regulatory Commission on October 28, 1995, failure to submit such information will result in the imposition of a fine.

On October 7, 1997, the State Radio Regulatory Bureau (formerly the State Radio Regulatory Commission), together with the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (formerly the State Bureau of Quality) promulgated *Regulations on the Production of Radio Transmitting Equipment* (the Radio Transmitting Equipment Regulations), which took effect on January 1, 1999. Pursuant to the Radio Transmitting Equipment Regulations, each type of radio transmission equipment is subject to approval from State Radio Regulatory Bureau (SRRC Certificate) prior to production.

On May 10, 2001, MIIT promulgated the *Administration Measures of the Network Entry of Telecommunication Equipment* (the Telecommunication Equipment Measures), which was amended on September 23, 2014. Pursuant to the Telecommunication Equipment Measures, the State requires all telecommunications terminal equipment to be connected to a public telecommunications network to obtain network connection permits. A Permit of Network Connection, or China Type Approval Certificate (CTA Certificate), issued by the MIIT must be obtained for such telecommunications equipment. When a producer of such telecommunications terminal equipment applies for a CTA Certificate, it must submit a test report or product quality certificate (namely SRRC Certificate). If a CTA Certificate has not been obtained for such equipment, it may not be connected to a public telecommunications network and may not be used or sold domestically.

### *Real Estate Services*

On March 10, 2015, the National Development and Reform Commission (the NDRC) and the MOFCOM issued a new Foreign Investment Industrial Guidance Catalogue (the New Catalogue), which became effective on April 10, 2015. The New Catalogue removed from the category of industries where foreign investment is restricted real estate agency and brokerage services, which had been included in the restricted category in the previous Foreign Investment Industrial Guidance Catalogue, which was issued in 2011. The New Catalogue loosened existing restrictions on foreign ownership of real estate agency and brokerage services in China, and as a result we may conduct real estate agency and brokerage services directly.

On April 4, 2001, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development promulgated the *Regulatory Measures on the Sale of Commercial Houses*, pursuant to which a real estate developer may entrust a real estate service organization as a broker to pre-sell or sell primary residential housing. The regulatory measures provide that the real estate broker must not make any false statements regarding a property to clients and must present clients with relevant title certificates or sale permits of the properties and a related letter of authorization.

On December 29, 2006, the Ministry of Construction and the PBOC jointly issued the *Circular Concerning Strengthening the Management of Real Estate Services and Regulating the Trade Settlement Capital Account*, which provide a number of directives regulating the real estate services industry. Under such circular, a real estate service company is not permitted to receive cash purchase payments on behalf of clients in secondary real estate transactions and is required to establish separate security deposit accounts for clients in these transactions.

On January 20, 2011, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, the NDRC, and the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security jointly issued the *Measures for Administration on Real Estate Brokerage* (the Brokerage Measures ), which became effective on April 1, 2011 and govern the activities of real estate brokerages and real estate brokerage personnel in providing intermediary, agency and related services and charging commissions thereon. Furthermore, pursuant to the Brokerage Measures, a real estate brokerage company and its branches must have sufficient qualified real estate brokers who have obtained real estate broker licenses. The Brokerage Measures also require a real estate brokerage company to file with the real estate regulatory authority at the county level or above within 30 days after its business registration with the relevant local counterpart of SAIC.

Focus Interactive completed such filings with the relevant local real estate administrative authority on August 14, 2014.

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### *Miscellaneous*

#### *Laws and Regulations Related to International Connections for Computer Information Networks*

The State Council and the MIIT have promulgated regulations governing international connections for PRC computer networks, including:

Provisional Regulations of the People's Republic of China for the Administration of International Connections to Computer Information Networks (1997) and related Implementing Measures (1998); and

Administrative Measures for International Communications Gateways (2002).

Under the above regulations, any entity wishing to access international connections for their computer information networks in the PRC must comply with the following requirements:

be a PRC legal person;

have the appropriate equipment, facilities and technical and administrative personnel;

have implemented and registered a system of information security and censorship; and

effect all international connections through an international communications gateway established with the approval of the MIIT.

We have adopted measures necessary to ensure that we are in compliance with all of these requirements.

#### *Laws and Regulations Related to Intellectual Property Protection*

China has adopted comprehensive legislation governing intellectual property rights, including copyrights, patents and trademarks.

### Copyright

On September 7, 1990, The National People's Congress promulgated *the Copyright Law*, which took effect on June 1, 1991 and was amended in 2001 and in 2010. The amended Copyright Law extends copyright protection to Internet activities, products disseminated over the Internet and software products. In addition, there is a voluntary registration system administered by the China Copyright Protection Center. The amended Copyright Law also requires registration of the pledge of a copyright.

In order to further implement the *Computer Software Protection Regulations*, promulgated by the State Council on December 20, 2001 and amended on January 30, 2013, the National Copyright Administration (the "NCA") issued *Computer Software Copyright Registration Procedures* on February 20, 2002, which specify detailed procedures and

requirements with respect to the registration of software copyrights.

To address the problem of copyright infringement related to content posted or transmitted over the Internet, on April 29, 2005 the NCA and the MIIT jointly promulgated the *Measures for Administrative Protection of Copyright Related to Internet*, which became effective on May 30, 2005. These measures apply to situations where an ICP operator (i) allows another person to post or store any works, recordings, audio or video programs on the Websites operated by such ICP operator, or (ii) provides links to, or search results for, the works, recordings, audio or video programs posted or transmitted by such person, without editing, revising or selecting the content of such material. Upon receipt of an infringement notice from a legitimate copyright holder, an ICP operator must take remedial actions immediately by removing or disabling access to the infringing content. If an ICP operator knowingly transmits infringing content or fails to take remedial actions after receipt of a notice of infringement harming public interest, the ICP operator could be subject to administrative penalties, including an order to cease infringing activities; confiscation by the authorities of all income derived from the infringement activities; or payment of fines.

On May 18, 2006, the State Council promulgated the *Regulations on the Protection of the Right to Network Dissemination of Information* (as amended in 2013). Under these regulations, an owner of the network dissemination rights with respect to written works or audio or video recordings who believes that information storage, search or link services provided by an Internet service provider infringe his or her rights may require that the Internet service provider delete, or disconnect the links to, such works or recordings.

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Since 2005, the NCA, together with certain other PRC governmental authorities, have jointly launched annual campaigns, which normally last for three to four months every year, specifically aiming to crack down on Internet copyright infringement and piracy in China. According to the *Notice of 2010 Campaign to Crack Down on Internet Infringement and Piracy* promulgated by the NCA, the MPS and the MIIT on July 19, 2010, one of the main targets, among others, of the 2010 campaign was Internet audio and video programs. From the time the 2010 campaign commenced in late July, the local branches of the NCA focused on popular movies and television series, newly published books, online games and animation, music and software and illegal uploading or transmission of a third party's works without proper license or permission, sales of pirated audio/video and software through e-commerce platforms, providing search links, information storage, Web hosting or Internet access services for third parties engaging in copyright infringement or piracy and infringement by the use of mobile media. In serious cases, the operating permits of the Websites engaging in illegal activities may be revoked, and such Websites may be ordered to shut down. On June 10, 2015, the NCA, the State Internet Information Office and the MPS jointly announced the *2015 Campaign to Crack Down on Internet Infringement and Piracy* (the Jian Wang 2015 Campaign), with five types of infringement and piracy as its primary targets, including transmission of music works without permission, unlawful infringement and piracy using online cloud storage space, unlawful infringement and piracy of smart mobile terminal third-party applications, and support by online advertising alliances of unlawful infringement and piracy and reproduction and transmission of others' works without permission.

On April 17, 2015, the NCA issued the *Circular on Regulating the Order of Internet Reproduction of Copyrighted Works* (Internet Reproduction Circular). Under the Internet Reproduction Circular, in order to reproduce the work of others, Internet media companies must comply with relevant provisions of the copyright laws and regulations, and, unless provided otherwise by law or regulation, must obtain permission from and pay remuneration to the owner of the copyright to the work, and must indicate the name of the author, as well as the title and the source of the work, and may not infringe any other rights or interests of the copyright owner. Moreover, when reproducing the work of others, Internet media companies may not make material alterations to the content; and may not make editorial modifications or abridgments of the work that change the work's title or its original intent. When reproducing the work of others, we will need to comply with these strict requirements of the Internet Reproduction Circular.

We have adopted measures to mitigate copyright infringement risks, such as real-time monitoring and mechanisms for fast removal upon receipt of notices of infringement.

On December 26, 2009, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress adopted the *Torts Liability Law*, which became effective on July 1, 2010. Under this new law, both Internet users and Internet service providers may be liable for the wrongful acts of users who infringe the lawful rights of other parties. If an Internet user utilizes Internet services to commit a tortious act, the party whose rights are infringed may request the Internet service provider to take measures, such as removing or blocking the content, or disabling the links thereto, to prevent or stop the infringement. If the Internet service provider does not take necessary measures after receiving such a notice, it will be jointly liable for any further damages suffered by the rights holder. Furthermore, if an Internet service provider fails to take necessary measures when it knows that an Internet user utilizes its Internet services to infringe the lawful rights and interests of other parties, it will be jointly liable with the Internet user for damages resulting from the infringement.

On December 17, 2012, PRC Supreme People's Court promulgated the *Provisions on Several Issues Concerning the Application of Law for Trial of Civil Dispute Cases Involving Infringement of the Right to Network Dissemination of Information* (Network Dissemination of Information Provision). The Network Dissemination of Information Provisions stipulate that the dissemination by network users or network service providers of written works, performance or audio or video recordings without the permission of the holder of the rights to such dissemination will constitute infringement of such rights, and that network service providers that aid or abet any network user's infringement of the rights of another to network dissemination of any works or recordings may be liable for such

network user's infringing activities.

Patent Law

On March 12, 1984, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress promulgated the *Patent Law*, which was amended in 1992, 2000 and 2008. On June 15, 2001, the State Council promulgated the *Implementation Regulation for the Patent Law*, which was amended in January 9, 2010. According to these laws and regulations, the State Intellectual Property Office is responsible for administering patents in the PRC. The Chinese patent system adopts a first to file principle, which means that where more than one person files a patent application for the same invention, a patent will be granted to the person who filed the application first. To be patentable, invention or utility models must meet three conditions: novelty, inventiveness and practical applicability. A patent is valid for 20 years in the case of an invention and 10 years in the case of utility models and designs. A third-party user must obtain consent or a proper license from the patent owner to use the patent. Otherwise, third-party use constitutes an infringement of patent rights.

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**Table of Contents****Trademark Law**

On August 23, 1982, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress promulgated the *Trademark Law* (the Trademark Law), which was amended in 1993, 2001 and 2013. On September 15, 2002, the State Council promulgated the *Implementation Regulation for the Trademark Law*, which was amended in April 29, 2014. Under the Trademark Law and the implementing regulation, the Trademark Office of the Administration for Industry and Commerce is responsible for the registration and administration of trademarks. The Administration for Industry and Commerce under the State Council has established a Trademark Review and Adjudication Board for resolving trademark disputes. As with patents, China has adopted a first-to-file principle for trademark registration. If two or more applicants apply for registration of identical or similar trademarks for the same or similar commodities, the application that was filed first will receive preliminary approval and will be publicly announced. For applications filed on the same day, the trademark that was first used will receive preliminary approval and will be publicly announced. Registered trademarks are valid for ten years from the date the registration is approved. A registrant may apply to renew a registration within twelve months before the expiration date of the registration. If the registrant fails to apply in a timely manner, a grace period of six additional months may be granted. If the registrant fails to apply before the grace period expires, the registered trademark shall be deregistered. Renewed registrations are valid for ten years.

**Laws and Regulations Related to Encryption Software**

In October 1999, the State Encryption Administration Commission promulgated the *Regulations for the Administration of Commercial Encryption*, followed in November 1999 by the *Notice of the General Office of the State Encryption Administration Commission*. Both of these regulations address the use in China of software with encryption functions.

These regulations require that encryption products purchased for use be reported. Violation of the encryption regulations may result in the issuance of a warning, levying of a penalty, confiscation of the encryption products and even criminal liabilities. On March 18, 2000, the Office of the State Commission for the Administration of Cryptography issued a public announcement regarding the implementation of the regulations. The announcement states that only specialized hardware and software, the core functions of which are encryption and decoding, fall within the administrative scope of the regulations as encryption products and equipment containing encryption technology. Other products, such as wireless telephone, Windows software and browsers do not fall within this scope.

The State Commission for the Administration of Cryptography changed its name to the State Cryptography Administration Bureau (SCAB) in March 2005. The SCAB maintains authority over the importation, research, production, sale and use of cryptographic products in China (products are defined to include any cryptographic technologies and products to be applied in the encryption or secure authentication of information, other than state secrets). Legislation was issued to restrict the importation, research, production and sale of encryption products and requiring that the encryption functions of such products be placed in escrow with the SCAB for reasons of national security.

We are in full compliance with current PRC legislation governing encryption software.

**Laws and Regulations Related to Consumer Protection and Privacy Protection****Consumer Protection**

The MIIT set forth various requirements for consumer protection in a notice, issued on April 15, 2004, which addresses certain problems in the telecommunications sector, including ambiguity in billing practices for premium

services, poor quality of connections and unsolicited SMS messages, all of which impinge upon the rights of consumers.

This trend was continued with the issuance of the *Notice Regarding the Ratification and Administration of Mobile Information Services Fees and Charges Method* by the MIIT on September 8, 2006.

On January 26, 2014, the SAIC issued the *Administrative Measures on Online Transactions* (the Online Transaction Measures ), which took effect on March 15, 2014, to regulate online commodity trading and related online services and replace the previous *Interim Measures for the Administration of Online Commodities Trading and Relevant Services* issued on May 31, 2010. The Online Transaction Measures stipulate various obligations of online service providers, including the obligation to protect the interests of customers. Under the Online Transaction Measures, commodities or relevant services transacted online must comply with relevant laws, regulations and rules. When selling commodities or providing services to consumers, online commodity operators must comply with all applicable laws with respect to the protection of consumer rights/interests, intellectual property rights of others and the prevention of unfair competition. Information on commodities or services provided by online commodity operators or related service operators must be authentic and accurate.



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We are aware of the increasingly strict legal environment covering consumer protection in China, and we strive to adopt all measures necessary to ensure that our business complies with these evolving standards.

### Privacy Protection

The PRC Constitution states that PRC law protects the freedom and privacy of the communications of citizens and prohibits infringement of such rights. In recent years, PRC government authorities have issued various regulations on the use of the Internet that are designed to protect personal information from unauthorized disclosure. For example, the ICP Measures prohibit an Internet information services provider from insulting or slandering a third party or infringing upon the lawful rights and interests of a third party. In addition, PRC regulations authorize PRC telecommunication authorities to demand rectification of unauthorized disclosure by ICPs.

Chinese law does not prohibit ICPs from collecting and analyzing personal information from their users. The PRC government, however, has the power and authority to order ICPs to submit personal information of an Internet user if such user posts any prohibited content or engages in illegal activities on the Internet. In addition, the Several Provisions stipulate that ICPs must not, without the users' consent, collect information on users that can be used, alone or in combination with other information, to identify the user, or User Personal Information, and may not provide any User Personal Information to third parties without prior user consent. ICPs may only collect User Personal Information necessary to provide their services and must expressly inform the users of the method, content and purpose of the collection and processing of such User Personal Information. In addition, an ICP may use User Personal Information only for the stated purposes under the ICP's scope of services. ICPs are also required to ensure the proper security of User Personal Information, and take immediate remedial measures if User Personal Information is suspected to have been disclosed. If the consequences of any such disclosure are expected to be serious, the ICP must immediately report the incident to the telecommunications regulatory authorities and cooperate with the authorities in their investigations. We require our users to accept a user agreement whereby they agree to provide certain personal information to us. If we violate these regulations, the MIIT or its local bureaus may impose penalties and we may be liable for damage caused to our users.

On December 28, 2012, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress enacted the *Decision to Enhance the Protection of Network Information* ( Information Protection Decision ), to further enhance the protection of User Personal Information in electronic form. The Information Protection Decision provides that ICPs must expressly inform their users of the purpose, manner and scope of the ICPs' collection and use of User Personal Information, publish the ICPs' standards for their collection and use of User Personal Information, and collect and use User Personal Information only with the consent of the users and only within the scope of such consent. The Information Protection Decision also mandates that ICPs and their employees must keep strictly confidential User Personal Information that they collect, and that ICPs must take such technical and other measures as are necessary to safeguard the information against disclosure.

On July 16, 2013, the MIIT issued the *Order for the Protection of Telecommunication and Internet User Personal Information* (the Order ). Most of the requirements under the Order that are relevant to ICP operators are consistent with the requirements already established under the MIIT provisions discussed above, except that under the Order the requirements are often more strict and have a wider scope. If an ICP operator wishes to collect or use personal information, it may do so only if such collection is necessary for the services it provides. Further, it must disclose to its users the purpose, method and scope of any such collection or use, and must obtain consent from the users whose information is being collected or used. ICP operators are also required to establish and publish their protocols relating to personal information collection or use, keep any collected information strictly confidential, and take technological and other measures to maintain the security of such information. ICP operators are required to cease any collection or use of the user personal information, and de-register the relevant user account, when a given user stops using the

relevant Internet service. ICP operators are further prohibited from divulging, distorting or destroying any such personal information, or selling or providing such information unlawfully to other parties. In addition, if an ICP operator appoints an agent to undertake any marketing or technical services that involve the collection or use of personal information, the ICP operator is still required to supervise and manage the protection of the information. The Order states, in broad terms, that violators may face warnings, fines, and disclosure to the public and, in the most severe cases, criminal liability.

On August 21, 2014, the supreme people's court promulgated the *Provisions of the Supreme People's Court on Application of Laws to Cases Involving Civil Disputes over Infringement upon Personal Rights and Interests by Using Information Networks*, pursuant to which if an ICP operator discloses genetic information, medical records, health examination data, criminal record, home address, private events and or other personal information of a natural person online, causing damage to the person, the People's Court should support a claim by the infringed party for recovery of damages from the infringing ICP operator.

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On January 5, 2015, the SAIC promulgated the Measures on Punishment for Infringement of Consumer Rights, pursuant to which business operators collecting and using personal information of consumers must comply with the principles of legitimacy, propriety and necessity, specify the purpose, method and scope of collection and use of the information, and obtain the consent of the consumers whose personal information is to be collected. Business operators may not: (i) collect or use personal information of consumers without their consent; (ii) unlawfully divulge, sell or provide personal information of consumers to others; (iii) send commercial information to consumers without their consent or request, or when a consumer has explicitly declined to receive such information.

On August 29, 2015, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress issued Amendment (IX) to the Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China ( Amendment (IX) ), which strengthens the protection of individual information and Internet security. Pursuant to Amendment (IX), network service providers who do not comply with laws and regulations regarding the safe management of information on their networks, and who do not correct their conduct after they receive notice of such non-compliance from the relevant regulatory authorities, may be sentenced to prison for up to three years, and may also be subject to public surveillance and fines.

Our current security measures and those of the third parties with whom we transact business may not be adequate for the protection of user personal information. In addition, we do not have control over the security measures of our third-party online payment vendors. Security breaches of our system and the online payment systems that we use could expose us to litigation and liability for failing to secure confidential customer information and could harm our reputation, ability to attract customers and ability to encourage customers to purchase virtual items.

### *Laws and Regulations Related to Security and Censorship*

The principal pieces of PRC legislation concerning information security and censorship are:

*The Law of the People's Republic of China on the Preservation of State Secrets (1988, as amended in 2010) and related Implementing Rules (2014);*

*The Law of the People's Republic of China Regarding Anti-spy (2014);*

*Rules of the People's Republic of China for Protecting the Security of Computer Information Systems (1994, as amended in 2011);*

*Administrative Regulations for the Protection of Secrecy on Railway Computer Information Systems Connected to International Networks (1999);*

*Regulations for the Protection of State Secrets for Computer Information Systems on the Internet (2000);*

*Notice issued by the Ministry of Public Security of the People's Republic of China Regarding Issues Relating to the Implementation of the Administrative Measure for the Security Protection of International Connections to Computer Information Networks (2000); and*

*The Decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Regarding the Safeguarding of Internet Security* (2000) which has been amended in 2009.

These pieces of legislation specifically prohibit the use of Internet infrastructure where it results in a breach of public security, the provision of socially destabilizing content or the divulgence of State secrets, as follows:

*A breach of public security* includes a breach of national security or disclosure of state secrets; infringement on state, social or collective interests or the legal rights and interests of citizens or illegal or criminal activities.

*Socially destabilizing content* includes any action that incites defiance or violation of Chinese laws; incites subversion of state power and the overturning of the socialist system; fabricates or distorts the truth, spreads rumors or disrupts social order; advocates cult activities; spreads feudal superstition; involves obscenities, pornography, gambling, violence, murder, or horrific acts; or instigates criminal acts.

*State secrets* are defined as matters that affect the security and interest of the state. The term covers such broad areas as national defense, diplomatic affairs, policy decisions on state affairs, national economic and social development, political parties and other State secrets that the State Secrecy Bureau has determined should be safeguarded.

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Under the aforementioned legislation, it is mandatory for Internet companies in the PRC to complete security filing procedures with the local public security bureau and for them provide regular updates to the local public security bureau regarding information security and censorship systems for their Websites. In this regard, on October 1, 2004, the *Administrative Rules on the Filing of Commercial Websites* ( Commercial Websites Filing Rules ) were promulgated by the Beijing Administration of Industry and Commerce (Beijing AIC), to replace the *Detailed Implementing Rules for the Measures for the Administration of Commercial Website Filings for the Record* promulgated by the Beijing AIC on September 1, 2000. The Commercial Websites Filing Rules state that operators of commercial Websites must comply with the following requirements:

filing with the Beijing AIC and obtain electronic registration marks for the Websites;

placing the registration marks on the Websites' homepages; and

registering the Website names with the Beijing AIC.

Sohu Internet and Changyou have successfully registered the Sohu.com Website, the Changyou.com Website and the cy.com Website with the Beijing AIC and the electronic registration marks for the Websites are prominently placed on the homepages of the Sohu.com Website and the Changyou.com Website and the cy.com Website.

In addition, the State Security Bureau has issued regulations authorizing the blocking of access to any site it deems to be leaking State secrets or failing to comply with legislation regarding the protection of State secrets in the distribution of information online. Specifically, Internet companies in China with message boards, chat rooms or similar services, such as Sohu, must apply for the approval of the State Secrets Bureau prior to operating such services.

Accordingly, we have established an internal security committee and adopted security maintenance measures, employed a full-time supervisor and exchanged information on a regular basis with the local public security bureau with regard to sensitive or censored information and Websites.

### Internet Content and Anti-Pornography

The PRC government has promulgated measures relating to Internet content through a number of government authorities, including the MIIT, the MOC, the SAPPRFT and the MPS. These measures specifically prohibit certain Internet activities, including the operation of online games, which results in the publication of any content which is found to, among other things, propagate obscenity, gambling or violence, instigate crimes, undermine public morality or the cultural traditions of the PRC, or compromise State security or secrets. If an ICP license holder violates these measures, the PRC government may revoke its ICP license and shut down its Websites.

In addition, the PRC government has issued several regulations concerning the installation of filter software to filter out unhealthy and vulgar content from the Internet. In April 1, 2009, the Ministry of Education, the MIIT and certain other PRC ministries and agencies issued a notice requiring that, by the end of May 2009, all computer terminals connected with the Internet at all elementary and secondary schools be able to include and operate Green Dam-Youth Escort, which is software aimed at filtering out unhealthy and vulgar content in text and graphics from the Internet and which, according to the Website for the software, may be used to control time spent on the Internet, prohibit access to computer games, and filter out unhealthy Websites. The MIIT further expanded the scope of required use of this filter

software by issuing a notice on May 19, 2009 requiring that, effective as of July 1, 2009, all computers manufactured and sold in China have the latest available version of Green Dam-Youth Escort preinstalled when they leave the factory and that all imported computers have the latest available version of Green Dam-Youth Escort preinstalled before being sold in China. Green-Dam Youth Escort is to be preinstalled on the hard drive of the computer or in the form of a CD accompanying the computer and is also to be included in the backup partition and system restore CD. However, on June 30, 2009, the MIIT postponed the implementation of this requirement regarding pre-installation of Green Dam-Youth Escort.

On December 4, 2009, the MIIT and three other PRC government authorities jointly issued the *Incentives Measures for Report of Pornographic, Obscene and Vulgar Messages on Internet and Mobile Media* ( *Anti-Pornography Notice* ), to crack down on online pornography. Pursuant to the Anti-Pornography Notice, rewards of up to RMB10,000 will be provided to Internet users who report Websites that feature pornography, and a committee has been established to review such reports to determine an appropriate award. During a PRC anti-pornography campaign, which continued during 2014, many Websites (including mobile Websites) that contained pornography were closed down. In addition, China Mobile Communication Corporation ( *China Mobile* ) announced a temporary suspension of billing for Wireless Application Protocol ( *WAP* ) services, as a means of fighting against Websites providing pornographic content.

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On April 13, 2014, the National Working Group on Anti-Pornography and three other PRC government authorities jointly issued the *Proclamation of Special Action Regarding Crackdown on Online Pornographic Content* (the Anti-Pornography Proclamation). Under the Anti-Pornography Proclamation, Internet service providers must immediately remove texts, images, video, advertisements and other information that contain pornographic content. The relevant government authority may order enterprises or individuals who flagrantly produce or disseminate pornographic content to stop conducting business, and may revoke relevant administrative permits. Moreover, an enterprise or individual who provides telecom operation services, network access services, advertising services or payment services to facilitate dissemination of pornographic content may have criminal or civil penalties imposed under the PRC Criminal Law and other relevant laws and regulations.

### *Laws and Regulations Related to Unfair Competition*

Pursuant to the *Anti-Unfair Competition Law*, which took effect in 1993, a business operator is prohibited from any of the following unfair activities:

copying and using the registered trademarks of others;

using the same or similar names, packages or decorations of well-known brand name products so as to mislead buyers;

using the names of other enterprises without authorization so as to mislead buyers; and

forging identification marks, marks indicating good quality and other marks on commodities or falsifying the place of origin or using other false indicators to mislead people with regard to quality.

In addition, the Supreme People's Court has promulgated an *Interpretation on Several Issues Relating to the Application of the Law in Civil Trials for Unfair Competition Cases*, effective as of February 1, 2007. This interpretation provides guidance on how to conduct trials involving unfair competition, protect the legal rights and interests of business operators and maintain orderly market competition.

### *Regulation of M&A and Overseas Listings*

On August 8, 2006, six PRC regulatory agencies, including the MOC, the State Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, the State Administration of Taxation (SAT), the SAIC, the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), and the SAFE, jointly issued the *Regulations on Mergers and Acquisitions of Domestic Enterprises by Foreign Investors* (M&A Rule), which became effective on September 8, 2006 and amended on June 22, 2009. The M&A Rule includes provisions that purport to require that an offshore special purpose vehicle formed for purposes of the overseas listing of equity interests in PRC companies and controlled directly or indirectly by PRC companies or individuals obtain the approval of the CSRC prior to the listing and trading of such special purpose vehicle's securities on an overseas stock exchange.

On September 21, 2006, the CSRC published on its official Website procedures regarding its approval of overseas listings by special purpose vehicles. The CSRC approval procedures require the filing of a number of documents with

the CSRC. The application of this new PRC regulation remains unclear, with no consensus currently existing among leading PRC law firms regarding the scope of the applicability of the CSRC approval requirement.

The M&A Rules also establish procedures and requirements that could make some acquisitions of Chinese companies by foreign investors more time-consuming and complex, including requirements in some instances that the MOFCOM be notified in advance of any change-of-control transaction in which a foreign investor takes control of a Chinese domestic enterprise.

In February 2011, the General Office of the State Council promulgated a *Notice on Establishing the Security Review System for Mergers and Acquisitions of Domestic Enterprises by Foreign Investors* ( Circular 6 ), which established a security review system for mergers and acquisitions of domestic enterprises by foreign investors. Under Circular 6, a security review is required for mergers and acquisitions by foreign investors having national defense and security concerns and mergers and acquisitions by which foreign investors may acquire de facto control of domestic enterprises with national security concerns. In August 2011, the MOFCOM promulgated the *Rules on Implementation of Security Review System* ( MOFCOM Security Review Rules ), to replace the *Interim Provisions of the Ministry of Commerce on Matters Relating to the Implementation of the Security Review System for Mergers and Acquisitions of Domestic Enterprises by Foreign Investors* promulgated by the MOFCOM in March 2011. The MOFCOM Security Review Rules, which came into effect on September 1, 2011, provide that the MOFCOM will look into the substance and actual impact of a transaction and prohibit foreign investors from bypassing the security review requirement by structuring transactions through proxies, trusts, indirect investments, leases, loans, control through contractual arrangements or offshore transactions.



**Table of Contents***Laws and Regulations Related to Antitrust*

On August 30, 2007, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC adopted the PRC Anti-Monopoly Law ( *AML* ), which took effect on August 1, 2008. Pursuant to the AML, monopolistic conduct, including entering into monopoly agreements, abuse of dominant market position and concentration of undertakings that have the effect of eliminating or restricting competition, is prohibited. To further implement the Antitrust Law and clarify certain issues, the State Council, MOFCOM, NDRC and SAIC, issued several regulations and rules, including *the Provisions on Thresholds for Prior Notification of Concentrations of Undertakings* issued by the State Council on August 3, 2008, *the Regulation on the Prohibition of Acts Involving Monopolistic Agreements* issued by the SAIC on December 31, 2010, *the Regulation on the Prohibition of Conduct Constituting an Abuse of a Dominant Market Position* issued by the SAIC on December 31, 2010, *the Regulation on the Prevention of Conduct Constituting an Abuse of Administrative Powers to Eliminate or Restrict Competition* issued by the SAIC on December 31, 2010, *the Anti-Price Monopoly Regulation* issued by the NDRC on 29 December 2010, *the Declaration Rules for Concentrations of Undertakings* issued by the MOFCOM on November 21, 2009, *the Assessment Rules for Concentration of Undertakings* issued by the MOFCOM on November 24, 2009, and *the Provisional Measures on the Investigation and Handling of Concentrations between Business Operators which Were Not Notified in Accordance with the Law* issued by the MOFCOM on December 30, 2011.

Taken together these various laws and regulations provide for the following:

*Monopoly Agreement:* competing business operators may not enter into monopoly agreements that eliminate or restrict competition, such as by boycotting transactions, fixing or changing the price of commodities, limiting the output of commodities, fixing the price of commodities for resale to third parties, unless such agreements satisfy the exemptions under the Antitrust Law, such as improving technologies or increasing the efficiency and competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises. Sanctions for violations include an order to cease the relevant activities, confiscation of illegal gains and fines (from 1% to 10% of sales revenue from the previous year, or RMB 500,000 if the intended monopoly agreement has not been performed).

*Abuse of Dominant Market Position:* a business operator with a dominant market position may not abuse its dominant market position to conduct acts such as selling commodities at unfairly high prices or buying commodities at unfairly low prices, selling products at prices below cost without any justifiable cause, and refusing to trade with a trading party without any justifiable cause. Dominant market position refers to a market position held by a business operator having the capacity to control the price, quantity or other trading conditions of commodities in the relevant market, or to hinder or affect any other business operator to enter the relevant market, which will be determined based on the market share of the relevant business operator, capacity of a business operator to control the sales market, the degree of dependence of other business operators upon the business operator in question in transactions, and the degree of difficulty for other business operators to enter into the relevant market. Sanctions for violation of the prohibition on the abuse of dominant market position include an order to cease the relevant activities, confiscation of illegal gains and fines (from 1% to 10% of sales revenue from the previous year).

*Concentration of Enterprises:* pursuant to the AML, where a concentration of enterprises reaches the declaration threshold stipulated by the State Council, a declaration must be lodged in advance with the antitrust authority under the State Council. Otherwise, the concentration cannot be effected. Concentration refers to (1) a merger of enterprises; (2) acquiring control over other enterprises by an enterprise through acquiring equities or assets; or (3) acquiring control over, or the possibility of exercising decisive influence on, an enterprise by contract or by any other means. Under the Provisions on Thresholds for Prior Notification of Concentrations of Undertakings, the thresholds for prior notification of concentration of enterprises are the following:

the combined worldwide turnover of all of the subject enterprises in the preceding financial year is more than RMB10.00 billion, and the nationwide turnover within China of each of at least two of the subject enterprises in the preceding financial year is more than RMB400.0 million; or

the combined nationwide turnover within China of all the subject enterprises in the preceding financial year is more than RMB2.00 billion, and the nationwide turnover within China of each of at least two of the subject enterprises in the preceding financial year is more than RMB400.0 million.

If business operators fail to comply with these mandatory declaration provisions, the antitrust authority is empowered to terminate and/or unwind the transaction, dispose of relevant assets, shares or businesses and impose fines up to RMB500,000.

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**Table of Contents***Regulation of Foreign Currency Exchange and Dividend Distribution*

The principal regulations governing foreign currency exchange in China are the *Foreign Exchange Administration Regulations ( FX Regulations )*, which were last amended in August 2008. Under the FX Regulations, the RMB is freely convertible for current account items, including the distribution of dividends, interest payments, trade and service-related foreign exchange transactions, but not for capital account items, such as direct investments, loans, repatriation of investments and investments in securities outside of China, unless the prior approval of the SAFE is obtained and prior registration with the SAFE is made. Dividends paid by a PRC subsidiary to its overseas shareholder are deemed income of the shareholder and are taxable in the PRC. Pursuant to *the Administration Rules of the Settlement, Sale and Payment of Foreign Exchange (1996)*, foreign-invested enterprises in the PRC may purchase or remit foreign currency, subject to a cap approved by the SAFE, for settlement of current account transactions without the approval of the SAFE. Foreign currency transactions under the capital account are still subject to limitations and require approvals from, or registration with, the SAFE and other relevant PRC governmental authorities.

In July 2014, the SAFE promulgated *the Circular on Issues Concerning Foreign Exchange Administration Over the Overseas Investment and Financing and Roundtrip Investment by Domestic Residents Via Special Purpose Vehicles ( Circular 37 )* which replaced *Relevant Issues Concerning Foreign Exchange Control on Domestic Residents Corporate Financing and Roundtrip Investment through Offshore Special Purpose Vehicles ( Circular 75 )*. Circular 37 requires PRC residents, including PRC institutions and individuals, to register with the local SAFE branch in connection with their direct establishment or indirect control of an offshore entity, referred to in Circular 37 as a special purpose vehicle, for the purpose of holding domestic or offshore assets or interests. PRC residents must also file amendments to their registrations in the event of any significant changes with respect to the special purpose vehicle, such as increase or decrease of capital contributed by PRC individuals, share transfer or exchange, merger, division or other material event. Under these regulations, PRC residents' failure to comply with specified registration procedures may result in restrictions being imposed on the foreign exchange activities of the relevant PRC entity, including the payment of dividends and other distributions to its offshore parent, as well as restrictions on capital inflows from the offshore entity to the PRC entity, including restrictions on the ability to contribute additional capital to the PRC entity. Further, failure to comply with the various SAFE registration requirements could result in liability under PRC law for evasion of foreign exchange regulations.

Under Circular 37, if a non-listed special purpose vehicle uses its own equity to grant equity incentives to any directors, supervisors, senior management or any other employees directly employed by a domestic enterprise which is directly or indirectly controlled by such special purpose vehicle, or with which such an employee has established an employment relationship, related PRC residents and individuals may, prior to exercising their rights, apply to the SAFE for foreign exchange registration formalities for such special purpose vehicle. However, in practice, different local SAFE branches may have different views and procedures on the interpretation and implementation of the SAFE regulations, and since Circular 37 was the first regulation to regulate the foreign exchange registration of a non-listed special purpose vehicle's equity incentives granted to PRC residents, there remains uncertainty with respect to its implementation.

On December 25, 2006, the PBOC issued the *Administration Measures on Individual Foreign Exchange Control* and related *Implementation Rules* were issued by the SAFE on January 5, 2007. Both became effective on February 1, 2007. Under these regulations, all foreign exchange transactions involving an employee share incentive plan, share option plan, or similar plan participated in by onshore individuals may be conducted only with approval from the SAFE or its authorized branch. Under the *Notice of Issues Related to the Foreign Exchange Administration for Domestic Individuals Participating in Stock Incentive Plan of Overseas Listed Company ( Offshore Share Incentives Rules )*, which was issued by the SAFE on February 15, 2012, PRC citizens who are granted share options, restricted share units or restricted shares by an overseas publicly listed company are required to register with the SAFE or its

authorized branch and to comply with a series of other requirements. In November 2011, the SAFE approved our application to designate our PRC subsidiary Sohu Media to handle the registrations and other procedures required by the Offshore Share Incentives Rules. In February 2012, the SAFE approved Changyou's application to designate its PRC subsidiary AmazGame to handle the registrations and other procedures required by the Offshore Share Incentive Rules. If we, Changyou or the PRC employees of Changyou and us who hold options, restricted share units or restricted shares fail to comply with these registration or other procedural requirements, we, Changyou and/or such employees may be subject to fines and other legal sanctions.

The principal regulations governing distribution of dividends of foreign holding companies include the *Foreign Investment Enterprise Law* (1986), which was amended in October 2000, and the *Administrative Rules under the Foreign Investment Enterprise Law* (2001), which was amended in February, 2014.

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Under these regulations, foreign investment enterprises in China may pay dividends only out of their accumulated profits, if any, determined in accordance with PRC accounting standards and regulations. In addition, foreign investment enterprises in China are required to allocate at least 10% of their accumulated profits each year, if any, to fund certain reserve funds unless these reserves have reached 50% of the registered capital of the enterprises. These reserves are not distributable as cash dividends. Furthermore, under the Corporate Income Tax Law, which became effective on January 1, 2008, the maximum tax rate for the withholding tax imposed on dividend payments from PRC foreign invested companies to their overseas investors that are not regarded as resident for tax purposes is 20%. The rate was reduced to 10% under the Implementing Regulations for the PRC Corporate Income Tax Law issued by the State Council. However, a lower withholding tax rate of 5% might be applied if there is a tax treaty between China and the jurisdiction of the foreign holding companies, such as is the case with Hong Kong, and certain requirements specified by PRC tax authorities are satisfied.

### *Laws and Regulations Related to Employment and Labor Protection*

On June 29, 2007, the National People's Congress promulgated the *Employment Contract Law of PRC* ( Employment Contract Law ), which became effective as of January 1, 2008 and amended on December 28, 2012. The Employment Contract Law requires employers to provide written contracts to their employees, restricts the use of temporary workers and aims to give employees long-term job security.

Pursuant to the Employment Contract Law, employment contracts lawfully concluded prior to the implementation of the Employment Contract Law and continuing as of the date of its implementation shall continue to be performed. Where an employment relationship was established prior to the implementation of the Employment Contract Law but no written employment contract was concluded, a contract must be concluded within one month after its implementation.

On September 18, 2008, the State Council promulgated the *Implementing Regulations for the PRC Employment Contract Law* which came into effect immediately. These regulations interpret and supplement the provisions of the Employment Contract Law.

We have modified our standard employment contract to comply with the requirements of the Employment Contract Law and its implementing regulations. We have entered into written employment contracts with all of our employees.

## **Conclusion**

In the opinion of Haiwen, our principal PRC Subsidiaries and principal VIEs are approved to engage in the specific online services (categorized and addressed in the above sections) as described in the respective scopes indicated in the corresponding licenses and/or permits issued to the respective companies.

## **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND PROPRIETARY RIGHTS**

We regard our patents, copyrights, service marks, trademarks, trade secrets and other intellectual property as critical to our success. We rely on patent, trademark and copyright law, trade secret protection, non-competition and confidentiality and/or license agreements with our employees, customers, partners and others to protect our intellectual property rights. Despite our precautions, it may be possible for third parties to obtain and use our intellectual property without authorization. Furthermore, the validity, enforceability and scope of protection of intellectual property rights in Internet-related industries are uncertain and still evolving. The laws of the PRC and certain other countries do not protect intellectual property to the same extent as do the laws of the United States.

We have registered three service marks with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. They are (i) Sohu.com, registered on August 1, 2000; (ii) Sohu.com (stylized), registered on August 1, 2000; and (iii) Sohu, registered on June 13, 2000. We received the registration certificate for the mark SOHU.com issued by the China Trademark Office in September 2000. We have also filed registration applications with the China Trademark Office to register other key marks, including Sohu.com logos, Sohu Fox logos, GoodFeel logos, Go2Map, Sogou logos, Sohu Focus, TLBB, ChangYou.com, cyou.com, TL logos, Blade Online, 17173 and their corresponding Chinese version marks. We succeeded in registering certain marks such as Sohu.com logos, Sohu Fox logos, www.focus.com.cn, GoodFeel logos, Go2Map, Sogou logos, Sohu Focus, Sohu Auto, TLBB, ChangYou.com, cyou.com, TL Logos, 17173 and Dolphin Browser in the PRC under certain classes, while the others are still under examination by the China Trademark Office. We also filed registration of trademarks relating to our subsidiary companies names and Changyou s online games and other businesses in various countries and regions, such as the United States, European Union, Turkey, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Brazil, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Our rights to these marks could be affected adversely if any of our applications are rejected. In addition, it is possible that our competitors will adopt product or service names similar to ours, thereby impeding our ability to distinguish our brand and possibly leading to customer confusion.

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Many parties are actively developing chat, search, Web directory and related Web technologies. We expect these parties to continue to take steps to protect these technologies, including seeking patent protection. There may be patents issued or pending that are held by others and cover significant parts of our technology, business methods or services. For example, we are aware that a number of patents have been issued in the areas of e-commerce, Web-based information indexing and retrieval and online direct marketing. Disputes over rights to these technologies may arise in the future. We cannot be certain that our products do not or will not infringe valid patents, copyrights or other intellectual property rights held by third parties. We may be subject to legal proceedings and claims, from time to time, relating to the intellectual property of others in the ordinary course of our business. See Item 3 Legal Proceedings.

We also intend to continue licensing technology from third parties. The market is evolving and we may need to license additional technologies to remain competitive. We may not be able to license these technologies on commercially reasonable terms or at all. In addition, we may fail to successfully integrate any licensed technology into our services. Our inability to obtain any of these licenses could delay product and service development until alternative technologies can be identified, licensed and integrated.

## **TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE**

We have built what we believe is a reliable and secure network infrastructure, that will fully support our operations, which include one of the most comprehensive matrices of Chinese language content and services, provided by Sohu and Sogou, and one of the most popular online games in China, provided by Changyou.

### **Chinese Language Content and Services, provided by Sohu and Sogou**

As of December 31, 2015 we maintained approximately 42,670 servers located in Internet data centers in over 46 cities in China. To fully support the operation of our Chinese language content and services, we have established 21 core data centers in 7 cities through China Mobile, China United Network Communication Group Company Limited ( China Unicom ), and China Telecom Corporation ( China Telecom ), which are the three largest Internet connection service providers in China, to support most of our core services. In addition, we have established branch nodes in different provinces throughout China through different telecommunication operators, such as China Mobile, China Unicom, China Telecom and CERNET in order to establish national coverage and provide fast and stable access to our Internet platforms properties to users across China. In addition, we have developed cooperation with several smaller private Internet service providers.

We have developed a close working relationship with China Mobile, China Unicom, China Telecom and smaller-size telecommunication operators. Our operations depend on the ability of China Mobile, China Unicom, and China Telecom to protect their systems against damage from fire, power loss, telecommunications failure, break-ins and other events. These telecommunication operators provide us with support services twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week. They also provide connectivity for our servers through multiple high-speed connections. All facilities are protected by Uninterruptible Power Supplies.

For reliability, availability, and serviceability, we have created an environment in which each server can function independently. Key components of our server architecture are served by multiple redundant machines. We also use in-house and third-party monitoring software. Our reporting and tracking systems generate daily traffic, demographic and advertising reports. We deploy load balance equipment and cloud computing to avoid single point failure.

Our operations must accommodate a high volume of traffic and deliver frequently updated information. Components or features of our products and services have in the past suffered outages or experienced slower response times

because of equipment or software down time. These events have not had a material adverse effect on our business to date, but such events could have a material adverse effect in the future.



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### **Online Games, provided by Changyou**

Changyou supports its operations with a network of reliable and secure physical and cloud-based servers that have fully supported its operations for many years. As of December 31, 2015, Changyou maintained for its online game business approximately 7,634 physical servers that are located in Internet data centers in 18 major cities in China, and 1,778 cloud-based servers that are spread across mainland China, Hong Kong and North America. Together, these servers have a sufficient amount of bandwidth and capacity to accommodate up to 6.5 million concurrent game players. In order to enhance Changyou's game players' experience and to improve connectivity, Changyou has located its physical game servers in a number of regions throughout China. This allows its players to connect to the nearest servers that are located in their region without exchanging data across the national backbone network. Furthermore, to ensure high quality services for its game players, Changyou works with leading domestic cloud technology firms to provide efficient and stable game services using cloud-based resources. Changyou has a professional technical support team that specializes in maintaining its quality technology infrastructure and online operating platform. Changyou monitors the operation of its server network 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Changyou's remote control system allows it to track its concurrent online users in real time, and discover and fix hardware or software problems on its server network in a timely fashion.

### **EMPLOYEES**

As of December 31, 2015, we had approximately 10,600 employees. We also employ independent contractors to support our research and development, sales, marketing, and editorial departments. None of our personnel are represented under collective bargaining agreements.

We have entered into standard employment agreements with our employees through our subsidiaries and VIEs. All of our employees have entered into confidentiality, non-competition and non-solicitation agreements with us. However, the degree of protection afforded to an employer pursuant to confidentiality and non-competition undertakings governed by PRC law may be more limited when compared to the degree of protection afforded under the laws of other jurisdictions. A number of our employees hold share-based awards granted by Sohu, Sogou, Changyou, and Sohu Video, which provide additional financial incentives to them. Most of these awards vest over a period of four years.

### **AVAILABLE INFORMATION**

Our corporate Website is located at <http://investors.sohu.com>. We make available free of charge on or through our corporate Website our annual report on Form 10-K, our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, our current reports on Form 8-K and any amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as soon as reasonably practicable after they are electronically filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC. You will find links to copies of these reports, and to copies of Section 16 filings related to Sohu, by clicking on "Investor Relations" on the first full English page. Information contained on our corporate Website is not part of this report or any other report filed with the SEC.

### **ITEM 1A RISK FACTORS**

#### **Risks Related to Our Business**

*We are subject to the risks associated with operating in an evolving market.*

As a company operating in the rapidly evolving PRC Internet market, we face numerous risks and uncertainties. Some of these risks relate to our ability to:

continue to attract users to remain with us and use our products and services as one of the primary means of surfing the Internet switches from traditional PCs to mobile phones or other portable devices;

continue to attract a large audience to our matrices of Chinese language content and services by expanding the type and technical sophistication of the content and services we offer;

develop a sufficiently large advertiser base for our brand advertising and search and search-related businesses;

maintain and attract online game users by periodically updating our existing online games and developing and launching new online games;

increase the revenues derived from our fee-based services and products we offer online;

build our Sohu Media Portal, Sohu Video, Focus, search and search-related, online game and other businesses successfully;

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attract and retain qualified personnel; and

effectively control our increased costs and expenses as we expand our business.

***Our operating results are likely to fluctuate significantly and may differ from market expectations.***

Our annual and quarterly operating results have varied significantly in the past, and may vary significantly in the future, due to a number of factors which could have an adverse impact on our business. Our online advertising revenue often fluctuates as our advertisers adjust their online marketing spending as their industries go through business and economic cycles. We rely on third-party providers for high-quality news, video, audio and text content in order to make our Internet platforms, which include our Websites and our applications optimized for mobile devices, or Mobile Apps, more attractive to users and advertisers. In recent years, video content costs escalated sharply and adversely affected our operating results. Sogou incurred substantial traffic acquisition costs for leveraging traffic from Sogou Website Alliance members' Websites to expand distribution of our advertisers' promotional links or advertisements. If traffic acquisition costs increase sharply, Sogou's operating results may be adversely affected. A significant portion of our online game revenue is attributable to Changyou's PC game TLBB; however, the popularity of PC games continues to decline as game players increasingly switch to mobile devices to access online games. Despite Changyou's efforts to improve TLBB, our game players have nevertheless lost interest in it over time and TLBB's popularity, revenues and profitability have continued to decline. If Changyou fails to improve and update TLBB on a timely basis, or if Changyou's competitors introduce more popular games, including mobile games, catering to Changyou's game-player base, the decline in TLBB's popularity can be expected to accelerate, which could cause a significant decrease in our revenues. Changyou made significantly increased expenditures for sales and marketing during 2013 and 2014, mainly for the promotion of its platform channel business. However, Changyou determined that its efforts were not successful, and it is unlikely that Changyou will be able to recoup those expenses.

***We depend on Changyou's online games, and on Changyou's PC game TLBB and mobile game TLBB 3D in particular, for a significant portion of our revenues, net income, and operating cash flow, and TLBB's popularity has been declining recently.***

We rely on Changyou's online games, and on Changyou's PC Game TLBB and mobile game TLBB 3D in particular, for a significant portion of our revenues, net income and operating cash flows. For the year ended December 31, 2015, 25% of our total revenues and 76% of our online game revenues were derived from TLBB and TLBB 3D. If Changyou's online game revenues from games other than TLBB and TLBB 3D do not grow, or if they decrease, our revenues, net income and cash flows will be adversely affected. Furthermore, if there are any interruptions in TLBB's and TLBB 3D's operations due to unexpected server interruptions, network failures or other factors, game players may be prevented or deterred from making purchases of virtual items, which could also cause significant decreases in our revenues, net income and cash flow.

***We face intense competition, which could reduce our market share and adversely affect our financial performance.***

There are many companies that distribute online content and services targeting Chinese Internet users. We compete with distributors of content and services over the Internet, including content sites, Web directories, search engines, online games, Internet service providers and sites maintained by government and educational institutions. These sites compete with us for user traffic, advertising dollars, online game players, potential partners and mobile services. The Internet market in China is relatively new and rapidly evolving. Competition is intense and expected to increase significantly in the future, because there are no substantial barriers to entry in our market.

We have many competitors in the PRC Internet market, including among others Tencent, Alibaba, Baidu, Sina, NetEase, TouTiao.com, Phoenix, Autohome, BitAuto, Youku Tudou, iQIYI, SouFun, Leju, YY, Qihoo, UCWeb, Google, Microsoft, Kingsoft, IGG Inc. NetDragon, Kalends Inc., Ourpalm Corporate limited, Century Cruises (formerly known as Giant Interactive Group Inc.), Da Xing (formerly known as Perfect World Co., Ltd.) and Shulong Technologies (formerly known as Shanda Games Limited). We compete with our peers and competitors in China primarily on the following basis:

access to financial resources;

gateway to a host of Internet user activities;

technological advancements;

attractiveness of products;

brand recognition;

volume of traffic and users;

quality of Internet platforms and content;

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strategic relationships;

quality of services;

effectiveness of sales and marketing efforts;

talented staff; and

pricing;

Our competitors may have certain competitive advantages over us including:

greater brand recognition among Internet users and clients;

better products and services;

larger user and advertiser bases;

more extensive and well developed marketing and sales networks; and

substantially greater financial and technical resources.

Our existing competitors may in the future achieve greater market acceptance and gain a greater market share through launching of new products, introducing new technologies, or forming alliances among themselves, or may enhance their ability to compete with us through mergers and acquisitions or financing activities. For example, during the past few years, many of our competitors have successfully raised significant amounts of capital through IPOs, follow-on public equity offerings, and convertible bond offerings. Several of our competitors have also conducted private placements of equity or debt that included alliances with larger partners who are able to bring them strategic advantages in addition to financing. By enhancing their capital bases and forming strategic alliances, our competitors have strengthened their competitiveness and gained greater brand recognition. Recently some of our major competitors have engaged in or initiated transactions that could make it more difficult for us to compete against them effectively. For example, Alibaba's pending acquisition of Youku Tudou could provide Youku Tudou with considerably greater financial and other resources than were previously available to it for developing and expanding its online video business, which resources we would be unlikely to be able to match. In addition, Qihoo, with which we compete in our search and search-related business, has entered into a proposed going private transaction that would result in the delisting of its shares from the New York Stock Exchange; Baidu recently announced a proposal to sell its majority interest in its online video subsidiary iQiyi to members of Baidu's and iQiyi's management; and there are indications that SouFun may spin off a portion of its business. These transactions could enhance Qihoo's, iQiyi's and SouFun's competitive positions relative to ours by giving them greater flexibility in their business operations and an opportunity to seek high valuations on alternative share exchanges, such as PRC exchanges, which could in turn

provide them with increased capital resources, the ability to offer more valuable equity incentives for purposes of personnel recruiting, and valuable equity to use as consideration for strategic acquisitions.

It is also possible that new competitors may emerge and acquire significant market share. In addition, operators of leading Websites or Internet service providers, including Tencent, Alibaba, Baidu, Google and Microsoft, currently offer, and could expand, their online products and services targeting China. Such entities may cooperate with other organizations in China to accelerate their entry into, and to enhance their competitiveness in, the key Chinese markets in which we operate.

As a result, we are likely to need additional financial and additional strategic resources in order to compete effectively in the primary markets in which we operate. If our competitors are more successful than we are in developing products or in attracting and retaining users and advertisers, our revenues and growth rates could decline.

***If we fail to successfully develop and introduce new products, features and services, our ability to attract and retain users and generate revenues could be harmed.***

We are continually developing new products, features and services for our users. The planned timing or introduction of new products, features and services is subject to risks and uncertainties. Actual timing may differ materially from original plans. Unexpected technical, operational, distribution or other problems could delay or prevent the introduction of one or more of our new products or services. Emerging start-ups may be able to innovate and provide new products, features and services faster than we can. Moreover, we cannot be sure that any of our new products, features and services will achieve widespread market acceptance or generate incremental revenue.

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In addition, we may experience difficulties in promoting our new products, features and services as a result of the significant market power of our competitors or any anti-competitive practices they might engage in. For example, our efforts to increase Sogou Input Method's market share and Sogou Browser's penetration of the market through the frequent launch and promotion of new functions in our existing products have been impeded by certain of our existing competitors' actions. Such actions have included using products, with the stated premise of protecting users' Internet security, to present technical obstacles to Sogou Input Method and Sogou Browser, such as preventing the installation or interrupting the running of Sogou Input Method and Sogou Browser or inducing users to uninstall Sogou Browser. As a result, despite considerable efforts in this regard, we may fail to attract and retain users.

***As our products and services are currently accessed primarily through mobile phones, tablets and other internet-enabled mobile devices, we believe that we must develop products and applications for such devices if we are to maintain or increase our market share and revenues, and we may not be successful in doing so.***

Devices other than personal computers, such as mobile phones, tablets, wearable devices and other internet-enabled mobile devices, are used increasingly in China and in overseas markets, and have surpassed personal computers as the primary means to access the Internet in the key Chinese markets in which we operate. We believe that, for our business to be successful, we will need to design, develop, promote and operate new products and applications that will be popular with such devices. The design and development of new products and applications may not be successful. We may encounter difficulties with the installation of such new products and applications for mobile devices, and such products and applications may not function smoothly. As new devices are released or updated, we may encounter problems in developing and upgrading our products or applications for use on mobile devices and we may need to devote significant resources to the creation, support, and maintenance of such products or applications for mobile devices.

***Our business depends on a strong brand; thus we will not be able to attract users, customers and clients of our products and offerings if we do not maintain and develop our brands.***

It is critical for us to maintain and develop our brands so as to effectively expand our user base and our revenues. We believe that the importance of brand recognition will increase as the number of Internet users in China grows. In order to attract and retain Internet users, brand advertising, search, online game and mobile customers, we may need to substantially increase our expenditures for creating and maintaining brand loyalty. Our success in promoting and enhancing our brands, as well as our ability to remain competitive, will also depend on our success in offering high quality content, features and functionality. If we fail to promote our brands successfully or if our users or advertisers do not perceive our content and services to be of high quality, we may not be able to continue growing our business and attracting users, advertisers, online game players and mobile users.

***Our failure to keep up with rapid technology changes may severely affect our future success.***

The Internet industry is undergoing rapid technological changes. Our future success will depend on our ability to respond to rapidly evolving technologies, adapt our services to changing industry standards and improve the performance and reliability of our services. If we fail to adapt to such changes, our business may be adversely affected. For example, with the emergence of cloud computing technology, the primary Internet technology platform has been transformed from a traditional platform to a cloud computing platform. If we fail to adapt to the transformation, our products and services upgrade process will fall behind our competitors, and accordingly weaken our capacity to adapt our technology to the market. Furthermore, cloud computing itself is a significant business opportunity. If we fail to seize the opportunity, we will lose our ability to capture a share of that market. In addition, as mobile devices other than personal computers are increasingly used to access the Internet, we must develop products and services for such devices. To meet advertisers' needs in targeting potential advertisers accurately, we

need to develop and operate a more effective system for our advertising delivery, tracking and recording. Otherwise, we will not be able to maintain or increase our revenues and market share. In the meantime, the MIIT and other PRC governmental authorities can be expected to regularly promulgate standards and other regulations regarding Internet software and other Internet-based technologies. Adapting to any such standards and regulations could require us to make significant expenditures in the future.



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***Our strategy of acquiring complementary assets, technologies and businesses may fail and result in impairment losses.***

As a component of our growth strategy, we have acquired and intend to actively identify and acquire assets, technologies and businesses that are complementary to our existing businesses. Our acquisitions could result in the use of substantial amounts of cash, issuance of potentially dilutive equity securities, significant impairment losses related to goodwill or amortization expenses related to intangible assets and exposure to undisclosed or potential liabilities of acquired companies. For example, in 2014 Changyou recognized a \$33.8 million impairment loss for goodwill and a \$15.3 million impairment loss for acquired intangible assets related to RaidCall, as a result of Changyou's management's assessment that the impairments existed based on its conclusion that RaidCall was unable to provide expected synergies with Changyou's online games business. In 2015 Changyou recognized a \$29.6 million impairment loss for goodwill and an \$8.9 million impairment loss for acquired intangible assets relating to the Dolphin Browser operated by MoboTap, which was acquired by Changyou in 2014, as a result of Changyou's management's conclusion that expected synergies with Changyou's platform channel business would not materialize.

***We may be required to record a significant charge to earnings if we are required to reassess our goodwill or other amortizable intangible assets.***

We are required under U.S. GAAP to test for goodwill impairment annually or more frequently if facts and circumstances warrant a review. Currently our brand advertising business is losing money, and goodwill under the brand advertising reporting unit will be impaired if the losses continue. We are also required to review our amortizable intangible assets for impairment when events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable. Factors that may be considered a change in circumstances indicating that the carrying value of our amortizable intangible assets may not be recoverable include a decline in stock price and market capitalization and slower or declining growth rates in our industry. We may be required to record a significant charge to earnings in our financial statements during the period in which any impairment of our goodwill or amortizable intangible assets is determined.

***Any changes in accounting rules for share-based compensation may adversely affect our operating results, our stock price and our competitiveness in the employee marketplace.***

Our performance is largely dependent on talented and highly skilled individuals. Our future success depends on our continuing ability to identify, develop, motivate and retain highly skilled personnel for all areas of our organization. We have a history of using employee share options and restricted stock units to align employees' interest with the interests of our shareholders and encourage quality employees to join us and retain our quality employees by providing competitive compensation packages. On January 1, 2006, we adopted revised guidance on accounting for share-based compensation, which requires the measurement and recognition of compensation expense for all share-based compensation based on estimated fair values. As a result, our operating results contain a charge for share-based compensation expense related to employee share options and restricted stock units. The recognition of share-based compensation in our statement of comprehensive income would have a negative effect on our reported results and earnings per share, which could in turn negatively affect our stock price. On the other hand, if we alter our employee stock incentive plan to minimize the share-based compensation expenses, it may limit our ability to continue to use share-based awards as a tool to attract and retain our employees, and it may adversely affect our operations. We cannot assure that there will be no changes in the accounting rules for share-based compensation in the future; thus our operating results, our stock price and our competitiveness in the employee marketplace may be adversely affected.

***Our failure to manage growth and adapt to evolving industry trends and business models could harm us.***

We have experienced dramatic growth in personnel in the past and we expect to continue to hire additional personnel. This growth requires significant time and resource commitments from us and our senior management. If we are unable to effectively manage a large and geographically dispersed group of employees or anticipate our future growth, our business could be adversely affected. As we have approximately 10,600 employees, it can be difficult for us to fully monitor each employee's behavior. In addition, as we are expanding our business into many cities throughout China to provide localized products and services, it is harder for us to monitor and regulate the overall behavior of our branch offices or of individual employees at such branch offices, to effectively implement our strategy to local offices and to manage the growth of these local operations. We cannot assure you that we will be able to maintain policies and procedures that are rigorous enough or that we will be able to cause all of our employees or all of our branch offices to behave in conformity with those policies and procedures, or to ensure that our employees will not engage in conduct that could expose us to third-party liability or governmental sanctions, which may limit our future growth and hamper our business strategy. Additionally, our business relies on our financial reporting and data systems (including our systems for billing users of our fee-based services), which have grown increasingly complex in the recent past due to acquisitions and the diversification and complexity of our business. Our ability to operate our business efficiently depends on these systems, and if we are unable to adapt to these changes, our business could be adversely affected.

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Moreover, to keep pace with the rapidly developing and evolving Internet industry, we must explore new products, services or revenue models for our business. For example, in addition to using traditional advertising forms, we have begun to embed product placements in our self-developed content; and for our real estate business, we sell paid memberships through which potential home buyers can purchase properties from our partner developers at discounts. Since we have limited experience in these business areas, we may fail to manage growth and adapt to industry trends and business models.

In addition, the Internet industry has seen a significant shift from traditional personal computers to mobile devices and accordingly we must develop new products and services that are adaptable to mobile devices so as to attract users and cause our existing users to remain with us. If we are unable to successfully adapt to new business models by developing and investing in new business strategies, products, services and technologies, our ability to maintain and expand our business in the future may be impeded.

***If we fail to establish and maintain relationships with content, technology or infrastructure providers, we may not be able to attract and retain users.***

We rely on third party providers for high-quality news, video, audio and text content in order to make our Internet platforms more attractive to users and advertisers. Most of our content providers have increased the fees they charge us for their content. This trend has increased our costs and operating expenses and has affected our ability to obtain content at an economically acceptable cost. Video content costs have escalated sharply in recent years. If we are not able to purchase as much video content as we did in 2014 and 2015, the size of our video library will be reduced and our attractiveness to users will be severely impaired and advertisers may choose not to advertise through our Internet platforms, including our Internet platforms for video. Except for exclusive content that we obtain from certain of our video content providers, much of the third party content provided to our Internet platforms is also available from other sources or may be provided to other Internet companies. If other Internet companies present the same or similar content in a superior manner, it would adversely affect our user traffic.

Our business also depends significantly on relationships with leading technology and infrastructure providers and the licenses that the technology providers have granted to us. Our competitors may establish the same relationships as we have, which may adversely affect us. We may not be able to maintain these relationships or replace them on commercially attractive terms.

***We depend on key personnel and our business may be severely disrupted if we lose the services of our key executives and employees.***

Our future success is heavily dependent upon the services of our key executives, particularly Dr. Charles Zhang, who is the founder, Chief Executive Officer, Chairman of the Board, and a major shareholder of our company. We rely on his expertise in our business operations. For Sogou, we rely heavily on the services of Xiaochuan Wang, Sogou's Chief Executive Officer. For Changyou, we rely heavily on the services of Carol Yu and Dwen Chen, Changyou's Co-Chief Executive Officers. If one or more of our key executives and employees are unable or unwilling to continue in their present positions, we may not be able to replace them easily and our business may be severely disrupted. In addition, if any of our key executives or employees joins a competitor or forms a competing company, we may lose know-how, key professionals and staff members as well as customers, suppliers and incur additional expenses to recruit and train personnel. Each of our executive officers has entered into an employment agreement and a confidentiality, non-competition and non-solicitation agreement with us. However, the degree of protection afforded to an employer pursuant to confidentiality and non-competition undertakings governed by PRC law may be more limited when compared to the degree of protection afforded under the laws of other jurisdictions. We do not maintain key-man life insurance for any of our key executives.

We also rely on a number of key technology staff for our business. Given the competitive nature of the industry, and in particular our competitors' increasingly aggressive efforts to provide competitive compensation packages to attract talent in the key Chinese markets where we operate, the risk of key technology staff leaving Sohu is high and could have a disruptive impact on our operations. The recent migration of some of our competitors to listings on stock exchanges in the PRC has in some cases made it more difficult for us to retain and attract talent, because such competitors are often able to offer employees and potential employees equity incentives based on the recent higher valuations of many companies listed on the PRC exchanges, which we may not be able to match.

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***Our growth may cause significant pressures upon our financial, operational, and administrative resources.***

Our financial, operational, and administrative resources may be inadequate to sustain the growth we want to achieve. As the demands of our users and the needs of our customers change, the number of our users and volume of online advertising increase, requirements for maintaining sufficient servers to provide high-definition online video and to provide game players smooth online game experiences increase, requirements for search traffic and users requirements as to the quality of search services increase, and mobile activities increase, we will need to increase our investment in our network infrastructure, facilities and other areas of operations. If we are unable to manage our growth and expansion effectively, the quality of our services could deteriorate and our business may suffer. Our future success will depend on, among other things, our ability to:

access financial resources;

adapt our services and maintain and improve the quality of our services;

protect our Internet platforms from hackers and unauthorized access;

continue training, motivating and retaining our existing employees and attract and integrate new employees;  
and

maintain and improve our operational, financial, accounting and other internal systems and controls.

***Unauthorized use of our intellectual property by third parties, and the expenses incurred in protecting our intellectual property rights, may adversely affect our business.***

We regard our copyrights, trademarks, trade secrets and other intellectual property as critical to our success. Unauthorized use of our intellectual property by third parties may adversely affect our business and reputation. For example, a third-party Internet platforms operator might provide its users access to video content on our Internet platforms while blocking Internet advertisements embedded in our video content, which could adversely affect our online advertising revenues and our reputation with our current and potential advertising clients. We rely on trademark and copyright law, trade secret protection and confidentiality agreements with our employees, customers, business partners and others to protect our intellectual property rights. Despite our precautions, it may be possible for third parties to obtain and use our intellectual property without authorization. For example, some of our self-developed Web series video productions were disseminated by third parties without our authorization. Furthermore, under the newly amended *Patent Law of the PRC* (promulgated by the NPC Standing Committee on December 27, 2008, and effective as of October 1, 2009), the State Council's Patent Administration Department may grant a compulsory license to individuals or entities to use one or more of our patents if our exploitation of the patents has been determined to violate the antitrust laws. Furthermore, the validity, enforceability and scope of protection of intellectual property in Internet-related industries are uncertain and still evolving. In particular, the laws of the PRC and certain other countries are uncertain or do not protect intellectual property rights to the same extent as do the laws of the United States. Moreover, litigation may be necessary in the future to enforce our intellectual property rights, to protect our trade secrets or to determine the validity and scope of the proprietary rights of others. Future litigation could result in substantial costs and diversion of resources. For example, in 2015, we filed intellectual property-related lawsuits

within Mainland China, including 17 patent infringement lawsuits relating to the Sogou Input Method. We cannot be certain that judgments from the lawsuits will be issued in our favor, or that any resulting damages will cover our business losses and litigation expenses. If our campaigns and lawsuits against piracy do not achieve their intended effect, our business and operation may be adversely affected.

***We may be subject to intellectual property infringement claims, which may force us to incur substantial legal expenses and, if determined adversely to us, materially disrupt our business.***

We cannot be certain that the products, services and intellectual property used in our normal course of business do not or will not infringe valid patents, copyrights or other intellectual property rights held by third parties. We have in the past been, and may in the future be, subject to claims and legal proceedings relating to the intellectual property of others in the ordinary course of our business and have in the past been, and may in the future be, required to pay damages or to agree to restrict our activities. In particular, if we are found to have violated the intellectual property rights of others, we may be enjoined from using such intellectual property, may be ordered to pay damages or fines, and may incur licensing fees or be forced to develop alternatives. We may incur substantial expense in defending against third party infringement claims, regardless of their merit. Successful infringement claims against us may result in substantial monetary liability or may materially disrupt the conduct of our business by restricting or prohibiting our use of the intellectual property in question. In March 2008, we were sued by four major record companies, Sony BMG, Warner, Universal and Gold Label, which alleged that we had provided music search links and download services that violated copyrights they owned. Although the lawsuits were settled in 2013 without any payment of damages by us, we may be subject to similar lawsuits in the future. In addition, it is possible that content on our Sohu News App, which not only includes content developed by us but also provides a platform for a significant amount of content generated by others, may violate the intellectual property rights of third parties. Furthermore, PRC governmental authorities have recently been drawing attention to issues regarding the infringement of online intellectual property rights. For example, the Jian Wang 2015 campaign, which targets five primary types of Internet infringement and piracy, was launched on June 10, 2015.

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*We may be subject to, and may expend significant resources in defending against, claims based on the content and services we provide over our Internet platforms.*

As our services may be used to download and distribute information to others, there is a risk that claims may be made against us for defamation, negligence, copyright or trademark infringement or based on the nature and content of such information. Furthermore, we could be subject to claims for the online activities of our users and incur significant costs in our defense. In the past, claims based on the nature and content of information that was posted online by users have been made in the United States against companies that provide online services. We do not carry any liability insurance against such risks.

We could be exposed to liability for the selection of listings that may be accessible through our Internet platforms or through content and materials that our users may post in classifieds, message boards, micro blog, chat rooms or other interactive services. If any information provided through our services contains errors, third parties may make claims against us for losses incurred in reliance on the information. We also offer Web-based e-mail and subscription services, which expose us to potential liabilities or claims resulting from:

unsolicited e-mail;

lost or misdirected messages;

illegal or fraudulent use of e-mail; or

interruptions or delays in e-mail service.

Investigating and defending any such claims may be expensive, even if they do not result in liability.

*We may not have exclusive rights to trademarks, designs and technologies that are crucial to our business.*

We have applied for initial registrations in the PRC and overseas, and/or changes in registrations relating to transfers of our key trademarks in the PRC, including Sohu.com logos, Sohu Fox logos, www.focus.com.cn, GoodFeel logos, Go2Map, Sogou logos, Sohu Focus, TLBB, ChangYou.com, cyou.com, TL logos, DMD, 17173 and the corresponding Chinese versions of the marks, so as to establish and protect our exclusive rights to these trademarks. We have also applied for patents relating to our business. While we have succeeded in registering the trademarks for most of these marks in the PRC under certain classes, the applications for initial registration, and/or changes in registrations relating to transfers, of some marks and/or of some of marks under other classes are still under examination by the Trademark Office of the SAIC, and relevant authorities overseas. While we have succeeded in obtaining some patents, some of our patent applications are still under examination by the State Intellectual Property Office of the PRC. Approvals of our initial trademark registration applications, and/or of changes in registrations relating to such transfers, or of our patent applications, are subject to determinations by the Trademark Office of the SAIC, the State Intellectual Property Office of the PRC and relevant authorities overseas that there are no prior rights in the applicable territory. We cannot assure that these applications will be approved. Any rejection of these applications could adversely affect our rights to the affected marks, designs and technologies. In addition, even if these applications are approved, we cannot assure you that any registered trademark or issued patent will be sufficient in scope to provide adequate protection of our rights.

***We may be subject to claims for invasion of personal privacy, which may force us to incur legal expenses and, if determined adversely to us, materially disrupt our business.***

We allow users to upload written materials, images, pictures and other content on our platform and download, share, link to audio, video and other content either on our platform or from other Websites through our platform. Procedures that we have designed to reduce the likelihood that content will be used without proper licenses or third-party consents may not be effective in preventing the unauthorized posting or sharing of content. We cannot be certain that content uploaded or shared by our users is legal and will not violate the privacy of others. In August 2014, the supreme people's court promulgated the *Provisions of the Supreme People's Court on Application of Laws to Cases Involving Civil Disputes over Infringement upon Personal Rights and Interests by Using Information Networks*, which provide that if an ICP operator discloses genetic information, medical records, health examination data, criminal record, home address, private events and or other personal information of a natural person online, causing damage to the person, the People's Court should support a claim by the infringed party for recovery of damages from the infringing ICP operator. Defending invasion of privacy litigation is costly and can impose a significant burden on management and employees, and we may not obtain favorable outcomes in such cases. Such claims, even if they do not result in liability, may harm our reputation.



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***We face risks related to health epidemics and other outbreaks.***

Our business could be adversely affected by the effects of H1N1 influenza, H7N9 influenza, avian influenza, SARS or other epidemics or outbreaks. China reported a number of cases of SARS in April 2003. In recent years, there have been reports of occurrences of H1N1 influenza, H7N9 influenza and of avian influenza in various parts of China, including a few confirmed human cases and deaths. Any prolonged recurrence of H1N1 influenza, H7N9 influenza, avian influenza, SARS or other adverse public health developments in China may have a material adverse effect on our business operations. These could include illness and loss of our management and key employees, as well as temporary closure of our offices and related business operations, such as server operations, upon which we rely. Such loss of management and key employees or closures would severely disrupt our business operations and adversely affect our results of operations. We have not adopted any written preventive measures or contingency plans to combat any future outbreak of H1N1 influenza, H7N9 influenza, avian influenza, SARS or any other epidemic. In addition, other major natural disasters may also adversely affect our business by, for example, causing disruptions of the Internet network or otherwise affecting access to our portals and our games. For example, after the Sichuan earthquake in May 2008, we suspended our delivering of online advertisements and our MMOG operations during a three-day national mourning period.

***We do not have business insurance coverage.***

The insurance industry in China is still at an early stage of development. Insurance companies in China offer limited business insurance products, or offer them at a high price. As a result, we do not have any business liability, loss of data or disruption insurance coverage for our operations in China. Any business disruption, litigation or natural disaster might result in our incurring substantial costs and the diversion of our resources.

***We depend on brand advertising for a significant portion of our revenues, but the brand advertisement market includes many uncertainties, which could cause our brand advertising revenues to decline.***

We derive a significant portion of our revenues, and expect to derive a significant portion of our revenues for the foreseeable future, from the sale of advertising space on our Internet platforms. Brand advertising revenues represented approximately 30% and 33% of our total revenues for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. For the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, sales to our five largest advertisers accounted for approximately 10% and 8%, respectively, of our total brand advertising revenues. The growth of our brand advertising revenues relies on increased revenue from the sale of advertising spaces on our Internet platforms, which may be affected by many of the following risk factors:

The brand advertising market is rapidly evolving in China. As a result, many of our current and potential advertising clients historically have not devoted a significant portion of their advertising budget to Internet-based advertising;

Changes in government policy could restrict or curtail our brand advertising services. For example, during the last several years, the PRC government enacted a series of regulations, administrative instructions and policies to restrict online medical advertising. As a result of these regulations, we may lose some of our existing medical advertising clients;

Advertising clients may adopt new methods and strategies other than brand advertising to promote their brand and therefore our advertising revenue would be negatively affected;

The acceptance of the Internet as a medium for advertising depends on the development of standards for measuring the effectiveness of advertisements disseminated over the Internet, and no standards have been widely accepted for the measurement of the effectiveness of brand advertising over the Internet. Industry-wide standards may not develop that are sufficient to support the Internet as an effective advertising medium. If these standards do not develop, advertisers may choose not to advertise on the Internet in general or through our portals or search engines;

Historically we have charged our advertisers on a CPC basis, where we charge when users click on our advertisers promotional links displayed on our Internet platforms. However, increasing numbers of advertisers are indicating that in the future they will only enter into contracts with us pursuant to which we would charge on a Cost Per Action ( CPA ) basis, where users must not only click on the links but must also download and install the advertisers promotional software or applications and run the installed software or applications at least once. If this migration from a CPC to a CPA payment model continues on a large scale, or if CPA advertisements cannot generate enough user actions that can be tracked as delivered advertisements, our advertising revenues will be adversely affected; and

We may not have systems that are sufficiently well-developed to support the CPM pricing models, and as a result, we may suffer system bugs that cause bad user experiences errors or omission in publishing our client s advertisements, which could have a negative impact on our brand advertising business.

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In addition, our ability to generate and maintain significant brand advertising revenues will also depend upon:

the development of a large base of users possessing demographic characteristics attractive to advertising clients;

the acceptance of brand advertisement as an effective way for business marketing by advertising clients;

the effectiveness of our advertising delivery, tracking and reporting systems;

the resistance pressure on brand advertising prices and limitations on inventory; and

the establishment of a successful business model to make our new products adaptable to portable devices, which has required, and will continue to require us, to make significant expenditures for research, development, promotion and operations.

Many advertisers have shifted their PC online advertising budgets to advertising on mobile devices. Hence we must successfully optimize, adapt and make attractive our various product and service offerings for access on mobile devices and must effectively deliver advertising content in a manner that attracts and retains users' interest and attention or our online advertising business will suffer.

***Our costs for brand advertising have increased significantly as a result of our investment in online video services. If we are unable to manage the growth of our online video business successfully and control its operating costs effectively, our business may be adversely affected.***

In 2007 we launched our video service, and its operation requires significant upfront capital expenditures as well as continuous, substantial investment in content, technology, infrastructure and brand promotion for both PCs and mobile devices. Although we have attempted to control our costs relating to content, bandwidth, marketing, and other items for online video services, our operating expenses have increased significantly and may continue to escalate. We have to continuously invest additional financial, operational, strategic, technological, personnel and other resources in order to compete with vertical online video sites that have raised significant capital through initial public offerings and other financing activities, which may significantly strain our resources and negatively affect our operating results.

We are increasingly required to pay license fees upfront for video content prior to its production. There often are delays of several months, or sometimes up to two or three years, between our payment of such up-front fees and the time when we are able to offer fully-developed content online and begin to receive advertising dollars. These delays have often placed, and can be expected to continue to place, significant strains on our cash flow. Our up-front payments also subject us to a certain level of credit risk, as content producers to which we make such payments may fall into financial difficulties and be unable to deliver the content we have purchased. We are also subjected to the risk that the quality of content will not be up to our expectations. In addition, when we purchase rights to the online versions of TV series, we generally rely on the expectation that the series will be broadcast on nationwide TV channels according to a specified schedule. If there are delays in such TV broadcasts, we will have to delay, perhaps indefinitely, our presentation of the online version of the series. We are also subject to the risk that TV content we purchase will be broadcast on less popular TV channels than expected, which will cause our online viewership to be

correspondingly lower than we expected.

We have spent, and will continue to spend, significant resources to develop our own TV series and other video content. We have also invested, and will likely invest in the future, in the production of movies by selected independent third-party movie studios, where we have exclusive rights to distribute the online versions of such movies on our Internet platforms for video. If our self-developed TV series or other video content, or movies in which we invest, are not well received by viewers and/or fail to attract sufficient advertising placements from advertisers, we may not be able to recoup our production costs or investments in movie production.

Although China's online video industry has experienced substantial growth in recent years in terms of both users and content, we cannot assure you that the online video industry will continue to grow as rapidly as it has in the past, if at all. With the development of technology, new forms of media may emerge and render online video Websites less attractive to users. Growth of the online video industry is affected by numerous factors, such as users' general online video experience, technological innovations, development of Internet and Internet-based services, regulatory changes in general, and regulations affecting copyright in particular, and the macroeconomic environment. If the online video industry in China does not grow as quickly as expected or if we fail to benefit from such growth by successfully implementing our business strategies, our user traffic may decrease and our business and prospects may be adversely affected.

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***We rely on advertising agencies to sell our brand advertising services. As advertising agencies in the Chinese market have consolidated recently, the bargaining power of the large advertising agencies resulting from such consolidation may permit them to require that we pay higher sales rebates, which would adversely affect our gross margin.***

Most of our brand advertising services are distributed by advertising agencies. In 2015, for example, approximately 74% of our brand advertising revenues were derived from advertising agencies. In consideration for these agencies services, we are required to pay certain percentages of revenues as sales rebates. Partially as a result of recent consolidation in the advertising agency market, during 2015 the biggest 10 advertising agencies in China contributed approximately 36% of our brand advertising revenue. If the brand advertising market is effectively controlled by a small number of large advertising agencies, such advertising agencies may be in a position to demand higher sales rebates based on increased bargaining power, which could negatively affect our brand advertising growth.

As an attempt to strengthen our bargaining power in the real estate market, beginning in 2012 we converted to direct sales of our advertising services instead of relying on agencies. We are not sure whether this change will be successful, and if it is not, we could lose our sale channels where we had previously relied on agencies.

***The expansion of Internet advertisement blocking measures may result in a decrease of advertising revenues.***

The development of Web software that blocks Internet advertisements before they appear on a user's screen may hinder the growth of online advertising. For example, some Rich Site Summary, or RSS, Internet platforms allow their users to access video content from our Internet platforms, while completely blocking our advertisements from being viewed by their users. Since our advertising revenues are generally based on user views, the expansion of advertisement blocking on the Internet may decrease our advertising revenues because, when an advertisement is blocked, it is not downloaded from the server, which means such advertisements will not be tracked as a delivered advertisement. In addition, advertisers may choose not to advertise on the Internet or on our Internet platforms because of the use by third parties of Internet advertisement blocking measures. In addition, increasing numbers of browsers include technical barriers designed to prevent Internet information service providers such as us to trail the browsing history of the Internet users, which is also like to adversely affect the growth of online advertising.

***If video content we acquire or license fails to attract and retain users and advertisers, we may not be able to generate sufficient user traffic to allow us to maintain or increase our video revenues.***

The success of our online video business largely depends on our ability to generate sufficient user traffic, through provision of attractive products, to in turn attract advertisers to place advertisements on our Internet platforms for video. In order to attract and retain users, we have needed, and will continue to need, to expend significant resources to develop our own or acquire from third parties high-quality video content. In 2015, we purchased significant amounts of exclusive video contents, through which we generated user traffic and revenues by bartering for other video content from other parties or distributing to other third parties. We cannot assure you that we will continue to be able to acquire exclusive content rights in the future and our user traffic and revenues generated from such exclusive content rights could be reduced. Moreover, if we fail to produce by ourselves or acquire from third parties high-quality video content, or if video content we develop by ourselves or acquire proves to be less attractive to users than we anticipated, our user traffic and our market share could be adversely effected, which could result in our being unable to maintain or increase our video revenues.

***Videos and other types of content and materials displayed on our Internet platforms may be found objectionable by PRC regulatory authorities, may subject us to penalties and other administrative actions, and may be subject us to liabilities for infringement of third-party intellectual property rights or other allegations.***

The PRC government has adopted regulations governing Internet access and the distribution of videos over the Internet. In addition to professionally produced content, we allow our users to upload videos to our Internet platforms. Our users can upload all types of content, including user-created and professionally produced content, and can upload graphic files for limited purposes, such as updating user biographies. Although we have adopted internal procedures to monitor the content displayed on our Internet platforms, due to the significant amount of content uploaded by our users, we may not be able to identify all videos or other content that may violate relevant laws and regulations. Failure to identify and prevent illegal or inappropriate content from being displayed on our Internet platforms may subject us to liability.

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To the extent that PRC regulatory authorities find any content displayed on our Internet platforms objectionable, they may require us to limit or eliminate the dissemination of such content on our Internet platforms, with take-down orders or otherwise. The SAPPRFT publishes from time to time lists of content that it considers objectionable, and we must dedicate teams of employees to continually monitor user-uploaded content and remove content that is deemed objectionable. In addition, regulatory authorities may impose penalties on us based on content displayed on or linked to our Internet platforms in cases of significant violations, including a revocation of our operating licenses or a suspension or shutdown of our online operations. In the event that PRC regulatory authorities find the video content on our Internet platforms objectionable and impose penalties on us or take other administrative actions against us in the future, our business and reputation may be adversely affected. Moreover, the costs of compliance with these regulations may continue to increase as more content is uploaded by our users.

In addition, under PRC laws and regulations governing online advertising, online publishers, such as us, are required to monitor advertising content displayed on their Internet platforms for accuracy, and for compliance with PRC law governing the dissemination of content over the Internet that is deemed to be unlawful or inappropriate. If we were found to have failed to fulfill our obligation to monitor the advertisements of an advertising customer, we could be subject to various penalties, including being prohibited from providing advertising services for advertisers in the entire industry of the customer.

We have been involved in litigation based on allegations of infringement of third-party copyright and other rights, such as privacy and image rights, due to the videos displayed on our Internet platforms. See **Risks Related to Our Business**. We may be subject to intellectual property infringement claims, which may force us to incur substantial legal expenses and, if determined adversely against us, materially disrupt our business. While we have implemented internal procedures to review videos uploaded by our users and remove promptly from our Internet platforms any infringing videos after we receive infringement notifications from rights owners, due to the significant number of videos uploaded by users, we may not be able to identify all content that may infringe on third-party rights. Moreover, some rights owners may not send us a notice before bringing a lawsuit against us. Thus, our failure to identify unauthorized videos posted on our Internet platforms has subjected us to, and may in the future subject us to, claims of infringement of third-party intellectual property rights or other rights. In addition, we may be subject to administrative actions brought by the NCA or its local branches for alleged copyright infringement.

We may also face litigation or administrative actions for defamation, negligence, or other purported injuries resulting from videos and advertisements that we display on our Internet platforms. Such litigation and administrative actions, with or without merit, may be expensive and time-consuming and may result in significant diversion of resources and management attention from our business operations. Furthermore, such litigation or administrative actions may adversely affect our brand image and reputation.

***Our revenues from mobile-related services have decreased recently and are expected to grow only minimally, or to decrease, in the future.***

Our mobile-related services revenues, which are classified as others revenues in our consolidated statements of comprehensive income and are derived from mobile-related services and mobile products offered in cooperation with China mobile network operators to mobile phone users and to China mobile network operators, have decreased recently, and represent only a small portion of our total revenues. We expect mobile revenues to grow only minimally, or to decrease, in the future.

***Our search and search-related revenues may not sustain their growth or may decrease in the future.***

The growth of our search and search-related revenue is subject to the following risks: As increasing numbers of users are using mobile devices to access the Internet, if we are unable to attract and retain mobile users to our products and services, we may fail to capture market share for mobile search;

We may not be able to achieve greater market acceptance or gain additional market share from our existing competitors or new competitors;

Many of our current and potential advertisers have limited experience with the Internet as a marketing channel, and historically have not devoted a significant portion of their marketing budgets to online marketing and promotion. As a result, they may not consider the Internet to be an effective channel to promote their products and services as compared to traditional print and broadcast media;

Although devices other than personal computers, such as mobile phones, tablets and other internet-enabled mobile devices, are increasingly used to access the Internet, many of our current and potential advertisers have limited experience using the Internet as a marketing channel with advertising content delivered by Mobile Apps to such mobile devices, and may not be ready to devote a significant portion of their Internet marketing budgets to mobile Internet marketing and promotion;



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Our success depends on providing products and services to attract users and enable users to have a high-quality Internet experience. A loss of users could weaken our brand and result in a loss of advertisers, which would have a material adverse effect on revenues;

We may be unable to retain our existing advertisers or attract new advertisers;

We rely heavily on our nationwide agency network of third-party agencies for our sales to, and collection of payment from, our advertisers. We cannot assure that we will continue to maintain favorable relationships with those agencies; and

We rely on our Website Alliance members for a significant portion of our search revenues. If we fail to retain existing Website Alliance members or attract additional members, our revenues and growth may be adversely affected.

***If Sogou's collaboration with Tencent is terminated or curtailed, Sogou's business would likely to be adversely affected.***

A substantial amount of our search and search-related traffic is generated from users of Tencent products and services, and Sogou relies on Tencent for the promotion of some Sogou products and services. In addition, Sogou collaborates with Tencent to provide differentiated products and services. For example, Sogou launched a unique Weixin search function for both PCs and mobile devices that allows users to search the large amount of content that is published on Weixin accounts. If Sogou's collaborative relationship with Tencent is terminated or curtailed, or if Tencent does not continue to deliver an adequate level of access to its platforms or adequately promote Sogou products and services, Sogou business would likely be adversely affected.

***If we fail to retain key agencies or attract additional agencies for sales to our search advertisers, our search business may be adversely affected.***

We rely heavily on our nationwide distribution network of third-party agencies for our sales to, and collection of payment from, our search (including pay-for-click services) advertisers. If our agencies do not provide quality services to our advertisers or otherwise breach their contracts with them, we may lose our advertisers. We do not have long-term agreements with any of our agencies, including our key agencies, and cannot assure that we will continue to maintain favorable relationships with them.

***We rely on our Website Alliance members for a significant portion of our search revenues. If we fail to retain existing Website Alliance members or attract additional members, our revenues and growth may be adversely affected.***

We enhance the distribution of advertisers' promotional links or advertisements by leveraging traffic on Sogou's Website Alliance members' Websites, and revenues generated from the Website Alliance account for a significant portion of our total pay-for-click revenues. If the Website Alliance members decide to use a competitor's or their own Internet search services, or if we fail to attract additional Websites to join Sogou's Website Alliance, our pay-for-click revenues will be adversely affected.

***If we fail to detect significant fraudulent click-through, we could lose the confidence of our search advertisers and our search revenues could decline.***

Our search business is exposed to the risk of click-through fraud on our paid search results. Click-through fraud occurs when a person clicks paid search results for a reason other than to view the underlying content of search results. If we fail to detect significant fraudulent clicks or otherwise are unable to prevent significant fraudulent activity, the affected search advertisers may experience a reduced return on their investment in our pay-for-click services and lose confidence in the integrity of our pay-for-click service systems, and we may have to issue refunds to our advertisers. If this happens, we may be unable to retain existing advertisers and attract new advertisers for our pay-for-click services, and our search revenues could decline. In addition, affected advertisers may also file legal actions against us claiming that we have over-charged or failed to refund them. Any such claims or similar claims, regardless of their merits, could be time-consuming and costly for us to defend against and could also adversely affect our search brand and our search advertisers' confidence in the integrity of our pay-for-click service systems.

### **Risks Related to China's Telecommunications Infrastructure**

*The telecommunications infrastructure in China, which is not as well developed as in the United States, may limit our growth.*

The telecommunications infrastructure in China is not as well developed as it is in the United States. Our growth will depend on the PRC government and state-owned enterprises establishing and maintaining a reliable Internet and telecommunications infrastructure to reach a broader base of Internet users in China. The Internet infrastructure, standards, protocols and complementary products, services and facilities necessary to support the demands associated with continued growth may not be developed on a timely basis or at all by the PRC government and state-owned enterprises.

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***We depend on China Mobile, China Unicom, and China Telecom for telecommunications services, and any interruption in these services may result in severe disruptions to our business.***

Although private Internet service providers exist in China, almost all access to the Internet is maintained through China Mobile, China Unicom and China Telecom under the administrative control and regulatory supervision of the MIIT. We rely on this infrastructure and China Mobile, China Unicom, and China Telecom to provide data communications capacity primarily through local telecommunications lines. Although the government has announced aggressive plans to develop the national information infrastructure, this infrastructure may not be developed and the Internet infrastructure in China may not be able to support the continued growth of Internet usage. In addition, we will have no access to alternative networks and services, on a timely basis if at all, in the event of any infrastructure disruption or failure.

We have signed Bandwidth Provision and Server Hosting Agreements with China Mobile, China Unicom, and China Telecom. Under these agreements, we established 21 core data centers to support most of our core services. However, as there are limited telecommunication infrastructure service providers, we may not be able to lease additional bandwidth on acceptable terms, on a timely basis, or at all. If we are not able to lease additional bandwidth, the development of our business can be affected.

***To the extent we are unable to scale our systems to meet the increasing PRC Internet population, we will be unable to expand our user base and increase our attractiveness to advertisers and merchants.***

As Internet volume and traffic increase in China, we may not be able to scale our systems proportionately. To the extent we do not successfully address our capacity constraints, our operations may be severely disrupted, and we may not be able to expand our user base and increase our attractiveness to advertisers and merchants. Even if we scale our systems proportionately, any unforeseen increase in traffic may disrupt our operations and make it difficult for our users to visit our Internet platforms, or even cause users to be unable to access our Internet platforms at all, which could result in a loss of users.

***Unexpected network interruptions caused by system failures may result in reduced user traffic, reduced revenue and harm to our reputation.***

Our Internet platforms operations are dependent upon Web browsers, Internet service providers, content providers and other Internet platforms operators in China, which have experienced significant system failures and system outages in the past. Our users have in the past experienced difficulties due to system failures unrelated to our systems and services. Any system failure or inadequacy that causes interruptions in the availability of our services, or increases the response time of our services, as a result of increased traffic or otherwise, could reduce our user satisfaction, future traffic and our attractiveness to users and advertisers. For example, on February 14, 2009, our blog services were disconnected because of a power loss affecting China Unicom. Although such disconnection did not have any material adverse effect on our business, we cannot assure that our business would not be affected negatively by any future similar events.

***Our operations are vulnerable to natural disasters and other events, as we only have limited backup systems and do not maintain any backup servers outside of China.***

We have limited backup systems and have experienced system failures and electrical outages from time to time in the past, which have disrupted our operations. Most of our servers and routers are currently hosted in a single location within the premises of BTA. Our disaster recovery plan cannot fully ensure safety in the event of damage from fire, floods, typhoons, earthquakes, power loss, telecommunications failures, break-ins and similar events. If any of the

foregoing occurs, we may experience a complete system shutdown. We do not carry any business interruption insurance. To improve the performance and to prevent disruption of our services, we may have to make substantial investments to deploy additional servers or one or more copies of our Internet platforms to mirror our online resources.

Although we carry property insurance with low coverage limits, our coverage may not be adequate to compensate us for all losses, particularly with respect to loss of business and reputation that may occur.

***Our network operations may be vulnerable to hacking, viruses and other disruptions, which may make our products and services less attractive and reliable, and third-party online payment platforms that we partner with may be susceptible to security breaches, which may damage our reputation and adversely affect our business.***

Internet use can decline if any well-publicized compromise of security occurs. Hacking involves efforts to gain unauthorized access to information or systems or to cause intentional malfunctions or loss or corruption of data, software, hardware or other computer equipment. Hackers, if successful, could misappropriate proprietary information or cause disruptions in our service. We may be required to expend capital and other resources to protect our Internet platforms against hackers, and measures we may take may not be effective. In addition, the inadvertent transmission of computer viruses could expose us to a risk of loss or litigation and possible liability, as well as damage our reputation and decrease our user traffic.

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Furthermore, we could be liable for security breaches of our users' confidential information, such as credit card numbers and expiration dates, personal information and billing addresses, stored by the third-party online payment platforms that we partner with. Since our revenues are derived in part from such payment platforms, any security breach resulting from Internet payment transactions could damage our reputation and deter current and potential users from using our online services.

### **Risks Related to Our Corporate Structure**

#### ***Our interests in our two primary controlled subsidiaries could be significant diluted.***

Our percentage and economic interests in our two primary controlled subsidiaries, Sogou and Changyou, could be diluted by the implementation and operation of existing or future equity incentive plans or any equity issued by them as consideration for acquisitions. The occurrence of any of these dilutive events would cause our share of the revenues and earnings of the affected subsidiaries to be reduced.

#### ***In order to comply with PRC regulatory requirements, we operate our main businesses through companies with which we have contractual relationships but in which we do not have an actual ownership interest. If our current ownership structure is found to be in violation of current or future PRC laws, rules or regulations regarding the legality of foreign investment in the PRC Internet sector, we could be subject to severe penalties.***

Various regulations in the PRC restrict or prohibit WFOEs from operating in specified industries such as Internet information, online game, mobile, Internet access, and certain other industries. We are a Delaware corporation, and Sohu Hong Kong, our indirect wholly-owned subsidiary and the parent company of Sohu New Momentum, Sohu Era and Sohu Media; Sogou HK, our indirect controlled subsidiary and the parent company of Sogou Technology; Vast Creation, our indirect controlled subsidiary and the parent company of Sogou Network; Video HK, our indirect wholly-owned subsidiary and the parent company of Video Tianjin; and Changyou HK, our indirect subsidiary and the parent company of AmazGame, Gamespace, Beijing Baina Technology, are foreign persons under PRC law. In order to comply with PRC regulatory requirements, we conduct our Internet and value-added telecommunication operations in the PRC through our VIEs that are incorporated in the PRC and owned by certain of our employees. Through a series of contractual arrangements, our VIEs, for which Sohu is their primary beneficiary, are effectively controlled by our indirect wholly-owned and majority-owned PRC Subsidiaries.

The MIIT issued a circular in 2006 that emphasizes restrictions on foreign investment in value-added telecommunications businesses. In addition, a notice issued in 2009 by the SAPPRFT, the National Copyright Administration, and the National Office of Combating Pornography and Illegal Publications states that foreign investors are not permitted to invest in online game operating businesses in China or to exercise control over or participate in the operation of such businesses through indirect means. While we are not aware of any internet company which uses the same or similar contractual arrangements as we do having been penalized or ordered to terminate operations by PRC authorities claiming that the arrangements constituted foreign investment in value-added telecommunication services or a kind of control over or participation in the operation of online game operating businesses through indirect means, it is unclear whether and how the various regulations of the PRC authorities might be interpreted or implemented in the future. For a detailed discussion of PRC regulations, notices and circulars with respect to such restrictions, see [Specific Regulations Regulation of Foreign Direct Investment in Value-Added Telecommunications Companies](#) and [Specific Regulations Regulation of the Online Game Services Online Games and Cultural Products](#).

Further, on January 19, 2015, MOFCOM, released on its Website for public comment a proposed PRC law, the Draft FIE Law, that appears to include VIEs within the scope of entities that could be considered to be foreign invested

enterprises, or FIEs, that would be subject to restrictions under existing PRC law on foreign investment in certain categories of industry. Specifically, the Draft FIE Law introduces the concept of actual control for determining whether an entity is considered to be an FIE. In addition to control through direct or indirect ownership or equity, the Draft FIE Law includes control through contractual arrangements within the definition of actual control. If the Draft FIE Law is passed by the People's Congress of the PRC and goes into effect in its current form, these provisions regarding control through contractual arrangements could be construed to reach our VIE arrangements, and as a result our VIEs could become explicitly subject to the current restrictions on foreign investment in certain categories of industry. The Draft FIE Law includes provisions that would exempt from the definition of foreign invested enterprises entities where the ultimate controlling shareholders are either entities organized under PRC law or individuals who are PRC citizens. The Draft FIE Law is silent as to what type of enforcement action might be taken against existing VIEs, such as ours, that operate in restricted or prohibited industries and are not controlled by entities organized under PRC law or individuals who are PRC citizens. If the restrictions and prohibitions on foreign invested enterprises included in the Draft FIE Law are enacted and enforced in their current form, our ability to use our VIE arrangements and our ability to conduct business through them could be severely limited.

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In addition, pursuant to Circular 6 and the MOFCOM Security Review Rules, a security review is required for mergers and acquisitions by foreign investors having national defense and security concerns and mergers and acquisitions by which foreign investors may acquire de facto control of domestic enterprises with national security concerns and prohibit foreign investors from bypassing the security review requirement by structuring transactions through proxies, trusts, indirect investments, leases, loans, control through contractual arrangements or offshore transactions. These national security review-related regulations are relatively new and there is a lack of clear statutory interpretation regarding the implementation of the rules, and PRC authorities may interpret these regulations to mean that the transactions implementing our VIE structures should have been submitted for review. For a discussion of these PRC national security review requirements, see Specific Regulations Miscellaneous Regulation of M&A and Overseas Listings

If we were found to be in violation of any existing or future PRC law or regulations relating to foreign ownership of value-added telecommunications businesses, including the Draft FIE Law if it becomes effective, and security reviews of foreign investments in such businesses, including online games businesses, regulatory authorities with jurisdiction over the operation of our business would have broad discretion in dealing with such a violation, including levying fines, confiscating our income, revoking the business or operating licenses of PRC subsidiaries and/or VIEs, requiring us to restructure our ownership structure or operations, requiring us to discontinue or divest ourselves of all or any portion of our operations or assets, restricting our right to collect revenues, blocking our Internet platforms, or imposing additional conditions or requirements with which we may not be able to comply. Any of these actions could cause significant disruption to our business operations and have an adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Further, if changes were required to be made to our ownership structure, our ability to consolidate our VIEs could be adversely affected.

***We may be unable to collect long-term loans to officers and employees or exercise management influence associated with High Century, Heng Da Yi Tong, Tianjin Jinhu, Sogou Information, Gamease and Guanyou Gamespace.***

As of December 31, 2015, Sohu had outstanding long-term loans of \$9.3 million to Dr. Charles Zhang and certain other employees. These long-term loans were used to finance investments in our VIEs High Century, Heng Da Yi Tong, Tianjin Jinhu, Sogou Information, Gamease and Guanyou Gamespace, which are used to facilitate our participation in telecommunications, Internet content, online games and certain other businesses in China where foreign ownership is either prohibited or restricted.

The loan agreements contain provisions that, subject to PRC laws, (i) the loans can only be repaid to us by transferring the shares of High Century, Heng Da Yi Tong, Tianjin Jinhu, Sogou Information, Gamease and Guanyou Gamespace to us; (ii) the shares of High Century, Heng Da Yi Tong, Tianjin Jinhu, Sogou Information, Gamease and Guanyou Gamespace cannot be transferred by the borrowers without our approval; and (iii) we have the right to appoint all directors and senior management personnel of High Century, Heng Da Yi Tong, Tianjin Jinhu, Sogou Information, Gamease and Guanyou Gamespace. Under the loan agreements the borrowers have pledged all of their shares in High Century, Heng Da Yi Tong, Tianjin Jinhu, Sogou Information, Gamease and Guanyou Gamespace collateral for the loans, and the loans bear no interest and are due on the earlier of a demand or such time as Dr. Charles Zhang or one of the other employee borrowers, as the case may be, is not an employee of Sohu. Sohu does not intend to request repayment of the loans as long as PRC regulations prohibit it from directly investing in businesses engaged in by the VIEs.

Because these loans can only be repaid by the borrowers transferring the shares of the various entities, our ability to ultimately realize the effective return of the amounts advanced under these loans will depend on the profitability of High Century, Heng Da Yi Tong, Tianjin Jinhu, Sogou Information, Gamease and Guanyou Gamespace and is

therefore uncertain.

Furthermore, because of uncertainties associated with PRC law, ultimate enforcement of the loan agreements is uncertain. Accordingly, we may never be able to collect these loans and we may not be able to continue to exercise influence over High Century, Heng Da Yi Tong, Tianjin Jinhu, Sogou Information, Gamease and Guanyou Gamespace.



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***We depend upon contractual arrangements with our VIEs for the success of our business and these arrangements may not be as effective in providing operational control as direct ownership of these businesses and may be difficult to enforce.***

Because we conduct our Internet operations mainly in the PRC, and are restricted or prohibited by the PRC government from owning Internet content, telecommunication, online games operations and certain other operations in the PRC, we are dependent on our VIEs in which we have no direct ownership interest, to provide those services through contractual agreements among the parties and to hold some of our assets, including some of the domain names and trademarks relating to our business. These arrangements may not be as effective in providing control over our Internet content, telecommunications operations, online games operations and certain other as direct ownership of these businesses. For example, if we had direct ownership of our VIEs, we would be able to exercise our rights as a shareholder to effect changes in their boards of directors, which in turn could effect changes at the management level. Due to our VIE structure, we have to rely on contractual rights to effect control and management of our VIEs, which exposes us to the risk of potential breach of contract by the VIEs or their shareholders, such as their failing to use the domain names and trademarks held by them, or failing to maintain our Internet platforms, in an acceptable manner or taking other actions that are detrimental to our interests. In addition, as each of our VIEs is jointly owned by its shareholders, it may be difficult for us to change our corporate structure if such shareholders refuse to cooperate with us. In addition, some of our subsidiaries and VIEs could fail to take actions required for our business, such as entering into content development contracts with potential content suppliers or failing to maintain the necessary permits for the content servers. Furthermore, if the shareholders of any of our VIEs were involved in proceedings that had an adverse impact on their shareholder interests in such VIE or on our ability to enforce relevant contracts related to the VIE structure, our business would be adversely affected.

The shareholders of the VIEs may breach, or cause the VIEs to breach, the VIE contracts for a number of reasons. For example, their interests as shareholders of the VIEs and the interests of our subsidiaries may conflict and we may fail to resolve such conflicts; the shareholders may believe that breaching the contracts will lead to greater economic benefit for them; or the shareholders may otherwise act in bad faith. If any of the foregoing were to happen, we might have to rely on legal or arbitral proceedings to enforce our contractual rights. In addition, disputes may arise among the shareholders of any of our VIEs with respect to their ownership of such VIE, which could lead them to breach their agreements with us. Such arbitral and legal proceedings and disputes may cost us substantial financial and other resources, and result in disruption of our business, and the outcome might not be in our favor. For example, a PRC court or arbitration panel could conclude that our VIE contracts violate PRC law or are otherwise unenforceable. If the contractual arrangements with any of our VIEs were found by PRC authorities with appropriate jurisdiction to be unenforceable, we could lose control over the assets owned by such VIE and lose our ability to consolidate such VIE's results of operations, assets and liabilities in our consolidated financial statements and/or to transfer the revenues of such VIE to our corresponding PRC subsidiary.

***A failure by our VIEs or their shareholders to perform their obligations under our contractual arrangements with them could have an adverse effect on our business and financial condition.***

As all of these contractual arrangements are governed by PRC law and provide for the resolution of disputes through either arbitration or litigation in the PRC, they would be interpreted in accordance with PRC law and any disputes would be resolved in accordance with PRC legal procedures. We would have to rely for enforcement on legal remedies under PRC law, including specific performance, injunctive relief or damages, which might not be effective. For example, if we sought to enforce the equity interest purchase right agreements for the transfer of equity interests in any of our VIEs, if the transferee was a foreign company the transfer would be subject to approval by PRC governmental authorities such as the MIIT and the MOFCOM, and the transferee would be required to comply with various requirements, including qualification and maximum foreign shareholding percentage requirements. As these

PRC governmental authorities have wide discretion in granting such approvals, we could fail to obtain such approval. In addition, our VIE contracts might not be enforceable in China if PRC governmental authorities, courts or arbitral tribunals took the view that such contracts contravened PRC law or were otherwise not enforceable for public policy reasons.

Furthermore, the legal environment in the PRC is not as developed as in other jurisdictions, such as the United States. As a result, uncertainties in the PRC legal system could further limit our ability to enforce these contractual arrangements. In the event we were unable to enforce these contractual arrangements, we would not be able to exert effective control over our VIEs, and our ability to conduct our business, and our financial condition and results of operations, would be severely adversely affected.

***The contractual arrangements between our subsidiaries and our VIEs may result in adverse tax consequences.***

PRC laws and regulations emphasize the requirement of an arm's length basis for transfer pricing arrangements between related parties. The laws and regulations also require enterprises with related party transactions to prepare transfer pricing documentation to demonstrate the basis for determining pricing, the computation methodology and detailed explanations. Related party arrangements and transactions may be subject to challenge or tax inspection by PRC tax authorities.

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Under a tax inspection, if our transfer pricing arrangements between the China-Based Subsidiaries and VIEs are judged as tax avoidance, or related documentation does not meet the requirements, our China-based subsidiaries and VIEs may be subject to material adverse tax consequences, such as transfer pricing adjustment. A transfer pricing adjustment could result in a reduction, for PRC tax purposes, of adjustments recorded by VIEs, which could adversely affect us by (i) increasing VIE's tax liabilities without reducing our subsidiaries' tax liabilities, which could further result in interest and penalties being levied on us for unpaid taxes; or (ii) limiting the ability of our PRC companies to maintain preferential tax treatment and other financial incentives. In addition, if for any reason we needed to cause the transfer of any of the shareholders' equity interest in any of our VIEs to a different nominee shareholder (such as if, for example, one of such shareholders was no longer employed by us), we might be required to pay individual income tax, on behalf of the transferring shareholder, on any gain deemed to have been realized by such shareholder on such transfer.

***We may lose the ability to use and enjoy assets held by any of our VIEs that are important to the operation of our business if such VIE declares bankruptcy or becomes subject to a dissolution or liquidation proceeding.***

Each of our VIEs holds assets, such as our core intellectual property, licenses and permits, that are critical to our business operations. Although the equity interest purchase right agreements among our WFOEs, our VIEs and the shareholders of our VIEs contain terms that specifically obligate the shareholders of our VIEs to ensure the valid existence of our VIEs, in the event the shareholders breached these obligations and voluntarily liquidated our VIEs, or if any of our VIEs declared bankruptcy and all or part of its assets became subject to liens or rights of third-party creditors, we might be unable to continue some or all of our business operations. Furthermore, if any of our VIEs were to undergo a voluntary or involuntary liquidation proceeding, its shareholders or unrelated third-party creditors might claim rights to some or all of such VIE's assets and their rights could be senior to our rights under the VIE contracts, thereby hindering our ability to operate our business.

***Frequent press reports in the United States questioning the VIE structure used by us and other Chinese companies publicly-traded in the United States appear to have created concern among investors, and may cause such an effect in the future.***

In recent years various prominent Western news outlets have questioned the use by Chinese companies that are publicly-trade in the United States of VIE structures as a means of complying with Chinese laws prohibiting or restricting foreign ownership of certain businesses in China, including businesses we are engaged in such as Internet information and content, online advertising, online game, sponsored search, and value-added telecommunication services. Some of such news reports have also sought to draw a connection between recent widely reported accounting issues at certain Chinese companies and the use of VIE structures. Such news reports appear to have had the effect of causing concern among investors in several Chinese companies, including us, that are publicly-traded in the United States. While we are not aware of any causal connection between the recently reported accounting scandals and the use of VIE structures, it is possible that investors in our common stock will believe that such a connection exists. Any of such circumstances could lead to further loss of investor confidence in Chinese companies such as ours and cause fluctuations in the market prices of our common stock and, if such prices were to drop sharply, could subject us to shareholder litigation, which could cause the price for our shares to drop further.

**Risks Related to China's Regulation Environment**

***Political, economic and social policies of the PRC government could affect our business.***

Substantially all of our business, operating assets, fixed assets and operations are located in China, and substantially all of our revenues are derived from our operations in China. Accordingly, our business may be adversely affected by

changes in political, economic or social conditions in China, adjustments in PRC government policies or changes in laws and regulations.

The economy of China differs from the economies of most countries belonging to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in a number of respects, including:

structure;

level of government involvement;

level of development;

level of capital reinvestment;

growth rate;

control of foreign exchange; and

methods of allocating resources.

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Since 1949, China has been primarily a planned economy subject to a system of macroeconomic management. Although the PRC government still owns a significant portion of the productive assets in China, economic reform policies since the late 1970s have emphasized decentralization, autonomous enterprises and the utilization of market mechanisms. We cannot predict the future effects of the economic reform and macroeconomic measures adopted by the PRC government on our business or results of operations. Furthermore, the PRC government began to focus more attention on social issues in recent years and has promulgated or may promulgate additional laws or regulations in this area, which could affect our business in China.

***The PRC legal system embodies uncertainties which could limit the legal protections available to us and you, or could lead to penalties on us.***

The PRC legal system is a civil law system based on written statutes. Unlike common law systems, it is a system in which decided legal cases have little precedential value. In 1979, the PRC government began to promulgate a comprehensive system of laws and regulations governing economic matters in general. Our PRC operating subsidiaries Sohu New Momentum, Sohu Era, Sohu Media, Video Tianjin, Sogou Technology, Sogou Network, AmazGame, Gamespace and Beijing Baina Technology are WFOEs, which are enterprises incorporated in China and wholly-owned by our indirect off-shore subsidiaries. Those WFOEs are subject to laws and regulations applicable to foreign investment in China. In addition, all of our subsidiaries and VIEs are incorporated in China and subject to all applicable Chinese laws and regulations. Because of the relatively short period for enacting such a comprehensive legal system, it is possible that the laws, regulations and legal requirements are relatively recent, and their interpretation and enforcement involve uncertainties. These uncertainties could limit the legal protections available to us and other foreign investors, including you. Such uncertainties may also make it easier for others to infringe our intellectual property without significant cost, and new entrants to the market may tend to use gray areas to compete with us. In addition, uncertainties in the PRC legal system may lead to penalties imposed on us because of a difference in interpretation of the applicable law between the relevant governmental authority and us. For example, under current tax laws and regulations, we are responsible for paying business tax on a Self-examination and Self-application basis. However, since there is no clear guidance as to the applicability of certain areas of preferential tax treatment, we may be found to be in violation of the tax laws and regulations based on the interpretation of local tax authorities with regard to the scope of taxable services and the applicable tax rates, and therefore might be subject to penalties, including monetary penalties. In addition, we cannot predict the effect of future developments in the PRC legal system, particularly with regard to the Internet, including the promulgation of new laws, changes to existing laws or the interpretation or enforcement thereof, or the preemption of local regulations by national laws.

***The enforcement of the PRC Labor Contract Law and other labor-related regulations in the PRC may adversely affect our business and results of operations.***

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC enacted the *Labor Contract Law* in 2008, and amended it on December 28, 2012. The Labor Contract Law introduced specific provisions related to fixed-term employment contracts, part-time employment, probationary periods, consultation with labor unions and employee assemblies, employment without a written contract, dismissal of employees, severance, and collective bargaining to enhance previous PRC labor laws. Under the Labor Contract Law, an employer is obligated to sign an unlimited-term labor contract with any employee who has worked for the employer for ten consecutive years. Further, if an employee requests or agrees to renew a fixed-term labor contract that has already been entered into twice consecutively, the resulting contract, with certain exceptions, must have an unlimited term, subject to certain exceptions. With certain exceptions, an employer must pay severance to an employee where a labor contract is terminated or expires. In addition, the PRC governmental authorities have continued to introduce various new labor-related regulations since the effectiveness of the Labor Contract Law. For example, there are regulations which require that annual leave ranging from five to 15 days be made available to employees and that employees be compensated for any unused

annual leave days at a rate of three times their daily salary, subject to certain exceptions.

Under the *PRC Social Insurance Law* and the *Administrative Measures on Housing Fund*, employees are required to participate in pension insurance, work-related injury insurance, medical insurance, unemployment insurance, maternity insurance and housing funds and employers are required, together with their employees or separately, to pay the social insurance premiums and housing funds for their employees.

These laws designed to enhance labor protection tend to increase our labor costs. In addition, as the interpretation and implementation of these regulations are still evolving, our employment practices may not be at all times be deemed in compliance with the regulations. As a result, we could be subject to penalties or incur significant liabilities in connection with labor disputes or investigations.

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***If we are found to be in violation of current or future PRC laws, rules or regulations regarding Internet-related services and telecom-related activities, we could be subject to severe penalties.***

The PRC has enacted regulations that apply to Internet-related services and telecom-related activities. While many aspects of these regulations remain unclear, they purport to limit and require licensing of various aspects of the provision of Internet information and content, online advertising, online game, and mobile services.

Under the *Measures for the Administration of the Transmission of Audiovisual Programs over Internet and other Information Networks* issued by the SAPPRFT (SAPPRFT Measures), which came into effect on October 11, 2004, Websites authorized to disseminate news must apply to the SAPPRFT to obtain a Permit for the Network Transmission of Audiovisual Programs in order to disseminate streaming video online. In addition, SAPPRFT issued the *Catalogue of Classification of Internet Audio-Video Program Services (Trial)* on April 1, 2010, pursuant to which the business of providing public program searching and watching services through the Internet to the public is classified as an Internet audio-video program service for which a Permit for the Network Transmission of Audiovisual Programs is required. On May 31, 2008, Sohu Internet received a Permit for the Network Transmission of Audiovisual Programs, issued by the SAPPRFT, and received a renewal on June 20, 2014. However, Sogou Information has not yet been granted such a license. If Sogou's provision of video search services is later challenged by the SAPPRFT, we may be subject to severe penalties, including fines, or the suspension of our video search services or even our operations. In addition, Sohu's online video businesses are operated under various Internet platforms, such as sohu.com, Focus.cn and sogou.com, but current PRC laws and regulations are lack of clear provisions indicating whether it is permissible to provide video services over several Internet platforms that are owned by a single company under one permit and the SAPPRFT might claim that such operation under one permit is not allowed under the SAPPRFT Measures. If the SAPPRFT were to make such a claim, we could face penalties from the SAPPRFT, such as fines, cancellation of our existing permit, or the forced discontinuation or restriction on our video services or even our operations. If we are ordered to suspend our services, our user traffic will be reduced and therefore our revenues will be negatively affected.

We cannot assure you that we have fully complied with or will in the future always comply with PRC rules and regulations regarding Internet-related services and telecom-related activities. In addition, the PRC government may promulgate new laws, rules or regulations at any time. If current or future laws, rules or regulations regarding Internet-related activities are interpreted to be inconsistent with our ownership structure and/or our business operations, our business could be severely impaired and we could be subject to severe penalties.

***PRC laws and regulations mandate complex procedures for some acquisitions of Chinese companies by foreign investors, which could make it more difficult for us to make acquisitions in China.***

PRC laws and regulations, such as the M&A Rules, which were jointly issued by six PRC regulatory agencies on August 8, 2006 and were amended on June 22, 2009, the Anti-Monopoly Law, Circular 6 and the MOFCOM Security Review Rules, established additional procedures and requirements that are expected to make merger and acquisition activities in China by foreign investors more time-consuming and complex, including requirements in some instances that the MOFCOM be notified in advance of any change-of-control transaction in which a foreign investor takes control of a PRC domestic enterprise, or that the approval from the MOFCOM be obtained in circumstances where overseas companies established or controlled by PRC enterprises or residents acquire affiliated domestic companies. PRC laws and regulations also require certain merger and acquisition transactions to be subject to a merger control security review. The MOFCOM Security Review Rules, effective from September 1, 2011, further provide that, when deciding whether a specific merger or acquisition of a domestic enterprise by foreign investors is subject to a security review by the MOFCOM, the principle of substance over form should be applied and foreign investors are prohibited from bypassing the security review requirement by structuring transactions through proxies, trusts, indirect

investments, leases, loans, control through contractual arrangements of offshore transaction. Factors that the MOFCOM considers in its review are whether (i) an important industry is involved, (ii) such transaction involves factors that have had or may have an impact on national economic security and (iii) such transaction will lead to a change in control of a domestic enterprise that holds a well-known PRC trademark or a time-honored PRC brand. If a business of any target company that we plan to acquire falls into the ambit of security review, we may not be able to successfully acquire such company. Complying with the requirements of the relevant regulation to complete any such transaction could be time-consuming, and any required approval process, including approval from the MOFCOM, may delay or inhibit our ability to complete such transactions, which could affect our ability to expand our business.



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In addition, under the PRC AML, which took effect in 2008, an antitrust notification must be filed with the MOFCOM prior to the closing of a business combination that reaches certain notification thresholds. Although we believe that the Sogou-Tencent Transactions were not subject to the AML and we were not required to file an antitrust notification with respect to them, it is possible that MOFCOM will consider the Sogou-Tencent Transactions to have constituted a joint venture that would require an antitrust notification under the AML. If the MOFCOM were to conclude that such a notification was required, and prevail in such conclusion, MOFCOM might instruct us to discontinue the Sogou-Tencent Transactions, and within a specified time limit, dispose of the shares or assets, transfer the business and adopt other necessary measures to return to the state prior to Sogou-Tencent Transactions, and impose a fine of up to RMB500,000 on us, which could disrupt Sogou's operations and business.

***Even if we are in compliance with PRC governmental regulations relating to licensing and foreign investment prohibitions, the PRC government may prevent us from distributing, and we may be subject to liability for, content that it believes is inappropriate.***

The PRC has enacted regulations governing Internet access and the distribution of news and other information. In the past, the PRC government has stopped the distribution of information over the Internet that it believes to violate PRC law, including content that is obscene, incites violence, endangers national security, is contrary to the national interest or is defamatory. In addition, we may not publish certain news items, such as news relating to national security, without permission from the PRC government. Furthermore, the Ministry of Public Security has the authority to make any local Internet service provider block any Website maintained outside the PRC at its sole discretion. Even if we comply with PRC governmental regulations relating to licensing and foreign investment prohibitions, if the PRC government were to take any action to limit or prohibit the distribution of information through our network or to limit or regulate any current or future content or services available to users on our network, our business would be harmed.

We are also subject to potential liabilities for content on our Internet platforms that is deemed inappropriate and for any unlawful actions of our subscribers and other users of our systems under regulations promulgated by the MIIT, such potential liabilities including the imposition of fines or even the shutting down of the Internet platforms.

Furthermore, we are required to delete content that clearly violates the laws of the PRC and report content that we suspect may violate PRC law. We may have difficulty determining the type of content that may result in liability for us and, if we are wrong, we may be prevented from operating our Internet platforms.

***Dividends we receive from our operating subsidiaries located in the PRC are subject to PRC profit appropriation and PRC withholding tax.***

PRC legal restrictions permit payment of dividends by Sohu New Momentum, Sohu Era, Sohu Media, Video Tianjin, Sogou Technology, Sogou Network, AmazGame, Gamespace and Beijing Baina Technology only out of their net income, if any, determined in accordance with PRC accounting standards and regulations. Under PRC law, Sohu New Momentum, Sohu Era, Sohu Media, Video Tianjin, Sogou Technology, AmazGame, Gamespace and Beijing Baina Technology are also required to set aside 10% of their net income each year to fund certain reserve funds until these reserves equal 50% of the amount of registered capital. These reserves are not distributable as cash dividends.

Furthermore, the PRC Corporate Income Tax Law (the CIT Law) provides that a withholding tax at a rate of up to 20% may be applicable to dividends payable to non-PRC investors that are non-resident enterprises, to the extent that such dividends are derived from sources within the PRC. All of our foreign-invested enterprises have been subjected to withholding tax since January 1, 2008, generally at a 10% rate.

Under the Arrangement Between the PRC and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital ( China-HK Tax Arrangement ), which became effective on January 1, 2007, the dividend withholding tax rate may be reduced to 5%, if a Hong Kong resident enterprise is considered a non-PRC resident enterprise and holds at least 25% of the equity interests in the PRC enterprise distributing the dividends, subject to approval of the PRC local tax authority. However, if the Hong Kong resident enterprise is not considered to be the beneficial owner of such dividends under applicable PRC tax regulations, such dividends may remain subject to withholding tax at a rate of 10%. On October 27, 2009, the SAT issued a Notice on How to Understand and Determine the Beneficial Owners in Tax Agreement ( Circular 601 ), which provides guidance on determining whether an enterprise is a beneficial owner under China's tax treaties and tax arrangements. Circular 601 provides that, in order to be a beneficial owner, an entity generally must be engaged in substantive business activities. A company that is set up for the purpose of avoiding or reducing taxes or transferring or accumulating profits will not be regarded as a beneficial owner and will not qualify for treaty benefits such as preferential dividend withholding tax rates. If any of our Hong Kong subsidiaries is, in the light of Circular 601, considered to be a non-beneficial owner for purpose of the China-HK Tax Arrangement, any dividends paid to it by any of our PRC Subsidiaries would not qualify for the preferential dividend withholding tax rate of 5%, but rather would be subject to the usual rate of 10%. Furthermore, to the extent that the VIEs have undistributed after-tax profits, we must pay tax on behalf of our employees who hold interests in the VIEs when the VIEs distribute dividends in the future. The current individual income tax rate is 20%.

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**Table of Contents*****The non-U.S. activities of our non-U.S. subsidiaries and VIEs may be subject to U.S. taxation.***

Sohu.com Inc. is a Delaware corporation and is subject to income taxes in the United States. The majority of our subsidiaries and VIEs are based in China and are subject to income taxes in the PRC. These China-based subsidiaries and VIEs conduct substantially all of our operations, and generate most of our income in China.

In accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ( U.S. GAAP ), we do not provide for U.S. federal income taxes or tax benefits on the undistributed earnings or losses of our non-U.S. subsidiaries or consolidated VIEs because, for the foreseeable future, we do not have the intention to repatriate those undistributed earnings or losses to the U.S. However, our practice of not repatriating undistributed earnings to Sohu.com Inc. limits that amount of cash that would otherwise be available to us to pay dividends or repurchase shares of our common stock from the market. In addition, certain activities conducted in the PRC may give rise to U.S. corporate income tax, even if there are no distributions to Sohu.com Inc. These taxes would be imposed on Sohu.com Inc. when its subsidiaries that are controlled foreign corporations ( CFCs ) generate income that is subject to Subpart F of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, or Subpart F. Passive income, such as rents, royalties, interest, dividends, and gain from disposal of our investments is among the types of income subject to taxation under Subpart F. Any income taxable under Subpart F is taxable in the U.S. at federal corporate income tax rates of up to 35%. Subpart F income that is taxable to Sohu.com Inc., even if it is not distributed to Sohu.com, may also include income from intercompany transactions between Sohu.com Inc.'s non-U.S. subsidiaries and Changyou's non-U.S. subsidiaries, or where Sohu.com Inc.'s non-U.S. subsidiaries make an investment in U.S. property, within the meaning of Subpart F, such as holding the stock in, or making a loan to, a U.S. corporation.

In prior years, Sohu.com Inc. has not been required to treat dividends received by its Cayman Islands subsidiary, Sohu.com Limited, from Changyou as Subpart F income, which would be includible in Sohu.com Inc.'s taxable income in the U.S., by relying on what is commonly referred to as the CFC look-through rule. Under this rule, distributions from a lower-tier CFC to a higher-tier CFC are generally not Subpart F income if the activities that gave rise to the distribution arose from an active business. The CFC look-through rule is a temporary provision of the U.S. tax code that has been extended several times by the U.S. Congress. The provision is currently scheduled to expire for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2019. Unless further extended, the CFC look-through rule will be available for Sohu.com Inc.'s and Changyou.com Limited's non-U.S. subsidiaries only through their taxable years ending November 30, 2020. Sohu.com Inc. would also be subject to U.S. corporate income tax under Subpart F to the extent that Sohu.com Inc.'s non-U.S. subsidiary sells Changyou ADSs at a price higher than the adjusted tax basis of such ADSs for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Any such resulting U.S. corporate income tax imposed on Sohu.com Inc. would reduce our consolidated net income.

***Our offshore entities may need to rely on dividends and other distributions on equity paid by the China-based subsidiaries of Sohu.com Limited, Sogou and Changyou, our wholly-owned, controlled and majority-owned subsidiaries, to fund any cash requirements those offshore entities may have. Our offshore entities may not be able to obtain cash from distributions because our subsidiaries and VIEs in China are subject to restrictions imposed by PRC law, and may be subject to future debt covenant restrictions, on paying such dividends or making other payments.***

Sohu.com Inc. is a holding company with no operating assets other than investments in Chinese operating entities through our intermediate holding companies, our wholly-owned, controlled and majority-owned subsidiaries in the Cayman Islands, and our VIEs. Our offshore entities may need to rely on dividends and other distributions on equity paid by China-based subsidiaries of Sohu.com Limited, Sogou and Changyou for the cash requirements in excess of any cash raised from investors and retained by Sohu.com Inc. or our other offshore entities. The primary source of any dividend payments to our offshore entities would need to be our subsidiaries in China after they receive payments

from our VIEs under various service agreements and other arrangements. It is possible that our China-based subsidiaries will not continue to receive payments in accordance with our contracts with our VIEs that such payments will become subject to restrictions imposed PRC law. If our subsidiaries and VIEs incur debt on their own behalf in the future, the instruments governing the debt may restrict their ability to pay dividends or make other distributions to us through the intermediate companies. In addition, amounts available for dividends are further reduced because transfers of funds out of Mainland China generally are subject to a withholding tax of 5%, if transfers are made to Hong Kong and subject to Mainland China - Hong Kong tax treaty, and of 10% in other cases, and any further transfers to Sohu.com Inc. in the U.S. would generally be subject to U.S. corporate income tax at a rate of up to 35%.

The PRC government also imposes controls on the convertibility of the RMB into foreign currencies and, in certain cases, the remittance of currencies out of China. We may experience difficulties in completing the administrative procedures necessary to obtain and remit foreign currencies. If we or any of our subsidiaries are unable to receive the revenues from our operations through these contractual or dividend arrangements, we may be unable to effectively fund any cash requirements we may have.

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***Activities of Internet content providers are or will be subject to additional PRC regulations, which have not yet been put into effect. Our operations may not be consistent with these new regulations when put into effect, and, as a result, we could be subject to severe penalties.***

The MIIT has stated that the activities of Internet content providers are subject to regulation by various PRC government authorities, depending on the specific activities conducted by the Internet content provider. Various government authorities have stated publicly that they are in the process of preparing new laws and regulations that will govern these activities. The areas of regulation currently include online advertising, online news reporting, online publishing, provision of online or mobile music, online securities trading, the provision of industry-specific (e.g., drug-related) information over the Internet and foreign investment in value-added telecommunication services. Other aspects of our online operations may be subject to additional regulations in the future. For example, our live social video platform enables users to perform real time musical acts, exchange information, interact with others and engage in various other online activities. We cannot assure you that the PRC regulatory authorities will not issue new laws or regulations specifically regulating the operation of a real-time social video platform. Our operations might not be consistent with current laws and regulations or any such new regulations and, as a result, we could be subject to penalties.

***Regulation and censorship of information distribution in China may adversely affect our business.***

China has enacted regulations governing Internet access and the distribution of news and other information. Furthermore, the Propaganda Department of the Chinese Communist Party takes the responsibility to censor news published in China to ensure, supervise and control a particular political ideology. In addition, the MIIT has published implementing regulations that subject online information providers to potential liability for contents included in their portals and the actions of subscribers and others using their systems, including liability for violation of PRC laws prohibiting the distribution of content deemed to be socially destabilizing. Furthermore, because many PRC laws, regulations and legal requirements with regard to the Internet are relatively new and untested, their interpretation and enforcement may involve significant uncertainty. In addition, the PRC legal system is a civil law system in which decided legal cases have limited binding force as legal precedents. As a result, in many cases an Internet platform operator may have difficulties determining the type of content that may subject it to liability.

Periodically, the Ministry of Public Security has stopped the distribution over the Internet of information which it believes to be socially destabilizing. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Public Security also has the authority to require any local Internet service provider to block any Website maintained outside China at its sole discretion. If the PRC government were to take action or exercise its authority to limit or eliminate the distribution of information through our portal or to limit or regulate current or future applications available to users of our portal, our business would be adversely affected.

The State Secrecy Bureau, which is directly responsible for the protection of state secrets of all PRC government and Chinese Communist Party organizations, is authorized to block any Website it deems to be leaking state secrets or failing to meet the relevant regulations relating to the protection of state secrets in the distribution of online information. Under the applicable regulations, we may be held liable for any content transmitted on our portal. Furthermore, where the transmitted content clearly violates the laws of the PRC, we will be required to delete it. Moreover, if we consider transmitted content suspicious, we are required to report such content. We must also undergo computer security inspections, and if we fail to implement the relevant safeguards against security breaches, we may be shut down. In addition, under recently adopted regulations, Internet companies which provide bulletin board systems, chat rooms or similar services, such as our company, must apply for the approval of the State Secrecy Bureau. As the implementing rules of these new regulations have not been issued, we do not know how or when we will be expected to comply, or how our business will be affected by the application of these regulations.



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**Table of Contents*****We may be subject to the PRC government's ongoing crackdown on Internet pornographic content.***

The Chinese government has stringent prohibitions on online pornographic information and has launched several crackdowns on Internet pornography recently. On December 4, 2009, the MIIT and other three PRC government authorities jointly issued the *Incentives Measures for Report of Pornographic, Obscene and Vulgar Messages on Internet and Mobile Media* (the Anti-Pornography Notice) to further crackdown on online pornography. Pursuant to this Anti-Pornography Notice, rewards of up to RMB10,000 will be provided to Internet users who report Websites that feature pornography, and a committee has been established to review such reports to determine an appropriate award. On April 13, 2014, the National Working Group on Anti-Pornography and three other PRC government authorities jointly issued the Anti-Pornography Proclamation, under which Internet service providers must immediately remove texts, images, video, advertisements and other information that contain pornographic content. The relevant government authority may order enterprises or individuals who flagrantly produce or disseminate pornographic content to stop conducting business, and may revoke relevant administrative permits. Although we require all users upon account registration to agree to our terms of service, which specify the types of content that are prohibited on our platform, and we have deleted from our relevant channels and communities all Web pages with material that we believe could reasonably be considered to be vulgar and have strengthened our internal censorship and supervision of links and content uploaded by users, it is possible that our users may engage in obscene conversations or activities on our platform that may be deemed illegal under PRC laws and regulations. For example, we provide a live social video platform for users, and because the video and audio communication on this platform is conducted in real time, we are unable to examine the content generated by our hosts and users on air before the content is streamed on the platform. There is no assurance that content considered vulgar by PRC government agencies will not appear in the future. We may be subject to fines or other disciplinary actions, including in serious cases suspension or revocation of the licenses necessary to operate our platform, if we are deemed to have facilitated the appearance of inappropriate content placed by third parties on our platform under PRC laws and regulations. In addition, if we are accused by the government of hosting vulgar content, our reputation could be adversely affected.

***Regulations relating to the online transmission of foreign films and TV dramas may adversely affect our online video business.***

On September 2, 2014, the SAPPRFT issued a *Notice on Further Strengthening the Administration of Online Foreign Audiovisual Content* (the September 2014 SAPPRFT Notice), which requires that operators of audiovisual Websites obtain from the SAPPRFT a Film Public Screening Permit, TV Drama Distribution Permit, or TV Animation Distribution Permit for all foreign films and TV dramas before they are transmitted via the Internet in China. The September 2014 SAPPRFT Notice further stipulates that before any foreign films or TV dramas for transmission exclusively via the Internet are purchased after the promulgation of the September 2014 SAPPRFT Notice, operators of audiovisual Websites must declare their annual purchasing plans with the SAPPRFT before the end of the year preceding the year of the intended broadcast and obtain the SAPPRFT's approval. The September 2014 SAPPRFT Notice also states that the number of foreign films and TV dramas to be purchased by an operator and transmitted via its Website in a single year may not exceed 30% of the total amount of the Chinese films and TV dramas purchased and transmitted by the same Website in the previous year.

We rely heavily on foreign films and TV dramas to attract users and advertisers to our online video Internet platforms and, accordingly, the promulgation of the September 2014 SAPPRFT Notice could have an adverse impact on our online video business. If we are not able to obtain the required SAPPRFT approval in time, there will be a delay in our ability to broadcast such foreign films and TV dramas on our Internet platforms and in our generation of advertising revenues from such films and TV dramas. We are also subject to the risk that users might access pirated versions of such films and TV dramas during any such delay, and become less likely to view them on our Internet platforms when they become available, which would cause our online traffic and advertising revenues to be lower than we expected. If

we fail to obtain the required approval by the SAPPRFT, we may not be able to recoup the costs we spent in acquiring the broadcasting rights of, and marketing, those films and TV dramas. In addition, it could be necessary for us to recognize impairment charges related to foreign films and TV dramas we have purchased. The requirement of a minimum ratio of domestic video content to foreign-sourced content in the September 2014 SAPPRFT Notice may require us to purchase more domestic video content in order for us to be permitted to maintain a sufficient portfolio of online foreign films and TV dramas. If, on the other hand, we respond to the minimum ratio requirement of the September 2014 SAPPRFT Notice by reducing our purchases of foreign films and TV dramas, our attraction to users, traffic or advertisers on our online video Internet platforms could be reduced, resulting in a decrease in our advertising revenues.



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**Table of Contents*****Regulations relating to offshore investment activities by PRC residents may limit our ability to acquire PRC companies and could adversely affect our business.***

In July 2014, SAFE promulgated Circular 37, which replaced Circular 75, promulgated by SAFE in October 2005. Circular 37 requires PRC residents, including PRC institutions and individuals, to register with the local SAFE branch in connection with their direct establishment or indirect control of an offshore entity, referred to in Circular 37 as a special purpose vehicle, for the purpose of holding domestic or offshore assets or interests. PRC residents must also file amendments to their registrations in the event of any significant changes with respect to the special purpose vehicle, such as increase or decrease of capital contributed by PRC individuals, share transfer or exchange, merger, division or other material event. Under these regulations, PRC residents' failure to comply with specified registration procedures may result in restrictions being imposed on the foreign exchange activities of the relevant PRC entity, including the payment of dividends and other distributions to its offshore parent, as well as restrictions on capital inflows from the offshore entity to the PRC entity, including restrictions on the ability to contribute additional capital to the PRC entity. It is unclear how these regulations will be interpreted and implemented as Circular 37 is newly issued and it is possible that some or all of our and Changyou's shareholders who are PRC residents will not comply with all the requirements required by Circular 37 or related rules. Any future failure by any of our, or Changyou's shareholders who is a PRC resident, or controlled by a PRC resident, to comply with relevant requirements under these regulations could subject us and Changyou to fines or sanctions imposed by the PRC government, including restrictions on our subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends or make distributions to us and our ability to increase our investment in these subsidiaries.

***We may be subject to fines and legal sanctions if we or our employees who are PRC citizens fail to comply with PRC regulations relating to employee share options.***

Under the *Administration Measures on Individual Foreign Exchange Control* issued by the PBOC and the related Implementation Rules issued by the SAFE, all foreign exchange transactions involving an employee share incentive plan, share option plan or similar plan participated in by PRC citizens may be conducted only with the approval of the SAFE. Under the *Notice of Issues Related to the Foreign Exchange Administration for Domestic Individuals Participating in Stock Incentive Plan of Overseas Listed Company* ( Offshore Share Incentives Rule ), issued by the SAFE on February 15, 2012, PRC citizens who are granted share options, restricted share units or restricted shares by an overseas publicly listed company are required to register with the SAFE or its authorized branch and comply with a series of other requirements. The Offshore Share Incentives Rule also provides procedures for registration of incentive plans, the opening and use of special accounts for the purpose of participation in incentive plans, and the remittance of funds for exercising options and gains realized from such exercises and sales of such options or the underlying shares, both outside and inside the PRC. We, and any of our PRC employees or members of our board of directors who have been granted share options, restricted share units or restricted shares, are subject to the *Administration Measures on Individual Foreign Exchange Control*, the related Implementation Rules, and the Offshore Share Incentives Rule. Circular 37 was the first regulation to regulate the foreign exchange registration of a non-listed special purpose vehicle's equity incentives granted to PRC residents, there remains uncertainty with respect to its implementation. If we, or any of our PRC employees or members of our board of directors who receive or hold options, restricted share units or restricted shares in us or any of our subsidiaries, fail to comply with these registration and other procedural requirements, we may be subject to fines and other legal or administrative sanctions.

***It may be difficult to enforce any civil judgments against us or our Board of Directors or officers, because most of our operating and/or fixed assets are located outside the United States.***

Although we are incorporated in the State of Delaware, most of our operating and fixed assets are located in the PRC. As a result, it may be difficult for investors to enforce judgments outside the United States obtained in actions brought

against us in the United States, including actions predicated upon the civil liability provisions of the federal securities laws of the United States or of the securities laws of any state of the United States. In addition, certain of our directors and officers (principally based in the PRC) and all or a substantial portion of their assets are located outside the United States. As a result, it may not be possible for investors to effect service of process within the United States upon those directors and officers, or to enforce against them or us judgments obtained in United States courts, including judgments predicated upon the civil liability provisions of the federal securities laws of the United States or of the securities laws of any state of the United States. We have been advised by our PRC counsel that, in their opinion, there is doubt as to the enforceability in the PRC, in original actions or in actions for enforcement of judgments of United States courts, of civil liabilities predicated solely upon the federal securities laws of the United States or the securities laws of any state of the United States.

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***If the status of certain of our PRC subsidiaries and VIEs as High and New Technology Enterprises, Key National Software Enterprises or Software Enterprises is revoked or expires, we may have to pay additional taxes or make up any previously unpaid tax and may be subject to a higher tax rate, which would adversely affect our results of operations.***

The CIT Law imposes a unified income tax rate of 25% for both domestic and foreign invested enterprises. High and New Technology Enterprises ( HNTEs ) will enjoy a favorable tax rate of 15% for three years, but need to re-apply after the end of the three-year period. If at any time during the three-year period the relevant tax bureau questions whether an enterprise continues to qualify as an HNTe, the enterprise can be subject to further tax examination and may not be able to continue to enjoy the preferential tax rate. Key National Software Enterprises can enjoy a further reduced preferential income tax rate of 10% for two years, but need to re-apply after the end of the two-year period. Several of our PRC Subsidiaries and VIEs qualified as HNTEs and have enjoyed, and will enjoy reduced tax rates in 2015, 2016 and/or 2017 and one of our PRC Subsidiaries qualified as a Key National Software Enterprise in 2013 and 2014.

In addition, the CIT Law and its implementing regulations provide that Software Enterprises can enjoy an income tax exemption for two years beginning with their first profitable year and a 50% reduction to a rate of 12.5% for the subsequent three years. A number of our PRC Subsidiaries qualified for exemptions or rate reductions in 2013, 2014 and/or 2015. There are uncertainties regarding future interpretation and implementation of the CIT Law and its implementing regulations. It is possible that the HNTe, Software Enterprise, and Key National Software Enterprise qualifications of our operating entities currently qualified as such, or their entitlement to an income tax exemption or refund of their VAT, will be challenged by higher level tax authorities and be repealed, or that there will be future implementing regulations that are inconsistent with current interpretation of the CIT Law. For example, according to a circular recently issued by the SAT, there will be new regulations promulgated by relevant authorities concerning new criteria to certify a Software Enterprise. Therefore, it is possible that the qualification of one or more of our PRC Subsidiaries or VIEs as a Software Enterprise will be challenged in the future or that such companies will not be able to take any further actions, such as re-application for Software Enterprise qualification, to enjoy such preferential tax treatments. If those operating entities cannot qualify for such income tax or VAT holidays, our effective income tax rate or VAT rate, as the case may be, will be increased significantly and we may have to pay additional income tax to make up the previously unpaid tax, which would reduce our net income.

***We may be deemed a PRC resident enterprise under the CIT Law and be subject to PRC taxation on our worldwide income.***

The CIT Law provides that enterprises established outside of China whose de facto management bodies are located within China are considered resident enterprises and are generally subject to the uniform 25% enterprise income tax rate on their worldwide income (including dividend income received from subsidiaries). Under the *Implementing Regulations for the Corporate Income Tax Law*, de facto management body is defined as a body that has material and overall management and control over the manufacturing and business operations, personnel and human resources, finances and treasury, and acquisition and disposition of properties and other assets of an enterprise. Since substantially all of our operational management is currently based in the PRC, it is unclear whether PRC tax authorities would require (or permit) us to be treated as a PRC-resident enterprise. If we are treated as a resident enterprise for PRC tax purposes, we will be subject to PRC tax on our worldwide income at the 25% uniform tax rate, which could have an impact on our effective tax rate and an adverse effect on our net income and the results of operations, although dividends distributed from our PRC Subsidiaries to us could be exempted from Chinese dividend withholding tax, since such income is exempted under the CIT Law for PRC-resident recipients.

***Dividends payable by us to our foreign investors and profits on the sale of our shares may be subject to tax under PRC tax laws.***

Under the *Implementing Regulations for the Corporate Income Tax Law*, PRC income tax at the rate of 10% is applicable to dividends payable to investors that are non-resident enterprises, not having an establishment or place of business in the PRC, or which do have such establishment or place of business but the relevant income is not effectively connected with the establishment or place of business, to the extent that such dividends have their sources within the PRC. Similarly, any profits realized through the transfer of shares by such investors are also subject to 10% PRC income tax if such profits are regarded as income derived from sources within the PRC. It is unclear whether dividends we pay with respect to our share, or the profits you may realize from the transfer of our shares, would be treated as income derived from sources within the PRC and be subject to PRC tax. If we are required under the *Implementing Regulations for the Corporate Income Tax Law* to withhold PRC income tax on dividends payable to our non-PRC investors that are non-resident enterprises, or if you are required to pay PRC income tax on the transfer of our shares, the value of your investment in our shares may be materially and adversely affected.

***Restrictions on currency exchange may limit our ability to utilize our revenues effectively.***

Substantially all of our revenues and operating expenses are denominated in RMB. The RMB is currently freely convertible under the current account, which includes dividends, trade and service related foreign exchange transactions, but not under the capital account, which includes foreign direct investment.

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Currently, our China-Based Subsidiaries may purchase foreign exchange for settlement of current account transactions, including payment of dividends, without the approval of the SAFE. Our China-Based Subsidiaries may also retain foreign exchange in its current account (subject to a ceiling approved by the SAFE) to satisfy foreign exchange liabilities or to pay dividends. However, the relevant PRC governmental authorities may limit or eliminate our ability to purchase and retain foreign currencies in the future.

Since a significant amount of our future revenues will be in the form of RMB, the existing and any future restrictions on currency exchange may limit our ability to utilize revenue generated in RMB to fund our business activities outside China, if any, or expenditures denominated in foreign currencies.

Foreign exchange transactions under the capital account are still subject to limitations and require approvals from the SAFE. This could affect our China-Based Subsidiaries' ability to obtain foreign exchange through debt or equity financing, including by means of loans or capital contributions from us.

***We may suffer currency exchange losses if the RMB depreciates relative to the U.S. dollar.***

Our reporting currency is the U.S. dollar. However, substantially all of our revenues are denominated in RMB. In July 2005, China reformed its exchange rate regime by establishing a managed floating exchange rate regime based on market supply and demand with reference to a basket of currencies. The RMB is no longer pegged to the U.S. dollar and the exchange rate will have some flexibility. Hence, considering the floating exchange rate regime, if the RMB depreciates relative to the U.S. dollar, our revenues as expressed in our U.S. dollar financial statements will decline in value. Also, we currently have outstanding loans from overseas banks that are denominated in U.S. dollars. To repay these loans, we will need to first convert our cash denominated in RMB into U.S. dollars. If the RMB depreciates relative to the U.S. dollar, we will have to use a larger amount of cash in RMB for any such loan repayment.

On May 19, 2007, the PBOC announced a policy to expand the maximum daily floating range of RMB trading prices against the U.S. dollar in the inter-bank spot foreign exchange market from 0.3% to 0.5%. While the international reactions to the RMB revaluation and widening of the RMB's daily trading band have generally been positive, with the increased floating range of the RMB's value against foreign currencies, the RMB may appreciate or depreciate significantly in value against the U.S. dollar or other foreign currencies in the long term, depending on the fluctuation of the basket of currencies against which it is currently valued. On June 19, 2010, the PBOC announced that it has decided to proceed further with the reform of the RMB exchange rate regime to enhance the flexibility of the RMB exchange rate and that emphasis would be placed on reflecting market supply and demand with reference to a basket of currencies. While so indicating its intention to make the RMB's exchange rate more flexible, the PBOC ruled out any sharp fluctuations in the currency or a one-off adjustment. On April 16, 2012, the PBOC enlarged the floating band of RMB's trading prices against the U.S. dollar in the inter-bank spot foreign exchange market from 0.5% to 1% around the middle rate released by the China Foreign Exchange Trade System each day. In February 2014, the center point of the currency's official trading band hit 6.1146, representing appreciation of more than 11.7% since June 19, 2010. On March 17, 2014, the PBOC announced a policy to further expand the maximum daily floating range of RMB trading prices against the U.S. dollar in the inter-bank spot foreign exchange market to 2%. In 2015, the RMB depreciated significantly. The center point of the currency's official trading band was 6.1265 in January, and was 6.4465 in December, which contributed to a decline in our 2015 revenues, which we report in U.S. dollars in our financial statements. In addition, there are very limited hedging transactions available in China to reduce our exposure to exchange rate fluctuations. While we may decide to enter into hedging transactions in the future, the availability and effectiveness of these hedges may be limited and we may not be able to successfully hedge our exposure, if at all. In addition, our currency exchange losses may be magnified by PRC exchange control regulations that restrict our ability to convert RMB into U.S. dollars.

## **Risks Related to Our Common Stock**

*The market price of our common stock has been and will likely continue to be volatile. The price of our common stock may fluctuate significantly, which may make it difficult for stockholders to sell shares of our common stock when desired or at attractive prices.*

The market price of our common stock has been volatile and is likely to continue to be so. The initial public offering price of our common stock in July 2000 was \$13.00 per share. The trading price of our common stock subsequently dropped to a low of \$0.52 per share on April 9, 2001. During 2014, the trading price of our common stock ranged from a low of \$42.03 per share to a high of \$87.68 per share. On February 23, 2016, the closing price of our common stock was \$44.58 per share.

In addition, the NASDAQ Global Select Market has from time to time experienced significant price and volume fluctuations that have affected the market prices for the securities of technology companies, and particularly Internet-related companies.

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The price for our common stock 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 and media properties 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 news reports relating to trends in our markets or general economic conditions. Additionally, volatility or a lack of positive performance in our stock price may adversely affect our ability to retain key employees, all of whom have been granted share options or other stock awards.

***We are controlled by a small group of our existing stockholders, whose interests may differ from other stockholders.***

Dr. Charles Zhang beneficially owns approximately 20% of the outstanding shares of our common stock and is our largest stockholder. Our Chief Executive Officer, together with our other executive officers and members of our Board of Directors, beneficially own approximately 21% of the outstanding shares of our common stock. Accordingly these stockholders acting together will have significant influence in determining the outcome of any corporate transaction or other matters submitted to the stockholders for approval, including mergers, consolidations, the sale of all or substantially all of our assets, election of directors and other significant corporate actions. They will also have significant influence in preventing or causing a change in control. In addition, without the consent of these stockholders, we may be prevented from entering into transactions that could be beneficial to us. The interests of these stockholders may differ from the interests of the other stockholders.

***Anti-takeover provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law and our certificate of incorporation could delay or deter a change in control.***

Some provisions of our certificate of incorporation and by-laws, as well as various provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law, may make it more difficult to acquire our company or effect a change in control of our company, even if an acquisition or change in control would be in the interest of our stockholders or if an acquisition or change in control would provide our stockholders with a premium for their shares over then current market prices. For example, our certificate of incorporation provides for the division of our Board of Directors into two classes with staggered two-year terms and provides that stockholders have no right to take action by written consent and may not call special meetings of stockholders, each of which may make it more difficult for a third party to gain control of our board in connection with, or obtain any necessary stockholder approval for, a proposed acquisition or change in control.

***The power of our Board of Directors to designate and issue shares of preferred stock could have an adverse effect on holders of our common stock.***

Our certificate of incorporation authorizes our Board of Directors to designate and issue one or more series of preferred stock, having rights and preferences as the board may determine, and any such designations and issuances could have an adverse effect on the rights of holders of common stock.

***Registered public accounting firms in China, including our independent registered public accounting firm, are not inspected by the U.S. Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, which deprives us and our investors of the benefits of such inspection.***

Auditors of companies whose shares are registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and traded publicly in the United States, including our independent registered public accounting firm, must be registered with the U.S. Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (the PCAOB) and are required by the laws of the United States to undergo regular inspections by the PCAOB to assess their compliance with the laws of the United States and

professional standards applicable to auditors. Our independent registered public accounting firm is located in, and organized under the laws of, the PRC, which is a jurisdiction where the PCAOB, notwithstanding the requirements of U.S. law, is currently unable to conduct inspections without the approval of the Chinese authorities. In May 2013, PCAOB announced that it had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on Enforcement Cooperation with the CSRC and the PRC Ministry of Finance, which establishes a cooperative framework between the parties for the production and exchange of audit documents relevant to investigations undertaken by PCAOB, the CSRC or the PRC Ministry of Finance in the United States and the PRC, respectively. PCAOB continues to be in discussions with the CSRC and the PRC Ministry of Finance to permit joint inspections in the PRC of audit firms that are registered with PCAOB and audit Chinese companies that trade on U.S. exchanges.

This lack of PCAOB inspections in China prevents the PCAOB from fully evaluating audits and quality control procedures of our independent registered public accounting firm. As a result, we and investors in our common stock are deprived of the benefits of such PCAOB inspections. The inability of the PCAOB to conduct inspections of auditors in China makes it more difficult to evaluate the effectiveness of our independent registered public accounting firm's audit procedures or quality control procedures as compared to auditors outside of China that are subject to PCAOB inspections, which could cause investors and potential investors in our stock to lose confidence in our audit procedures and reported financial information and the quality of our financial statements.



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***If additional remedial measures are imposed on the Big Four PRC-based accounting firms, including our independent registered public accounting firm, in administrative proceedings brought by the SEC alleging the firms' failure to meet specific criteria set by the SEC, we could be unable to timely file future financial statements in compliance with the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.***

In December 2012, the SEC instituted administrative proceedings against the Big Four PRC-based accounting firms, including our independent registered public accounting firm, alleging that these firms had violated U.S. securities laws and the SEC's rules and regulations thereunder by failing to provide to the SEC the firms' audit work papers with respect to certain PRC-based companies that are publicly traded in the United States. On January 22, 2014, the ALJ presiding over the matter rendered an initial decision that each of the firms had violated the SEC's rules of practice by failing to produce audit workpapers to the SEC. The initial decision censured each of the firms and barred them from practicing before the SEC for a period of six months. The Big Four PRC-based accounting firms appealed the ALJ's initial decision to the SEC. The ALJ's decision does not take effect unless and until it is endorsed by the SEC. On February 6, 2015, the four China-based accounting firms each agreed to a censure and to pay a fine to the SEC to settle the dispute and avoid suspension of their ability to practice before the SEC and audit U.S.-listed companies. The settlement required the firms to follow detailed procedures and to seek to provide the SEC with access to Chinese firms' audit documents via the China Securities Regulatory Commission, or the CSRC. If future document productions fail to meet specified criteria, the SEC retains authority to impose a variety of additional remedial measures on the firms depending on the nature of the failure. While we cannot predict if the SEC will further review the four China-based accounting firms' compliance with specified criteria or if the results of such a review would result in the SEC imposing penalties such as suspensions or restarting the administrative proceedings, if the accounting firms are subject to additional remedial measures, our ability to file our financial statements in compliance with SEC requirements could be impacted. A determination that we have not timely filed financial statements in compliance with SEC requirements could ultimately lead to the delisting of our common stock from NASDAQ or the termination of the registration of our common stock under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or both, which would substantially reduce or effectively terminate the trading of our common stock in the United States.

**Risks Related to Our Financing Activities**

***Sogou's status as a controlled, but less than wholly-owned, subsidiary of us could have an adverse effect on us.***

Given that Sogou is not a wholly-owned subsidiary of us, it is possible that our and Sogou's interests could diverge in the future as we may need to consider the interests of other shareholders of Sogou. If Sogou's interests differ from, or are contrary to, our interests, our business operations may be adversely affected. Furthermore, if our search business does not break even or achieve profitability and we are unable to raise additional capital, we could be forced to suspend the operation of our search business, and even if we were able to raise additional capital, our interest in Sogou would be further diluted.

Moreover, since Sohu does not hold 100% of Sogou, certain transactions between Sohu and Sogou, as well as between their subsidiaries and VIEs, might expose Sohu.com Inc. to up to 35% U.S. corporate income tax. In addition, certain transactions entered into by Sogou and its subsidiaries and VIEs, such as investing in U.S. properties, might expose Sohu.com Inc. to the risk that these will be treated as transactions subject to U.S. tax. If Sogou were to pay a dividend to its shareholders, we, as one of the shareholders of Sogou, could be subject to U.S. corporate income tax at up to 35% on the portion of the dividend it received.

***Changyou's status as a public company could have an adverse impact on Sohu.***

Changyou's American depositary shares, or ADSs, are listed and traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market. As a separate publicly-listed company, Changyou may have interests that differ from, or may even be contrary to, those of Sohu, and we may have disagreements on certain matters. Our business might be adversely affected by any such disagreements.

Changyou's status as a publicly-listed company may have adverse U.S. tax consequences for us. As the Sohu Group has two listed companies, Sohu.com Inc. and Changyou.com Limited, which are regarded as separate legal entities for U.S. tax purposes, certain transactions between these two companies, as well as between their subsidiaries and VIEs, might expose Sohu.com Inc. to U.S. corporate income tax at a rate of 34%. Moreover, certain types of transactions by Changyou and its subsidiaries and VIEs investing in U.S. properties, for example might expose Sohu.com Inc. to the risk that the transactions will be subject to U.S. tax. If Changyou pays dividends, Sohu.com Inc., as one of the shareholders of Changyou, might be subject to U.S. corporate income tax at a rate of up to 35% for the dividends received. Under certain circumstances, when we sell Changyou ordinary shares originally held by us at a price higher than our U.S. tax basis, a portion of the proceeds will be subject to U.S. corporate income tax at a rate of up to 35%.

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**Table of Contents****Risks Related to Changyou.com Limited****Risks Relating to Changyou's Business and Industry****Overall Risks**

*The markets for Changyou's products and services are evolving rapidly and significantly, which makes evaluating its business and prospects difficult.*

Changyou's business and the industry in which it operates are evolving rapidly. Changyou was incorporated on August 6, 2007 in the Cayman Islands and began its online game business as an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of us. In 2007 we transferred all of our PC game business to Changyou. In 2011 Changyou acquired 7Road and began generating Web game revenues. In 2012, Changyou began to develop and operate mobile games, but did not begin to generate any significant revenues from mobile games until late in 2014 when Changyou launched TLBB 3D. In August 2015, as revenues from Changyou's Web games Wartune and DDTank had begun to decline, Changyou sold 7Road's operating entity Shenzhen 7Road, and as a result Changyou has no remaining significant Web games in operation. In 2011, Changyou began to expand into the platform channel business with its acquisition of the 17173.com Website, which operates Changyou's online advertising business, from us and acquired the entities operating Changyou's cinema advertising business. In December 2013, Changyou acquired RaidCall, which operates free social communication software; and in July 2014 Changyou acquired a majority interest in MoboTap, which operates the Dolphin Browser. However, Changyou's acquisitions of RaidCall and MoboTap were not successful, as expected synergies did not materialize. Changyou's revenues from platform channel services other than from online advertising on the 17173.com Website have been relatively insignificant.

Changyou's past successes in its online games business with PC games may not provide a meaningful basis for you to evaluate its current business and prospects, as game players increasingly migrate from personal computers to mobile devices to access online games and the relative popularity of PC games continues to decline. In response to such rapid migration, Changyou has devoted and Changyou expects to continue to devote substantial resources to the development of its mobile games as a critical component of its business strategy. However, Changyou's mobile games strategy has not been proven, and presents very different challenges from those presented in the past by its operation of PC games and Web games. We cannot be certain that Changyou will be successful in its efforts to continue to expand into mobile games. Despite the success of Changyou's mobile game TLBB 3D, the popularity of, and the revenues generated from, the game declined through 2015, and Changyou has not been able to generate comparable revenues from new mobile games to sustain or grow its mobile game business.

You should also consider additional risks and uncertainties that may be experienced by companies operating in a rapidly developing and evolving industry. Some of these risks and uncertainties relate to Changyou's ability to:

raise Changyou's brand recognition and game player loyalty;

develop, license or operate new games that are appealing to game players; adapt to new trends and game player tastes; and meet Changyou's expected timetable for launches of new games, and that, if they are successful, have acceptably long lifespans and result in an acceptable level of profit for Changyou;

successfully adapt to evolving business models, industry trends and market environments by developing and investing in new business strategies, products, services and technologies, including new games;

arrange for its mobile games to be distributed through popular mobile application stores with commercial terms, including revenue-sharing arrangements, that are favorable enough to Changyou and allow it to achieve an acceptable level of profit from the games;

integrate new technologies, businesses and personnel of acquired entities, and generate sufficient revenues to offset the costs and expenses of such acquisitions;

maintain or expand its marketing efforts to attract more game players to its games and to the game information portal of the 17173.com Website in a rapidly changing and increasingly competitive business environment, and generate sufficient revenues to offset the costs and expenses of such marketing efforts; and

maintain and strengthen the 17173.com Website and its leading position among game information portals in China, particularly in view of the rapid emergence of mobile games and the decline in the relative popularity of PC games and Web games as users increasingly switch to mobile devices.

If Changyou does not adapt its business to address these risks and uncertainties, its ability to continue its past success or to expand its business in the future is likely to be impeded.

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***Changyou's business may not succeed in a highly competitive market.***

Competition in the online game market in China is becoming increasingly intense. Changyou competes principally with the following three groups of competitors in China:

online game developers and/or operators in China that are publicly traded in the United States and in Hong Kong, including Tencent Holdings Limited, NetEase.com, Inc., Kingsoft Corporation Limited, IGG Inc. and NetDragon Websoft Inc.;

other companies in China devoted to game development and/or operation that are publicly traded in China, such as Kalends Inc., Ourpalm Corporate limited, Century Cruises (formerly known as Giant Interactive Group Inc.), or privately-held companies, usually backed by venture capital or private equity, including Da Xing (formerly known as Perfect World Co., Ltd.) and Shulong Technologies (formerly known as Shanda Games Limited); and

international competitors.

In addition, there are many venture-backed private companies focusing on online game development and operation, further intensifying the competition. Many of Changyou's competitors aggressively hire talent for game development, and have been increasing spending on marketing for games, bidding for licenses of games, penetrating into the mobile game market, and releasing new software for mobile devices to attract a growing number of game players that access Internet products and services through mobile devices. Increased competition may make it difficult for Changyou to retain its existing employees and attract new employees, and to sustain its growth.

The17173.com Website derives revenue primarily from providing online advertising services to advertisers that develop, operate and distribute PC games. As the market demand for PC games continues to decline, the 17173.com Website faces intense competition, particularly from mobile application stores and other Internet platforms through which game players access mobile games, for advertising business targeting online players of mobile games. Changyou competes with other game information portals, such as duowan.com, operated by YY Inc., and game.qq.com, operated by Tencent Holdings Limited, and other Internet portals which have, or may over time be able to build, competitive advantages over Changyou in terms of:

greater brand recognition among game players and advertising clients;

larger user and customer bases;

more extensive and well developed marketing and sales networks;

more attractive mobile versions of their game information portals and more extensive mobile game-related products and services in response to the rapid migration of users of Internet services from PCs to mobile

devices, such as tablets and mobile phones; and

substantially greater financial and technical resources.

If Changyou is unable to sustain and enhance its brand recognition, provide quality products and services, provide extensive and high quality mobile game-related products and services to meet game players' needs, and meet other difficult technological and business challenges, then its users and advertising clients may become dissatisfied and move to a competitor's portal for products and services, its user base may decrease and its ability to generate advertising revenues on its 17173.com Website may decline as a result.

In order to compete effectively in the PRC, as well as in the worldwide market, Changyou must continue to invest in research and development, to enhance its technology and its existing games, advertising and other services, and to introduce new game products and services in order for it to adapt to industry trends and shifting demands of game players and advertising clients and to remain competitive. If Changyou's products and services are not responsive to the needs of its game players and advertisers, are not appropriately timed with market opportunities, or are not effectively brought to market, or if its competitors are more successful than Changyou is in developing compelling products or in attracting and retaining game players and advertisers, Changyou may not be able to recoup such expenditures.

***Changyou's business could suffer if Changyou does not successfully manage any future growth.***

Changyou experienced a period of rapid growth and expansion through 2013 that placed strain on its management personnel, systems and resources. In addition, to accommodate any future growth, Changyou anticipates that it will need to implement a variety of new and upgraded operational and financial systems, including procedures and controls, improvement of its accounting and other internal management systems and security systems related to the foregoing, all of which require substantial management efforts and financial resources. Changyou will also need to continue to train, manage and motivate its workforce, and manage its relationships with its third-party operators, distributors and service providers and its game player base. All of these endeavors will require substantial management effort and skills and the incurrence of additional expenditures. Changyou may not be able to efficiently or effectively implement its growth strategies and manage the growth of its operations, and any failure to do so may limit its future growth and hamper its business strategy.

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**Table of Contents*****Changyou may not be able to avoid future slowing of its revenue growth or future losses.***

Changyou's revenues grew significantly in a relatively short period of time prior to 2014, but its revenue growth stalled in 2014 and 2015. Primarily due to the commercial success of TLBB, its revenues grew from \$623.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2012 to \$737.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2013. However, its revenues increased only slightly to \$755.3 million and to \$761.6 million, respectively, for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2015. Its net income attributable to Changyou.com Limited decreased from \$282.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2012 to \$268.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2013, Changyou suffered a net loss attributable to Changyou.com Limited of \$3.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 and sustained operating losses for each quarter of 2014. Although Changyou's net income attributable to Changyou.com Limited was \$212.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2015, primarily due to the commercial success of its mobile game TLBB 3D, a decrease in its sales and marketing expenses, and a decrease in its salary and benefit expenses as a result of a reduction in its workforce, Changyou is not likely to experience rates of revenue growth in the future similar to those that it experienced prior to 2014. Changyou also may experience declines in its revenues or net losses in the future due to a number of factors, including, among other things, the continued decline in TLBB's and TLBB 3D's revenues and profitability, the uncertain level of popularity of its future games (particularly its future mobile games as users increasingly switch to mobile devices), uncertainty as to its ability to develop and launch mobile high-quality games that are commercially successful and the relatively higher game development and distribution costs generally associated with such games; the need to expend greater amounts in order to develop or acquire new games, technologies, assets, and businesses, and uncertainty as to its ability to integrate such newly acquired games, technologies, assets and businesses. Accordingly, you should not rely on the results of any prior period as an indication of Changyou's future *financial and operating performance*.

***Changyou's previous and any future acquisitions and/or strategic alliances may have an adverse effect on its ability to manage its business and may also result in impairment charges.***

Changyou has made acquisitions of, and may potentially acquire in the future, technologies, businesses or assets that are complementary to its business and/or enter into strategic alliances in order to leverage its position in the Chinese online game market and expand its business domestically and internationally. Such acquisitions or strategic alliances may expose Changyou to potential risks, including risks associated with the integration of new technologies, businesses and personnel including its continued reliance on the management teams of the acquisition targets to operate the acquired businesses, unforeseen or hidden liabilities, the diversion of management attention and resources from its existing business, and the inability to generate sufficient revenues to offset the costs and expenses of acquisitions or strategic alliances. Any difficulties encountered in the acquisition and strategic alliance process may have an adverse effect on Changyou's ability to manage its business. In addition, acquired businesses may not perform to Changyou's expectations for various reasons, including the loss of key personnel or key clients, and Changyou's strategic focus may change. As a result, Changyou may not realize the benefits it anticipated. If Changyou fails to integrate acquired technologies, businesses and assets or realize the expected benefits, Changyou may not receive a return on its investment and its transaction costs for such acquisitions. The benefits of an acquisition or investment may also take considerable time to develop, and we cannot be certain that any particular acquisition or investment will produce the intended benefits, which could adversely affect its business and operating results. Acquisitions could result in contingent liabilities or amortization expenses related to intangible assets or write-offs of goodwill and/or intangible assets, which could adversely affect Changyou's results of operations. For example, in December 2013, Changyou acquired RaidCall with the expectation of generating benefits from synergies with Changyou's online game business; in November 2013 Changyou acquired Beijing Doyo Internet Technology Co., Ltd., or Doyo, with the expectation of generating benefits from synergies with Changyou's online advertising business, and in July 2014 Changyou acquired MoboTap, which operates the Dolphin Browser, with the expectation of generating benefits from synergies with Changyou's platform channel business. In 2014 Changyou recognized a \$33.8 million impairment loss

for goodwill and a \$15.3 million impairment loss for acquired intangible assets related to RaidCall, in 2015 Changyou recognized a \$29.6 million impairment loss for goodwill and an \$8.9 million impairment loss for acquired intangible assets relating to the Dolphin Browser, and in 2015 Changyou sold Doyo and recognized a \$1.9 million impairment loss for goodwill, as a result of Changyou's management's conclusion that the expected synergies would not materialize.

***Changyou is dependent upon its management and upon its key development and technical personnel; Changyou's business may be severely disrupted if it loses the services of any of them.***

Changyou's future success depends substantially on the services of the members of its management and its key development and technical personnel, such as its Co-Chief Executive Officers Carol Yu and Dewen Chen. If one or more of the members of its management or key development or technical personnel were unable or unwilling to continue in their present positions, Changyou might not be able to replace them easily or at all. If any of the members of Changyou's management or its key employees joins a competitor or forms a competing company, Changyou may lose know-how, key professionals, staff members and suppliers. These members of its management and key employees could develop and operate games or platforms that could compete with and take game players and users away from Changyou's existing and future games and platforms. Although each of members of Changyou's management and key personnel has entered into an employment agreement with non-competition provisions, these non-competition provisions may not be enforceable in China.



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**Risk Related to Online Games**

***There are uncertainties regarding the future growth of the online game industry in China.***

The online game industry, from which Changyou derives most of its revenues, is a relatively new and rapidly evolving industry. The growth of the online game industry and the level of demand and market acceptance of Changyou's games are subject to a high degree of uncertainty. Changyou's future operating results will depend on numerous factors affecting the online game industry, many of which are beyond Changyou's control, including:

whether the online game industry, particularly in China and the rest of the Asia-Pacific region, continues to grow and the rate of any such growth;

the availability and popularity of other forms of entertainment, particularly games on console systems, which are already popular in developed countries and may gain popularity in China;

growth in users of Internet and broadband and penetration in China and other markets in which Changyou offers its games, and the rate of any such growth;

whether recent declines in the use of personal computers and growth in users of mobile devices (such as smart phones and tablets) in general, and for purposes of accessing online games in particular, continue or accelerate in China and other markets in which Changyou offers its games;

changes in consumer demographics and public tastes and preferences; and

general economic conditions in China, particularly economic conditions adversely affecting discretionary consumer spending, such as the slowdown in China's economic growth that occurred between the first quarter of 2010 and the third quarter of 2012 and during 2014 and 2015.

There is no assurance that online games in general will continue to be popular in China or elsewhere. If the current decline in the popularity of PC games continues or accelerates as users increasingly switch to mobile devices, Changyou's revenues from its PC games may decrease significantly; and if the PC games that Changyou has launched, or expects to launch in the future, are not successful, Changyou may not be able to recoup the investments in its development and marketing of those games. A decline in the popularity of Changyou's online games in general, and of the PC games that Changyou operates in particular, would adversely affect its business and prospects.

***Changyou currently depends on TLBB for a substantial portion of its revenues, and any continued decrease in the popularity of TLBB or interruption in its operation would adversely affect Changyou's results of operations.***

Changyou currently relies on TLBB for a substantial portion of its revenues. Changyou launched TLBB in May 2007 and TLBB is unlikely to sustain its current level of popularity over time. Despite Changyou's efforts to improve TLBB, its game players have nevertheless lost interest in it over time as the relative popularity of PC games that are accessed through personal computers continues to decline and its popularity, revenues and profitability have continued

to decline. See *Changyou may not be successful in operating and improving its games to satisfy the changing demands of game players.*

To prolong TLBB's lifespan and slow down the pace of its decline, Changyou needs to continually improve and update it on a timely basis with new features that appeal to existing game players and attract new game players. If Changyou fails to improve and update TLBB on a timely basis, or if its competitors introduce more popular games, including mobile games, catering to its game player base, the decline in TLBB's popularity can be expected to accelerate, which would cause Changyou's revenues to decrease at a faster pace. Furthermore, if there are any interruptions in TLBB's operation due to unexpected server interruptions, network failures or other factors, game players may be prevented or deterred from making purchases of virtual items, which could also cause significant decreases in Changyou's revenues.

***Changyou's new games may attract game players away from its existing games.***

Changyou's new games may attract game players away from its existing games. For example, with its increasingly diversified game portfolio, we cannot assure you that Changyou's TLBB game players will not be attracted to play other newly launched games, including its new mobile games, instead of TLBB. If this occurs, it will decrease Changyou's existing games' player bases, which could in turn make these games less attractive to other game players, resulting in decreased revenues from its existing games. Game players who switch from playing Changyou's existing games to its new games may also spend less money to purchase virtual items in its new games than they would have spent if they had continued playing its existing games, resulting in an adverse effect on its overall revenues. In addition, game players switching from playing Changyou's existing PC games to its new mobile games could cause its online games income to be relatively lower, as Changyou's mobile games tend to enjoy relatively lower profits as a result of revenue-sharing arrangements.

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***If the market demand for PC games in general, and for the PC games that Changyou operates in particular, continues to decline and the number of game players of PC games continues to decrease, Changyou's online game business and prospects may be adversely affected.***

A substantial portion of Changyou's online game revenues is generated from its TLBB. However, the popularity of PC games continues to decline and an increasing number of online game developers are delaying or suspending their plans to develop and launch new PC games, as game players increasingly switch to mobile devices to access online games. It has become increasingly difficult for PC game developers and operators to retain existing players of their games and the number of game players who are willing to spend time and money to play new PC games continues to decrease. If this downward trend continues or accelerates, it may make it increasingly difficult for Changyou's existing PC games in general, and TLBB in particular, to maintain their popularity and for its new PC games to ever become commercially successful; the game player base of Changyou's PC games in general, and of TLBB in particular, may continue to shrink, which would increase its costs to acquire and retain players of its PC games and would have a negative impact on its online game revenues.

***As mobile devices such as tablets, mobile phones and other devices other than personal computers are increasingly used to access online games, Changyou must continue to acquire or develop increasing numbers of mobile games that work on such devices.***

Devices other than personal computers, such as mobile phones and tablets, are used increasingly in China and in overseas markets. We believe that, for its business to be successful, Changyou will need to continue to develop versions of its existing games and any future games that work well with such devices. The games that Changyou develops for such devices may not function as smoothly as its existing games, and may not be attractive to game players in other ways. In addition, manufacturers of such devices may establish restrictive conditions for developers of applications to be used on such devices, and as a result Changyou's games may not work well, or at all, on such devices. As new devices are released or updated, Changyou may encounter problems in developing versions of its games for use on such devices and may need to devote significant resources to the development, support, and maintenance of games for such devices. Since 2014 Changyou has been investing, and it expects to continue to invest, significant amounts in the acquisition, development, promotion and operation of games for mobile devices. If Changyou is unable to successfully expand the types of devices on which its existing and future games are available, or if mobile versions of games that Changyou develops for such devices do not function well or are not attractive to users and game players, or if the mobile games that Changyou has launched, or expects to launch in the future, are not successful, Changyou may not be able to maintain or increase its revenues and recoup its investments in the mobile market.

***Changyou's business will suffer if it is unable to develop successful games, particularly high-quality games, for mobile devices, successfully monetize mobile games Changyou develops or acquires and maintain for a reasonable period the popularity and revenue levels of any mobile games that are successful.***

Developing games, particularly high-quality games for mobile devices is an important component of Changyou's strategy. China's mobile games market has been dominated by a small number of high quality games, which collectively generate a substantial majority of the total revenues and profits of all mobile games in the market and are likely to maintain their popularity and revenue levels for relatively longer lifespans. Changyou has devoted and Changyou expects to continue to devote substantial resources to the development of its mobile games, particularly those that have the potential to become high quality games. We cannot guarantee that Changyou will be able to develop games, and particularly high quality games, that appeal to players. In addition, Changyou may encounter difficulty in integrating features on games developed for mobile devices that a sufficient number of players will pay for or otherwise sufficiently monetizing mobile games. If Changyou is unable to develop successful high quality

games, or implement successful monetization strategies for its mobile games in general, its ability to grow revenue and its financial performance will be negatively affected.

Changyou's ability to successfully develop games for mobile devices will depend on its ability to:

expand the portfolio of mobile games, and particularly high quality games, that Changyou develops in-house and licenses from third-party developers;

effectively develop new mobile games for multiple mobile operating systems and mobile devices;

effectively cross-market mobile games to players of its current PC games and mobile games ;

anticipate and effectively respond to the growing number of players switching to mobile games, the changing mobile landscape and the interests of players;

attract, retain and motivate talented game designers, product managers and engineers with experience in developing games for mobile devices;

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minimize launch delays and cost overruns on the development of new games;

effectively monetize mobile games without degrading the social game experience for its players;

develop games that provide for a compelling and optimal user experience through existing and developing third-party technologies, including third-party software and middleware utilized by its players; and

acquire and successfully integrate high- quality mobile game assets, personnel or companies.

Further, even if Changyou develops or acquires license rights to a mobile game that is successful, the game's lifespan may be short, as even successful mobile games tend to have less sustained user loyalty than do successful PC games and Web games. For example, the revenues generated from Changyou's mobile game, TLBB 3D, which was launched in October 2014, declined sequentially through 2015 after its debut, which is typical for a mobile game. In view of the uncertain lifespans of mobile games, it is necessary for Changyou to invest considerable sums in order to have a number of mobile games, and particularly mobile games that have the potential to become high-quality, hit games, in its pipeline.

If Changyou is unable to succeed in developing or acquiring new mobile games in general, and high quality games in particular, that are successful and maintaining for a reasonable period the popularity and revenue levels of any mobile games that Changyou develops or acquires that are successful, Changyou may not be able to recoup its development and acquisition costs and its ability to expand its business in the future is likely to be impeded.

***Changyou may not be able to distribute its mobile games through its desired Internet platforms, its profits from any successful mobile games can be expected to be relatively lower than the profits Changyou has enjoyed historically from PC games and its mobile game revenues are subject to additional risks as Changyou relies on mobile application stores to collect payments from players of its mobile games.***

Changyou may not be able to arrange for its mobile games to be distributed through its desired popular third-party mobile application stores with commercial terms, including revenue-sharing arrangements that are favorable enough to it and allow it to achieve an acceptable level of profit from the games. Changyou's profits from mobile games, even if the games are successful, are likely to be relatively lower than the profits it generates from PC games, because, in order to gain access for its games on mobile application stores, Changyou must enter into revenue-sharing arrangements that generally result in lower profit margins than those generated from its PC games. Changyou relies on mobile application stores to collect payments from game players for their purchases of its virtual items and to pay to Changyou pre-agreed revenue-sharing amounts. If mobile application stores cease to offer Changyou's games over their platforms, change their user payment policies, such as return policies, or fail to make revenue-sharing payments that are due to Changyou, Changyou's revenues will be adversely affected. In addition, the iOS-based mobile application store allows game players to use foreign currency to purchase virtual items or game points in Changyou's games, and the store pays to Changyou pre-agreed revenue-sharing amounts after converting the foreign-currency denominated revenues from such purchases into RMB using an exchange rate effective at the time of the payment. Since there is usually a delay between the time of a game player's purchase and the time when the store pays Changyou, if the foreign currency used has depreciated against the RMB during the delay Changyou will receive lower share-sharing amounts at the time of the payment than Changyou would have received if the payment had been made at the time of the game player's purchase.

***There are risks associated with Changyou's licensing of rights to use the titles, characters, themes and story lines of popular works or stories in order to adapt them for its online games.***

Changyou frequently obtains license rights to the titles, characters, themes and story lines of popular works in order to adapt online games from such works. It can be difficult to identify a sufficient number of popular works that are suitable for adaptation for use in online games, and Changyou faces significant competition for the rights to such works from other online game companies that also adapt their online games from popular Chinese works. For example, under Changyou's existing license agreements with Louis Cha, a famous author of Chinese martial arts novels, Changyou has the exclusive right to adapt certain of his novels into online games, such as its TLBB and mobile game TLBB 3D, and to operate the games in the China market. Changyou also has a non-exclusive license to operate, and to sublicense the right to operate, such games outside of China. After the expiration of the terms of its existing license agreements with Mr. Cha or other holders of copyrights, Changyou may not be able to renew the agreements with commercial terms that are favorable to it, if at all. In addition, obtaining license rights to suitable works can involve significant expenses, and if games that Changyou adapts from particular works are not popular and commercial successes, Changyou will be unable to recoup such expenses. Obtaining such rights and adapting such works for mobile games present additional risks, because of the possibly relatively short lifespans of mobile games.

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***Changyou relies on recorded data for game revenue recognition and tracking of game players' consumption patterns of virtual items. If its data systems fail to operate effectively, such failure will not only affect the completeness and accuracy of its revenue recognition, but also its ability to design and improve virtual items that appeal to game players.***

Changyou's game operation revenues are generated through the direct online sale of game points and sale of its prepaid game cards, and its recognition of those revenues depends on such factors as whether the virtual items purchased by game players are considered consumable or perpetual. Changyou relies on its data systems to record and monitor the purchase and consumption of virtual items by its game players and the types of virtual items purchased. If its data systems fail to accurately record the purchase and consumption information of the virtual items, Changyou may not be able to accurately recognize its revenues. In addition, various factors affect the estimated lives of perpetual virtual items, such as the average period that game players typically play Changyou's games and other game player behavior patterns, the acceptance and popularity of expansion packs, promotional events launched and market conditions, and Changyou relies on its billing systems to capture such historical game player behavior patterns and other information. If such information is not accurately recorded, or if Changyou does not have sufficient information due to the short operating history of any of its games, Changyou will not be able to accurately estimate the lives of, or the estimated average period the game players play its games with respect to, the perpetual virtual items, which will also affect its ability to accurately recognize its revenues from such perpetual virtual items. If Changyou's data systems were damaged by system failure, network interruption, or virus infection, or attacked by a hacker, the integrity of data would be compromised, which could adversely affect its revenue recognition and the completeness and accuracy of its recognized revenues.

In addition, Changyou relies on its data systems to record game player purchase and consumption patterns, based on which Changyou improves its existing virtual items and designs new virtual items. For example, Changyou intends to increase development efforts on the number and variety of virtual items that its game players like to purchase, and Changyou may also adjust prices accordingly. If its data systems fail to record data accurately, its ability to improve existing virtual items or design new virtual items that are appealing to its game players may be adversely affected, which could in turn adversely affect its revenues.

***Changyou could be liable for breaches in the security of its online payment platforms and those of third parties with whom Changyou transacts business, and any such breaches could cause its customers to lose confidence in the integrity of the payment systems that Changyou uses.***

Currently, Changyou sells a substantial portion of its virtual game points and prepaid game cards to its game players through third-party online payment platforms. In these online transactions, secure transmission of confidential information, such as customers' credit card numbers and expiration dates, personal information and billing addresses, over public networks is essential if Changyou is to maintain its consumers' confidence in it. In addition, Changyou expects that an increasing amount of its sales will be conducted over the Internet as a result of the growing use of online payment systems. As a result, the risk of associated online crime will increase. Changyou's current security measures and those of the third-party online payment platforms with whom Changyou transacts business may not be adequate. Changyou must be prepared to increase its security measures and efforts so that its game players have confidence in the reliability of the online payment systems that it uses, which will require Changyou to incur additional expense. Such increased security measures may still not make its online payment systems completely safe. In addition, Changyou does not have control over the security measures of its third-party online payment vendors. Breaches in the security of online payment systems that Changyou uses could expose it to litigation and liability for failing to secure confidential customer information, and could harm its reputation, ability to attract customers and ability to encourage customers to purchase virtual items.

***Changyou derives an increasing portion of its revenues from online games that Changyou licenses from or jointly develops with third-party developers; any failure of third-party developers to fulfill their obligations under Changyou's license or joint operation agreements with them could have an adverse effect on Changyou's operation of and revenues from those games, and Changyou's revenue-sharing arrangements with those third-party developers reduce its profits from the operation of those games.***

Changyou derives an increasing portion of its revenues from PC games and mobile games that Changyou licenses from, or jointly develops with, third-party developers. Under its license and joint development agreements for these games, Changyou relies on the third-party developers to provide game updates, enhancements and new versions, provide materials and other assistance in promoting the games and resolving game programming errors and issues with bots and other intrusions. Any failure of third-party developers to provide game updates, enhancements and new versions in a timely manner and that are appealing to game players, and provide assistance that enables Changyou to effectively promote the games could adversely affect the game-playing experience of Changyou's game players, damage its reputation, or shorten the life-spans of those games, any of which could result in the loss of game players, acceleration of Changyou's amortization of the license fees it has paid for those games, or a decrease in or elimination of its revenues from those games.



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In addition, Changyou's revenue-sharing arrangements for games that Changyou licenses from or jointly develops with third-party developers provide Changyou with relatively less profit than games that Changyou develops in-house, and in some cases Changyou may not be able to recoup its investments in such games. Moreover, to secure the rights to games from third-party developers, Changyou often must pay up-front fees and also commit to pay additional fees in the future. Similarly, Changyou also has invested in mobile game development studios in order to assure access to an extensive pipeline of mobile games. Changyou often must make such commitments and investments without knowing whether the games Changyou is licensing or jointly developing will be successful and generate sufficient revenues to enable Changyou to recoup its costs or for the games to be profitable.

Furthermore, for games that Changyou licenses from or jointly develops with third parties, Changyou may not have access to the game source codes during the initial period of the license, or at all. Without the source codes, Changyou has to rely on the licensors to provide updates and enhancements during the initial period, giving it less control over the quality and timeliness of updates and enhancements. If Changyou's game players are not satisfied with the level of services they receive, they may choose to not play the games, leading to a decrease in Changyou's revenues.

***Changyou faces significant risks and incur additional costs when it licenses to, or jointly operates with, third-party operators its games. If Changyou fails to manage these risks, its growth and business prospects could be adversely affected.***

Changyou currently, and expects to continue to, exclusively license to, or jointly operate with, third-party operators some of its games, including an increasing number of its mobile games. Negotiating with potential third-party operators and joint operators and managing Changyou's relationships with the third-party operators and joint operators all require substantial management effort and skill and the incurrence of significant expenses. There are additional risks associated with the licensing, direct or joint operation of Changyou's games, including:

difficulties in identifying appropriate markets;

difficulties in identifying and maintaining good relationships with licensees or joint operators who are knowledgeable about, and can effectively operate Changyou's games in markets;

difficulties in maintaining the reputation of Changyou and its games when Changyou's games are operated by licensees or joint operators in markets pursuant to their own standards;

changes in the political, regulatory or economic conditions in a foreign country or region, or public policies toward online games; and

difficulties in protecting Changyou's intellectual property.

Additional risks associated with the licensing or direct or joint operation of Changyou's games overseas include:

significant costs for translation of its games into the local languages of, or customization of its games for, the overseas markets in which Changyou plans to license or jointly operate its games;

difficulties relating to compliance with the different legal requirements and commercial terms, such as game export regulatory procedures, taxes and other restrictions and expenses, in the overseas markets in which Changyou licenses or directly or jointly operates its games;

exposure to different regulatory systems governing the protection of intellectual property and the regulation of online games, the Internet and the export of technology;

costs for compliance with different legal requirements and commercial terms in overseas markets;

difficulties in verifying revenues generated from Changyou's games by its licensees for purposes of determining royalties payable to Changyou;

difficulties and delays in contract enforcement and collection of receivables through the use of foreign legal systems;

the risk that regulatory authorities in foreign countries or administrative regions may impose withholding taxes, or place restrictions on repatriation of Changyou's profits; and

fluctuations in currency exchange rates.

If Changyou is unable to manage these risks and control these costs effectively, its ability to license or operate its games in China or in regions and countries outside of Mainland China, either directly or jointly with third-party joint operators, may be impaired.

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***Changyou may not be successful in operating and improving its games to satisfy the changing demands of game players.***

Changyou depends on purchases and continual consumption of virtual items by its game players to generate revenues, which in turn depend on the continued attractiveness of its games to the game players and their satisfactory game-playing experience. Various issues could arise that would cause its games to be less attractive to its game players or could limit the continued attractiveness of its games. For example:

Changyou may fail to provide game updates, expansion packs and other enhancements in a timely manner due to technologies, resources or other factors;

Changyou's game updates, expansion packs and new versions may contain program errors, and their installation may create other unforeseen issues that adversely affect the game-playing experience;

Changyou may fail to timely respond and/or resolve complaints from its game players;

Changyou may fail to eliminate computer bots which can disrupt its games' smooth operation and reduce the attractiveness of its games; and

Changyou's game updates, expansion packs and other enhancements may change rules or other aspects of its games that its game players do not welcome, resulting in a reduction in the active accounts or active paying accounts of its online games.

Changyou's failure to address the above-mentioned issues could adversely affect the game-playing experience of its game players, damage the reputation of its games, shorten the lifespans of its games, and result in the loss of game players and a decrease in its revenues.

***Changyou generates all of its game revenues under the item-based revenue model, which presents risks related to consumer preferences and regulatory restrictions.***

All of Changyou's games, including PC games, mobile games and Web games, are operated under the item-based revenue model. Under this revenue model, Changyou's game players are able to play the games for free if they so choose, but are charged for the purchase of virtual items in the games. Changyou currently expects that all of its game revenues, including revenues from any future games, will continue to be generated under the item-based revenue model. The item-based revenue model requires Changyou to design games that not only attract game players to spend more time playing, but also encourage them to purchase virtual items. The sale of virtual items requires Changyou to track closely consumer tastes and preferences, especially as to in-game consumption patterns. If Changyou fails to design and price virtual items so as to incentivize game players to purchase them, Changyou may not be able to effectively translate its game player base and their playing time into revenues. In addition, the item-based revenue model may cause additional concerns with PRC regulators who have been implementing regulations designed to reduce the amount of time that Chinese youths spend on online games and intended to limit the total amount of virtual currency issued by online game operators and the amount purchased by individual game players. A revenue model that does not charge for time played may be viewed by the PRC regulators as inconsistent with these goals. The

item-based revenue model may not continue to be commercially successful and in the future Changyou may need to change its revenue model to a time-based or other revenue model. Any change in revenue model could result in disruption of Changyou's game operations, a decrease in the number of its game players and a decline in its revenues.

***Undetected programming errors or defects in Changyou's games could harm its reputation and adversely affect its results of operations.***

Changyou's games are subject to frequent improvement and updates, and may contain bugs or flaws that may become apparent only after the updated applications are accessed by users, particularly as Changyou launches new updates under tight time constraints. From time to time, Changyou's users may inform it of programming bugs affecting their experience, and Changyou is generally able to resolve such flaws promptly. However, if for any reason programming bugs or flaws are not resolved in a timely fashion, Changyou may lose some of its users and its revenues will be affected negatively, and its reputation and the market acceptance of its games may also be harmed.

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**Table of Contents*****Changyou may fail to launch new games according to its timetable, and its new games may not be commercially successful.***

All online games have limited lifespans. Changyou must launch new games that can generate additional revenue and diversify its revenue sources in order to remain competitive. Changyou will not generate any meaningful revenue from a game in development until it is commercially launched after open beta testing, and we cannot assure you that Changyou will be able to meet its timetable for new game launches or that its new games will be successful. A number of factors, including technical difficulties, lack of sufficient game development personnel and other resources, failure to obtain or delays in obtaining relevant governmental authorities' approvals and adverse developments in Changyou's relationships with the licensors or third-party operators of its new games could result in delayed launching of its new games. In addition, we cannot assure you that Changyou's new games will be as well received in the market as TLBB and TLBB 3D have been, and you should not view Changyou's historical game revenues or the success of TLBB and TLBB 3D as indications of the commercial success of any of its new or future games. Changyou may fail to anticipate and adapt to future technical trends, new business models and changed game player preferences and requirements, fail to effectively plan and organize marketing and promotion activities, or fail to differentiate its new games from its existing games. If the new games Changyou introduces are not commercially successful, Changyou may not be able to generate sufficient revenues from new games to sustain or grow its revenues or to recover its product development costs and sales and marketing expenses, which can be significant.

***Rapid technological changes may increase Changyou's game development costs.***

Technological development in online game industry is evolving rapidly, so Changyou needs to anticipate new technologies and evaluate their possible market acceptance. For example, the use of virtual reality technology has improved, and can be expected to continue to improve, game players' in-game experience and level of participation. In addition, government authorities or industry organizations may adopt new standards that apply to game development. Any new technologies and new standards may require increases in expenditures for PC game and mobile game development and operations, and Changyou will need to adapt its business to cope with the changes and support these new services to be successful. If Changyou falls behind in adopting new technologies or standards, its existing games may lose popularity, and its newly developed games may not be well received in the marketplace.

***The proliferation of cheating programs and scam offers that seek to exploit Changyou's games and players harms the game-playing experience and may lead players to stop playing its games.***

Third parties have developed, and may continue to develop, cheating programs that enable players to exploit Changyou's games, play the games in an automated way or obtain unfair advantages over other players who play fairly. These programs harm the experience of players who play fairly and may disrupt the economics of Changyou's games. In addition, unrelated third parties may attempt to scam Changyou's players with fake offers for virtual items. Changyou needs to devote significant resources to discover, disable and prevent such programs and activities, and if Changyou is unable to do so quickly its operations may be disrupted, its reputation may be damaged and players may stop playing its games. This may lead to lost revenue and increased costs for Changyou to develop technological measures to combat such programs and activities.

***Changyou's business may be harmed if its games are not featured in a sufficient number of Internet cafés in China***

A certain number of game players access Changyou's games through Internet cafés in China. Due to limited hardware capacity, Internet cafés generally feature a limited number of games on their computers. Changyou thus competes with a growing number of other online game operators to ensure that its games are featured on these computers. It is

necessary for Changyou to maintain good relationships with Internet café operators, to ensure that its games are featured in a sufficient number of Internet cafés. If Changyou fails to maintain good relationships with Internet café operators, or if Changyou and /or its third-party operators fail to successfully persuade Internet cafés to feature its games, its revenues may be affected.

***Game players' spending on Changyou's games may be adversely affected by slower growth in the Chinese economy and adverse conditions in the global economy.***

Changyou relies on the spending of its game players for its revenues, which in turn depends on the players' level of disposable income, perceived future earnings capabilities and willingness to spend. The real estate market in the PRC and the level of exports from the PRC have both experienced significant declines recently and, according to the National Bureau of Statistics of China, the growth rate of China's gross domestic product, compared to that of the previous year, slowed from 9.2% in 2011 to 7.5% in 2012 and 7.7% in 2013 and 7.4% in 2014 and 6.9% in 2015. Such growth may also slow in the future, which could in turn result in a reduction in spending by Changyou's game players.

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In addition, the global economy has experienced significant instability and there has been volatility in global financial and credit markets in recent years, recent growth in the United States economy may not be sustainable and some analysts are concerned that the European Community may experience a sustained downturn. It is unclear how long such instability and volatility will continue, whether it will increase, whether it will lead to a renewed worldwide economic downturn such as the one that began in 2008, and how much adverse impact such instability and volatility or any such downturn might have on the economies of China and other jurisdictions where Changyou operates its games. Any such instability, volatility or adverse impact in China or in overseas markets could cause Changyou's game players to reduce their spending on its games in China or overseas and reduce its revenues.

### **Risks Related to the Platform Channel Business**

***Changyou has not been able to successfully monetize its platform channel business beyond the operation of its 17173.com Website or to recoup its significant investment in such business.***

During 2013 and 2014 Changyou made significant investments in acquiring assets and marketing, including both domestic and overseas marketing, and spent considerable sums to increase its staffing levels, with the goal of expanding and promoting its platform channel business beyond the operation of the 17173.com Website. However, Changyou has not generated meaningful revenues from such additions to its platform channel business. Changyou's continuing efforts to monetize those products and services have not been successful, and we believe that it is unlikely Changyou will be able to make its platform channel business apart from the 17173.com Website profitable or that Changyou will be able to recoup the investments it made in assets, marketing and staffing for the platform channel business. For example, after Changyou's acquisition of a majority interest in MoboTap, Changyou's management concluded that the Dolphin Browser operated by MoboTap would not be able to provide expected synergies with Changyou's platform channel business, and Changyou recognized substantial impairment charges as a result. Also see Changyou's previous and any future acquisitions and/or strategic alliances may have an adverse effect on its ability to manage its business and may also result in impairment charges.

***Online advertising revenues from the 17173.com Website could fail to grow or could decline as a result of uncertainties in the game market and the online advertising market.***

Changyou's online advertising revenues of \$57.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2015, which were mainly derived from the operation of the 17173.com Website, represented 7.6% of Changyou's total revenues for the year. Changyou's ability to maintain or grow online advertising revenues may be adversely affected by any of the following risk factors:

Changes in government policy could restrict or curtail Changyou's online advertising services;

The decline in the demand for online advertising services from developers and operators of PC games, as the relative popularity of such games continues to decline;

Advertising clients may adopt new methods and strategies other than online advertising to promote their brands, which would have an adverse impact on Changyou's advertising revenues; and

The acceptance of the Internet as a medium for advertising depends on the development of a measurement standard. No standards for the measurement of the effectiveness of online advertising have been widely accepted. Industry-wide standards may not develop sufficiently to support the Internet as an effective advertising medium. If these standards do not develop, advertisers may choose not to advertise on the Internet in general, or through Changyou's Websites.

In addition, Changyou's ability to generate and maintain significant online advertising revenues will also depend upon:

the development of a large base of users possessing demographic characteristics attractive to advertising clients;

the development of successful mobile versions of the 17173.com Website and the provision of extensive mobile game-related products and services in response to the rapid migration of users of Internet services from PCs to mobile devices, such as tablets and mobile phones;

the acceptance of online advertisements, either through PCs or mobile devices, as an effective method of business marketing;

the effectiveness of Changyou's advertising delivery, tracking and reporting systems;

the extent of resistance from existing or potential customers to online advertising prices; and

the development of new formats for online advertising, such as streaming video.



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***The expansion of Internet advertisement blocking software may result in a decrease in advertising revenues.***

The development of Web software that blocks Internet advertisements before they appear on a user's screen may hinder the growth of online advertising. The expansion of advertisement blocking on the Internet may decrease Changyou's revenues from the 17173.com Website because, when an advertisement is blocked, it is not downloaded from the server, which means that it will not be tracked as a delivered advertisement. In addition, advertisers may choose not to advertise on the Internet or on the 17173.com Website because of the use by third parties of Internet advertisement blocking software.

***Changyou relies on advertising agencies to sell online advertising services on the 17173.com Website. If current trends of consolidation of advertising agencies in the Chinese market continue, the bargaining power of the large advertising agencies resulting from such consolidation may permit them to require that Changyou pay higher sales rebates, which would adversely affect Changyou's gross margin.***

Most of the online advertising services of the 17173.com Website are distributed by, and most of the online advertising revenues of the 17173.com Website are derived from, advertising agencies. For example, in 2015 Changyou engaged four advertising agencies, which contributed approximately 95% of the online advertising revenues of the 17173.com Website. In consideration for these agencies' services, Changyou is required to pay certain percentages of revenues as sales rebates. If the online advertising market is consolidated and effectively controlled by a small number of large advertising agencies, such advertising agencies may be in a position to demand higher sales rebates based on increased bargaining power, which could negatively affect Changyou's online advertising growth, as Changyou books its online advertising revenue net of its sales rebates to advertising agencies.

**Risks of Others Business**

***Changyou may not be able to maintain or expand the revenues that it receives from cinema advertising services.***

Changyou's cinema advertising business generates revenues through contracts that Changyou enters into with advertisers to place their advertisements in pre-film advertising slots in movie theaters. Changyou acquires the cinema advertising rights for such pre-film advertising slots under long-term contracts, typically with three-year terms, with various theaters. If Changyou is unable to sell to advertisers all of the pre-film advertising slots that Changyou purchases, it may not be able to recoup its upfront payments and committed payments under the contracts. Further, we cannot assure you that Changyou will be able to develop, maintain or expand the types of cooperative relationships with movie theaters that will permit Changyou to maintain its existing rights or to obtain any additional rights to pre-movie advertisement slots at reasonable prices. Any failure by Changyou to develop, maintain or expand such cooperative relationships could prevent it from increasing its cinema advertising revenues, could cause such revenues to decrease or could result in Changyou's cinema advertising business generating losses.

**General Business Risks**

***Changyou's prospects for growth may be adversely affected if it cannot successfully manage and make timely adjustments to its hiring needs to support its business strategies.***

The Internet industry in China is characterized by high demand and intense competition for talent, particularly for game developers and related technical personnel, and Changyou's success in the implementation of its growth strategies depends on its ability to successfully manage, and make timely adjustments to, its hiring needs. The number of Changyou's employees increased 35.3% between the end of 2012 and the end of 2013 as it expanded its business into mobile games, the platform channel business and international markets, but decreased 11.0% between the end of

2013 and the end of 2014 and decreased 41.9% between the end of 2014 and the end of 2015, as Changyou emphasized the development of mobile games and laid off a number of employees who had been focused primarily on international markets and the platform channel business other than the 17173.com Website. These layoffs could have an adverse effect on Changyou's remaining employees' morale and their loyalty to Changyou, and cause it to lose employees whose talents and experience are important for its business, and could also have a negative impact on its reputation as an employer and its ability to attract qualified employees in the future. Laid-off employees could also make claims against Changyou for additional compensation, causing it to incur additional expense.

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***Changyou may be exposed to infringement or misappropriation claims by third parties, which, if determined adversely to it, could subject it to significant liabilities and other costs.***

Changyou's success depends largely on its ability to use and develop its technology and know-how without infringing the intellectual property rights of third parties. We cannot assure you that third parties will not assert intellectual property claims against Changyou. Changyou is subject to additional risks if entities licensing to it intellectual property, including, for example, game source codes, do not have adequate rights in any such licensed materials. The validity and scope of claims relating to the intellectual property of game development and technology involve complex scientific, legal and factual questions and analyses and, therefore, tend to be uncertain. If third parties assert copyright or patent infringement or violation of other intellectual property rights against Changyou, it will have to defend itself in litigation or administrative proceedings, which can be both costly and time consuming and may significantly divert the efforts and resources of its technical and management personnel. An adverse determination or settlement in any such litigation or proceedings to which Changyou may become a party could subject it to significant liability to third parties, or require it to seek licenses from third parties, pay ongoing royalties, or redesign its games or subject it to injunctions prohibiting the development and operation of its games.

***Changyou may need to incur significant expenses to enforce its proprietary rights, and if it is unable to protect such rights, its competitive position and financial performance could be harmed.***

Changyou regards its intellectual property and proprietary rights as critical to its success. In particular, Changyou has spent a significant amount of time and resources in developing its current games and possible future games. Changyou's ability to protect its proprietary rights in connection with its games is critical for their success and Changyou's overall financial performance. While Changyou has registered software in China for copyright protection and have taken various measures to protect its source codes, such measures may not be sufficient to protect its proprietary information and intellectual property. Intellectual property rights and confidentiality protection in China may not be as effective as they are in the United States and other developed countries. Policing unauthorized use of proprietary technology is difficult and expensive. In addition, while Changyou has registered some trademarks relating to its games in the PRC and other jurisdictions, and has applied for additional registrations of trademarks, in some instances Changyou may not succeed in obtaining registration of trademarks that Changyou has applied for in different languages, such as English. There is no assurance that these pending or future trademark applications will be approved. Any failure to register trademarks in any country or region may limit Changyou's ability to protect its rights in such country or region under relevant trademark laws, and Changyou may need to change the name of the relevant trademark in certain cases, which may adversely affect its branding and marketing efforts.

Despite Changyou's efforts to protect its intellectual property, online game developers may copy its ideas and designs, and other third parties may infringe its intellectual property rights. For example, certain third parties have misappropriated the source codes of previous versions of TLBB and have set up unauthorized servers in China and elsewhere to operate TLBB to compete with Changyou. Although in response Changyou has taken measures to enforce its intellectual property rights, such measures may not be successful in eliminating these unauthorized servers. The existence of unauthorized servers may attract game players away from Changyou's games and may result in decreases in its revenues. Litigation relating to intellectual property rights may result in substantial costs to Changyou and diversion of resources and management attention away from its business, and may not be successful. In addition, Changyou's ideas and certain of its designs, if not fixed in a tangible form of expression or registered with the appropriate PRC authorities, may not be protected by patents or other intellectual property rights. As a result, Changyou may be limited in its ability to assert intellectual property rights against online game developers who independently develop ideas and designs that compete with it.

***Changyou may not have exclusive rights to trademarks, designs and technologies that are crucial to its business.***

Changyou has applied for initial registrations in the PRC and overseas, and/or changes in registrations relating to transfers of its key trademarks in the PRC, including ChangYou.com, cyou.com, TLBB, TL logos, New Blade Online, 17173, TLBB 3D and the corresponding Chinese versions of the marks, so as to establish and protect its exclusive rights to these trademarks. Changyou has succeeded in registering the trademarks ChangYou.com, cyou.com, TLBB, TL logos, 17173 and Dolphin Browser in the PRC under certain classes. The applications for initial registration, and/or changes in registrations relating to transfers, of other marks and/or of some of these marks under other classes are still under examination by the Trademark Office of the State Administration for Industry & Commerce of the PRC, or the SAIC, and relevant authorities overseas. Changyou has applied for patents relating to the design of its games and to technology intended to enhance the functionalities of its games. Changyou has various patent applications under examination by the State Intellectual Property Office of the PRC. Approvals of its initial trademark registration applications, and/or of changes in registrations relating to such transfers, or of its patent applications, are subject to determinations by the Trademark Office of the SAIC, the State Intellectual Property Office of the PRC and relevant authorities overseas that there are no prior rights in the applicable territory. There is no assurance that these applications will be approved. Any rejection of these applications could adversely affect Changyou's rights to the affected marks, designs and technologies. In addition, even if these applications are approved, there is no assurance that any registered trademark or issued patent will be sufficient in scope to provide adequate protection of Changyou's rights.

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**Table of Contents*****Breaches in the security of Changyou's server network could cause disruptions in its service, facilitate piracy of its intellectual property, or compromise confidential information of its game players.***

Changyou stores on its servers and transmits over the Internet considerable and continually increasing amounts of data, much of which is essential to the operation of its business or is highly confidential information concerning its business and its game players. In addition, the expansion of Changyou's business to include mobile games and its need to comply with PRC regulations requiring real-name registration of Changyou's game players are likely to cause the amount of personal data concerning its game players that is transmitted over its networks to increase over time. Any breaches of Changyou's network by hackers could cause severe disruptions in its service, allow piracy of the source code used in the operation of its games and allow pirated versions of its games to enter the marketplace, or result in the release of confidential personal or financial information of its game players, any of which could have an adverse impact on its business, its revenues, and its reputation among game players. In order to minimize the likelihood of such breaches as Changyou's business expands and the amount of confidential and sensitive data increases, Changyou expects that it will need to expend considerable resources to maintain and enhance the effectiveness of its security systems.

***The successful operation of Changyou's business and implementation of its growth strategies, including its ability to accommodate additional game players and advertising clients in the future, depend upon the performance and reliability of the Internet infrastructure and fixed telecommunications networks in China.***

Almost all access to the Internet in China is maintained through state-owned telecommunications operators under the administrative control and regulatory supervision of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, or MIIT. Changyou relies on this infrastructure to provide data communications capacity, primarily through local telecommunications lines. Although the PRC government has announced plans to develop the national information infrastructure, this infrastructure may not be developed as planned or at all. In addition, Changyou will have no access to alternative networks and services, on a timely basis if at all, in the event of any infrastructure disruption or failure. The Internet infrastructure in China may not support the demands necessary for continued growth in Internet usage.

***Changyou may be subject to, and may expend significant resources in defending against, claims regarding the content and services Changyou provides over its Websites.***

As Changyou's services may be used to download and distribute information to others, there is a risk that claims may be made against it for defamation, negligence, copyright or trademark infringement or based on the nature and content of such information. Furthermore, Changyou could be subject to claims related to the online activities of its visitors and incur significant costs in its defense. In the past, claims regarding the nature and content of information that was posted online by visitors have been made in the United States against companies that provide online services. Changyou could be exposed to liability for the selection of listings that may be accessible through its Websites or through content and materials that its visitors may post in classifieds, message boards, chat rooms or other interactive services. If any information provided through Changyou's services contains errors, third parties may make claims against it for losses incurred in reliance on the information.

Changyou does not carry any liability insurance against of the foregoing risks.

***Changyou does not have business insurance coverage.***

The insurance industry in China is still at an early stage of development. Insurance companies in China offer limited business insurance products, or offer them at a high price. As a result, Changyou does not have any business liability, loss of data or disruption insurance coverage for its operations in China or the operations of its joint operators in

China and overseas. Any business disruption, litigation or natural disaster might result in Changyou s incurring substantial costs and the diversion of its resources.

***The limited use of personal computers in China and the relatively high cost of Internet access in relation to per capita gross domestic product may limit the development of the Internet in China and impede Changyou s growth.***

The penetration rate for personal computers in China is significantly lower than it is in the United States and other developed countries. Furthermore, the cost of Internet access in China is still relatively high as compared to other developed countries. The limited use of personal computers in China and the relatively high cost of Internet access may limit the growth of Changyou s business. In addition, there may be increases in Internet access fees or telecommunication fees in China. If that happens, the number of Changyou s game players may decrease or the growth of its game player base may be adversely impacted. Slow growth of, or a decrease in, the traffic on the 17173.com Website may also cause Changyou s advertising clients to reduce their use of its online advertising services, reducing its online advertising revenues.

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**Table of Contents*****Changyou faces risks related to health epidemics and other natural disasters.***

Changyou's business could be adversely affected by the effects of H1N1 influenza, H7N9 influenza, avian influenza or other epidemics or outbreaks. In recent years, there have been reports of occurrences of H1N1 influenza, H7N9 influenza and of avian influenza in various parts of China, including a few confirmed human cases and deaths. Any prolonged recurrence of H1N1 influenza, H7N9 influenza, avian influenza or other adverse public health developments in China may have an adverse effect on Changyou's business operations. Adverse effects could include illness and loss of Changyou's management and key employees, as well as temporary closure of its offices and related other businesses, such as server operations, upon which Changyou relies, and a decrease in the number of its game players. Such loss of management and key employees or closures would severely disrupt Changyou's business operations. Changyou has not adopted any written preventive measures or contingency plans to combat any future outbreak of H1N1 influenza, H7N9 influenza, avian influenza, or any other epidemics. In addition, other major natural disasters may also adversely affect Changyou's business by, for example, causing disruptions of the Internet network or otherwise affecting access to its games.

***Changyou may not be able to generate sufficient cash flow in U.S. dollars in the future to service its debt obligations, which would cause it to default under its U.S. dollar bank loan facilities.***

Changyou's ability to make scheduled payments on, or to refinance its obligations with respect to, its indebtedness to banks for borrowed money will depend on its financial and operating performance, which in turn will be affected by general economic conditions and by financial, competitive, regulatory and other factors beyond its control. It is possible that Changyou will be unable in the future to generate sufficient cash flow from its operations to cover indebtedness under its existing or future bank loan facilities. Further, most of Changyou's business operations are conducted in Mainland China and most of its revenues are denominated in RMB, while its existing loans were primarily advanced to it offshore in U.S. dollars, and are repayable in U.S. dollars. The conversion of RMB into U.S. dollars generally must be made via Changyou's onshore subsidiaries' payment of dividends to its offshore subsidiaries, which can be time-consuming, due to China's strict foreign exchange controls, which could potentially prevent Changyou from making timely repayment of its offshore loans and cause a default under the loans.

**Risks Related to Changyou's Corporate Structure and PRC Law and Regulations**

***Changyou operates some of its existing games, and plans to operate certain of its future games, with Internet authorization codes that Changyou obtained through third-party electronic publishing entities. If the SAPPRFT challenges the commercial operation of any of Changyou's games that are operated with Internet authorization codes obtained through third-party publishing entities, Changyou may be subject to various penalties, including restrictions on its operations.***

Under regulations issued by the SAPPRFT and the MIIT, online game operators are required to have an Internet publishing license, and an authorization code obtained under such a license is required for each game in operation and publicly available in the PRC. Changyou publishes certain of its existing games with authorization codes obtained under Internet publishing licenses held by third parties. For example, Wuhan Baina Information publishes a mobile online game with authorization codes obtained through a third-party. Current PRC regulations are not clear as to the consequence of obtaining authorization codes through the licenses of third-party entities. Changyou's past and expected future practices might be challenged by the SAPPRFT, which could subject Changyou to various penalties, including fines, confiscation of publishing equipment and the revenues generated from the publishing activities, the revocation of its business license, or the forced discontinuation of or restrictions on its operations.

***If Changyou is found to be in violation of current or future PRC law and regulations regarding Internet-related services and telecom-related activities, it could be subject to severe penalties.***

The PRC government has enacted regulations that apply to Internet-related services and telecom-related activities, and purport to limit and require licensing of various aspects of the provision of Internet information and content, online games, and online advertising services.

Under regulations issued by the MOC, commercial entities are required to apply to a local branch of the MOC for an Online Culture Operating Permit if they engage in the production, duplication, importation, release or broadcasting of Internet cultural products; the dissemination of online cultural products on the Internet or the transmission of such products via Internet or mobile phone networks to user terminals, such as computers, phones, television sets and gaming consoles; the provision of Internet surfing service sites such as Internet cafés; or the holding or exhibition of contests related to Internet cultural products.

Many aspects of the existing regulations remain unclear. In addition, the PRC government may promulgate new laws or regulations at any time. If current or future laws or regulations regarding Internet-related activities are interpreted to be inconsistent with Changyou's ownership structure and/or its business operations, its business could be severely impaired and it could be subject to severe penalties.



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**Table of Contents*****Regulation and censorship of information disseminated over the Internet in China may adversely affect Changyou's business, and it may be liable for information displayed on, retrieved from or linked to its Websites.***

The PRC government has adopted regulations governing Internet access and the distribution of news and other information over the Internet. Under these regulations, Internet content providers and Internet publishers are prohibited from posting or displaying over the Internet any content that, among other things, violates PRC law and regulations, impairs the national dignity of China, or is obscene, superstitious, fraudulent or defamatory. When Internet content providers and Internet publishers, including online game operators, find that information falling within the above scope is transmitted on their Websites or is stored in their electronic bulletin service systems, they are required to terminate the transmission of such information or delete such information immediately, keep records, and report to relevant authorities. Failure to comply with these requirements could result in the revocation of Changyou's ICP license and other required licenses and the closure of its Websites. Internet content providers may also be held liable for prohibited information displayed on, retrieved from or linked to their Websites.

In addition, the MIIT has published regulations that subject Internet content providers to potential liability for the actions of game players and others using their Websites, including liability for violations of PRC law prohibiting the dissemination of content deemed to be socially destabilizing. As these regulations are subject to interpretation by the relevant authorities, it is not possible for us to determine in all cases the type of content that could result in liability for Changyou as a developer and operator of online games, and as an operator of the 17173.com Website and the Dolphin Browser. In addition, Changyou may not be able to control or restrict the content of other Internet content providers linked to or accessible through its Websites, or content generated or placed on its Websites by its game players, despite its attempt to monitor such content. To the extent that regulatory authorities find any portion of Changyou's content objectionable, they may require Changyou to curtail its games, which may reduce its game player base, the amount of time its games are played or the purchases of virtual items.

***Changyou may be subject to the PRC government's ongoing crackdown on Internet pornographic content.***

The PRC government has stringent restrictions on online pornographic information and has launched several crackdowns on Internet pornography. Regulations jointly issued by the MIIT and three other government authorities jointly provide for rewards of up to RMB10,000 to Internet users who report Websites that feature pornography, and the MIIT established a committee to review such reports to determine an appropriate award. Changyou has not, to date, received any penalty from the PRC government in this regard. However, it is possible that content considered pornographic or vulgar by PRC government agencies will appear in the future on Websites or games that Changyou operates. In the event that Changyou is accused by the PRC government of hosting pornographic or vulgar content, its business and reputation could be adversely affected.

***There are currently no laws or regulations in the PRC governing property rights of virtual assets and therefore it is not clear what liabilities, if any, Changyou may have relating to the loss of virtual assets by its game players.***

In the course of playing Changyou's games, game players can acquire and accumulate virtual assets, such as game player experience, skills and weaponry. Such virtual assets can be highly valued by game players and in some cases are traded among game players for real money or assets. In practice, virtual assets can be lost for various reasons, such as data loss caused by delay of network service by a network crash, or by hacking activities. There are currently no PRC law and regulations governing property rights of virtual assets. As a result, it is unclear who the legal owner of virtual assets is and whether the ownership of virtual assets is protected by law. In addition, it is unclear under PRC law and regulations whether an operator of online games such as Changyou would have any liability (whether in contract, tort or otherwise) for loss of such virtual assets by game players. Based on several judgments regarding the liabilities of online game operators for loss of virtual assets by game players, the courts have generally required the

online game operators to provide well-developed security systems to protect such virtual assets owned by game players. In the event of a loss of virtual assets, Changyou may be sued by game players and may be held liable for damages.

***Changyou's online game operations may be adversely affected by implementation of anti-fatigue-related regulations.***

The PRC government may decide to adopt more stringent policies to monitor the online game industry as a result of adverse public reaction to perceived addiction to online games, particularly by minors. Eight PRC government authorities, including the SAPPRFT, the Ministry of Education and the MIIT, jointly issued regulations, or the Anti-Fatigue Notice, requiring all Chinese online game operators to adopt an anti-fatigue system in an effort to curb addiction to online games by minors. Under the anti-fatigue system, three hours or less of continuous play is defined to be healthy, three to five hours is defined to be fatiguing, and five hours or more is defined to be unhealthy. Game operators are required to reduce the value of game benefits for minor game players by half when those game players reach the fatiguing level, and to zero when they reach the unhealthy level. In addition, online game players in China are now required to register their identity card numbers before they can play an online game. This system allows game operators to identify which game players are minors. These restrictions could limit Changyou's ability to increase its business among minors. If these restrictions were expanded to apply to adult game players in the future, Changyou's revenues could be adversely affected.

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These eight PRC government authorities subsequently promulgated additional regulations, including a Notice on Initializing the verification of Real-name Registration for Anti-Fatigue System on Internet Games, or the Real-name Registration Notice, to strengthen the implementation of the anti-fatigue system and real-name registration. The Real-name Registration Notice's main focus is to prevent minors from using an adult's identity to play Internet games and, accordingly, provides stringent punishment for online game operators for not implementing the anti-fatigue and real name registration measures properly and effectively. The most severe punishment contemplated by the Real-name Registration Notice is termination of the operation of the online game if it is found to be in violation of the Anti-Fatigue Notice, the Real-name Registration Notice or the circular entitled Implementation of Online Game Monitor System of the Guardians of Minors, or the Monitor System Circular. The Real-name Registration Notice increases Changyou's operating risks, as it will be required to spend more resources on the real-name verification and anti-fatigue system, which will lead to an increase in its operating costs. In addition, the amount of time that minors will be able to spend playing online games such as Changyou's will be further limited, which can be expected to lead to a reduction in Changyou's revenues. Furthermore, if Changyou is found to be violating these regulations, it may be required to suspend or discontinue its online game operations.

In February 2013, 15 PRC government authorities, including the SAPPRFT, the Ministry of Education, the MOC and the MIIT, jointly issued the Work Plan for the Integrated Prevention of Minors Online Game Addiction, or the Work Plan, implementing integrated measures by different authorities to prevent minors from being addicted to online games. Under the Work Plan, the current relevant regulations will be further clarified and additional implementation rules will be issued by relevant authorities. As a result, Changyou may have to impose more stringent limits for minor game players, which may lead to an increase in its operating expenses and a reduction in its revenues from minor game players.

In July 2014, the SAPPRFT issued the Notice on Further Launch Verification of Real-name Registration for Anti-Fatigue System on Internet Games, stating that, in view of some of the hardware and functionality limitations inherent in mobile devices, anti-fatigue system requirements applicable to Internet games do not currently apply to mobile games. If the SAPPRFT in the future decides to expand the anti-fatigue system requirements to mobile games, Changyou's operating expenses would be likely to increase.

***Restrictions on virtual currency may adversely affect Changyou's online game revenues.***

Changyou's online game revenues are collected through the online sale of game points and sale of its prepaid cards. The Notice on the Reinforcement of the Administration of Internet Cafés and Online Games, or the Internet Cafés Notice, issued by the MOC in 2007, directs the People's Bank of China, or the PBOC, to strengthen the administration of virtual currency in online games to avoid any adverse impact on the PRC economy and financial system. The Internet Cafés Notice places strict limits on the total amount of virtual currency issued by online game operators in the PRC and the amount purchased by individual users in the PRC, and requires a clear division between virtual transactions and real transactions carried out by way of electronic commerce. The Internet Cafés Notice also provides that virtual currency should only be used to purchase virtual items. In 2009, the MOC and the MOFCOM jointly issued the Notice on Strengthening the Administration of Online Game Virtual Currency, or the Virtual Currency Notice. In the Virtual Currency Notice, the MOC and the MOFCOM for the first time defined virtual currency as a type of virtual exchange instrument issued by online game operators, purchased directly or indirectly by the game user by exchanging legal currency at a certain exchange rate, saved outside the game programs, stored in servers provided by online game operators in electronic record format and represented by specific numeric units. In addition, the Virtual Currency Notice categorizes companies involved with virtual currency in the PRC as either issuers or trading platforms and prohibits companies from simultaneously operating both as issuers and as trading platforms. One of the Virtual Currency Notice's stated intended objectives is to limit the circulation of virtual currency and thereby reduce concerns that it may impact real world inflation. Specifically, the Virtual Currency Notice requires online game

operators to report the total amount of their issued virtual currency on a quarterly basis, and game operators are prohibited from issuing disproportionate amounts of virtual currency in order to generate revenues. In addition, the Virtual Currency Notice reiterates that virtual currency can only be provided to users in exchange for an RMB payment and can only be used to pay for virtual goods and services of the issuers. Online game operators are prohibited from providing lucky draws or lotteries which are conducted on the condition that participants contribute cash or virtual currencies in exchange for game props or virtual currencies, and from providing virtual currency trading services to minors. The Virtual Currency Notice places additional potentially burdensome obligations on online game operators, including a requirement that operators keep transaction data records for no less than 180 days, which means that Changyou must design and operate its databases so that it can maintain users' information for the minimum required period, resulting in higher costs for its online game operations. Changyou must tailor its business model carefully in order to comply with the overall requirements of the Virtual Currency Notice, in a manner which can be expected to result in relatively lower sales of Changyou's game coins and an adverse impact on its online game revenues.

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***Changyou's business may be adversely affected by public opinion and governmental policies in China as well as in other jurisdictions where Changyou operates its online games or licenses its online games to third parties.***

Currently, most of Changyou's game players in China are young males, many of whom are students. Due to relatively easy access to personal computers and Internet cafés, the increasing use and popularity of mobile devices such as smart phones and tablets connected to the Internet, and the lack of other appealing forms of entertainment in China, many teenagers in China frequently play online games. This may result in these teenagers spending less time on or refraining from other activities, including education, vocational training, sports, and resting, which could result in adverse public reaction and stricter government regulation. For example, the PRC government has promulgated anti-fatigue-related regulations to limit the amount of time minors can play online games.

Adverse public opinion could discourage game players from playing Changyou's games, and could result in government regulations that impose additional limitations on the operations of online games as well as game players access to online games. For example, under the Monitor System Circular online game operators are required to adopt various measures to maintain a system to communicate with the parents of minors playing online games and are required to monitor the activities of minors and suspend the accounts of minors if so requested by their parents. We believe that stricter government regulations, such as regulations imposing stricter age and hour limits, limiting the issuance of virtual currency by online game operators or the amount of virtual currency that can be purchased by an individual game player, and extending anti-fatigue-related regulations to adults, could be implemented in the future. Any such adverse public opinion or tightened government regulations could adversely affect Changyou's ability to maintain or increase its revenues.

In addition, the PRC State Administration of Taxation, or the SAT, has announced that it will tax game players on the income derived from the trading of virtual currencies at the rate of 20%. It is currently unclear how the tax will be collected or if there will be any effect on Changyou's game players or its business, but collection of such a tax might discourage players who are interested in trading virtual currencies from playing Changyou's games, which could reduce its revenues.

Moreover, similar adverse public reaction may arise, and similar government policies may be adopted, in other jurisdictions where Changyou licenses or operates its games, which could similarly adversely affect its revenues.

***PRC law and regulations governing the online game industry in China are evolving and subject to future changes. Changyou may fail to obtain or maintain all applicable permits, approvals, registrations and filings.***

The online game industry in China is highly regulated by the PRC government. Various regulatory authorities of the PRC central government, such as the State Council, the MIIT, the SAPPRFT, the MOC and the Ministry of Public Security, are empowered to issue and implement regulations governing various aspects of the online game industry.

Changyou is required to obtain applicable permits, approvals and registrations from, or make necessary filings with, different regulatory authorities in order to operate its online games. For example, as an online game operator in China, Changyou must obtain an ICP license from the MIIT, an Online Cultural Operating Permit from the MOC and an Internet publishing license from the SAPPRFT in order to distribute games through the Internet. Any online game Changyou operates needs to be approved by the SAPPRFT prior to its launch and filed with the MOC within 30 days after its launch. Once a new online game or any upgrade, expansion pack or new version of any existing game is launched, such new game or such upgrade, expansion pack or new version of such existing game must be filed with the MOC and approval must be obtained from the SAPPRFT for online publication. If Changyou fails to maintain any of its permits, approvals or registrations, to make any necessary filings, or to apply for and obtain any new permits, approvals or registrations or make any new filings on a timely basis, Changyou may be subject to various penalties,

including fines and a requirement that Changyou discontinue or limit its operations.

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As the online game industry is at an early stage of development in China, new law and regulations may be adopted from time to time to require additional licenses and permits other than those Changyou currently has, and address new issues that arise. In addition, substantial uncertainties exist regarding the interpretation and implementation of current and any future PRC law and regulations applicable to the online game industry. For example, there is ambiguity as to the division of authority and responsibilities between the SAPPRFT and the MOC with respect to regulating online games and, as a result, there may be overlapping approval requirements with respect to some aspects of Changyou's games or Changyou's game operations. On February 4, 2016, the SAPPRFT and the MIIT issued the Measures of Internet Publication Service Administration, or the New Internet Publication Measures, which will become effective on March 10, 2016. The New Internet Publication Measures strengthen the supervision of Internet publishing businesses and require that entities in the Internet publishing business apply for a new online publication license and obtain approval from the SAPPRFT prior to the publication of new online games. In addition, under the New Internet Publication Measures Sino-foreign joint ventures and foreign-invested entities are not permitted to engage in Internet publication services, and the legal representative of an entity providing Internet publication services may not be a foreigner. As the New Internet Publication Measures are new and have not yet become effective, the actual implications and reach of the New Internet Publication Measures are still uncertain. Furthermore, as mobile games are a new type of online game, there are uncertainties relating to whether a game developer, such as us, which provides mobile games to mobile device users, needs to obtain a separate operating license in addition to the ICP license that it has already obtained. For any mobile games Changyou launches, Changyou may be required to apply for a separate operating license for the mobile applications. Therefore, Changyou may not be able to obtain timely, or at all, required licenses or any other new license required in the future, and Changyou may be found to be in violation of current or future PRC law and regulations, which could impede its ability to conduct business.

***Further strengthened supervision of the online game industry may adversely affect Changyou's online game operations.***

In September 2009, the SAPPRFT together with the National Copyright Administration, and the National Office of Combating Pornography and Illegal Publications jointly issued a Notice on Further Strengthening on the Administration of Pre-examination and Approval of Online Game and the Examination and Approval of Imported Online Game, or the SAPPRFT Online Game Notice. In the SAPPRFT Online Game Notice, the SAPPRFT states that it is the only governmental department with authority for examination and pre-approval of online games, and that all online game operators must obtain an Internet publishing license to provide online game services. Under the SAPPRFT Online Game Notice, additional approvals from the SAPPRFT are required when game operators release new versions or expansion packs, or make any changes to the originally approved online game. In addition, on July 1, 2009, the SAPPRFT issued a Notice on Strengthening the Approval and Administration of Imported Online Games, in which the SAPPRFT stated that it is the only governmental department authorized by the State Council to approve the importation of online games from offshore copyright owners. In the event of any failure to meet the above-mentioned requirements, an operator may face heavy penalties, such as being ordered to stop operation, or having its business license revoked. Changyou's online game business may be adversely affected by these two SAPPRFT notices. The launch of expansion packs and imported games might be delayed because of the extra approval required. Such delay in releasing expansion packs or imported games may result in higher costs for Changyou's online game operation and have an adverse effect on its game revenue.

On June 3, 2010, the MOC issued the Interim Measures for Online Games Administration, or the Online Game Measures, which became effective on August 1, 2010, aiming to further strengthen the MOC's supervision of the online game industry. Specifically, the Online Game Measures reiterate that the MOC has the power to review the content of all online games except online game publications that have been pre-approved by the SAPPRFT. However, the Online Game Measures do not clearly specify what constitutes online game publication. Furthermore, the Online Game Measures provide that all domestic online games must be filed with the MOC, while all imported online games

are subject to a content review prior to their launch. If a substantial change (for example, any significant modification to a game's storyline, language, tasks, or trading system) is made to an existing imported or domestic online game, it will be subject to a new content review.

Changyou's online game business may be adversely affected by the Online Game Measures. The Online Game Measures do not set forth any specific procedure for the required filing and content review procedures for online games and therefore may cause delay when Changyou tries to file or apply for content review with the MOC. In addition, for Changyou's imported licensed games, the requirement for prior approval of any substantial change may cause delay in releasing expansion packs, which may result in higher costs of its online game operation and have an adverse effect on its game revenue. In addition, the Online Game Measures do not resolve certain inconsistencies and ambiguities resulting from pronouncements included in previous notices issued by the SAPPRFT and the MOC. Because there is ambiguity in the scope of the authority and the roles and responsibilities of governmental departments, such as the SAPPRFT and the MOC, with oversight of the online game industry, Changyou may face stricter scrutiny of the day-to-day operations of its online game business. If any of its online game operating entities cannot comply with any of the stipulations of any PRC governmental department regarding the online game industry, Changyou may be subject to various penalties and its online game business may be adversely affected.



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**Table of Contents*****Heightened scrutiny of acquisition transactions by PRC tax authorities may have a negative impact on Changyou's business operations and its acquisition strategy.***

Pursuant to the Notice on Strengthening Administration of Enterprise Income Tax for Share Transfers by Non-PRC Resident Enterprises, or SAT Circular 698, effective on January 1, 2008, and the Announcement on Several Issues Related to Enterprise Income Tax for Indirect Asset Transfer by Non-PRC Resident Enterprises, or SAT Announcement 7, effective on February 3, 2015, issued by the SAT, if a non-resident enterprise transfers the equity interests of or similar rights or interests in overseas companies which directly or indirectly own PRC taxable assets through an arrangement without a reasonable commercial purpose, but rather to avoid PRC corporate income tax, the transaction will be re-characterized and treated as a direct transfer of PRC taxable assets subject to PRC corporate income tax. SAT Announcement 7 specifies certain factors that should be considered in determining whether an indirect transfer has a reasonable commercial purpose. However, as SAT Announcement 7 is newly issued, there is uncertainty as to the application of SAT Announcement 7 and the interpretation of the term reasonable commercial purpose.

Under SAT Announcement 7, the entity which has the obligation to pay the consideration for the transfer to the transferring shareholders has the obligation to withhold any PRC corporate income tax that is due. If the transferring shareholders do not pay corporate income tax that is due for a transfer and the entity which has the obligation to pay the consideration does not withhold the tax due, the PRC tax authorities may impose a penalty on the entity that so fails to withhold, which may be relieved or exempted from the withholding obligation and any resulting penalty under certain circumstances if it reports such transfer to the PRC tax authorities.

Although SAT Announcement 7 is generally effective as of February 3, 2015, it also applies to cases where the PRC tax treatment of a transaction that took place prior to its effectiveness has not yet been finally settled. As a result, SAT Announcement 7 could be determined by PRC tax authorities to be applicable to the historical reorganization of 7Road and Changyou's acquisitions of the equity interests of 7Road and MoboTap, and it is possible that these transactions could be determined by PRC tax authorities to lack a reasonable commercial purpose. As a result, the transfer of 7Road's or MoboTap's shares to other parties could be subject to corporate income tax of up to 10% on capital gains generated from such transfers, and PRC tax authorities could impose tax obligations on the transferring shareholders or subject us to penalty if the transferring shareholders do not pay such obligations and Changyou does not withhold such tax.

SAT Announcement 7 and its interpretation by relevant PRC authorities clarify that an exemption provided by SAT Circular 698 for transfers of shares in a publicly-traded entity that is listed overseas is available if the purchase of the shares and the sale of the shares both take place in open-market transactions. However, if a shareholder of an entity that is listed overseas purchases shares in the open market and sells them in a private transaction, or vice-versa, PRC tax authorities might deem such a transfer to be subject to SAT Circular 698 and SAT Announcement 7, which could subject such shareholder to additional reporting obligations or tax burdens. Accordingly, if a holder of Changyou's ADSs or ordinary shares purchases its ADSs or ordinary shares in the open market and sells them in a private transaction, or vice-versa, and fails to comply with SAT Circular 698 or SAT Announcement 7, the PRC tax authorities may take actions, including requesting Changyou to provide assistance for their investigation or impose a penalty on it, which could have a negative impact on Changyou's business operations. In addition, since Changyou may pursue acquisitions as one of its growth strategies, and may conduct acquisitions involving complex corporate structures, PRC tax authorities might impose taxes on capital gains or request that Changyou submit additional documentation for their review in connection with any potential acquisitions, which may cause it to incur additional acquisition costs or delay its acquisition timetable.

***As the special tax statuses of certain of Changyou's PRC subsidiaries and VIEs as High and New Technology Enterprises, software enterprises or Key National Software Enterprises expire, or if they are revoked, Changyou will have to pay additional taxes to make up any previously unpaid tax and will be subject to a higher tax rate.***

The CIT Law imposes a unified income tax rate of 25% for both domestic and foreign invested enterprises. High and New Technology Enterprises ( HNTES ) will enjoy a favorable tax rate of 15% for three years, but need to re-apply after the end of the three-year period. Key National Software Enterprises can enjoy a further reduced preferential income tax rate of 10% for two years, but need to re-apply after the end of the two-year period. Certain of Changyou's PRC Subsidiaries and VIEs qualified as HNTES and enjoyed reduced tax rates in 2013, 2014 and/or 2015. In addition, one of its PRC subsidiaries qualified as a Key National Software Enterprise ( KNSE ) in 2013 and 2014. However, as a result of a restructuring of the approval process, the State Council recently suspended the acceptance of applications for KNSE status, and it is not clear when, if ever, the acceptance of applications for KNSE status will resume.

In addition, the CIT Law and its implementing regulations provide that Software Enterprises can enjoy an income tax exemption for two years beginning with their first profitable year and a 50% reduction to a rate of 12.5% for the subsequent three years. A number of Changyou's PRC Subsidiaries and VIEs qualified for exemptions or rate reductions in 2013, 2014 and/or 2015.

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There are uncertainties regarding future interpretation and implementation of the CIT Law and its implementing regulations. It is possible that the HNTE, Software Enterprise, and KNSE qualifications of Changyou's operating entities currently qualified as such, or their entitlement to an income tax exemption or refund of their VAT, will be challenged by higher level tax authorities and be repealed, or that there will be future implementing regulations that are inconsistent with current interpretation of the CIT Law. Therefore, it is possible that the qualifications of one or more of Changyou's PRC Subsidiaries or VIEs will be challenged in the future or that such companies will not be able to take any further actions, such as re-application for qualification, to enjoy such preferential tax treatments. If those operating entities cannot qualify for such income tax or VAT reductions, Changyou's effective income tax rate or VAT rate, as the case may be, will be increased significantly and Changyou may have to pay additional income tax to make up the previously unpaid tax, which would reduce its net income.

***To fund any cash requirements Changyou may have, Changyou may need to rely on dividends, loans or advances made by its principal PRC subsidiaries AmazGame, Gamespace and Beijing Baina Technology, which are subject to limitations and possible taxation under applicable PRC law.***

Changyou may need to rely on dividends and other distributions on equity, or loans and advances made by its PRC subsidiaries AmazGame, Gamespace and Beijing Baina Technology to fund any cash requirements Changyou may have, including the funds necessary to pay dividends and other cash distributions, if any, to its shareholders or ADS holders, and to service any debt Changyou may incur. The distribution of dividends and the making of loans and advances by entities organized in China are subject to limitations. Regulations in the PRC currently permit payment of dividends only out of accumulated profits as determined in accordance with accounting standards and regulations in China. AmazGame, Gamespace and Beijing Baina Technology are also required to set aside at least 10% of their after-tax profit based on PRC accounting standards each year to their general reserves until the cumulative amount of such reserves reaches 50% of the entities' registered capital. These reserves are not distributable as cash dividends, loans or advances. AmazGame, Gamespace and Beijing Baina Technology may also allocate a portion of their after-tax profits, as determined by their boards of directors, to their staff welfare and bonus funds, which may not be distributed to Changyou. In addition, if AmazGame, Gamespace or Beijing Baina Technology incurs debt on its own behalf in the future, the instruments governing the debt may restrict its ability to pay dividends or make other distributions to Changyou. Furthermore, under regulations of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange, or the SAFE, the RMB is not convertible into foreign currencies for capital account items, such as loans, repatriation of investments and investments outside of China, unless prior approval of the SAFE is obtained and prior registration with the SAFE is made, which could delay or prevent any transfers of funds from Changyou's PRC subsidiaries to Changyou.

In addition, there are uncertainties under the CIT Law with regard to the PRC withholding tax on dividends paid by AmazGame, Gamespace and Beijing Baina Technology to Changyou's Hong Kong subsidiaries. Should such dividends be subject to PRC withholding tax or be subject to the usual CIT Law withholding tax rate of 10% rather than the preferential dividend withholding tax rate of 5% provided under the China-HK Tax Arrangement, the amount of cash available to Changyou for Changyou's cash needs, including for the payment of dividends to its shareholders or ADS holders, would be reduced.

Furthermore, Changyou controls its principal VIEs Gamease, Guanyou Gamespace and Wuhan Baina Information through contractual arrangements rather than equity ownership. To the extent that there is any distributable profit in Gamease, Guanyou Gamespace or Wuhan Baina Information, it may be difficult for these entities to distribute such profit to AmazGame, Gamespace or Beijing Baina Technology, which may further limit the amount that these PRC subsidiaries can distribute to Changyou.

**Risks Related to Changyou's Shares**

***Changyou's operating results for a particular period could fall below its expectations or the expectations of investors or research analysts, resulting in a decrease in the price of its ADSs and the value of our interest in Changyou.***

Changyou's operating results may vary significantly from period to period as a result of factors beyond its control, such as the slowdown in China's economic growth that occurred between the first quarter of 2010 and third quarter of 2012 and during 2014, caused in part by measures adopted by the Chinese government intended to slow such growth and to temper real estate prices and inflation, and the significant instability recently experienced in the worldwide economy, and the European Community facing disruptions as a result of crises in the economies of Greece and Spain, among other countries, and such factors may be difficult to predict for any given period. Other factors also could cause significant fluctuations in Changyou's operating results, including the timing and success of its new game launches, its costs of developing and launching new games and software, and the level of user activity of its games and software in China during particular fiscal quarters. If its operating results for any period fall below its expectations or the expectations of investors or research analysts, the price of its ADSs is likely to decrease, which would reduce the value of our ownership interest in Changyou.

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*Changyou shareholders, including us, will experience dilution when additional Class A ordinary shares are issued in settlement of restricted share units or upon exercise of options.*

Changyou shareholders, including us, will experience dilution to the extent that additional Class A ordinary shares are issued upon settlement of restricted share units or exercise of outstanding options that Changyou may grant from time to time. As of the date of this report, there were outstanding 44,986 Class A restricted share units, with each such restricted share unit settleable upon vesting by the issuance of Changyou one Class A ordinary share, and outstanding options for the purchase of 3,270,000 Changyou Class A ordinary shares at a nominal price.

*Changyou may need additional capital and may sell additional ADSs or other equity securities or incur indebtedness, which could result in additional dilution to its shareholders, including us, or increase its debt service obligations.*

Changyou may require additional cash resources due to changed business conditions or other future developments, including any investments or acquisitions Changyou may decide to pursue. If its cash resources are insufficient to satisfy its cash requirements, Changyou may seek to sell additional equity or debt securities or obtain a credit facility. The sale of additional equity securities or equity-linked debt securities could result in additional dilution to its shareholders, including us. The incurrence of indebtedness would result in increased debt service obligations and could result in operating and financing covenants that would restrict its operations. We cannot assure you that financing will be available in amounts or on terms acceptable to Changyou, if at all.

**ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS**

There are no comments that we received from the staff of the SEC 180 days or more before the end of the year ended December 31, 2015 regarding our periodic or current reports under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that remain unresolved.

**ITEM 2. PROPERTIES**

**Sohu**

In February 2007, we purchased an office building of approximately 18,265 square meters in Beijing, for consideration of approximately \$35.3 million, of which 17,188 square meters have been leased to Sogou since November 2013.

In November 2009, we entered into a contract for the purchase and development of an office building of approximately 41,283 square meters in Beijing to serve as our headquarters, for consideration of approximately \$162 million. The office building was placed in service in May 2013.

As of December 31, 2015, we leased office space in Beijing of approximately 7,644 square meters. We also leased office space of approximately 25,852 square meters in other cities in the PRC.

**Sogou**

As of December 31, 2015, Sogou leased 5,062 square meters of office space in Beijing, in addition to office space that Sogou leased from Sohu.

**Changyou**

In August 2009, Changyou purchased an office building of approximately 14,950 square meters in Beijing, for consideration of approximately \$33.4 million.

In August 2010, Changyou entered into a contract for the purchase and development of an office building of approximately 56,549 square meters in Beijing to serve as its headquarters, for consideration of approximately \$171 million. The office building was placed in service in December 2013.

As of December 31, 2015, Changyou leased additional office space in Beijing of approximately 6,308 square meters. Changyou also leased office space of approximately 17,459 square meters in other cities in the PRC and in other countries.

**Table of Contents****ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

From time to time we become subject to legal proceedings and claims in the ordinary course of our business, including claims of alleged infringement of trademarks, copyrights and other intellectual property rights, and a variety of claims arising in connection with our e-mail, message boards and other communications and community features, such as claims alleging defamation or invasion of privacy. Such legal proceedings or claims, even if not meritorious, could result in the expenditure of significant financial and management resources.

There have been no material developments in the legal proceedings reported in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 filed with the SEC on March 2, 2015.

**ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES**

None.

**PART II****ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON STOCK, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES****Market Information**

Our common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market, under the symbol SOHU. Public trading in our common stock commenced on July 12, 2000. The following table sets forth the high and low sale prices of our common stock as reported by the NASDAQ Stock Market for the quarters indicated.

	2014		2015	
	High	Low	High	Low
First quarter	\$ 87.68	\$ 62.71	\$ 58.25	\$ 48.82
Second quarter	66.69	52.69	71.78	52.94
Third quarter	63.00	50.12	59.23	40.20
Fourth quarter	53.31	42.03	59.50	41.05

The closing price of our common stock on February 23, 2016 as reported by the NASDAQ Global Select Market was \$44.58.

**Holders**

As of February 11, 2016, there were 14 holders of record of our common stock. Because many of our shares are held by brokers and other institutions on behalf of stockholders, we are unable to estimate the exact number of beneficial holders represented by these record holders. As of February 11, 2016, there were approximately 11,800 beneficial holders of our common stock.

**Dividends**

On September 17, 2013, Sogou distributed a special dividend to holders of its Series A Preferred Shares in the amount of \$300.9 million, of which Sohu Search received \$161.2 million, Photon received \$43.0 million, and China Web

received \$96.7 million.

We do not expect to pay any of the dividends received from Changyou and Sogou, or to pay any other dividends, to our shareholders in the foreseeable future.

**Securities Authorized for Issuance under Equity Compensation Plans**

The information in Item 12 of this report is incorporated herein by reference.

**Recent Sales of Unregistered Securities**

None.



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**Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities**

For the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 we did not have a program for the repurchase of outstanding shares of common stock of Sohu.com Inc. or of outstanding ADSs of Changyou.com Limited.

**Report of Offering of Securities and Use of Proceeds Therefrom**

***Initial Public Offering of our Common Stock***

On July 17, 2000, we completed an underwritten initial public offering of our common stock pursuant to a Registration Statement on Form S-1 (SEC file No. 333-96137), which became effective on July 10, 2000. Our net proceeds, after deduction of the underwriting discount of \$4.2 million and offering expenses of \$3.2 million, were approximately \$52.4 million. None of the expense payments were made to the underwriters, to any of our directors, officers or affiliates or to any persons owning 10% or more of any class of our equity securities.

Through December 31, 2015, we had used \$8.2 million of the net proceeds from the offering for operating activities, purchases of fixed assets, funding for certain equity investments and strategic acquisitions of complementary businesses. The remaining net proceeds from the offering have been invested in cash and cash equivalents. The use of the proceeds from the offering does not represent a material change in the use of proceeds described in the prospectus contained in the Registration Statement on Form S-1 described above.

**PERFORMANCE GRAPH**

The following graph compares the cumulative total stockholder return for Sohu, the NASDAQ Stock Market (U.S. companies) Index (or the NASDAQ Market Index) and the Morningstar Group Index. The graph covers the period from December 31, 2010 to December 31, 2015. The graph assumes that \$100 was invested on December 31, 2010 in our common stock, the NASDAQ Market Index and the Morningstar Group index, and the reinvestment of any dividends. The stock price performance on the following graph is not necessarily indicative of future stock price performance.

**Table of Contents****ASSUMES \$100 INVESTED ON DEC. 31, 2010****ASSUMES DIVIDEND REINVESTED****FISCAL YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 2015**

	<b>Sohu.com Inc.</b>	<b>Morningstar Group</b>	<b>NASDAQ Market Index</b>
12/31/2010	116.45	93.63	103.08
12/31/2011	91.71	91.54	102.27
12/31/2012	86.83	89.25	120.40
12/31/2013	154.06	355.07	281.18
12/31/2014	92.84	192.93	221.02
12/31/2015	90.08	228.60	200.31

The Stock Performance Graph is not soliciting material, is not deemed filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and is not deemed to be incorporated by reference by any general statement incorporating by reference this annual report on Form 10-K into any filing of the Company under the Securities Act of 1933, or any filing under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, except to the extent that we specifically request that the information be treated as soliciting material or specifically incorporate this information by reference into any such filing, and will not otherwise be deemed incorporated by reference into any other filing under the Securities Act or the Securities Exchange Act, except to the extent that we specifically incorporate it by reference.

Information used on the graphs was obtained from Morningstar, Inc., a source believed to be reliable.

**ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA**

The selected consolidated financial data below should be read in conjunction with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto and the other information contained in this Form 10-K.

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Commencing in the second quarter of 2015, the chief operating decision maker (the CODM) did not consider the others segment to be significant enough to be separately reviewed. Therefore, in order to better reflect management's perspective, we combined the brand advertising segment and the others segment, and now identify them together as the Sohu segment. There are now three segments in the Sohu Group, consisting of the Sohu segment, the Sogou segment, and the Changyou segment. We have restated the presentation of our reportable segments for prior periods to conform to the current presentation.

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>(In thousands, except per share data)</b>				
<b>Statements of Comprehensive Income Data:</b>					
Revenues:					
Online advertising:					
Brand advertising	\$ 277,327	\$ 290,205	\$ 428,526	\$ 541,158	\$ 577,114
Search and search-related	62,981	124,389	198,915	357,839	539,521
Subtotal of online advertising revenues	340,308	414,594	627,441	898,997	1,116,635
Online games	435,508	570,346	669,168	652,008	636,846
Others	76,271	82,261	103,665	122,072	183,610
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>852,087</b>	<b>1,067,201</b>	<b>1,400,274</b>	<b>1,673,077</b>	<b>1,937,091</b>
Cost of revenues:					
Online advertising:					
Brand advertising	107,391	161,195	221,659	307,708	383,187
Search and search-related	35,144	70,628	109,139	163,918	238,944
Subtotal of cost of online advertising revenues	142,535	231,823	330,798	471,626	622,131
Online games	49,837	76,350	93,307	142,552	156,315
Others	47,975	61,485	55,945	71,456	80,618
<b>Total cost of revenues</b>	<b>240,347</b>	<b>369,658</b>	<b>480,050</b>	<b>685,634</b>	<b>859,064</b>
<b>Gross profit</b>	<b>611,740</b>	<b>697,543</b>	<b>920,224</b>	<b>987,443</b>	<b>1,078,027</b>
Operating expenses:					
Product development	112,617	181,359	276,120	409,285	398,143
Sales and marketing	158,187	214,736	351,653	526,514	383,931
General and administrative	59,126	75,243	108,970	204,325	173,160
Goodwill impairment and impairment of intangible assets acquired as part of business acquisitions	27,511	2,906	0	52,282	40,324
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>357,441</b>	<b>474,244</b>	<b>736,743</b>	<b>1,192,406</b>	<b>995,558</b>
<b>Operating profit /(loss)</b>	<b>254,299</b>	<b>223,299</b>	<b>183,481</b>	<b>(204,963)</b>	<b>82,469</b>

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Other income	9,799	5,422	12,721	9,959	74,526
Net interest income	15,800	25,277	27,829	30,977	23,459
Exchange difference	(5,003)	(635)	(6,660)	(1,142)	5,337
Income /(loss) before income tax expense	274,895	253,363	217,371	(165,169)	185,791
Income tax expense	46,552	76,171	50,422	6,050	76,936
Net income /(loss)	228,343	177,192	166,949	(171,219)	108,855
Less: Net income attributable to the mezzanine-classified noncontrolling interest shareholders	2,558	11,196	17,780	0	0
Net income /(loss) attributable to the noncontrolling interest shareholders	63,044	78,837	82,044	(32,309)	146,542
Dividend or deemed dividend to noncontrolling Sogou Series A Preferred shareholders	0	14,219	82,432	27,747	11,911
Net income/(loss) attributable to Sohu.com Inc.	\$ 162,741	\$ 72,940	\$ (15,298)	\$ (166,657)	\$ (49,598)
Net income /(loss)	\$ 228,343	\$ 177,192	\$ 166,949	\$ (171,219)	\$ 108,855
Other comprehensive income /(loss)	43,545	4,413	47,125	(8,390)	(87,655)
Comprehensive income /(loss)	271,888	181,605	214,074	(179,609)	21,200

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Less: Comprehensive income attributable to the mezzanine-classified noncontrolling interest shareholders	2,558	11,196	17,780	0	0
Comprehensive income /(loss) attributable to noncontrolling interest shareholders	68,598	79,927	92,407	(33,797)	118,138
Dividend or deemed dividend to noncontrolling Sogou Series A Preferred shareholders	0	14,219	82,423	27,747	11,911
Comprehensive income /(loss) attributable to Sohu.com Inc.	200,732	76,263	21,464	(173,559)	(108,849)
Basic net income/(loss) per share attributable to Sohu.com Inc.	\$ 4.26	\$ 1.92	\$ (0.40)	\$ (4.33)	\$ (1.28)
Shares used in computing basic net income per share attributable to Sohu.com Inc.					
Shares used in computing basic net income/(loss) per share attributable to Sohu.com Inc.	38,216	38,038	38,255	38,468	38,598
Shares used in computing diluted net income per share attributable to Sohu.com Inc.					
Diluted net income/(loss) per share attributable to Sohu.com Inc.	\$ 3.93	\$ 1.66	\$ (0.47)	\$ (4.43)	\$ (1.32)
Shares used in computing basic net income per share attributable to Sohu.com Inc.					
Shares used in computing diluted net income/(loss) per share attributable to Sohu.com Inc.	38,761	38,392	38,502	38,468	38,598

	As of December 31,				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	(In thousands)				
<b>Balance Sheets Data:</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 732,607	\$ 833,535	\$ 1,287,288	\$ 876,340	\$ 1,245,205
Restricted time deposits	0	246,839	434,048	426,748	227,285
Investments in debt securities	79,354	79,548	82,009	0	0
Working capital	639,616	681,490	937,146	902,923	814,933
Total assets	1,633,294	2,082,637	2,998,715	2,867,009	3,042,194
Short-term bank loans	0	113,000	410,331	25,500	344,500
Long-term bank loans	0	126,353	0	344,500	0
Total liabilities	356,969	705,610	1,161,995	1,178,103	1,311,442
Mezzanine equity Noncontrolling interest	57,254	61,810	0	0	0
Noncontrolling interest	210,646	230,994	510,015	487,245	489,730

Total shareholders equity	1,219,071	1,315,217	1,836,720	1,688,906	1,730,752
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**ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

**OVERVIEW**

Sohu.com Inc. (NASDAQ: SOHU), a Delaware corporation organized in 1996, is a leading Chinese online media, search and game service group providing comprehensive online products and services on PCs and mobile devices in the People's Republic of China (the PRC or China). Our businesses are conducted by Sohu.com Inc. and its subsidiaries and VIEs (collectively referred to as the Sohu Group). The Sohu Group consists of Sohu, which when referred to in this report, unless the context requires otherwise, excludes the businesses and the corresponding subsidiaries and VIEs of Sogou Inc. (Sogou) and Changyou.com Limited (Changyou), Sogou and Changyou. Sogou and Changyou are indirect controlled subsidiaries of Sohu.com Inc. Sohu is a leading Chinese language online media content and services provider. Sogou is a leading online search, client software and mobile Internet product provider in China. Changyou is a leading online game developer and operator in China as measured by the popularity of its PC game TLBB and its mobile game TLBB 3D, and engages primarily in the development, operation and licensing of online games for PCs and mobile devices. Most of our operations are conducted through our indirect wholly-owned and majority-owned China-Based Subsidiaries and VIEs.

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Through the operation of Sohu, Sogou and Changyou, we generate online advertising revenues (including brand advertising revenues and search and search-related revenues), online games revenues and others revenues. For the year ended December 31, 2015, our total revenues were approximately \$1.94 billion, representing an increase of 16% compared to 2014, and our gross margin decreased from 59% to 56%. Our online advertising business generated revenues of \$1.12 billion with 24% annual growth, representing 58% of total revenues. Our online game business generated revenues of \$636.8 million with 2% annual decline, representing 33% of total revenues. In 2015, our net profit before deducting the noncontrolling interest was \$108.9 million, compared to net loss of \$171.2 million in 2014. In 2015, our net loss after deducting the noncontrolling interest was \$49.6 million, compared to a net loss of \$166.7 million in 2014. Diluted net loss per share attributable to Sohu.com Inc. was \$1.32 in 2015, compared to a diluted net loss per share attributable to Sohu.com Inc. of \$4.43 in 2014.

**Factors and Trends Affecting our Business**

With the accelerated shift in user activities from desktop computers ( PCs ) to mobile devices and an increase in the number of Internet users, the usage of various kinds of mobile Internet services continued to accelerate at a fast pace during 2015. As of the end of December 2015, according to the China Internet Network Information Center (or CNNIC), the number of mobile Internet users had reached 620 million, an increase of 11% from the end of 2014. At Sohu, we focused our efforts on developing a portfolio of leading mobile products across our business lines that we believed our users would like. Our key products continued to gain traction. For example, during the month ended December 31, 2015, mobile traffic for our online video business contributed more than 60% of our total traffic. During 2015, Sogou's mobile search traffic increased over 100%. In December of 2015, mobile traffic accounted for 57% of our total traffic. The monetization of mobile traffic also progressed well, contributing a relatively higher percentage of our total revenues.

In 2015, the deceleration of growth in the Chinese macro economy impacted our brand advertising business, as traditional brand advertisers tightened their marketing budgets. Meanwhile, beginning in the third quarter of 2015, the depreciation of the RMB against the U.S. dollar had an adverse effect on our reported financial results, which are denominated in the U.S. dollar. For Sohu Media Portal, we focused on growing the penetration of two of the leading mobile news products in the market, the Web-based HTML5 Portal m.sohu.com and the Sohu News App. As of the end of December 2015, the combined reach of these two products exceeded 50 million daily unique visitors. Sohu Video is a leading online video content and service provider in China. In 2015, the online video industry as a whole continued to gain viewers from television stations, and advertising dollars shifted in accordance with that trend. In the meantime, as competition intensified, the major players stepped up content spending to attract viewers. The average licensing fee for top class TV dramas and variety shows grew significantly in 2015 as compared to 2014. During the year, Sohu Video focused on taking a rational approach as possible, by acquiring only enough expensive head content to remain competitive, while shifting resources to self-developed and professionally-generated content. The total amount that we spent for content tended to be lower than that of some of our key competitors. Despite this, the overall amount that we spent for content continued to rise from 2014, and the operating losses of Sohu Video widened. We expect that the industry-wide unfavorable cost structure will continue to overshadow the profitability outlook for the entire industry, including us, in the near term.

For our search and search-related business, on September 16, 2013 we entered into a strategic cooperation with Tencent Holding Limited (Tencent Holding Limited together with its subsidiaries, Tencent ), in connection with which Tencent invested in Sogou. We believe that this strategic cooperation has reinforced Sogou as a leader in the large and fast-growing China market for search and Internet services, particularly on the mobile side. Sogou is one of the top three players in the online search sector in China. For 2015, we reinforced our competitive position, as we continually raised the bar in terms of quality for our core search service and further differentiated our search service through deepening our cooperation with Tencent's social platforms and bringing in more unique and high-quality content. For

2015, aggregate paid clicks and cost-per-click continued to grow, with improving mobile monetization.

For Changyou, TLBB and TLBB 3D continued to be the two biggest revenue contributors. However, both games are experiencing revenue declines as a natural course of their lifecycles. We expect further sequential decrease in revenues from TLBB and TLBB 3D in the first quarter of 2016. Nevertheless, we will explore new social interactive features that can be added to the games in order to prolong their life spans. For the three months ended December 31, 2015, the PC games and mobile games that Changyou operates had approximately 7.3 million total average monthly active accounts and approximately 2.1 million total active paying accounts.



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**Table of Contents****CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND MANAGEMENT ESTIMATES**

Our discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations relates to our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ( U.S. GAAP ). The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues, costs and expenses, and related disclosures. On an on-going basis, we evaluate our estimates based on historical experience and on various other assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions. Identified below are the accounting policies that reflect our more significant estimates and judgments, and those that we believe are the most critical to fully understanding and evaluating our consolidated financial statements.

**Basis of Consolidation**

Our consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Sohu.com Inc. and its direct and indirect wholly-owned and majority-owned subsidiaries and consolidated VIEs. All intercompany transactions are eliminated.

***VIE Consolidation***

Our VIEs are wholly or partially owned by certain of our employees as nominee shareholders. For our consolidated VIEs, management made evaluations of the relationships between us and our VIEs and the economic benefit flow of contractual arrangements with the VIEs. In connection with such evaluation, management also took into account the fact that, as a result of such contractual arrangements, we control the shareholders' voting interests in these VIEs. As a result of such evaluation, management concluded that we are the primary beneficiary of our consolidated VIEs.

***Noncontrolling Interest Recognition***

Noncontrolling interests are recognized to reflect the portion of the equity of majority-owned subsidiaries and VIEs which is not attributable, directly or indirectly, to the controlling shareholder. Currently, the noncontrolling interests in our consolidated financial statements primarily consist of noncontrolling interests for Sogou and Changyou.

***Noncontrolling Interest for Sogou***

As we control the election of the Board of Directors of Sogou, we are Sogou's controlling shareholder. Accordingly, we consolidate Sogou in our consolidated financial statements, and recognize noncontrolling interest reflecting economic interests in Sogou held by shareholders other than us. To reflect the economic interest in Sogou held by shareholders other than us (the Sogou noncontrolling shareholders ), Sogou's net income /(loss) attributable to the Sogou noncontrolling shareholders is recorded as noncontrolling interest in our consolidated statements of comprehensive income. Sogou's cumulative results of operations attributable to the Sogou noncontrolling shareholders, along with changes in shareholders' equity /(deficit) and adjustment for share-based compensation expense in relation to those share-based awards which are unvested and vested but not yet settled and the Sogou noncontrolling shareholders' investments in Sogou Preferred Shares and Ordinary Shares are accounted for as a noncontrolling interest classified as permanent equity in our consolidated balance sheets, as we have the right to reject a redemption requested by the noncontrolling interest. These treatments are based on the terms governing investment, and on the terms of the classes of Sogou shares held, by the noncontrolling shareholders in Sogou.

By virtue of these terms, Sogou's losses have been and will be allocated in the following order:

- (i) net losses were allocated to holders of Sogou Class A Ordinary Shares and the holder of Sogou Class B Ordinary Shares until their basis in Sogou decreased to zero;
- (ii) additional net losses were allocated to holders of Sogou Series A Preferred Shares until their basis in Sogou decreased to zero;
- (iii) additional net losses will be allocated to the holder of Sogou Series B Preferred Shares until its basis in Sogou decreases to zero; and
- (iv) further net losses will be allocated between Sohu and noncontrolling shareholders based on their shareholding percentage in Sogou.

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Net income from Sogou has been, and future net income from Sogou will be, allocated in the following order:

- (i) net income will be allocated between Sohu and noncontrolling shareholders based on their shareholding percentage in Sogou until their basis in Sogou increases to zero;
- (ii) additional net income will be allocated to the holder of Sogou Series B Preferred Shares to bring its basis back;
- (iii) additional net income will be allocated to holders of Sogou Series A Preferred Shares to bring their basis back;
- (iv) further net income will be allocated to holders of Sogou Class A Ordinary Shares and the holder of Sogou Class B Ordinary Shares to bring their basis back; and
- (v) further net income will be allocated between Sohu and noncontrolling shareholders based on their shareholding percentage in Sogou.

### *Noncontrolling Interest for Changyou*

As of the date of this report, we held approximately 69% of the combined total of Changyou's outstanding ordinary shares, and controlled approximately 96% of the total voting power in Changyou. As we are Changyou's controlling shareholder, we consolidate Changyou in our consolidated financial statements, but recognize noncontrolling interest reflecting the economic interest in Changyou held by shareholders other than us.

To reflect the economic interest in Changyou held by shareholders other than us (Changyou noncontrolling shareholders), Changyou's net income/(loss) attributable to the Changyou noncontrolling shareholders is recorded as noncontrolling interest in our consolidated statements of comprehensive income, based on their share of the economic interest in Changyou. Changyou's cumulative results of operations attributable to the Changyou noncontrolling shareholders, along with changes in shareholders' equity, adjustment for share-based compensation expense in relation to those share-based awards which are unvested and vested but not yet settled and adjustment for changes in our ownership in Changyou, are recorded as noncontrolling interest in our consolidated balance sheets.

### ***Segment Reporting***

Our Group's segments are business units that offer different services and are reviewed separately by the CODM, or the decision making group, in deciding how to allocate resources and in assessing performance. The CODM is Sohu.com Inc.'s Chief Executive Officer.

### **Revenue Recognition**

We recognize revenue when persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, delivery has occurred, the sales price is fixed or determinable, and collectability is reasonably assured. The recognition of revenues involves certain management judgments. The amount and timing of our revenues could be materially different for any period if management made different judgments or utilized different estimates.

Barter trade transactions in which physical goods or services (other than advertising services) are received in exchange for advertising services are recorded based on the fair values of the goods and services received. For online advertising-for-online advertising barter transactions, no revenue or expense is recognized because the fair value of neither the advertising surrendered nor the advertising received is determinable.

***Online Advertising Revenues***

Online advertising revenues include revenues from brand advertising services as well as search and search-related services. We recognize revenue for the amount of fees we receive from our advertisers, after deducting agent rebates and net of value-added tax ( VAT ) and related surcharges.

***Brand Advertising Revenues***

**Business Model**

Through PCs and mobile devices, we provide advertisement placements to our advertisers on different Internet platforms and in different formats, which include banners, links, logos, buttons, full screen, pre-roll, mid-roll, post-roll video screens, pause video screens, loading page ads, news feed ads and in-feed video infomercial ads.

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Currently we have four main types of pricing models, consisting of the Fixed Price model, the Cost Per Impression ( CPM ) model, the E-commerce model, and the Cost Per click ( CPC ) model.

### Fixed Price model

Under the Fixed Price model, a contract is signed to establish a fixed price for the advertising services to be provided.

### CPM model

Under the CPM model, the unit price for each qualifying display is fixed, but there is no overall fixed price for the advertising services stated in the contract with the advertiser. A qualifying display is defined as the appearance of an advertisement, where the advertisement meets criteria specified in the contract. Advertising fees are charged to the advertisers based on the unit prices and the number of qualifying displays.

### E-commerce model

Under the e-commerce model, revenues were mainly generated from sales of membership cards which allow potential home buyers to purchase specified properties from real estate developers at a discount greater than the price that Focus charges for the card. Membership fees are refundable until the potential home buyer uses the discounts to purchase properties. Focus recognizes such revenues upon obtaining confirmation that the membership card has been redeemed to purchase a property.

### CPC model

Under the CPC model, there is no overall fixed price for advertising services stated in the contract with the advertiser. We charge advertisers on a per-click basis when the users click on the advertisements. The unit price for each click is fixed or auction-based.

## **Revenue Recognition**

For brand advertising revenue recognition, prior to entering into contracts, we make a credit assessment of the advertiser. For contracts for which collectability is determined to be reasonably assured, we recognize revenue when all revenue recognition criteria are met. In other cases, we only recognize revenue when the cash is received and all other revenue recognition criteria are met.

In accordance with *ASU No. 2009-13*, we treat advertising contracts with multiple deliverable elements as separate units of accounting for revenue recognition purposes and to recognize revenue on a periodic basis during the contract when each deliverable service is provided. Since the contract price is for all deliverables, we allocate the arrangement consideration to all deliverables at the inception of the arrangement on the basis of their relative selling prices.

### *Search and Search-related Revenues*

Search and search-related services primarily include pay-for-click services, as well as online marketing services on Web directories operated by Sogou.

### Pay-for-click Services

Pay-for-click services are services that enable our advertisers promotional links to be displayed on Sogou search result pages and Sogou Website Alliance members Websites where the links are relevant to the subject and content of such Web pages. For pay-for-click services, we introduce Internet users to our advertisers through our auction-based pay-for-click systems and charge advertisers on a per-click basis when the users click on the displayed links. Revenue for pay-for-click services is recognized on a per-click basis when the users click on the displayed links.

Online Marketing Services on Web Directories Operated by Sogou

Online marketing services on Web directories operated by Sogou mainly consist of displaying advertisers promotional links on the Web pages of Web directories. Revenue for online marketing services on Web directories operated by Sogou is normally recognized on a straight-line basis over the contract period, provided our obligations under the contract have been met and all revenue recognition criteria have been met.

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Both pay-for-click services and online marketing services on Web directories operated by Sogou expand distribution of advertisers' promotional links or advertisements by leveraging traffic on Sogou Website Alliance members' Websites. We recognize gross revenue for the amount of fees we receive from advertisers, as we have the primary responsibility for fulfillment and acceptability. Payments made to Sogou Website Alliance members are included in cost of search and search-related revenues as traffic acquisition costs. We pay Sogou Website Alliance members based on either revenue-sharing arrangements, under which we pay a percentage of pay-for-click revenues generated from clicks by users of their properties, or on a pre-agreed unit price.

### ***Online Game Revenues***

Changyou's online game business offers to game players PC games, mobile games and Web games. All of Changyou's games are operated under the item-based revenue model, where the basic game play functions are free of charge and players are charged for purchases of in-game virtual items, including those with a predetermined expiration time and perpetual virtual items. Revenues that Changyou generates from self-operated and licensed out online games are included in online game revenues.

#### ***Self-Operated Games***

Changyou is the primary obligor of its self-operated games. Changyou hosts the games on its own servers and is responsible for the sale and marketing of the games as well as customer service. Accordingly, revenues are recorded gross of revenue sharing-payments to third-party developers and/or mobile app stores, but are net of business tax and discounts to game card distributors where applicable. Changyou obtains revenues from the sale of in-game virtual items. Revenues are recognized over the estimated lives of the virtual items purchased by game players or as the virtual items are consumed. If different assumptions were used in deriving the estimated lives of the virtual items, the timing of the recording of the revenues would be impacted.

#### ***PC Games***

Proceeds from the self-operation of PC games are collected from players and third-party game card distributors through sales of Changyou's game points on its online payment platform and prepaid game cards. Self-operated PC games are either developed in house or licensed from third-party developers. For licensed PC games, Changyou remits a pre-agreed percentage of the proceeds to the third-party developers, and keeps the balance pursuant to revenue-sharing agreements. Such revenue-sharing amounts paid to third-party developers are recorded in Changyou's cost of revenues.

#### ***Mobile Games***

For self-operated mobile games, Changyou sells game points to its game players via third-party mobile app stores. The mobile application stores in turn pay Changyou proceeds after deducting their share of pre-agreed revenue-sharing amounts.

Self-operated mobile games are either developed in house or licensed from or jointly developed with third-party developers. For licensed and jointly developed mobile games, Changyou remits a pre-agreed percentage of the proceeds to the third-party developers, and keeps the balance pursuant to revenue-sharing agreements. Such revenue-sharing amounts paid to mobile application stores and third-party developers are recorded in Changyou's cost of revenues.

#### ***Web Games***

Proceeds from self-operated Web games are collected from players through the sale of game points.

*Licensed Out Games*

Changyou also authorizes third-parties to operate its online games. Licensed out games include PC games, mobile games and Web games developed in house and mobile games jointly developed with third-party developers. Changyou receives monthly revenue-based royalty payments from all the third-party licensee operators. Changyou receives additional up-front license fees from certain third-party licensee operators who are entitled to an exclusive right to operate Changyou's games in specified geographic areas. Since Changyou is obligated to provide post-sale services, the initial license fees are recognized as revenue ratably over the license period, and the monthly revenue-based royalty payments are recognized when relevant services are delivered, provided that collectability is reasonably assured. Changyou views the third-party licensee operators as Changyou's customers and recognizes revenues on a net basis, as Changyou does not have the primary responsibility for fulfillment and acceptability of the game services. Changyou remits to the third-party developers a pre-agreed percentage of revenues from jointly developed and licensed out mobile games, and recognizes revenues on a net basis.



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### ***Others Revenues***

#### *Sohu*

Sohu also engages in the others business, which includes the filming business, mobile-related services, sub-licensing of purchased video content to third parties, and paid subscription services. Revenues generated by Sohu from the others business are classified as others revenues in our consolidated statements of comprehensive income.

#### *Sogou*

Others revenue attributable to Sogou are primarily IVAS revenues derived from the operation of Web games and mobile games of third-party developers as well as other services and products that Sogou provides to users.

#### *Changyou*

Others revenues attributable to Changyou are primarily generated from its platform channel business and its others business. In its platform channel business, Changyou provides IVAS through its operation of software applications for PCs and mobile devices, such as the Dolphin Browser and RaidCall.

In its others business, Changyou provides clients advertising placements in slots that are shown in theatres before the screening of movies. When all the recognition criteria are met, revenues from cinema advertising are recognized based on a percentage of the advertising slots actually delivered or on a straight-line basis over the contract period.

### **Cost of Revenues**

#### ***Cost of Online Advertising Revenues***

Cost of online advertising revenues includes cost of revenues from brand advertising services as well as cost of revenues from search and search-related services.

#### ***Cost of Brand Advertising Revenues***

Cost of brand advertising revenues mainly consists of content and license costs, bandwidth leasing costs, salary and benefits expense, and depreciation expense.

#### ***Cost of Search and search-related Revenues***

Cost of search and search-related revenues mainly consists of traffic acquisition costs, bandwidth leasing costs, and depreciation expense, as well as salary and benefits expense. Traffic acquisition costs represent payments made to Sogou Website Alliance members. We pay Sogou Website Alliance members based either on revenue-sharing arrangements or on a pre-agreed unit price. Under the revenue-sharing arrangements, we pay a percentage of pay-for-click revenues generated from clicks by users of the Website Alliance members' properties.

#### ***Cost of Online Game Revenues***

Cost of online game revenues mainly consists of revenue-sharing payments, salary and benefits expense, bandwidth leasing costs, PRC business tax and value-added tax, amortization of licensing fees, depreciation expenses, and other direct costs.

***Cost of Others Revenues***

Cost of revenues for other services mainly consists of payments to theaters and film production companies for pre-film screening advertising slots, revenue-sharing payments related to the IVAS business, revenue-sharing payments paid to China mobile network operators and payments related to the filming business, which are composed primarily of revenue-sharing paid to movie producers and production costs paid to film production companies.

**Product Development Expenses**

Product development expenses mainly consist of salary and benefits expenses, depreciation and amortization expenses, facilities expenses, content and license expenses and technical service fees. These expense are incurred for the enhancement and maintenance of our Internet platforms as well as our products and services, including the development costs of online games prior to the establishment of technological feasibility and maintenance costs after the online games are available for marketing.

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**Table of Contents****Sales and Marketing Expenses**

Sales and marketing expenses mainly consist of advertising and promotional expenses, salary and benefits expenses, travel expenses, and facility expenses. Advertising and promotional expenses generally represent the expenses of promotions to create or stimulate a positive image of us or a desire to subscribe for our products and services. Advertising and promotional expenses are expensed as incurred.

**General and Administrative Expenses**

General and administrative expenses mainly consist of salary and benefits expenses, professional service fees, share-based compensation expense, facility expenses, depreciation and amortization expenses, and travel expenses.

**Share-based Compensation Expense**

Sohu (excluding Fox Video Limited), Sogou, Changyou, and Fox Video Limited ( Sohu Video ) have incentive plans for the granting of share-based awards, including common stock or ordinary shares, share options, restricted shares and restricted share units, to members of the boards of directors, management and other key employees.

For share-based awards for which a grant date has occurred, share-based compensation expense is recognized as costs and expenses in the consolidated statements of comprehensive income based on the fair value of the related share-based awards on their grant dates. For share-based awards for which the service inception date precedes the grant date, share-based compensation expense is recognized as costs and expenses in the consolidated statements of comprehensive income beginning on the service inception date and is re-measured on each subsequent reporting date before the grant date, based on the estimated fair value of the related share-based awards. Share-based compensation expense is charged to the shareholders' equity or noncontrolling interest section in the consolidated balance sheets. The assumptions used in share-based compensation expense recognition represent management's best estimates, but these estimates involve inherent uncertainties and the application of management judgment. If factors change or different assumptions are used, our share-based compensation expense could be materially different for any period. Moreover, the estimates of fair value are not intended to predict actual future events or the value that ultimately will be realized by employees who receive equity awards, and subsequent events are not indicative of the reasonableness of the original estimates of fair value made by us for accounting purposes.

***Sohu (excluding Sohu Video), Sogou, and Changyou Share-based Awards******Sohu (excluding Sohu Video) Share-based Awards***

In determining the fair value of share options granted by Sohu (excluding Sohu Video) as share-based awards before 2006, the Black-Scholes valuation model was applied. In determining the fair value of restricted share units granted, the public market price of the underlying shares on the grant dates was applied.

Options for the purchase of 1,068,000 shares of Sohu common stock contractually granted on February 7, 2015 are subject to vesting in four equal installments over a period of four years, with each installment vesting upon satisfaction of a service period requirement and certain subjective performance targets. For purposes of ASC 718-10-25, no grant date had occurred as of December 31, 2015, because no grant date could be established until a mutual understanding was reached between Sohu and the recipients clarifying the subjective performance requirements. In accordance with ASC 718-10-55, as the service inception date preceded the grant date, compensation expense was accrued beginning on the service inception date and will be re-measured on each subsequent reporting date before the grant date is established, based on the then-current fair value of the awards. The estimate of the awards

fair values will be fixed in the period in which the grant date occurs, and cumulative compensation expense will be adjusted based on the fair value at the grant date. In determining the fair values of the share options granted, the public market price of the underlying shares at each reporting date was used, and a binomial valuation model was applied.

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**Table of Contents***Sogou Share-based Awards*

In determining the fair value of share options granted by Sogou as share-based awards, the income approach /discounted cash flow method with a discount for lack of marketability was applied, given that the shares underlying the awards were not publicly traded at the time of grant. Certain persons who became Sogou employees when Tencent's Soso search-related businesses were transferred to Sogou on September 16, 2013 had been granted restricted share units under Tencent's share award arrangements prior to the transfer of the businesses to Sogou. These Tencent restricted share units will continue to vest under the original Tencent share award arrangements provided the transferred employees continue to be employed by Sogou during the requisite service period. After the transfer of the Soso search-related businesses to Sogou, Sogou applied the guidance in *ASC 505-50* to measure the related compensation expense, based on the then-current fair value at each reporting date, which is deemed to have been incurred by Tencent as an investor on Sogou's behalf. To determine the then-current fair value of the Tencent restricted share units granted to these employees, the public market price of the underlying shares at each reporting date was applied. Because Sogou is not required to reimburse Tencent for such share-based compensation expense, the related amount was recorded by Sogou as a capital contribution from Tencent.

*Changyou Share-based Awards*

In determining the fair value of ordinary shares and restricted share units granted by Changyou as share-based awards in 2008, the income approach /discounted cash flow method with a discount for lack of marketability was applied, given that the shares underlying the awards were not publicly traded at the time of grant. In determining the fair value of restricted share units granted in 2009 before Changyou's initial public offering, the fair value of the underlying shares was determined based on Changyou's offering price for its initial public offering. In determining the fair value of restricted share units granted after Changyou's initial public offering, the public market price of the underlying shares on the grant dates is applied.

Options for the purchase of 2,400,000 Changyou ordinary shares that were converted to options from restricted share units on February 16, 2015 and options contractually granted on June 1, 2015 for the purchase of 1,998,000 Changyou ordinary shares awards are subject to vesting in four equal installments over a period of four years, with each installment vesting upon satisfaction of a service period requirement and certain subjective performance targets. For purposes of *ASC 718-10-25*, no grant date had occurred as of December 31, 2015, because no grant date could be established until a mutual understanding was reached between Changyou and the recipients clarifying the subjective performance requirements. In accordance with *ASC 718-10-55*, as the service inception date preceded the grant date, compensation expense was accrued beginning on the service inception date and will be re-measured on each subsequent reporting date before the grant date is established, based on the then-current fair value of the awards. The estimate of the awards' fair values will be fixed in the period in which the grant date occurs, and cumulative compensation expense will be adjusted based on the fair values at the grant date. In determining the fair values of share options granted, the public market price of the underlying shares at each reporting date was used, and a binomial valuation model was applied.

*Compensation Expense Recognition*

For share options, restricted shares and restricted share units granted with respect to Sohu (excluding Sohu Video) shares and Changyou shares, compensation expense is recognized on an accelerated basis over the requisite service period. For share options granted with respect to Sogou shares, compensation expense is recognized on a straight-line basis over the estimated period during which the service period requirement and performance target will be met. For Tencent restricted share units that Tencent had granted to employees who transferred to Sogou with the Soso search-related businesses, compensation expense is recognized by Sogou on an accelerated basis over the requisite

service period, and the fair value of the share-based compensation is re-measured at each reporting date until a measurement date occurs. The number of share-based awards for which the service is not expected to be rendered over the requisite period is estimated, and no compensation expense is recorded for the number of awards so estimated.

***Sohu Video Share-based Awards***

On January 4, 2012, Sohu Video, the holding entity of Sohu's video division, adopted a 2011 Share Incentive Plan (the Video 2011 Share Incentive Plan) which provides for the issuance of up to 25,000,000 ordinary shares of Sohu Video (representing approximately 10% of the outstanding Sohu Video Shares on a fully-diluted basis) to management and key employees of the video division and to Sohu management. As of December 31, 2015, grants of options for the purchase of 16,368,200 ordinary shares of Sohu Video had been contractually made, of which options for the purchase of 4,972,800 ordinary shares were vested.

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For purposes of ASC 718-10-25, as of December 31, 2015, no grant date had occurred, because the broader terms and conditions of the option awards had neither been finalized nor mutually agreed upon with the recipients, and such mutual understanding cannot be reached until the fair value of the awards is determinable and can be accounted for. In accordance with ASC 718-10-55, our management determined that the service inception date with respect to vested option awards for the purchase of 4,972,800 shares had preceded the grant date. Therefore, we began to recognize compensation expense for Sohu Video share-based awards in the second quarter of 2014 and re-measured, and will re-measure, the compensation expense on each subsequent reporting date based on the then-current fair values of the awards until the grant date is established.

***7Road Share-based Awards***

On July 10, 2012, 7Road adopted the 7Road 2012 Share Incentive Plan. On June 28, 2013, 7Road's Board of Directors approved the cancellation of this incentive plan. 7Road concurrently offered to a total of 42 7Road employees holding an aggregate of 2,223,750 restricted share units which had been granted under this incentive plan the right to exchange their restricted share units for, at each employee's election, in each case subject to the employee's continued employment by 7Road, either (i) Scheme I: the right to a cash payment of up to an aggregate of \$2.90 per restricted share unit exchanged, vesting and payable at the rate of 40%, 30% and 30%, respectively, on the first, second and third anniversaries of July 18, 2012, which is the date when the surrendered restricted share units were granted under the 7Road 2012 Share Incentive Plan, or (ii) Scheme II: the right to receive an annual cash bonus, over a seven-year period commencing July 1, 2013, based on the adjusted annual cumulative net income of 7Road. As of June 28, 2013, all restricted share units held by these 42 7Road employees had been included in this exchange program. In the third quarter of 2013, 7Road granted to an additional 48 7Road employees the right to receive an annual cash bonus under Scheme II with the same terms as described above.

On August 17, 2015, Changyou completed the sale of 7Road. Compensation expense recognized for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2014 and 2015 was \$3.3 million, \$0.8 million and \$0.1 million, respectively, for Scheme I and \$0.4 million, \$0.3 million and nil, respectively, for Scheme II. As a result of the sale, there will be no additional compensation expense recognized for 7Road.

**Taxation*****Income Taxes******Recognition***

Income taxes are accounted for using an asset and liability approach which requires the recognition of income taxes payable or refundable for the current year and deferred tax liabilities and assets for the future tax consequences of events that have been recognized in our financial statements or tax returns. Deferred income taxes are determined based on the differences between the accounting basis and the tax basis of assets and liabilities and are measured using the currently enacted tax rates and laws. Deferred tax assets are reduced by a valuation allowance, if based on available evidence, it is considered that it is more likely than not that some portion of or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. In making such determination, we consider factors including future reversals of existing taxable temporary differences, future profitability, and tax planning strategies. If events were to occur in the future that would allow us to realize more of our deferred tax assets than the presently recorded net amount, an adjustment would be made to the deferred tax assets that would increase income for the period when those events occurred. If events were to occur in the future that would require us to realize less of our deferred tax assets than the presently recorded net amount, an adjustment would be made to the valuation allowance against deferred tax assets that would decrease income for the period when those events occurred. Significant management judgment is required in determining

income tax expense and deferred tax assets and liabilities.

Our deferred tax assets relate to net operating losses and temporary differences between accounting basis and tax basis for our China-Based Subsidiaries and VIEs, which are subject to corporate income tax in the PRC under the CIT law.

*Applicable Income Tax Rate*

The CIT Law applies an income tax rate of 25% to all enterprises but grants preferential tax treatment to High and New Technology Enterprises ( HNTEs ). Under this preferential tax treatment, HNTEs can enjoy an income tax rate of 15% for three years, but need to re-apply after the end of the three-year period. If at any time during the three-year period the relevant tax bureau questions whether an enterprise continues to qualify as an HNTe, the enterprise can be subject to further tax examination and may not be able to continue to enjoy the preferential tax rate. In addition, the CIT Law and its implementing regulations provide that a Software Enterprise can enjoy an income tax exemption for two years beginning with its first profitable year and a 50% reduction to a rate of 12.5% for the subsequent three years. An entity that qualifies as a Key National Software Enterprise can enjoy a further reduced preferential income tax rate of 10% for two years, but needs to re-apply after the end of the two-year period.



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**Principal Entities Qualified as HNTEs**

As of December 31, 2015, the following principal entities were qualified as HNTEs and were entitled to an income tax rate of 15%.

For Sohu's Business

Sohu Internet. Sohu Internet re-applied for HNTE qualification in June 2015 and got approval in November 2015, it is entitled to continue to enjoy the beneficial tax rate as an HNTE from 2015 to 2017. Sohu Internet will need to re-apply for HNTE qualification in 2018.

Sohu Era, Sohu Media and Guangzhou Qianjun. Sohu Era, Sohu Media and Guangzhou Qianjun are each qualified as HNTEs for 2015 and 2016, and will need to re-apply for HNTE qualification in 2017.

For Sogou's Business

Beijing Sogou Information Service Co., Ltd. ( Sogou Information ). Sogou Information re-applied for HNTE qualification in July 2015 and received approval in December 2015. Sogou Information is entitled to continue to enjoy the beneficial tax rate as an HNTE from 2015 to 2017. It will need to re-apply for HNTE qualification in 2018.

Sogou Technology. Sogou Technology is qualified as an HNTE for 2015 and 2016, and will need to re-apply for HNTE qualification in 2017.

For Changyou's Business

AmazGame and Gamease. AmazGame and Gamease are each qualified as HNTEs for 2015 and 2016, and will need to re-apply for HNTE qualification in 2017.

**Principal Entities Qualified as Software Enterprises**

For Sohu's Business

Sohu New Momentum. In 2015, Sohu New Momentum is in the second of two years in which it is entitled to income tax exemption as a Software Enterprise.

For Changyou's Business

AmazGame. In 2013 and 2014, AmazGame was qualified as a Key National Software Enterprise and enjoyed a preferential income tax rate of 10%. However, as a result of a restructuring of the approval

process, the State Council recently suspended the acceptance of applications for Key National Software Enterprise status, and it is not clear when, if ever, the acceptance of applications for Key National Software Enterprise status will resume. The Company plans to re-apply to qualify AmazGame as a Key National Software Enterprise for 2015 and 2016 if and when the State Council again authorizes the acceptance of applications.

Gamespace. In 2015, Gamespace is in the second of the three years in which it will be entitled to a 50% reduction to a rate of 12.5% as a Software Enterprise.

7Road Technology. In 2015, 7Road Technology was entitled to a 50% reduction to a rate of 12.5% as a Software Enterprise.

ICE Information Technology (Shanghai) Co., Ltd ( ICE Information ). ICE Information was not subject to income tax, as it incurred losses.

Shanghai ICE was entitled to a 50% reduction to a rate of 12.5% as a Software Enterprise from 2012 to 2014. The reduced rate no longer applied in 2015.

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**Table of Contents*****PRC Withholding Tax on Dividends***

The CIT Law imposes a 10% withholding income tax on dividends distributed by foreign invested enterprises to their immediate holding companies outside Mainland China. A lower withholding tax rate may be applied if there is a tax treaty between Mainland China and the jurisdiction of the foreign holding company. A holding company in Hong Kong, for example, will be subject to a 5% withholding tax rate under an arrangement between the PRC and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, if such holding company is considered a non-PRC resident enterprise and holds at least 25% of the equity interests in the PRC foreign invested enterprise distributing the dividends, subject to approval of the PRC local tax authority. However, if the Hong Kong holding company is not considered to be the beneficial owner of such dividends under applicable PRC tax regulations, such dividend will remain subject to a withholding tax rate of 10%.

***PRC Value Added Tax and Business Tax***

Revenues from brand advertising, from the search and search-related business, from Changyou's Web games that were not developed in-house and from licensed mobile games, as well as revenues from mobile-related services, which are recorded as others revenues, are subject to VAT. To record VAT payable, the Group adopted the net presentation method, which presents the difference between the output VAT (at a rate of 6%) and available input VAT amount (at the rate applicable to the supplier). Online game revenues from the operation of PC games and self-developed mobile games are subject to a 5% PRC business tax ( Business Tax ).

***U.S. Corporate Income Tax***

Sohu.com Inc. is a Delaware corporation that is subject to U.S. corporate income tax on its taxable income at a rate of up to 35%. Subject to certain limitations, the net operating losses ( NOLs ) of a corporation in the U.S. that are carried forward from prior years may be used to offset the corporation's taxable income. As of the end of the 2012 taxable year, Sohu.com Inc. had no further NOLs available for offsetting any U.S. taxable income. To the extent that its U.S. taxable income is determined to be from sources outside of the U.S., such as Subpart F income or a dividend, subject to certain limitations, Sohu.com Inc. may be able to claim foreign tax credits to offset its U.S. income tax liabilities. Any remaining liabilities are accrued in the Company's consolidated statements of comprehensive income and estimated tax payments are made when required by U.S. law.

***Uncertain Tax Positions***

We are subject to various taxes in different jurisdictions, primarily the U.S. and the PRC. Management reviews regularly the adequacy of the provisions for taxes as they relate to our income and transactions. In order to assess uncertain tax positions, we apply a more likely than not threshold and a two-step approach for tax position measurement and financial statement recognition. For the two-step approach, the first step is to evaluate the tax position for recognition by determining if the weight of available evidence indicates that it is more likely than not that the position will be sustained, including resolution of related appeals or litigation processes, if any. The second step is to measure the tax benefit as the largest amount that is more than 50% likely to be realized upon settlement.

***Net Income /(Loss) per Share***

Basic net income /(loss) per share is computed using the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted net income /(loss) per share is computed using the weighted average number of common shares and, if dilutive, potential common shares outstanding during the period. Potential common shares comprise

shares issuable upon the exercise or settlement of share-based awards using the treasury stock method. The dilutive effect of share-based awards with performance requirements is not considered before the performance targets are actually met. The computation of diluted net income /(loss) per share does not assume conversion, exercise, or contingent issuance of securities that would have an anti-dilutive effect (i.e. an increase in earnings per share amounts or a decrease in loss per share amounts) on net income /(loss) per share. Additionally, for purposes of calculating the numerator of diluted net income /(loss) per share, the net income /(loss) attributable to the Sohu Group is adjusted as follows. The adjustment will not be made if there is an anti-dilutive effect.

- (1) Sogou's net income /(loss) attributable to Sohu.com Inc. is determined using the percentage that the weighted average number of Sogou shares held by Sohu.com Inc. represents of the weighted average number of Sogou Preferred Shares and Ordinary Shares, shares issuable upon the conversion of convertible preferred shares under the if-converted method, and shares issuable upon the exercise or settlement of share-based awards under the treasury stock method, and is not determined by allocating Sogou's net income /(loss) to Sohu.com Inc. using the methodology for the calculation of net income /(loss) attributable to the Sogou noncontrolling shareholders.

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In the calculation of Sohu.com Inc.'s diluted net income/(loss) per share, assuming a dilutive effect, the percentage of Sohu.com Inc.'s shareholding in Sogou was calculated by treating convertible preferred shares issued by Sogou as having been converted at the beginning of the period and unvested share options with the performance targets achieved as well as vested but unexercised share options as having been exercised during the period. The dilutive effect of share-based awards with a performance requirement was not considered before the performance targets were actually met. Assuming an anti-dilutive effect, all of these Sogou shares and share options are excluded from the calculation of Sohu.com Inc.'s diluted income/(loss) per share. As a result, Sogou's net income/(loss) attributable to Sohu.com Inc. on a diluted basis equals the number used for the calculation of the Sohu.com Inc.'s basic net income/(loss) per share.

- (2) Changyou's net income/(loss) attributable to Sohu.com Inc. is determined using the percentage that the weighted average number of Changyou shares held by Sohu.com Inc. represents of the weighted average number of Changyou ordinary shares and shares issuable upon the exercise or settlement of share-based awards under the treasury stock method, and not by using the percentage held by Sohu.com Inc. of the total economic interest in Changyou, which is used for the calculation of basic net income per share.

In the calculation of Sohu.com Inc.'s diluted net income/(loss) per share, assuming a dilutive effect, all of Changyou's existing unvested restricted share units, and vested restricted share units that have not yet been settled, are treated as vested and settled by Changyou under the treasury stock method, causing the percentage of the weighted average number of shares held by Sohu.com Inc. in Changyou to decrease. As a result, Changyou's net income/(loss) attributable to Sohu.com Inc. on a diluted basis decreased accordingly. Assuming an anti-dilutive effect, all of these Changyou restricted share units are excluded from the calculation of Sohu.com Inc.'s diluted net income/(loss) per share. As a result, Changyou's net income/(loss) attributable to Sohu.com Inc. on a diluted basis equals the number used for the calculation of the Sohu.com Inc.'s basic net income/(loss) per share.

**Fair Value of Financial Instruments**

U.S. GAAP establishes a three-tier hierarchy to prioritize the inputs used in the valuation methodologies in measuring the fair value of financial instruments. This hierarchy also requires an entity to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value. The three-tier fair value hierarchy is:

Level 1 observable inputs that reflect quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets.

Level 2 include other inputs that are directly or indirectly observable in the market place.

Level 3 unobservable inputs which are supported by little or no market activity.

Our financial instruments mainly include cash equivalents, restricted time deposits, short-term investments, accounts receivable, prepaid and other current assets, available-for-sale securities under long-term investments, accounts payable, accrued liabilities, receipts in advance and deferred revenue, short-term bank loans, other short-term liabilities, long-term accounts payable and long-term bank loans.

**Cash Equivalents**

Our cash equivalents mainly consist of time deposits and money market funds with original maturities of three months or less.

### **Restricted Time Deposits**

Restricted time deposits are valued based on the prevailing interest rates in the market using the discounted cash flow method.

### ***Collateral related to Sogou Incentive Shares Trust Arrangements***

In February 2013, we deposited \$9.0 million in cash into restricted time deposit accounts at a bank as collateral for credit facilities provided by the bank to certain Sogou employees. The facilities were intended to fund the employees early exercise of Sogou share options and related PRC individual income tax. We are not subject to any additional potential payments other than the restricted time deposit amounts, and believe that the fair value of our guarantee liability is immaterial.

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### ***Changyou Loans from Offshore Banks, Secured by Time Deposits***

As of December 31, 2015, we had, through Changyou, loans from offshore banks secured by RMB deposits in onshore branches of those banks. The loans from the offshore branches of the lending banks are classified as short-term bank loans or long-term bank loans based on their repayment period. The rates of interest under the loan agreements with the lending banks were determined based on the prevailing interest rates in the market. The RMB onshore deposits securing the offshore loans are treated as restricted time deposits on our consolidated balance sheets.

### **Short-term Investments**

For investments in financial instruments with a variable interest rate indexed to the performance of underlying assets, we elected the fair value method at the date of initial recognition and carried these investments subsequently at fair value. Changes in fair values are reflected in the consolidated statements of comprehensive income.

### **Accounts Receivable, Net**

The carrying value of accounts receivable is reduced by an allowance that reflects our best estimate of the amounts that will not be collected. We make estimations of the collectability of accounts receivable. Many factors are considered in estimating the general allowance, including reviewing delinquent accounts receivable, performing an aging analysis and a customer credit analysis, and analyzing historical bad debt records and current economic trends. Additional allowance for specific doubtful accounts might be made if the financial conditions of our customers or the China mobile network operators deteriorate or the China mobile network operators are unable to collect fees from their end customers, resulting in their inability to make payments due to us.

### **Available-for-Sale Securities**

Investments in debt securities and equity securities that have readily determinable fair values not classified as trading securities or as held-to-maturity securities are classified as available-for-sale securities and are included in long-term investments. Available-for-sale securities are reported at fair value, with unrealized gains or losses recorded in other comprehensive income or losses in the consolidated balance sheets. Realized gains or losses are included in the consolidated statements of comprehensive income during the period in which the gain or loss is realized. An impairment loss on the available-for-sale securities is recognized in the consolidated statements of comprehensive income when the decline in value is determined to be other-than-temporary.

### **Equity Investments**

Investments in entities are recorded as equity investments under long-term investments. For entities over which we do not have significant influence, the cost method is applied as there is no readily determinable fair value; for entities over which we can exercise significant influence but do not own a majority equity interest or control, the equity method is applied. For cost method investments, we carry the investment at historical cost after the date of investment. For equity method investments, we adjust the carrying amount of an investment and recognize investment income or loss for our share of the earnings or loss of the investee after the date of investment.

### **Long-Lived Assets**

Long-lived assets include fixed assets and intangible assets.

### ***Fixed Assets***

Fixed assets mainly comprise office buildings, computer equipment and hardware, leasehold improvements, building improvements, office furniture and vehicles. Fixed assets are recorded at cost less accumulated depreciation with no residual value. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets.

<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b>Estimated Useful Lives (years)</b>
Office buildings	36-47
Leasehold improvements	Lesser of term of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the assets
Building improvements	10
Vehicles	4-10
Office furniture	5
Computer equipment and hardware	2-5



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Expenditure for maintenance and repairs is expensed as incurred.

The gain or loss on the disposal of fixed assets is the difference between the net sales proceeds and the lower of the carrying value or fair value less cost to sell the relevant assets and is recognized in operating expenses in the consolidated statements of comprehensive income.

***Intangible Assets***

Intangible assets mainly comprise video content, domain names and trademarks, operating rights for licensed games, computer software, cinema advertising slot rights, and developed technologies. Intangible assets are recorded at cost less accumulated amortization with no residual value. Amortization of intangible assets other than purchased video content is computed using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives.

The estimated useful lives of our intangible assets are listed below:

<b>Intangible Assets</b>	<b>Estimated Useful Lives (years)</b>
Domain names and trademarks	4-30
Developed technologies	3-10
Computer software	1-5
Video content	4 months to 2 years, or over the applicable licensing period
Cinema advertising slot rights	over the contract terms
Operating rights for licensed games	over the contract terms
<i>Video Content</i>	

Video content consists mainly of purchased video content and self-developed video content. Purchased video content is recognized as intangible assets. Amortization of purchased video content is computed based on the trend in viewership accumulation. For self-developed video content, production costs incurred in excess of the amount of revenue contracted for are expensed as incurred, instead of being recorded as intangible assets.

Sohu Video enters into nonmonetary transactions to exchange online broadcasting rights for purchased video content with other online video broadcasting companies. Under *ASC 845*, the cost of a nonmonetary asset acquired in exchange for another nonmonetary asset is the fair value of the asset surrendered to obtain the acquired nonmonetary asset, and a gain or loss should be recognized on the exchange. The fair value of the asset received should be used to measure the cost if the fair value of the asset received is more reliable than the fair value of the asset surrendered. We record these nonmonetary exchanges at the fair values of the online broadcasting rights for purchased video content and recognize any gain or loss from such exchange transactions.

***Impairment of Long-lived Assets***

In accordance with *ASC 360-10-35*, we review the carrying values of long-lived assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of an asset may not be recoverable. Based on the existence of one or more indicators of impairment, we measure any impairment of long-lived assets using the projected discounted cash flow method at the asset group level. The estimation of future cash flows requires significant management judgment based on our historical results and anticipated results and is subject to many factors.

The discount rate that is commensurate with the risk inherent in our business model is determined by our management. An impairment loss would be recorded if we determined that the carrying value of long-lived assets may not be recoverable. The impairment to be recognized is measured by the amount by which the carrying values of the assets exceed the fair value of the assets.

### **Goodwill**

Goodwill represents the excess of the purchase price over the fair value of the identifiable assets and liabilities acquired as a result of our acquisitions of interests in our subsidiaries and consolidated VIEs. If the initial accounting for a business combination is incomplete by the end of the reporting period in which the combination occurs, we report in our financial statements provisional amounts for the items for which the accounting is incomplete. If a measurement period adjustment is identified, we recognize the adjustment as part of the acquisition accounting. We increase or decrease the provisional amounts of identifiable assets or liabilities by means of increases or decreases in goodwill for measurement period adjustments.

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In accordance with *ASC 350*, we do not amortize goodwill, but test it for impairment. Goodwill is not deductible for tax purposes. We test goodwill for impairment at the reporting unit level on an annual basis as of October 1, and between annual tests when an event occurs or circumstances change that could indicate that the asset might be impaired. Commencing in September 2011, we adopted the Financial Accounting Standards Board ( FASB ) revised guidance on Testing of Goodwill for Impairment. Under this guidance, we have the option to choose whether we will apply the qualitative assessment first and then the quantitative assessment, if necessary, or to apply the quantitative assessment directly. For reporting units applying a qualitative assessment first, we start the goodwill impairment test by assessing qualitative factors to determine whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount. If we determine that it is more-likely-than-not the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount, the quantitative impairment test is mandatory. Otherwise, no further testing is required. The quantitative impairment test consists of a comparison of the fair value of goodwill with its carrying value. For reporting units directly applying the quantitative assessment, we perform the goodwill impairment test by quantitatively comparing the fair values of those reporting units to their carrying amounts.

Application of a goodwill impairment test requires significant management judgment, including the identification of reporting units, assigning assets and liabilities to reporting units, assigning goodwill to reporting units, and determining the fair value of each reporting unit. The judgment in estimating the fair value of reporting units includes estimating future cash flows, determining appropriate discount rates and making other assumptions. Changes in these estimates and assumptions could materially affect the determination of fair value for each reporting unit.

**Contingent Consideration**

Changyou's acquisition of Beijing Doyo Internet Technology Co., Ltd. ( Doyo ) included a contingent consideration arrangement that required additional consideration to be paid by Changyou based on the financial performance of Doyo for the fiscal years 2013 through 2015. The fair value of the contingent consideration was recognized on the acquisition date using the income approach/ discounted cash flow method with a scenario analysis applied. There were no indemnification assets involved. In March 2015, as Doyo's performance had exceeded the relevant performance milestone, Changyou re-classified such contingent consideration to other short-term liabilities in the amount of \$6.0 million in the consolidated balance sheet. In September 2015, Changyou entered into an agreement to sell all of the equity interests of Doyo. The aggregate consideration under the agreement included cash consideration of approximately \$2.9 million, and forgiveness, upon the completion of the sale, of the \$6.0 million contingent consideration payable. The sale was completed on October 27, 2015 and Changyou had received all of the cash consideration as of December 31, 2015, and there was no further gain or loss recognized in our consolidated statements of comprehensive income.

**Comprehensive Income**

Comprehensive income is defined as the change in equity of a company during a period from transactions and other events and circumstances excluding transactions resulting from investments from owners and distributions to owners. Accumulated other comprehensive income, as presented on our consolidated balance sheets, includes a cumulative foreign currency translation adjustment.

**Functional Currency and Foreign Currency Translation**

An entity's functional currency is the currency of the primary economic environment in which it operates, normally that is the currency of the environment in which the entity primarily generates and expends cash. Management's judgment is essential to determine the functional currency by assessing various indicators, such as cash flows, sales price and market, expenses, financing and inter-company transactions and arrangements. The functional currency of

Sohu.com Inc. is the U.S. dollar. The functional currency of our subsidiaries in the U.S., the Cayman Islands, the British Virgin Islands and Hong Kong is the U.S. dollar. The functional currencies of our subsidiaries and VIEs in other countries are the national currencies of those countries, rather than the U.S. dollar.

Foreign currency transactions denominated in currencies other than the functional currency are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are re-measured at the applicable rates of exchange in effect at that date. Gains and losses resulting from foreign currency re-measurement are included in the consolidated statements of comprehensive income.

Financial statements of entities with a functional currency other than the U.S. dollar are translated into U.S. dollars, which is the reporting currency. Assets and liabilities are translated at the current exchange rate in effect at the balance sheet date, and revenues and expenses are translated at the average exchange rates in effect during the reporting period. Shareholders' equity accounts are translated using the historical exchange rates at the date the entry to shareholders' equity was recorded, except for the change in retained earnings during the year, which is translated using the historical exchange rates used to translate each period's income statement. Differences resulting from translating a foreign currency to the reporting currency are recorded in accumulated other comprehensive income in the consolidated statements of balance sheets.

**Table of Contents****RESULTS OF OPERATIONS****Revenues**

The following table presents our revenues by revenue source and by proportion for the periods indicated (in thousands, except percentages):

	Year ended December 31,									
	2013		2014		2015		14 VS 13		15 VS 14	
	Amount	Percentage of the total revenue	Amount	Percentage of the total revenue	Amount	Percentage of the total revenue	Amount	Incremental ratio	Amount	Incremental ratio
Revenues:										
Online advertising:										
Brand advertising	\$ 428,526	31%	\$ 541,158	33%	\$ 577,114	30%	\$ 112,632	26%	\$ 35,956	7%
Search and search-related	198,915	14%	357,839	21%	539,521	28%	158,924	80%	181,682	51%
Subtotal of online advertising revenues	627,441	45%	898,997	54%	1,116,635	58%	271,556	43%	217,638	24%
Online game	669,168	48%	652,008	39%	636,846	33%	(17,160)	-3%	(15,162)	-2%
Others	103,665	7%	122,072	7%	183,610	9%	18,407	18%	61,538	50%
Total revenues	\$ 1,400,274	100%	\$ 1,673,077	100%	\$ 1,937,091	100%	\$ 272,803	19%	\$ 264,014	16%

***Online Advertising Revenues***

Online advertising revenues were \$1.12 billion for 2015, compared to \$899.0 million and \$627.4 million, respectively, for 2014 and 2013. The year-on-year increase for 2015 and 2014 was \$217.6 million and \$271.6 million, representing a year-on-year growth rate of 24% and 43%, respectively.

***Brand Advertising Revenues, Generated by Sohu and Changyou***

Brand advertising revenues were \$577.1 million for 2015, compared to \$541.2 million and \$428.5 million, respectively, for 2014 and 2013. The year-on-year increase for 2015 and 2014 was \$35.9 million and \$112.7 million, representing a year-on-year growth rate of 7% and 26%, respectively. The year-on-year increases for 2015 and 2014 were mainly from Sohu Video.

**Sohu**

*Sohu Media Portal*

Revenues from Sohu Media Portal were \$197.6 million for 2015, compared to \$197.6 million and \$182.1 million, respectively, for 2014 and 2013. Revenues for 2015 were flat compared to 2014. In 2015, while the slowdown in the growth of the economy in China shrank the budgets of traditional brand advertisers, rapid growth in revenues from small and medium enterprise ( SME ) customers helped offset the impact. The year-on-year increase for 2014 from 2013 was \$15.5 million, representing a year-on-year growth rate of 9%. The number of advertisers for Sohu Media Portal was 3,471 for 2015, compared to 2,673 and 1,176, respectively, for 2014 and 2013.

*Sohu Video*

Revenues from Sohu Video were \$212.8 million for 2015, compared to \$175.8 million and \$109.3 million, respectively, for 2014 and 2013, representing a year-on-year growth rate of 21% and 61%, respectively, for 2015 and 2014. The increase was mainly attributable to increased spending by our advertisers. The average amount spent per advertiser was approximately \$676,000, \$553,000 and \$425,000, respectively, for 2015, 2014 and 2013, representing a year-on-year growth rate of 22% and 30%, respectively, for 2015 and 2014. The number of advertisers on Sohu Video sites was 315, 318 and 257, respectively, as of the end of 2015, 2014 and 2013.

*Focus*

Revenues from Focus were \$109.6 million for 2015, compared to \$108.8 million and \$87.1 million, respectively, for 2014 and 2013. Revenues for 2015 were generally stable when compared to 2014, while revenues for 2014 increased \$21.7 million, representing a year-on-year growth rate of 25% when compared to 2013.

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Revenues from Focus were generated through the Fixed Price model and the E-commerce model.

For the Fixed Price model, revenues were \$55.4 million for 2015, compared to \$67.6 million and \$57.6 million, respectively, for 2014 and 2013. The year-on-year decrease was \$12.2 million for 2015, representing a decrease rate of 18%, primarily as a result of advertisers being more willing to adopt the E-commerce model than the Fixed Price model in the current market in China. The year-on-year increase was \$10.0 million for 2014, representing a year-on-year growth rate of 17%.

For the E-commerce model, revenues were \$54.2 million for 2015, compared to \$41.2 million and \$29.5 million, respectively, for 2014 and 2013, representing year-on-year growth rates of 32% and 40%, respectively, for 2015 and 2014. The increase was mainly driven by our subscription membership services offered to prospective purchasers of real estate as a result of the expansion of the Focus business through our establishment of more partnerships with property developers. The number of developers with which we had cooperation arrangements was 1,015, 808 and 375, respectively, as of the end of 2015, 2014 and 2013. The number of paying subscribers for the membership services was 94,149, 73,232 and 38,423, respectively, for 2015, 2014 and 2013.

**Changyou*****17173.com Website***

Revenues from the 17173.com Website were \$57.1 million for 2015, compared to \$59.0 million and \$50.0 million, respectively, for 2014 and 2013. The year-over-year decrease for 2015 was \$1.2 million. The year-on-year increase for 2014 of \$9.0 million was mainly due to an increase in the utilization rate of advertising on the 17173.com Website as a result of improvements made to the advertising sales function. The number of advertisers on the 17173.com Website was 194 and 168, respectively, for 2015 and 2014.

**Other information**

Sales to our five largest advertisers comprised approximately 10% of total brand advertising revenues for 2015, compared to 8% and 9% for 2014 and 2013, respectively. As of December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, we recorded \$21.4 million, \$24.5 million and \$15.2 million, respectively, of receipts in advance from advertisers. As of December 31, 2015, we had obligations to provide, and advertisers had obligations to purchase, advertising services under existing contracts in the amount of \$11.1 million, which are required to be provided during the year ending December 31, 2016.

***Search and search-related Revenues, Generated by Sogou***

Revenues from search and search-related services were \$539.5 million for 2015, compared to \$357.8 million and \$198.9 million, respectively, for 2014 and 2013, representing a year-on-year growth rate of 51% and 80%, respectively, for 2015 and 2014.

The increase in revenues from search and search-related services was mainly attributable to an increase in revenues from pay-for-click services.

Revenues from pay-for-click services accounted for approximately 82% of the total search and search-related revenues for 2015, compared to 80% and 75%, respectively, for 2014 and 2013. The growth in revenues from pay-for-click services was principally attributable to an increase in the number of paid clicks and a higher average

cost-per-click. Paid clicks increased by approximately 39% and 58%, respectively, and average cost-per-click increased by approximately 10% and 26%, respectively, for 2015 and 2014, compared to the prior year.

***Online Game Revenues Generated by Changyou***

Revenues from the online game business were \$636.8 million for 2015, compared to \$652.0 million and \$669.2 million, respectively, for 2014 and 2013.

***PC games and Mobile Games***

Revenues from PC games were \$387.6 million for 2015, compared to \$485.1 million and \$531.7 million, respectively, for 2014 and 2013, representing 61%, 74% and 80% of Changyou online game revenues for 2015, 2014 and 2013. The dominant PC game operated by Changyou is TLBB. The year-over-year decrease in PC game revenues for 2015 was \$97.5 million, mainly due to a decline in revenues from TLBB. The year-over-year decrease in PC game revenues for 2014 was \$46.6 million, mainly due to decreased revenues from TLBB, following the strategic decision to reduce the game's difficulty. In 2015, revenues from the PC game TLBB were \$315.6 million, accounting for approximately 50% of Changyou's online game revenues, approximately 41% of Changyou's total revenues and approximately 16% of the Sohu Group's total revenue.



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Revenues from mobile games were \$203.3 million for 2015, compared to \$66.2 million and \$1.7 million, respectively, for 2014 and 2013. Both of the increases in 2015 and 2014 were mainly due to increase in revenues from Changyou's mobile game TLBB 3D, which was launched in the fourth quarter of 2014.

The following table sets forth certain operating data for Changyou's PC games and mobile games for the periods indicated:

Average Monthly Active Accounts (1)	For the Three Months Ended							
	March 31		June 30		September 30		December 31	
	PC games	mobile games	PC games	mobile games	PC games	mobile games	PC games	mobile games
(in millions)								
2013	13.4	0.1	12.3	0.1	7.6	1.2	6.7	1.0
2014	6.5	2.6	6.9	1.3	10.7	1.5	6.9	7.0
2015	4.9	4.4	4.4	5.7	4.1	2.4	3.6	3.7

**Quarterly Aggregate Active Paying Accounts (2)**

Quarterly Aggregate Active Paying Accounts (2)	For the Three Months Ended							
	March 31		June 30		September 30		December 31	
	PC games	mobile games	PC games	mobile games	PC games	mobile games	PC games	mobile games
(in millions)								
2013	2.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	1.7	0.0
2014	1.5	0.0	1.4	0.1	1.5	0.1	1.3	1.4
2015	1.1	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.3	0.6	1.2	0.9

- (1) Average Monthly Active Accounts for a given period refers to the number of registered accounts that were logged in to these games at least once during the period.
- (2) Quarterly Aggregate Active Paying Accounts for a given quarter refers to the number of accounts from which game points are used at least once during the quarter.

**Web Games**

Revenues from Web games were \$45.9 million for 2015, compared to \$100.7 million and \$135.7 million, respectively, for 2014 and 2013. Revenues from Web games decreased \$54.8 million and \$35.0 million, respectively, for 2015 and 2014. The year-over-year decrease in Web game revenues for 2015 was \$54.8 million, mainly due to a decrease in Web game revenues following the completion of the sale of the 7Road business during the third quarter of 2015. The year-over-year decrease in Web games revenues for 2014 was \$35.0 million, mainly due to decreased revenues in China from Wartune and DDTank, which had reached a mature phase in their operation.

**Others Revenues**

Revenues from other services were \$183.6 million for 2015, compared to \$122.1 million and \$103.7 million, respectively, for 2014 and 2013. The year-on-year increase for 2015 was mainly due to revenue of \$28.7 million from the film *Jian Bing Man* that was produced by Sohu Video and released in 2015, and a \$20.7 million increase in revenues from Changyou's cinema advertising business. The year-on-year increase for 2014 was mainly due to increased revenues from the IVAS business and the cinema advertisement business.

**Costs and Expenses*****Cost of Revenues***

The following table presents our cost of revenues by source and by proportion for the periods indicated (in thousands, except percentages):

	Year ended December 31,									
	2013		2014		2015		14 VS 13		15 VS 14	
	Amount	Percentage of the total revenue	Amount	Percentage of the total revenue	Amount	Percentage of the total revenue	Amount	Incremental ratio	Amount	Incremental ratio
Cost of revenues:										
Online advertising:										
Brand advertising	\$ 221,659	46%	\$ 307,708	45%	\$ 383,187	45%	\$ 86,049	39%	\$ 75,479	25%
Search and search-related	109,139	23%	163,918	24%	238,944	28%	54,779	50%	75,026	46%
Subtotal of cost of online advertising revenues	330,798	69%	471,626	69%	622,131	73%	140,828	43%	150,505	32%
Online game	93,307	19%	142,549	21%	156,315	18%	49,242	53%	13,766	10%
Others	55,945	12%	71,459	10%	80,618	9%	15,514	28%	9,159	13%
Total cost of revenues	\$ 480,050	100%	\$ 685,634	100%	\$ 859,064	100%	\$ 205,584	43%	\$ 173,430	25%

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### *Cost of Online Advertising Revenues*

Cost of online advertising revenues was \$622.1 million for 2015, compared to \$471.6 million and \$330.8 million, respectively, for 2014 and 2013. The year-on-year increase for 2015 and 2014 was \$150.5 million and \$140.8 million, respectively, representing a year-on-year growth rate of 32% and 43%.

### *Cost of Brand Advertising Revenues*

Cost of brand advertising revenues was \$383.2 million for 2015, compared to \$307.7 million and \$221.7 million, respectively, for 2014 and 2013.

The year-on-year increase for 2015 was \$75.5 million, representing a year-on-year growth rate of 25%. This increase mainly consisted of a \$56.7 million increase in content and license costs, a \$8.9 million increase in salary and benefits expenses and a \$3.3 million increase in bandwidth leasing costs.

The year-on-year increase for 2014 was \$86.0 million, representing a year-on-year growth rate of 39%. This increase mainly consisted of a \$48.7 million increase in content and license costs, a \$27.4 million increase in bandwidth leasing costs, a \$3.8 million increase in depreciation and amortization expenses, and a \$3.3 million increase in salary and benefits expense.

Our brand advertising gross margin was 34% for 2015, compared to 43% and 48%, respectively, for 2014 and 2013. The year-on-year decrease in advertising gross margin for 2015 was primarily due to an increase in video content costs, and the year-on-year decrease in advertising gross margin for 2014 was primarily due to an increase in video content costs and bandwidth costs.

### *Cost of Search and Search-related Revenues*

Cost of search and search-related revenues was \$238.9 million for 2015, compared to \$163.9 million and \$109.1 million, respectively, for 2014 and 2013.

The year-on-year increase for 2015 was \$75.0 million, representing a year-on-year growth rate of 46%. The increase mainly consisted of a \$58.1 million increase in traffic acquisition costs, a \$13.5 million increase in bandwidth leasing costs, and a \$3.0 million increase in depreciation and amortization expense.

The year-on-year increase for 2014 was \$54.8 million, representing a year-on-year growth rate of 50%. The increase mainly consisted of a \$33.0 million increase in traffic acquisition costs, a \$10.0 million increase in depreciation and amortization expenses, and a \$9.9 million increase in bandwidth leasing costs.

Our search and search-related gross margin was 56% for 2015, compared to 54% and 45%, respectively, for 2014 and 2013. The increases in our search and search-related gross margin for both 2015 and 2014 were mainly due to increased revenues, combined with lower costs as a percentage of search and search-related revenues.

### *Cost of Online Game Revenues*

Cost of online game revenues was \$156.3 million for 2015, compared to \$142.5 million and \$93.3 million, respectively, for 2014 and 2013.

The year-on-year increase in cost of online game revenues for 2015 was \$13.8 million, representing a year-on-year growth rate of 10%. The increase mainly consisted of a \$53.8 million increase in revenue-sharing payments to mobile application stores, offset by a \$19.0 million decrease in salary and benefits expense, a \$6.1 million decrease in PRC business tax and value-added tax, a \$5.8 million decrease in bandwidth leasing costs, a \$3.8 million decrease in depreciation expenses and a \$2.7 million decrease in revenue-sharing payments to third-party developers.

The year-on-year increase in cost of online game revenues for 2014 was \$49.2 million, representing a year-on-year growth rate of 53%. The increase mainly consisted of a \$24.6 million increase in revenue-sharing payments to mobile app stores, a \$9.1 million increase in salary and benefits expenses, a \$7.5 million increase in revenue-sharing payments to third-party developers, and a \$1.5 million increase in bandwidth leasing costs.

Our online game gross margin was 75%, 78% and 86%, respectively, for 2015, 2014 and 2013. The decrease in gross margin was mainly due to a change in the revenue mix as Changyou launched new mobile games and licensed PC games that typically require additional revenue sharing costs.

**Table of Contents***Cost of Others Revenues*

Cost of revenues for other services was \$80.6 million for 2015, compared to \$71.5 million and \$55.9 million, respectively, for 2014 and 2013. The year-on-year increase for 2015 was \$9.1 million, which was mainly due to \$5.7 million in film production costs for *Jian Bing Man* that were recognized concurrently with revenue in the third quarter of 2015. The year-on-year increase for 2014 was \$15.5 million, which was mainly due to revenue-sharing payments related to the IVAS business.

*Operating Expenses*

The following table presents our operating expenses by nature and by proportion for the periods indicated (in thousands, except percentages):

	Year ended December 31,									
	2013		2014		2015		14 VS 13		15 VS 14	
	Amount	Percentage of the total revenue	Amount	Percentage of the total revenue	Amount	Percentage of the total revenue	Amount	Incremental ratio	Amount	Incremental ratio
Operating expenses:										
Product development	\$ 276,120	37%	\$ 409,285	36%	\$ 398,143	40%	\$ 133,165	48%	(11,142)	-3%
Sales and marketing	351,653	48%	526,514	44%	383,931	39%	174,861	50%	(142,583)	-27%
General and administrative	108,970	15%	204,325	17%	173,160	17%	95,355	88%	(31,165)	-15%
Goodwill impairment and impairment of intangible assets acquired as part of business acquisitions	0	0%	52,282	3%	40,324	4%	52,282	NA	(11,958)	-23%
Total operating expenses	\$ 736,743	100%	\$ 1,192,406	100%	\$ 995,558	100%	\$ 455,663	62%	(196,848)	-17%

*Product Development Expenses*

Product development expenses were \$398.1 million for 2015, compared to \$409.3 million and \$276.1 million, respectively, for 2014 and 2013.

The year-on-year decrease for 2015 was \$11.1 million, representing a year-on-year decrease of 3%. The decrease mainly consisted of a \$6.8 million decrease in content and license expense, a \$6.8 million decrease in salary and benefits expense, a \$5.6 million decrease in share-based compensation expense, a \$2.9 million decrease in facility expenses, and a \$0.7 million decrease in travelling and entertainment expenses, offset by a \$8.4 million increase in impairment charges related to game copyrights of Changyou recognized in 2015 and a \$3.3 million increase in depreciation and amortization expense.

The year-on-year increase for 2014 was \$133.2 million, representing a year-on-year increase of 48%. The increase mainly consisted of a \$80.9 million increase in salary and benefits expenses, a \$20.3 million increase in share-based compensation expense, a \$10.8 million increase in depreciation and amortization expense, a \$6.5 million increase in content and license fees, a \$4.1 million increase in professional fees, and a \$3.9 million increase in facility expenses.

*Sales and Marketing Expenses*

Sales and marketing expenses were \$383.9 million for 2015, compared to \$526.5 million and \$351.7 million, respectively, for 2014 and 2013.

The year-on-year decrease for 2015 was \$142.6 million, representing a year-on-year decrease rate of 27%. The decrease mainly consisted of a \$113.1 million decrease in advertising and promotional expenditures, which was mainly due to Changyou's reduction in marketing and promotional spending for Changyou's platform channel business, a \$18.1 million decrease in salary and benefits expenses, and a \$5.6 million decrease in facility expenses.

The year-on-year increase for 2014 was \$174.9 million, representing a year-on-year increase rate of 50%. The increase mainly consisted of a \$116.5 million increase in advertising and promotional expenditures, which primarily resulted from higher advertising costs for promotion of Changyou's platform channel business in 2014, a \$40.1 million increase in salary and benefits expenses, a \$4.6 million increase in share-based compensation expense, and a \$4.3 million increase in travel expenses.

*General and Administrative Expenses*

General and administrative expenses were \$173.2 million for 2015, compared to \$204.3 million and \$109.0 million, respectively, for 2014 and 2013.

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The year-on-year decrease for 2015 was \$31.2 million, representing a year-on-year decrease rate of 15%. The decrease mainly consisted of a \$23.7 million decrease in salary and benefits expenses, which primarily resulted from a reduction in Changyou's workforce, a \$12.4 million decrease in share-based compensation expense, and a \$3.1 million decrease in travelling and entertainment expenses, offset by a \$3.5 million increase in facility expenses, a \$2.5 million increase in professional service fees, and a \$2.1 million increase in depreciation and amortization expenses.

The year-on-year increase for 2014 was \$95.4 million, representing a year-on-year increase rate of 88%. The increase mainly consisted of a \$37.7 million increase in salary and benefits expense, a \$37.5 million increase in share-based compensation expense, a \$9.4 million increase in facility and office expenses, a \$3.6 million increase in depreciation and amortization expense, a \$3.0 million increase in professional service fees, and a \$2.3 million increase in travel expenses.

*Goodwill Impairment and Impairment of Intangibles Acquired as Part of Business Acquisition*

In 2015, we recognized \$40.3 million of goodwill impairment and impairment of intangibles acquired as part of business acquisition. This \$40.3 million impairment loss consisted primarily of a \$29.6 million goodwill impairment loss and a \$8.9 million intangible assets impairment loss related to MoboTap. As the financial performance of the Dolphin Browser operated by MoboTap was below original expectations, Changyou's management concluded that the Dolphin Browser was unable to provide expected synergies with Changyou's platform channel business.

In 2014, we recognized \$52.3 million of goodwill impairment and impairment of intangibles acquired as part of business acquisitions. This \$52.3 million impairment loss consisted primarily of a \$33.8 million impairment loss for goodwill and a \$15.3 million impairment loss for intangible assets related to RaidCall, which was acquired by Changyou in 2013, as Changyou management determined that RaidCall's audio communication technology was not a good fit for Changyou's online games business.

In 2013, there was no goodwill impairment or impairment of intangibles via acquisitions of businesses.

*Share-based Compensation Expense*

Share-based compensation expense was recognized in costs and expenses for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2014 and 2015, respectively, as follows (in thousands):

Share-based compensation expense	Year Ended December 31,		
	2013	2014	2015
Cost of revenues	\$ 575	\$ 1,973	\$ 1,748
Product development expenses	4,638	24,982	19,344
Sales and marketing expenses	1,071	5,645	3,054
General and administrative expenses	4,145	41,843	29,297
	\$ 10,429	\$ 74,443	\$ 53,443

Share-based compensation expense recognized for share awards of Sohu (excluding Sohu Video), Sogou, Changyou and Sohu Video was as follows (in thousands):

<b>Share-based compensation expense</b>	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
For Sohu (excluding Sohu Video) share-based awards	\$ 3,799	\$ 4,410	\$ 27,811
For Sogou share-based awards (1)	5,435	61,918	10,310
For Changyou share-based awards	1,195	4,087	15,024
For Sohu Video share-based awards	0	4,028	298
	<b>\$ 10,429</b>	<b>\$ 74,443</b>	<b>\$ 53,443</b>

Note (1): Sogou share-based awards also include compensation expense for Tencent restricted share units that Tencent had granted to employees who transferred to Sogou with the Soso search-related businesses, and compensation expense equal to the excess of the repurchase price paid to employees over the fair value at the repurchase date of Sogou Class A Ordinary Shares that Sogou repurchased in the second quarter of 2014.



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There was no capitalized share-based compensation expense for 2013, 2014 and 2015.

As of December 31, 2015, unrecognized share-based compensation expense for Sohu (excluding Sohu Video), Sogou and Changyou share-based awards was as follows (in thousands):

<b>Unrecognized share-based compensation expense</b>	<b>As of December 31, 2015</b>	
For Sohu (excluding Sohu Video) share-based awards	\$	1,239
For Sogou share-based awards (2)		1,196
For Changyou share-based awards		109
	\$	2,544

Note (2): Includes the unrecognized compensation expense for employees who transferred from Tencent with Soso search-related businesses.

***Operating Profit /(Loss)***

We had an operating profit of \$82.5 million for 2015, compared to an operating loss of \$205.0 million for 2014 and an operating profit of \$183.5 million for 2013.

For 2015, the operating profit was mainly contributed by Changyou and Sogou. Changyou generated an operating profit of \$161.3 million in 2015, compared to an operating loss of \$41.7 million in 2014. This year-over-year improvement was due to a reduction in marketing and promotional spending for the platform channel business, reduced headcount, and an overall increase in operating efficiencies. Sogou generated an operating profit of \$101.8 million in 2015, compared to an operating loss of \$30.8 million in 2014. The year-over-year increase was due to increased revenues combined with lower costs as a percentage of search and search-related revenues.

***Other Income***

Other income was \$74.5 million for 2015, compared to \$10.0 million and \$12.7 million, respectively, for 2014 and 2013. Other income for 2015 included a \$55.1 million disposal gain recognized by Changyou for its sale of the 7Road business and certain Changyou subsidiaries.

***Net Interest Income***

Net interest income was \$23.5 million for 2015, compared to \$31.0 million and \$27.8 million, respectively, for 2014 and 2013.

***Income Tax Expense***

Income tax expense was \$76.9 million for 2015, compared to income tax expense of \$6.1 million and \$50.4 million, respectively, for 2014 and 2013. The \$76.9 income tax expense for 2015 included income tax expense of \$54.1 million incurred by Changyou, compared to \$2.5 million income tax expense incurred by Changyou in 2014. The increase resulted from Changyou's having returned to profitability in 2015 and reversing deferred tax assets arising

from a net loss carry forward by its loss-making subsidiaries and VIEs.

***Net Income /(Loss)***

As a result of the foregoing, we had a net income of \$108.9 million for 2015, compared to a net loss of \$171.2 million and a net income of \$166.9 million, respectively, for 2014 and 2013.

***Net Income /(Loss) Attributable to Noncontrolling Interest***

Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest was \$146.5 million for 2015, compared to net losses attributable to noncontrolling interest of \$32.3 million and \$82.0 million, respectively, for 2014 and 2013. For 2015, of the \$146.5 net income attributable to noncontrolling interest, \$101.6 million was attributable to the noncontrolling interest of Sogou and \$44.9 million was attributable to the noncontrolling interest of Changyou.

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***Dividend or deemed dividend to noncontrolling Sogou Series A Preferred shareholders***

Dividend or deemed dividend to noncontrolling Sogou Series A Preferred shareholders was \$11.9 million for 2015, compared to \$27.7 million and \$82.4 million, respectively, for 2014 and 2013.

The \$11.9 million deemed dividend for 2015 resulted from Sogou's repurchase of 6.4 million Sogou Series A Preferred Shares from noncontrolling shareholders in September 2015. The deemed dividend was deemed to have been contributed by Sohu.com Inc., as a holder of ordinary shares of Sogou, representing a portion of the differences between the prices Sogou paid to Photon for the Series A Preferred Shares and the carrying amounts of these Series A Preferred Shares in our consolidated financial statements.

The \$27.7 million deemed dividend for 2014 resulted from Sogou's repurchase of 14.4 million Sogou Series A Preferred Shares from China Web, and was deemed to have been contributed by Sohu, as a holder of ordinary shares of Sogou, in an amount equal to the proportionate difference between the price Sogou paid to China Web for the Series A Preferred Shares and the carrying amount of these 14.4 million Series A Preferred Shares in our consolidated financial statements.

The \$82.4 million dividend for 2013 resulted from the special dividend paid by Sogou on September 17, 2013 to holders of Series A Preferred Shares of Sogou other than Sohu in the amount of \$139.7 million, of which Sohu, as a holder of ordinary shares of Sogou, is deemed to have contributed \$82.4 million.

***Net Loss attributable to Sohu.com Inc.***

As a result of the foregoing, we had a net loss of \$49.6 million attributable to Sohu.com Inc. for 2015, compared to a net loss of \$166.7 million and \$15.3 million attributable to Sohu.com Inc., respectively, for 2014 and 2013.

**QUARTERLY RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The following table sets forth, for the periods presented, our unaudited quarterly results of operations for the eight quarters ended December 31, 2015. The data have been derived from our consolidated financial statements and, in our management's opinion, they have been prepared on substantially the same basis as the audited consolidated financial statements and include all adjustments, consisting only of normal recurring adjustments, necessary for a fair statement of the financial results for the periods presented. This information should be read in conjunction with the annual consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this Form 10-K. The operating results in any quarter are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for any future period.

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For a discussion of changes in the basis of presentation for the periods presented below, see Item 7 Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Results of Operations.

	<b>Three Months Ended</b>							
	<b>Mar. 31, 2014</b>	<b>Jun. 30, 2014</b>	<b>Sep. 30, 2014</b>	<b>Dec. 31, 2014</b>	<b>Mar. 31, 2015</b>	<b>Jun. 30, 2015</b>	<b>Sep. 30, 2015</b>	<b>Dec. 31, 2015</b>
	(Unaudited, in thousands, except per share data)							
<b>Revenues:</b>								
<b>Online advertising:</b>								
Brand advertising	\$ 111,103	\$ 133,408	\$ 148,823	\$ 147,824	\$ 133,821	\$ 150,849	\$ 151,517	\$ 140,927
Search and search-related	64,309	85,064	98,437	110,029	105,126	135,206	147,938	151,251
Subtotal of online advertising revenues	175,412	218,472	247,260	257,853	238,947	286,055	299,455	292,178
Online games	163,388	153,877	150,338	184,405	184,994	172,350	152,501	127,001
Others	26,515	27,802	32,817	34,938	31,391	35,161	70,134	46,924
Total revenues	365,315	400,151	430,415	477,196	455,332	493,566	522,090	466,103
<b>Cost of revenues:</b>								
<b>Online advertising:</b>								
Brand advertising	64,140	82,898	83,424	77,246	104,552	99,847	91,163	87,625
Search and search-related	31,737	40,420	46,375	45,386	49,919	58,552	62,365	68,108
Subtotal of cost of online advertising revenues	95,877	123,318	129,799	122,632	154,471	158,399	153,528	155,733
Online games	26,586	30,263	33,949	51,754	49,485	43,929	34,635	28,266
Others	16,035	16,305	17,912	21,204	18,198	18,872	25,996	17,552
Total cost of revenues	138,498	169,886	181,660	195,590	222,154	221,200	214,159	201,551
Gross profit	226,817	230,265	248,755	281,606	233,178	272,366	307,931	264,552
<b>Operating expenses:</b>								
<b>Product development</b>								
Product development	117,722	102,218	107,971	81,374	102,191	100,771	92,779	102,402
<b>Sales and marketing</b>								
Sales and marketing	142,354	136,606	131,742	115,812	83,128	103,977	98,596	98,230
<b>General and administrative</b>								
General and administrative	35,354	53,246	49,730	65,995	45,164	49,720	33,330	44,946

Goodwill impairment and impairment of intangible assets acquired as part of business acquisitions	0	0	0	52,282	0	0	40,324	0
Total operating expenses	295,430	292,070	289,443	315,463	230,483	254,468	265,029	245,578
Operating profit /(loss)	(68,613)	(61,805)	(40,688)	(33,857)	2,695	17,898	42,902	18,974
Other income	3,750	694	896	4,619	3,154	(437)	70,219	1,590
Net interest income	8,457	8,779	7,468	6,273	6,035	6,228	5,192	6,004
Exchange difference	578	59	(610)	(1,169)	(183)	(687)	4,322	1,885
Income /(loss) before income tax expense /(benefit)	(55,828)	(52,273)	(32,934)	(24,134)	11,701	23,002	122,635	28,453
Income tax expense /(benefit)	(214)	(1,740)	(1,036)	8,612	16,300	(11,519)	(29,461)	19,656
Net income /(loss)	(56,042)	(50,533)	(31,898)	(32,746)	(4,599)	11,483	93,174	8,797
Less: Net income /(loss) attributable to the noncontrolling interest shareholders	(4,935)	(9,443)	(4,760)	(13,171)	26,521	38,682	42,142	39,197
Dividend or deemed dividend to noncontrolling Sogou Series A Preferred shareholders	27,747	0	0	0	0	0	11,911	0
Net income /(loss) attributable to Sohu.com Inc.	\$ (78,854)	\$ (41,090)	\$ (27,138)	\$ (19,575)	\$ (31,120)	\$ (27,199)	\$ 39,121	\$ (30,400)
Basic net income/(loss) per share attributable to Sohu.com Inc.	\$ (2.05)	\$ (1.07)	\$ (0.71)	\$ (0.51)	\$ (0.81)	\$ (0.70)	\$ 1.01	\$ (0.79)
Shares used in computing basic	38,411	38,475	38,485	38,501	38,525	38,587	38,633	38,646

net income/(loss)  
per share  
attributable to  
Sohu.com Inc.

Diluted net  
income/(loss) per  
share attributable  
to Sohu.com Inc.

\$ (2.05) \$ (1.16) \$ (0.74) \$ (0.52) \$ (0.81) \$ (0.71) \$ 1.00 \$ (0.80)

Shares used in  
computing diluted  
net income/(loss)  
per share  
attributable to  
Sohu.com Inc.

38,411 38,475 38,485 38,501 38,525 38,587 38,665 38,646

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**Table of Contents****LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES****Resources Analysis*****Liquidity Sources and Balances***

Our principal sources of liquidity are cash and cash equivalents, short-term investments, and cash flows generated from our operations. Cash equivalents primarily comprise time deposits and money market funds. Short-term investments comprise investment instruments issued by commercial banks in China, with a variable interest rate indexed to performance of underlying assets and maturity dates within one year.

As of December 31, 2015, we had cash and cash equivalents of approximately \$1.25 billion, and short-term investments of \$174.5 million. Of our cash and cash equivalents, \$735.0 million was held in financial institutions inside Mainland China and \$510.2 million was held in financial institutions outside of Mainland China. Our VIEs held \$131.3 million of our cash and cash equivalents and \$1.11 billion was held outside of our VIEs. In addition, as of December 31, 2015, we had, through Changyou, loans from offshore banks in the principal amount of \$344.5 million. These loans were secured by RMB deposits in onshore branches of those banks in the total amount of \$364.0 million, which are recognized as restricted time deposits.

As of December 31, 2014, we had cash and cash equivalents of approximately \$876.3 million, and short-term investments of \$191.6 million. Of our cash and cash equivalents, \$403.3 million was held in financial institutions inside Mainland China and \$473.0 million was held in financial institutions outside of Mainland China. Our VIEs held \$39.5 million of our cash and cash equivalents and \$836.8 million was held outside of our VIEs. In addition, as of December 31, 2014, we had, through Changyou, loans from offshore banks in the principal amount of \$370.0 million. These loans were secured by RMB deposits in onshore branches of those banks in the total amount of \$417.4 million, which are recognized as restricted time deposits.

We believe our current liquidity and capital resources are sufficient to meet anticipated working capital needs (net cash used in operating activities), commitments, capital expenditures, and investment activities over the next twelve months. We may, however, require additional cash resources due to changes in business conditions and other future developments, or changes in general economic conditions.

See Item 1A Risk Factors Risks Related to China's Regulation Environment Restrictions on currency exchange may limit our ability to utilize our revenues effectively, - Sohu.com Inc. may need to rely on dividends and other distributions on equity paid by Sohu.com Limited and Changyou, our wholly-owned subsidiary and majority-owned subsidiary to fund any cash requirements we may have. Sohu.com Inc. may not be able to obtain cash from distributions because our subsidiaries and VIEs in China are subject to restrictions imposed by PRC law or by future debt covenants on paying such dividends or making other payments, and - Dividends we receive from our operating subsidiaries located in the PRC are subject to PRC profit appropriation and PRC withholding tax. See also Restrictions and Limitations on Cash Available to Sohu.com Inc. below and Item 7A Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure About Market Risk Foreign Currency Exchange Rate Risk.

***Significant Cash Related Activities******Sogou***

In September 2015, Sogou purchased from Sohu Search (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sohu) and Photon, pursuant to Repurchase Option Agreements entered into in September 2013, 24.0 million and 6.4 million Series A Preferred

Shares of Sogou, for aggregate purchase prices of \$78.8 million and \$21.0 million, respectively.

*Changyou*

On August 17, 2015, (i) Changyou's VIE Gamease completed the sale to Shanghai Yong Chong Investment Center LP, a PRC limited partnership, of all of the equity interests in Shenzhen 7Road, and (ii) Changyou's subsidiary Changyou HK completed the sale to Supermax Holdings Group Limited, a British Virgin Islands company, of all of the equity capital of Changyou My Sdn. Bhd, a Malaysia company, and Changyou.com (UK) Company Limited, a United Kingdom company, which are engaged in the online game business in Malaysia and the United Kingdom, respectively. The aggregate consideration for these transactions was \$205.0 million in cash. All of the consideration had been paid to Changyou as of December 31, 2015.

In 2015, pursuant to a share repurchase program approved by Changyou's Board of Directors in July 2013, Changyou repurchased 610,046 ADSs, representing 1,220,092 ordinary shares, at an aggregate cost of approximately \$14.5 million. The share repurchase program expired on July 26, 2015. As of that date, Changyou had repurchased under the program an aggregate of 1,364,846 Changyou ADSs, representing 2,729,692 ordinary shares, at an aggregate cost of approximately \$35.0 million.



**Table of Contents****Cash Generating Ability**

Our cash flows were summarized below (in thousands):

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 403,933	\$ 152,283	\$ 506,053
Net cash used in investing activities	(441,629)	(438,474)	(69,767)
Net cash provided by /(used in) financing activities	470,341	(122,810)	(43,116)
Effect of exchange rate change on cash and cash equivalents	21,108	(1,947)	(24,305)
Net increase /(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	453,753	(410,948)	368,865
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	833,535	1,287,288	876,340
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$ 1,287,288	\$ 876,340	\$ 1,245,205

***Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities***

For 2015, \$506.1 million net cash provided by operating activities was primarily attributable to our net income of \$108.9 million, adjusted by (i) the add back of non-cash items consisting of \$237.4 million in depreciation and amortization expense, \$53.4 million in share-based compensation expense, \$40.3 million in goodwill impairment and impairment of intangible assets acquired as part of business acquisitions, \$17.8 million in impairment of intangible assets, a \$7.5 million investment loss from equity investments, and \$3.1 million of other items, (ii) offset by \$55.1 million of gain from the sale of the 7Road business and certain Changyou subsidiaries, \$11.9 million of gain from sale of investments, and a \$1.3 million change in the fair value of short-term investments. The increase in cash from \$106.0 million working capital items is also included in operating cash flow.

For 2014, \$152.3 million net cash provided by operating activities was primarily attributable to our net loss of \$171.2 million, adjusted by (i) the add back of non-cash items consisting of \$208.5 million in depreciation and amortization expense, \$57.3 million in share-based compensation expense, \$52.3 million in goodwill impairment and impairment of intangible assets acquired as part of business acquisitions, and \$1.6 million of other items, (ii) a \$2.3 million change in fair value of put option, a \$1.6 million change in fair value of short-term investments, and \$1.4 million in income from investments in debt securities. The increase in cash from \$9.1 million working capital items is also included in operating cash flow.

For 2013, \$403.9 million net cash provided by operating activities was primarily attributable to our net income of \$166.9 million, adjusted by (i) the add back of non-cash items consisting of \$130.7 million in depreciation and amortization expense, \$10.4 million in share-based compensation expense, \$4.2 million contribution from noncontrolling shareholders, and \$3.6 million in impairment of intangible assets, (ii) offset by \$5.6 million in investment income from investments in debt securities and \$1.3 million miscellaneous expenses. The increase in cash from \$97.2 million working capital items is also included in operating cash flow.

***Net Cash Used in Investing Activities***

For 2015, \$69.8 million net cash used in investing activities was primarily attributable to (i) \$243.3 million used in the purchase of fixed assets and intangible assets, \$39.5 million used in the purchase of long-term investments (mainly composed of Sohu's investment of \$16.3 million in SoEasy Internet Finance Group Limited and Sogou's investment of \$12.0 million in Zhihu), \$20.0 million in funds to a third party, and \$13.1 million of funds deposited by Changyou, (ii) offset by \$184.4 million in consideration received from Changyou's sale of the 7Road business (net of cash in 7Road upon its disposition) and certain Changyou subsidiaries, the withdrawal of \$40.4 million in restricted time deposits originally used as collateral for Changyou loans from offshore banks, \$15.9 million in consideration received from sales of equity investments, and \$5.5 million in proceeds from other investing activities.

For 2014, \$438.5 million net cash used in investing activities was primarily attributable to (i) \$210.2 million used in purchase of fixed assets and intangible assets, \$186.5 million used in purchase of short-term investments, \$106.4 million used in acquisitions, \$26.1 million purchase of long-term investments, (ii) offset by \$82.0 million of proceeds received from debt securities at maturity, \$5.8 million from withdrawal of restricted time deposits originally used as collateral for Changyou loans from offshore banks, and \$2.9 million cash proceeds from other investing activities.

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For 2013, \$441.6 million net cash used in investing activities was primarily attributable to (i) \$211.8 million used to acquire fixed assets and intangible assets (including a \$3.2 million payment for the office building acquired by Sohu and a \$39.2 million payment for the office building acquired by Changyou), \$168.7 million in restricted time deposits used as collateral for Changyou loans from offshore banks, \$76.0 million used in the purchase of the noncontrolling interest in 7Road, \$33.7 million used in Changyou's acquisitions of Doyo and RaidCall, \$9.0 million in restricted time deposits used as collateral for credit facilities provided by banks to certain Sogou employees and \$2.4 million used for investments related to other investing activities, (ii) offset by \$54.4 million received from short-term investments and \$5.6 million in investment income from investments in debt securities.

***Net Cash Provided by / (Used in) Financing Activities***

For 2015, \$43.1 million net cash used in financing activities was primarily attributable to (i) \$25.5 million used in Changyou's repayment of loans from offshore banks, \$21.0 million used in Sogou's repurchase of Series A Preferred Shares of Sogou from Photon, and \$14.5 million used in Changyou's repurchase of its ADSs, offset by (ii) \$12.9 million in loan proceeds from Changyou, \$2.1 million received from the exercise of share-based awards, and \$2.9 million in proceeds from other financing activities.

For 2014, \$122.8 million net cash used in financing activities was primarily attributable to (i) Changyou's repayment of \$410.2 million of loans from offshore banks, \$47.3 million used in Sogou's repurchase of Series A Preferred Shares of Sogou from China Web, \$24.6 million used in Sogou's repurchase of its Class A Ordinary Shares from its noncontrolling shareholders, \$3.6 million used for the repurchase of ADSs by Changyou, \$2.8 million used in payment of contingent consideration by Changyou, and \$5.3 million used in other financing activities, (ii) offset by proceeds of loans from offshore banks of \$370.0 million, and \$1.0 million received from the exercise of share-based awards.

For 2013, \$470.3 million net cash provided by financing activities was primarily attributable to (i) \$476.9 million cash received from Tencent in connection with the Sogou-Tencent Transactions, \$167.0 million of Changyou loans from offshore banks, \$5.3 million in proceeds received from early exercise of share-based awards in Sogou, \$1.9 million from the issuance of common stock upon the exercise of share options granted under our stock incentive plan, and \$1.8 million from the exercise of share-based awards in Sogou, (ii) offset by \$139.7 million used for the Sogou dividend distributed to holders of Sogou Series A Preferred Shares other than Sohu Search, \$19.7 million used for contingent consideration paid by Changyou to 7Road's noncontrolling shareholders, \$17.3 million used for the repurchase of ADSs of Changyou and \$5.9 million used for payment of transaction expenses in connection with the Sogou-Tencent Transactions.

**Restrictions and Limitations on Cash Available to Sohu.com Inc.**

To fund any cash requirements it may have, Sohu.com Inc. may need to rely on dividends and other distributions on equity paid by our wholly-owned subsidiary Sohu.com Limited or our majority-owned subsidiary Changyou.com Limited. Since substantially all of our operations are conducted through our indirect wholly-owned and majority-owned China-Based Subsidiaries and VIEs, Sohu.com Limited and Changyou.com Limited may need to rely on dividends, loans or advances made by our PRC Subsidiaries in order to make dividends and other distributions to us. In 2013, in connection with the Sogou-Tencent Transactions, Sogou paid a special dividend to the three holders of Series A Preferred Shares of Sogou in the aggregate amount of \$300.9 million, of which \$161.2 million was paid to and received by Sohu Search, which is a direct subsidiary of Sohu.com Limited, and no dividend was paid to Sohu.com Inc.

The ability of Sohu.com Limited and Changyou.com Limited to receive dividends and distributions from our China-Based subsidiaries and VIEs, and the amount of cash available for distribution to, and use by, Sohu.com Inc., are subject to certain restrictions and limitations related to PRC law, our VIE structure and U.S. corporate income tax. We do not expect any of such restrictions or taxes to have a material impact on our ability to meet our cash obligations.

***PRC Profit Appropriation, Withholding Tax on Dividends and Regulation of Foreign Currency Exchange***

Regulations in the PRC currently permit payment of dividends of a PRC company only out of accumulated profits as determined in accordance with accounting standards and regulations in China. Our China-based WFOEs are also required to set aside each year to their general reserves at least 10% of their after-tax profit based on PRC accounting standards, until the cumulative amount reaches 50% of their paid-in capital. These reserves may not be distributed as cash dividends, or as loans or advances. Our WFOEs may also allocate a portion of their after-tax profits, at the discretion of their Boards of Directors, to their staff welfare and bonus funds. Any amounts so allocated may not be distributed to Sohu.com Limited or Changyou.com Limited and, accordingly, would not be available for distribution to Sohu.com Inc.

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The CIT Law imposes a 10% withholding income tax for dividends distributed by foreign-invested enterprises in the PRC to their immediate holding companies outside Mainland China. A lower withholding tax rate will be applied if there is a tax treaty arrangement between Mainland China and the jurisdiction of the foreign holding company. A holding company in Hong Kong, for example, will be subject to a 5% withholding tax rate under an arrangement between the PRC and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital if such holding company is considered a non-PRC resident enterprise and holds at least 25% of the equity interests in the PRC foreign invested enterprise distributing the dividends, subject to approval of the PRC local tax authority. However, if the Hong Kong holding company is not considered to be the beneficial owner of such dividends under applicable PRC tax regulations, such dividend will remain subject to a withholding tax rate of 10%. As of December 31, 2015, we had accrued deferred tax liabilities in the amount of \$24.9 million for withholding taxes associated with dividends paid by Changyou's Mainland China-based WFOEs to Changyou's Hong Kong subsidiary.

Under regulations of the PRC State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE), the RMB is not convertible into foreign currencies for capital account items, such as loans, repatriation of investments and investments outside of Mainland China, unless prior approval of the SAFE is obtained and prior registration with the SAFE is made.

***PRC Restrictions Related to Our VIE Structure***

Substantially all of Changyou.com Limited's operations are conducted through its VIEs, which generate most of Changyou's online game revenues. Although Changyou's subsidiaries received or absorbed a majority of the VIEs profits or losses pursuant to contractual agreements between the VIEs and Changyou's PRC subsidiaries providing for payments to the subsidiaries in return for services provided to the VIEs by the PRC subsidiaries, significant cash balances remained in Changyou's VIEs as of December 31, 2015. As Changyou's VIEs are not owned by Changyou's PRC subsidiaries, the VIEs are not able to make dividend payments to the subsidiaries. Therefore, in order for Sohu.com Inc. or our subsidiaries outside of Mainland China to receive any dividends, loans or advances from Changyou's PRC subsidiaries, we will need to rely on these contractual payments made by Changyou's VIEs to Changyou's PRC subsidiaries. Depending on the nature of services provided by Changyou's PRC subsidiaries to their corresponding VIEs, certain of these payments will subject to PRC taxes, including Business Tax and VAT, which will effectively reduce the amount that the PRC subsidiary receives from its corresponding VIE. In addition, the PRC government could impose restrictions on such payments or change the tax rates applicable to such payments.

***U.S. Corporate Income Tax***

Sohu.com Inc. is a Delaware corporation that is subject to U.S. corporate income tax on its taxable income at a rate of up to 35%. Subject to certain limitations, the NOLs of a corporation in the U.S. that are carried forward from prior years may be used to offset the corporation's taxable income. As of the end of the 2012 taxable year, Sohu.com Inc. had no further NOLs available for offsetting any U.S. taxable income. To the extent that its U.S. taxable income is determined to be from sources outside of the U.S., such as Subpart F income or a dividend, subject to certain limitations, Sohu.com Inc. may be able to claim foreign tax credits to offset its U.S. income tax liabilities. Any remaining liabilities are accrued in the Company's consolidated statements of comprehensive income and estimated tax payments are made when required by U.S. law.

In accordance with U.S. GAAP, we do not provide for U.S. income taxes or tax benefits on the undistributed earnings or losses of our non-U.S. subsidiaries or consolidated VIEs because, for the foreseeable future, we do not have the intention to repatriate those undistributed earnings or losses to the U.S. However, certain activities conducted in the PRC may give rise to U.S. corporate income tax, even if there are no distributions to Sohu.com Inc. U.S. corporate income taxes would be imposed on Sohu.com Inc. when its subsidiaries that are controlled foreign corporations

( CFCs ) generate income that is subject to Subpart F of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code ( Subpart F ). Generally, passive income, such as rents, royalties, interest, dividends, and gains from disposal of our investments is among the types of income subject to taxation under Subpart F. Any income taxable under Subpart F is taxable in the U.S. at federal corporate income tax rates of up to 35%. Subpart F income also includes certain income from intercompany transactions between Sohu.com Inc. s non-U.S. subsidiaries and VIEs and Changyou s non-U.S. subsidiaries and VIEs, or where Sohu.com Inc. s non-U.S. subsidiaries or VIEs make an investment in U.S. property, such as holding the stock in, or making a loan to, a U.S. corporation. Under a provision of the U.S. tax code commonly referred to as the CFC look-through rule, Sohu.com Inc. has not had to treat dividends received by its CFC subsidiaries as Subpart F income includible in Sohu.com Inc. s taxable income in the U.S. The CFC look-through rule, which is currently scheduled to expire for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2019, has been extended several times by the U.S. Congress. Unless further extended, the CFC look-through rule will be available for Sohu.com Inc. s CFC subsidiaries and their VIEs only through their taxable years ending November 30, 2020.

**Table of Contents****Dividend Policy**

The Sohu Group intends to retain all available funds and any future earnings for use in the operation and expansion of its own business, and does not anticipate paying any cash dividends on Sohu.com Inc.'s common stock or causing Changyou to pay any dividends on Changyou.com Limited's ordinary shares, including ordinary shares represented by Changyou.com Limited's ADSs, or causing Sogou to pay any dividends on Sogou.com Inc.'s ordinary shares and preferred shares, for the foreseeable future. Future cash dividends distributed by Sohu.com Inc., Changyou.com Limited, or Sogou.com Inc., if any, will be declared at the discretion of their respective Boards of Directors and will depend upon their future operations and earnings, capital requirements and surplus, general financial condition, contractual restrictions and such other factors as their respective Boards of Directors may deem relevant.

**CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS**

The following table sets forth our contractual obligations as of December 31, 2015 (in thousands):

<b>As of December 31,</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Thereafter</b>	<b>Total Payments Required</b>
Purchase of content and services -video	96,730	18,347	15,383	0	0	0	130,460
Purchase of cinema advertisement slot rights	23,745	26,868	10,262	1,010	0	0	61,885
Purchase of bandwidth	40,622	4,385	2,351	102	0	0	47,460
Operating lease obligations	20,472	11,432	4,392	917	0	0	37,213
Expenditures for operating rights of licensed games with technological feasibility	5,818	20,350	0	0	0	0	26,168
Purchase of content and services -others	13,089	2,081	23	0	0	0	15,193
Fees for operating rights of licensed games in development	3,038	150	0	0	0	0	3,188
Expenditures for rights to titles and characters of games in development	1,623	0	0	0	0	0	1,623
Others	8,373	374	56	1	0	0	8,804
<b>Total Payments Required</b>	<b>213,510</b>	<b>83,987</b>	<b>32,467</b>	<b>2,030</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>331,994</b>

**OTHER LONG-TERM LIABILITIES**

As a result of our adoption of Accounting Standard Codification 740 Income Taxes (ASC 740), we recorded long-term tax payable of \$24.7 million related to unrecognized tax benefit, as ASC 740 specifies that tax positions for which the timing of the ultimate resolution is uncertain should be recognized as long-term liabilities. At this time, we are unable to make a reasonably reliable estimate of the timing of payments in individual years beyond 12 months due to uncertainties in the timing of the tax impact of the transactions. As a result, this amount is not included in the table above.

**OFF-BALANCE SHEET COMMITMENTS AND ARRANGEMENTS**

We have not entered into any financial guarantees or other commitments to guarantee the payment obligations of third parties, except for a \$9.0 million restricted time deposit acting as collateral for credit facilities provided by a bank to certain Sogou employees. We are not subject to any additional potential payments other than the restricted time deposit amount, and believe that the fair value of our guarantee liability is immaterial. We have not entered into any derivative contracts that are indexed to our shares and classified as shareholder's equity, or that are not reflected in our consolidated financial statements. Furthermore, we do not have any retained or contingent interest in assets transferred to an unconsolidated entity that serves as credit, liquidity or market risk support to such entity. We do not have any variable interest in any unconsolidated entity that provides financing, liquidity, market risk or credit support to us or that engages in leasing, hedging or product development services with us.

#### **IMPACT OF RECENTLY ISSUED ACCOUNTING STANDARDS**

On May 28, 2014, the FASB and IASB issued their long-awaited converged standard on the recognition of revenue from contracts with customers. The standard is intended to improve the financial reporting of revenue and improve comparability of the top line in financial statements globally. The FASB is amending the FASB *Accounting Standards Codification* and creating a new Topic 606, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*, to supersede the revenue recognition requirements in Topic 605, *Revenue Recognition*, and most industry-specific guidance throughout the Industry Topics of the Codification. Additionally, the amendments supersede some cost guidance included in Subtopic 605-35, *Revenue Recognition Construction-Type and Production-Type Contract*. For a public business entity, the amendments are effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016, including interim periods within that reporting period. Early adoption is not permitted. We are currently evaluating the impact on its consolidated financial statements of adopting this guidance.



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In February 2015, the FASB issued *Consolidation (Topic 810) Amendments to the Consolidation Analysis*. The amendments in Topic 810 respond to stakeholders' concerns about the current accounting for consolidation of variable interest entities, by changing aspects of the analysis that a reporting entity must perform to determine whether it should consolidate such entities. Under the amendments, all reporting entities are within the scope of Subtopic 810-10, *Consolidation Overall*, including limited partnerships and similar legal entities, unless a scope exception applies. The amendments are intended to be an improvement to current U.S. GAAP, as they simplify the codification of FASB Statement No. 167, *Amendments to FASB Interpretation No. 46(R)*, with changes including reducing the number of consolidation models through the elimination of the indefinite deferral of Statement 167 and placing more emphasis on risk of loss when determining a controlling financial interest. The amendments are effective for public business companies for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2015, and for interim periods within those fiscal years. Earlier adoption is permitted. We are currently evaluating the impact on our consolidated financial statements of adopting this guidance.

In September 2015, the FASB issued *ASU No. 2015-16, Simplifying the Accounting for Measurement-Period Adjustments*, which eliminates the requirement for an acquirer in a business combination to account for measurement-period adjustments retrospectively. Instead, an acquirer must recognize measurement-period adjustments during the period in which it determines the amounts, including the effect on earnings of any amounts that would have been recorded in previous periods if the accounting had been completed at the acquisition date. This update is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2015, with early adoption permitted. The implementation of this update is not expected to have any material impact on our condensed consolidated financial statements.

In November 2015, the FASB issued *ASU No. 2015-17, Income Taxes (Topic 740): Balance Sheet Classification of Deferred Taxes*, which simplifies the presentation of deferred income taxes by requiring deferred tax assets and liabilities to be classified as noncurrent on the balance sheet. The amendments in this update are effective for financial statements issued for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2016, and interim periods within those annual periods. We are currently evaluating the effect of adoption of this ASU, and expect that it will have an impact on our consolidated balance sheets, as our current deferred tax assets were \$4.7 million and our current deferred tax liabilities were \$24.9 million as of December 31, 2015.

**ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURE ABOUT MARKET RISK****FOREIGN CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE RISK**

While our reporting currency is the U.S. dollar, to date the majority of our revenues and costs are denominated in RMB and a significant portion of our assets and liabilities are denominated in RMB. As a result, we are exposed to foreign exchange risk as our revenues and results of operations may be affected by fluctuations in the exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and the RMB. If the RMB depreciates against the U.S. dollar, the value of our RMB revenues and assets as expressed in our U.S. dollar financial statements will decline. For example, our revenues for the year ended December 31, 2015 were \$1.94 billion and our total assets as of December 31, 2015 were \$3.04 billion, representing revenues of RMB12.58 billion and total assets of RMB19.75 billion at the noon buying rate of RMB 6.4936 to \$1.00 on December 31, 2015. If the value of the RMB were to depreciate by approximately 10% to RMB 7.1430 to \$1.00, the value of the same amount of RMB-denominated revenue and total assets in U.S. dollars would be \$1.76 billion and \$2.77 billion, respectively. Also, we currently have outstanding loans from overseas banks that are denominated in U.S. dollars. To repay these loans, we will need to first convert our cash denominated in RMB into U.S. dollars. If the RMB depreciates relative to the U.S. dollar, we will have to use a larger amount of cash in RMB for any such loan repayment. For example, Changyou's loans denominated in U.S. dollars as of December 31, 2015 aggregated \$344.5 million. We needed RMB2.24 billion to settle these loans at the noon buying rate of RMB 6.4936

to \$1.00 on December 31, 2015. If the value of the RMB were to depreciate by approximately 10% to RMB 7.1430 to \$1.00, we would have to use RMB2.46 billion to settle loans in the same aggregate amount. We do not hold any derivative or other financial instruments that expose us to substantial market risk.

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The RMB is currently freely convertible under the current account, which includes dividends, trade and service-related foreign exchange transactions, but not under the capital account, which includes foreign direct investment. In addition, commencing on July 21, 2005, China reformed its exchange rate regime by changing to a managed floating exchange rate regime based on market supply and demand with reference to a basket of currencies. Under the managed floating exchange rate regime, the RMB is no longer pegged to the U.S. dollar. The exchange rate of the RMB against the U.S. dollar was adjusted to RMB8.11 per U.S. dollar as of July 21, 2005, representing an appreciation of about 2%. The People's Bank of China will announce the closing prices of foreign currencies such as the U.S. dollar traded against the RMB in the inter-bank foreign exchange market after the closing of the market on each business day, and will make such prices the central parity for trading against the RMB on the following business day. On May 19, 2007, the People's Bank of China announced a policy to expand the maximum daily floating range of RMB trading prices against the U.S. dollar in the inter-bank spot foreign exchange market from 0.3% to 0.5%. While the international reactions to the RMB revaluation and widening of the RMB's daily trading band have generally been positive, with the increased floating range of the RMB's value against foreign currencies, the RMB may appreciate or depreciate significantly in value against the U.S. dollar or other foreign currencies in the long term, depending on the fluctuation of the basket of currencies against which it is currently valued. On June 19, 2010, the People's Bank of China announced that it has decided to proceed further with the reform of the RMB exchange rate regime to enhance the flexibility of the RMB exchange rate and that emphasis would be placed on reflecting market supply and demand with reference to a basket of currencies. While so indicating its intention to make the RMB's exchange rate more flexible, the People's Bank of China ruled out any sharp fluctuations in the currency or a one-off adjustment. On April 16, 2012, the People's Bank of China announced a policy to expand the maximum daily floating range of RMB trading prices against the U.S. dollar in the inter-bank spot foreign exchange market from 0.5% to 1%. On March 17, 2014, the People's Bank of China announced a policy to further expand the maximum daily floating range of RMB trading prices against the U.S. dollar in the inter-bank spot foreign exchange market to 2%. In 2015, the RMB depreciated significantly. The center point of the currency's official trading band was 6.1265 in January and was 6.4465 in December, which contributed to a decline in the Company's 2015 revenues, which are reported in U.S. dollars. In the long term, the RMB may appreciate or depreciate more significantly in value against the U.S. dollar or other foreign currencies, depending on the market supply and demand with reference to a basket of currencies.

To date, we have not entered into any hedging transactions in an effort to reduce our exposure to foreign currency exchange risk. While we may decide to enter into hedging transactions in the future, the effectiveness of these hedges may be limited and we may not be able to successfully hedge our exposure. Accordingly, we may incur economic losses in the future due to foreign exchange rate fluctuations, which could have a negative impact on our financial condition and results of operations.

The following table sets forth a summary of our foreign currency sensitive financial instruments as of December 31, 2015. These financial instruments are recorded at their fair value.

	Denominated in (in thousands)				Total
	US\$	RMB	HK\$	Others	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 492,435	\$ 736,483	\$ 14,514	\$ 1,773	\$ 1,245,205
Restricted time deposits	9,240	354,739	0	0	363,979
Short-term investments	18,000	156,515	0	0	174,515
Accounts receivable	7,260	265,196	1,161	0	273,617
Prepaid and other current assets	7,692	150,534	0	664	158,890
Short-term bank loans	344,500	0	0	0	344,500
Other current liabilities	16,175	890,847	13,049	8	920,079

Long-term accounts payable	0	4,600	0	0	4,600
<b>INTEREST RATE RISK</b>					

The basic objectives of our investment program are to protect the invested funds from excessive risk and to provide for liquidity that is sufficient to meet operating and investment cash requirements. Under the investment policy, our excess cash is invested in high-quality securities which are limited as to length of time to maturity and the amount of credit exposure.

Our exposure to interest rate risk primarily relates to the interest income generated from excess cash invested in demand deposits, and interest expense generated from loans to Changyou from offshore banks. We have not used derivative financial instruments in our investment portfolio in order to reduce this risk. We have not been exposed nor do we anticipate being exposed to material risks due to changes in interest rates.

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**INFLATION RATE RISK**

According to the National Bureau of Statistics of China, the consumer price index grew 1.4% in 2015, compared to an increase of 2.0% in 2014. While the increase for 2015 represented a decline in the rate of inflation compared to 2014, there may be increases in the rate of inflation in the future, which could have a material adverse effect on our business.

**ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA**

Reference is made to the Index to Consolidated Financial Statements which appear on page F-1 of this report. The Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting, Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm, Consolidated Financial Statements, Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements and Financial Statement Schedules which are listed in the Index to Consolidated Financial Statements and which appear beginning on page F-2 of this report are incorporated into this Item 8. Quarterly Results of Operations information is included in this report and is incorporated into this Item 8.

**ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE**

None.

**ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

**Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

Our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, after evaluating the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) as of the end of the period covered by this report (the Evaluation Date), have concluded that as of the Evaluation Date our disclosure controls and procedures were effective and designed to ensure that all material information relating to Sohu required to be included in our reports filed or submitted under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the rules and forms of the Securities and Exchange Commission and to ensure that information required to be disclosed is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our principal executive and financial officers, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

**Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act. Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, we conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting based on criteria established in Internal Control Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on this evaluation, our management concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2015.

Because of the inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness 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 the policies or procedures may deteriorate. The effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2015 has been

audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers Zhong Tian LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report which is included in this report on pages F-2.

**Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

There have not been any changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act during the Company's fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2015 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

**ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION**

None.

**Table of Contents****PART III****ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

The information required by this item will be included in the Proxy Statement for Sohu's 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on or about April 29, 2016 and is incorporated herein by reference.

**ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

The information required by this item will be included in the Proxy Statement for Sohu's 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders under the heading "Executive Compensation" and is incorporated herein by reference.

**ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS**

The information required by this item, other than the table included below, will be included in the Proxy Statement for Sohu's 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders under the heading "Beneficial Ownership of Common Stock" and is incorporated herein by reference.

**Equity Compensation Plan Information**

<b>Plan category</b>	<b>Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights (in thousands)</b>	<b>Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants reflected in column (a) and rights (b)</b>	<b>Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) (c) (in thousands)</b>
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders-2010 Stock Incentive Plan			
Stock Options	1,068	\$ 0.001	352
Restricted Stock Units	32	0	0
Subtotal	1,100		352
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	0		0

Total	1,100	352
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**ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE**

The information required by this item will be included in the Proxy Statement for Sohu's 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders under the heading "Transactions with Related Persons" and is incorporated herein by reference.

**ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES**

The information required by this item will be included in the Proxy Statement for Sohu's 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders under the heading "Principal Accountant Fees, Services and Pre-approval Process" and is incorporated herein by reference.

**PART IV****ITEM 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES****(a)(1) Index to Consolidated Financial Statements**

Please see the accompanying Index to Consolidated Financial Statements which appears on page F-1 of this report. The Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting, Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm, Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements which are listed in the Index to Consolidated Financial Statements and which appear beginning on page F-2 of this report are included in Item 8 above.



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(a)(2) Financial Statements Schedule

Schedule I, Condensed Financial Information of Registrant, is included in this report and is incorporated into this Item 15(a)(2) by reference.

All other financial statements schedules have been omitted because the information required to be set forth therein is not applicable or is included in the Consolidated Financial Statements or notes thereto.

(b) Exhibits

See the Exhibit Index following the signature pages of this report.

Table of Contents**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15 (d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereto duly authorized.

Date: February 26, 2016

Sohu.com Inc.

By: /s/ CAROL YU  
**Carol Yu**

**President and Chief Financial Officer**

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints Charles Zhang and Carol Yu, and each of them, his true and lawful proxies, attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to (i) act on, sign and title with the SEC any and all amendments to this Annual Report on Form 10-K, together with all exhibits thereto, (ii) act, sign and file such certificates, instruments, agreements and other documents as may be necessary or appropriate in connection therewith, and (iii) take any and all actions which may be necessary or appropriate in connection therewith, granting unto such agents, proxies and attorneys-in-fact, and each of them and his and their substitute or substitutes, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing necessary or appropriate to be done in connection therewith, as fully for all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby approving, ratifying and confirming all that such agents, proxies and attorneys-in-fact, any of them or any of his or their substitute or substitutes may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

<b>SIGNATURE</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>DATE</b>
/s/ CHARLES ZHANG <b>Charles Zhang</b>	Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)	February 26, 2016
/s/ CAROL YU <b>Carol Yu</b>	President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)	February 26, 2016
/s/ EDWARD B. ROBERTS <b>Edward B. Roberts</b>	Director	February 26, 2016
/s/ CHARLES HUANG <b>Charles Huang</b>	Director	February 26, 2016

/s/ DAVE QI Director February 26, 2016

**Dave Qi**

/s/ SHI WANG Director February 26, 2016

**Shi Wang**

/s/ JOHN DENG Director February 26, 2016

**John Deng**

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**SOHU.COM INC.**

**INDEX TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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All other schedules have been omitted because the information required to be set forth therein is not applicable or is shown in the	
Consolidated Financial Statements or Notes.	

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**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

To Board of Directors and Shareholders of Sohu.com Inc.:

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements listed in the accompanying index present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Sohu.com Inc. (the Company) and its subsidiaries at December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2015 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In addition, in our opinion, the financial statement schedule listed in the accompanying index presents fairly, in all material respects, the information set forth therein when read in conjunction with the related consolidated financial statements. Also in our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2015, based on criteria established in Internal Control Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). The Company's management is responsible for these financial statements and financial statement schedule, for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in management's report on internal control over financial reporting appearing under Item 9A of Form 10-K. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements, on the financial statement schedule, and on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our integrated audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement and whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audits of the financial statements included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audits also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (i) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (ii) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (iii) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness 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 the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

PricewaterhouseCoopers Zhong Tian LLP

Beijing, the People's Republic of China

February 26, 2016

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**Table of Contents****SOHU.COM INC.****CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS****(In thousands)**

	<b>As of December 31,</b>	
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 876,340	\$ 1,245,205
Restricted time deposits	282,186	227,285
Short-term investments	191,577	174,515
Accounts receivable, net	230,401	273,617
Prepaid and other current assets (including \$1,625 and \$15,820, respectively, due from a related party as of December 31, 2014 and 2015)	116,704	158,890
Total current assets	1,697,208	2,079,512
Fixed assets, net	540,778	508,692
Goodwill	303,426	154,219
Long-term investments, net	24,067	62,093
Intangible assets, net	110,691	55,415
Restricted time deposits	144,562	136,694
Prepaid non-current assets	8,933	6,254
Other assets	37,344	39,315
Total assets	\$ 2,867,009	\$ 3,042,194
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable (including accounts payable of consolidated variable interest entities ( VIEs ) without recourse to the Company of \$3,495 and \$23,757, respectively, as of December 31, 2014 and 2015)	\$ 127,758	\$ 129,025
Accrued liabilities (including accrued liabilities of consolidated VIEs without recourse to the Company of \$78,051 and \$79,012, respectively, as of December 31, 2014 and 2015)	239,231	309,657
Receipts in advance and deferred revenue (including receipts in advance and deferred revenue of consolidated VIEs without recourse to the Company of \$53,641 and \$55,319, respectively, as of December 31, 2014 and 2015)	127,740	135,385
Accrued salary and benefits (including accrued salary and benefits of consolidated VIEs without recourse to the Company of \$6,300 and \$11,357, respectively, as of December 31, 2014 and 2015)	108,741	99,631
Taxes payable (including taxes payable of consolidated VIEs without recourse to the Company of \$10,767 and \$21,424, respectively, as of December 31, 2014 and 2015)	33,380	67,480
	22,356	24,884

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Deferred tax liabilities (including deferred tax liabilities of consolidated VIEs without recourse to the Company of \$1,669 and \$1,490, respectively, as of December 31, 2014 and 2015)

Short-term bank loans (including short-term bank loans of consolidated VIEs without recourse to the Company of nil as of both December 31, 2014 and 2015)	25,500	344,500
Other short-term liabilities (including other short-term liabilities of consolidated VIEs without recourse to the Company of \$30,893 and \$106,976, respectively, as of December 31, 2014 and 2015, and due to a related party of nil and \$13,005, respectively, as of December 31, 2014 and 2015.)	105,644	154,017

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Contingent consideration (including contingent consideration of consolidated VIEs without recourse to the Company of \$3,935 and nil, respectively, as of December 31, 2014 and 2015)	3,935	0
Total current liabilities	794,285	1,264,579
Long-term accounts payable (including long-term accounts payable of consolidated VIEs without recourse to the Company of \$21,534 and \$24,575, respectively, as of December 31, 2014 and 2015)	5,143	4,600
Long-term bank loans (including long-term bank loans of consolidated VIEs without recourse to the Company of nil as of both December 31, 2014 and 2015)	344,500	0
Long-term taxes payable (including long-term taxes payable of consolidated VIEs without recourse to the Company of nil as of both December 31, 2014 and 2015)	24,829	24,732
Deferred tax liabilities (including deferred tax liabilities of consolidated VIEs without recourse to the Company of \$1,799 and nil, respectively, as of December 31, 2014 and 2015)	7,417	17,531
Contingent consideration (including contingent consideration of consolidated VIEs without recourse to the Company of \$1,929 and nil, respectively, as of December 31, 2014 and 2015)	1,929	0
Total long-term liabilities	383,818	46,863
Total liabilities	\$ 1,178,103	\$ 1,311,442
Commitments and contingencies		
<b>SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY</b>		
Sohu.com Inc. shareholders equity:		
Common stock: \$0.001 par value per share (75,400 shares authorized; 38,507 shares and 38,653 shares, respectively, issued and outstanding as of December 31, 2014 and 2015)	\$ 44	\$ 45
Additional paid-in capital	650,148	798,357
Treasury stock (5,889 shares as of both December 31, 2014 and 2015)	(143,858)	(143,858)
Accumulated other comprehensive income	109,402	50,151
Retained earnings	585,925	536,327
Total Sohu.com Inc. shareholders equity	1,201,661	1,241,022
Noncontrolling interest	487,245	489,730
Total shareholders equity	1,688,906	1,730,752
Total liabilities and shareholders equity	\$ 2,867,009	\$ 3,042,194

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

**Table of Contents****SOHU.COM INC.****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME****(In thousands, except per share data)**

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>		
	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Revenues:</b>			
<b>Online advertising:</b>			
Brand advertising	\$ 428,526	\$ 541,158	\$ 577,114
Search and search-related	198,915	357,839	539,521
<b>Subtotal of online advertising revenues</b>	<b>627,441</b>	<b>898,997</b>	<b>1,116,635</b>
Online games	669,168	652,008	636,846
Others	103,665	122,072	183,610
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>1,400,274</b>	<b>1,673,077</b>	<b>1,937,091</b>
<b>Cost of revenues:</b>			
<b>Online advertising:</b>			
Brand advertising	221,659	307,708	383,187
Search and search related	109,139	163,918	238,944
<b>Subtotal of cost of online advertising revenues</b>	<b>330,798</b>	<b>471,626</b>	<b>622,131</b>
Online games	93,307	142,549	156,315
Others	55,945	71,459	80,618
<b>Total cost of revenues</b>	<b>480,050</b>	<b>685,634</b>	<b>859,064</b>
<b>Gross profit</b>	<b>920,224</b>	<b>987,443</b>	<b>1,078,027</b>
<b>Operating expenses:</b>			
Product development	276,120	409,285	398,143
Sales and marketing	351,653	526,514	383,931
General and administrative	108,970	204,325	173,160
Goodwill impairment and impairment of intangible assets acquired as part of business acquisitions	0	52,282	40,324
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>736,743</b>	<b>1,192,406</b>	<b>995,558</b>
<b>Operating profit /(loss)</b>	<b>183,481</b>	<b>(204,963)</b>	<b>82,469</b>
<b>Other income</b>	<b>12,721</b>	<b>9,959</b>	<b>74,526</b>

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Net interest income	27,829	30,977	23,459
Exchange difference	(6,660)	(1,142)	5,337
Income /(loss) before income tax expense	217,371	(165,169)	185,791
Income tax expense			