

Western Union CO
Form S-3ASR
May 07, 2008
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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 7, 2008

Registration No. 333-

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20549

FORM S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

THE WESTERN UNION COMPANY

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

12500 East Belford Avenue
Englewood, Colorado 80112

20-4531180
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

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Telephone: (866) 405-5012

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code,
of registrant's principal executive offices)

David Schlapbach

Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

THE WESTERN UNION COMPANY

12500 East Belford Avenue

Englewood, Colorado 80112

Telephone: (866) 405-5012

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number,
including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:

Frederick C. Lowinger, Esq.

Paul L. Choi, Esq.

Sidley Austin LLP

One South Dearborn Street

Chicago, Illinois 60603

Telephone: (312) 853-7000

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If the only securities being registered on this form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box. "

If any of the securities being registered on this form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box. x

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. "

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If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company.

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of each class of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered/ Proposed maximum offering price per unit/ Proposed maximum aggregate offering price (1)	Amount of registration fee (2)
Debt Securities		

(1) An indeterminate amount of debt securities to be offered at indeterminate prices is being registered pursuant to this Registration Statement.

(2) In reliance on and in accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r), the registrant is deferring payment of all of the registration fee.

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PROSPECTUS

THE WESTERN UNION COMPANY

Debt Securities

We may offer debt securities from time to time in one or more series. We will provide specific terms of any offering of these debt securities, together with the terms of the offering, the initial public offering price and our net proceeds from the sale thereof, in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, as well as the documents incorporated and deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus, carefully before you invest.

We may sell these debt securities on a continuous or delayed basis directly, through agents, dealers or underwriters as designated from time to time, or through a combination of these methods. We reserve the sole right to accept, and together with any agents, dealers and underwriters, reserve the right to reject, in whole or in part, any proposed purchase of debt securities. If any agents, dealers or underwriters are involved in the sale of any debt securities, the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth any applicable commissions or discounts. Our net proceeds from the sale of debt securities will be the initial public offering price of those debt securities less the applicable discount, in the case of an offering made through an underwriter, or the purchase price of those debt securities less the applicable commission, in the case of an offering through an agent, and, in each case, less other expenses payable by us in connection with the issuance and distribution of those debt securities.

You should consider carefully the risk factors included in our periodic reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, before you invest in any of our securities.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is May 7, 2008.

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We have not authorized any person to give any information or to make any representation in connection with this offering other than those contained or incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus, and, if given or made, such information or representation must not be relied upon as having been so authorized. This prospectus does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy by anyone in any jurisdiction in which such offer or solicitation is not authorized, or in which the person is not qualified to do so or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation. Neither the delivery of this prospectus nor any sale hereunder shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in our affairs since the date hereof, that the information contained herein is correct as of any time subsequent to its date, or that any information incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein is correct as of any time subsequent to its date.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of an automatic shelf registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, as a well-known seasoned issuer as defined in Rule 405 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act. Under the automatic shelf process, we may, over time, sell the debt securities described in this prospectus or in any applicable prospectus supplement in one or more offerings. The exhibits to our registration statement contain the full text of certain agreements and other important documents we have summarized in this prospectus. Since these summaries may not contain all the information that you may find important in deciding whether to purchase the debt securities we offer, you should review the full text of these documents. The registration statement and the exhibits can be obtained from the SEC as indicated under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

This prospectus only provides you with a general description of the debt securities we may offer. Each time we sell debt securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that contains specific information about the terms of those debt securities. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, together with the documents incorporated and deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus and the additional information described below under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

When we refer to Western Union, the company, we, us or our in this prospectus we mean The Western Union Company and its consolidated subsidiaries, unless the context requires otherwise.

Our principal executive offices are located at 12500 East Belford Avenue, Englewood, Colorado 80112. Our main telephone number is (866) 405-5012.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus the information we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. SEC rules and regulations also permit us to furnish rather than file certain reports and information with the SEC. Any such reports or information which we have indicated as being furnished shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into or otherwise become a part of this prospectus, regardless of when furnished to the SEC. We incorporate by reference the following documents we filed with the SEC (file number 1-32903) and any future filings that we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, until we or any agents or underwriters sell all of the securities:

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007;

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2008; and

Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 20, 2008.

We make available free of charge most of our SEC filings through our Internet website (www.westernunion.com) as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file these materials with the SEC. You may access these SEC filings on our website. You may also request a copy of our SEC filings at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at:

The Western Union Company

12500 East Belford Avenue

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Englewood, Colorado 80112

Attention: Investor Relations

Telephone (866) 405-5012

Our SEC filings are also available at the SEC's Web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also read and copy any documents that we file with the SEC at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You can request copies of these documents by writing to the SEC and paying a fee for the copying cost. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for more information about the operation of the public reference room.

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FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the materials we have filed or will file with the SEC (as well as information included in our other written or oral statements) contain or will contain certain statements that are forward-looking within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are difficult to predict. Actual outcomes and results may differ materially from those expressed in, or implied by, our forward-looking statements. Words such as expects, intends, anticipates, believes, estimates, guides, provides guidance and other similar expressions or future or conditional verbs will, should, would and could are intended to identify such forward-looking statements. You should not rely solely on the forward-looking statements and should consider all uncertainties and risks throughout this prospectus, including those referenced under Risk Factors. The statements are only as of the date they are made, and we undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statement.

Possible events or factors that could cause results or performance to differ materially from those expressed in our forward-looking statements include the following:

changes in general economic conditions and economic conditions in the geographic regions and industries in which we operate;

changes in immigration laws, patterns and other factors related to immigrants;

technological changes, particularly with respect to e-commerce;

the failure by us, our agents or subagents to comply with our business and technology standards and contract requirements or applicable laws and regulations, especially laws designed to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing;

our ability to attract and retain qualified key employees and to successfully manage our workforce;

changes in foreign exchange rates, including the impact of the regulation of foreign exchange spreads on money transfers;

adverse movements and volatility in debt and equity capital markets;

political conditions and related actions by the United States and abroad which may adversely affect our businesses and economic conditions as a whole;

failure to maintain sufficient amount or types of regulatory capital to meet the changing requirements of our various regulators worldwide;

continued growth in the money transfer market and other markets in which we operate at rates approximating recent levels;

implementation of agent contracts according to schedule;

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our ability to maintain our agent network and biller relationships under terms consistent with those currently in place;

interruptions of United States government relations with countries in which we have or are implementing material agent contracts;

deterioration in consumers and clients confidence in our business, or in money transfer providers generally;

successfully managing credit and fraud risks presented by our agents and consumers;

adverse rating actions by credit rating agencies;

liabilities and unanticipated developments resulting from litigation and regulatory investigations and similar matters, including costs, expenses, settlements and judgments;

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changes in United States or foreign laws, rules and regulations including the Internal Revenue Code, and governmental or judicial interpretations thereof;

our ability to favorably resolve tax matters with the Internal Revenue Service and other tax jurisdictions;

changes in industry standards affecting our business;

changes in accounting standards, rules and interpretations;

competing effectively in the money transfer industry with respect to global and niche or corridor money transfer providers, banks and other nonbank money transfer services providers, including telecommunications providers, card associations and card-based payments providers;

our ability to grow our core businesses;

our ability to develop and introduce new products, services and enhancements, and gain market acceptance of such products;

our ability to protect our brands and our other intellectual property rights;

successfully managing the potential both for patent protection and patent liability in the context of a rapidly developing legal framework for intellectual property protection;

any material breach of security of or interruptions in any of our systems;

mergers, acquisitions and integration of acquired businesses and technologies into our company and the realization of anticipated synergies from these acquisitions;

adverse consequences from our spin-off from First Data Corporation, or First Data, including resolution of certain ongoing matters;

decisions to downsize, sell or close units, or to transition operating activities from one location to another or to third parties, particularly transitions from the United States to other countries;

decisions to change the business mix;

cessation of various services provided to us by third-party vendors;

catastrophic events;

the risks described in Risk Factors in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007; and

management's ability to identify and manage these and other risks.

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our debt securities involves significant risks. Before purchasing any debt securities, you should carefully consider and evaluate all of the information included and incorporated by reference in this prospectus or the applicable prospectus supplement, including the risk factors incorporated by reference herein from our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, as updated by annual, quarterly and other reports and documents we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus and that are incorporated by reference herein or in the applicable prospectus supplement. Our business, financial position, results of operations or liquidity could be adversely affected by any of these risks.

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THE WESTERN UNION COMPANY

The Western Union Company is a leader in global money transfer, providing people with fast, reliable and convenient ways to send money around the world and to pay bills. The Western Union® brand is globally recognized. Our services are available through a network of agent locations in more than 200 countries and territories. Our consumer-to-consumer money transfer service enables people to send money around the world in minutes. Our consumer-to-business service provides consumers with flexible and convenient options for making one-time or recurring payments.

In 2007, we generated \$4.9 billion in total consolidated revenues and \$857.3 million in consolidated net income. Total revenue generated during 2007 consisted of \$3,989.8 million of transaction fees, \$771.3 million related to foreign exchange revenue derived from the difference between the exchange rate set by Western Union to the consumer and the rate at which we or our agents are able to acquire currency, and \$139.1 million related to commission and other revenues. We handled 167.7 million consumer-to-consumer money transfers in 2007, an increase of 14% over 2006. Our 404.5 million consumer-to-business transactions in 2007, including those from our acquired business in Argentina, Servicio Electrónico de Pago S.A. and related entities, represented a 62% increase over 2006.

We believe that brand strength, size and reach of our global network, and convenience and reliability for our consumers have been key to the growth of our business. As we continue to meet the needs of our consumers for fast, reliable and convenient money transfer services, we are also working to enhance our existing services and provide our consumers with access to an expanding portfolio of payment and other financial services.

The Western Union Company has roots back to 1851. Western Union stock was first traded on the New York Stock Exchange in 1865. In 1884, the original Western Union was one of the 11 companies included on the first Dow Jones average listing. Western Union has a long history of providing innovative services, including creating the universal stock ticker and launching the first United States commercial communications satellite service. Western Union introduced our consumer-to-consumer money transfer service in 1871. Western Union began offering consumer-to-business payment services in 1989 when we introduced Western Union Quick Collect® providing consumers in the United States with the ability to conveniently pay bills in cash through our agent network.

Over the past decade, we have become a leader in the development of a global remittance market. Today, we offer money transfer services under the Western Union®, Orlandi Valuta®, and VigoSM brands in over 200 countries and territories, and various bill payment services primarily in the United States under several brands like Speedpay®, Equity Accelerator®, Just in Time EFT®, Western Union Quick Collect, Western Union Convenience Pay®, and in Argentina under our Pago FácilSM brand.

Table of Contents**USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus, the net proceeds from the sale of debt securities to which this prospectus relates will be used for general corporate purposes. General corporate purposes may include, among other uses, repayment of debt, acquisitions, additions to working capital, capital expenditures and investments in our subsidiaries. Net proceeds may be temporarily invested prior to use.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated:

	Three Months		Year Ended December 31,			
	Ended March 31,					
	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	6.9x	7.0x	24.3x	170.8x	114.3x	386.1x

For purposes of calculating the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings have been calculated by adding income before income taxes, fixed charges, and distributions from equity method investments, and then subtracting income from equity method investments. Fixed charges consist of interest expense and an estimated interest portion of rental expenses and income tax contingencies. Substantially all of our debt was incurred in connection with our spin-off from First Data on September 29, 2006, resulting in earnings to fixed charges being lower in 2008, 2007 and 2006 compared to the prior periods.

Please refer to the financial statements and financial information incorporated by reference in this prospectus for more information relating to the foregoing. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

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DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

We will issue the debt securities in one or more series. Debt securities will be issued under the indenture dated as of November 17, 2006, as supplemented by the supplemental indenture dated as of September 6, 2007, between us and Wells Fargo, National Association, as trustee, or any other indenture which we identify in a prospectus supplement (we refer to the November 17, 2006 indenture or any such other indenture, in each case as supplemented from time to time, as the "indenture"). We have summarized below the material provisions of the indenture. However, because this summary is not complete, it is subject to and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the indenture. In this "Description of Debt Securities," we, us, our and similar words refer to The Western Union Company and not any of its Subsidiaries (as defined below under "Definitions").

General

The debt securities will be our unsecured obligations and rank on a parity with our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness.

We primarily conduct our operations through our Subsidiaries. Our rights and the rights of our creditors, including the holders of the debt securities, to participate in the distribution of assets of any of our Subsidiaries upon the liquidation or reorganization of that Subsidiary or otherwise will be subject to the prior claims of the Subsidiary's creditors, except to the extent that we may be a creditor with recognized claims against the Subsidiary or such Subsidiary guarantees the debt securities. As a result, the debt securities will be effectively subordinated to existing and future liabilities of our Subsidiaries.

We may issue the debt securities in one or more series, as authorized from time to time by our board of directors, any committee of our board of directors or any duly authorized officer. The indenture does not limit our ability to incur additional indebtedness, nor does it afford holders of the debt securities protection in the event of a highly leveraged or similar transaction involving our company. However, the indenture provides that neither we nor any Restricted Subsidiary may subject certain of our property or assets to any mortgage or other encumbrance unless the debt securities are secured equally and ratably with or prior to that other secured indebtedness. See "Certain Covenants" below. Reference is made to the applicable prospectus supplement for information with respect to any additions to, or modifications or deletions of, the events of default or covenants described below.

We will describe in a supplement to this prospectus the particular terms of any debt securities being offered, any modifications of or additions to the general terms of the debt securities and any U.S. Federal income tax considerations that may be applicable in the case of offered debt securities. Accordingly, you should read both the prospectus supplement relating to the particular debt securities being offered and the general description of debt securities set forth in this prospectus before investing.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe specific terms relating to the series of debt securities being offered. These terms will include some or all of the following:

the title of the series of debt securities;

the aggregate principal amount and authorized denominations (if other than \$1,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000);

the initial public offering price;

the original issue and stated maturity date or dates;

the interest rate or rates (which may be fixed or floating), if any, the method by which the rate or rates will be determined and the interest payment and regular record dates;

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the manner and place of payment of principal and interest, if any;

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if other than U.S. dollars, the currency or currencies in which payment of the initial public offering price and/or principal and interest, if any, may be made;

whether (and if so, when and at what price) we may be obligated to repurchase the debt securities;

whether (and if so, when and at what price) the debt securities can be redeemed by us or the holder;

under what circumstances, if any, we will pay additional amounts on the debt securities to non-U.S. holders in respect of taxes;

whether the debt securities will be issued in registered or bearer form (with or without coupons) and, if issued in the form of one or more global securities, the depositary for such securities;

where the debt securities can be exchanged or transferred;

whether the debt securities may be issued as original issue discount securities, and if so, the amount of discount and the portion of the principal amount payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof;

whether (and if so, when and at what rate) the debt securities will be convertible into shares of our common stock;

whether there will be a sinking fund;

provisions, if any, for the defeasance of the debt securities;

any addition to, or modification or deletion of, any events of default or covenants contained in the indenture relating to the debt securities; and

any other terms of the series.

If we issue original issue discount securities, we will also describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the U.S. Federal income tax consequences and other special considerations applicable to those securities.

We are not required to issue all of the debt securities of a series at the same time, and debt securities of the same series may vary as to interest rate, maturity and other provisions. Unless otherwise provided, the aggregate principal amount of a series may be increased and additional debt securities of such series may be issued.

Denominations, Exchange, Registration and Transfer

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities of any series will be issued only as registered securities, in global or certificated form and in denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof, and will be payable only in U.S. dollars. For more information regarding debt securities issued in global form, see **Book-Entry, Delivery and Form** below. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, any debt securities we issue in bearer form will have coupons attached.

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Registered debt securities of any series will be exchangeable for other registered debt securities of the same series in the same aggregate principal amount and having the same stated maturity date and other terms and conditions. If so provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, to the extent permitted by law, debt securities of any series issued in bearer form which by their terms are registrable as to principal and interest may be exchanged, at the option of the holders, for registered debt securities of the same series in the same aggregate principal amount and having the same stated maturity date and other terms and conditions, upon surrender of those securities at the corporate trust office of the trustee or at any other office or agency designated by us for the purpose of making any such exchanges. Except in certain limited circumstances, debt securities issued in bearer form with coupons surrendered for exchange must be surrendered with all unmatured coupons and any matured coupons in default attached thereto.

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Upon surrender for registration of transfer of any registered debt security of any series at the office or agency maintained for that purpose, we will execute, and the trustee will authenticate and deliver, in the name of the designated transferee, one or more new registered debt securities of the same series in the same aggregate principal amount of authorized denominations and having the same stated maturity date and other terms and conditions. We may not impose any service charge, other than any required tax or other governmental charge, on the transfer or exchange of debt securities.

We are not required (i) to issue, register the transfer of or exchange debt securities of any series during the period from the opening of business 15 days before the day a notice of redemption relating to debt securities of that series selected for redemption is sent to the close of business on the day that notice is sent, or (ii) to register the transfer of or exchange any debt security so selected for redemption, except for the unredeemed portion of any debt security being redeemed in part.

Payment and Paying Agents

We will maintain in each place of payment for those debt securities an office or agency where the debt securities may be presented or surrendered for payment or for registration of transfer or exchange and where holders may serve us with notices and demands in respect of the debt securities and the indenture.

We will give prompt written notice to the trustee of the location, and any change in the location, of such office or agency. If we fail to maintain any required office or agency or fail to furnish the trustee with the address of such office or agency, presentations, surrenders, notices and demands may be made or served at the corporate trust office of the trustee and at the principal London office of the trustee. We have appointed the trustee as our agent to receive all presentations, surrenders, notices and demands with respect to the applicable series of debt securities.

Certain Covenants

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the following covenants apply to the debt securities:

Limitation on Mortgages and Liens. Neither we nor any of our Restricted Subsidiaries may create or assume, except in favor of us or one of our wholly owned Subsidiaries, any Lien upon any Principal Facility (as defined below under Certain Definitions) without equally and ratably securing any debt securities then outstanding. However, this limitation does not apply to certain permitted Liens as described in the indenture, including:

purchase money mortgages entered into within specified time limits, and Liens extending, renewing or refunding those purchase money mortgages;

Liens on acquired property existing at the time of the acquisition;

certain tax, materialmen's, mechanics' and judgment Liens, Liens arising by operation of law and other similar Liens;

Liens in connection with certain government contracts;

certain Liens in favor of any state or local government or governmental agency in connection with certain tax-exempt financings;

Liens in connection with workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, other social security benefits or other insurance related obligations and Liens on the proceeds of the foregoing;

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deposits to secure the performance of bids, certain trade contracts, leases, statutory obligations, surety and appeal bonds, performance bonds, judgment and like bonds and similar bonds and other obligations of like nature incurred in the ordinary course of business;

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zoning restrictions, easements, rights-of-way and similar encumbrances incurred in the ordinary course of business and minor irregularities of title, which do not materially interfere with the ordinary conduct of our business or our Subsidiaries taken as a whole;

Liens on Purchased Receivables and related assets granted in connection with one or more Purchased Receivables Financing;

Liens to secure the cost of construction or improvement of any property entered into within specified time limits; and

Liens not otherwise permitted if the sum of the indebtedness secured by those Liens plus the aggregate sales price of property involved in sale and leaseback transactions referred to in the first bullet point under *Limitation on Sale and Leaseback Transactions* below, does not exceed the greater of \$300 million or 15% of our Consolidated Net Worth (as defined below under *Certain Definitions*).

Limitation on Sale and Leaseback Transactions. Neither we nor any of our Subsidiaries may sell any Principal Facility owned on the date of the indenture with the intention of taking back a lease of that facility for a period of more than 36 months other than certain computer hardware leases, unless:

the sum of the aggregate sale price of property involved in sale and leaseback transactions not otherwise permitted plus the aggregate amount of indebtedness secured by Liens referred to in the last bullet point above under *Limitation on Mortgages and Liens* does not exceed the greater of \$300 million or 15% of our Consolidated Net Worth;

the sale and leaseback transaction is entered into between us and one or more of our Subsidiaries or between our Subsidiaries; or

the net proceeds of the sale or the fair market value of the Principal Facility, whichever is greater (which may be conclusively determined by our board of directors, any authorized committee thereof or any of our duly authorized officers), are applied within 120 days to the optional retirement of debt securities then outstanding or to the optional retirement of our other Funded Debt (as defined below under *Certain Definitions*) ranking on a parity with the debt securities; *provided*, that the amount required to be applied to the retirement of outstanding debt securities or our Funded Debt pursuant to this bullet point shall be reduced by the principal amount of any debt securities or of our Funded Debt voluntarily retired by us within 120 days after such sale, whether or not any such retirement of the debt securities or Funded Debt shall be specified as being made pursuant to this bullet point.

Covenant to File Reports. We will file with the trustee, within 15 days after we have filed with the SEC, copies of the annual reports and of the information, documents, and other reports which we have so filed with the SEC pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act.

Merger or Consolidation

We may not consolidate with or merge into any other entity or sell, lease, convey, assign, transfer or otherwise dispose of our properties and assets substantially as an entirety or as an entirety to any person, unless:

we are the survivor formed by or resulting from such consolidation or merger;

the surviving or successor entity is a domestic entity and expressly assumes, by supplemental indenture, all of our obligations under the indenture;

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immediately after completion of the transaction, no Event of Default, and no event which, after notice or lapse of time, or both, would become an Event of Default, has occurred and is continuing;

if, as a result of the transaction, our properties or assets would become subject to a Lien covered by the provisions described above under Certain Covenants Limitation on Mortgages and Liens, and

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none of the exceptions therein apply, we or the surviving or successor entity takes such steps as are necessary to effectively secure all debt securities equally and ratably with (or prior to) all indebtedness secured by such Lien; and

we deliver to the trustee an officers' certificate and an opinion of counsel each stating that the transaction and any supplemental indenture comply with the indenture provisions and that all conditions precedent in the indenture relating to such transaction have been complied with.

For purposes of this covenant, the sale, lease, conveyance, assignment, transfer, or other disposition of the properties and assets substantially as an entirety or as an entirety of one or more of our Subsidiaries, which properties and assets, if held by us instead of such Subsidiary or Subsidiaries, would constitute our properties and assets substantially as an entirety or as an entirety on a consolidated basis, shall be deemed to be the transfer of our properties and assets substantially as an entirety or as an entirety.

Events of Default

Event of Default means, with respect to a series of debt securities, any of the following events:

failure to pay interest on the debt securities of such series, which failure continues for a period of 30 days after payment is due;

failure to make any principal or premium payment on the debt securities of such series when due;

failure to perform or comply with any other covenant or warranty in the indenture with respect to the debt securities of such series for a period of 90 days after notice to us of such failure by (i) the trustee or (ii) the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series;

default under any Indebtedness of us or our Restricted Subsidiaries in an aggregate principal amount of \$100 million or more and which default (i) constitutes a failure to make any scheduled principal or interest payment when due after giving effect to any applicable grace period or (ii) accelerates the payment of such debt and such acceleration is not rescinded or annulled, or such debt is not discharged, within 15 days after notice to us of such default by (i) the trustee or (ii) the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series;

the entry against us or our Restricted Subsidiaries of one or more final judgments, decrees or orders by a court for the payment of money aggregating in excess of \$100 million, which judgment, decree or order is not paid, discharged or stayed for any period of 45 consecutive days or, in the case of a foreign judgment not being sought in the United States, 60 consecutive days, after the amount thereof is due; *provided, however*, that such amount is calculated after deducting certain insurance coverage;

certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of our company; and

any other event of default provided with respect to debt securities of such series pursuant to the indenture.

In general, the trustee is required to give notice of a default with respect to a series of debt securities to the holders of debt securities of such series. However, the trustee may withhold notice of any default (except a default in payment of principal or interest on any debt security of such series) if the trustee determines it is in the interest of the holders of debt securities of such series to do so.

Our failure to comply with Section 314(a) of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (relating to the filing of reports, information and other documents with the SEC), shall not constitute a Default or an Event of Default with respect to any series of debt securities.

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If there is a continuing Event of Default with respect to a series of debt securities, then the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the debt securities of such series may require us to repay the

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principal amount on the debt securities of such series immediately. Upon payment of the principal or other specified amount, our obligations in respect of the payment of principal of the debt securities of such series will terminate.

Subject to the provisions of the indenture relating to the duties of the trustee, in the case of a continuing Event of Default with respect to a series of debt securities, the trustee may refuse to exercise any of its rights or powers under the indenture with respect to such series of debt securities at the request, order or direction of any of the holders of debt securities of such series unless it first receives reasonable indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities which might be incurred by it in compliance with such request. Subject to this limitation, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the affected series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee under the indenture with respect to such series of debt securities or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee with respect to the debt securities of such series.

At any time before a judgment or decree for payment of money due has been obtained by the trustee as provided in the indenture following a declaration of acceleration with respect to a series of debt securities, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series may rescind and annul such declaration and its consequences if:

we have paid or deposited with the trustee a sum sufficient to pay (i) all overdue installments of interest or other payments with respect to coupons on all the debt securities of such series, (ii) the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on any debt securities of such series which have become due otherwise than by such declaration of acceleration, (iii) to the extent that such payment is lawful, interest on overdue installments of interest or other payments with respect to coupons on each debt security of such series at a rate established for such series, and (iv) all sums paid or advanced by the trustee and the reasonable compensation, expenses, disbursements and advances of the trustee, its agents and counsel; and

all events of default with respect to the debt securities of such series, other than the nonpayment of principal which has become due solely by such declaration of acceleration, have been cured or waived as provided in the indenture.

No such rescission and annulment will affect any subsequent default or impair any right consequent thereon.

We are required to provide the trustee with an officers' certificate each fiscal year stating whether or not we have complied with all conditions and covenants under the indenture.

Modification or Waiver

We and the trustee may, at any time and from time to time, amend the indenture without the consent of the holders of outstanding debt securities for any of the following purposes:

to effect the assumption of our obligations under the indenture by a successor corporation;

to impose additional covenants and events of default for the benefit of the holders of any series of debt securities;

to add or change any of the provisions of the indenture relating to the issuance or exchange of debt securities of any series in registered form, but only if such action does not adversely affect the interests of the holders of outstanding debt securities of such series or related coupons in any material respect;

to change or eliminate any of the provisions of the indenture, but only if the change or elimination becomes effective when there is no outstanding debt security of any series or related coupon which is entitled to the benefit of such provision and as to which such modification would apply;

to secure the debt securities;

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to supplement any of the provisions of the indenture to permit or facilitate the defeasance and discharge of any series of debt securities, but only if such action does not adversely affect the interests of the holders of outstanding debt securities of any series or related coupons in any material respect;

to establish the form or terms of the debt securities and coupons, if any, of any series as permitted by the indenture;

to evidence and provide for the acceptance of appointment by a successor trustee and to add to or change any of the provisions of the indenture to facilitate the administration of the trusts by more than one trustee; and

to correct any mistakes or defects in the indenture, but only if such action does not adversely affect the interests of the holders of outstanding debt securities of any series or related coupons in any material respect or to otherwise amend the indenture in any respect that does not adversely affect the holders of outstanding debt securities.

In addition, we and the trustee may modify the indenture with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of each series of outstanding debt securities affected by such modification to add, change or eliminate any provision of, or to modify the rights of holders of debt securities of such series under, the indenture. But we may not take any of the following actions without the consent of each holder of outstanding debt securities affected thereby:

change the stated maturity of the principal of, or any installment of interest on, the debt securities of any series or related coupon, reduce the principal amount thereof, the interest thereon or any premium payable upon redemption thereof, change the currency or currencies in which the principal, premium or interest is denominated or payable;

reduce the amount of, or impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of, any payment on the debt securities of any series following maturity thereof;

reduce the percentage in principal amount of outstanding debt securities of any series required for consent to any waiver of defaults or compliance with certain provisions of the indenture; or

modify any provision of the indenture relating to modifications and waivers of defaults and covenants, except to increase any such percentage or to provide that certain other provisions cannot be modified or waived without the consent of each holder of outstanding debt securities affected thereby.

A modification with respect to one or more particular series of debt securities and related coupons, if any, will not affect the rights under the indenture of the holders of debt securities of any other series and related coupons, if any.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all series affected may, on behalf of the holders of all debt securities of such series, waive any past default under the indenture with respect to the debt securities of such series, except a default (i) in the payment of principal of, premium, if any, or interest on such series or (ii) in respect of a covenant or provision which, as described above, cannot be modified or amended without the consent of each holder of debt securities of such series. Upon any such waiver, the default will cease to exist with respect to the debt securities of such series and any Event of Default arising therefrom will be deemed to have been cured for every purpose of the debt securities of such series under the indenture, but the waiver will not extend to any subsequent or other default or impair any right consequent thereon.

We may elect in any particular instance not to comply with certain covenants set forth in the indenture or the debt securities of any series (except as otherwise provided in the covenants described above under "Certain Covenants") if, before the time for such compliance, the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series either waive compliance in that instance or generally waive compliance

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with those provisions, but the waiver may not extend to or affect any term, provision or condition except to the extent expressly so waived, and, until the waiver becomes effective, our obligations and the duties of the trustee in respect of any such provision will remain in full force and effect.

Discharge, Legal Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance

We may be discharged from all of our obligations with respect to the outstanding debt securities of any series (except as otherwise provided in the indenture) when:

either (i) all the debt securities of such series and related coupons, if any, have been delivered to the trustee for cancellation, or (ii) all the debt securities of such series and related coupons, if any, not delivered to the trustee for cancellation:

have become due and payable;

will become due and payable at their stated maturity within one year; or

are to be called for redemption within one year under arrangements satisfactory to the trustee for the giving of notice by the trustee;

and we, in the case of clause (ii), have irrevocably deposited or caused to be deposited with the trustee, in trust, an amount in U.S. dollars sufficient for payment of all principal of, premium, if any, and interest on those debt securities when due or to the date of deposit, as the case may be; *provided, however*, in the event a petition for relief under any applicable federal or state bankruptcy, insolvency or other similar law is filed with respect to our company within 91 days after the deposit and the trustee is required to return the deposited money to us, our obligations under the indenture with respect to those debt securities will not be deemed terminated or discharged;

we have paid or caused to be paid all other sums payable by us under the indenture;

we have delivered to the trustee an officers' certificate and an opinion of counsel each stating that all conditions precedent relating to the satisfaction and discharge of the indenture with respect to such series of debt securities have been complied with; and

we have delivered to the trustee an opinion of counsel of recognized standing in respect of U.S. federal income tax matters or a ruling of the Internal Revenue Service to the effect that holders of debt securities of such series will not recognize income, gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of such deposit and discharge.

We may elect (i) to be discharged from our obligations with respect to the outstanding debt securities of any series (except as otherwise specified in the indenture) or (ii) to be released from our obligation to comply with the provisions of the indenture described above under Certain Covenants and under Merger or Consolidation with respect to the outstanding debt securities of any series (and, if so specified, any other obligation or restrictive covenant added for the benefit of the holders of such series of debt securities), in either case, if we satisfy each of the following conditions:

we deposit or cause to be deposited irrevocably with the trustee, in trust, specifically pledged as security for, and dedicated solely to, the benefit of the holders of debt securities of such series money or the equivalent in U.S. government securities, or any combination thereof, sufficient, in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants expressed in a written certification delivered to the trustee, for payment of all principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the outstanding debt securities of such series when due;

such deposit does not cause the trustee with respect to the debt securities of such series to have a conflicting interest with respect to the debt securities of such series;

such deposit will not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under, the indenture or any other agreement or instrument to which we are a party or by which we are bound;

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on the date of such deposit, there is no continuing Event of Default with respect to the debt securities of such series or event (including such deposit) which, with notice or lapse of time or both, would become an Event of Default with respect to the debt securities of such series and, with respect to the option under clause (i) above only, no Event of Default with respect to such series under the provisions of the indenture relating to certain events of bankruptcy or insolvency or event which, with notice or lapse of time or both, would become an Event of Default with respect to such series under such bankruptcy or insolvency provisions shall have occurred and be continuing on the 91st day after such date; and

we deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel of recognized standing in respect of U.S. federal income tax matters or a ruling of the Internal Revenue Service to the effect that the holders of debt securities of such series will not recognize income, gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of such deposit, defeasance or discharge.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if we exercise our option under clause (ii) above and an Event of Default with respect to such series of debt securities under the provisions of the indenture relating to certain events of bankruptcy or insolvency or event which, with notice or lapse of time or both, would become an Event of Default with respect to such series of debt securities under such bankruptcy or insolvency provisions shall have occurred and be continuing on the 91st day after the date of such deposit, our obligation to comply with the provisions of the indenture described above under **Certain Covenants** and under **Merger or Consolidation** with respect to those debt securities will be reinstated.

Conversion Rights

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the particular terms and conditions, if any, on which debt securities may be convertible into shares of our common stock. These terms will include the conversion price, the conversion period, provisions as to whether conversion will be at our option or the option of the holder, events requiring an adjustment of the conversion price and provisions affecting conversion in the event of the redemption of the debt securities.

The Trustee Under the Indenture

We maintain ordinary banking relationships and, from time to time, obtain credit facilities and lines of credit with a number of banks, including the trustee, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association.

Book-Entry, Delivery and Form

We may issue the debt securities of a series in whole or in part in global form that we will deposit with, or on behalf of, a depositary identified in the applicable prospectus supplement. Global securities may be issued in either registered or bearer form and in either temporary or permanent form. We will make payments of principal of, and premium, if any, and interest on debt securities represented by a global security to the trustee and then by the trustee to the depositary.

We anticipate that any global securities will be deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company (**DTC**), New York, New York, and will be registered in the name of DTC's nominee, and that the following provisions will apply to the depositary arrangements with respect to any global securities. We will describe additional or differing terms of the depositary arrangements in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of debt securities issued in the form of global securities.

Upon the issuance of a registered global security, the depositary will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the participants accounts with the respective principal or face amounts of the debt securities beneficially owned by the participants. Any dealers, underwriters or agents participating in the distribution of the debt securities will designate the accounts to be credited. Ownership of beneficial interests in a registered global

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security will be shown on, and the transfer of ownership interests will be effected only through, records maintained by the depository, with respect to interests of participants, and on the records of participants, with respect to interests of persons holding through participants.

So long as the depository, or its nominee, is the registered owner of a registered global security, that depository or its nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the debt securities represented by the registered global security for all purposes under the indenture. Except as described below, owners of beneficial interests in a registered global security will not be entitled to have the debt securities represented by the registered global security registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of the debt securities in definitive form and will not be considered the owners or holders of the debt securities under the indenture. Accordingly, each person owning a beneficial interest in a registered global security must rely on the procedures of the depository for that registered global security and, if that person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which the person owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder under the indenture. The laws of some states may require that some purchasers of securities take physical delivery of those securities in definitive form. Such laws may impair the ability to transfer beneficial interests in a global security.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all debt securities deposited by participants with DTC are registered in the name of DTC's nominee, Cede & Co. The deposit of the debt securities with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co. effect no change in beneficial ownership. DTC has no knowledge of the actual beneficial owners of the debt securities. DTC's records reflect only the identity of the direct participants to whose accounts such debt securities are credited, which may or may not be the beneficial owners. The participants will remain responsible for keeping account of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

We will make payments due on the debt securities to Cede & Co., as nominee of DTC, in immediately available funds. DTC's practice upon receipt of any payment of principal, premium, interest or other distribution of underlying securities or other property to holders on that registered global security, is to immediately credit participants' accounts in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in that registered global security as shown on the records of the depository. Payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in a registered global security held through participants will be governed by standing customer instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with the securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in street name, and will be the responsibility of those participants. Payment to Cede & Co. is our responsibility. Disbursement of such payments to direct participants is the responsibility of Cede & Co. Disbursement of such payments to the beneficial owners is the responsibility of direct and indirect participants.

Neither we nor the trustee nor any other agent of ours or any agent of the trustee will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in the registered global security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to those beneficial ownership interests.

We expect that DTC will take any action permitted to be taken by a holder of securities (including the presentation of securities for exchange as described below) only at the direction of one or more participants to whose account the DTC interests in a global security are credited and only in respect of such portion of the aggregate principal amount of the securities as to which such participant or participants has or have given such direction. However, if there is an Event of Default under the debt securities, DTC will exchange each global security for definitive securities, which it will distribute to its participants.

If the depository for any of the debt securities represented by a registered global security is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as depository or ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act, and a successor depository registered as a clearing agency under the Exchange Act is not appointed by the obligor within 90 days, the obligor will issue debt securities in definitive form in exchange for the registered global security that had been held by the depository. Any debt securities issued in definitive form in exchange for

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a registered global security will be registered in the name or names that the depository gives to the trustee or other relevant agent of the obligor or trustee. It is expected that the depository's instructions will be based upon directions received by the depository from participants with respect to ownership of beneficial interests in the registered global security that had been held by the depository. In addition, we may at any time determine that the debt securities of any series shall no longer be represented by a global security and will issue securities in definitive form in exchange for such global security pursuant to the procedure described above.

DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code and a clearing agency registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act. DTC was created to hold securities of its participants and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions, such as transfers and pledges, among its participants in such securities through electronic computerized book-entry changes in accounts of the participants, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates. DTC's participants include securities brokers and dealers (including the initial purchasers), banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations, some of whom own DTC. Access to DTC's book-entry system is also available to others, such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a participant, either directly or indirectly. The rules applicable to DTC and its participants are on file with the SEC.

The information in this prospectus concerning DTC and DTC's book-entry system has been obtained from sources that we believe to be reliable, but we take no responsibility for its accuracy or completeness. We assume no responsibility for the performance by DTC or its participants of their respective obligations, including obligations that they have under the rules and procedures that govern their operations.

Certain Definitions

We have summarized below certain defined terms as used in the indenture. We refer you to the indenture for the full definition of these terms.

Business Day means any day other than a Saturday or a Sunday or a day on which banking institutions in New York City are authorized or required by law or executive order to remain closed.

Consolidated Net Assets means the gross book value of the assets of us and our Subsidiaries (which under GAAP would appear on the consolidated balance sheet of us and our Subsidiaries) less all reserves (including, without limitation, depreciation, depletion and amortization) applicable thereto and less (i) minority interests and (ii) liabilities which, in accordance with their terms, will be settled within one year after the date of determination.

Consolidated Net Income means the net income of us and our Subsidiaries (which under GAAP would appear on the consolidated income statement of us and our Subsidiaries), excluding, however, (i) any equity of us or a Subsidiary in the unremitted earnings of any corporation which is not a Subsidiary, (ii) gains from the write-up in the book value of any asset and (iii) in the case of an acquisition of any Person which is accounted for on a purchase basis, earnings of such Person prior to its becoming a Subsidiary.

Consolidated Net Worth means the sum of (i) the par value (or value stated on the books of such corporation) of the capital stock of all classes of us and our Subsidiaries, plus (or minus in the case of a deficit), (ii) the amount of the consolidated surplus, whether capital or earned, of us and our Subsidiaries, and plus (or minus in the case of a deficit) and (iii) retained earnings of us and our Subsidiaries, all as determined in accordance with GAAP; *provided, however*, that Consolidated Net Worth shall exclude the effects of currency translation adjustments and the application of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 115, Accounting for Certain Investments in Debt and Equity Securities.

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Financing Lease means any lease of property, real or personal, the obligations of the lessee in respect of which are required in accordance with GAAP to be capitalized on a balance sheet of the lessee.

Funded Debt means any indebtedness for money borrowed, created, issued, incurred, assumed or guaranteed which, in accordance with its terms, will be settled beyond one year after the date of determination, but in any event including all indebtedness for money borrowed, whether secured or unsecured, maturing more than one year, or extendible at the option of the obligor to a date more than one year, after the date of determination thereof (excluding any liabilities which, in accordance with their terms, will be settled within one year after the date of determination).

GAAP means, as to a particular Person, such accounting principles as, in the opinion of the independent public accountants regularly retained by such Person, conform at the time to United States generally accepted accounting principles.

Governmental Authority means any nation or government, any state or other political subdivision thereof and any entity exercising executive, legislative, judicial, regulatory or administrative functions of or pertaining to government.

Indebtedness of any Person means, at any date and without duplication, (a) all indebtedness of such Person for borrowed money or for the deferred purchase price of property or services (other than trade liabilities not more than 60 days past due incurred in the ordinary course of business and payable in accordance with customary practices or endorsements for the purpose of collection in the ordinary course of business and excluding the deferred purchase price of property or services to be repaid through earnings of the purchaser to the extent such amount is not characterized as indebtedness in accordance with GAAP), (b) any other indebtedness of such Person which is evidenced by a note, bond, debenture or similar instrument, (c) all obligations of such Person under Financing Leases, (d) all payment obligations of such Person in respect of acceptances issued or created for the account of such Person and (e) all liabilities secured by any Lien on any property owned by such Person even though such Person has not assumed or otherwise become liable for the payment thereof; *provided* that, if such Person has not assumed or otherwise become liable in respect of such indebtedness, such obligations shall be deemed to be in an amount equal to the lesser of (i) the amount of such indebtedness and (ii) the book value of the property subject to such Lien at the time of determination. For the purposes of this definition, the following shall not constitute Indebtedness: the issuance of payment instruments, consumer funds transfers, or other amounts paid to or received by us, any of our Subsidiaries or any agent thereof in the ordinary course of business in order for us or such Subsidiary to make further distribution to a third party, to the extent payment in respect thereof has been received by us, such Subsidiary or any agent thereof.

Lien means any mortgage, pledge, hypothecation, assignment, deposit arrangement, encumbrance, lien (statutory or other), charge or other security interest or any preference, priority or other security agreement or preferential arrangement of any kind or nature whatsoever (including, without limitation, any conditional sale or other title retention agreement and any Financing Lease having substantially the same economic effect as any of the foregoing), it being understood that the holding of money or investments for the purpose of honoring payment instruments or consumer funds transfers, or other amounts paid to or received by us, any of our Subsidiaries, or any agent thereof in the ordinary course of business in order for us or any of Subsidiaries to make further distributions to a third party, shall not be considered a Lien for the purposes of this definition.

Person means an individual, corporation, partnership, joint venture, association, joint stock company, trust, unincorporated organization, Governmental Authority or other entity of whatever nature.

Principal Facility means the real property, fixtures, machinery and equipment relating to any facility owned by us or any Subsidiary, except any facility that, in the opinion of our board of directors, any duly authorized committee thereof or any of our duly authorized officers is not of material importance to the business conducted by us and our Subsidiaries, taken as a whole.

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Purchased Receivables means accounts receivable purchased by us or any of our Subsidiaries from third parties and not originally created by the sale of goods or services by us or any of our Subsidiaries.

Purchased Receivables Financing means any financing transaction pursuant to which Purchased Receivables are sold, transferred, securitized or otherwise financed by any Receivables Subsidiary and as to which there is no recourse to us or any of our other Subsidiaries (other than customary representations and warranties made in connection with the sale or transfer of Purchased Receivables).

Receivables Subsidiary means any Subsidiary which purchases Purchased Receivables directly or to which Purchased Receivables are transferred by us or any of our Subsidiaries, in either case with the intention of engaging in a Purchased Receivables Financing.

Restricted Subsidiary means at any date, (a) any Subsidiary of ours which, together with its Subsidiaries, (i) has a proportionate share of Consolidated Net Assets that exceeds 10% at the time of determination or (ii) has equity in the Consolidated Net Income that exceeds 10% for the period of the four most recently completed fiscal quarters preceding the time of determination or (b) any wholly-owned Subsidiary of ours that at the time of determination shall be designated a Restricted Subsidiary by our board of directors or any duly authorized committee thereof or any of our duly authorized officers (any wholly-owned Subsidiary of ours designated as a Restricted Subsidiary pursuant to this clause (b) is referred to as a Designated Restricted Subsidiary). At any time, our board of directors or any duly authorized committee thereof or any of our duly authorized officers may designate any Designated Restricted Subsidiary to no longer be a Restricted Subsidiary so long as (i) such Subsidiary is not a Restricted Subsidiary pursuant to clause (a) above and (ii) immediately after giving effect to such designation, no Event of Default shall have occurred and be continuing.

Subsidiary means as to any Person, a corporation, partnership or other entity of which shares of stock or other ownership interests having ordinary voting power (other than stock or such other ownership interests having such power only by reason of the happening of a contingency) to elect a majority of the board of directors or other managers of such corporation, partnership or other entity are at the time owned, directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, or both, by such Person. Unless otherwise qualified, all references to a Subsidiary or to Subsidiaries shall refer to a Subsidiary or Subsidiaries of ours.

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PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell debt securities offered by this prospectus in and/or outside the United States:

through underwriters or dealers;

through agents; or

directly to purchasers.

We will describe in a prospectus supplement the particular terms of any offering of debt securities, including the following:

the names of any underwriters or agents;

the proceeds we will receive from the sale;

any discounts and other items constituting underwriters or agents compensation;

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and

any securities exchanges on which the applicable debt securities may be listed.

If we use underwriters in the sale, such underwriters will acquire the debt securities for their own account. The underwriters may resell the debt securities in one or more transactions, at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, or at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices relating to prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices.

The debt securities may be offered to the public through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters or by underwriters without a syndicate. The obligations of the underwriters to purchase the debt securities will be subject to certain conditions. The underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the debt securities of the series offered if any of the debt securities are purchased.

We may sell debt securities through agents or dealers designated by us. Any agent or dealer involved in the offer or sale of the debt securities for which this prospectus is delivered will be named, and any commissions payable by us to that agent or dealer will be set forth, in the prospectus supplement. Unless indicated in the prospectus supplement, the agents will agree to use their reasonable efforts to solicit purchases for the period of their appointment and any dealer will purchase debt securities from us as principal and may resell those debt securities at varying prices to be determined by the dealer.

We also may sell debt securities directly. In this case, no underwriters or agents would be involved.

Underwriters, dealers and agents that participate in the distribution of the debt securities may be underwriters as defined in the Securities Act, and any discounts or commissions received by them from us and any profit on the resale of the debt securities by them may be treated as underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act.

We may have agreements with the underwriters, dealers and agents to indemnify them against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act or to contribute with respect to payments which the underwriters, dealers or agents may be required to make.

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Underwriters, dealers and agents may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us or our subsidiaries in the ordinary course of their businesses.

In order to facilitate the offering of the debt securities, any underwriters or agents, as the case may be, involved in the offering of such securities may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of such securities or other securities the prices of which may be used to determine payments on the

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securities. Specifically, the underwriters or agents, as the case may be, may overallocate in connection with the offering, creating a short position in such securities for their own account. In addition, to cover overallocations or to stabilize the price of the securities or of such other securities, the underwriters or agents, as the case may be, may bid for, and purchase, such securities in the open market. Finally, in any offering of such securities through a syndicate of underwriters, the underwriting syndicate may reclaim selling concessions allotted to an underwriter or a dealer for distributing such securities in the offering if the syndicate repurchases previously distributed securities in transactions to cover syndicate short positions, in stabilization transactions or otherwise. Any of these activities may stabilize or maintain the market price of the securities above independent market levels. The underwriters or agents, as the case may be, are not required to engage in these activities, and may end any of these activities at any time.

We may solicit offers to purchase debt securities directly from, and we may sell debt securities directly to, institutional investors or others. The terms of any of those sales, including the terms of any bidding or auction process, if utilized, will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Some or all of the debt securities may be new issues of securities with no established trading market. We cannot and will not give any assurances as to the liquidity of the trading market for any of our securities.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the debt securities and certain other matters will be passed upon for us by Sidley Austin LLP, Chicago, Illinois.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of The Western Union Company appearing in The Western Union Company's Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2007 (including a schedule appearing therein), and the effectiveness of The Western Union Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2007 have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their reports thereon, included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

With respect to the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial information of The Western Union Company for the three-month periods ended March 31, 2008 and March 31, 2007, incorporated by reference in this prospectus, Ernst & Young LLP reported that they have applied limited procedures in accordance with professional standards for a review of such information. However, their separate report dated May 1, 2008, included in The Western Union Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2008, and incorporated by reference herein, states that they did not audit and they do not express an opinion on that interim financial information. Accordingly, the degree of reliance on their report on such information should be restricted in light of the limited nature of the review procedures applied. Ernst & Young LLP is not subject to the liability provisions of Section 11 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), for their report on the unaudited interim financial information because that report is not a report or a part of the registration statement, of which this prospectus forms a part, prepared or certified by Ernst & Young LLP within the meaning of Sections 7 and 11 of the Securities Act.

Table of Contents**PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution**

The following table sets forth the estimated expenses (other than underwriting compensation), all of which will be paid by us, to be incurred in connection with the registration and sale of the securities:

Securities and Exchange Commission registration fee	\$ (*)
Rating agency fees	500,000
Legal fees and expenses	150,000
Accounting fees and expenses	50,000
Trustee s fees and expenses	5,000
Printing, distribution and engraving fees	40,000
Miscellaneous	10,000
 Total	 \$ 755,000

(*) Deferred in reliance upon Rule 456(b) and 457(r).

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers

The registrant s certificate of incorporation limits the liability of directors to the maximum extent permitted by Delaware law. Delaware law provides that directors of a corporation will not be personally liable to the corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of their fiduciary duties as directors, except for liability:

for any breach of their duty of loyalty to the corporation or its stockholders;

for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;

under Section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law relating to unlawful payments of dividends or unlawful stock repurchases or redemptions; or

for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit.

The limitation of liability does not apply to liabilities arising under the federal or state securities laws and does not affect the availability of equitable remedies, such as injunctive relief or rescission.

The registrant s certificate of incorporation provides that each person who was or is a director shall be indemnified to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law and further provides that the registrant may, to the extent deemed appropriate by the registrant s board of directors and as authorized under Delaware law, indemnify any officers, employees and agents of the registrant. The registrant s by-laws provide that each person who is, or was, an officer or employee of the registrant, and each person who is, or was, serving at the registrant s request as an officer or employee of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise, will be indemnified by the

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registrant, if such person acted in good faith and in a manner such person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of the registrant, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe such person's conduct was unlawful. The registrant's certificate of incorporation provides that this right to indemnification will not be exclusive of any other right which any person may otherwise have or acquire. The registrant's certificate of incorporation also permits the registrant to secure and maintain insurance on behalf of any director, officer, employee or agent of the registrant and each person who is, or was, serving at the registrant's request as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise for any liability asserted against and incurred by such person in any such capacity.

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The registrant has obtained directors' and officers' liability insurance providing coverage to its directors and officers. In addition, the registrant has entered into indemnification agreements with each of the registrant's outside directors that requires the registrant to indemnify and hold harmless each outside director to the fullest extent permitted or authorized by the Delaware General Corporation Law in effect on the date of the agreement or as such laws may be amended or replaced to increase the extent to which a corporation may indemnify its directors.

The separation and distribution agreement between the registrant and First Data Corporation ("First Data") provides for indemnification by First Data of the registrant's directors and officers and employees for certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, related to filings in connection with the spin-off of the registrant from First Data.

Item 16. Exhibits

The following is a list of all the exhibits filed as part of this registration statement.

- 1* Form of Underwriting Agreement.
- 4.1 Indenture, dated as of November 17, 2006, between the Registrant and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee (filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on November 20, 2006 (file no. 001-32903) and incorporated herein by reference thereto).
- 4.2 Supplemental Indenture, dated as of September 6, 2007, between the Registrant and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee (filed as Exhibit 4.13 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007 (file no. 001-32903) and incorporated herein by reference thereto).
- 4.3* Form of Debt Security.
- 5 Opinion of Sidley Austin LLP.
- 12 Statement Regarding Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges (filed as Exhibit 12 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2008 (file no. 001-32903) and incorporated herein by reference thereto).
- 15 Letter from Ernst & Young LLP Regarding Unaudited Interim Financial Information.
- 23.1 Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.
- 23.2 Consent of Sidley Austin LLP (included in Exhibit 5).
- 24 Power of Attorney (set forth on the signature pages to this Registration Statement).
- 25 Statement of Eligibility of the Trustee on Form T-1.

* To be filed by amendment or as an exhibit to a document to be incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

Item 17. Undertakings

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) to include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Act");

(ii) to reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of this registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in this registration statement.

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Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement;

(iii) to include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in this registration statement or any material change to such information in this registration statement;

provided, however, that subparagraphs (a)(1)(i), (a)(1)(ii) and (a)(1)(iii) do not apply if the registration statement is on Form S-3 or Form F-3 and the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to section 13 or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Act to any purchaser:

(i) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

(ii) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by section 10(a) of the Act shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof. *Provided, however*, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date;

(5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Act to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities:

The undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

(i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

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- (ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;
- (iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and
- (iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.
- (b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Act, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Sections 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in this registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.
- (c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant, pursuant to the provisions described under Item 15 or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

Table of Contents**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Englewood, State of Colorado, on May 7, 2008.

THE WESTERN UNION COMPANY

(Registrant)

By: /s/ CHRISTINA A. GOLD
Christina A. Gold
President and Chief Executive Officer

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints David Schlapbach and Sarah Kilgore, and each of them, his/her true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, to sign, execute and file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (or any other governmental or regulatory authority), for us and in our names in the capacities indicated below, this registration statement on Form S-3 (including all amendments, including post-effective amendments, thereto), and any registration statement filed pursuant to Rule 462(b) of the Securities Act in connection with the securities registered hereunder, together with all exhibits and any and all documents required to be filed with respect thereto, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents and each of them, full power and authority to do and to perform each and every act and thing necessary and/or desirable to be done in and about the premises in order to effectuate the same as fully to all intents and purposes as he himself/she herself might or could do if personally present, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, or any of them, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	Title	Date
/s/ CHRISTINA A. GOLD Christina A. Gold	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	May 7, 2008
/s/ SCOTT T. SCHEIRMAN Scott T. Scheirman	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)	May 7, 2008
/s/ AMINTORE T. X. SCHENKEL Amintore T. X. Schenkel	Senior Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer and Controller (Principal Accounting Officer)	May 7, 2008
/s/ JACK M. GREENBERG Jack M. Greenberg	Non-Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors	May 7, 2008
/s/ DINYAR S. DEVITRE Dinyar S. Devitre	Director	May 7, 2008
/s/ BETSY D. HOLDEN	Director	May 7, 2008

Betsy D. Holden

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Signature	Title	Date
/s/ ALAN J. LACY	Director	May 7, 2008
Alan J. Lacy	Director	
Linda Fayne Levinson		
/s/ ROBERTO G. MENDOZA	Director	May 7, 2008
Roberto G. Mendoza		
/s/ MICHAEL A. MILES, JR.	Director	May 7, 2008
Michael A. Miles, Jr.		
/s/ DENNIS STEVENSON	Director	May 7, 2008
Dennis Stevenson		

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