SPLUNK INC
Form 10-K
March 27, 2019
UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20549

FORM 10-K

ý ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the Fiscal Year Ended: January 31, 2019
OR

¨ TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
Commission File Number: 001-35498

Splunk Inc.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware	86-1106510
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

270 Brannan Street
San Francisco, California 94107
(Address of principal executive offices)
(Zip Code)

(415) 848-8400
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)
Securities Registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, $0.001 par value per share	The NASDAQ Global Select Market

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

Indicate by check mark if the Registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act: Yes ý No ¨
Indicate by check mark if the Registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act: Yes ¨ No ý
Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the Registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes ý No ¨
Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the

registrant was required to submit such files). Yes ý No ¨

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

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

Large accelerated filer ý Accelerated filer ¨

Non-accelerated filer ¨ Smaller reporting company ¨

Emerging growth company ¨

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. ¨

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

The aggregate market value of shares of common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant was $10,152,428,666, based on the number of shares held by non-affiliates and the last reported sale price of the registrant's common stock on July 31, 2018 (the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter).

The number of shares outstanding of the Registrant's Common Stock as of March 18, 2019 was 150,074,503 shares.

Documents Incorporated by Reference

Portions of the registrant's definitive Proxy Statement for the 2019 Annual Stockholders' Meeting are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Splunk Inc.

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PART I

NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Annual Report on Form 10-K, including but not limited to the sections entitled “Business,” “Risk Factors,” and “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations,” contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties, as well as assumptions that, if they never materialize or prove incorrect, could cause our results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Statements that are not purely historical are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). Forward-looking statements are often identified by the use of words such as, but not limited to, “anticipate,” “believe,” “can,” “continue,” “could,” “estimate,” “expect,” “intend,” “may,” “plan,” “project,” “seek,” “will,” “would” and similar expressions or variations intended to identify forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements concerning the following:

- our future financial and operating results; including trends in and expectations regarding revenues, deferred revenue, billings, gross margins, operating income and the proportion of transactions that will be recognized ratably;
- market opportunity;
- expected benefits to customers and potential customers of our offerings, as well as our user-driven ecosystem;
- investment strategy, business strategy and growth strategy, including our business model transition and the use of acquisitions to expand our business;
- sales and marketing strategy, including our international sales and channel partner strategy;
- management’s plans, beliefs and objectives for future operations;
- our ability to provide compelling, uninterrupted and secure cloud services to our customers;
- expectations about competition;
- economic and industry trends or trend analysis;
- expectations about the benefits of acquisitions;
- expectations about seasonality;
- revenue mix;
- expected impact of changes in accounting rules or standards;
- use of non-GAAP financial measures;
- operating expenses, including changes in research and development, sales and marketing, facilities and general and administrative expenses;
- sufficiency of cash to meet cash needs for at least the next 12 months;
- exposure to interest rate changes;
- inflation;
- anticipated income tax rates, tax estimates and tax standards; and
- capital expenditures, cash flows and liquidity.

These statements represent the beliefs and assumptions of our management based on information currently available to us. Such forward-looking statements are subject to risks, uncertainties and other important factors that could cause actual results and the timing of certain events to differ materially from future results expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited to, those identified below, and those discussed in the section titled “Risk Factors” included under Part I, Item 1A. Furthermore, such forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this report. Except as required by law, we undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances that occur after the date of this report.

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Item 1. Business

Overview

Splunk provides innovative software solutions that enable organizations to gain real-time operational intelligence by harnessing the value of their data. Our offerings enable users to investigate, monitor, analyze and act on machine data regardless of format or source. Our offerings address large and diverse data sets commonly referred to as big data and are specifically tailored for machine data. Machine data is produced by nearly every software application and electronic device across an organization and contains a real-time record of various activities, such as transactions, customer and user behavior, and security threats. Beyond an organization's traditional information technology (“IT”) and security infrastructure, data from the Industrial Internet, including industrial control systems, sensors, supervisory control and data acquisition (“SCADA”) systems, networks, manufacturing systems, smart meters and the Internet of Things (“IoT”), which includes consumer-oriented systems, such as electronic wearables, mobile devices, automobiles and medical devices are also continuously generating machine data. Our offerings help organizations gain the value contained in machine data by delivering real-time information to enable operational decision making.

Our mission is to make machine data accessible, usable and valuable to everyone in an organization. Our customers leverage our offerings for various use cases, including infrastructure and operations management, security and compliance, software development and IT operations, applications management and business analytics, and to provide insights into data generated by the IoT and industrial data, among many others. Our offerings are intended to help users in various roles, including IT, security, manufacturing and business professionals, quickly analyze their machine data and achieve real-time visibility into and intelligence about their organization’s operations. We believe this operational intelligence enables organizations to improve service levels, reduce operational costs, mitigate security risks, demonstrate and maintain compliance, and drive better business decisions. The result is an improved level of operational visibility enabling more informed business decisions that can provide greater efficiency, security and competitive advantage for our customers.

Our flagship product is Splunk Enterprise, a machine data platform, comprised of collection, indexing, search, reporting, analysis, alerting, monitoring and data management capabilities. Splunk Enterprise can collect and index petabytes of machine data daily, irrespective of format or source. Our machine data platform uses our patented data processing architecture that performs dynamic schema creation at read time, rather than write time, enabling users to run queries on data without having to define or understand the structure of the data prior to collection and indexing. This is in contrast to traditional IT systems that require users to establish the format of their data prior to collection in order to answer a pre-set list of questions. Splunk Enterprise also enables customers to interactively explore, analyze and visualize data stored in data sources such as Hadoop and Amazon S3. Our technology delivers speed, scalability and advanced analytics including machine learning when processing massive amounts of machine data for anomaly detection, event grouping, prediction and other methods. Our software leverages improvements in the cost and performance of commodity computing and can be deployed in a wide variety of computing environments, from a single laptop to large globally distributed data centers as well as public, private and hybrid cloud environments.

Splunk Cloud delivers the benefits of Splunk Enterprise deployed and managed reliably and scalably as a service. Splunk Cloud is available globally and eliminates the need to purchase, deploy and manage infrastructure. Splunk Cloud can be used to collect, analyze and store data in a public cloud environment or via a hybrid approach that spans cloud and on-premises environments. A single Splunk interface can search data stored in both on-premises Splunk Enterprise instances as well as Splunk Cloud instances, providing a single point of visibility and analysis across the customer’s entire enterprise.

Splunk Light provides log search and analysis that is designed, priced and packaged for small IT environments, where a single-server log analytics solution is sufficient, and can be purchased through our online store or via our channel

partners.

Our premium solutions are purpose-built to address key customer needs. Splunk premium solutions are sold separately and include:

- Splunk Enterprise Security (“ES”) - Addresses emerging security threats and security information and event management (“SIEM”) use cases through monitoring, alerting, reporting, investigation and forensic analysis.

- Splunk IT Service Intelligence (“ITSI”) - Monitors the health and key performance indicators of critical IT and business services with machine learning.

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- Splunk User Behavior Analytics ("UBA") - Detects cyber-attacks and insider threats using data science, machine learning and advanced correlation.

- Splunk Phantom - Automates and orchestrates incident response workflows to take immediate action the moment an incident is detected.

We also complement the capabilities of Splunk Enterprise, Splunk Cloud and our premium solutions with additional content ("apps" and "add-ons"). These apps and add-ons, which are generally available for download from within our offerings, via our Splunkbase website or in our Splunk Cloud environment, provide functionality in the form of pre-built data inputs, workflows, searches, reports, alerts and dashboards that make it easier and faster for our customers to address specific use cases. Splunk, along with a number of third-party developers and customers, has developed hundreds of apps and add-ons for common data sources and valuable use cases in our core and adjacent markets. Many of these apps and add-ons are available as free downloads. Examples of apps that we and our partners have developed include:

- Splunk Machine Learning Toolkit ("MLTK") - Includes custom visualizations and guided workflows, as well as application programming interfaces ("APIs") for open source and proprietary algorithms. It also contains a data prep module to help customers prepare and clean their data before they create machine learning models.

- Splunk App for Amazon Web Services ("AWS") - Collects and analyzes data from AWS data sources to deliver security, operational and cost management insights via pre-built dashboards, reports and alerts.

- Splunk DB Connect - Enables customers to get business and enterprise context such as customer, product and HR data from traditional relational databases using real-time integration

- Cisco Firepower App for Splunk - Delivers critical high value contextual security and network event information when combined with the Cisco eStreamer eNcore Add-on. Incorporates advanced visualizations and investigative capabilities for Cisco Firepower and Firepower Management Console. Built, supported, and maintained by Cisco Systems, Inc.

Splunk Apps and add-ons enable us to deliver greater customer value, target new markets, accelerate user adoption and address markets traditionally served by point solutions. Often, customers start with one app before expanding into other apps and use cases, driving incremental usage, licensing and revenues for Splunk Enterprise and Splunk Cloud.

As part of our strategy to offer an open platform, we provide APIs, software development kits ("SDKs") in major programming languages, and extensions for popular integrated development environments ("IDEs") like Eclipse and Microsoft Visual Studio. These enable developers to build software that leverages Splunk Enterprise or Splunk Cloud as well as integrate with other parts of an organizations' IT infrastructure.

Our online user community websites, Splunkbase and Splunk Answers, provide our customers with an environment to share apps, collaborate on the use of our software and provide community-based support and education. Additionally, our Splunk Dev portal allows developers to download SDKs, access API documentation and see sample code for building applications using our developer environment and tools. We believe this user-driven ecosystem results in greater use of our offerings and provides cost-effective marketing, increased brand awareness and affinity, as well as viral adoption of our offerings.

Our offerings are designed to deliver rapid return-on-investment for our customers. They generally do not require customization, long deployment cycles or extensive professional services commonly associated with traditional enterprise software applications. Prospective users can get started with our free online sandboxes that enable our

customers to immediately try and experience Splunk offerings. Users that prefer to deploy the software on-premises can take advantage of our free 60-day trial of Splunk Enterprise, which converts into a limited free perpetual license of up to 500 megabytes of data per day. A 15-day free trial is available to users that prefer the core functionalities of Splunk Enterprise delivered as a cloud service. These users can sign up for Splunk Cloud and avoid the need to provision, deploy and manage internal infrastructure. Alternatively, they can simply download and install the software, typically in a matter of hours, to connect to their relevant machine data sources. Customers can also provision a compute instance on AWS via a pre-built Amazon Machine Image, which delivers a pre-configured virtual machine instance with our Splunk Enterprise software. We offer free development-test licenses for certain commercial customers, allowing users to explore new data and use cases in a non-production environment without incurring additional fees. We also offer support, training and professional services to our customers to assist in the deployment of our software.

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Splunk pricing offers scalable solutions tailored to ensure that our customers can realize value for their investment. Our Splunk Enterprise customers pay license fees generally based on their estimated peak daily indexing capacity needs. Our pricing model builds in volume discounts as daily ingestion rates increase. From time to time, our customers enter into transactions that are designed to enable broad adoption of our software across their entire organization, referred to as enterprise adoption agreements ("EAAs"). EAAs provide these customers with a flexible licensing model that can provide the freedom to use our software beyond their original daily indexing capacity estimates and more predictable costs that can be budgeted over a multi-year period. Our Splunk Cloud customers pay an annual subscription fee based on the combination of the volume of data indexed per day and the amount of data stored.

Our Growth Strategy

Our goal is to make Splunk the standard platform for delivering operational intelligence and real-time business insights from machine data. The key elements of our strategy are to:

Extend our technological capabilities. We intend to continue to invest heavily in product development to deliver additional features and performance enhancements, deployment models and solutions that can address new end markets and support Splunk software usage across multiple use cases. In particular, we intend to invest in our suite of cloud services to both deliver new capabilities as well as provide a cloud-first experience to our customers. We will continue to expand into adjacent products, services and technologies that enable organizations to further realize the value of their machine data across cloud and on-premises environments. Our investments may involve hiring and associated development, acquisitions and licensing of third-party technology.

Continue to expand our direct and indirect sales organization, including our channel relationships, to increase our sales capacity and enable greater market presence. We will continue to increase investments in our sales and marketing organizations to enable the acquisition of new customers as well as expansion within our current customer base. Our investments will be spread across geographies, customer tiers and industries. We will continue to invest in and foster the growth of our channel relationships, both inside and outside the United States, to enable greater leverage in our go-to-market investments. We will also expand go-to-market channels that enable new ways to consume our offerings.

Further penetrate our existing customer base and drive enterprise-wide adoption. We will continue to drive customer satisfaction and renewals by offering community, standard, enterprise and global support to ensure our customers' success with our offerings. We will continue to cultivate incremental sales from our existing customers through increased use of our offerings within organizations as well as consultative services that broaden the customer's awareness of our product and service capabilities. In particular, we will continue to seek to upsell increased indexing capacity to our existing customers for additional deployments and new use cases. We believe our existing customer base serves as a strong source of incremental revenues given the horizontal applicability of our offerings and the growing machine data volumes our customers experience. Our sales teams are responsible for securing new customers, obtaining renewals of existing contracts and increasing adoption of our software by existing customers.

Enhance our value proposition through a focus on solutions which address core and expanded use cases. We will continue to organize our go-to-market and product strategy around our customer use cases. We have invested in market groups in the Security, IT, Business Analytics and IoT areas. This approach includes offering capabilities, either in the form of platform features or premium solutions, which target both our core use cases as well as new use cases, as driven by our corporate strategy and customer demand. We believe premium solutions in particular will enable us to increase our market penetration, expand our addressable market opportunity and make our products a more targeted solution for specific challenges that our customers face across their organizations.

Grow our user communities and partner ecosystem to increase awareness of our brand, target new use cases, drive operational leverage and deliver more targeted, higher value solutions. We believe our user community has the potential to provide significant operating leverage by delivering apps that extend the Splunk platform into new use cases. We will continue to invest in business development initiatives in order to add additional OEM and strategic relationships to enable new sales channels for our offerings as well as extend our product integrations with third-party products. In addition, once these relationships have been established, we expect that OEM vendors and managed service providers will continue to invest in and create customized application functionality based on our platform.

Continue to deliver a rich developer environment to enable rapid development of enterprise applications that leverage machine data and the Splunk platform. We intend to continue our investments in SDKs and APIs that help software

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developers leverage the Splunk platform. Our SDKs enable developers to build solutions that deeply integrate the analytics functionality of our offerings across the enterprise. Through our investments in SDKs and APIs, we intend to promote and extend the capabilities of our offerings to customers who wish to build sophisticated applications and interfaces that leverage our software and services.

Pricing

We price our offerings primarily on the amount of data indexed, namely the maximum aggregate volume of uncompressed data indexed on a daily basis, expressed in gigabytes, terabytes or petabytes per day. Once a data ingestion license is purchased, there is no limit or additional costs based on other product usage elements nor the customer's preferred deployment size or model. Our Splunk Cloud customers generally pay an annual subscription fee based on the combination of the volume of data indexed per day and the amount of data stored.

For organizations that choose to standardize on Splunk software as their enterprise-wide platform for machine data, we offer EAAs, which provide our customers with a flexible licensing model and can provide the freedom to use our software beyond their original daily indexing capacity estimates. EAAs are designed to benefit organizations of any size, from small and midsize businesses to Fortune 100 companies and provide customers with more predictable costs that can be budgeted over a multi-year period as well as enable expansion to new use cases without penalty or cost.

Some of our offerings address markets where other pricing models may be prevalent. For example, the pricing of Splunk User Behavior Analytics, which helps detect cyber-attacks and insider threats using data science, machine learning and advanced correlation, is based on the number of monitored user and system accounts.

Splunk Technology

Key Technologies

We believe our investments in our products and key technologies provide significant competitive differentiation. Our key technologies are architected to support large volumes of machine data at a massive scale with minimal overhead. Our platform is highly flexible and is able to collect and index large amounts of heterogeneous data formats, from physical, virtual and/or cloud environments.

Schema-on-the-fly. Our products collect and index data irrespective of source and format. Rather than requiring that data be input in a pre-defined structure, our schema-on-the-fly technology creates structure as data is being searched, allowing users to ask new and different questions at any time without having to re-architect a schema as would be required in a relational database. Our technology builds a schema at read time, rather than write time, and does not require pre-defined knowledge about the data it is processing. Using our technology, different users can run a variety of queries, regardless of changes in format of the data being input into the system.

Machine data platform. Our products enable users to process machine data no matter the infrastructure topology, from a single machine to a globally distributed, virtualized IT infrastructure. This machine data platform allows customers to address the complexities of handling massive amounts of real-time, dynamic, heterogeneous machine data. Our APIs enable users to forward data from our software to other parts of their IT network, creating a machine data platform across the organization irrespective of whether the data is used by our products for analysis and reporting or as a conduit to other systems.

Search processing language. Our proprietary search processing language is specifically designed for working with large volumes of machine data. Our search language supports arithmetic operations to refine searches and conduct calculations with the results of a query in real time. Statistical and reporting commands native to our search language,

including machine learning algorithm support, let users perform more robust calculations and analytics. Our software can also learn about the structure of the machine data through the searches users conduct, allowing users to utilize the machine data structure and knowledge garnered by previous Splunk searches. Our software includes acceleration technology that delivers high performance for analytical operations across terabytes or petabytes of data, such as identifying rare terms and performing aggregation operations.

Machine Learning. The Splunk platform allows our customers to apply machine learning analytics to better predict and help prevent IT, security and IoT incidents, and can also be used to forecast key business indicators. Machine learning embedded in our software offers customers advanced analytics as an integrated, turnkey part of IT and security use cases.

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Splunk Enterprise and Splunk Cloud

Features and Functionality

Our Splunk Enterprise platform contains the following features and functionalities and Splunk Cloud delivers the benefits of Splunk Enterprise as a cloud service.

Universally collect, index, store and archive any machine data, from any source. Splunk Enterprise processes machine data in real time from any source, format or location. This includes streaming data generated by websites, applications, servers, networks, sensors and mobile devices.

Search and investigate. Splunk Enterprise allows users to search real-time and historical machine data simultaneously.

User-friendly interface. Splunk Enterprise uses a customizable interface that enables users to understand and adopt the product. The user interface also provides productivity features, such as type-ahead and contextual help to accelerate adoption and usage.

Knowledge store. Users can store knowledge about events, fields, transactions, patterns, statistics and key-value pairs so others who utilize the Splunk instance can leverage this information.

Monitor and alert. Users can save searches so they can be run automatically to raise real-time alerts that trigger actions such as sending emails, running scripts, or posting to an RSS feed.

Report and analyze. Users can create ad hoc reports on real-time and historical data to analyze business and IT data trends.

Custom dashboards and views. Splunk Enterprise enables users to create custom dashboards that integrate multiple charts and views of real-time and historical data for different users and roles.

Data models and pivot. Splunk Enterprise enables users to build data models that describe relationships in the underlying machine data, making it more meaningful and usable. Non-technical users can generate charts, visuals and dashboards using the pivot interface, without the need to master the Splunk Search Processing Language.

Developer platform. Splunk Enterprise includes a rich developer environment. The Splunk Web Framework enables developers to use the tools and languages they know, such as JavaScript, to build Splunk apps with custom dashboards, a flexible UI and custom data visualizations. SDKs for Java, JavaScript, C# and Python enable rapid integration between Splunk Enterprise to other applications and systems to maximize the value of our customers' data.

Role-based access controls. Splunk Enterprise incorporates role-based access controls and authentication, integrated with existing enterprise-wide security policies, to help secure the data stored within our indexes as well as control users' activities in our software.

Technology Architecture

The technology architecture of our Splunk platform contains a number of important components:

Collection. Our Splunk platform collects machine data from many disparate sources across a distributed environment deployed on-premises, or in public and private clouds. This includes servers, network devices, message buses, API endpoints, desktop and laptop computers, mobile devices and various other systems that organizations have deployed to support their operations. Our products act as a recording mechanism, collecting, storing and making available all of the machine data that they index and store. Splunk offers a Universal Forwarder and other data ingestion tools that can be deployed on various data sources to facilitate the reliable collection of machine data. Splunk Enterprise features native support for metrics, which are sets of numbers describing a particular process or activity, measured over time. Our Splunk platform uses a custom index type that is optimized for metric storage and retrieval for system metrics such as CPU, memory, disk or information from IoT devices.

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Indexing. Our proprietary universal indexing technology enables real-time indexing of any machine data collected regardless of its source or format and without the use of any specific parsers or data connectors. Our Splunk platform indexes the data and stores the data in a scalable storage format, which can reside on commodity servers and storage devices. In the case of Splunk Cloud, data is stored securely in our cloud service, which we host on Amazon Web Services.

Search. Our Splunk platform enables users to search massive amounts of machine data that