

Xunlei Ltd  
Form 20-F  
April 20, 2017

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 20-F

(Mark One)

**REGISTRATION STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OR (g) OF THE SECURITIES  
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

OR

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016.

OR

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

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

OR

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

Date of event requiring this shell company report

Commission file number: 001-35224

Xunlei Limited  
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

N/A

(Translation of Registrant's name into English)

Cayman Islands

(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

7/F Block 11, Shenzhen Software Park

Ke Ji Zhong 2nd Road, Nanshan District

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The People's Republic of China

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The People's Republic of China

(Name, Telephone, Email and/or Facsimile number and Address of Company Contact Person)

Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act.

<b><u>Title of each class</u></b>	<b><u>Name of each exchange on which registered</u></b>
<b>American depositary shares, each representing five common shares</b>	<b>The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC (The NASDAQ Global Select Market)</b>
<b>Common shares, par value US\$0.00025 per share*</b>	<b>The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC (The NASDAQ Global Select Market)</b>

\*Not for trading, but only in connection with the listing on The NASDAQ Global Select Market of American depositary shares.

Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act.

NONE

(Title of Class)

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Securities for which there is a reporting obligation pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Act.

NONE  
(Title of Class)

Indicate the number of outstanding shares of each of the issuer's classes of capital or common stock as of the close of the period covered by the annual report: 330,545,000 common shares as of December 31, 2016.

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.

Yes  No

If this report is an annual or transition report, indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Yes  No

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

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

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

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer  Emerging growth company

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If an emerging growth company that prepares its financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP, 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<sup>†</sup> provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Securities Act. Yes x No "

<sup>†</sup> The term "new or revised financial accounting standard" refers to any update issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board to its Accounting Standards Codification after April 5, 2012.

Indicate by check mark which basis of accounting the registrant has used to prepare the financial statements included in this filing:

US GAAP  International Financial Reporting Standards as issued  Other   
by the International Accounting Standards Board

If "Other" has been checked in response to the previous question, indicate by check mark which financial statement item the registrant has elected to follow. Item 17  Item 18

If this is an annual report, indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes  No

(APPLICABLE ONLY TO ISSUERS INVOLVED IN BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has filed all documents and reports required to be filed by Sections 12, 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 subsequent to the distribution of securities under a plan confirmed by a court. Yes  No

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## INTRODUCTION

In this annual report, except where the context otherwise requires and for purposes of this annual report only:

“we,” “us,” “our company,” “our,” or “Xunlei” refers to Xunlei Limited, a Cayman Islands company, its subsidiaries, its variable interest entity, or VIE, and the VIE’s subsidiaries;

“China” or “PRC” refers to the People’s Republic of China, excluding, for the purpose of this annual report only, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan;

- “daily active user”, refers to a user who accessed to Mobile Xunlei through a mobile device, on a given day;
- “digital media content” refers to videos, music, games, software and documents transmitted in digital form;

“monthly unique visitors,” in relation to our platform, refers to the number of different individual visitors who accessed Xunlei products (including websites and software) on our platform from the same computer at least once within a month; under this method, a user who accessed Xunlei products from two different computers would count as two unique visitors;

- “shares” or “common shares” refers to our common shares, par value US\$0.00025 per share;

“subscriber,” refers to users who can access our premium acceleration services, including accounts temporarily suspended, but excluding sub-accounts and accounts on a trial basis.

“ADSs” refers to our American depositary shares, each representing five common shares, and “ADRs” refers to any American depositary receipts that evidence our ADSs;

- “RMB” or “Renminbi” refers to the legal currency of China; and

- “US\$,” “dollars” or “U.S. dollars” refers to the legal currency of the United States.

We use U.S. dollar as reporting currency in our financial statements and in this annual report. Transactions in Renminbi are recorded at the rates of exchange prevailing when the transactions occur. On December 30, 2016, the

noon buying rate set forth in the H.10 statistical release of the Federal Reserve Board was RMB6.9430 to US\$1.00.

## FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

This annual report on Form 20-F contains forward-looking statements that reflect our current expectations and views of future events. These statements are made under the “safe harbor” provisions of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. You can identify these forward-looking statements by words or phrases such as “may,” “could,” “should,” “would,” “will,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “aim,” “estimate,” “intend,” “plan,” “believe,” “likely to,” “project,” “continue,” and other similar expressions. We have based these forward-looking statements largely on our current expectations and projections about future events and financial trends that we believe may affect our financial condition, results of operations, business strategy and financial needs. These forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements about:

- our business strategies, including the strategies to streamline our business and continue moving toward mobile internet;

- our future business development, results of operations and financial condition;

- our ability to maintain and strengthen our market position in China;



- our ability to retain subscribers for our premium acceleration and other services;
- our ability to develop new products and services and attract, maintain and monetize user traffic;
- trends and competition in the internet industry in China;
- rules and regulations governing the internet industry in China;
- our ability to handle intellectual property rights-related matters; and
- general economic and business conditions in China.

You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements and you should read these statements in conjunction other sections of this annual report, in particular the risk factors disclosed in “Item 3. Key Information—D. Risk Factors.” These statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. Moreover, we operate in a rapidly evolving environment. New risks emerge from time to time and it is impossible for our management to predict all risk factors, nor can we assess the impact of all factors on our business or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause actual results to differ from those contained in any forward-looking statement. The forward-looking statements made in this annual report relate only to events or information as of the date on which the statements are made in this annual report. We do not undertake any obligation to update or revise the forward-looking statements except as required under applicable law.

## PART I

### Item 1. Identity of Directors, Senior Management and Advisers

Not applicable.

### Item 2. Offer Statistics and Expected Timetable

Not applicable.

### Item 3. Key Information

#### A. Selected Financial Data

The following table presents the selected consolidated financial information of our company. The selected consolidated statements of operations data for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2015 and 2016 and the selected consolidated balance sheets data as of December 31, 2015 and 2016 have been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements, which are included in this annual report beginning on page F-1. The selected consolidated statements of operations data for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2013 and the selected consolidated balance sheets data as of December 31, 2012, 2013 and 2014 reflect the impact of retrospective adjustments of our divestiture of Xunlei Kankan, which has been classified as discontinued operation. Our audited consolidated financial statements are prepared and presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, or U.S. GAAP. Our historical results do not necessarily indicate results expected for any future period. You should read the following selected financial data in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and related notes and “Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects” included elsewhere in this annual report.

	For the Year Ended December 31, (in thousands of US\$, except for share, per share and per ADS data)				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Revenues, net of rebates and discounts	71,545	122,031	135,812	129,996	156,966
Business tax and surcharges	(5,379 )	(3,904 )	(1,878 )	(361 )	(804 )
Net Revenues	66,166	118,127	133,934	129,635	156,162
Cost of revenues	(31,875 )	(50,258 )	(55,755 )	(60,034 )	(80,319 )
Gross profit	34,291	67,869	78,179	69,601	75,843
Operating expenses(1)					
Research and development expenses	(18,340 )	(21,740 )	(29,252 )	(38,250 )	(64,360 )
Sales and marketing expenses	(15,933 )	(9,848 )	(13,527 )	(15,042 )	(18,782 )
General and administrative expenses	(2,675 )	(18,663 )	(26,945 )	(28,774 )	(26,168 )
Total operating expenses	(36,948 )	(50,251 )	(69,724 )	(82,066 )	(109,310 )
Operating (loss)/income	(2,657 )	17,618	8,455	(12,465 )	(33,467 )
Interest income	1,377	1,189	6,733	5,833	2,158
Interest expense	(1,400 )	—	(163 )	(239 )	(239 )
Other income, net	564	4,679	13,966	3,627	6,503
Shares of (loss)/income from equity investees	(45 )	25	(259 )	(12 )	(195 )
(Loss)/income from continuing operations before income tax	(2,161 )	23,511	28,732	(3,256 )	(25,240 )
Income tax benefit/(expense)	(2,111 )	(560 )	(463 )	886	1,264
Net (loss)/income from continuing operations	(4,272 )	22,951	28,269	(2,370 )	(23,976 )
Discontinued operations					
Income/(Loss) from discontinued operations	4,782	(13,779 )	(20,330 )	(10,048 )	(243 )
Income tax (expense)/benefit	(128 )	1,207	1,923	(2,048 )	36
Net income/(loss) from discontinued operations	4,654	(12,572 )	(18,407 )	(12,096 )	(207 )
Net (loss)/income	382	10,379	9,862	(14,466 )	(24,183 )
Less: net loss attributable to the non-controlling interest	(121 )	(283 )	(950 )	1,299	(72 )
Net (loss)/income attributable to Xunlei Limited	503	10,662	10,812	(13,167 )	(24,111 )
Beneficial conversion feature of series C convertible preferred shares from their modification	(286 )	—	—	—	—
Deemed contribution from series C preferred shareholders	2,979	—	—	—	—
Contingent beneficial conversion feature of series C to a series C shareholder	—	—	(57 )	—	—
Deemed dividend to series D shareholder from its modification	—	—	(279 )	—	—
Accretion of series D to convertible redeemable preferred shares redemption value	(3,509 )	(4,300 )	(1,870 )	—	—

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Accretion of series E to convertible redeemable preferred shares redemption value	—	—	(12,754	)	—	—	
Amortization of beneficial conversion feature of series E	—	—	(4,139	)	—	—	
Acceleration of amortization of beneficial conversion feature of Series E upon initial public offering	—	—	(49,346	)	—	—	
Deemed dividend to certain shareholders from repurchase of shares	—	—	(14,926	)	—	—	
Deemed dividend to preferred shareholders upon initial public offering	—	—	(32,807	)	—	—	
Allocation of net income to participating preferred shareholders	—	(4,094	)	—	—	—	
Net (loss)/income attributable to Xunlei Limited's common shareholders	(313	)	2,268	(105,366	)	(13,167	) (24,111
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding							
Basic	61,447,372	61,447,372	194,711,227	335,987,595	334,155,668		
Diluted	61,447,372	76,065,898	194,711,227	335,987,595	334,155,668		
Net (loss)/income per share attributable to Xunlei Limited from continuing operations							
Basic	(0.13	)	0.24	(0.45	)	(0.00	) (0.07
Diluted	(0.13	)	0.18	(0.45	)	(0.00	) (0.07
Net income/(loss) per share attributable to Xunlei Limited from discontinued operations							
Basic	0.14	(0.20	)	(0.09	)	(0.04	) (0.00
Diluted	0.14	(0.17	)	(0.09	)	(0.04	) (0.00
Net loss attributable to holders of common shares of Xunlei Limited per ADS(2)							
Basic			(2.70	)	(0.20	) (0.36	
Diluted			(2.70	)	(0.20	) (0.36	

We sold our Xunlei Kankan business in July 2015. As a result, Xunlei Kankan is accounted for as discontinued \*operations and our consolidated statements of comprehensive operations data in this annual report separates the discontinued operations from our remaining business operations for all years presented.

Note:

(1) Share-based compensation expenses were allocated in operating expenses as follows:

	For the Year Ended December 31,				
	(in thousands of US\$)				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Research and development expenses	1,085	973	1,171	2,896	2,983
Sales and marketing expenses	46	43	66	131	98
General and administrative expenses	1,102	1,080	6,407	6,701	6,267
Total share-based compensation expenses	2,233	2,096	7,644	9,728	9,348

Each ADS represents five common shares. Net income/(loss) attributable to holders of common shares of Xunlei (2)Limited per ADS is calculated based on net income/(loss) per share attributable to Xunlei Limited and multiplied by five.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
	(in thousands of US\$)				
Selected Consolidated Balance Sheet Data:					
Cash and cash equivalents	81,906	93,906	404,275	361,777	199,504
Short-term investments	6,523	40,993	29,427	70,328	181,960
Total current assets	163,830	193,781	501,930	457,653	412,285
Total assets	202,204	244,403	580,362	538,361	509,795
Accounts payables (including accounts payable of the consolidated variable interest entities and VIE's subsidiaries without recourse to the Company of USD24,504, USD33,262 and USD44,162 as of December 31, 2014, 2015 and 2016, respectively)					
Total current liabilities	79,544	105,385	103,020	76,736	93,405
Total liabilities	97,886	124,835	123,341	93,680	103,545
Mezzanine equity	35,990	40,290	—	—	—
Total Xunlei Limited's shareholders' equity	67,968	79,194	457,891	446,749	408,238

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Non-controlling interest	360	84	(870 )	(2,068 )	(1,988 )
Total liabilities, mezzanine equity and shareholders' equity	202,204	202,204	580,362	538,361	509,795

For the Year Ended December 31,  
 2012      2013      2014      2015      2016  
 (in thousands of US\$)

Selected Cash Flow Statement Data:

Net cash generated from operating activities	59,914	85,533	48,202	13,764	16,970
Net cash used in investing activities	(49,490)	(78,352)	(70,546 )	(54,982 )	(158,335)
Net cash generated from/(used in) financing activities	17,692	2,487	333,268	5,030	(11,041 )
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	28,116	9,668	310,924	(36,188 )	(152,406)
Effect of exchange rates on cash and cash equivalents	441	2,332	(555 )	(6,310 )	(9,867 )
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	53,349	81,906	93,906	404,275	361,777
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	81,906	93,906	404,275	361,777	199,504

B. Capitalization and Indebtedness

Not applicable.

C. Reasons for the Offer and Use of Proceeds

Not applicable.

D. Risk Factors

An investment in our ADSs involves significant risks. You should carefully consider all of the information in this annual report, including the risks and uncertainties described below, before making an investment in our ADSs. Any of the following risks could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. In any such case, the market price of our ADSs could decline, and you may lose all or part of your investment.

Risks related to our business

We have a relatively limited operating history; our business model is currently undergoing significant innovation and transition, and our historical growth rate may not be indicative of our future performance and our new business may not be successful.

We have a relatively limited operating history. We launched our core product, Xunlei Accelerator, in 2004 and cloud acceleration subscription services in 2009 to enable users to quickly access and consume digital media content. These cloud acceleration products have maintained nationwide popularity in the past few years. Coupled with our core products and services, we provide a range of internet value-added services. Revenues from our cloud acceleration subscription services, our online advertising and other internet value-added services, in general, have increased steadily in the past recent years. However, our business model is currently undergoing significant innovation and transition, including the streamlining of our businesses and more importantly, our continued transition to mobile internet, and our efforts to launch and expand the offering of new services and projects. The evolving business model and expansion into the new services involve new risks and challenges. The profitability of our new initiatives has yet to be proven. For example, although our mobile acceleration plug-in, has been officially adopted by Xiaomi's operating systems and installed on Xiaomi phones, we cannot assure you that we will be able to form significant business partnerships with major smartphone makers other than Xiaomi so as to achieve broader acceptance of the Xunlei mobile products and we may not be able to maintain the rapid growth of revenues from our mobile advertising since we achieved the revenues for the first time in the fourth quarter of 2015, and as a result, our mobile strategy may not be successful.

We are also devoting significant energy and resources to continue to develop our ongoing innovation in crowdsourcing for idle uplink capacity and potentially storage from our users, which we refer to as Project Crystal or our cloud computing project. Our cloud computing project targets to utilize our users' computing power for capacity and storage in the same way our traditional acceleration products utilize users' idle uplink establishing and indexing files. The project is still in its early stages. We are still making significant financial and managerial investments in this project and have not generated significant revenues from it, and cannot assure you as to its future prospects. Furthermore, the technology supporting our cloud computing project is relatively new and is still under improvement. Any failure in our development of this technology could lead to unsatisfactory project outcomes and could significantly and adversely impact our results.

In addition, as part of our initiative to streamline existing businesses, we sold our entire stake in our online video streaming platform, Xunlei Kankan, in July 2015 for a consideration of RMB130 million. Although we expect benefits such as a more streamlined, efficient business model and reduced content costs as a result of the sale of Xunlei Kankan, Xunlei Kankan contributed to a significant portion of our revenues in the past, and the sale of the business has resulted in reduced revenue in the past two years as compared with the revenue in 2014 although at the same time it also reduces our need to make further investment in this line of business. In addition, a portion of the consideration in an amount of the RMB26.0 million (US\$ 4.0 million) remains due and unpaid as of the date of this annual report. We have brought the claim against the buyer to the arbitration tribunal and even though the award may be granted in favor of us, there is no assurance that we will be successful in collecting the payment in a timely manner or at all if the buyer continues to challenge the award. Failure to collect the payment would adversely affect our results.



Furthermore, our PC-based download acceleration subscriptions in the past declined, partly due to the ongoing and intensified government scrutiny of internet content in China. Although we continue to enhance and update our products in order to make them attractive to our subscribers, our efforts may not be successful. Our subscriber base decreased from 4.4 million as of December 31, 2014 and further to 4.2 million as of December 31, 2016. See “—We may not be able to retain our large user base, convert our users into subscribers of our premium services or maintain our existing subscribers.” and “—Risks Related to Doing Business in China—Regulation and censorship of information disseminated over the internet in China may adversely affect our business, and we may be liable for the digital media content on our platform.”

Due to the abovementioned factors, our historical growth rate may not be indicative of our future performance and our new business initiative may not be successful, and we cannot assure you that we will grow at the same rate as we did in the past, if at all.

We may not be able to retain our large user base, convert our users into subscribers of our premium services or maintain our existing subscribers.

Our platform had approximately 152 million monthly unique visitors in December 2016 according to our internal record. If we are unable to consistently provide our users with quality services and experience, if users do not perceive our service offerings to be of value, or if we introduce new or adjust existing features or change the mix of digital media content in a manner that is not favorably received by our users, we may not be able to retain our existing user base.

Our number of subscribers experienced a decline in the past partly due to the intensified scrutiny over internet content from the Chinese government, and may experience further downward pressure in the future. With a government campaign against inappropriate internet content launched in April 2014, we have had to increase the monitoring of content on our platform. All the measures we adopt in response to increasing regulatory scrutiny may materially and adversely affect user experience on our platform and make our services less attractive to our subscribers, leading to a decline in the number of subscribers. We saw a reduction in the number of total subscribers from 4.4 million as of December 31, 2014, and permitted temporary suspension of services by about 350,000 existing subscribers as of December 31, 2014. Although the permitted temporary suspension of services reduced to 281,000 existing subscribers as of December 31, 2015 and further to 257,000 as of December 31, 2016, such favorable trends may not sustain, and any increase in the number of subscribers may not necessarily lead to a corresponding increase in revenue. Similar government action or other forces may make it challenging for us to retain our user base, or may contribute to a further decline in our user base, in the future. See “—Risks Related to Doing Business in China—Regulation and censorship of information disseminated over the internet in China may adversely affect our business, and we may be liable for the digital media content on our platform.”

In the long term, even without taking into account the abovementioned government restrictions, we cannot assure you that we would be able to retain our large user or subscriber base. For example, our efforts to provide greater incentives for our users to subscribe, including marketing activities to highlight the value of differentiated subscriber-only services, such as Green Channel and Offline Accelerator, may not continue to succeed. Our subscribers may stop their subscriptions or other spending on our products or services because we no longer serve their needs or if we are unable to offer a satisfying user experience or successfully compete with current and new competitors in both retaining our existing subscribers and attracting new subscribers, which would adversely impact our business, results of operations and prospects.

We face and expect to continue to face copyright infringement claims and other related claims, including claims based on content available through our services, which could be time-consuming and costly to defend and may result in damage awards, injunctive relief and/or court orders, divert our management's attention and financial resources and adversely impact our business.

Our success depends, in large part, on our ability to operate our business without infringing, misappropriating or otherwise violating third-party rights, including third-party intellectual property rights. Internet, technology and media companies are frequently involved in litigations based on allegations of infringement of intellectual property rights, unfair competition, invasion of privacy, defamation and other violations of other parties' rights.

In May 2014, we entered into a content protection agreement with the Motion Picture Association of America, Inc., or MPAA, and its members, which are six major U.S. entertainment content providers. In that agreement, we agreed to implement a comprehensive system of measures designed to prevent unauthorized downloading of and access to such content providers' works. After beginning the roll-out for several months, we suspended implementation of the filter but have identified and are in the process of implementing a new filter. Even with the implementation of a new filter, however, our copyright protection measures would not be able to fully protect us against copyright infringement suits. In January 2015, a number of MPAA member studios filed copyright infringement lawsuits against us in the Shenzhen Nanshan District Court in China, and, as of the date of this annual report, those cases are awaiting decisions of first instance. Although we expect that the outcome of these lawsuits would not have a substantial negative impact on our financials, we cannot provide you with any estimate as to such outcome or assure you that it would not have material adverse impact upon our business. Even if we won the court ruling for these current proceedings or ultimately reached settlement with MPAA and the relevant members, we cannot assure you that any of these parties would not initiate other proceedings against us. Also see "Item 8. Financial Information—A. Consolidated Statements and Other Financial Information—Legal Proceedings."

In the ordinary course of our business, we receive, from time to time, written notices from third parties claiming that certain content and games in our network or on one or more of our websites infringe their copyrights or the copyrights of third parties. These notices may threaten to take legal actions against us or request us to cease distribution, marketing or displaying such content or games on our network or websites. Claims alleging copyright infringement or other claims arising from the content accessible through our distributed computing network, or on our websites or through our other services, such as the legal proceeding initiated by MPAA members or any potential legal proceedings that may be initiated by, for example, the Motion Picture Association Inc., with or without merit, may lead to damage awards and/or court orders, diversion of our management's attention and financial resources and negative publicity affecting our brand and reputation, and therefore may adversely affect our results of operations and business prospects. In addition, a significant number of these claims relate to content on Xunlei Kankan. We have completed our sale of Xunlei Kankan to a third party buyer in July 2015. As a result, our exposure to claims in relation to intellectual property have significantly decreased, although we still expect to face a number of copyright infringement claims and other related claims in the future in relation to our other products and services.

We were subject to a number of lawsuits in China for alleged copyright infringements over the years, a number of which are still outstanding as of the date of this annual report. We can provide no assurance that we will be granted the judgements or awards in favor of us. In addition, these existing and future claims may divert our management's attention and financial resources and adversely impact our business.

The premium acceleration services and other value-added services we provide to our subscribers may expose us to additional copyright infringement claims, which could materially and adversely affect our existing business model.

We provide subscribers with limited space to temporarily store content downloaded on our servers for optimal acceleration performance. Subscribers may also request our cloud servers to transmit a file on their behalf and upload

it to their properties. See “Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Our Platform—Cloud-based acceleration—Subscription services.” In addition, certain of our services allow users to upload files after they create accounts with us, converting the files into links and sharing such links with designated persons. We may be liable for transmitting or temporarily storing content or creating links representing content on behalf of our subscribers if such content infringes third-party intellectual property rights, and any such potential legal liabilities could materially and adversely affect our business.

If we are unable to successfully capture and retain the growing number of mobile internet users or if we are unable to successfully monetize our mobile products, our business, financial condition and results of operations may be materially and adversely affected.

An increasing number of users access our products and services through mobile devices, and the transition to mobile internet is a key part of our current business strategies. Products such as Xunlei Accelerator are now available to users from PCs as well as mobile devices, and we intend to continue expanding the number of mobile products we offer. An important element of our strategy to transition to mobile internet is to continue to further develop features for our mobile products and to develop new mobile products to capture a greater share of the growing number of users that access internet services such as ours through mobile devices. For example, we recently developed Mobile Xunlei, which allows users to search, download and consume digital media content on their mobile devices in a user friendly way. As new laptops, mobile devices and operating systems are continually being released, it is difficult to predict the problems we may encounter in developing our products for use on these devices and operating systems, and we may need to devote significant resources to create, support and maintain these services. Devices providing access to our products and services are not manufactured and sold by us, and we cannot assure you that companies manufacturing or selling these devices would always ensure that their devices perform reliably and are maximally compatible with our systems. Any faulty connection between these devices and our products may result in user dissatisfaction with our products, which could damage our brand and have a material and adverse effect on our financial results. In addition, the lower resolution, functionality and memory associated with some mobile devices may make the use of our products and services through such devices more difficult and the versions of our products and services we develop for these devices may fail to attract users. Manufacturers or distributors may establish unique technical standards for their devices and, as a result, our products may not work or work properly or be viewable on all devices on which they are installed. Furthermore, new, comparable products which are specifically created to function on mobile operating systems, as compared to some of our products that were originally designed to be accessed from PCs, and such new entrants may operate more effectively on mobile devices than our mobile products do.

Although we have not begun monetizing our mobile products other than mobile advertising, if we are unable to attract and retain the increasing number of users who access our products through mobile devices, or if we are slower than our competitors in developing attractive services adaptable for mobile devices, we may fail to capture a significant share of an increasingly important portion of the market or may lose existing users. In addition, even if we are able to retain the increasing number of users who access our services through mobile devices, we may not be able to successfully monetize them in the future. For example, because of the inherent limitations of mobile devices, we may not be able to provide as many kinds of products on mobile devices as we do on PC, which may limit the monetization potential of our mobile products and services.

If we fail to keep up with the technological development in the internet industry and users' changing demand, our business, financial condition and results of operations may be materially and adversely affected.

The internet industry is rapidly evolving and subject to continual technological changes. As the internet infrastructure continues to develop, the internet may become more easily accessible through alternative technological innovations in the future, which may make our existing products and services less attractive to our users, and we may lose our existing users and fail to attract new users, which may further adversely impact our business, financial condition and results of operations.

In addition, user demand for internet content may also shift over time. Currently, internet users appear to have significant demand for multimedia acceleration, online games and online streaming services, and we expect such demand to continue. However, we cannot assure you that the behavior of internet users will not change in the future. If we fail to upgrade our services in response to changes in user demand in an effective and timely manner, the number of our users and advertisers may decrease. Furthermore, changes in technologies and user demand may require substantial capital expenditures in product development and infrastructure. To further expand our user base and offer our users a wider range of access points, we are expanding our business to mobile devices in part through potentially pre-installed acceleration products in mobile phones. In addition, we are continually developing and upgrading products and services, including our cloud computing project, which is expected to utilize the idle capacity of our users, and seeking strategic cooperation with hardware manufacturers such as smartphone makers, which may require significant resources from us. However, if we are not able to perfect our new technologies or to achieve the intended results or if our innovations cannot respond to the needs of our users or if our users are not attracted to our upgraded or new products and services, we may not be able to maintain or expand our user base, and our business, results of operations and prospects may be materially and adversely affected.

Our technologies, business methods and services, including those relating to our resource discovery network, may be subject to third-party patent claims or rights, such as issued patents or pending patent applications, that limit or prevent their use.

We cannot assure you that our technologies, business methods and services, including those relating to our resource discovery network, will be free from claims of patent infringements, and that holders of patents would not seek to enforce such patents against us in China, the United States or any other jurisdictions. Based on our own analysis, we do not believe that we are currently infringing any third-party patents of which we are aware. However, our analysis may have failed to identify all relevant patents and patent applications. For example, there may be currently pending applications, unknown to us, that may later result in issued patents that are infringed by our products, services or other aspects of our business. There could also be existing patents of which we are not aware that our products may inadvertently infringe. Third parties may attempt to enforce such patents against us. Further, the application and interpretation of China's patent laws and the procedures and standards for granting patents in China are still evolving and are uncertain, and we cannot assure you that PRC courts or regulatory authorities would agree with our analysis. Any patent infringement claims, regardless of their merits, could be time-consuming and costly to us. If we were found to infringe third-party patents and were not able to adopt non-infringing technologies, we may be severely limited in our ability to operate our business, and our results of operations could be materially and adversely affected.

The intellectual property protection mechanism we have implemented may not be effective or sufficient and may subject us to future litigation or result in our inability to continue providing certain of our existing services in China.

We may not have obtained licenses for all digital media content available via our services and the scope of the licenses we obtained for certain content may not be broad enough to cover all the methods we currently employ to distribute, market or display such content. For digital media content we have lawfully obtained from an authorized licensor, we may not be able to timely detect the expiration of the licensing period of certain of the content available via our services and disable access to such content via our services in a timely manner. We have been involved in litigations based on allegations from rights owners that we have infringed their copyright interests in such content. Assisted by our intellectual property team dedicated to copyright protection, for example, we have implemented internal procedures to meet the requirements under relevant PRC laws and regulations to monitor and review the content we license before it is released and remove any infringing content promptly after we receive notice of infringement from the legitimate rights holder. See also "Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Intellectual Property—Digital media data monitoring and copyright protection" for more details. However, due to the significant amount of digital media content accessible through our resource discovery network and other services, we generally do not seek to identify infringing content absent receiving any notice of infringement. We have successfully completed our sale of Xunlei Kankan to a third party buyer in July 2015. As a result, our exposure to claims in relation to intellectual property have significantly decreased, and we have been adjusting our monitoring procedures in relation to intellectual property and we expect to devote more resources to the monitoring of content accessible via our core services. For details of our sale of Xunlei Kankan, see "Item 4. Information on the Company — A. History and Development of the Company."

In addition, we organize and recommend to our users digital media content accessible through our services and provided on certain reputable audio-visual websites that have cooperation relationships with us. As such, we may be exposed to the risk of copyright infringement liability in the event that such content has not been duly licensed to us or to the operators of those websites. Moreover, some rights owners may not send us a notice before bringing lawsuits against us. Thus, our inability to identify unauthorized content hosted on our website or servers or accessible through our network subjects us to claims of infringement of third-party intellectual property rights or other rights. In addition, we may be subject to administrative actions brought by the National Copyright Administration of the PRC or its local branches for alleged copyright infringement.



The validity, enforceability and scope of protection of intellectual property in internet-related industries, particularly in China, are uncertain and still evolving. As we face increasing competition and as litigation becomes more common in China in resolving commercial disputes, we face a higher risk of intellectual property infringement claims. The Supreme People's Court of China promulgated a judicial interpretation on infringement of the right of internet dissemination in December 2012. This judicial interpretation provides that the courts will require service providers to remove not only links or content that have been specifically mentioned in the notices of infringement from rights holders, but also links or content they "should have known" to contain infringing content. The interpretation further provides that where an internet service provider has directly obtained economic benefits from any content made available by an internet user, it has a higher duty of care with respect to internet users' infringement of third-party copyrights. This interpretation may subject us and other internet service providers to significant administrative burdens and litigation risks. See "Item 4. Key Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Regulation—Regulation on Intellectual Property Rights." Interested parties may lobby for more robust intellectual property protection in jurisdictions in which we conduct business or may conduct business, and intellectual property laws in China and other such jurisdictions may become less favorable to our business. Intellectual property litigation may be expensive and time-consuming and could divert management attention and resources. If there is a successful claim of infringement, we may be required to discontinue the infringing activities, pay substantial fines and damages and/or seek royalty or license agreements that may not be available on commercially acceptable terms, if at all. Our failure to obtain the required licenses on a timely basis could harm our business. Any intellectual property litigation and/or any negative publicity by third parties alleging our intellectual property infringement could have a material adverse effect on our business, reputation, financial condition or results of operations. To address the risks relating to intellectual property infringement, we may have to substantially modify, limit or, in extreme cases, terminate some of our services. Any of such changes could materially affect our users' experience and in turn have a material adverse impact on our business.

We may be subject to claims or lawsuits outside of China, which could increase our risk of direct or indirect liabilities for our existing or future service offerings.

Although we have not been subject to claims or lawsuits outside China, we cannot assure you that we will not become subject to copyright laws in other jurisdictions, such as the United States, by virtue of our listing in the United States, the ownership of our ADSs by investors, the extraterritorial application of foreign law by foreign courts or for other reasons. We have attracted and expect to continue to attract attention from intellectual property owners outside of China, despite our efforts to control access to our products and services by users outside China. For example, the Recording Industry Association of America filed a letter with the Office of the United States Trade Representative in November 2010 accusing certain of our divested or discontinued products of facilitating intellectual property infringement. Although we take steps to block users logging in from IP addresses that are located in certain jurisdictions, including the United States, from accessing certain of our services, due to technological limitations, such efforts may not be 100% successful, and any unintended access to our services may increase our risk of becoming subject to copyright laws in such jurisdictions. Even if our efforts to block IP addresses located in the United States or other jurisdictions are successful, the uncertainties surrounding the approach to intellectual property and online service providers that the new U.S. administration will take may increase our risk of becoming impacted by copyright laws in such jurisdictions. In addition, as a publicly listed company, we may be exposed to increased risk of litigation.

If we are ever held to be subject to United States copyright law, that could increase our risk of direct or indirect copyright liability for our resource discovery, acceleration or other services. If a claim of infringement brought against us in the United States or other jurisdictions is successful, we may be required to (i) pay substantial statutory or other damages and fines, (ii) remove relevant content from our website, (iii) discontinue products or services, (iv) disable access through our service to certain sites or content; (v) terminate users; and/or (vi) seek royalty or license agreements that may not be available on commercially reasonable terms or at all.

We may not be able to prevent unauthorized use of our intellectual property or disclosure of our trade secrets and other proprietary information, which could reduce demand for our services and have material and adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our patents, trademarks, trade secrets, copyrights and other intellectual property rights are important assets for us. Events that are outside of our control may pose a threat to our intellectual property rights. For example, effective intellectual property protection may not be available in China and some other jurisdictions in which our services are distributed or made available through the internet. Also, the efforts we have made to protect our proprietary rights may not be sufficient or effective. Any significant impairment of our intellectual property rights could harm our business or our competitiveness. Also, protecting our intellectual property rights is costly and time consuming. Any increase in the unauthorized use of our intellectual property could make it more expensive to conduct our business and harm our results of operations.

We seek to obtain patent protection for our innovations. However, it is possible that patent protection may not be available for some of these innovations. In addition, given the costs of obtaining patent protection, we may choose not to protect certain innovations that later turn out to be important. Furthermore, there is always the possibility, despite our efforts, that the scope of the protection gained will be insufficient or that an issued patent may be deemed invalid or unenforceable.

We also seek to maintain certain intellectual property as trade secrets. We require our employees, consultants, advisors and collaborators to enter into confidentiality agreements in order to protect our trade secrets and other proprietary information. These agreements might not effectively prevent disclosure of our trade secrets, know-how or other proprietary information and might not provide an adequate remedy in the event of unauthorized disclosure of such confidential information. In addition, others may independently discover our trade secrets and proprietary information, in which case we could not assert such trade secret rights against such parties. Any unauthorized disclosure or independent discovery of our trade secrets would deprive us of the associated competitive advantages. Costly and time-consuming litigation could be necessary to enforce and determine the scope of our proprietary rights, and failure to obtain or maintain trade secret protection could adversely affect our competitive position.

The success of our business depends on our ability to maintain and enhance a strong brand. If we fail to sustain or improve the strength of our brand, we may subsequently experience difficulty in maintaining market share.

We believe that maintaining and enhancing our Xunlei brand is of significant importance to the success of our business. A well-recognized brand is critical to increasing our user base and, in turn, enhancing our attractiveness to advertisers, subscribers and paying users. Since the Chinese internet market is highly competitive, maintaining and enhancing our brand depends largely on our ability to retain a significant market share in China, which may be difficult and expensive.

We have developed our reputation and established a leading position by providing our users with a superior acceleration and video viewing experience. We will continue to conduct various marketing and brand promotion activities. We cannot assure you, however, that these activities will be successful and achieve the brand promotion effects we expect. In addition, any negative publicity in relation to our services or our marketing or promotion practices, regardless of its veracity, could harm our brand image and, in turn, result in a reduced number of users and advertisers. Historically, there has been negative publicity about our company, our products and services and certain key members of our management team, which has adversely affected our brand, public image and reputation. If we fail to maintain and enhance our brand, or if we incur excessive expenses in this effort, our business, financial condition and results of operations may be materially and adversely affected.

System failure, interruptions and downtime, including those caused by cyber attacks or network issues, can result in user dissatisfaction and adverse publicity, and our business, financial condition and results of operations may be

materially and adversely affected.

Our operations rely on our networks and servers, which can suffer system failures, interruptions and downtime. Our network systems are vulnerable to damage from computer viruses, fires, floods, earthquakes, power losses, telecommunication failures, computer hacking and similar events despite our implementation of security measures, which may cause interruptions to the services we provide, degrade the user experience, or cause users to lose confidence in our products. Our efforts to protect our company data or the information we receive may also be unsuccessful due to software bugs or other technical malfunctions, employee error or malfeasance, government surveillance, or other factors.

The satisfactory performance, stability, security and availability of our websites and our network infrastructure are critical to our reputation and our ability to attract and retain users and advertisers. Our network contains information regarding file index, advertising records, premium licensed digital media content and various other facets of the business to assist management and help ensure effective communication among various departments and offices of our company. Any failure to maintain the satisfactory performance, stability, security and availability of our network, website or technology platform, whether such failure results from intentional cyber attacks by hackers, from issues with our own technology and team or from other factors beyond our control, may cause significant harm to our reputation and impact our ability to attract and maintain users and business partners.

From time to time, our users in certain locations may not be able to gain access to our network or our websites for a period of time lasting from several minutes to several hours, due to server interruptions, power shutdowns, internet connection problems or other reasons. Although we have not experienced extended periods of such server interruptions, power shutdowns or internet connection problems across our entire network, we cannot assure you that such instances will not occur in the future. Any server interruptions, break-downs or system failures, including failures which may be attributable to events within or outside our control that could result in a sustained shutdown of all or a material portion of our network or website, could reduce the attractiveness of our service offerings. In addition, any substantial increase in the volume of traffic on our network or website will require us to increase our investment in bandwidth, expand and further upgrade our technology platform. We do not maintain insurance policies covering losses relating to our network systems. As a result, any system failure, interruptions or network downtime for an extended period may have a material adverse impact on our revenues and results of operations.

If we fail to retain existing advertisers or attract new advertisers, our revenues may be materially and adversely affected.

Historically, we generate a substantial portion of our revenues from online advertising. The revenues generated from online advertising decreased from US\$38.4 million in 2014 to US\$15.2 million in 2015 due to our sale of Xunlei Kankan in July 2015, which historically contributed a significant portion of our advertising revenues and a majority of our advertisers. The revenues, however, increased to US\$16.9 million in 2016 due to the rapid growth of our mobile advertising since the fourth quarter of 2015. We cannot assure you that we can continue to retain our advertising agencies and advertisers or attract new advertising agencies and advertisers. The number of advertisers that use our online advertising services decreased from 485 in 2011 through the years to 114 in 2016, not including advertisers on the Guandong third party platform. If we cannot retain our existing advertisers or develop new advertisers in the future, our revenues generated from online advertising will be materially and negatively affected. Since our arrangements with third-party advertising agencies are typically one-year framework agreements, such advertising arrangements may be easily amended or terminated without incurring liabilities.

A number of our advertisers are e-commerce companies and online game operators. The online game and e-commerce industries in China are rapidly evolving, and the growth of these industries and their demand for online advertising services is uncertain and may be affected by factors out of our control. We also have significant brand advertising and are seeking to further expand this portion of advertising. However, we cannot assure you that we will be able to retain existing advertising agencies and advertisers or attract more advertising agencies and advertisers for brand advertising, and if we fail to do so, our business, results of operations and prospects may be materially and adversely affected.

We rely on third-party platforms to distribute our mobile applications. If we are unable to maintain a good relationship with such platform providers, if their terms and conditions or pricing were changed to our detriment, if we violate, or if a platform provider believes that we have violated, the terms and conditions of its platform, or if any of these platforms loses market share or falls out of favor or is unavailable for a prolonged period of time, our mobile strategy may suffer.

We are subject to the standard policies and terms of service of third party platforms, which govern the distribution of our mobile application on the platform. Each platform provider has broad discretion to change and interpret its terms of service and other policies with respect to us and other users, and those changes may be unfavorable to us. A platform provider may also change its fee structure, add fees associated with access to and use of its platform, alter how we are able to advertise or distribute on the platform, or change how the personal information of its users is made available to application developers on the platform.

Such changes may decrease the visibility or availability of our applications, limit our distribution capabilities, prevent access to our applications, reduce the amount of downloads and revenue we may recognize from the applications, increase our costs to operate on these platforms or result in the exclusion or limitation of our application on such platforms. Any such changes could adversely affect our business, financial condition or results of operations.

If we violate, or a platform provider believes we have violated its terms of service (or if there is any change or deterioration in our relationship with these platform providers), that platform provider could limit or discontinue our access to the platform. A platform provider could also limit or discontinue our access to the platform if it establishes more favorable relationships with one or more of our competitors or it determines that we are a competitor. Any limit of, or discontinuation to, our access to any platform could adversely affect our business, financial condition or results of operations.

In September 2016, Mobile Xunlei was removed from Apple's iOS App Store as a result of alleged possible violations of the developer license agreement between Apple and us. We are in the process of clarifying the reason and discussing with Apple. We cannot assure you that future efforts to re-launch Mobile Xunlei on the iOS App Store will be successful. This will most likely prevent prospective users and existing users from accessing or renewing our services through Apple devices.

We have not encountered the same issues with the any other app stores. It is impossible for us to predict the impact in the longer run if Apple continues to deny our mobile applications. Furthermore, other app stores also have the right to update their store policies and if we are deemed to violate its policy and our mobile application are removed from other app stores at the same time, this may significantly harm our mobile strategy.

We are strictly regulated in China. Any lack of requisite licenses or permits applicable to our businesses and any changes in government policies or regulations may have a material and adverse impact on our businesses, financial conditions and results of operations.

Our business is subject to governmental supervision and regulations by the relevant PRC governmental authorities including the State Council, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (formerly the Ministry of Information Industry), or MIIT, the General Administration of Press and Publication, Radio, Film and Television (established in March 2013 as a result of institutional reform integrating the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television, and the General Administration of Press and Publication), or GAPPRFT, Ministry of Culture, or MOC and other relevant government authorities. Together these government authorities promulgate and enforce regulations that cover many aspects of operation of telecommunications and internet information services, including entry into the telecommunications industry, the scope of permissible business activities, licenses and permits for various business activities and foreign investment.

A license for online transmission of audio-visual programs is required for the display of video content on our platform. See "Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Regulation—Regulation on online transmission of audio-visual programs." The license for online transmission of audio-visual programs previously granted to Shenzhen Xunlei Networking Technologies, Co., Ltd., or Shenzhen Xunlei, our VIE, is now due for update but we have not been able to update such license. We cannot assure you that we will be able to obtain such updated license in

a timely manner or at all. Although we have sold our video streaming service under Xunlei Kankan, our platform and software gather internet audio-video programs and contains user generated video clips and other media files and the PRC regulator may find that the license for online transmission of audio-visual programs is required for our gathering and transmission of such internet audio-video programs, video clips and media files. In addition, our cloud computing services provided to the internet users may be deemed to have included the content distribution network (CDN) services. With MIIT's recent promulgation of the Circular on Clearing up and Regulating the Internet Access Service Market in January 2017, our existing value-added telecommunication services license, or VATS License, must be updated to specifically cover the CDN services, which otherwise was not required in the past. Shenzhen Onething Technologies Co., Ltd., or Shenzhen Onething, a subsidiary of Shenzhen Xunlei has made the application to the relevant PRC authority to update its exiting VATS License. Although we have been given a grace period to obtain the approval by the end of 2017, we cannot assure you that we can obtain the approval in a timely manner, or at all. "Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Regulation—Regulation on telecommunications and internet information services."



If the relevant PRC authority decides that we were operating without the proper licenses or approvals, we may be given a warning, ordered to rectify our violations and/or fined, or required to impose restrictions or even discontinue our relevant business. In addition to the above, if the PRC government promulgates new laws and regulations that require additional licenses or imposes additional restrictions on the operation of any part of our business, it has the power to, among other things, levy fines, confiscate our income, revoke our business licenses, and require us to discontinue our business or impose restrictions on the affected portion of our business. Any of these actions by the PRC government may have a material and adverse effect on our results of operations. In addition, the PRC government may promulgate regulations restricting the types and content of advertisements that may be transmitted online, which could have a direct adverse impact on our business.

Concerns about collection and use of personal data could damage our reputation, deter current and potential users from using our services and substantially harm our business and results of operations.

Pursuant to the applicable PRC laws and regulations concerning the collection, use and sharing of personal data, our PRC subsidiaries, VIE and its subsidiaries are required to keep our users' personal information confidential and are prohibited from disclosing such information to any third parties without such users' consent. In December 2012 and July 2013, laws and regulations were issued by the Standing Committee of the PRC National People's Congress and MIIT to enhance the legal protection of information security and privacy on the internet. The laws and regulations also require internet operators to take measures to ensure confidentiality of information of users. Concerns about our practices with regard to the collection, use or disclosure of personal information or other privacy-related matters, even if unfounded, could damage our reputation and operating results. In addition, in June 2016 and January 2017, the State Internet Information Office and the Standing Committee of the PRC National People's Congress issued new laws and regulations to further safeguard cyberspace security.

We apply strict management and protection to any information provided by users, and under our privacy policy, without our users' prior consent, we will not provide any of our users' personal information to any unrelated third party. While we strive to comply with our privacy guidelines as well as all applicable data protection laws and regulations, any failure or perceived failure to comply may result in proceedings or actions against us by government entities or others, and could damage our reputation. User and regulatory attitudes towards privacy are evolving and concerns about the security of personal data could also lead to a decline in general usage of our products and services, which could lead to lower user numbers. For example, if the PRC government authorities require real-name registration by our users, our user numbers may decrease and our business, financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected. See “—Risks Related to Doing Business in China—We may be adversely affected by the complexity, uncertainties and changes in PRC regulations of internet-related business and companies.” In addition, we may become subject to the data protection or personal privacy laws of jurisdictions outside of China, where more stringent requirements may be imposed on us and we may have to allocate more resources to comply with the legal requirements, and our user numbers may further decrease. A significant reduction in user numbers could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We may not be able to generate sufficient cash from operations or to obtain sufficient capital to meet the additional capital requirements of our changing business.

In order to implement our development strategies, including our strategies to transition to mobile internet and continue working on our cloud computing project, we will make continual capital investments in terms of devoting more research and development efforts into investigating user needs and develop new mobile products and update existing ones, continue enhancing the technologies involved in our cloud computing project and provide more frequent updates to our existing products. Thus, we will continue to incur substantial capital expenditures on an ongoing basis, and it may become difficult for us to meet such capital requirements.

To date, we have financed our operations primarily through cash flow from operations and, to a lesser degree, proceeds from private placements of preferred shares and our initial public offering. However, if we fail to retain a sufficient number of users and continue to convert such users into paying users or subscribers, we may not be able to generate sufficient revenues to cover our business development strategies, including our continued transition to mobile internet and the continued expansion of our cloud computing project, and our business may be materially and adversely affected.

We may obtain additional financing, including from equity offerings and debt financings in capital markets, to fund the operation and planned expansion of our business. Our ability to obtain additional financing in the future, however, is subject to a number of uncertainties, including:

· our future business development, financial condition and results of operations;

· general market conditions for financing activities by companies in our industry; and

· macroeconomic, political and other conditions in China and elsewhere.

If we cannot obtain sufficient capital to meet our capital expenditure needs, we may not be able to execute our growth strategies and our business, results of operations and prospects may be materially and adversely affected.

Our costs and expenses, such as research and development expenses, may increase and our results of operations may be adversely affected.

The operation of our extensive resource discovery network, our online game business and cloud computing project require significant upfront capital expenditures as well as continual, substantial investment in content, technology and infrastructure. Since inception, we have invested substantially in research and development to maintain our technology leadership, and in equipment to increase our network capacity. We expect our research and development expenses to increase in the near term as we continue to expand our research and development team to develop new products and update existing products, particularly as we continue devoting resources in the development of our cloud computing project and the development and updating of our mobile products. Most of our capital expenditures, such as expenditures on servers and other equipment, are based upon our estimation of potential future demand and we are generally required to pay the entire purchase price and license fees up front. As a result, our cash flow may be negatively affected in the periods in which such payments are made. We may not be able to quickly generate sufficient revenue from such expenditures, which may negatively affect our results of operations within certain periods thereafter; and if we over-estimate future demand for our services, we may not be able to achieve expected rates of return on our capital expenditures, or at all.

In addition, bandwidth and other costs are subject to change and are determined by market supply and demand. For example, the market prices for professionally produced digital media content have increased significantly in China during the past few years, and there have been increases in the relevant license fees. In addition, if bandwidth and other providers cease their business with us or raise the prices of their products and services, we will incur additional costs to find alternative service providers or to accept the increased costs in order to provide our services, although we expect that crowdsourced capacity obtained through our cloud computing project may offset some of our bandwidth costs. If we cannot pass on our costs and expenses to our users, or if our costs to deliver our services do not decline commensurate with any future declines in the prices we charge our users, our results of operations may be adversely affected and we may fail to achieve profitability.

If we are unable to collect accounts receivable in a timely manner or at all, our financial condition, results of operations and prospects may be materially and adversely affected.

Certain portion of our advertising revenues are generated from a limited number of advertising agencies. We typically enter into advertising agreements with third-party advertising agencies that represent the advertisers, and under these agreements, the advertising fees are paid to us by the advertising agencies after we deliver our services. In consideration for the third-party advertising agencies' services, we pay them rebates based on the value of business they bring to us. Thus, the financial soundness of our advertisers and advertising agencies with whom we sign these advertising contracts may affect our collection of accounts receivable. We make a credit assessment of our advertisers and advertising agencies to evaluate the collectability of the advertising service fees before entering into any advertising contract. However, we cannot assure you that we are or will be able to accurately assess the creditworthiness of each advertising agency or advertiser, as applicable, and any inability of advertisers or advertising agencies, especially those that accounted for a significant percentage of our amounts receivables in the past, to pay us in a timely manner may adversely affect our liquidity and cash flows. In addition, the online advertising market in China is dominated by a small number of large advertising agencies. If the large advertising agencies that we have business relationships with demand higher rebates for their agency services, our results of operations will be materially and adversely affected.

We may not be able to successfully address the challenges and risks we face in the online games market, such as a failure to acquire and operate popular, high-quality games or to obtain all the licenses required to operate online games, which may subject us to penalties from relevant authorities, including the discontinuance of our online game business.

We have exclusive operating agreements with online game developers, under which we gain exclusive rights to certain online games and, in addition to offering these games on our own websites, we also have the option of sub-licensing these games to other websites to diversify our game revenue stream. Exclusive arrangements of this type require more initial capital investment in acquiring operating rights for the games, and involve more business risks, such as risks associated with the potential failure to find appropriate sub-licensees for the games or failure to engage a sufficient number of game players to make these games profitable for us. If we are unable to generate sufficient revenues in these markets to obtain sufficient return for our investments, our future results of operations and financial condition could be materially and adversely affected.

In addition, to operate online games in China, a variety of permits and approvals are required. For example, publication of online games, music works and other internet publishing activities are subject to the regulation of the GAPPRFT, which requires operators of online games and other internet publishing services to obtain an internet publication license prior to providing any such services. See “Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Regulation—Regulation on internet publication.” Shenzhen Xunlei has obtained an internet publication license for the publication of internet games. However, Shenzhen Xunlei’s internet publication license does not include the publication of music works and other internet publishing activities. Applicable regulations also specify that each online game must be screened and approved in advance by GAPPRFT before it is allowed to be launched online. Also, an imported online game should be approved in advance by MOC before its initial operation while a domestically developed online game should be filed with MOC within 30 days of commencing operations. See “Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Regulation—Regulation on online games.” We license from online game developers and operate MMOGs, and we share profits with these developers. We require developers of certain online games to obtain the requisite approvals from GAPPRFT, and make the filings with MOC, for relevant online games. As of the date of this annual report, most of our online games currently in operation exclusively by us have obtained GAPPRFT’s approval and completed filing with MOC. However, we cannot assure you that we or such online game developers can obtain GAPPRFT’s approvals or complete the filings with MOC for all the games in a timely manner or at all. If we or such online game developers fail to obtain these licenses, approvals or filings in a timely manner or at all, the relevant authority may challenge the commercial operation of our online games and determine that we are in violation of the relevant laws and regulations regarding online games, it would have the power to, among other things, levy fines against us, confiscate our income generated from operation of our online games and require us to discontinue our online game business.

We operate in a competitive market and may not be able to compete effectively.

We face significant competition in different areas of our business. For example, although we currently have a leading presence in the China market for cloud acceleration products and services, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to maintain our leading position in the future. We may face competition from leading Chinese internet companies, such as Tencent and Baidu, if they start to allocate resources and focus on the development in this business sector. With more entrants into the cloud acceleration business, aggressive price cutting by competitors may result in the loss of our existing subscribers. We may have to take actions to retain our user base and attract more subscribers at significant cost, including upgrading and developing existing and new products and services in order to meet users' changing demand, but we cannot assure you that such efforts will succeed, especially given the tightening control over internet content by the Chinese government. See “—If we fail to keep up with the technological development in the internet industry and users' changing demand, our business, financial condition and results of operations may be materially and adversely affected.” and “—Regulation and censorship of information disseminated over the internet in China have adversely affected our business and may continue to adversely affect our business, and we may be liable for the digital media content on our platform.”

Some of our existing or potential competitors have a longer operating history and significantly greater financial resources than we do, and in turn may be able to attract and retain more users and advertisers. Our competitors may compete with us in a variety of ways, including by conducting brand promotions and other marketing activities and making acquisitions. If we are not able to effectively compete in any aspect of our business, which would have a material and adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Undetected programming errors or flaws or failure to maintain effective customer service could harm our reputation or decrease market acceptance of our services, particularly our resource discovery network, which would materially and adversely affect our results of operations.

Our programs may contain programming errors that may only become apparent after their release, especially in terms of upgrades to, for example, Xunlei Accelerator or cloud acceleration subscription services. We receive user feedback in connection with programming errors affecting their user experience from time to time, and such errors may also come to our attention during our monitoring process. However, we cannot assure you that we will be able to detect and resolve all these programming errors effectively or in a timely manner. Undetected programming errors or defects may adversely affect user experience and cause our users to stop using our services and our advertisers to reduce their use of our services, any of which could materially and adversely affect our business and results of operations.

Advertisements we display may subject us to penalties and other administrative actions.

Under PRC advertising laws and regulations, advertisement channels such as us are obligated to monitor the advertising content they display to ensure that such content is true, accurate and in full compliance with applicable laws and regulations. PRC advertising laws and regulations set forth certain content requirements for advertisements in the PRC including, among other things, prohibitions on false or misleading content, superlative wording, socially destabilizing content or content involving obscenities, superstition, violence, discrimination or infringement of the public interest. In April 2015, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress issued the amended Advertisement Law, which took effect on September 1, 2015, to further strengthen the supervision and management of advertisement services. Pursuant to the Advertisement Law, any advertisement that contains false or misleading information to deceive or mislead consumers shall be deemed false advertising. Furthermore, the Advertisement Law explicitly stipulates detailed requirements for the content of several different kinds of advertisement, including advertisements for medical treatment, pharmaceuticals, medical instruments, health food, alcoholic drinks, education or training, products or services having an expected return on investment, real estate, pesticides, feed and feed additives, and some other agriculture-related advertisement. On July 4, 2016, SAIC issued the Interim Measures for the Administration of Internet Advertising to specifically regulate internet advertising activities. See "Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Regulation on advertising business" for details. In providing advertising services, we are required to review the supporting documents provided to us by advertising agencies or advertisers for the relevant advertisements and verify that the content of the advertisements complies with applicable PRC laws and regulations. Prior to distributing advertisements that are subject to government censorship and approval, we are obligated to verify that such censorship has been performed and approval has been obtained. Violation of these regulations may result in penalties, including fines, confiscation of advertising income, orders to eliminate the effect of illegal advertisement. In circumstances involving serious violations, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, or the SAIC, or its local branches may revoke violators' licenses or permits for their advertising business operations.

To fulfill these monitoring functions specified by the PRC laws and regulations set forth above, we employ several measures. Almost all of our advertising contracts require that advertising agencies or advertisers that contract with us: (i) ensure the advertising content provided to us is true, accurate and in full compliance with PRC laws and regulations; (ii) ensure such content does not infringe any third-party's rights and interests; and (iii) indemnify us for any liabilities arising from such advertising content. In addition, a team of our employees reviews all advertising materials to ensure the content does not violate relevant laws and regulations before displaying such advertisements. However, we cannot assure you that all the content contained in such advertisements is true and accurate as required by the advertising laws and regulations, especially given the uncertainty in the application of these laws and regulations. If we are found to be in violation of applicable PRC advertising laws and regulations in the future, we may be subject to penalties and our reputation may be harmed, which may have a material and adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We face risks relating to third parties' billing and payment systems.

The billing and payment systems of third parties such as online third-party payment processors help us maintain accurate records of payments of sales proceeds by certain subscribers and other paying users and collect such payments. Our business and results of operations could be adversely affected if these third parties fail to accurately account for or calculate the revenues generated from the sales of our products and services. Moreover, if there are security breaches or failure or errors in the payment process of these third parties, user experience may be affected and our business results may be negatively impacted.



The channels for the payment of our services and products typically comprise third-party online system, fixed phone line and mobile phone payment. A significant portion of the payments have been made through our online payment system since 2014. Although we have been able to control our payment handling fees by encouraging our subscribers to use the third-party online system which charges relatively lower levels of handling fees compared with other payment channels, the subscribers may change their habits to make payments through mobile phones or other distribution channels with higher costs. If more and more subscribers use the mobile phone as their payment channels and the cost remains unchanged or even increases in the future, or if we fail to minimize the associated payment handling fees, our results of operations may be adversely affected.

We also do not have control over the security measures of our third-party payment service providers, and security breaches of the online payment systems that we use could expose us to litigation and possible liability for failing to secure confidential customer information and could, among other things, damage our reputation and the perceived security of all of the online payment systems we use. In addition, there may be billing software errors that would damage customer confidence in these payment systems. If any of the above were to occur, we may lose paying users and users may be discouraged from purchasing our products, which may have an adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

We have granted, and may continue to grant, share awards under our share incentive plans, which may result in increased share-based compensation expenses.

We have granted share-based compensation awards, including share options and restricted shares, to various employees, key personnel and other non-employees to incentivize performance and align their interests with ours. We adopted a share incentive plan on December 30, 2010, or the 2010 Plan, a second share incentive plan on November 18, 2013, as supplemented, or the 2013 Plan, and a third share incentive plan on April 24, 2014, as supplemented, or the 2014 plan. Under the 2010 Plan, we are authorized to issue a maximum number of 26,822,828 common shares of our company upon exercise of the options or other types of awards (excluding an aggregate of 8,410,200 shares already issued to the directors who are our founders upon exercise of founder options, which were not granted pursuant to the 2010 Plan). As of March 31, 2017, options to purchase a total of 1,421,345 common shares of our company were outstanding under the 2010 Plan. As of March 31, 2017, 2,608,740 restricted shares (excluding those forfeited) have been granted to certain executive officers and other employees under the 2010 Plan. Under the 2013 Plan, we are authorized to issue a maximum number of 9,073,732 restricted shares to members of our senior management, counsel or consultant to our company. Under the 2014 Plan, we are authorized to issue a maximum number of 14,195,412 restricted shares to our directors, officers, employees and advisors or consultants to our company. As of March 31, 2017, 7,153,305 restricted shares (excluding those forfeited) have been granted to certain executive officers and other employees under the 2013 Plan, and 11,492,600 restricted shares (excluding those forfeited) have been granted to certain executive officers and other employees under the 2014 Plan. Our unrecognized share-based compensation expenses relating to the restricted shares granted under each of the 2013 Plan and the 2014 Plan amounted to US\$10.0 million and US\$11.9 million, respectively, as of March 31, 2017. See “Item 6. Directors, Senior Management and Employees—B. Compensation—Share incentive plans” for details.

We will issue the equivalent number of common shares upon the vesting and exercise of these options. The amount of these expenses is based on the fair value of the share-based compensation award we granted. The expenses associated with share-based compensation have affected our net income and may reduce our net income in the future, and any additional securities issued under share-based compensation schemes will dilute the ownership interests of our shareholders, including holders of our ADSs. We believe the granting of incentive awards is of significant importance to our ability to attract and retain key personnel and employees, and we will continue to grant stock options, restricted shares and other share awards to employees in the future. As a result, our expenses associated with share-based compensation may increase, which may have an adverse effect on our results of operations.

The continuing and collaborative efforts of our senior management and key employees are crucial to our success, and our business may be harmed if we were to lose their services.

Our success depends on the continual efforts and services of Mr. Sean Shenglong Zou, our co-founder, chairman and chief executive officer, and other members of our senior management team. If however, one or more of our executives or other key personnel are unable or unwilling to continue to provide services to us, we may not be able to find suitable replacements easily or at all. Competition for management and key personnel in our industry is intense and the pool of qualified candidates is limited. We may not be able to retain the services of our executives or key personnel, or attract and retain experienced executives or key personnel in the future. If any of our executive officers or key employees joins a competitor or forms a competing company, we may lose advertisers, know-how and key professionals and staff members. Each of our executive officers has entered into an employment agreement (including a non-compete provision) with us. However, if any dispute arises between us and our executives or key employees, these agreements may not be enforceable in China, where these executives and key employees reside, in light of uncertainties with China's legal system.

In addition, while we often grant additional incentive shares to management personnel and other key employees after their hire dates, the initial grants are usually much larger than subsequent grants. Employees may be more likely to leave us after their initial incentive share grant fully vests, especially if the value of the incentive shares have significantly appreciated in value relative to the exercise price. If any member of our senior management team or other key personnel leaves our company, our ability to successfully operate our business and execute our business strategy could be impaired.

We may not be able to effectively identify or pursue targets for acquisitions or investment, even if we complete such transactions, we may be unable to successfully integrate the acquired businesses into, or realize anticipated benefits to, our business, and our equity investments may suffer impairment loss as a result of unsatisfactory target company performance, each of which may adversely affect our growth and results of operations.

We have in the past and may in the future selectively acquire or invest in other businesses, including those that complement our existing business. We may not, however, be able to identify suitable targets for acquisitions or investments in the future. Even if we are able to identify suitable candidates, we may be unable to complete a transaction on terms commercially acceptable to us. If we fail to identify appropriate candidates or complete the desired transactions, our growth may be impeded. If the target companies we invest in produce unsatisfactory results, we may suffer impairment loss in our equity investment.

Even if we complete the desired acquisitions or investment, such acquisitions and investment may expose us to new operational, regulatory, market and geographic risks and challenges, including:

- diversion of our management's attention and other resources from our existing business;
- our inability to maintain the key business relationships and the reputation of the businesses we acquire or invest in;
  - our inability to retain key personnel of the acquired or invested company;
- uncertainty of entry into markets in which we have limited or no prior experience and in which competitors have stronger market positions;
- failure to comply with laws and regulations as well as industry or technical standards of the markets into which we expand;
- our dependence on unfamiliar affiliates and partners of the companies we acquire or invest in;
  - unsatisfactory performance of the businesses we acquire or invest in;
- our responsibility for the liabilities associated with the businesses we acquire, including those that we may not anticipate;

- goodwill impairment risks associated with the businesses that we acquire;
- our inability to integrate acquired technology into our business and operations;
- our inability to develop and maintain a successful business model and to monetize and generate revenues from the businesses we acquire; and
- our inability to maintain internal standards, controls, procedures and policies.

Any of these events could disrupt our ability to manage our business. These risks could also result in our failure to derive the intended benefits of the acquisitions or investments, and we may be unable to recover our investment in such initiatives or may have to recognize impairment charges as a result.

Furthermore, the financing and payment arrangements we use in any acquisition could have a negative impact on you as an investor, because if we issue shares in connection with an acquisition, your holdings could be diluted. Moreover, if we take on significant debt to finance such acquisitions, we would incur additional interest expenses, which would divert resources from our working capital and potentially have a material adverse impact on our results of operations.

Strategic alliances, investments or acquisitions may have a material and adverse effect on our business, reputation, results of operations and financial condition.

We may enter into strategic alliances with various third parties to further our business purposes from time to time. Strategic alliances with third parties could subject us to a number of risks, including risks associated with sharing proprietary information, non-performance by the counterparty, and an increase in expenses incurred in establishing new strategic alliances, any of which may materially and adversely affect our business. We may have little ability to control or monitor their actions. To the extent the third parties suffer negative publicity or harm to their reputations from events relating to their business, we may also suffer negative publicity or harm to our reputation by virtue of our association with such third parties.

We have in the past invested in or acquired additional assets, technologies or businesses that are complementary to our existing business. For example, we acquired Kuaipan Personal and Kansunzi in September 2014. If we are presented with appropriate opportunities, we may continue to do so in the future. Investments or acquisitions and the subsequent integration of new assets and businesses into our own would require significant attention from our management and could result in a diversion of resources from our existing business, which in turn could have an adverse effect on our business operations. The costs of identifying and consummating investments and acquisitions may be significant. We

may also incur significant expenses in obtaining necessary approvals from relevant government authorities in China and elsewhere in the world. In addition, investments and acquisitions could result in the use of substantial amounts of cash, potentially dilutive issuances of equity securities and exposure to potential unknown liabilities or legal risks of the acquired business. The cost and duration of integrating newly acquired businesses could also materially exceed our expectations. Any such negative developments could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our business, financial condition and results of operations, as well as our ability to obtain financing, may be adversely affected by the downturn in the global or Chinese economy.

The industries in which we operate, including the mobile internet industry, may be affected by economic downturns. For example, a prolonged slowdown in the world economy, including in the Chinese economy, may lead to a reduced amount of mobile internet advertising, which could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, certain of our products and services may be viewed as discretionary by our users, who may choose to discontinue or reduce spending on such products and services during an economic downturn. In such an event, our ability to retain existing users and increase new users will be adversely affected, which would in turn negatively impact our business and results of operations.

Moreover, a slowdown or disruption in the global or Chinese economy may have a material and adverse impact on financings available to us. The weakness in the economy could erode investor confidence, which constitutes the basis of the credit market. The unstable economy affecting the financial markets and banking system may significantly restrict our ability to obtain financing in the capital markets or from financial institutions on commercially reasonable terms, or at all. Although we are uncertain about the extent to which the global financial and economic fluctuations and slowdown of Chinese economy may impact our business in the short-term and long-term, there is a risk that our business, results of operations and prospects would be materially and adversely affected by any global economic downturn or disruption or slowdown of Chinese economy.

Our operations depend on the performance of the internet infrastructure in China.

The successful operation of our business depends on the performance of the internet infrastructure and telecommunications networks in China. In China, almost all access to the internet is maintained through state-owned telecommunications operators under the administrative control and regulatory supervision of the MIIT. Moreover, we have entered into contracts with various subsidiaries of a limited number of telecommunications service providers in each province for network-related services. On the one hand, if the internet industry in China does not grow as quickly as expected, our business and operations will be negatively affected. We have limited access to alternative networks or services in the event of disruptions, failures or other problems with China's internet infrastructure or the telecommunications networks provided by telecommunications service providers. In addition, our network and website regularly serve a large number of users and advertisers. With the expansion of our business, we may be required to upgrade our technology and infrastructure to keep up with the increasing traffic on our website. However, we have no control over the costs of the services provided by telecommunications service providers. If the prices we pay for telecommunications and internet services rise significantly, our results of operations may be materially and adversely affected. If internet access fees or other charges to internet users increase, our user traffic may decline and our business may be harmed. On the other hand, if the internet industry grows faster than expected and we cannot react to the market demand in a timely manner in terms of our research and development effort, the user experience and the attractiveness of our services may be harmed, which will negatively impact our business and results of operations.

If we fail to implement and maintain an effective system of internal control over financial reporting, we may be unable to accurately report our financial results or prevent fraud or fail to meet our reporting obligations, and investor confidence in our company and the market price of our ADSs may be adversely affected.

We are subject to reporting obligations under the U.S. securities laws. The SEC, as required by Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, adopted rules requiring every public company to include a management report on the company's internal control over financial reporting in its annual report, which contains management's assessment of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting. However, we were not subject to the requirement to provide attestation by our independent registered public accounting firm on effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting for the year ended December 31, 2016 as we qualified as an "emerging growth company," as defined

in the JOBS Act, as of December 31, 2016. Once we cease to be an “emerging growth company,” our independent registered public accounting firm must attest to and report on the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting, unless we qualify for other exemptions.

Our management has concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was ineffective as of December 31, 2016 due to one material weakness, one significant deficiency and other control deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that were identified as of December 31, 2014, which were not remediated as of December 31, 2016. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the company's annual or interim financial statements will not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. The material weakness is related to a lack of accounting resources in U.S. GAAP and SEC reporting requirements, and the significant deficiency identified related to a lack of documented comprehensive U.S. GAAP accounting manuals and financial reporting procedures and the lack of related implementation controls. See “Item 15. Controls and Procedures.” Any failure to achieve and maintain effective internal control over financial reporting could result in the loss of investor confidence in the reliability of our consolidated financial statements, which in turn could harm our business and negatively impact the market price of our ADSs. Furthermore, we have incurred and anticipate that we will continue to incur considerable costs, management time and other resources in an effort to comply with Section 404 and other requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.



We have limited business insurance coverage and any uninsured business disruption may have an adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Insurance companies in China currently do not offer as extensive an array of insurance products as insurance companies do in more developed economies. We have limited business liability or disruption insurance to cover our operations. Any uninsured occurrence of business disruption may result in our incurring substantial costs and the diversion of resources, which could have an adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

We face risks related to natural disasters such as earthquakes and health epidemics and other outbreaks, which could significantly disrupt our operations.

Our operations may be vulnerable to interruption and damage from natural and other types of catastrophes, including earthquakes, fire, floods, hail, windstorms, severe winter weather (including snow, freezing water, ice storms and blizzards), environmental accidents, power loss, communications failures, explosions, man-made events such as terrorist attacks and similar events. Due to their nature, we cannot predict the incidence, timing and severity of catastrophes. If any such catastrophe or extraordinary event occurs in the future, our ability to operate our business could be seriously impaired. Such events could make it difficult or impossible for us to deliver our services and products to our users and could decrease demand for our products. As we do not carry property insurance and significant time could be required to resume our operations, our financial position and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected in the event of any major catastrophic event.

In addition, our business could be adversely affected by the outbreak of pandemics such as influenza A (H1N1), avian influenza, H7N9 or severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). Any occurrence of these pandemic diseases or other adverse public health developments in China or elsewhere could severely disrupt our staffing or the staffing of our business partners, including our advertisers, and otherwise reduce the activity levels of our work force and the work force of our business partners, causing a material and adverse effect on our business operations.

#### Risks related to our corporate structure

If the PRC government finds that the agreements that establish the structure for operating our businesses in China do not comply with PRC governmental restrictions on foreign investment in internet-related business and foreign investors' mergers and acquisition activities in China, or if these regulations or the interpretation of existing regulations change in the future, we could be subject to severe penalties or be forced to relinquish our interests in those operations.

Current PRC laws and regulations place certain restrictions on foreign ownership of companies that engage in internet businesses, including the provision of online game and online advertising services. For example, foreign investors' equity interests in value-added telecommunication service providers may not exceed 50%. In addition, foreign investors are prohibited from investing in or operating entities engaged in, among others, internet cultural operating service (including online game operation services), internet news service, and online transmission of audio-visual programs service. We are a Cayman Islands company and Giganology (Shenzhen) Ltd., or Giganology Shenzhen and Xunlei Computer (Shenzhen) Co., Ltd., or Xunlei Computer, our PRC subsidiaries, are considered foreign-invested enterprises. Accordingly, neither of these two PRC subsidiaries is eligible to provide value-added telecommunication services and the aforementioned internet related services in China. As a result, we conduct our operations in China principally through contractual arrangements among Giganology Shenzhen and Shenzhen Xunlei and its shareholders. Shenzhen Xunlei or its subsidiaries hold the licenses and permits necessary to conduct our resource discovery network, online advertising, online games, cloud computing and related businesses in China, and Shenzhen Xunlei hold various operating subsidiaries that conduct a majority of our operations in China. Our contractual arrangements with Shenzhen Xunlei and its shareholders enable us to exercise effective control over Shenzhen Xunlei and Shenzhen Xunlei's operating subsidiaries and hence treat them as our consolidated entities and consolidate their results. For a detailed discussion of these contractual arrangements, see "Item 4. Information on the Company—C. Organizational Structure."

We cannot assure you, however, that we will be able to enforce these contracts. Although we have been advised by Zhong Lun Law Firm, our PRC legal counsel, that each contract under these contractual arrangements with Shenzhen Xunlei and its shareholders is valid, binding and enforceable under current PRC laws and regulations, we cannot assure you that the PRC government would agree that these contractual arrangements comply with PRC licensing, registration or other regulatory requirements, with existing policies or with requirements or policies that may be adopted in the future. PRC laws and regulations governing the validity of these contractual arrangements are uncertain and the relevant government authorities have broad discretion in interpreting these laws and regulations. If the PRC government determines that we do not comply with applicable laws and regulations, it could revoke our business and operating licenses, require us to discontinue or restrict our operations, restrict our right to collect revenues, block our website, require us to restructure our operations, impose additional conditions or requirements with which we may not be able to comply, or take other regulatory or enforcement actions against us that could be harmful to our business. The imposition of any of these penalties would result in a material and adverse effect on our ability to conduct our business.

We rely on contractual arrangements with our variable interest entity in China and its shareholders for our operations, which may not be as effective as direct ownership in providing operational control the variable interest entity and its subsidiaries.

Since PRC laws restrict foreign equity ownership in companies engaged in internet business in China, we rely on contractual arrangements with Shenzhen Xunlei, our VIE, and the shareholders of Shenzhen Xunlei to operate our business in China. If we had direct ownership of Shenzhen Xunlei, we would be able to exercise our rights as a shareholder to effect changes in the board of directors of Shenzhen Xunlei, which in turn could effect changes at the management level, subject to any applicable fiduciary obligations. However, under the current contractual arrangements, we rely on Shenzhen Xunlei and its shareholders' performance of their contractual obligations to exercise effective control. In addition, our operating contract with Shenzhen Xunlei has a term of ten years, which is subject to Giganology Shenzhen's unilateral termination right and may be extended as requested by Giganology Shenzhen. In general, none of Shenzhen Xunlei or its shareholders may terminate the contracts prior to the expiration date. However, the shareholders of Shenzhen Xunlei may not act in the best interests of our company or may not perform their obligations under these contracts, including the obligation to renew these contracts when their initial contract term expires. Such risks exist throughout the period in which we intend to operate our business through the contractual arrangements with Shenzhen Xunlei. We may replace the shareholders of Shenzhen Xunlei at any time pursuant to our contractual arrangements with Shenzhen Xunlei and its shareholders. However, if any dispute relating to these contracts remains unresolved, we will have to enforce our rights under these contracts through the operations of PRC law and courts and therefore will be subject to uncertainties in the PRC legal system. See “—Any failure by Shenzhen Xunlei or its shareholders to perform their obligations under our contractual arrangements with them may have a material adverse effect on our business” and “Item 4. Information on the Company—C. Organizational Structure.” Therefore, these contractual arrangements may not be as effective as direct ownership in providing us with control over Shenzhen Xunlei.

Any failure by Shenzhen Xunlei or its shareholders to perform their obligations under our contractual arrangements with them may have a material adverse effect on our business.

Shenzhen Xunlei or its shareholders may fail to take certain actions required for our business or follow our instructions despite their contractual obligations to do so. If they fail to perform their obligations under their respective agreements with us, we may have to rely on legal remedies under PRC law, including seeking specific performance or injunctive relief, which may not be effective. As of the date of this annual report, Mr. Sean Shenglong Zou, our co-founder, chairman and chief executive officer, owned 76% of the equity interest in Shenzhen Xunlei, our variable interest entity. Under the equity pledge agreement among Giganology Shenzhen and the shareholders of Shenzhen Xunlei, as amended, the shareholders of Shenzhen Xunlei have pledged all of their equity interests in Shenzhen Xunlei to Giganology Shenzhen to guarantee Shenzhen Xunlei and its shareholders' performance of their respective obligations under the related contractual arrangements. In addition, the shareholders of Shenzhen Xunlei have completed the registration of equity pledge under the equity pledge agreement with the competent governmental authority. If any of the shareholders of Shenzhen Xunlei, especially Mr. Sean Shenglong Zou due to his significant equity interest in Shenzhen Xunlei, fails to perform his or her obligations under the contractual arrangements, we may have to enforce these agreements to transfer his or her equity interests to another appointee of Giganology Shenzhen.

Moreover, the exercise of call options under the equity interests disposal agreement, the intellectual properties purchase option agreement and certain other contractual arrangements will be subject to the review and approval of competent governmental authorities and incur additional expenses.

All of these contractual arrangements are governed by PRC law and provide for the resolution of disputes through arbitration in the PRC. Accordingly, these contracts would be interpreted in accordance with PRC law and any disputes would be resolved in accordance with PRC legal procedures. The legal environment in the PRC is not as developed as in certain other jurisdictions, such as the United States. As a result, uncertainties in the PRC legal system could limit our ability to enforce these contractual arrangements, which may make it difficult to exert effective control over our variable interest entity and its subsidiaries, and our ability to conduct our business may be adversely affected.

Contractual arrangements with our variable interest entity may result in adverse tax consequences to us.

Under applicable PRC tax laws and regulations, arrangements and transactions among related parties may be subject to audit or scrutiny by the PRC tax authorities within ten years after the taxable year when the arrangements or transactions are conducted. See “Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Regulations—Regulation on tax—PRC enterprise income tax.” We could face material and adverse tax consequences if the PRC tax authorities were to determine that the contractual arrangements among Giganology Shenzhen, our wholly-owned subsidiary in China, and Shenzhen Xunlei, our variable interest entity in China and its shareholders, as well as the intellectual property framework agreement between Xunlei Computer and Shenzhen Xunlei were not entered into on an arm’s-length basis and therefore constituted unfavorable transfer pricing arrangements. Unfavorable transfer pricing arrangements could, among other things, result in an upward adjustment on taxation, and the PRC tax authorities may impose interest on late payments on Shenzhen Xunlei, for the adjusted but unpaid taxes. Our results of operations may be materially and adversely affected if Shenzhen Xunlei’s tax liabilities increase significantly or if it is required to pay interest on late payments.

The shareholders of Shenzhen Xunlei may have potential conflicts of interest with us, which may materially and adversely affect our business.

Sean Shenglong Zou, Hao Cheng, Fang Wang, Jianming Shi and Guangzhou Shulian Information Investment Co., Ltd. are shareholders of Shenzhen Xunlei. We provide no incentives to the shareholders of Shenzhen Xunlei for the purpose of encouraging them to act in our best interests in their capacity as the shareholders of Shenzhen Xunlei. We may replace the shareholders of Shenzhen Xunlei at any time pursuant to the currently effective equity option agreements between us and these shareholders.

As a director and/or executive officer of our company, Mr. Zou and Mr. Cheng each has a duty of loyalty and care to us under Cayman Islands law. We are not aware that other publicly listed companies in China with a similar corporate and ownership structure as ours have brought conflicts of interest claims against the shareholders of their respective variable interest entities. However, we cannot assure you that when conflicts arise, the shareholders of Shenzhen Xunlei will act in the best interests of our company or that conflicts will be resolved in our favor. If we cannot resolve any conflicts of interest or disputes between us and the shareholders of Shenzhen Xunlei, we would have to rely on

legal proceedings, which may be expensive, time-consuming and disruptive to our operations. There is also substantial uncertainty as to the outcome of any such legal proceedings.

We may rely principally on dividends and other distributions on equity paid by our PRC subsidiaries to fund any cash and financing requirements we may have. Any limitation on the ability of Giganology Shenzhen and Xunlei Computer to pay dividends to us could have a material adverse effect on our ability to conduct our business.

We are a holding company and we may rely principally on dividends and other distributions on equity paid by our wholly-owned PRC subsidiaries including Giganology Shenzhen and Xunlei Computer, for our cash and financing requirements, including the funds necessary to pay dividends and other cash distributions to our shareholders and service any debt we may incur. If Giganology Shenzhen incurs debt on its own behalf in the future, the instruments governing the debt may restrict its ability to pay dividends or make other distributions to us. In addition, the PRC tax authorities may require us to adjust our taxable income under the contractual arrangements Giganology Shenzhen currently has in place with Shenzhen Xunlei, our variable interest entity, as well as the intellectual property framework agreement between Xunlei Computer and Shenzhen Xunlei, in a manner that would materially and adversely affect its ability to pay dividends and other distributions to us. As of December 31, 2016, we had cash or cash equivalents of approximately RMB507.6 million (US\$73.2 million) and US\$28.8 million located within the PRC, of which RMB280.2 million (US\$40.4 million) is held by Shenzhen Xunlei and its subsidiaries. The transfer of all the cash or cash equivalents is subject to PRC government's restrictions on currency conversion.

Under PRC laws and regulations, Giganology Shenzhen and Xunlei Computer, as wholly foreign-owned enterprises in the PRC, may pay dividends only out of its accumulated after-tax profits as determined in accordance with PRC accounting standards and regulations. In addition, wholly foreign-owned enterprises such as Giganology Shenzhen and Xunlei Computer are required to set aside at least 10% of their accumulated after-tax profits each year, if any, to fund certain statutory reserve funds, until the aggregate amount of such a fund reaches 50% of their respective registered capital. At their discretion, wholly foreign-owned enterprises may allocate a portion of their after-tax profits based on PRC accounting standards to staff welfare and bonus funds. These reserve funds and staff welfare and bonus funds are not distributable as cash dividends. Any limitation on the ability of Giganology Shenzhen and Xunlei Computer to pay dividends or make other distributions to us could materially and adversely limit our ability to grow, make investments or acquisitions that could be beneficial to our business, pay dividends, or otherwise fund and conduct our business. See also “—Risks related to doing business in China—Our global income may be subject to PRC taxes under the PRC EIT Law, which may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.”

PRC regulation of loans to, and direct investment in, PRC entities by offshore holding companies and governmental control of currency conversion may restrict or prevent us from making loans to our PRC subsidiaries and variable interest entity and its subsidiaries or making additional capital contributions to our PRC subsidiaries, which may materially and adversely affect our liquidity and our ability to fund and expand our business.

We may (i) make additional capital contributions to our PRC subsidiaries, (ii) establish new PRC subsidiaries and make capital contributions to these new PRC subsidiaries, (iii) make loans to our PRC subsidiaries or variable interest entity and its subsidiaries, or (iv) acquire offshore entities with business operations in China in an offshore transaction. However, most of these uses are subject to PRC regulations and approvals. For example:

capital contributions to our PRC subsidiaries, whether existing ones or newly established ones, must complete the record-filing procedures by the Ministry of Commerce or its local counterparts;

loans by us to our PRC subsidiaries, which are foreign-invested enterprises, to finance their respective activities cannot exceed statutory limits and must be registered with the PRC State Administration of Foreign Exchange, or SAFE, or its local branches; and

loans by us to our variable interest entity, which is a domestic PRC entity, must be approved by the National Development and Reform Commission and must also be registered with SAFE or its local branches.

On August 29, 2008, SAFE promulgated the Circular on the Relevant Operating Issues Concerning the Improvement of the Administration of the Payment and Settlement of Foreign Currency Capital of Foreign Invested Enterprises, or SAFE Circular No. 142, regulating the conversion by a foreign-invested enterprise of foreign currency registered capital into Renminbi by restricting how the converted Renminbi may be used. SAFE Circular No. 142 provides that the Renminbi capital converted from foreign currency registered capital of a foreign-invested enterprise may only be

used for purposes within the business scope approved by the applicable governmental authority and unless otherwise provided by law, such Renminbi capital may not be used for equity investments within the PRC. SAFE also strengthened its oversight of the flow and use of the Renminbi capital converted from foreign currency registered capital of a foreign-invested company. The use of such Renminbi capital may not be altered without SAFE approval, and such Renminbi capital may not in any case be used to repay Renminbi loans if the proceeds of such loans have not been used. Violations of SAFE Circular No. 142 could result in severe monetary or other penalties. On March 30, 2015, SAFE issued SAFE Circular No. 19, which took effect and replaced SAFE Circular No. 142 as of June 1, 2015. Although SAFE Circular No. 19 allows for the use of RMB converted from the foreign currency denominated capital for equity investments in the PRC, the restrictions will continue to apply as to foreign-invested enterprises' use of the converted RMB for purposes beyond the business scope, for the entrusted loans or for the inter-company RMB loans. We expect that if we convert the net proceeds we received from our initial public offering into Renminbi pursuant to SAFE Circular No. 142 and SAFE Circular No. 19, our use of Renminbi funds will be for purposes within the approved business scope of our PRC subsidiaries. The business scopes of Giganology Shenzhen and Xunlei Computer include "technical services," which we believe permits Giganology Shenzhen to purchase or lease servers and other equipment for its own technical data and research and to provide operational support to our variable interest entity and its subsidiaries.



However, we may not be able to use such Renminbi funds to make equity investments in certain entities in the PRC through our PRC subsidiaries.

We may lose the ability to use and enjoy assets held by our variable interest entity and its subsidiaries that are important to the operation of our business if any of such entities goes bankrupt or becomes subject to a dissolution or liquidation proceeding.

As part of our contractual arrangements with our variable interest entity, our variable interest entity and its subsidiaries hold certain assets that are important to the operation of our business, including patents for the proprietary technology and related domain names and trademarks. If any of our variable interest entity or its subsidiaries goes bankrupt and all or part of its assets become subject to liens or rights of third-party creditors, we may be unable to continue some or all of our business activities, which could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. Under the contractual arrangements, our variable interest entity and its subsidiaries may not, in any manner, sell, transfer, mortgage or dispose of their assets or legal or beneficial interests in the business without our prior consent. If our variable interest entity undergoes a voluntary or involuntary liquidation proceeding, the unrelated third-party creditors may claim rights to some or all of these assets, thereby hindering our ability to operate our business, which could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Substantial uncertainties exist with respect to the enactment timetable, interpretation and implementation of draft PRC Foreign Investment Law and how it may impact the viability of our current corporate structure, corporate governance and business operations.

The MOFCOM published a discussion draft of the proposed Foreign Investment Law in January 2015 aiming to, upon its enactment, replace the trio of existing laws regulating foreign investment in China, namely, the Sino-foreign Equity Joint Venture Enterprise Law, the Sino-foreign Cooperative Joint Venture Enterprise Law and the Wholly Foreign-invested Enterprise Law, together with their implementation rules and ancillary regulations. The draft Foreign Investment Law embodies an expected PRC regulatory trend to rationalize its foreign investment regulatory regime in line with prevailing international practice and the legislative efforts to unify the corporate legal requirements for both foreign and domestic investments. The MOFCOM is currently soliciting comments on this draft and substantial uncertainties exist with respect to its enactment timetable, interpretation and implementation. The draft Foreign Investment Law, if enacted as proposed, may materially impact the viability of our current corporate structure, corporate governance and business operations in many aspects.

Among other things, the draft Foreign Investment Law expands the definition of foreign investment and introduces the principle of “actual control” in determining whether the investment in China is made by a foreign investor or a PRC domestic investor. The draft Foreign Investment Law specifically provides that an entity established in China but

“controlled” by foreign investors will be treated as a foreign investor, whereas an entity set up in a foreign jurisdiction would nonetheless be, upon market entry clearance by the MOFCOM or its local branches, treated as a PRC domestic investor provided that the entity is “controlled” by PRC entities and/or citizens. In this connection, “control” is broadly defined in the draft law to cover, among others, having the power to exert decisive influence, via contractual or trust arrangements, over the subject entity’s operations, financial matters or other key aspects of business operations. If the foreign investment falls within a “negative list”, to be separately issued by the State Council in the future, market entry clearance by the MOFCOM or its local branches would be required. Otherwise, all foreign investors may make investments on the same terms as Chinese investors without being subject to additional approval from the government authorities as mandated by the existing foreign investment legal regime.

The “variable interest entity” structure, or VIE structure, has been adopted by many PRC-based companies, including us, to obtain necessary licenses and permits in the industries that are currently subject to foreign investment restrictions in China. See “—Risks Related to Our Corporate Structure—If the PRC government finds that the agreements that establish the structure for operating our businesses in China do not comply with PRC governmental restrictions on foreign investment in internet-related business and foreign investors’ mergers and acquisition activities in China, or if these regulations or the interpretation of existing regulations change in the future, we could be subject to severe penalties or be forced to relinquish our interests in those operations,” and “Item 4. Information on the Company—C. Organizational Structure.” Under the draft Foreign Investment Law, if a variable interest entity is ultimately controlled by a foreign investor via contractual arrangement, it would be deemed as a foreign investment. Accordingly, for the companies with a VIE structure in an industry category that is on the “negative list”, the VIE structure may be deemed legitimate only if the ultimate controlling person(s) is/ are of PRC nationality (either PRC individual, or PRC government and its branches or agencies) Conversely, if the actual controlling person(s) is/are of foreign nationalities, then the variable interest entities will be treated as foreign invested enterprises and any operation in the industry category on the “negative list” without market entry clearance may be considered as illegal.

As of the date of this annual report, over 50% of the voting power of our issued and outstanding share capital is controlled by PRC nationals. However, the draft Foreign Investment Law has not taken a position on what actions will be taken with respect to the existing companies with a VIE structure, whether or not these companies are controlled by Chinese parties, although a few possible options were proffered to solicit comments from the public on this point. Under these options, a company with VIE structure that is engaged in a business set forth in a “negative list” to be published at the time of the enactment of the new Foreign Investment Law has either the option or obligation to disclose its corporate structure to the authorities, while the authorities, after reviewing the ultimate control structure of the company, may either permit the company to continue its business by maintaining the VIE structure (when the company is deemed ultimately controlled by PRC citizens), or require the company to dispose of its businesses and/or VIE structure based on consideration of the particular circumstances involved. Moreover, it is uncertain whether the value-added telecommunication services and other internet related services, which our VIE provides, will be subject to the foreign investment restrictions or prohibitions set forth in the “negative list” to be issued. If the enacted version of the Foreign Investment Law and the final “negative list” mandate further actions, such as MOFCOM market entry clearance or certain restructuring of our corporate structure and operations, to be completed by companies with existing VIE structure like us, we will face substantial uncertainties as to whether these actions can be timely completed, or at all, and our business and financial condition may be materially and adversely affected.

The draft Foreign Investment Law, if enacted as proposed, may also materially impact our corporate governance practice and increase our compliance costs. For instance, the draft Foreign Investment Law imposes stringent ad hoc and periodic information reporting requirements on foreign investors and the applicable foreign invested entities. Aside from investment implementation report and investment amendment report that are required at each investment and alteration of investment specifics, an annual report is mandatory, and large foreign investors meeting certain criteria are required to report on a quarterly basis. Any company found to be non-compliant with the information reporting obligations may potentially be subject to fines and/or administrative or criminal liabilities, and the persons directly responsible may be subject to criminal liabilities.

Risks related to doing business in China

Changes in China's economic, political or social conditions or government policies could have a material adverse effect on our business and operations.

Substantially all of our assets and operations are located in China. Accordingly, our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may be influenced to a significant degree by political, economic and social conditions in China generally and by continued economic growth in China as a whole.

The Chinese economy differs from the economies of most developed countries in many respects, including the level of government involvement, level of development, growth rate, control of foreign exchange and allocation of resources. Although the Chinese government has implemented measures emphasizing the utilization of market forces for economic reform, the reduction of state ownership of productive assets, and the establishment of improved corporate governance in business enterprises, a substantial portion of productive assets in China is still owned by the government. In addition, the Chinese government continues to play a significant role in regulating industry development by imposing industrial policies. The Chinese government also exercises significant control over China's economic growth through allocating resources, controlling payment of foreign currency-denominated obligations, setting monetary policy, and providing preferential treatment to particular industries or companies, such as those qualified to operate in free trade zones designated in certain major cities in China.

While the Chinese economy has experienced significant growth over the past decades, growth has been uneven, both geographically and among various sectors of the economy and the rate of growth has been slowing. The Chinese government has implemented various measures to encourage economic growth and guide the allocation of resources. Some of these measures may benefit the overall Chinese economy, but may have a negative effect on us. For example, our financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected by government control over capital investments or changes in tax regulations. In addition, in the past the Chinese government has implemented certain measures, including interest rate increases, to control the pace of economic growth.

These measures may cause decreased economic activity in China, which may adversely affect our business and operating results.

Regulation and censorship of information disseminated over the internet in China have adversely affected our business and may continue to adversely affect our business, and we may be liable for the digital media content on our platform.

China has strict regulations governing telecommunication service providers, internet and wireless access and the distribution of news and other information. Under these regulations, internet content providers, or ICPs, like us are prohibited from posting or displaying over the internet or wireless networks content that, among other things, violates PRC laws and regulations. If an ICP finds that prohibited content is transmitted on its website or stored in its system, it must terminate the transmission of such information or delete such information immediately and keep records and report to relevant authorities. Failure to comply with these requirements could lead to the revocation of the VATS License, which is required for our ICP services and other required licenses and the closure of the offending websites, and cloud network operators or website operators may also be held liable for prohibited content displayed on, retrieved from or linked to such network or website. However, efforts to constantly self-monitor in order to comply with these requirements could negatively impact user experience and lead to a decline in user numbers.

The Chinese government intensified its efforts to remove inappropriate content disseminated over the internet and wireless networks, and our efforts to monitor content on our platform and website led to a decline in subscriber numbers in the past few years. In April 2014, the Chinese government initiated a campaign to enhance and enforce its scrutiny on internet content in China, particularly for pornographic content, and various websites were subject to penalties and in some cases outright suspension of website operations. We regularly conducted internal compliance investigation to ensure that the content transmitted by our products is in compliance with the standards set out by the authorities. To date, we have deleted millions of cached files, blocked over one million digital files and added thousands of key words to our automatic keyword filtration system. As we continued our compliance efforts in response to the government's internet content campaign, we saw a recovery trend in the number of total subscribers in 2016 and the first quarter of 2017. In addition, we permitted temporary suspension of services by about 257,000 existing subscribers as of the end of 2016. We may experience still further decline in user and subscriber numbers as we continue in our efforts to comply with the rules and regulations of the Chinese government.

Uncertainties with respect to the PRC legal system could adversely affect us.

We conduct our business primarily through our PRC subsidiaries and variable interest entity and its subsidiaries in China. Our operations in China are governed by PRC laws and regulations. Giganology Shenzhen is a foreign-invested enterprise and is subject to laws and regulations applicable to foreign investment in China and, in particular, laws applicable to foreign-invested enterprises. The PRC legal system is a civil law system based on written statutes. Unlike the common law system, prior court decisions under the civil law system may be cited for reference but have limited precedential value.

Over the past three decades, the PRC government has enacted legislation that has significantly enhanced the protections afforded to various forms of foreign investments in China. However, China has not developed a fully integrated legal system, and recently enacted laws and regulations may not sufficiently cover all aspects of economic activities in China. In particular, the interpretation and enforcement of these laws and regulations involve uncertainties. Since PRC administrative and court authorities have significant discretion in interpreting and implementing statutory and contractual terms, it may be difficult to evaluate the outcome of administrative and court proceedings and the level of legal protection we enjoy. These uncertainties may affect our judgment on the relevance of legal requirements and our ability to enforce our contractual or tort rights. In addition, the regulatory uncertainties may be exploited through unmerited or frivolous legal actions or threats in attempts to extract payments or benefits from us.

Furthermore, the PRC legal system is based in part on government policies and internal rules, some of which are not published on a timely basis or at all and may have retroactive effect. As a result, we may not be aware of our violation of any of these policies and rules until sometime after the violation. In addition, any administrative and court proceedings in China may be protracted, resulting in substantial costs and diversion of resources and management attention.

We believe that our patents, trademarks, trade secrets, copyrights, and other intellectual property are important to our business. We rely on a combination of patent, trademark, copyright and trade secret protection laws in China and other jurisdictions, as well as confidentiality procedures and contractual provisions to protect our intellectual property and our brand. Protection of intellectual property rights in China may not be as effective as in the United States or other jurisdictions, and as a result, we may not be able to adequately protect our intellectual property rights, which could adversely affect our revenues and competitive position.

We may be adversely affected by the complexity, uncertainties and changes in PRC regulations of internet-related business and companies.

The PRC government extensively regulates the internet industry, including foreign ownership of, and the licensing and permit requirements pertaining to, companies in the internet industry. These internet-related laws and regulations are relatively new and evolving, and their interpretation and enforcement involve significant uncertainty. As a result, in certain circumstances it may be difficult to determine what actions or omissions may be deemed to be in violations of applicable laws and regulations. Issues, risks and uncertainties relating to PRC regulation of the internet business include, but are not limited to, the following:

We only have contractual control over our resource discovery network and cloud computing. We do not own the resource discovery network and cloud computing due to the restriction of foreign investment in businesses providing value-added telecommunication services in China, including internet content provision or CDN services. This may significantly disrupt our business, subject us to sanctions, compromise enforceability of related contractual arrangements, or have other harmful effects on us.

There are uncertainties relating to the regulation of the internet business in China, including evolving licensing practices and the requirement for real-name registrations. This means that permits, licenses or operations at some of our companies may be subject to challenge, or we may fail to obtain permits or licenses that may be deemed necessary for our operations or we may not be able to obtain or renew certain permits or licenses. If we fail to maintain any of these required licenses or approvals, we may be subject to various penalties, including fines and discontinuation of or restriction on our operations. Any such disruption in our business operations may have a material and adverse effect on our results of operations. For example, we are providing mobile applications to mobile device users free of charge and we do not believe we, as an internet content provider, need to obtain a separate operating license in addition to the VATS License, which we have already obtained. Although we believe this is in

line with the current market practice, there can be no assurance that we will not be required to apply for an operating license for our mobile applications in the future and if so, we may not qualify or succeed in obtaining such license.

Intensified government regulation of the internet industry in China could restrict our ability to maintain or increase our user base. For example, in January 2011, MIIT and seven other PRC central government authorities jointly issued a circular entitled Implementation Scheme regarding Parental Guardianship Project for Minors Playing Online Games, under which online game operators are required to adopt various measures to maintain a system to communicate with the parents or other guardians of minors playing their online games and are required to monitor the online game activities of minors and suspend the accounts of minors if so required by their parents or guardians. These restrictions could limit our ability to increase our online game business among minors.



New laws and regulations may be promulgated that will regulate internet activities, including online video, online games and online advertising businesses. If these new laws and regulations are promulgated, additional licenses may be required for our operations. If our operations do not comply with these new regulations after they become effective, or if we fail to obtain any licenses required under these new laws and regulations, we could be subject to penalties.

In June 2010, MOC promulgated the Provisional Measures on the Administration of Online Games, or the Online Game Measures, which became effective on August 1, 2010. The Online Game Measures provide that any entity engaging in online game operation activities should obtain an Online Culture Operating Permit and must meet certain requirements such as a minimum amount of the registered capital. Online game developers are generally involved in the purchase of servers and bandwidth, the control and management of game data, the maintenance of game systems and certain other maintenance tasks in our operation of online games. There exist uncertainties on MOC's interpretation and implementation of these measures. If MOC determines in the future that such Online Culture Operating Permit or relevant requirement apply to the online game developers for their involvement in the online game operations, we may have to terminate our revenue sharing arrangements with certain unqualified online game developers and may even be subject to various penalties, which may negatively impact our results of operations and financial condition.

The interpretation and application of existing PRC laws, regulations and policies and possible new laws, regulations or policies relating to the internet industry have created substantial uncertainties regarding the legality of existing and future foreign investments in, and the businesses and activities of, internet businesses in China, including our business. For example, in September 2009, GAPPRFT and the National Office of Combating Pornography and Illegal Publications jointly published a notice, or Circular 13, which expressly prohibits foreign investors from participating in online game operating business via wholly owned, equity joint venture or cooperative joint venture investments in China, and from controlling and participating in such businesses directly or indirectly through contractual or technical support arrangements. Other government agencies with substantial regulatory authority over online game operations and foreign investment entities in China, such as MIIT and MOC, did not join GAPPRFT in issuing Circular 13. While Circular 13 is applicable to us and our online game business on an overall basis, to date, GAPPRFT has not issued any interpretation of Circular 13 and, to our knowledge, has not taken any enforcement action under Circular 13 against any company that relies on contractual arrangements with affiliated entities to operate online games in China. We cannot assure you that we have obtained all the permits or licenses required for conducting our business in China or will be able to maintain our existing licenses or obtain any new licenses required under any new laws or regulations. There are also risks that we may be found to violate the existing or future laws and regulations given the uncertainty and complexity of China's regulation of internet business.

Subject to interpretation by the relevant authorities, it may not be possible for us to determine in all cases the type of content that could result in liability for us, especially if the Chinese government continues to maintain or strengthen its heightened scrutiny on internet content in China. We may not be able to control or restrict all of the digital media content generated or placed on our network by our users, despite our attempt to monitor and filter such content. To the extent that regulatory authorities find any portion of our content on our network or website objectionable or requiring any license or permit that we have not obtained, they may require us to limit or eliminate the dissemination of such information or otherwise curtail the nature of such content, and keep records and report to relevant authorities, which may reduce our user traffic. In addition, we may be subject to significant penalties for violations of those regulations

arising from prohibited content displayed on, retrieved from or uploaded to our network or website, including a suspension or shutdown of our operations. The enforcement activities may be intensified in connection with any ongoing government campaigns. In addition, while we maintain a regular internal monitoring and compliance protocol, we cannot ascertain that we would not fall foul of any changing or new government regulations or standards in the future. If we receive a public warning from the relevant government authorities or our licenses for acceleration services are revoked, our reputation would be harmed and if the operation of our acceleration services or other products is suspended or shut down entirely or in part, our revenues and results of operation may be materially and adversely affected. Furthermore, the internal compliance investigation and the removal of content may have a material impact on our cloud acceleration services, which in turn may lead to a decrease in users and have an adverse effect on our revenues and results of operations. To date, we have not been able to quantify the magnitude and extent of such impact.

We may be sued by our game players and held liable for losses of virtual assets by such players, which may negatively affect our reputation and business, financial condition and results of operations.

While playing online games or participating in other online activities, players acquire and accumulate some virtual assets, such as special equipment and other accessories. Such virtual assets may be important to online game players and have monetary value and, in some cases, are sold for actual money. In practice, virtual assets can be lost for various reasons, often through unauthorized use of the game account of one user by other users and occasionally through data loss caused by a delay of network service, a network crash or hacking activities.

Currently, there is no PRC law or regulation specifically governing virtual asset property rights. As a result, there is uncertainty as to who the legal owner of virtual assets is, whether and how the ownership of virtual assets is protected by law, and whether an operator of online games such as us would have any liability to game players or other interested parties (whether in contract, tort or otherwise) for loss of such virtual assets. Based on recent PRC court judgments, the courts have typically held online game operators liable for losses of virtual assets by game players, and ordered online game operators to return the lost virtual items to game players or pay damages and losses. In case of a loss of virtual assets, we may be sued by our game players or users and held liable for damages, which may negatively affect our reputation and business, financial condition and results of operations.

Non-compliance with the laws or regulations governing virtual currency may result in penalties that could have a material adverse effect on our online games business and results of operations.

The issuance and use of “virtual currency” in the PRC has been regulated since 2007 in response to the growth of the online games industry in China. In January 2007, the Ministry of Public Security, MOC, MIIT and GAPPRFT jointly issued a circular regarding online gambling which has implications for the use of virtual currency. To curtail online games that involve online gambling, as well as address concerns that virtual currency could be used for money laundering or illicit trade, the circular (a) prohibits online game operators from charging commissions in the form of virtual currency in relation to winning or losing of games; (b) requires online game operators to impose limits on use of virtual currency in guessing and betting games; (c) bans the conversion of virtual currency into real currency or property; and (d) prohibits services that enable game players to transfer virtual currency to other players. On June 4, 2009, MOC and the Ministry of Commerce jointly issued a notice regarding strengthening the administration of online game virtual currency, or the Virtual Currency Notice. Furthermore, MOC issued the Online Game Measures in June 2010, which provides, among other things, that virtual currency issued by online game operators may only be used to exchange its own online game products and services and may not be used to pay for the products and services of other entities.

We issue virtual currency to our clients for them to purchase various items to be used in online games and premium services. Although we believe we do not offer online game virtual currency transaction services, we cannot assure you

that the PRC regulatory authorities will not take a view contrary to ours. For example, certain virtual items we issue to users based on in-game milestones they achieve or time spent playing games are transferable and exchangeable for our virtual currency or the other virtual items we issue to users. If the PRC regulatory authorities deem such transfer or exchange a virtual currency transaction, then we may be deemed to be engaging in the issuance of virtual currency and we may also be deemed to be providing transaction platform services that enable the trading of such virtual currency. Simultaneously engaging in both of these activities is prohibited under the Virtual Currency Notice. In that event, we may be required to cease either our virtual currency issuance activities or such deemed “transaction service” activities and may be subject to certain penalties, including mandatory corrective measures and fines. The occurrence of any of the foregoing could have a material adverse effect on our online games business and results of operations.

In addition, the Virtual Currency Notice prohibits online game operators from setting game features that involve the direct payment of cash or virtual currency by players for the chance to win virtual items or virtual currency based on random selection through a lucky draw, wager or lottery. The notice also prohibits game operators from issuing currency to game players through means other than purchases with legal currency. Although we believe that we are generally in compliance with such requirements and have taken adequate measures to prevent any of the above-mentioned prohibited activities, we cannot assure you that the PRC regulatory authorities will not take a view contrary to ours and deem such feature as prohibited by the Virtual Currency Notice, thereby subjecting us to penalties, including mandatory corrective measures and fines. The occurrence of any of the foregoing could materially and adversely affect our online games business and results of operations.

Intensified government regulation of the internet industry in China could restrict our ability to maintain or increase our user base.

The PRC government has, in recent years, intensified regulation on various aspects of the internet industry in China. For example, in January 2011, MIIT and seven other PRC central government authorities jointly issued a circular entitled Implementation Scheme regarding Parental Guardianship Project for Minors Playing Online Games, under which online game operators are required to adopt various measures to maintain a system to communicate with the parents or other guardians of minors playing their online games and are required to monitor the online game activities of minors and suspend the accounts of minors if so required by their parents or guardians. These restrictions could limit our ability to increase our online game business among minors. See “Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Regulation—Regulation on anti-fatigue system, real-name registration system and parental guardianship project.” Failure to implement these restrictions, if detected by the relevant government agencies, may result in fines and other penalties for us, including the shutting down of our online games operations and license revocation. Furthermore, if these restrictions were expanded to apply to adult game players in the future, our online games business could be materially and adversely affected.

Further, the PRC government has tightened its regulation of internet cafes in recent years. In particular, a large number of unlicensed internet cafes have been closed. The PRC government has imposed higher capital and facility requirements for the establishment of internet cafes. Furthermore, the PRC government’s policy, which encourages the development of a limited number of national and regional internet cafe chains and discourages the establishment of independent internet cafes, may slow down the growth of internet cafes in China. In June 2002, the Ministry of Culture, together with other government authorities, issued a joint notice, and in February 2004, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce issued another notice, suspending the issuance of new internet cafe licenses. In May 2007, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce reiterated its position not to register any new internet cafes in 2007. In 2008, 2009 and 2010, the Ministry of Culture, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce and other relevant government authorities, individually or jointly, issued several notices that provide various ways to strengthen the regulation of internet cafes, including investigating and punishing internet cafes that accept minors, cracking down on internet cafes without sufficient and valid licenses, limiting the total number of internet cafes and approving internet cafes within the planning made by relevant authorities, screening unlawful and adverse games and websites, and improving the coordination of regulation over internet cafes and online games. Although currently most of our users access and consume our products and services from their own devices, if internet cafes become one of the main venues for our users to access our website or online games, any reduction in the number, or any slowdown in the growth, of internet cafes in China could limit our ability to maintain or increase our user base.

In addition, the Chinese government has in recent years intensified its efforts to remove inappropriate content disseminated over the internet and wireless networks. In April 2014, the Chinese government initiated a campaign to enhance and enforce its scrutiny over internet content in China, particularly for pornographic content, and various websites were subject to penalties and in some cases outright suspension of website operations. As we implemented programs to comply with these regulations, we saw our subscriber numbers decline and may see more subscriber or user decline in the future. See “—Regulation and censorship of information disseminated over the internet in China,

recently strengthened, have adversely affected our business and may continue to adversely affect our business, and we may be liable for the digital media content on our platform.”

Fluctuations in exchange rates may have a material adverse effect on your investment.

Fluctuation in the value of the Renminbi may have a material adverse effect on the value of your investment. The value of the Renminbi against the U.S. dollar and other currencies may fluctuate and is affected by, among other things, changes in political and economic conditions. In July 2005, the PRC government changed its decade-old policy of pegging the value of the Renminbi to the U.S. dollar, and the RMB appreciated more than 20% against the U.S. dollar over the following three years. Between July 2008 and June 2010, this appreciation halted and the exchange rate between the RMB and the U.S. dollar remained within a narrow band. Since June 2010, the RMB has fluctuated against the U.S. dollar, at times significantly and unpredictably. It is difficult to predict how market forces or PRC or U.S. government policy may impact the exchange rate between the RMB and the U.S. dollar in the future.

Our financial statements are expressed in U.S. dollars, and most of our assets, costs and expenses are denominated in Renminbi. Substantially all of our revenues were denominated in Renminbi. Significant revaluation of the RMB may have a material and adverse effect on your investment. For example, to the extent that we need to convert U.S. dollars into RMB for our operations, appreciation of the RMB against the U.S. dollar would have an adverse effect on the RMB amount we would receive from the conversion. Conversely, if we decide to convert our RMB into U.S. dollars for the purpose of making payments for dividends on our ordinary shares or ADSs or for other business purposes, appreciation of the U.S. dollar against the RMB would have a negative effect on the U.S. dollar amount available to us. In addition, appreciation or depreciation in the value of the RMB relative to U.S. dollars would affect our financial results reported in U.S. dollar terms regardless of any underlying change in our business or results of operations.

Very limited hedging options are available in China to reduce our exposure to exchange rate fluctuations. To date, we have not entered into any hedging transactions in an effort to reduce our exposure to foreign currency exchange risk. While we may decide to enter into hedging transactions in the future, the availability and effectiveness of these hedges may be limited and we may not be able to adequately hedge our exposure or at all. In addition, our currency exchange losses may be magnified by PRC exchange control regulations that restrict our ability to convert RMB into foreign currency.

Governmental control of currency conversion may limit our ability to utilize our revenues effectively and affect the value of your investment.

The PRC government imposes controls on the convertibility of the Renminbi into foreign currencies and, in certain cases, the remittance of currency out of China. We receive substantially all of our revenues in Renminbi. Under our current corporate structure, our Cayman Islands holding company primarily relies on dividend payments from our wholly-owned PRC subsidiaries, to fund any cash and financing requirements we may have. Under existing PRC foreign exchange regulations, payments of current account items, including profit distributions, interest payments and trade and service-related foreign exchange transactions, can be made in foreign currencies without prior SAFE approval by complying with certain procedural requirements. However, approval from or registration with appropriate government authorities is required where the Renminbi is to be converted into foreign currency and remitted out of China to pay capital expenses such as the repayment of loans denominated in foreign currencies. Specifically, under the existing exchange restrictions, without prior approval of SAFE, cash generated from the operations of our PRC subsidiaries in China may be used to pay dividends by our PRC subsidiaries to our company and pay employees of our PRC subsidiaries who are located outside China in a currency other than the Renminbi. With prior approval from SAFE, cash generated from the operations of our PRC subsidiaries and affiliated entity may be used to pay off debt in a currency other than the Renminbi owed by our PRC subsidiaries and variable interest entity and its subsidiaries to entities outside China, and make other capital expenditures outside China in a currency other than the Renminbi. If any of our variable interest entity or its subsidiaries liquidates, the proceeds from the liquidation of its assets may be used outside of the PRC or be given to investors who are not PRC nationals. The PRC government may at its discretion restrict access to foreign currencies for current account transactions in the future. If the foreign exchange control system prevents us from obtaining sufficient foreign currencies to satisfy our foreign currency demand, we may not be able to pay dividends in foreign currencies to our shareholders, including holders of our ADSs.





Certain regulations in the PRC may make it more difficult for us to pursue growth through acquisitions.

Among other things, the M&A Rules and certain regulations and rules concerning mergers and acquisitions established additional procedures and requirements that could make merger and acquisition activities by foreign investors more time-consuming and complex. For example, the M&A Rules require that the Ministry of Commerce be notified in advance of any change-of-control transaction in which a foreign investor takes control of a PRC domestic enterprise or a foreign company with substantial PRC operations, if certain thresholds under the Provisions on Thresholds for Prior Notification of Concentrations of Undertakings, issued by the State Council on August 3, 2008, are triggered. Moreover, the Anti-Monopoly Law promulgated by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on August 30, 2007 and took effect on August 1, 2008 requires that transactions which are deemed concentrations and involve parties with specified turnover thresholds (i.e., during the previous fiscal year, (i) the total global turnover of all operators participating in the transaction exceeds RMB10 billion and at least two of these operators each had a turnover of more than RMB400 million within China, or (ii) the total turnover within China of all the operators participating in the concentration exceeded RMB2 billion, and at least two of these operators each had a turnover of more than RMB400 million within China) must be cleared by the Ministry of Commerce before they can be completed. In addition, according to the Implementing Rules Concerning Security Review on the Mergers and Acquisitions by Foreign Investors of Domestic Enterprises issued by the Ministry of Commerce in August 2011, mergers and acquisitions by foreign investors involved in an industry related to national security are subject to strict review by the Ministry of Commerce. These rules also prohibit any transactions attempting to bypass such security review, including by controlling entities through contractual arrangements. We believe that our business is not in an industry related to national security. However, we cannot preclude the possibility that the Ministry of Commerce or other government agencies may publish interpretations contrary to our understanding or broaden the scope of such security review in the future. Although we have no current definitive plans to make any acquisitions, we may elect to grow our business in the future in part by directly acquiring complementary businesses in China. Complying with the requirements of these regulations to complete such transactions could be time-consuming, and any required approval processes, including obtaining approval from the Ministry of Commerce, may delay or inhibit our ability to complete such transactions.

PRC regulations relating to the establishment of offshore SPVs by PRC residents may subject our PRC resident beneficial owners or our PRC subsidiaries to liability or penalties, limit our ability to inject capital into our PRC subsidiaries, limit our PRC subsidiaries' ability to increase their registered capital or distribute profits to us, or may otherwise adversely affect us.

SAFE has promulgated several regulations that require PRC residents and PRC corporate entities to register with local branches of SAFE in connection with their direct or indirect offshore investment activities. These regulations apply to our shareholders who are PRC residents and may apply to any offshore acquisitions that we make in the future. SAFE promulgated the Circular on Relevant Issues Concerning Foreign Exchange Control on Domestic Residents' Offshore Investment and Financing and Roundtrip Investment through Special Purpose Vehicles, or SAFE No. Circular No. 37, on July 4, 2014. SAFE Circular No. 37 requires PRC residents to register with local branches of SAFE in connection with their direct establishment or indirect control of an offshore entity, for the purpose of overseas investment and financing, with such PRC residents' legally owned assets or equity interests in domestic enterprises or offshore assets

or interests, referred to in SAFE Circular No. 37 as a “special purpose vehicle.” The term “control” under SAFE Circular No. 37 is broadly defined as the operation rights, beneficiary rights or decision-making rights acquired by the PRC residents in the offshore special purpose vehicles or PRC companies by such means as acquisition, trust, proxy, voting rights, repurchase, convertible bonds or other arrangements. SAFE Circular No. 37 further requires amendment to the registration in the event of any changes with respect to the basic information of the special purpose vehicle, such as changes in a PRC resident individual shareholder, name or operation period; or any significant changes with respect to the special purpose vehicle, such as increase or decrease of capital contributed by PRC individuals, share transfer or exchange, merger, division or other material event. If the shareholders of an offshore holding company who are PRC residents do not complete their registration with the local SAFE branches, the PRC subsidiaries of the offshore holding company may be prohibited from distributing their profits and proceeds from any reduction in capital, share transfer or liquidation to the offshore company, and the offshore company may be restricted in its ability to contribute additional capital to its PRC subsidiaries. Moreover, failure to comply with SAFE registration and amendment requirements described above could result in liability under PRC law for evasion of applicable foreign exchange restrictions. In addition, on February 13, 2015, SAFE issued SAFE Circular No. 13, which took effect on June 1, 2015. SAFE Circular No. 13 delegates to the qualified banks the authority to register all PRC residents’ investment in “special purpose vehicle” pursuant to SAFE Circular No. 37, except that those PRC residents who have failed to comply with SAFE Circular No. 37 will continue to fall within the jurisdiction of the relevant local SAFE branches and must continue to make their supplementary registration applications with the such local SAFE branches.

We have requested PRC residents holding direct or indirect interest in our company to our knowledge to make the necessary applications, filings and amendments as required under SAFE regulations. Mr. Sean Shenglong Zou, Mr. Hao Cheng and Ms. Fang Wang have completed the registration and amendment registration with the local SAFE branch in relation to all our previous private financings and their subsequent ownership changes as required under the SAFE regulations and Ms. Fang Wang is in the process of applying for the relevant amendment registrations with the local SAFE branch in relation to the ownership changes in her holding vehicle of our company. However, we may not be informed of the identities of all the PRC residents holding direct or indirect interest in our company, and we cannot provide any assurances that these PRC residents will comply with our request to make or obtain any applicable registrations or comply with other requirements required by SAFE regulations. The failure or inability of our PRC resident shareholders to make any required registrations or comply with other requirements under SAFE regulations may subject such PRC residents or our PRC subsidiaries to fines and legal sanctions and may also limit our ability to raise additional financing and contribute additional capital into or provide loans to (including using the proceeds from our initial public offering) our PRC subsidiaries, limit our PRC subsidiaries’ ability to pay dividends or otherwise distribute profits to us, or otherwise adversely affect us.

Furthermore, because of the uncertainty over how the SAFE regulations will be interpreted and implemented, and how SAFE will apply them to us, we cannot predict how these regulations will affect our business operations or future strategies. For example, we may be subject to a more stringent review and approval process with respect to our foreign exchange activities, such as remittance of dividends and foreign-currency-denominated borrowings, which may adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations. In addition, if we decide to acquire a PRC domestic company, we cannot assure you that we or the owners of such company, as the case may be, will be able to obtain the necessary approvals or complete the necessary filings and registrations required by the foreign exchange regulations. This may restrict our ability to implement our acquisition strategy and could adversely affect our business and prospects.

Failure to comply with PRC regulations regarding the registration requirements for employee stock ownership plans or share option plans may subject the PRC plan participants or us to fines and other legal or administrative sanctions.

In December 2006, the People's Bank of China promulgated the Administrative Measures of Foreign Exchange Matters for Individuals, which set forth the respective requirements for foreign exchange transactions by individuals (both PRC or non-PRC citizens) under either the current account or the capital account. On February 15, 2012, SAFE promulgated the Notices on Issues Concerning the Foreign Exchange Administration for Domestic Individuals Participating in Stock Incentive Plans of Overseas Publicly-Listed Companies, or the Stock Option Rules, which replaced the Application Procedures of Foreign Exchange Administration for Domestic Individuals Participating in Employee Stock Ownership Plans or Stock Option Plans of Overseas Publicly-Listed Companies issued by SAFE on March 28, 2007. Under the Stock Option Rules and other relevant rules and regulations, PRC residents who participate in stock incentive plan in an overseas publicly-listed company are required to register with SAFE or its local branches and complete certain other procedures. Participants of a stock incentive plan who are PRC residents must retain a qualified PRC agent, which could be a PRC subsidiary of such overseas publicly listed company or another qualified institution selected by such PRC subsidiary, to conduct the SAFE registration and other procedures with respect to the stock incentive plan on behalf of its participants. Such participants must also retain an overseas entrusted institution to handle matters in connection with their exercise of stock options, the purchase and sale of corresponding stocks or interests and fund transfers. In addition, the PRC agent is required to amend the SAFE registration with respect to the stock incentive plan if there is any material change to the stock incentive plan, the PRC agent or the overseas entrusted institution or other material changes. We and our PRC employees who have been granted stock options are subject to these regulations. Failure of our PRC stock option holders to complete their SAFE registrations may subject these PRC residents to fines and legal sanctions and may also limit our ability to contribute additional capital into our PRC subsidiaries, limit our PRC subsidiaries' ability to distribute dividends to us, or otherwise materially adversely affect our business.

We face uncertainties with respect to indirect transfers of equity interests in PRC resident enterprises by their non-PRC holding companies.

The State Administration of Taxation, or the SAT, has issued several rules and notices to tighten its scrutiny over acquisition transactions in recent years, including the Notice on Strengthening Administration of Enterprise Income Tax for Share Transfers by Non-PRC Resident Enterprises issued in December 2009, or SAT Circular 698, the Notice on Several Issues Regarding the Income Tax of Non-PRC Resident Enterprises issued in March 2011, or SAT Circular 24, and the Notice on Certain Corporate Income Tax Matters on Indirect Transfer of Properties by Non-PRC Resident Enterprises issued in February 2015, or SAT Circular 7. Pursuant to these rules and notices, if a non-PRC resident enterprise indirectly transfers PRC taxable properties, which refer to properties of an establishment or a place in the PRC, real estate properties in the PRC or equity investments in a PRC tax resident enterprise, by disposing of equity interest in an overseas non-public holding company without a reasonable commercial purpose and resulting in the avoidance of PRC enterprise income tax, such indirect transfer should be deemed a direct transfer of PRC taxable properties, and gains derived from such indirect transfer may be subject to the PRC withholding tax at a rate of up to 10%. SAT Circular 7 sets out several factors to be taken into consideration by tax authorities in determining whether an indirect transfer has a reasonable commercial purpose. An indirect transfer satisfying all the following criteria will be deemed to lack reasonable commercial purpose and be taxable under PRC law: (i) 75% or more of the equity value of the intermediary enterprise being transferred is derived directly or indirectly from the PRC taxable properties; (ii) at any time during the one-year period before the indirect transfer, 90% or more of the asset value of the intermediary enterprise (excluding cash) is comprised directly or indirectly of investments in the PRC, or 90% or more of its income is derived directly or indirectly from the PRC; (iii) the functions performed and risks assumed by the intermediary enterprise and any of its subsidiaries that directly or indirectly hold the PRC taxable properties are limited and are insufficient to prove their economic substance; and (iv) the foreign tax payable on the gain derived from the indirect transfer of the PRC taxable properties is lower than the potential PRC enterprise income tax on the direct transfer of such assets. Nevertheless, the indirect transfer falling into the safe harbor available under SAT Circular 7 may not be subject to PRC tax and the scope of the safe harbor includes qualified group restructuring, public market trading and tax treaty exemptions.

Under SAT Circular 7, the entities or individuals obligated to pay the transfer price to the transferor are the withholding agents and must withhold the PRC enterprise income tax from the transfer price. If the withholding agent fails to do so, the transferor should report to and pay the PRC enterprise income tax to the PRC tax authorities. In the event that neither the withholding agent nor the transferor fulfills their obligations under SAT Circular 7, apart from imposing penalties such as late payment interest on the transferor, the tax authority may also hold the withholding agent liable and impose a penalty of 50% to 300% of the unpaid tax on the withholding agent. The penalty imposed on the withholding agent may be reduced or waived if the withholding agent has submitted the relevant materials in connection with the indirect transfer to the PRC tax authorities in accordance with SAT Circular 7.

However, there is a lack of clear statutory interpretation of these rules and notices, we face uncertainties on the reporting and consequences on future private equity financing transactions, share exchange or other transactions involving the transfer of shares in our company by investors that are non-PRC resident enterprises, or sale or purchase of shares in other non-PRC resident companies or other taxable assets by us. Our Cayman Islands holding company and other non-resident enterprises in our company may be subject to filing obligations or may be taxed if our Cayman Islands holding company and other non-resident enterprises in our company are transferors in such transactions, and may be subject to withholding obligations if our Cayman Islands holding company and other non-resident enterprises in our company are transferees in such transactions. For the transfer of shares in our Cayman Islands holding company by investors that are non-PRC resident enterprises, our PRC subsidiaries may be requested to assist in the filing under the rules and notices. As a result, we may be required to expend valuable resources to comply with these rules and notices or to request the relevant transferors from whom we purchase taxable assets to comply, or to establish that our Cayman Islands holding company and other non-resident enterprises in our company should not be taxed under these rules and notices, which may have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. There is no assurance that the tax authorities will not apply the rules and notices to our offshore restructuring transactions where non-PRC resident investors were involved if any of such transactions were determined by the tax authorities to lack reasonable commercial purpose. As a result, we and our non-PRC resident investors may be at risk of being taxed under these rules and notices and may be required to comply with or to establish that we should not be taxed under such rules and notices, which may have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations or such non-PRC resident investors' investments in us. We have conducted acquisition transactions in the past and may conduct additional acquisition transactions in the future. We cannot assure you that the PRC tax authorities will not, at their discretion, adjust any capital gains and impose tax return filing obligations on us or require us to provide assistance for the investigation of PRC tax authorities with respect thereto. Heightened scrutiny over acquisition transactions by the PRC tax authorities may have a negative impact on potential acquisitions we may pursue in the future.

Discontinuation or reduction of any of the preferential tax treatments or other government incentives available to us in the PRC, or imposition of any additional PRC taxes could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

The Chinese government has provided various tax incentives to our subsidiaries in China. These incentives include reduced enterprise income tax rates. For example, under the PRC Enterprise Income Tax Law which became effective in January 2008, or the EIT Law, the statutory enterprise income tax rate is 25%. The EIT Law permits companies established before March 16, 2007 to continue to enjoy their existing tax incentives, adjusted by certain transitional phase-out rules set forth in the Circular to Implementation of the Transitional Preferential Policies for the Enterprise Income Tax promulgated by the State Council on December 26, 2007, and provides tax incentives, subject to various qualification criteria. Pursuant to the circular, the income tax rates for us and our wholly-owned subsidiary established in the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone before March 16, 2007 were 24% for 2011 and are 25% starting from 2012. The EIT Law and its implementation rules also permit qualified “high and new technology enterprises,” or HNTEs, to enjoy a preferential enterprise income tax rate of 15% upon filing with relevant tax authorities. The qualification as a HNTE generally has a valid term of three years and the renewal of such qualification is subject to review by the relevant authorities in China. Shenzhen Xunlei, our variable interest entity, holds a HNTE certificate that is valid for three years from September 2014. In addition, the PRC government has provided various incentives to accredited “software enterprise” incorporated in the PRC in order to encourage development of the software industry. In December 2013, Shenzhen Xunlei obtained the certificate of the Key Software Enterprise for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2014, which enabled Shenzhen Xunlei to enjoy the preferential tax rate of 10% for the years of 2013 and 2014. In September 2014, Shenzhen Xunlei renewed the certificate of the Hi-Tech Enterprise for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017, which enables Shenzhen Xunlei to enjoy the preferential tax rate of 15% for the years of 2015, 2016 and 2017. Xunlei Computer has been accredited as a “software enterprise” and become profitable since 2013 and thus enjoys a two-year income tax exemption for 2013 and 2014 and a 50% income tax reduction for 2015, 2016 and 2017. Moreover, local governments have adopted incentives to encourage the development of technology companies. Xunlei Computer and Shenzhen Xunlei currently benefit from the tax incentives. See “Item 5. Operating and Financial Overview and Prospects—A. Operating Results—Taxation.”

Preferential tax treatment and other government incentives granted to Xunlei Computer and Shenzhen Xunlei by the local governmental authorities are subject to review and may be adjusted or revoked at any time. The discontinuation or reduction of any preferential tax treatment currently available to us and our wholly-owned PRC subsidiaries will cause our effective tax rate to increase, which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. We cannot assure you that we will be able to maintain our current effective tax rate in the future.

Our global income may be subject to PRC taxes under the PRC EIT Law, which may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

Under the EIT Law and its implementation rules, an enterprise established outside of the PRC with a “de facto management body” within the PRC is considered a resident enterprise and will be subject to the enterprise income tax

at the rate of 25% on its global income. The implementation rules define the term “de facto management bodies” as “establishments that carry out substantial and overall management and control over the manufacturing and business operations, personnel, accounting, properties, etc. of an enterprise.” On April 22, 2009, the SAT issued a circular, or SAT Circular 82, which provides certain specific criteria for determining whether the “de facto management body” of a PRC-controlled enterprise that is incorporated offshore is located in China. See “Item 4. Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—Regulation—Regulations on Tax—PRC enterprise income tax.” Although SAT Circular 82 applies only to offshore enterprises controlled by PRC enterprises or PRC enterprise groups and not to those controlled by PRC individuals or foreigners, the determining criteria set forth in the SAT Circular 82 may reflect the SAT’s general position on how the “de facto management body” test should be applied in determining the tax resident status of all offshore enterprises.

According to SAT Circular 82, an offshore incorporated enterprise controlled by a PRC enterprise or a PRC enterprise group will be regarded as a PRC tax resident by virtue of having its “de facto management body” in China and will be subject to PRC enterprise income tax on its worldwide income only if all of the following conditions set forth in the SAT Circular 82 are met: (i) the primary location of the day-to-day operational management is in the PRC; (ii) decisions relating to the enterprise’s financial and human resource matters are made or are subject to approval by organizations or personnel in the PRC; (iii) the enterprise’s primary assets, accounting books and records, company seals, and board and shareholder resolutions are located or maintained in the PRC; and (iv) at least 50% of voting board members or senior executives habitually reside in the PRC.

Xunlei Limited is not controlled by a PRC enterprise or PRC enterprise group and we do not believe that Xunlei Limited meets all of the conditions above. Xunlei Limited is a company incorporated outside the PRC. As a holding company, certain of Xunlei Limited's key assets are located, and records (including the resolutions of its board of directors and the resolutions of its shareholders) are maintained, outside the PRC. Therefore, we do not believe Xunlei Limited should be treated as a "resident enterprise" for PRC tax purposes if the criteria for "de facto management body" as set forth in the relevant SAT Circular 82 were deemed applicable to us. However, as the tax resident status of an enterprise is subject to determination by the PRC tax authorities and uncertainties remain with respect to the interpretation of the term "de facto management body" as applicable to Xunlei Limited, we may be considered a resident enterprise and may therefore be subject to the enterprise income tax at 25% on our global income. If we are considered a resident enterprise and earn income other than dividends from our PRC subsidiaries, a 25% enterprise income tax on our global income could increase our tax burden and adversely affect our cash flow and profitability. In addition to the uncertainty regarding how the new "resident enterprise" classification may apply, it is also possible that the rules may change in the future, possibly with retroactive effect.

Dividends paid by us to our foreign investors and gains on the sale of our ADSs or common shares by our foreign investors may be subject to taxes under PRC tax laws.

Under the EIT Law and its implementation regulations issued by the State Council, a 10% PRC withholding tax is applicable to dividends paid to investors that are "non-resident enterprises," which do not have an establishment or place of business in the PRC or which have such establishment or place of business but the dividends are not effectively connected with such establishment or place of business, to the extent such dividends are derived from sources within the PRC. Any gain realized on the transfer of ADSs or common shares by such investors is subject to PRC tax, at a rate of 10% unless otherwise reduced or exempted by relevant tax treaties, if such gain is regarded as income derived from sources within the PRC. If we are deemed a "PRC resident enterprise," dividends paid on our common shares or ADSs, and any gain realized from the transfer of our common shares or ADSs, may be treated as income derived from sources within the PRC and may as a result be subject to PRC taxation (which in the case of dividends would be withheld at source). It is unclear whether our non-PRC individual investors would be subject to any PRC tax in the event we are deemed a "PRC resident enterprise." If any PRC tax were to apply to such dividends or gains of non-PRC individual investors, it would generally apply at a rate of 20% (unless a reduced rate is available under an applicable tax treaty). It is also unclear whether, if we are considered a PRC "resident enterprise," holders of our ADSs or common shares would be able to claim the benefit of income tax treaties or agreements entered into between China and other countries or areas (and we do not expect to withhold at treaty rates if any withholding is required). If dividends payable to our non-PRC investors, or gains from the transfer of our common shares or ADSs by such investors are subject to PRC tax, the value of your investment in our common shares or ADSs may be adversely affected.

Increases in labor costs and enforcement of stricter labor laws and regulations in the PRC may adversely affect our business and our profitability.



China's overall economy and the average wage in China have increased in recent years and are expected to continue to grow. The average wage level for our employees has also increased in recent years. We expect that our labor costs, including wages and employee benefits, will continue to increase. Unless we are able to pass on these increased labor costs to our users by increasing prices for our products or services, our profitability and results of operations may be materially and adversely affected.

In addition, we have been subject to stricter regulatory requirements in terms of entering labor contracts with our employees and paying various statutory employee benefits, including pensions, housing fund, medical insurance, work-related injury insurance, unemployment insurance and childbearing insurance to designated government agencies for the benefit of our employees. Pursuant to the PRC Labor Contract Law, or the Labor Contract law, that became effective in January 2008, as amended on December 28, 2012 and effective as of July 1, 2013, and its implementation rules that became effective in September 2008, employers are subject to stricter requirements in terms of signing labor contracts, minimum wages, paying remuneration, determining the term of employees' probation and unilaterally terminating labor contracts. In the event that we decide to terminate some of our employees or otherwise change our employment or labor practices, the Labor Contract Law and its implementation rules may limit our ability to effect those changes in a desirable or cost-effective manner, which could adversely affect our business and results of operations. On October 28, 2010, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress promulgated the PRC Social Insurance Law, or the Social Insurance Law, which became effective on July 1, 2011. According to the Social Insurance Law, employees must participate in pension insurance, work-related injury insurance, medical insurance, unemployment insurance and maternity insurance and the employers must, together with their employees or separately, pay the social insurance premiums for such employees.

As the interpretation and implementation of labor-related laws and regulations are still evolving, we cannot assure you that our employment practice do not and will not violate labor-related laws and regulations in China, which may subject us to labor disputes or government investigations. If we are deemed to have violated relevant labor laws and regulations, we could be required to provide additional compensation to our employees and our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected.

The audit report included in this annual report is prepared by an auditor who is not inspected by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board and, as such, you are deprived of the benefits of such inspection.

Auditors of companies that are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, and traded publicly in the United States, including our independent registered public accounting firm, must be registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, or the PCAOB, and are required by the laws of the United States to undergo regular inspections by PCAOB to assess their compliance with the laws of the United States and professional standards. Because we have substantiated operations within the Peoples' Republic of China and the PCAOB is currently unable to conduct inspections of the work of our auditors as it relates to those operations without the approval of the Chinese authorities, our auditor's work related to our operations in China is not currently inspected by the PCAOB.

This lack of PCAOB inspections of audit work performed in China prevents the PCAOB from regularly evaluating audit work of any auditors that was performed in China including that performed by our independent registered public accounting firm. As a result, investors may be deprived of the full benefits of PCAOB inspections.

The inability of the PCAOB to conduct inspections of audit work performed in China makes it more difficult to evaluate the effectiveness of our auditor's audit procedures as compared to auditors in other jurisdictions that are subject to PCAOB inspections on all of their work. Investors may lose confidence in our reported financial information and procedures and the quality of our financial statements.

If additional remedial measures are imposed on certain PRC-based accounting firms in administrative proceedings brought by the SEC, we could be unable to file future financial statements on a timely basis in compliance with the requirements of the Exchange Act.

In December 2012, the SEC instituted administrative proceedings against certain PRC-based accounting firms, including our independent registered public accounting firm, alleging that these firms had violated U.S. securities laws and the SEC's rules and regulations thereunder by failing to provide to the SEC the firms' work papers related to their audits of certain PRC-based companies that are publicly traded in the United States. On January 22, 2014, an initial

administrative law decision was issued, sanctioning these accounting firms and suspending them from practicing before the SEC for a period of six months. On February 12, 2014, four of these PRC-based accounting firms appealed to the SEC against this sanction. In February 2015, each of the four PRC-based accounting firms agreed to a censure and to pay a fine to the SEC to settle the dispute and avoid suspension of their ability to practice before the SEC. The settlement requires the firms to follow detailed procedures to seek to provide the SEC with access to Chinese firms' audit documents via the CSRC. If the firms do not follow these procedures or if there is a failure in the process between the SEC and the CSRC, the SEC could impose penalties such as suspensions, or it could restart the administrative proceedings.

In the event that the SEC restarts the administrative proceedings, depending upon the final outcome, listed companies in the United States with major PRC operations may find it difficult or impossible to retain auditors in respect of their operations in the PRC, which could result in financial statements being determined to not be in compliance with the requirements of the Exchange Act, including possible delisting. Moreover, any negative news about the proceedings against these audit firms may cause investor uncertainty regarding China-based, United States-listed companies and the market price of our ADSs may be adversely affected.

If our independent registered public accounting firm were denied, even temporarily, the ability to practice before the SEC and we were unable to timely find another registered public accounting firm to audit and issue an opinion on our financial statements, our financial statements could be determined to not be in compliance with the requirements for financial statements of public companies registered under the Exchange Act, as amended, or the Exchange Act. Such a determination could ultimately lead to the delisting of our common stock from the NASDAQ Global Select Market or deregistration from the SEC, which would substantially reduce or effectively terminate the trading of our common stock in the United States.

## Risks related to our ADSs

The market price for our ADSs may be volatile.

The trading prices of our ADSs are likely to be volatile and could fluctuate widely due to factors beyond our control. This may happen because of broad market and industry factors, like the performance and fluctuation in the market prices or the underperformance or deteriorating financial results of other similarly situated companies in China that have listed their securities in the United States in recent years. The securities of some of these companies have experienced significant volatility since their initial public offerings, including, in some cases, substantial price declines in the trading prices of their securities. The trading performances of these Chinese companies' securities after their offerings, including companies in the internet businesses, may affect the attitudes of investors toward Chinese companies listed in the United States, which consequently may impact the trading performance of our ADSs, regardless of our actual operating performance. In addition, any negative news or perceptions about inadequate corporate governance practices or fraudulent accounting or other practices at other Chinese companies may also negatively affect the attitudes of investors towards Chinese companies in general, including us, regardless of whether we have engaged in such practices. In addition, securities markets may from time to time experience significant price and volume fluctuations that are not related to our operating performance, which may have a material adverse effect on the market price of our ADSs.

The market price for our ADSs is likely to be highly volatile and subject to wide fluctuations in response to factors including the following:

- regulatory developments affecting us, our advertisers or our industry;
- announcements of studies and reports relating to our services or those of our competitors;
- changes in the economic performance or market valuations of other internet companies in China;
- actual or anticipated fluctuations in our quarterly results of operations and changes of our expected results;
- changes in financial estimates by securities research analysts;
- conditions in the internet or online advertising industry in China;

announcements by us or our competitors of new services, acquisitions, strategic relationships, joint ventures or capital commitments;

- additions to or departures of our senior management;

- fluctuations of exchange rates between the Renminbi and the U.S. dollar;

- release or expiry of lock-up or other transfer restrictions on our outstanding shares or ADSs; and

- sales or perceived potential sales of additional shares or ADSs.

In addition, the securities market has from time to time experienced significant price and volume fluctuations that are not related to the operating performance of any particular companies. These market fluctuations may also have a material adverse effect on the market price of our ADSs.

If securities or industry analysts cease to publish research or reports about our business, or if they adversely change their recommendations regarding our ADSs, the market price for our ADSs and trading volume could decline.

The trading market for our ADSs will be influenced by research or reports that industry or securities analysts publish about our business. If one or more analysts who cover us downgrade our ADSs, the market price for our ADSs would likely decline. If one or more of these analysts cease to cover us or fail to regularly publish reports on us, we could lose visibility in the financial markets, which, in turn, could cause the market price or trading volume for our ADSs to decline.

As we do not expect to pay dividends in the foreseeable future, you must rely on price appreciation of our ADSs for return on your investment.

We currently intend to retain most, if not all, of our available funds and any future earnings to fund the development and growth of our business. Subject to our ongoing financial performance, cash position, budget and business plan and market conditions, we may consider paying special dividends. However, we do not plan to pay dividends in the foreseeable future and you should not rely on an investment in our ADSs as a source for any future dividend income.

Our board of directors has discretion as to whether to distribute dividends, subject to applicable laws. Our shareholders may by ordinary resolution declare dividends, but no dividend may exceed the amount recommended by our board of directors. Even if our board of directors decides to declare and pay dividends, the timing, amount and form of future dividends, if any, will depend on, among other things, our future results of operations and cash flow, our capital requirements and surplus, the amount of distributions, if any, received by us from our subsidiaries, our financial condition, contractual restrictions and other factors deemed relevant by our board of directors. Accordingly, the return on your investment in our ADSs will likely depend entirely upon any future price appreciation of our ADSs. There is no guarantee that our ADSs will appreciate in value or even maintain the price at which you purchased the ADSs. You may not realize a return on your investment in our ADSs and you may even lose your entire investment in our ADSs.

Substantial future sales or perceived potential sales of our ADSs in the public market could cause the price of our ADSs to decline.

Sales of our ADSs in the public market, or the perception that these sales could occur, could cause the market price of our ADSs to decline. As of March 31, 2017, we had 330,917,250 common shares outstanding, but excluding (i) 14,126,944 common shares issued to Leading Advice Holdings Limited for grants under our 2013 Plan and 2014 Plan that remained then unexercised or unvested, and (ii) 23,833,015 common shares, consisting of shares issued to our

depository bank for bulk issuance of ADSs reserved for future issuances upon the exercise or vesting of awards granted under our share incentive plans and shares repurchased by the company under our 2015 and 2016 repurchase programs but not yet cancelled. All our outstanding common shares represented by ADSs were freely transferable by persons other than our “affiliates” without restriction or additional registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or Securities Act. The remaining common shares will be available for sale subject to volume and other restrictions as applicable under Rules 144 and 701 under the Securities Act.

Certain holders of our common shares have the right to cause us to register under the Securities Act the sale of their shares. Registration of these shares under the Securities Act would result in ADSs representing these shares becoming freely tradable without restriction under the Securities Act immediately upon the effectiveness of the registration. Sales of these registered shares in the form of ADSs, in the public market could cause the price of our ADSs to decline.

Your right to participate in any future rights offerings may be limited, which may cause dilution to your holdings, and you may not receive cash dividends if it is impractical to make them available to you.

We may from time to time distribute rights to our shareholders, including rights to acquire our securities. However, we cannot make rights available to you in the United States unless we register both the rights and the securities to which the rights relate under the Securities Act or an exemption from the registration requirements is available. Under the deposit agreement, the depository will not make rights available to you unless both the rights and the underlying securities to be distributed to ADS holders are either registered under the Securities Act or exempt from registration under the Securities Act. We are under no obligation to file a registration statement with respect to any such rights or securities or to endeavor to cause such a registration statement to be declared effective and we may not be able to establish a necessary exemption from registration under the Securities Act. Accordingly, you may be unable to participate in our rights offerings and may experience dilution in your holdings.

The depository of our ADSs has agreed to pay to you the cash dividends or other distributions it or the custodian receives on our common shares or other deposited securities after deducting its fees and expenses. You will receive these distributions in proportion to the number of common shares your ADSs represent. However, the depository may, at its discretion, decide that it is inequitable or impractical to make a distribution available to any holders of ADSs. For example, the depository may determine that it is not practicable to distribute certain property through the mail, or that the value of certain distributions may be less than the cost of mailing them. In these cases, the depository may decide not to distribute such property to you.

You may be subject to limitations on transfer of your ADSs.

Your ADSs are transferable on the books of the depository. However, the depository may close its transfer books at any time or from time to time when it deems expedient in connection with the performance of its duties. In addition, the depository may refuse to deliver, transfer or register transfers of ADSs generally when our books or the books of the depository are closed, or at any time if we or the depository deems it advisable to do so because of any requirement of law or of any government or governmental body, or under any provision of the deposit agreement, or for any other reason.

You may face difficulties in protecting your interests, and your ability to protect your rights through the U.S. federal courts may be limited because we are incorporated under Cayman Islands law, we conduct substantially all of our operations in China and substantially all of our directors and officers reside outside the United States.



We are incorporated in the Cayman Islands and conduct substantially all of our operations in China through our PRC subsidiaries and variable interest entity and its subsidiaries. Substantially all of our directors and officers reside outside the United States and a substantial portion of their assets are located outside of the United States. As a result, it may be difficult or impossible for you to bring an action against us or against these individuals in the Cayman Islands or in the United States in the event that you believe that your rights have been infringed under the U.S. securities laws or otherwise. Even if you are successful in bringing an action of this kind, the laws of the Cayman Islands and of China may render you unable to enforce a judgment against our assets or the assets of our directors and officers.

There are uncertainties as to whether Cayman Islands courts would:

recognize or enforce against us judgments of courts of the United States based on certain civil liability provisions of U.S. securities laws; and

impose liabilities against us, in original actions brought in the Cayman Islands, based on certain civil liability provisions of U.S. securities laws that are penal in nature.

There is no statutory recognition in the Cayman Islands of judgments obtained in the United States, although the courts of the Cayman Islands will in certain circumstances recognize and enforce a non-penal judgment of a foreign court of competent jurisdiction without retrial on the merits.

Our corporate affairs are governed by our memorandum and articles of association, as amended and restated from time to time, and by the Companies Law (2016 Revision) and common law of the Cayman Islands. The rights of shareholders to take legal action against us and our directors, actions by minority shareholders and the fiduciary duties of our directors to us under Cayman Islands law are to a large extent governed by the common law of the Cayman Islands. The common law of the Cayman Islands is derived in part from comparatively limited judicial precedent in the Cayman Islands as well as from English common law, which provides persuasive, but not binding, authority in a court in the Cayman Islands. The rights of our shareholders and the fiduciary duties of our directors under Cayman Islands law are not as clearly established as they would be under statutes or judicial precedents in the United States. In particular, the Cayman Islands has a less developed body of securities laws than the United States and provides significantly less protection to investors. In addition, shareholders in Cayman Islands companies may not have standing to initiate a shareholder derivative action in U.S. federal courts.

As a result, our public shareholders may have more difficulty in protecting their interests through actions against us, our management, our directors or our controlling shareholders than would shareholders of a corporation incorporated in a jurisdiction in the United States.

We are an emerging growth company within the meaning of the Securities Act and may take advantage of certain reduced reporting requirements.

We are an “emerging growth company,” as defined in the JOBS Act, and we may take advantage of certain exemptions from various requirements applicable to other public companies that are not emerging growth companies including, most significantly, not being required to comply with the auditor attestation requirements of Section 404 for so long as we are an emerging growth company. We have elected not to voluntarily comply with such auditor attestation requirements. Therefore, our investors may not have access to certain information they may deem important.

The JOBS Act also provides that an emerging growth company does not need to comply with any new or revised financial accounting standards until such date that a private company is otherwise required to comply with such new or revised accounting standards. However, we have elected to “opt out” of this provision and, as a result, we will comply with new or revised accounting standards as required when they are adopted for public companies. This decision to opt out of the extended transition period under the JOBS Act is irrevocable.

Our memorandum and articles of association contains anti-takeover provisions that could adversely affect the rights of holders of our common shares and ADSs.

Our currently effective memorandum and articles of association contains certain provisions that could limit the ability of others to acquire control of our company, including a provision that grants authority to our board directors to establish from time to time one or more series of preferred shares without action by our shareholders and to determine, with respect to any series of preferred shares, the terms and rights of that series. The provisions could have the effect of depriving our shareholders of the opportunity to sell their shares at a premium over the prevailing market price by discouraging third parties from seeking to obtain control of our company in a tender offer or similar transactions.

Our corporate actions are substantially controlled by our directors, executive officers and other principal shareholders, who can exert significant influence over important corporate matters, which may reduce the price of our ADSs and deprive you of an opportunity to receive a premium for your shares.

As of March 31, 2017, our directors, executive officers and existing principal shareholders beneficially owned approximately 50.9% of our outstanding common shares. These shareholders, if acting together, could exert substantial influence over matters such as electing directors and approving material mergers, acquisitions or other business combination transactions. This concentration of ownership may also discourage, delay or prevent a change in control of our company, which could have the dual effect of depriving our shareholders of an opportunity to receive a premium for their shares as part of a sale of our company and reducing the price of our ADSs. These actions may be taken even if they are opposed by our other shareholders. In addition, these persons could divert business opportunities away from us to themselves or others.

We incur increased costs as a result of being a public company, particularly after we cease to qualify as an “emerging growth company.”

As a public company in the United States, we incur significant accounting, legal and other expenses that we did not incur as a private company. The Sarbanes-Oxley Act, as well as rules subsequently implemented by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the NASDAQ Global Select Market, require significantly heightened corporate governance practices of public companies, including Section 404 relating to internal control over financial reporting. We qualify as an “emerging growth company” pursuant to the JOBS Act. An emerging growth company may take advantage of specified reduced reporting and other requirements that are otherwise applicable generally to public companies. These provisions include exemption from the auditor attestation requirement under Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 in the assessment of the emerging growth company’s internal control over financial reporting and permission to delay adopting new or revised accounting standards until such time as those standards apply to private companies. However, we have elected to “opt out” of this provision and, as a result, we will comply with new or revised accounting standards as required when they are adopted for public companies. This decision to opt out of the extended transition period under the JOBS Act is irrevocable.

We expect these and other rules and regulations applicable to public companies will increase our accounting, legal and financial compliance costs and will make certain corporate activities more time-consuming and costly. After we are no longer an “emerging growth company,” we expect to incur significant expenses and devote substantial management effort toward ensuring compliance with the requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and the other rules and regulations of the SEC. Compliance with these rules and requirements may be especially difficult and costly for us because we may have difficulty locating sufficient personnel in China with experience and expertise relating to U.S. GAAP and U.S. public company reporting requirements, and such personnel may command high salaries relative to similarly experienced personnel in the United States. If we cannot employ sufficient personnel to ensure compliance with these rules and regulations, we may need to rely more on outside legal, accounting and financial experts, which may be costly. If we fail to comply with these rules and requirements, or are perceived to have weaknesses with respect to our compliance, we could become the subject of a governmental enforcement action and investor confidence could be negatively impacted and the market price of our ADSs could decline. In addition, we will incur additional costs associated with our public company reporting requirements. We are currently evaluating and monitoring developments with respect to these rules and regulations, and we cannot predict or estimate with reasonable certainty the amount of additional costs we may incur or the timing of such costs.

We believe we were a passive foreign investment company for our taxable year ended December 31, 2016, which could subject United States investors in the ADSs or common shares to significant adverse United States income tax consequences.

Based on the market price of our ADSs and the composition of our assets (in particular the retention of a substantial amount of cash), we believe that we were a “passive foreign investment company,” (or a “PFIC”), for United States federal income tax purposes for our taxable year ended December 31, 2016, and we will very likely be a PFIC for our current taxable year ending December 31, 2017 unless the market price of our ADSs increases and/or we invest a substantial amount of the cash and other passive assets we hold in assets that produce or are held for the production of active income. In addition, it is possible that one or more of our subsidiaries may be or become classified as a PFIC for United States federal income tax purposes. A non-U.S. corporation will be classified as a PFIC for any taxable year if either (1) 75% or more of its gross income consists of certain types of passive income or (2) 50% or more of the average quarterly value of its assets (as generally determined on that basis of fair market value) during such year produce or are held for the production of passive income.

If we are classified as a PFIC for any taxable year during which a U.S. Holder (as defined in Item 10. Additional Information—E. Taxation—United States Federal Income Tax Considerations) holds our ADSs or common shares, such U.S. Holder may incur significantly increased United States income tax on gain recognized on the sale or other disposition of the ADSs or common shares and on the receipt of distributions on the ADSs or common shares to the extent such gain or distribution is treated as an “excess distribution” under the United States federal income tax rules. Further, if we are classified as a PFIC for any year during which a U.S. Holder holds our ADSs or common shares, we generally will continue to be treated as a PFIC for all succeeding years during which such U.S. Holder holds our ADSs or common shares (“PFIC Tainted Shares”) even if, we, in fact, cease to be a PFIC in subsequent taxable years. Accordingly, a U.S. Holder of our ADSs or common shares is urged to consult its tax advisor concerning the United States federal income tax considerations related to holding and disposing of ADSs or common shares (including, to

the extent an election is available, making a “mark-to-market” election to avoid owning PFIC-Tainted Shares and the unavailability of an election to treat us as a qualified electing fund). For more information see the section titled “Item 10. Additional Information—E. Taxation—United States Federal Income Tax Considerations—Passive Foreign Investment Company Considerations.”

Item 4. Information on the Company

A. History and Development of the Company

We commenced operations in January 2003 through the establishment of Shenzhen Xunlei, which currently, together with its various subsidiaries in the PRC, operates our Xunlei internet platform.

In February 2005, we established Xunlei Limited as our holding company in the Cayman Islands. Xunlei Limited directly owns Giganology Shenzhen, our wholly owned subsidiary in China established in June 2005. Giganology Shenzhen primarily engages in the research and development of new technologies.

Giganology Shenzhen has entered into a series of contractual arrangements with Shenzhen Xunlei and its shareholders. These contractual arrangements enable us to exercise effective control over Shenzhen Xunlei and receive substantially all of the economic benefits of Shenzhen Xunlei. As a result, Shenzhen Xunlei is our variable interest entity and we have consolidated the financial results of Shenzhen Xunlei and its subsidiaries in our consolidated financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP. The existing principal subsidiaries of Shenzhen Xunlei include the following:

Shenzhen Xunlei Wangwenhua Co., Ltd. (formerly known as “Shenzhen Fengdong Networking Technologies Co., Ltd.”), or Wangwenhua, which was established in December 2005, and it primarily engages in software development, technical consulting and other related technical services.

Xunlei Networking Technologies (Beijing) Co., Ltd., which was established in June 2009, and it primarily engages in the operating of our cloud computing project as well as software development.

Shenzhen Zhuolian Software Co., Ltd. (formerly known as “Xunlei Software (Shenzhen) Co., Ltd.”), which was established in January 2010, and it primarily engages in the development of software technology and the development of computer software.

Xunlei Games Development (Shenzhen) Co., Ltd., or Xunlei Games, which was established in February 2010, and it primarily engages in the development of online game and computer software and advertising services.

Shenzhen Onething Technologies Co., Ltd., or Shenzhen Onething, which was established in September 2013, and it primarily engages in cloud computing technology development and related services.

Beijing Xunjing Technology Co., Ltd. (formerly known as “Wangxin Century Technologies (Beijing) Co., Ltd.”), or Beijing Xunjing, which was established in October 2015 and currently a subsidiary of Wangwenhua. Beijing Wangxin primarily engages in technology development and related services.

Shenzhen Crystal Interactive Technologies Co., Ltd., which was established in May 2016 and currently a subsidiary of Shenzhen Onething, and it primarily engages in development of computer software and provision of information technology services.

Shenzhen Xunlei Venture Capital Partnership Enterprise (Limited Partnership), which was established in June 2016 and it primarily engages in venture capital investment.

In February 2011, we established a direct wholly owned subsidiary, Xunlei Network Technologies Limited, or Xunlei Network BVI, in the British Virgin Islands. In March 2011, we established Xunlei Network Technologies Limited, or Xunlei Network HK, in Hong Kong, which is the direct wholly owned subsidiary of Xunlei Network BVI. Xunlei Network HK primarily engages in the development of computer software and advertising services.

In November 2011, we established Xunlei Computer in China, which is the direct wholly owned subsidiary of Xunlei Network HK. Xunlei Computer primarily engages in the development of computer software and information technology services.

In June 2014, we completed the initial public offering of our ADSs, which are listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol “XNET.”

In September 2014, we, through Shenzhen Xunlei Network Technology Co., Ltd., acquired from subsidiaries of Kingsoft Corporation Limited Kuaipan Personal and Kansunzi, both software services in support of cloud-sourced storage and sharing, and their related business and assets, for an aggregate cash consideration of US\$33 million. Kuaipan Personal has recently developed into a cloud-sourced content service platform.

In July 2015, we completed the sale of our entire stake in Xunlei Kankan to Beijing Nesound International Media Corp., Ltd., an independent third party, for a consideration of RMB130 million, of which RMB26.0 million (US\$4.0 million) remains unpaid as of the date of this annual report. This sale is part of our strategy to streamline our business and continue our transition into mobile internet.

Our principal executive offices are located at: 7/F Block 11, Shenzhen Software Park, Ke Ji Zhong 2nd Road, Nanshan District, Shenzhen, People’s Republic of China. Our telephone number at this address is +86 755-3391-2900. Our registered office in the Cayman Islands is located at the offices of Maples Corporate Services Limited, PO Box 309, Uglan House, Grand Cayman, KY1-1104, Cayman Islands. Our agent for service of process in the United States is Law Debenture Corporate Services Inc.

See “Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects—B. Liquidity and Capital Resources—Capital Expenditures” for a discussion of our capital expenditures.

## B. Business Overview

### Overview

We are a leading cloud-based acceleration technology company in China. Digital media content is one of the most popular usages for internet users in China. We operate a powerful internet platform in China based on cloud technology to enable users to quickly access, manage, and consume digital media content. We are increasingly expanding to mobile devices in part through potentially pre-installed acceleration products in mobile phones to further expand our user base and offer our users a wider range of access points. We target to deliver superior user experience in terms of ease of access, management and consumption of digital media content anywhere, anytime, and on any device.



To address deficiencies of digital media transmission over the internet in China, such as low speed and high delivery failure rates, we provide users with quick and easy access to online digital media content through two core products and services:

Xunlei Accelerator, which enables users to accelerate digital transmission over the internet, is our most popular and free product, with approximately 152 million monthly unique visitors in December 2016, according to our internal record; and

Our cloud acceleration subscription services, delivered through products such as Green Channel and Offline Accelerator, offer users premium services for speed and reliability.

Benefitting from the large user base for our core product, Xunlei Accelerator, we have further developed various value-added services or products to meet a fuller spectrum of our users' digital media content access and consumption needs including (i) cloud computing services, and (ii) online game services, including web games MMOGs, offered on our gaming platform.

We are increasingly extending our services to mobile devices, as part of our cloud-based mobile strategies. Mobile Xunlei is becoming a popular mobile application, while bigger screen phones with enhanced storage capacity have influenced user behavior in how they access and consume digital media content on their mobile phones. This mobile application allows users to search, download and consume digital media content on their mobile devices in a user friendly way. Based on our own record, daily active user of this application was about nine million as of the date of this annual report. Mobile Xunlei is also one of the most downloaded applications in its category. In the fourth quarter of 2015, we started to monetize our mobile traffic through advertising sales and generated our first mobile advertising revenues. Moreover, this mobile application supplements our existing subscriptions business, enabling us to reach a wider set of user base and to expand our services additional devices of a user who has multiple devices.

Our mobile initiatives also benefits from our relationship with Xiaomi, one of our strategic shareholders. Since 2014, we have entered into a pre-installing services agreement with a Xiaomi group company which manufactures Xiaomi phones, a well-recognized brand of smart phones in China. Pursuant to the agreement, we agree to provide our Mobile Xunlei acceleration plug-in, and the mobile phone manufacturer agrees to install such plug-in on its phones, free of charge. Such pre-installment arrangement provides mobile phone users with access to our acceleration services, which we believe enhances our ability to generate more user traffic. Our mobile acceleration software has been officially adopted by Xiaomi's operating systems, MIUI6, MIUI7 and MIUI8 and the software has been installed on Xiaomi phones, including both new phones shipments and system upgrades from existing Xiaomi phones.

An important part of our strategies is to continue our innovation in crowdsourcing for idle capacity and potentially storage from users of our cloud computing project, which targets to utilize our users' idle uplink capacity and storage by using our hardware devices. We plan for crowdsourced capacity to supply an increasing percentage of the bandwidth that we use for our own acceleration services. From the third quarter of 2015, we started to sell crowdsourced uplink capacity to third parties. We intend to sell crowdsourced uplink capacity to more third party internet content providers with bandwidth demand.

The technological backbone of our products and services is our cloud acceleration technology, comprised of a proprietary file locating system and massive file index database. Our technology enables us to support greater user expansion with incremental increases in server and bandwidth costs. This technology, based on distributed computing architecture, along with our indexing technology, enables users to access content in an efficient manner.

We generated revenues by monetizing our large user base, primarily through the following services:

Cloud acceleration subscription services. We provide premium acceleration services to subscribers to enable faster and more reliable access to digital media content;

Online advertising services (including mobile advertising). We offer advertising services by providing marketing opportunities on our websites, mobile Xunlei application and platform to our advertisers; and

Other internet value-added services. We offer multiple other value-added services to our users including our cloud computing project and online games.

Our revenues from continuing operations, excluding Xunlei Kankan, which we disposed of in July, 2015, decreased from US\$135.8 million in 2014 to US\$130.0 million in 2015 after the disposal of Xunlei Kankan, and increased to US\$157.0 million in 2016. We had net income attributable to Xunlei Limited of US\$10.8 million in 2014 and a net loss attributable to Xunlei Limited of US\$13.2 million in 2015. In 2016 we had a net loss attributable to Xunlei Limited of US\$24.1 million.

#### Our platform

On our platform, users can accelerate digital media transmission and play a broad range of the latest online games, among other things.

#### Cloud based acceleration

We provide data transmission acceleration services based on cloud computing technology to internet users. Our cloud computing technology utilizes a network of computers hosted on the internet to store, manage, and process data, thus providing our users with acceleration in internet data transmission and improves their download success rates. We provide our acceleration services to internet users with the following products and services.

## Accelerator

We launched our core product, Xunlei Accelerator, in 2004 to address deficiencies of digital media content transmission over internet in China, such as low speed and high delivery failure rates. Xunlei Accelerator allows users to accelerate digital transmission over the internet for free. Xunlei Accelerator also bridges users with diverse needs to other services we offer, such as: Xunlei Media Player, which supports both online and offline video watching, and our various online games, including web games and MMOGs, by recommending and providing links to these services on its user interface.

Xunlei Accelerator is designed to provide an effective digital media content transmission solution to our users. In addition to our featured transmission acceleration function, we have integrated certain features into the interface of Xunlei Accelerator to enhance the overall user experience while helping users transmit their desired content efficiently. For example, Xunlei Accelerator provides a platform to integrate other third-party plug-in applications. Users can add application tabs to create shortcuts to various services that are provided by us, third-party application developers and application vendors who have business relationships with us. Xunlei Accelerator also has a task management console to allow users to track and manage their transmissions in progress, to manage and prioritize cloud-based data transmission tasks, or manage and synchronize transmitted content across multiple internet-enabled devices.

In September 2014, we acquired Kuaipan Personal and Kansunzi, two software services in support of cloud-sourced storage and sharing.

## Mobile acceleration plug-in

We offer a mobile acceleration plug-in, which provides mobile device users with benefits of download speed acceleration and download success rate improvements similar to those offered by the PC-based Xunlei Accelerator. Our mobile acceleration plug-in has been adopted by Xiaomi, a Chinese smartphone maker, on its operating systems, MIUI6, MIUI7 and MIUI8. Xiaomi installs our mobile acceleration plug-in on all of its new phones free of charge and adds such plug-in to the existing ones via system upgrade. Xiaomi phone users thus have access to our acceleration services.

## Subscription services

We charge monthly or annual fees for our premium cloud acceleration subscription services and other exclusive services at different VIP levels. The benefits and services within the subscription package, which typically include incrementally larger bandwidth and faster acceleration speed, are upgraded according to the VIP levels. The subscription fees generally remain unchanged for subscribers at higher VIP levels. Our cloud acceleration subscription services are delivered through the following major premium acceleration products:

<b>Type of Service</b>	<b>Description of Services</b>
Green Channel	This product allows our subscribers to transmit digital media files from the internet with the facilitation of our servers, which significantly improves speed and reliability of such transmission. This is particularly helpful when subscribers need to transmit files that are only available from slow or unreliable data transmission sources, or to transmit a group of files while having only limited internet connectivity time.
Offline Accelerator	This product allows our subscribers to engage us to transmit digital media files from the internet on their behalf. The transmitted files are temporarily cached on our servers, which the subscribers have easy access to and can consume and manage when they want within a limited period of time.

In addition, Fast Bird, our recently developed product, accelerates our subscribers' internet access by increasing the bandwidth of the network system provided by telecommunications service providers.

We adopted different strategies and various promotion programs for each VIP level. For example, when we discovered that some of our users were not aware of our subscription services, we provided users with greater exposure to our subscription services in different parts of our platform and promoted products with significant potential interests to specific users. We use our powerful digital data analysis capabilities to explore different areas of user needs previously unmet by existing functions and research and develop relevant functions based on such analysis. We offer users promotional measures, such as providing 200 Mbytes of free trials of premium acceleration services, to show the differences in the data transmission speeds to demonstrate how our premium services tremendously enhance data delivery speed and overall subscriber experience.

In order to promote customer loyalty, we may elevate the VIP levels of our subscribers if they actively engage in our services, for example, frequently participating in reviewing and rating of our products. Once upgraded to certain higher VIP levels, our subscribers may be offered additional independent accounts, internally termed as sub-accounts, at no additional charges. Such sub-accounts also allow users to access our premium acceleration services, at no additional charge.

We had a subscriber base of 4.4 million, 4.3 million and 4.2 million as of December 31, 2014, 2015 and 2016, respectively. In this annual report, the number of subscribers as of a given day excludes any sub-accounts.

#### Mobile Xunlei

Mobile Xunlei is a mobile application that allows users to search, download and consume digital media content on their mobile devices. The monthly average daily active user of this product was about nine million in December of 2016. We started to monetize our mobile traffic through advertising sales and generated our first mobile advertising revenues in late 2015. Since then, our mobile advertising business has grown rapidly.

Moreover, this mobile application also supplements our existing subscriptions business. Many of our mobile application users also became users of our PC-based Xunlei Accelerator.

#### Cloud computing

We launched our cloud computing project in 2014, which crowd-sources idle uplink capacity from internet users who have bought and connected our proprietary hardware, Zhuanqianbao, or ZQB, to their network router. Our ZQB devices can allocate those users' idle uplink capacity to us for our further allocation to internet content providers. We

pay users of our ZQB devices for the use of their idle uplink capacity.

The crowd-sourced uplink capacity is valuable resources that we target to commercialize with potential customers such as streaming websites and app stores. Depending on our own needs, we also utilize those crowd-sourced uplink capacity for our subscription business from time to time, reducing our purchase of bandwidth from traditional third party carriers.

#### Xunlei Media Player

Xunlei Media Player, which we launched in 2008, is a supplementary tool that helps to deliver a more comprehensive viewing experience of digital media content to the users of Xunlei Accelerator. Xunlei Media Player is our proprietary product that supports both online and offline play of digital media content as well as simultaneous play of digital media content while it is being transmitted by Xunlei Accelerator.

#### Online game services

To better serve our users, we offer online games through our online game website and purchase licenses from, or enter into revenue sharing arrangements with, game developers. Such game play platform helps raise the average spending of our subscribers. Online game players can play the games free of charge, but are offered the opportunity to purchase in-game virtual items for a fee to enhance their game-playing experience.

We also provide other ancillary services catering to users' needs and adjust our ancillary service offerings from time to time to supplement the major services we provide.

#### Technology

We provide accelerated data transmission services, available on PC and mobile devices, based on our distributed file locating system, designed to utilize our proprietary file indexing technology.

## Indexing technology

Key elements of our file indexing technology include:

*File indexing.* We have created, and continue to maintain, a proprietary file index database that stores a massive index of unique file signatures representing all digital media content file that Xunlei Accelerator has found across the internet. Each file signature uniquely identifies the index of a given file. We store a list of each unique file's available data transmission locations from across the internet, which may include both peer and server computers, along with the estimated speed and reliability of each location.

*Data mining.* We also employ data mining algorithms, studying user habits in order to maximize the speed of our data delivery by ranking the keyword indexes that users search for and placing digital media content more likely to be searched by users in the more easily accessible locations in our network for optimal delivery speed.

*Distributed internet crawling techniques.* Our Xunlei Accelerator network acts as a system of distributed spiders to crawl the internet to search for digital media content files. Whenever the user initiates data transmission by using our Xunlei Accelerator, the URL of the data transmission location is uploaded to our server. We then use that URL to traverse and locate any other digital media content files that may also be available from the URL's internet page repositories. We then update our file index according to each traversal result.

## Distributed file locating system

Our distributed file locating system is based on distributed computing architecture, which consists of all Xunlei Accelerator clients that are running and connected to the internet at a given time, along with the server addresses stored in our file index database. When users launch Xunlei Accelerator on a network-connected device, they are automatically connected to our distributed file locating system and contribute their bandwidth and computing power to our distributed file locating system, which enables users to locate and connect efficiently.

Key technologies include:



*Multi-protocol file transfer technology.* Our multi-protocol file transfer technology allows our product client to transmit, in parallel, from multiple sources that may use different file transfer protocols. Our multi-protocol file transfer technology significantly increases the number of data transmission sources available to further enhance data transmission performance.

*Distributed file locating system.* Our distributed file locating system helps users discover the best data transmission locations from across the internet, where a particular file may be transmitted or streamed for optimal performance. When a user requests data transmission using our Xunlei Accelerator, distributed file locating system will algorithmically prioritize and select from among the file's available data transmission locations an optimized subset of URLs based on their respective transmit speed and reliability, which is estimated through real-time collaborative interactions between our file index server and our massive network of active Xunlei Accelerator clients across the internet.

*Network transport and traversal optimization.* Our proprietary software algorithms perform dynamic internet bandwidth and throughput assessments across the Xunlei network and optimization of traffic routing to identify the most efficient path for data transport. These algorithms are designed to maximize delivery speed, reliability and efficiency, and support significant growth in network usage.

#### Cloud-based implementation

We provide cloud acceleration subscription services powered by our indexing technology and distributed file locating system. Our platform is compatible with different operating systems and hardware devices. As part of the infrastructure for the subscription services, except for proprietary load balancing and resource optimization algorithms, we maintain a virtual private network consisting of 232 co-location centers and over one million third party servers and over 12,000 servers that we own located throughout China.

We maintain proprietary load balancing and resource optimization algorithms, both of which help enhance our mass data mining on user habits to compile and maintain information on users' data transmission acceleration needs and requirements. As a cloud service provider, we use data mining for user habit prediction and co-location purposes. In user habit prediction, we analyze, sample and index user behavior data to help predict user acceleration needs and requirements. For co-location purposes, our program finds the most efficient and stable connection in our network for each transmission task. We also cooperate with telecom operators, maintaining logics and algorithms for our co-location centers in each telecom operator's network to enable real-time dynamic allocation of our servers and bandwidth to support user acceleration requirements. Our system automatically optimizes user connections based on key factors such as provincial network, firewall penetration and interconnection among various telecom operators.

#### Advertising services

We provide advertising services primarily through various forms of advertisements placed on our PC websites and mobile platform. We had 252, 119 and 114 advertisers in 2014, 2015 and 2016, respectively, and generated mobile advertising revenue for the first time in the fourth quarter of 2015, and it has grown rapidly since then. The above number of advertisers does not include those on the Guandong third party platform. Our brand advertisers include international and domestic companies that operate in a variety of industries. A significant majority of our advertisers purchase our advertising services through third-party advertising agencies. We focus on providing advertisers with creative and cost-effective advertising solutions. We strive to creatively utilize our integrated service interface in designing a particular advertising campaign for advertisers.

#### Marketing

Our user base has grown primarily through word-of-mouth. We believe satisfied users and customers are more likely to recommend our services to others. Thus, we continue to focus on improving our services and enhancing our user experience. We invest in a variety of marketing activities to further promote our brand awareness among existing and potential users as well as other customers. For example, we host or attend various public relations events, such as seminars, conferences and trade shows, in the advertising, online video and online game industries to attract users and advertisers. To retain and drive the growth of our subscribers, we market our premium paid services and place subscription advertisements at prominent locations throughout our integrated service offerings.

## Intellectual property

### Protection of our intellectual property

Our patents, copyrights, trademarks, trade secrets and other intellectual property rights are critical to our business. We rely on a combination of patent, copyright, trademark, trade secret and other intellectual property-related laws in the PRC and contractual restrictions to establish and protect our intellectual property rights. In addition, we require all of our employees to enter into agreements requiring them to keep confidential all information they obtain during the course of their employment relating to our technology, methods, business practices, customers and trade secrets. As of December 31, 2016, we had 43 patents granted in the PRC and 4 granted in the United States, while another 21 patent applications are being examined by the State Intellectual Property Office of the PRC. We also seek to vigorously protect our Xunlei brand and the brands of our other services. As of December 31, 2016, we have applied to register 196 trademarks, of which we have received 163 registered trademarks in different applicable trademark categories including 1 trademark registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office and 1 trademark registered with World Intellectual Property Organization.

## Digital media data monitoring and copyright protection

We take initiatives to protect third-party copyrights. The internet industry in China suffers from copyright infringement issues and online digital media content providers are frequently involved in litigation based on allegations of infringement or other violations of copyrights. Assisted by an intellectual property team dedicated to copyright protection, we have implemented internal procedures pursuant to the legal requirements under relevant PRC laws and regulations to promptly disable the download URL of contents for which we receive notice of infringement from the legitimate rights holder, and we work closely with the relevant regulatory authorities in China to ensure compliance with all relevant rules and regulations. We seek assurances in our contracts with digital media content providers that (i) they have the legal right to license the digital media data for the uses we require; (ii) the digital media content itself as well as the authorization or rights granted to us neither breach any applicable law, regulations or public morals, nor impair any third-party rights; and (iii) they will indemnify us for losses resulting from both the non-compliance of such digital media content with the laws and claims from third parties.

As of the date of this annual report, we have implemented several initiatives to further commit to copyright protection. In May 2014, we entered into a content protection agreement with the MPAA and its members, which are six major U.S. entertainment content providers. In that agreement, we agreed to implement a comprehensive system of measures designed to prevent unauthorized downloading of and access to such content providers' works. After beginning the roll-out for several months, we suspended implementation of the filter but have identified and are in the process of implementing a new filter. Even with the implementation of a new filter, however, our copyright protection measures would not be able to fully protect us against copyright infringement suits. For example, in January 2015, a number of MPAA member studios filed copyright infringement lawsuits against us in the Shenzhen Nanshan District Court in China, and, as of the date of this annual report, the cases are awaiting decisions of first instance. For details, see "Item 3. Key Information—D. Risk Factors—Risks related to our business—We face and expect to continue to face copyright infringement claims and other related claims, including claims based on content available through our services, which could be time-consuming and costly to defend and may result in damage awards, injunctive relief and/or court orders, divert our management's attention and financial resources and adversely impact our business" and "Item 8. Financial Information—A. Consolidated Statements and Other Financial Information—Legal Proceedings."

## User data safety

User data safety is a significant advantage we offer to our users. We try to improve user experience by usually maintaining two to four copies of one specific user file for data recovery in extreme circumstances such as system shutdown, private transmission backbone network problems and other contingencies beyond our control. The read and write characteristics of our distributed file locating system is identical to those of hard disks, and our unique user file decomposition and encryption algorithm enables us to maintain high standards for user data safety.

## Competition

Due to our multiple service offerings, we face competition in several aspects of the internet services market in China. We believe that the key competitive factors in the overall internet services market in China include brand recognition, user traffic, technology platform and monetization abilities. For example, Mobile Xunlei primarily competes with Tencent (QQ Cyclone) and other cloud service providers. We also face competition for the advertisement budgets of our advertisers from other internet companies and other forms of media.

## Regulation

This section sets forth a summary of the most significant rules and regulations that affect our business activities in China.

### Regulation on catalogue relating to foreign investment

Investment activities in the PRC by foreign investors are subject to the Catalogue for the Guidance of Foreign Investment Industry, or the Catalogue, which was promulgated and is amended from time to time by the Ministry of Commerce and the National Development and Reform Commission, or the NDRC. The Catalogue divides industries into three categories: encouraged, restricted and prohibited. Industries not listed in the Catalogue are generally open to foreign investment unless specifically restricted by other PRC regulations.

Pursuant to the latest Catalogue amended in March 2015, which took effect on April 10, 2015, the provision of value-added telecommunications services falls in the restricted category and the percentage of foreign ownership cannot exceed 50% (excluding e-commerce). The provision of internet cultural operating service (including online game operation services), internet publication service and online transmission of audio-visual programs service fall in the prohibited category and the foreign investors are prohibited to engage in such services. We conduct our operations in China principally through contractual arrangements among Giganology Shenzhen, our wholly-owned PRC subsidiary, and Shenzhen Xunlei, our VIE, and its shareholders. Shenzhen Xunlei or its relevant subsidiary, holds the licenses and permits necessary to conduct our resource discovery network, cloud computing, online advertising, online games and related businesses in China and holds various operating subsidiaries that conduct a majority of our operations in China. Shenzhen Onething is in the process of applying for an updated VATS License to cover CDN service for our cloud computing business. Both of Giganology Shenzhen and Xunlei Computer, another wholly-owned PRC subsidiary of ours, engage in the development of computer software, technical consulting and other related technical services and businesses, none of which falls into any of encouraged, restricted or prohibited categories under the Catalogue. Hence, these activities are deemed as permitted and open to foreign investment.

In October 2016, the Ministry of Commerce issued the Interim Measures for Record-filing Administration of the Establishment and Change of Foreign-invested Enterprises, or FIE Record-filing Interim Measures, effective on the same day. Pursuant to FIE Record-filing Interim Measures, the establishment and change of foreign-invested enterprises are subject to record-filing procedures, instead of prior approval requirements, provided that the establishment or change does not involve special entry administration measures. If the establishment or change of FIE matters involve the special entry administration measures, the approval of the Ministry of Commerce or its local counterparts is still required. Pursuant to the Announcement 2016 No. 22 of the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Commerce dated October 8, 2016, the special entry administration measures for foreign investment apply to restricted and prohibited categories specified in the Catalogue, and the encouraged

categories are subject to certain requirements relating to equity ownership and senior management under the special entry administration measures.

#### Regulation on telecommunications and internet information services

The telecommunications industry, including the internet sector, is highly regulated in the PRC. Regulations issued or implemented by the State Council, MIIT, and other relevant government authorities cover many aspects of operation of telecommunications and internet information services, including entry into the telecommunications industry, the scope of permissible business activities, licenses and permits for various business activities and foreign investment.

The principal regulations governing the telecommunications and internet information services we provide in the PRC include:

*Telecommunications regulations* (2014, revised), or the Telecom Regulations. The Telecom Regulations categorize all telecommunications businesses in the PRC as either basic or value-added. Value-added telecommunications services are defined as telecommunications and information services provided through public network infrastructures. The “Catalogue of Telecommunications Business,” an attachment to the Telecom Regulations and updated by MIIT’s Notice on Adjusting the Catalogue of Telecommunications Business effective from April 1, 2003 and amended on March 1, 2016, categorizes various types of telecommunications and telecommunications-related activities into basic or value-added telecommunications services, according to which, internet information services, or ICP services, are classified under the second category of value-added telecommunications businesses and the CDN services, the internet access services and the internet data center services are classified under the first category of value-added telecommunications business. Under the Telecom Regulations, commercial operators of value-added telecommunications services must obtain the VATS License covering the business classified under the relevant category from MIIT or its provincial level counterparts.

*Administrative measures on internet information services* (2011, revised), or the Internet Measures. According to the Internet Measures, a commercial ICP service operator must obtain a VATS License from the relevant government authorities before engaging in any commercial ICP service within the PRC. When the ICP service involves areas of news, publication, education, medical treatment, health, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and other industry and if required by law or relevant regulations, prior approval from the respective regulating authorities must be obtained prior to applying for the VATS License covering the ICP services from MIIT or its local branch at the provincial level. Moreover, an ICP service operator must display its ICP License number in a conspicuous location on its website and must monitor its website to remove categories of harmful content that are broadly defined.

*Administrative measures for telecommunications business operating license* (2009, revised), or the Telecom License Measures. The Telecom License Measures set forth more specific provisions regarding the types of licenses required to operate value-added telecommunications services, the qualifications and procedures for obtaining such licenses and the administration and supervision of such licenses. For example, an ICP service operator conducting business within a single province must apply for the VATS License from MIIT’s applicable provincial level counterpart, while an ICP service operator providing ICP services across provinces must apply for a Trans-regional VATS License directly from MIIT. An ICP service operator that has been granted a Trans-regional VATS License must file a record with the local branch of MIIT at the provincial level prior to conducting any value added telecommunications business in such provinces. The appendix to the VATS License must detail the permitted activities to be conducted by the ICP service operator. An approved ICP service operator must conduct its business in accordance with the specifications recorded on its VATS License. The VATS License is subject to annual review and the annual review result will be recorded as an appendix to the VATS License, published to the public and notified to the applicable administrative authority for industry and commerce.

*Detailed rules on the administration of internet websites* (2005), which set forth that the website operator is required to apply for the ICP filing from MIIT or its local branches at the provincial level on its own or through the access service provider.



*Regulations for administration of foreign-invested telecommunications enterprises* (2008, revised), or the FITE Regulations. The FITE Regulations set forth detailed requirements with respect to, among others, capitalization, investor qualifications and application procedures in connection with the establishment of a foreign-invested telecommunications enterprise. Under the FITE Regulations, a foreign entity is prohibited from owning more than 50% of the total equity interest in any value-added telecommunications service business in the PRC and the major foreign investor in any value-added telecommunications service business in the PRC shall have good and profitable records and operating experiences in such industry.

*Circular on strengthening the administration of foreign investment in and operation of value-added telecommunications business* (2006). Under this circular, a domestic PRC company that holds a VATS License is prohibited from leasing, transferring or selling the VATS License to foreign investors in any form, and from providing any assistance, including providing resources, sites or facilities, to foreign investors that conduct value-added telecommunications business illegally in the PRC. Further, the domain names and registered trademarks used by an operating company providing value-added telecommunications service shall be legally owned by such company and/or its shareholders. In addition, such company's operation premises and equipment should comply with the approved covering region on its VATS License, and such company should establish and improve its internal internet and information security policies and standards and emergency management procedures.

*Circular of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on Clearing up and Regulating the Internet Access Service Market (2017)*, which, among others, further strengthens the supervision and management of the applications of cloud computing, big data and other applications. For an enterprise that conducts the CDN business without a VATS License specifically covering such business, it must submit a written commitment to the original license issuing authority before March 31, 2017, undertaking that an eligible VATS License will be obtained by the end of 2017. If such enterprise fails to make the commitment on time, it must carry out business activities strictly in compliance with their existing licenses. Furthermore, if the enterprise fails to obtain the eligible VATS License as committed it should terminate the relevant business starting from January 1, 2018.

To comply with these PRC laws and regulations, we operate our websites through Shenzhen Xunlei, our PRC variable interest entity. We, through Shenzhen Xunlei or its subsidiaries, currently hold a VATS License covering its ICP services expiring on April 30, 2020 and another VATS License for its provision of cloud computing services including internet data center services and internet access services expiring on January 19, 2021, and own the essential trademarks and domain names in relation to our value-added telecommunications business. Shenzhen Onething is currently in the process of applying for an updated VATS License to cover the CDN service for our cloud computing business.

Under various laws and regulations governing ICP services, ICP services operators are required to monitor their websites. They may not produce, duplicate, post or disseminate any content that falls within the prohibited categories and must remove any such content from their websites, including any content that:

- opposes the fundamental principles determined in the PRC's Constitution;
- compromises state security, divulges state secrets, subverts state power or damages national unity;
- harms the dignity or interests of the State;
- incites ethnic hatred or racial discrimination or damages inter-ethnic unity;
- sabotages the PRC's religious policy or propagates heretical teachings or feudal superstitions;
- disseminates rumors, disturbs social order or disrupts social stability;
- propagates obscenity, pornography, gambling, violence, murder or fear or incites the commission of crimes;

- insults or slanders a third party or infringes upon the lawful rights and interests of a third party; or

- includes other content prohibited by laws or administrative regulations.

The PRC government may shut down the websites of VATS License holders that violate any of such content restrictions and requirement, revoke their VATS Licenses or impose other penalties pursuant to applicable law. To comply with these PRC laws and regulations, we have adopted internal procedures to monitor content displayed on our website.

#### Regulation on online transmission of audio-visual programs

On July 6, 2004, GAPPRFT promulgated the Measures for the Administration of Publication of Audio-visual Programs through Internet or Other Information Network, or the 2004 Internet A/V Measures, which was revised on August 28, 2015. The 2004 Internet A/V Measures apply to the activities relating to the opening, broadcasting, integration, transmission or download of audio-visual programs via internet or other information network. An applicant who engages in the business of transmitting audio-visual programs must apply for a license issued by GAPPRFT in accordance with the categories of business, receiving terminals, transmission networks and other items. Foreign invested enterprises are not allowed to engage in the above business. On April 13, 2005, the State Council promulgated the Certain Decisions on the Entry of the Non-State-owned Capital into the Cultural Industry. On July 6, 2005, MOC, GAPPRFT, the NDRC and the Ministry of Commerce, jointly adopted the Several Opinions on Canvassing Foreign Investment into the Cultural Sector. According to these regulations, non-State-owned capital and foreign investors are not allowed to conduct the business of transmitting audio-visual programs via information network.

On December 20, 2007, GAPPRT and MIIT jointly promulgated the *Administrative Provisions on Internet Audio-visual Program Service*, or the Audio-visual Program Provisions, which came into effect on January 31, 2008 and was revised on August 28, 2015. The Audio-visual Program Provisions apply to the provision of audio-visual program services to the public via internet (including mobile network) within the territory of the PRC. Providers of internet audio-visual program services are required to obtain a License for Online Transmission of Audio-visual Programs issued by GAPPRT or complete certain registration procedures with GAPPRT. Providers of internet audio-visual program services are generally required to be either State-owned or State-controlled by the PRC government, and the business to be carried out by such providers must satisfy the overall planning and guidance catalog for internet audio-visual program services determined by GAPPRT. In a press conference jointly held by GAPPRT and MIIT to answer questions with respect to the Audio-visual Program Provisions in February 2008, GAPPRT and MIIT clarified that providers of internet audio-visual program services who engaged in such services prior to the promulgation of the Audio-visual Program Provisions shall be eligible to register their business and continue their operation of internet audio-visual program services so long as those providers had not been in violation of the laws and regulations.

On May 21, 2008, GAPPRT issued a *Notice on Relevant Issues Concerning Application and Approval of License for Online Transmission of Audio-visual Programs*, which further sets forth detailed provisions concerning the application and approval process regarding the License for Online Transmission of Audio-visual Programs. The notice also provides that providers of internet audio-visual program services who engaged in such services prior to the promulgation of the Audio-visual Program Provisions shall also be eligible to apply for the license so long as their violation of the laws and regulations is minor and can be rectified timely and they have no records of violation during the latest three months prior to the promulgation of the Audio-visual Program Provisions.

On December 28, 2007, GAPPRT issued the *Notice on Strengthening the Administration of TV Dramas and Films Transmitted via the Internet, or the Notice on Dramas and Films*. According to this notice, if audio-visual programs published to the public through an information network fall under the film and drama category, the requirements of the Permit for Issuance of TV Dramas, Permit for Public Projection of Films, Permit for Issuance of Cartoons or academic literature movies and Permit for Public Projection of Academic Literature Movies and TV Plays will apply accordingly. In addition, providers of such services should obtain prior consents from copyright owners of all such audio-visual programs.

Further, on March 31, 2009, GAPPRT issued the *Notice on Strengthening the Administration of the Content of Internet Audio-visual Programs*, or the *Notice on Content of A/V Programs* which reiterates the requirement of obtaining the relevant permit of audio-visual programs to be published to the public through information network, where applicable, and prohibits certain types of internet audio-visual programs containing violence, pornography, gambling, terrorism, superstition or other hazardous factors. In addition, on August 14, 2009, GAPPRT issued the *Notice on Relevant Issues Regarding Strengthening of the Administration of Internet Audio/visual Program Services Received by Television Terminals*, which specifies that prior to providing audio-visual program services for television terminals, an ICP service operator shall obtain the License for Online Transmission of Audio-visual Programs containing the scope of "Integration and Operation Services of Audio-visual Programs Received by Television Terminals." On April 1, 2010, GAPPRT issued the *Internet Audio/Visual Program Services Categories (Provisional)*,

or the Provisional Categories, which classified internet audio-visual programs into four categories.

Shenzhen Xunlei's License for Online Transmission of Audio-visual Programs is due for update but we have not been able to obtain such update. See "Risk factors—Risks related to our business—We are strictly regulated in China. Any lack of requisite licenses or permits applicable to our business and any changes in government policies or regulations may have a material and adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations."

## Regulation on online cultural activities

On February 17, 2011, MOC promulgated the new *Provisional Measures on Administration of Internet Culture*, or the Internet Culture Measures, which became effective as of April 1, 2011, and the *Notice on Issues Relating to Implementing the Newly Amended Provisional Measures on Administration of Internet Culture* on Mar 18, 2011. MOC also abolished the *Provisional Measures on Administration of Internet Culture* promulgated on May 10, 2003 and amended on July 1, 2004 as well as the *Notice on Issues Relating to Implementing the Provisional Measures on Administration of Internet Culture* issued on July 4, 2003. The Internet Culture Measures apply to entities that engage in activities related to “online cultural products.” “Online cultural products” are classified as cultural products produced, disseminated and circulated via internet which mainly include: (i) online cultural products particularly produced for the internet, such as online music entertainment, network games, network performance programs, online performing arts, online artworks and online animation features and cartoons; and (ii) online cultural products converted from music entertainment, games, performance programs, performing arts, artworks and animation features and cartoons, and disseminated via the internet. Pursuant to these measures, entities are required to obtain relevant Online Culture Operating Permits from the applicable provincial level culture administrative authority if they intend to commercially engage in any of the following types of activities:

- production, duplication, importation, distribution or broadcasting of online cultural products;

- publication of online cultural products on the internet or transmission thereof via information networks such as the internet and the mobile networks to computers, fixed-line or mobile phones, television sets or gaming consoles for the purpose of browsing, reviewing, using or downloading such products by online users; or

- exhibitions or contests related to online cultural products.

To comply with these then- and currently effective laws and regulations, Shenzhen Xunlei holds an Online Culture Operating Permit which was last renewed in March 2016 with an effective period from March 16, 2016 to March 15, 2019 for the operating of online games (including issuance of virtual currency), music entertainment products and animation and comic. Xunlei Games obtained an Online Culture Operating Permit in July 2013 with an effective period from July 30, 2013 to July 30, 2016 for the operating of online games (including issuance of virtual currency). We are still in the process of renewing this permit.

## Regulation on online games

MOC is the government agency primarily responsible for regulating online games in the PRC. On June 3, 2010, MOC promulgated the *Provisional Measures on the Administration of Online Games*, pursuant to which the content of the

online games are subject to the review of MOC. These measures set forth a series of prohibitions regarding the content of the online games, including but without limitation the prohibition on content that oppose the fundamental principles stated in the PRC Constitution, compromise state security, divulge state secrets, subvert state power or damage national unity, and content that is otherwise prohibited by laws or administrative regulations. Moreover, in accordance with these measures, ICP service operators engaging in any activities involving the operation of online games, issuance or trading of virtual currency must obtain the Online Culture Operating Permit and handle the censorship procedures for imported online games and the filing procedures for domestically developed online games with MOC and its provincial counterparts. The procedures for the censorship of imported online games must be conducted with MOC prior to the commencement date of the online operation and the filing procedures for domestic online games must be conducted with MOC within 30 days after the commencement date of the online operation or the occurrence date of any material alteration of such online games. Regarding virtual currency trading, ICP service operators can only issue virtual currency in exchange of the service provided by itself rather than trading for service or products provided by third parties. ICP service operators cannot appropriate the advance payment by the players and are not allowed to provide trading service of virtual currency to minors. All the transactions in the accounts shall be kept in records for a minimum of 180 days. To comply with these laws and regulations, Shenzhen Xunlei and Xunlei Games have obtained the Online Culture Operating Permit respectively for operating online games and Xunlei Games is currently renewing its Online Culture Operating Permit.

Further, the online publication of online games is subject to the regulation of GAPPRFT under the *Administrative Measures on Network Publication* and ICP service operators must obtain the Network Publication Service License prior to provision of any online game services. On September 28, 2009, GAPPRFT, the National Copyright Administration and the National Office of Combating Pornography and Illegal Publications jointly published the *Notice Regarding the Consistent Implementation of the “Stipulations on ‘Three Provisions’ of the State Council and the Relevant Interpretations of the State Commission Office for Public Sector Reform and the Further Strengthening of the Administration of Pre-examination and Approval of Internet Games and the Examination and Approval of Imported Internet Games”*, or the Notice of Three Provisions and Internet Games, which expressly requires that all online games need to be screened by GAPPRFT through the advanced approvals before they are operated online, and any updated online game versions or any change to the online games shall be subject to further advanced approvals before they can be operated online. In addition, foreign investors are prohibited from operating online games by the forms of Sino-foreign joint ventures, Sino-foreign cooperatives and wholly foreign-owned enterprises. The indirect functions such as contractual control and technology supply are also prohibited.

Moreover, on December 1, 2016, MOC issued the *Circular of the Ministry of Culture on Regulating the Operations of Online Games and Strengthening Interim and Ex-Post Regulation*, which will become effective on May 1, 2017. MOC further clarified the scope of online game operation in the circular. If an enterprise conducts technical testing of online games by means of, among others, making the online games available for user registration, opening the fee-charging system of the online games or providing client-end software with direct server registration and log-in functions, such enterprise is deemed to be an online game operator. If an enterprise provides user systems, fee-charging systems, program downloading, publicity and promotion and other services for the online game products of another game operator and participates in sharing the revenue from the operations of online games, such enterprise is deemed as a joint operator, and must bear corresponding liabilities. In addition, enterprises engaging in online game operations must require users to register their real names by using valid identity documents and must limit the amount that a user may top up each time in a single game. In addition, the enterprises are required to send information that requires confirmation by users when they top up or make the payments, and the contact details for protecting users' rights and interests must be indicated conspicuously in an online game.

Our online games services are currently provided by Shenzhen Xunlei which holds an Internet Publication License for its publication of online games. We also require the developers of certain online games to obtain the requisite approvals of relevant online games from GAPPRFT, and make the filings with MOC, for relevant online games. See “Risk factors—Risks related to our business—We may not be able to successfully address the challenges and risks we face in the online games market, such as a failure to acquire and operate popular, high-quality games or to obtain all the licenses required to operate online games, which may subject us to penalties from relevant authorities, including the discontinuance of our online game business.”

Regulation on anti-fatigue system, real-name registration system and parental guardianship project



In April 2007, GAPPRFT and several other government agencies issued a circular requiring the implementation of an anti-fatigue system and a real-name registration system by all PRC online game operators to curb addictive online game playing by minors. Under the anti-fatigue system, three hours or less of continuous playing by minors, defined as game players under 18 years of age, is considered to be “healthy,” three to five hours to be “fatiguing,” and five hours or more to be “unhealthy.” Game operators are required to reduce the value of in-game benefits to a minor player by half if the minor has reached the “fatiguing” level, and to zero once reaching the “unhealthy” level.

To identify whether a game player is a minor and thus subject to the anti-fatigue system, a real-name registration system must be adopted to require online game players to register their real identity information before playing online games. The online game operators are also required to submit the identity information of game players to the public security authority for verification. In July 2011, GAPPRFT, together with several other government agencies, jointly issued the *Notice on Initializing the Verification of Real-name Registration for the Anti-Fatigue System on Online Games*, or the Real-name Registration Notice, to strengthen the implementation of the anti-fatigue and real-name registration system. The main purpose of the Real-name Registration Notice is to curb addictive online game playing by minors and protect their physical and mental health. This notice indicates that the National Citizen Identity Information Center of the Ministry of Public Security will verify identity information of game players submitted by online game operators. The Real-name Registration Notice also imposes stringent penalties on online game operators that do not implement the required anti-fatigue and real-name registration systems properly and effectively, including terminating their online game operations.

In January 2011, MOC, together with several other government agencies, jointly issued a *Circular on Printing and Distributing Implementation Scheme regarding Parental Guardianship Project for Minors Playing Online Games* to strengthen the administration of online games and protect the legitimate rights and interests of minors. This circular indicates that online game operators must have person in charge, set up specific service webpages and publicize specific hotlines to provide parents with necessary assistance to prevent or restrict minors' improper game playing behavior. Online game operators must also submit a report regarding its performance under the Parental Guardianship Project to the local MOC office each quarter.

We have developed and implemented an anti-fatigue and compulsory real-name registration system in our online games, and will cooperate with the National Citizen Identity Information Center to launch the identity verification system upon the issuance of relevant implementing rules. For game players who do not provide verified identity information, we assume that they are minors under 18 years of age. In order to comply with the anti-fatigue rules, we set up our system so that after three hours of playing our online games, minors only receive half of the virtual items or other in-game benefits they would otherwise earn, and after playing for more than five hours, minors would receive no in-game benefits.

#### Regulation on online game virtual currency

On February 15, 2007, MOC, the People's Bank of China and other relevant government authorities jointly issued the *Notice on Further Strengthening Administrative Work on the Internet Cafes and Online Games*, or the Internet Cafes Notice, pursuant to which the People's Bank of China is directed to strengthen the administration of virtual currency in online games to avoid any adverse impact on the economy and financial system. This notice provides that the total amount of virtual currency issued by online game operators and the amount purchased by individual game players should be strictly limited, with a strict and clear division between virtual transactions and real transactions carried out by way of electronic commerce. It also provides that virtual currency shall only be used to purchase virtual items. On June 4, 2009, MOC and Ministry of Commerce jointly issued the *Notice on Strengthening the Administrative Work on Virtual Currency of Online Games*, pursuant to which no enterprise may concurrently provide both virtual currency issuance service and virtual currency transaction service. In addition, the Provisional Measures on the Administration of Online Games require companies that (i) issue online game virtual currency (including prepaid cards and/or pre-payment or prepaid card points) or (ii) offer online game virtual currency transaction services to apply for the Online Culture Operating Permit from provincial branches of MOC. The regulations prohibit companies that issue online game virtual currency from providing services that would enable the trading of such virtual currency. Any company that fails to submit the requisite application will be subject to sanctions, including but not limited to termination of operation, confiscation of incomes and fines. The regulations also prohibit online game operators from allocating virtual items or virtual currency to players based on random selection through lucky draw, wager or lottery that involves cash or virtual currency directly paid by the players. In addition, companies that issue online game virtual currency must comply with certain specific requirements, for example, online game virtual currency can only be used for products and services related to the issuance company's own online games.

To comply with these regulations, Shenzhen Xunlei and Xunlei Games have obtained the Online Culture Operating Permit for issuing online game virtual currency, and have filed their issuance of virtual currency with the local branch of MOC in Guangdong, and Xunlei Games is currently renewing its Online Culture Operating Permit.

## Regulation on internet publication

GAPPRFT is the government agency responsible for regulating publication activities in the PRC. On June 27, 2002, MIIT and GAPPRFT jointly promulgated the *Tentative Administration Measures on Internet Publication*, or the Internet Publication Measures, which took effect on August 1, 2002. The Internet Publication Measures require internet publishers to secure approval, or the Internet Publication License, from GAPPRFT to conduct internet publication activities. In February 2016, the GAPPRFT and the MIIT jointly issued the *Administrative Measures on Network Publication*, which took effect in March 2016 and replaced the Internet Publication Measures. Pursuant to the Administrative Measures on Network Publication, Internet publishers shall be approved by and obtain a Network Publication Service License from GAPPRFT to engage in network publication service. The network publication services refer to the activities of providing network publications to the public through information networks; and the network publications refer to the digitalized works with the publishing features such as editing, producing and processing. The Administrative Measures on Network Publication also provide the detailed qualifications and application procedures for obtaining the Network Publication Service License. The Notice of Three Provisions and Internet Games issued jointly by GAPPRFT and other relevant administrations confirmed that the entities operating internet games must obtain the Internet Publication License. On February 21, 2008, the GAPPRFT promulgated the *Rules for the Administration of Electronic Publication*, or the Electronic Publication Rules, which took effect on April 15, 2008. Under the Electronic Publication Rules and other regulations issued by the GAPPRFT, online games are classified as a kind of electronic publication, and publishing of online games is required to be conducted by licensed electronic publishing entities that have been issued standard publication codes. Pursuant to the Electronic Publication Rules, if a PRC company is contractually authorized to publish foreign electronic publications, it must obtain the approval of, and register the copyright license contract with, the GAPPRFT.

Shenzhen Xunlei holds an Internet Publication License for the publication of internet games with an expiry date of September 17, 2017. See “Risk factors—We may not be able to successfully address the challenges and risks we face in the online games market, such as a failure to acquire and operate popular, high-quality games or to obtain all the licenses required to operate online games, which may subject us to penalties from relevant authorities, including the discontinuance of our online game business.”

## Regulation on internet privacy

The PRC Constitution states that PRC law protects the freedom and privacy of communications of citizens and prohibits infringement of such rights. In recent years, PRC government authorities have enacted legislation on internet use to protect personal information from any unauthorized disclosure. The Internet Measures prohibit ICP service operators from insulting or slandering a third party or infringing upon the lawful rights and interests of a third party. Pursuant to the BBS Measures, ICP service operators that provide electronic messaging services must keep users’ personal information confidential and must not disclose such personal information to any third party without the users’ consent, unless such disclosure is required by law. The regulations further authorize the relevant telecommunications authorities to order ICP service operators to rectify unauthorized disclosure. ICP service operators are subject to legal

liability if the unauthorized disclosure results in damages or losses to users. The PRC government, however, has the power and authority to order ICP service operators to turn over personal information if an internet user posts any prohibited content or engages in illegal activities on the internet. Under the *Several Provisions on Regulating the Market Order of Internet Information Services* issued by MIIT on December 29, 2011, without the consent of a user, an ICP operator may not collect any user personal information or provide any such information to third parties. An ICP service operator shall expressly inform the users of the method, content and purpose of the collection and processing of such user personal information and may only collect such information necessary for the provision of its services. An ICP service operator is also required to properly keep the user personal information, and in case of any leak or likely leak of the user personal information, the ICP service operator shall take immediate remedial measures and in severe consequences, to make an immediate report to the telecommunications regulatory authority. In addition, pursuant to the *Decision on Strengthening the Protection of Online Information* issued by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC on December 28, 2012, or the Decision, and the *Order for the Protection of Telecommunication and Internet User Personal Information* issued by MIIT on July 16, 2013, or the Order, any collection and use of user personal information shall be subject to the consent of the user, abide by the principles of legality, rationality and necessity and be within the specified purposes, methods and scopes. An ICP service operator shall also keep such information strictly confidential, and is further prohibited from divulging, tampering or destroying of any such information, or selling or proving such information to other parties. Any violation of the Decision or the Order may subject the ICP service operator to warnings, fines, confiscation of illegal gains, revocation of licenses, cancellation of filings, closedown of websites or even criminal liabilities.

To comply with these laws and regulations, we have required our users to consent to our collecting and using their personal information, established information security systems to protect user's privacy.

#### Regulation on internet medicine information service

The State Food and Drug Administration, or the SFDA, promulgated the *Administration Measures on Internet Medicine Information Service* on July 8, 2004 and certain implementing rules and notices thereafter. These measures set out regulations governing the classification, application, approval, content, qualifications and requirements for internet medicine information services. An ICP service operator that provides information regarding medicine or medical equipment must obtain an Internet Medicine Information Service Qualification Certificate from the applicable provincial level counterpart of SFDA. Although we currently offer certain information regarding medicine or medical equipment on our platform, Shenzhen Xunlei obtained a Medicine Information Service Qualification Certificate from Guangdong Food and Drug Administration for the provision of internet medical information services with an expiry date of November 26, 2018.

#### Regulation on advertising business

The State Administration for Industry and Commerce, or the SAIC, is the government agency responsible for regulating advertising activities in the PRC.

According to the PRC laws and regulations, companies that engage in advertising activities must obtain from SAIC or its local branches a business license which specifically includes operating an advertising business within its business scope. The business license of an advertising company is valid for the duration of its existence, unless the license is suspended or revoked due to a violation of any relevant law or regulation. PRC advertising laws and regulations set forth certain content requirements for advertisements in the PRC including, among other things, prohibitions on false or misleading content, superlative wording, socially destabilizing content or content involving obscenities, superstition, violence, discrimination or infringement of the public interest. Advertisers, advertising agencies, and advertising distributors are required by PRC advertising laws and regulations to ensure that the content of the advertisements they prepare or distribute is true and in full compliance with applicable law. In providing advertising services, advertising operators and advertising distributors must review the supporting documents provided by advertisers for advertisements and verify that the content of the advertisements complies with applicable PRC laws and regulations. Prior to distributing advertisements that are subject to government censorship and approval, advertising distributors are obligated to verify that such censorship has been performed and approval has been obtained. The release or delivery of advertisements through the Internet shall not impair the normal use of the network by users. The advertisements released in pop-up form on the webpage of the Internet and other forms shall indicate the close flag in prominent manner and ensure one-key close. Violation of these regulations may result in penalties, including fines, confiscation of advertising income, orders to cease dissemination of the advertisements and orders to publish an advertisement correcting the misleading information. In circumstances involving serious violations, SAIC or its local branches may revoke violators' licenses or permits for their advertising business operations.

In July 2016, the SAIC issued *the Interim Measures for the Administration of Internet Advertising to regulate internet advertising activities*. According to these measures, no advertisement of any medical treatment, medicines, food for special medical purpose, medical apparatuses, pesticides, veterinary medicines, dietary supplement or other special commodities or services subject to examination by an advertising examination authority as stipulated by laws and regulations may be published unless the advertisement has passed such examination. In addition, no entity or individual may publish any advertisement of over-the-counter medicines or tobacco on the internet. An internet advertisement must be identifiable and clearly identified as an “advertisement” to the consumers. Paid search advertisements are required to be clearly distinguished from natural search results. In addition, the following internet advertising activities are prohibited: providing or using any applications or hardware to intercept, filter, cover, fast forward or otherwise restrict any authorized advertisement of other persons; using network pathways, network equipment or applications to disrupt the normal data transmission of advertisements, alter or block authorized advertisements of other persons or load advertisements without authorization; or using fraudulent statistical data, transmission effect or matrices relating to online marketing performance to induce incorrect quotations, seek undue interests or harm the interests of others. Internet advertisement publishers are required to verify relevant supporting documents and check the content of the advertisement and are prohibited from publishing any advertisement with unverified content or without all the necessary qualifications. Internet information service providers that are not involved in internet advertising business activities but simply provide information services are required to block any attempt to publish an illegal advertisement that they are aware of or should reasonably be aware of through their information services.

To comply with these laws and regulations, we have obtained a business license, which allows us to operate advertising businesses, and adopted several measures. Our advertising contracts require that substantially all advertising agencies or advertisers that contract with us must examine the advertising content provided to us to ensure that such content are truthful, accurate and in full compliance with PRC laws and regulations. In addition, we have established a task force to review all advertising materials to ensure the content does not violate the relevant laws and regulations before displaying such advertisements, and we also request relevant advertisers to provide proof of governmental approval if an advertisement is subject to special government review. See “Risk factors—Risks related to our business—Advertisements we display may subject us to penalties and other administrative actions.”

#### Regulation on information security and censorship

The applicable PRC laws and regulations specifically prohibit the use of internet infrastructure where it may breach public security, provide content harmful to the stability of society or disclose state secrets. According to these regulations, it is mandatory for internet companies in the PRC to complete security filing procedures and regularly update information security and censorship systems for their websites with the local public security bureau. In addition, the amended *Law on Preservation of State Secrets* which became effective on October 1, 2010 provides that whenever an internet service provider detects any leakage of state secrets in the distribution of online information, it should stop the distribution of such information and report to the authorities of state security and public security. As per request of the authorities of state security, public security or state secrecy, the internet service provider should delete any content on its website that may lead to disclosure of state secrets.

On June 28, 2016, the State Internet Information Office issued the *Administrative Provisions on Mobile Internet Applications Information Services*, which became effective on August 1, 2016, to further strengthen the administration over the mobile internet application information services. Pursuant to these provisions, owners or operators of mobile internet applications that provide information services are required to be responsible for information security management, which, among others, includes the following:

- certifying the identification information of the registered users;

- establishing and improving the protective mechanism for users information, following the principle of legality, rightfulness and necessity, and expressly stating the purpose, method and scope of, and obtaining user consent to, the collection and use of users’ personal information; and

- establishing and improving the verification mechanism for the content, taking measures against any illegal content, keeping the relevant records and reporting such content to relevant competent authorities.



On November 7, 2016, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress promulgated the *Cyber Security Law of the People's Republic of China*, or Cyber Security Law, which will become effective on June 1, 2017 to protect cyberspace security and order. Pursuant to the Cyber Security Law, any individual or organization using the network must comply with the constitution and the applicable laws, follow the public order and respect social moralities, and must not endanger cyber security, or engage in activities by making use of the network that endanger the national security, honor and interests, or infringe on the fame, privacy, intellectual property and other legitimate rights and interests of others. In addition, the new Cyber Security Law requires network operators must not collect personal information irrelevant to their services. The network operators are required to strictly keep confidential users' personal information that they have collected and to establish and improve user information protective mechanism. In the event of any unauthorized disclosure, damage or loss of collected personal information, network operators must take immediate remedial measures, notify the affected users and report the incidents to the relevant authorities in a timely manner.

Violation of these laws and provisions may result in penalties, including fines, confiscation of illegal income. In the case of serious violations, the competent telecommunication authority, public security authority and other relevant authorities may suspend relevant business, rectification or close down the website, or revoke licenses or permits for their business operations.

We are subject to the laws and regulations relating to information security and censorship. To comply with these laws and regulations, we have completed the mandatory security filing procedures with the local public security authorities, and regularly updates its information security and content-filtering systems with newly issued content restrictions as required by the relevant laws and regulations. We require our users to consent to our collecting and using their personal information, and have established an account system to protect user's privacy and data security.

#### Regulation on torts

The Tort Law was promulgated by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on December 26, 2009 and became effective on July 1, 2010. Under this law, internet users and internet service providers shall bear tortious liability in the event they infringe upon other people's civil rights and interests through the internet. Where an internet user is infringing upon the civil rights or interests of another person via internet, the injured party shall have the right to demand the relevant internet service provider to take necessary measures such as deleting the infringing content, etc. by serving the internet service provider a notice. Where the internet service provider fails to take any necessary measures, it shall be jointly and severally liable with the internet user for any additional injury or damage incurred thereafter. Under the circumstance that the internet service provider is aware that an internet user is infringing upon the civil rights or interests of another person and fails to take necessary measures, the internet service provider shall be jointly liable for such infringement with such internet user.

#### Regulation on intellectual property rights

The PRC has adopted comprehensive legislation governing intellectual property rights, including copyrights, patents, trademarks and domain names.

#### Copyright law

Under the Copyright Law (1990), as revised in 2001 and 2010, and its related Implementing Regulations (2002), as revised in 2013, creators of protected works enjoy personal and property rights, including, among others, the right of dissemination via information network of the works. The term of a copyright, other than the rights of authorship, alteration and integrity of an author which shall be unlimited in time, is life plus 50 years for individual authors and 50 years for corporations.

To address the problem of copyright infringement related to content posted or transmitted on the internet, the PRC National Copyright Administration and MIIT jointly promulgated the *Measures for Administrative Protection of Copyright Related to Internet* on April 29, 2005. These measures, which became effective on May 30, 2005, apply to acts of automatically providing services such as uploading, storing, linking or searching works, audio or video products, or other contents through the internet based on the instructions of internet users who publish contents on the internet, without editing, amending or selecting any transmitted content. When imposing administrative penalties upon the act which infringes upon any users' right of communication through information networks, the *Measures for Imposing Copyright Administrative Penalties*, promulgated in 2009, shall be applied.

Pursuant to the *Regulation on Protection of the Right of Communication through Information Network (2006)*, as amended in 2013, an ICP service provider may be exempted from indemnification liabilities under certain circumstances:

any ICP service provider, who provides automatic internet access service upon instructions of its users or provides automatic transmission service of works, performance and audio-visual products provided by its users, will not be required to assume the indemnification liabilities if (i) it has not chosen or altered the transmitted works, performance and audio-visual products; and (ii) it provides such works, performance and audio-visual products to the designated user and prevents any person other than such designated user from obtaining the access.

any ICP service provider who, for the sake of improving network transmission efficiency, automatically provides to its own users, based on the technical arrangement, the relevant works, performances and audio-visual products obtained from any other ICP service providers will not be required to assume the indemnification liabilities if (i) it has not altered any of the works, performance or audio-visual products that are automatically stored; (ii) it has not affected such original ICP service provider in grasping the circumstances where the users obtain the relevant works, performance and audio-visual products; and (iii) when the original ICP service provider revises, deletes or shields the works, performance and audio-visual products, it will automatically revise, delete or shield the same based on the technical arrangement.

any ICP service provider, who provides its users with information memory space for such users to provide the works, performance and audio-visual products to the general public via the information network, will not be required to assume the indemnification liabilities if (i) it clearly indicates that the information memory space is provided to the users and publicizes its own name, contact person and web address; (ii) it has not altered the works, performance and audio-visual products that are provided by the users; (iii) it is not aware of or has no reason to know the infringement of the works, performance and audio-visual products provided by the users; (iv) it has not directly derived any economic benefit from the provision of the works, performance and audio-visual products by its users; and (v) after receiving a notice from the right holder, it has deleted such works, performance and audio-visual products as alleged for infringement pursuant to such regulation.

any ICP service provider, who provides its users with search services or links, will not be required to assume the indemnification liabilities if, after receiving a notice from the rights holder, it has deleted the works, performance and audio-visual products as alleged for copyright infringement pursuant to this regulation. However, the ICP service provider shall be subject to joint liabilities for copyright infringement if it is aware of or has reason to know the infringement of the works, performance and audio-visual products to which it provides links.

In December 2012, the Supreme People's Court of China promulgated the *Provisions on Certain Issues Related to the Application of Law in the Trial of Civil Cases Involving Disputes over Infringement of the Right of Dissemination through Information Networks*, which provides that the courts will require ICP service providers to remove not only links or content that have been specifically mentioned in the notices of infringement from rights holders, but also links or content they "should have known" to contain infringing content. The provisions further provide that where an ICP service provider has directly obtained economic benefits from any content made available by an internet user, it has a higher duty of care with respect to internet users' infringement of third-party copyrights.

To comply with these laws and regulations, we have implemented internal procedures to monitor and review the content we have licensed from content providers before they are released on our websites and platforms and remove any infringing content promptly after we receive notice of infringement from the legitimate rights holder.

#### Patent law

The National People's Congress adopted the Patent Law in 1984, and amended it in 1992, 2000 and 2008, respectively. A patentable invention, utility model or design must meet three conditions: novelty, inventiveness and practical applicability. Patents cannot be granted for scientific discoveries, rules and methods for intellectual activities, methods used to diagnose or treat diseases, animal and plant breeds or substances obtained by means of nuclear transformation or designs that are mainly used for marking the pattern, color or combination of these two of prints. The State Intellectual Property Office under the State Council is responsible for receiving, examining and approving patent applications. A patent is valid for a twenty-year term in the case of an invention and a ten-year term in the case of a utility model or design, starting from the application date. A third-party user must obtain consent or a proper license from the patent owner to use the patent except for certain specific circumstances provided by law. Otherwise, the use

will constitute an infringement of the patent rights. Among the patent applications we have filed as of December 31, 2016, 43 were granted in the PRC, while another 21 applications are being examined by the State Intellectual Property Office of the PRC.

## Trademark law

Registered trademarks are protected under the Trademark Law adopted in 1982 and amended in 1993, 2001 and 2013 and its implementation rules. The PRC Trademark Office of SAIC is responsible for the registration and administration of trademarks throughout the PRC. The Trademark Law has adopted a “first-to-file” principle with respect to trademark registration. Where a trademark for which a registration has been made is identical or similar to another trademark that has already been registered or been subject to a preliminary examination and approval for use on the same kind of or similar commodities or services, the application for registration of such trademark may be rejected. Any person applying for the registration of a trademark shall not prejudice the existing right of others obtained by priority, nor shall any person register in advance a trademark that has already been used by another person and has already gained “sufficient degree of reputation” through that person’s use. After receiving an application, the PRC Trademark Office will make a public announcement if the relevant trademark passes the preliminary examination. Within three months after such public announcement, any person may file an opposition against a trademark that has passed a preliminary examination. The PRC Trademark Office’s decisions on rejection, opposition or cancellation of an application may be appealed to the PRC Trademark Review and Adjudication Board, whose decision may be further appealed through judicial proceedings. If no opposition is filed within three months after the public announcement period or if the opposition has been overruled, the PRC Trademark Office will approve the registration and issue a registration certificate, upon which the trademark is registered and will be effective for a renewable ten-year period, unless otherwise revoked. As of December 31, 2016, we had applied for registration of 196 trademarks, of which we had received 163 registered trademarks in different applicable trademark categories, including one trademark registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office and one trademark registered with World Intellectual Property Organization.

## Regulation on domain name

The domain names are protected under the *Administrative Measures on the Internet Domain Names* promulgated by MIIT on November 5, 2004 and effective on December 20, 2004. MIIT is the major regulatory body responsible for the administration of the PRC internet domain names, under supervision of which China Internet Network Information Center, or CNNIC, is responsible for the daily administration of CN domain names and Chinese domain names. On September 25, 2002, CNNIC promulgated the *Implementation Rules of Registration of Domain Name*, or the CNNIC Rules, which was renewed on June 5, 2009 and May 29, 2012, respectively. Pursuant to the *Administrative Measures on the Internet Domain Names* and the CNNIC Rules, the registration of domain names adopts the “first to file” principle and the registrant shall complete the registration via the domain name registration service institutions. In the event of a domain name dispute, the disputed parties may lodge a complaint to the designated domain name dispute resolution institution to trigger the domain name dispute resolution procedure in accordance with the *CNNIC Measures on Resolution of the Top Level Domains Disputes*, file a suit to the People’s Court or initiate an arbitration procedure. We have registered www.xunlei.com and other domain names.

## Regulation on tax

PRC enterprise income tax

The PRC enterprise income tax is calculated based on the taxable income determined under the PRC laws and accounting standards. On March 16, 2007, the National People's Congress of China enacted a new *PRC Enterprise Income Tax Law*, or the EIT Law, which became effective on January 1, 2008. On December 6, 2007, the State Council promulgated the Implementation Rules to the PRC Enterprise Income Tax Law, or the Implementation Rules, which also became effective on January 1, 2008. On December 26, 2007, the State Council issued the Notice on Implementation of Enterprise Income Tax Transition Preferential Policy under the PRC Enterprise Income Tax Law, or the Transition Preferential Policy Circular, which became effective simultaneously with the EIT Law. The EIT Law imposes a uniform enterprise income tax rate of 25% on all domestic enterprises, including foreign-invested enterprises unless they qualify for certain exceptions, and terminates most of the tax exemptions, reductions and preferential treatments available under previous tax laws and regulations. Under the EIT Law and the Transition Preferential Policy Circular, enterprises that were established before March 16, 2007 and already enjoyed preferential tax treatments will continue to enjoy them (i) in the case of preferential tax rates, for a period of five years from January 1, 2008; during the five-year period, the tax rate will gradually increase from 15% to 25%, or (ii) in the case of preferential tax exemption or reduction for a specified term, until the expiration of such term. In addition, the EIT Law and its implementation rules permit qualified high and new technology enterprises, or HNTEs, to enjoy a reduced enterprise income tax rate of 15%.

Moreover, under the EIT Law, enterprises organized under the laws of jurisdictions outside China with their “de facto management bodies” located within China may be considered PRC resident enterprises and therefore subject to PRC enterprise income tax at the rate of 25% on their worldwide income. The Implementation Rules define the term “de facto management body” as the management body that exercises full and substantial control and overall management over the business, productions, personnel, accounts and properties of an enterprise. In addition, the *Circular Related to Relevant Issues on the Identification of a Chinese holding Company Incorporated Overseas as a Residential Enterprise under the Criterion of De Facto Management Bodies* issued by the SAT on April 22, 2009 provides that a foreign enterprise controlled by a PRC enterprise or a PRC enterprise group will be classified as a “resident enterprise” with its “de facto management bodies” located within China if the following requirements are satisfied: (i) the senior management and core management departments in charge of its daily operations function mainly in the PRC; (ii) its financial and human resources decisions are subject to determination or approval by persons or bodies in the PRC; (iii) its major assets, accounting books, company seals, and minutes and files of its board and shareholders’ meetings are located or kept in the PRC; and (iv) at least half of the enterprise’s directors or senior management with voting rights reside in the PRC. Although the circular only applies to offshore enterprises controlled by PRC enterprises or PRC enterprise groups and not those controlled by PRC individuals or foreigners, the determining criteria set forth in the circular may reflect the SAT’s general position on how the “de facto management body” text should be applied in determining the tax resident status of offshore enterprises, regardless of whether they are controlled by PRC enterprises, individuals or foreigners.

Although we are not controlled by a PRC enterprise or PRC enterprise group and we do not believe that we meet all of the above-mentioned conditions, substantial uncertainty exists as to whether we will be deemed a PRC resident enterprise for enterprise income tax purpose. In the event that we are considered a PRC resident enterprise, we would be subject to the PRC enterprise income tax at the rate of 25% on our worldwide income, but the dividends that we receive from our PRC subsidiaries would be exempt from the PRC withholding tax since such income is exempted under the PRC Enterprise Income Tax Law for a PRC resident enterprise recipient. See “Risk factors—Risks related to doing business in China—Our global income may be subject to PRC taxes under the PRC EIT Law, which may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.”

Under applicable PRC tax laws and regulations, arrangements and transactions among related parties may be subject to audit or scrutiny by the PRC tax authorities within ten years after the taxable year when the arrangements or transactions are conducted. We could face material and adverse tax consequences if the PRC tax authorities were to determine that the contractual arrangements among Giganology Shenzhen, our wholly-owned subsidiary in China and Shenzhen Xunlei, our variable interest entity in China and its shareholders were not entered into on an arm’s-length basis and therefore constituted unfavorable transfer pricing arrangements. Unfavorable transfer pricing arrangements could, among other things, result in an upward adjustment to the tax liability of Shenzhen Xunlei, and the PRC tax authorities may impose interest on late payments on Shenzhen Xunlei for the adjusted but unpaid taxes. Our results of operations may be materially and adversely affected if Shenzhen Xunlei’s tax liabilities increase significantly or if it is required to pay interest on late payments.

PRC value added tax



On January 1, 2012, the Chinese State Council officially launched a pilot value-added tax reform program, or the Pilot Program, applicable to businesses in selected industries. Businesses in the Pilot Program would pay value added tax, or VAT, instead of business tax. The Pilot Program initially applied only to transportation industry and “modern service industries” in Shanghai and would be expanded to eight trial regions (including Beijing and Guangdong province) and nationwide if conditions permit. The pilot industries in Shanghai included industries involving the leasing of tangible movable property, transportation services, research and development and technical services, information technology services, cultural and creative services, logistics and ancillary services, certification and consulting services. Revenues generated by advertising services, a type of “cultural and creative services”, are subject to the VAT tax rate of 6%. According to official announcements made by competent authorities in Beijing and Guangdong province, Beijing launched the same Pilot Program on September 1, 2012, and Guangdong province launched it on November 1, 2012.

On May 24, 2013, the Ministry of Finance, or the MOF, and the SAT issued the *Circular on Tax Policies in the Nationwide Pilot Collection of Value Added Tax in Lieu of Business Tax in the Transportation Industry and Certain Modern Services Industries*, or the Pilot Collection Circular. The scope of certain modern services industries under the Pilot Collection Circular extends to the inclusion of radio and television services. On March 23, 2016, the MOF and the SAT jointly issued the Circular on the Pilot Program for Overall Implementation of the Collection of Value Added Tax Instead of Business Tax, or Circular 36, which took effect on May 1, 2016. Pursuant to the Circular 36, all of the companies operating in construction, real estate, finance, modern service or other sectors which were required to pay business tax are required to pay VAT, in lieu of business tax. The VAT rate is 6%, except for rate of 11% for real estate sale, land use right transferring and providing service of transportation, postal sector, basic telecommunications, construction, real estate lease; rate of 17% for providing lease service of tangible property; and rate of zero for specific cross-bond activities.

#### PRC dividend withholding tax

Under the PRC tax laws effective prior to January 1, 2008, dividends paid to foreign investors by foreign-invested enterprises were exempt from PRC withholding tax. Pursuant to the EIT Law and the Implementation Rules, dividends generated after January 1, 2008 and payable by a foreign-invested enterprise in China to its foreign enterprise investors are subject to a 10% withholding tax, unless any such foreign investor's jurisdiction of incorporation has a tax treaty with China that provides for a different withholding arrangement. Under the China-HK Taxation Arrangement, income tax on dividends payable to a company resident in Hong Kong that holds more than a 25% equity interest in a PRC resident enterprise may be reduced to a rate of 5%. According to the SAT Circular 601, the 5% tax rate does not automatically apply and approvals from competent local tax authorities are required before an enterprise can enjoy the relevant tax treatments relating to dividends under the relevant taxation treaties. In addition, according to a tax circular issued by SAT in February 2009, if the main purpose of an offshore arrangement is to obtain a preferential tax treatment, the PRC tax authorities have the discretion to adjust the preferential tax rate enjoyed by the relevant offshore entity. Although Xunlei Computer is currently wholly owned by Xunlei Network HK, we cannot assure you that we will be able to enjoy the preferential withholding tax rate of 5% under the China-HK Taxation Arrangement.

#### Regulation on labor laws and social insurance

Pursuant to the PRC Labor Law and the PRC Labor Contract Law, employers must execute written labor contracts with full-time employees. All employers must compensate their employees with wages equal to at least the local minimum wage standards. All employers are required to establish a system for labor safety and sanitation, strictly abide by state rules and standards and provide employees with workplace safety training. Violations of the PRC Labor Contract Law and the PRC Labor Law may result in the imposition of fines and other administrative liabilities. Criminal liability may arise for serious violations.

In addition, employers in China are obliged to provide employees with welfare schemes covering pension insurance, unemployment insurance, maternity insurance, work-related injury insurance, medical insurance and housing funds.

To comply with these laws and regulations, we have caused all of our full-time employees to enter into labor contracts and provide our employees with the proper welfare and employment benefits.

#### Regulation on foreign exchange control and administration

Foreign exchange regulation in the PRC is primarily governed by the following regulations:

*Foreign Exchange Administration Rules*, or the Exchange Rules, promulgated by the State Council on January 29, 1996, which was amended on January 14, 1997 and on August 5, 2008 respectively; and

*Administration Rules of the Settlement, Sale and Payment of Foreign Exchange*, or the Administration Rules promulgated by the People's Bank of The PRC on June 20, 1996.

Under the Exchange Rules, Renminbi is convertible for current account items, including the distribution of dividends, interest payments, trade and service-related foreign exchange transactions. As for capital account items, such as direct investments, loans, security investments and the repatriation of investment returns, however, the conversion of foreign currency is still subject to the approval of, or registration with, SAFE or its competent local branches; while for the foreign currency payments for current account items, the SAFE approval is not necessary for the conversion of Renminbi except as otherwise explicitly provided by laws and regulations. Under the Administration Rules, enterprises may only buy, sell or remit foreign currencies at banks that are authorized to conduct foreign exchange business after the enterprise provides valid commercial documents and relevant supporting documents and, in the case of certain capital account transactions, after obtaining approval from SAFE or its competent local branches. Capital investments by enterprises outside of the PRC are also subject to limitations, which include approvals by the Ministry of Commerce, SAFE and the National Development and Reform Commission, or their respective competent local branches. On July 21, 2005, the PRC government changed its policy of pegging the value of the Renminbi to the U.S. dollar. Under the new policy, the Renminbi is permitted to fluctuate within a band against a basket of certain foreign currencies.

On August 29, 2008, SAFE issued the *Circular on the Relevant Operating Issues Concerning the Improvement of the Administration of the Payment and Settlement of Foreign Currency Capital of Foreign-Invested Enterprises*, or Circular No. 142. Pursuant to Circular No. 142, the Renminbi capital from the settlement of foreign currency capital of a foreign-invested enterprise must be used within the business scope as approved by the applicable government authority and unless it is otherwise provided by law, such Renminbi capital cannot be used for domestic equity investment. Documents certifying the purposes of the settlement of foreign currency capital into Renminbi, including a business contract, must also be submitted for the settlement of the foreign currency. In addition, SAFE strengthened its oversight of the flow and use of the Renminbi capital converted from foreign currency registered capital of a foreign-invested company. The use of such Renminbi capital may not be altered without the SAFE's approval, and such Renminbi capital may not be used to repay Renminbi loans if such loans have not been used. Violations of the Circular No. 142 could result in severe monetary fines or penalties.

On November 19, 2012, SAFE promulgated the *Circular of Further Improving and Adjusting Foreign Exchange Administration Policies on Foreign Direct Investment*, or Circular 59, which became effective on December 17, 2012. Circular 59 substantially amends and simplifies the current foreign exchange procedure. The major developments under Circular 59 are that the opening of various special purpose foreign exchange accounts (e.g. pre-establishment expenses account, foreign exchange capital account, guarantee account) no longer requires the approval of SAFE. Furthermore, multiple capital accounts for the same entity may be opened in different provinces, which was not possible before the issuance of Circular 59. Reinvestment of RMB proceeds by foreign investors in the PRC no longer requires SAFE approval or verification, and remittance of foreign exchange profits and dividends by a foreign-invested enterprise to its foreign shareholders no longer requires SAFE approval.

On May 10, 2013, SAFE promulgated the *Circular on Printing and Distributing the Provisions on Foreign Exchange Administration over Domestic Direct Investment by Foreign Investors and the Supporting Documents*, which specifies that the administration by SAFE or its local branches over direct investment by foreign investors in the PRC shall be conducted by way of registration. Institutions and individuals shall register with SAFE and/or its branches for their direct investment in the PRC. Banks shall process foreign exchange business relating to the direct investment in the PRC based on the registration information provided by SAFE and its branches.

#### Regulation on foreign exchange registration of offshore investment by PRC residents

On October 21, 2005, SAFE issued the *Circular on Several Issues concerning Foreign Exchange Administration for Domestic Residents to Engage in Financing and in Return Investments via Overseas Special Purpose Companies*, or Circular No. 75, which went into effect on November 1, 2005. Circular No. 75 and related rules provide that if PRC residents establish or acquire direct or indirect interests of offshore special purpose companies, or offshore SPVs, for the purpose of financing these offshore SPVs with assets of, or equity interests in, an enterprise in the PRC, or inject assets or equity interests of PRC entities into offshore SPVs, they must register with local SAFE branches with respect to their investments in offshore SPVs. Circular No. 75 also requires PRC residents to file changes to their registration if their offshore SPVs undergo material events such as capital increase or decrease, share transfer or exchange, merger

or division, long-term equity or debt investments, and provision of guaranty to a foreign party. SAFE promulgated *the Circular on Relevant Issues Concerning Foreign Exchange Control on Domestic Residents' Offshore Investment and Financing and Roundtrip Investment through Special Purpose Vehicles*, or SAFE Circular No. 37, on July 4, 2014, which replaced the SAFE Circular No. 75. SAFE Circular No. 37 requires PRC residents to register with local branches of SAFE in connection with their direct establishment or indirect control of an offshore entity, for the purpose of overseas investment and financing, with such PRC residents' legally owned assets or equity interests in domestic enterprises or offshore assets or interests, referred to in SAFE Circular No. 37 as a "special purpose vehicle." The term "control" under SAFE Circular No. 37 is broadly defined as the operation rights, beneficiary rights or decision-making rights acquired by the PRC residents in the offshore special purpose vehicles or PRC companies by such means as acquisition, trust, proxy, voting rights, repurchase, convertible bonds or other arrangements. SAFE Circular No. 37 further requires amendment to the registration in the event of any changes with respect to the basic information of the special purpose vehicle, such as changes in a PRC resident individual shareholder, name or operation period, or any significant changes with respect to the special purpose vehicle, such as increase or decrease of capital contributed by PRC individuals, share transfer or exchange, merger, division or other material event. If the shareholders of the offshore holding company who are PRC residents do not complete their registration with the local SAFE branches, the PRC subsidiaries may be prohibited from distributing their profits and proceeds from any reduction in capital, share transfer or liquidation to the offshore company, and the offshore company may be restricted in its ability to contribute additional capital to its PRC subsidiaries. Moreover, failure to comply with SAFE registration and the amendment requirements described above could result in liability under PRC law for the evasion of applicable foreign exchange restrictions. On February 13, 2015, SAFE issued SAFE Circular No. 13, which took effect on June 1, 2015. SAFE Circular No. 13 has delegated to the qualified banks the authority to register all PRC residents' investment in "special purpose vehicle" pursuant to the SAFE Circular No. 37, except that those PRC residents who have failed to comply with the SAFE Circular No. 37 will continue to fall within the jurisdiction of the relevant local SAFE branches and must make their supplementary registration application with such local SAFE branches.

We have requested PRC residents holding direct or indirect interest in our company to our knowledge to make the necessary applications, filings and amendments as required under Circular No. 37 and other related rules. However, we may not be informed of the identities of all the PRC residents holding direct or indirect interest in our company, and we cannot provide any assurances that these PRC residents will comply with our request to make or obtain any applicable registrations or comply with other requirements required by Circular No. 37 or other related rules. The failure or inability of our PRC resident shareholders to make any required registrations or comply with other requirements under Circular No. 37 and other related rules may subject such PRC residents or our PRC subsidiaries to fines and legal sanctions and may also limit our ability to raise additional financing and contribute additional capital into or provide loans to (including using the proceeds from our initial public offering) our PRC subsidiaries, limit our PRC subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends or otherwise distribute profits to us, or otherwise adversely affect us.

#### Regulation on employee share options

On December 25, 2006, the People's Bank of China promulgated the *Administrative Measures for Individual Foreign Exchange*. On February 15, 2012, SAFE issued the *Notices on Issues concerning the Foreign Exchange Administration for Domestic Individuals Participating in Stock Incentive Plans of Overseas Publicly-Listed Companies*, or the Stock Option Rules, which replaced the *Application Procedures of Foreign Exchange Administration for Domestic Individuals Participating in Employee Stock Ownership Plans or Stock Option Plans of Overseas Publicly-Listed Companies* issued by SAFE on March 28, 2007. Pursuant to the Stock Option Rules, PRC residents who are granted shares or stock options by companies listed on overseas stock exchanges according to the stock incentive plans are required to register with SAFE or its local branches, and PRC residents participating in the stock incentive plans of overseas listed companies shall retain a qualified PRC agent, which could be a PRC subsidiary of such overseas publicly-listed company or another qualified institution selected by such PRC subsidiary, to conduct the SAFE registration and other procedures with respect to the stock incentive plans on behalf of these participants. Such participants must also retain an overseas entrusted institution to handle matters in connection with their exercise of stock options, purchase and sale of corresponding stocks or interests, and fund transfer. In addition, the PRC agents are required to amend the SAFE registration with respect to the stock incentive plan if there is any material change to the stock incentive plan, the PRC agents or the overseas entrusted institution or other material changes. The PRC agents shall, on behalf of the PRC residents who have the right to exercise the employee share options, apply to SAFE or its local branches for an annual quota for the payment of foreign currencies in connection with the PRC residents' exercise of the employee share options. The foreign exchange proceeds received by the PRC residents from the sale of shares under the stock incentive plans granted and dividends distributed by the overseas listed companies must be remitted into the bank accounts in the PRC opened by the PRC agents before distribution to such PRC residents. In addition, the PRC agents shall file each quarter the form for record-filing of information of the Domestic Individuals Participating in the Stock Incentive Plans of Overseas Listed Companies with SAFE or its local branches.

Our PRC citizen employees who have been granted share options or restricted shares, or PRC grantees, are subject to the Stock Option Rules. If we or our PRC grantees fail to comply with the Individual Foreign Exchange Rule and the Stock Option Rules, we and/or our PRC grantees may be subject to fines and other legal sanctions. We may also face regulatory uncertainties that could restrict our ability to adopt additional share incentive plans for our directors and employees under PRC law. In addition, the State Administration for Taxation has issued certain circulars concerning employee share awards. Under these circulars, our employees working in the PRC who exercise share options or hold the vested restricted shares will be subject to PRC individual income tax. Our PRC subsidiaries have obligations to file documents related to employee share awards with relevant tax authorities and to withhold individual income taxes of those employees who exercise their share options or hold the vested restricted shares. If our employees fail to pay or we fail to withhold their income taxes according to relevant laws and regulations, we may face sanctions imposed by the tax authorities or other PRC government authorities.

#### Regulation on dividend distributions

The principal regulations governing the distribution of dividends paid by wholly foreign-owned enterprises include:

*Company Law (2005);*

*Wholly Foreign-Owned Enterprise Law (1986), as amended in 2000; and*

*Wholly Foreign-Owned Enterprise Law Implementation Regulations (1990), as amended in 2001.*

Under these regulations, wholly foreign-owned enterprises in the PRC may pay dividends only out of their accumulated profits, if any, as determined in accordance with PRC accounting standards and regulations. In addition, a wholly foreign-owned enterprise in the PRC is required to set aside at least 10% of its after-tax profit based on PRC accounting standards each year to its general reserves until its cumulative total reserve funds reaches 50% of its registered capital. The board of directors of a wholly foreign-owned enterprise has the discretion to allocate a portion of its after tax profits to its employee welfare and bonus funds. These reserve funds, however, may not be distributed as cash dividends.

#### Regulation on overseas listings

On August 8, 2006, six PRC regulatory agencies, namely, the Ministry of Commerce, the State Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, the State Administration for Taxation, SAIC, CSRC and SAFE, jointly adopted *the*

*Regulations on Mergers and Acquisitions of Domestic Enterprises by Foreign Investors*, or the M&A Rules, which became effective on September 8, 2006 and were amended on June 22, 2009. The M&A Rules purport, among other things, to require that offshore special purpose vehicles, or SPVs, that are controlled by PRC companies or individuals and that have been formed for overseas listing purposes through acquisitions of PRC domestic interest held by such PRC companies or individuals, to obtain the approval of the CSRC prior to publicly listing their securities on an overseas stock exchange. On September 21, 2006, the CSRC published a notice on its official website specifying documents and materials required to be submitted to it by SPVs seeking CSRC approval of their overseas listings. While the application of the M&A Rules remains unclear, our PRC legal counsel has advised us that based on its understanding of the current PRC laws, rules and regulations and the M&A Rules, prior approval from the CSRC is not required under the M&A Rules for the listing and trading of our ADSs on the NASDAQ Global Select Market given that (i) our PRC subsidiaries were directly established by us as wholly foreign-owned enterprises, and we have not acquired any equity interest or assets of a PRC domestic company owned by PRC companies or individuals as defined under the M&A Rules that are our beneficial owners after the effective date of the M&A Rules, and (ii) no provision in the M&A Rules clearly classifies the contractual arrangements as a type of transaction subject to the M&A Rules.

However, our PRC legal counsel has further advised us uncertainties still exist as to how the M&A Rules will be interpreted and implemented and its opinions summarized above are subject to any new laws, rules and regulations or detailed implementations and interpretations in any form relating to the M&A Rules. If CSRC or another PRC regulatory agency subsequently determines that prior CSRC approval was required for our initial public offering, we may face regulatory actions or other sanctions from CSRC or other PRC regulatory agencies. These regulatory agencies may impose fines and penalties on our operations, limit our operating privileges, delay or restrict the repatriation of the proceeds from our initial public offering into the PRC or payment or distribution of dividends by our PRC subsidiaries, or take other actions that could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations, reputation and prospects, as well as the trading price of our ADSs. In addition, if CSRC later requires that we obtain its approval for our initial public offering, we may be unable to obtain a waiver of CSRC approval requirements, if and when procedures are established to obtain such a waiver. Any uncertainties or negative publicity regarding CSRC approval requirements could have a material adverse effect on the trading price of our ADSs.



C. Organizational Structure

The following diagram illustrates our corporate structure, including our subsidiaries and variable interest entity and the subsidiaries of our variable interest entity, as of the date of this annual report on Form 20-F:

Note:

Shenzhen Xunlei is our variable interest entity. Mr. Sean Shenglong Zou, our co-founder, chairman and chief executive officer, Mr. Hao Cheng, our co-founder and director, Mr. Jianming Shi, Guangzhou Shulian Information (1) Investment Co., Ltd. and Ms. Fang Wang respectively own 76.0%, 8.3%, 8.3%, 6.7% and 0.7% of Shenzhen Xunlei's equity interests.

(2) The remaining 30% of the equity interest is owned by Mr. Hao Cheng.

(3) The remaining 1% percent is owned by a limited partnership which is controlled by our management.

## Contractual arrangements with Shenzhen Xunlei

### Agreements that provide us effective control over Shenzhen Xunlei

#### Business operation agreement

Pursuant to the business operation agreement among Giganology Shenzhen, Shenzhen Xunlei and the shareholders of Shenzhen Xunlei, as amended, Shenzhen Xunlei's shareholders must appoint the candidates nominated by Giganology Shenzhen to be the directors on its board of directors in accordance with applicable laws and the articles of association of Shenzhen Xunlei, and must cause the persons recommended by Giganology Shenzhen to be appointed as its general manager, chief financial officer and other senior executives. Shenzhen Xunlei and its shareholders also agree to accept and strictly follow the guidance provided by Giganology Shenzhen from time to time relating to employment, termination of employment, daily operations and financial management. Moreover, Shenzhen Xunlei and its shareholders agree that Shenzhen Xunlei will not engage in any transactions that could materially affect its assets, business, personnel, liabilities, rights or operations, including but not limited to the amendment of Shenzhen Xunlei's articles of association, without the prior consent of Giganology Shenzhen and Xunlei Limited or their respective designees. For instance, in May 2011, Shenzhen Xunlei sought and obtained consent from Giganology Shenzhen and Xunlei Limited to increase its registered capital by RMB20 million and to revise its articles of association accordingly. This agreement will expire in 2026.

#### Equity pledge agreement

Pursuant to the equity pledge agreement between Giganology Shenzhen and the shareholders of Shenzhen Xunlei, as amended, the shareholders of Shenzhen Xunlei have pledged all of their equity interests in Shenzhen Xunlei to Giganology Shenzhen to guarantee Shenzhen Xunlei and its shareholders' performance of their respective obligations and any ensuing liabilities under the exclusive technology support and service agreement, as amended, the exclusive technology consulting and training agreement, as amended, the proprietary technology license agreement, the business operation agreement, as amended, the equity interests disposal agreement, as amended, the loan agreements, as amended, and the intellectual properties purchase option agreement, as amended. In addition, the shareholders of Shenzhen Xunlei have completed the registration of equity pledge under the equity pledge agreement with the competent governmental authority. If Shenzhen Xunlei and/or its shareholders breach their contractual obligations under those agreements, Giganology Shenzhen, as pledgee, will be entitled to certain rights, including the right to sell the pledged equity interests.

#### Powers of attorney

Pursuant to the irrevocable powers of attorney executed by each shareholder of Shenzhen Xunlei, each such shareholder appointed Giganology Shenzhen as its attorney-in-fact to exercise such shareholders' rights in Shenzhen Xunlei, including, without limitation, the power to vote on its behalf on all matters of Shenzhen Xunlei requiring shareholder approval in accordance with PRC laws and regulations and the articles of association of Shenzhen Xunlei. Each power of attorney will remain in force for 10 years from the date of execution unless the business operation agreement, as amended, among Giganology Shenzhen, Shenzhen Xunlei and the shareholders of Shenzhen Xunlei is terminated at an earlier date. The term may be extended at Giganology Shenzhen's discretion.

Agreements that transfer economic benefits to us

Exclusive technology support and services agreement

Pursuant to the exclusive technology support and services agreement between Giganology Shenzhen and Shenzhen Xunlei, as amended, Giganology Shenzhen has the exclusive right to provide to Shenzhen Xunlei technology support and technology services related to all technologies needed for its business. Giganology Shenzhen exclusively owns any intellectual property rights resulting from the performance of this agreement. The service fee payable by Shenzhen Xunlei to Giganology Shenzhen is a certain percentage of its earnings. This agreement will expire in 2025 and may be extended with Giganology Shenzhen's written confirmation prior to the expiration date. Giganology Shenzhen is entitled to terminate the agreement at any time by providing 30 days' prior written notice to Shenzhen Xunlei.

#### Exclusive technology consulting and training agreement

Pursuant to the exclusive technology consulting and training agreement between Giganology Shenzhen and Shenzhen Xunlei, as amended, Giganology Shenzhen has the exclusive right to provide to Shenzhen Xunlei technology consulting and training services related to its business. Giganology Shenzhen exclusively owns any intellectual property rights resulting from the performance of this agreement. The service fee payable by Shenzhen Xunlei to Giganology Shenzhen is a certain percentage of its earnings. This agreement will expire in 2025 and may be extended with Giganology Shenzhen's written confirmation prior to the expiration date. Giganology Shenzhen is entitled to terminate the agreement at any time by providing 30 days' prior written notice to Shenzhen Xunlei.

#### Proprietary technology license contract

Pursuant to the proprietary technology license contract between Giganology Shenzhen and Shenzhen Xunlei, Giganology Shenzhen grants Shenzhen Xunlei a non-exclusive and non-transferable right to use Giganology Shenzhen's proprietary technology. Shenzhen Xunlei can only use the proprietary technology to conduct its business within China. Giganology Shenzhen or its designated representative(s) owns the rights to any improvements developed based on the proprietary technology licensed pursuant to this contract. This agreement will expire in 2022 and, at Giganology Shenzhen's discretion, may be extended for an additional 10 years or for other time period as agreed by both Giganology Shenzhen and Shenzhen Xunlei.

#### Intellectual properties purchase option agreement

Pursuant to the intellectual properties purchase option agreement between Giganology Shenzhen and Shenzhen Xunlei, as amended, Shenzhen Xunlei irrevocably grants Giganology Shenzhen (or its designated representative(s)) an exclusive option to purchase certain specified intellectual properties that it owns for RMB1.0 or the minimum amount of consideration permitted under the PRC law. This agreement will expire in 2022 and may be automatically extended for an additional 10 years at each expiration date as long as these intellectual properties have not been transferred to Giganology Shenzhen and/or its designee and Shenzhen Xunlei then still exist.

#### Agreements that provide us the option to purchase the equity interest in Shenzhen Xunlei

#### Equity interests disposal agreement

Pursuant to the equity interests disposal agreement among Giganology Shenzhen, Shenzhen Xunlei and the shareholders of Shenzhen Xunlei, as amended, Shenzhen Xunlei's shareholders irrevocably grant Giganology Shenzhen (or its designated representative(s)) an exclusive option to purchase all or part of their equity interests in Shenzhen Xunlei for RMB1.0 or the minimum amount of consideration permitted under PRC law. This agreement will expire in 2026.

#### Loan agreements

Under the loan agreement between Giganology Shenzhen and Guangzhou Shulian Information Investment Co., Ltd., Sean Shenglong Zou, Hao Cheng, Fang Wang and Jianming Shi, as amended, Giganology Shenzhen made interest-free loans of approximately RMB1.8 million, RMB2.5 million, RMB2.3 million, RMB0.2 million and RMB2.3 million, respectively, to each of the above shareholders of Shenzhen Xunlei and all of these shareholders have used the full amount of loans to make capital contribution to Shenzhen Xunlei. The term of this agreement is two years from the date it was signed, and will be automatically extended afterwards on a yearly basis until each shareholder of Shenzhen Xunlei has repaid the loan in its entirety in accordance with the loan agreement. The loan for each shareholder will be deemed to be repaid under this agreement only when all equity interest held by the relevant shareholder in Shenzhen Xunlei has been transferred to Giganology Shenzhen or its designated parties. As of the date of this annual report, all the loans under the loan agreements remain outstanding. At any time during the term of the loan agreement, Giganology Shenzhen may, at its sole discretion, require any of the shareholders of Shenzhen Xunlei to repay all or any portion of his outstanding loan under the agreement.

In addition, following the loan agreement mentioned above, under a separate loan agreement between Giganology Shenzhen and Mr. Sean Shenglong Zou as a shareholder of Shenzhen Xunlei, as amended, Giganology Shenzhen made an additional interest-free loan of RMB20 million to Mr. Zou, the entire amount of which was used to contribute to the registered capital of Shenzhen Xunlei, increasing the registered capital of Shenzhen Xunlei to RMB30 million. The term of this agreement is two years from the date it was signed, and will be automatically extended afterwards on a yearly basis until Mr. Zou has repaid the loan in its entirety in accordance with the loan agreement. This loan will be deemed to be repaid under this agreement only when all equity interest held by the relevant shareholder in Shenzhen Xunlei has been transferred to Giganology Shenzhen or its designated parties. At any time during the term of the loan agreement, Giganology Shenzhen may, at its sole discretion, require all or any portion of the outstanding loan under the agreement to be repaid.

In the opinion of Zhong Lun Law Firm, our PRC legal counsel:

the ownership structures of our variable interest entity and our subsidiaries in China comply with all existing PRC laws and regulations; and

the contractual arrangements among Giganology Shenzhen, our PRC subsidiary, Shenzhen Xunlei and its shareholders governed by PRC law are valid, binding and enforceable, and will not result in any violation of PRC laws or regulations currently in effect.

We have been advised by Zhong Lun Law Firm, our PRC legal counsel, however, that there are substantial uncertainties regarding the interpretation and application of current and future PRC laws, regulations and rules. Accordingly, the PRC regulatory authorities may take a view that is contrary to the above opinion of our PRC legal counsel. We have been further advised by our PRC legal counsel that if the PRC government finds that the agreements that establish the structure for operating our business to provide digital media data transmission and streaming services, online games and other value-added telecommunication services do not comply with PRC government restrictions on foreign investment in the aforesaid business we engage in, we could be subject to severe penalties including being prohibited from continuing operations. See “Item 3. Key Information—Risk factors—Risks related to our corporate structure—If the PRC government finds that the agreements that establish the structure for operating our businesses in China do not comply with PRC governmental restrictions on foreign investment in internet-related business and foreign investors’ mergers and acquisition activities in China, or if these regulations or the interpretation of existing regulations change in the future, we could be subject to severe penalties or be forced to relinquish our interests in those operations.”

#### D. Property, Plant and Equipment

Our principal executive offices are located at 7/F Block 11, Shenzhen Software Park, Ke Ji Zhong 2nd Road, Nanshan District, Shenzhen, People’s Republic of China, which comprises approximately 7,024 square meters of office space.

In addition to other offices in Shenzhen, we also have offices in Beijing and Hong Kong, respectively, totaling approximately 14,868 square meters. Our leased premises are leased from unrelated third parties who have valid title to the relevant properties. The lease for our principal executive offices will expire in April 2019, and the other leases typically have terms of one to four years. Our servers are primarily hosted at internet data centers owned by major domestic internet data center providers. The hosting services agreements typically have one-year terms and are renewed automatically upon expiration. We believe that we will be able to obtain adequate facilities, principally through leasing, to accommodate our future expansion plans.

Item 4A. Unresolved Staff Comments

None.

Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects

The following discussion of our financial condition and results of operations is based upon, and should be read in conjunction with, our audited consolidated financial statements and the related notes included in this annual report on Form 20-F. This report contains forward-looking statements. See “Forward-Looking Information.” In evaluating our business, you should carefully consider the information provided under the caption “Item 3. Key Information—D. Risk Factors” in this annual report on Form 20-F. We caution you that our businesses and financial performance are subject to substantial risks and uncertainties. Unless otherwise specified, the results presented in this annual report does not include Xunlei Kankan, a discontinued operation.

## A. Operating Results

### Overview

We operate a powerful internet platform in China based on cloud computing to enable users to quickly access, manage and consume digital media content. We are increasingly extending into mobile devices with our mobile application and in part pre-installed acceleration plug-ins on mobile phones to further expand our user base and offer our users a wider range of access points.

We provide users with quick and easy access to digital media content on the internet through two core products and services, available to users for free and for a subscription fee, respectively. Our acceleration products and services include Xunlei Accelerator and our cloud acceleration subscription services (delivered through products such as Green Channel and Offline Accelerator). Benefitting from the large user base accumulated by our core product, Xunlei Accelerator, we have further developed various value-added services to meet a fuller spectrum of our users' digital media content access and consumption needs. These value-added products and services include our cloud computing project and online game. In July 2015, we completed the divestiture of our entire stake in our online video streaming platform, Xunlei Kankan, to Beijing Nesound International Media Corp., Ltd., an independent third party.

We generate revenues primarily through the following services:

*Subscription services.* We provide cloud acceleration subscription services for subscribers to enable faster and more reliable access to digital media content. Revenues from subscription services contributed to 57.4% of our revenue in 2016. Subscription fees are time-based and are primarily collected up-front from subscribers on a monthly or yearly basis.

*Online advertising services (including mobile advertising).* We provide marketing opportunities on our PC websites and mobile platform to advertisers. Online advertising revenues contributed to 10.8% of our revenue in 2016. The revenues are derived principally from various forms of advertisements that we place on our mobile platform after we started to generate mobile advertising revenue in the fourth quarter of 2015.

*Other internet value-added services.* We offer multiple other value-added services, including our cloud computing services, to our users. Revenues from other internet value-added services contributed to 31.8% of our revenue in 2016.



Our revenues decreased from US\$135.8 million in 2014 to US\$130.0 million in 2015 and increased to US\$157.0 million in 2016. We had net income attributable to Xunlei Limited of US\$10.8 million in 2014, a net loss attributable to Xunlei Limited of US\$13.2 million and US\$24.1 million in 2015 and 2016, respectively. Due to our sale of the Xunlei Kankan business, that business is accounted for as a discontinued operation and our consolidated statements of comprehensive income/(loss) in this annual report separately classifies the discontinued operations from our remaining business operations for all years presented.

#### Major factors affecting our results of operations

Our business and operating results are subject to general factors affecting the internet industry in China, including overall economic growth, which has resulted in increases in disposable income and consumer spending, government and industry initiatives accelerating the technological advancement and growth of internet industry, the growth of internet usage and penetration rate in China, strong preference of Chinese consumers for accessing digital media content through the internet, the greater availability of digital media content on the internet, and the increasing acceptance of online advertising as part of advertisers' overall marketing strategy and spending. Our results of operations will continue to be affected by such general factors.

Our results of operations are also directly affected by a number of company-specific factors, including:

Our ability to continue to enhance and innovate our service offerings, including our mobile products and our cloud computing project.

As our industry evolves rapidly and user preference for our services may change quickly, our revenues and results of operations significantly depend on our ability to continue enhancing and expanding our service offerings to meet evolving user preference and market demand, and to broaden our user base. We have a proven track record of developing our service offerings to successfully address the preferences of China's internet users. To address deficiencies of digital media content transmission over the internet in China, we provide users with quick and easy access to digital media content on the internet through two core products and services, Xunlei Accelerator and our cloud acceleration subscription services, available to users for free and for a subscription fee, respectively. To meet our users' digital media content access and consumption needs, we have further developed various value-added services, including online game services. Furthermore, we focus more on user behaviors and study users' life cycles on our platform, so that we can offer relevant services at the right time and encourage users to continue using our services.

An important part of our business plan is to continue transitioning to mobile internet. As an increasing number of users are accessing online services through mobile devices, we are increasingly expanding our services to mobile devices, particularly through cooperation with smartphone makers, including Xiaomi, which currently offers our mobile acceleration plug-in pre-installed on its new phones and as updates on its existing phones. We intend to further work with more smartphone makers in China so that a larger number of mobile users can benefit from our mobile products, including acceleration and higher downloading success rates.

We have also launched our cloud computing project to allocate idle uplink capacity to internet content providers and other internet users in need. We gather idle uplink capacity from internet users who have bought and connected our proprietary ZQB devices to their network router. Our ZQB devices can allocate those users' idle uplink capacity to us for our further allocation to internet content providers and other internet users. We pay users of our ZQB devices for the use of their idle capacity. The uplink capacity gathered from ZQB devices are valuable resources that we target to commercialize with potential customer such as streaming websites and app stores. Depending on our own needs, we also utilize those crowd-sourced capacity for our own subscription business from time to time, reducing our purchase of bandwidth from traditional third party carriers.

Our ability to further monetize our user base.

Our revenues and results of operations depend on our ability to further monetize our user base, to convert more users to subscribers and to increase the spending of our subscribers. With enhanced knowledge of user behavior and preferences, we offer a diverse range of premium services tailored to their individual needs. For example, our cloud acceleration subscription services offer users value-added services for speed. We intend to further monetize our user base and aim to convert users to subscribers by expanding our offering of value-added services, such as cloud-based storage and mobile access. We plan to provide one-stop services for our users, in terms of accessing content and storage and synchronization of content across devices, including mobile devices and PC.

Our ability to maintain our technology leadership and cost-efficient infrastructure.

Our results of operations depend on our ability to maintain our technology leadership, with innovations such as our mobile technology, our uplink capacity crowdsourcing technology and our cloud acceleration technology. Our mobile technology allows users to access content from anywhere, our uplink capacity crowdsourcing technology enables us to utilize the idle capacity available from our large user base, and our cloud acceleration technology enables users to access content in an efficient manner. Our proprietary technology and highly scalable massive distributed computing network form our core competitive advantage, enabling us to deliver superior transmission acceleration services and enhanced user experience anywhere and with an efficient sort of acceleration. Our resource discovery network leverages our distributed computing power, computing and storage capacity and significantly reduces our reliance on servers operated by us. As part of our expansion strategy, we plan to devote substantial resources to research and development in order to better serve our users, particularly to our cloud computing project and mobile products and services. Therefore, the expenses associated with our research and development are expected to increase in the near future. However, we plan to continue to increase the uplink capacity we crowdsource through our cloud computing project, which is expected to reduce our bandwidth cost, contribute to the cost efficiency of our overall infrastructure and generate additional revenue when we sell those capacity to third parties.

Our ability to control our costs and operating expenses.

Our results of operations depend on our ability to control our costs and operating expenses. We expect our bandwidth costs to continue to increase as we grow our business and raise the number of subscribers, although we expect such costs would be partly offset by the fact that we expect to source an increasing amount of bandwidth from our cloud computing project. In addition, our operating expenses are expected to increase in the future, since we expect increased headcount to reflect the growth of our business. We plan to continue to invest in research and development to maintain our technology leadership, especially to increase our research and development expenses and sales and marketing expenses in relation to our cloud computing project.

#### Description of certain statement of operations items

#### Revenues

We derive our revenues primarily from cloud acceleration subscription services, online advertising and other internet value-added services including online games and our cloud computing project services. The following table sets forth the principal components of our revenues by amounts and percentages of our revenues for the periods presented.

Continuing operations	For the Year Ended December 31,					
	2014		2015		2016	
	(in thousands of US\$, except for percentages)					
	Amount	% of Revenues	Amount	% of Revenues	Amount	% of Revenues
Subscriptions	98,189	72.3	82,435	63.4	90,163	57.4
Online advertising	5,834	4.3	4,802	3.7	16,874	10.8
Other internet value-added services	31,789	23.4	42,757	32.9	49,929	31.8
Total	135,812	100.0	129,996	100.0	156,966	100.0

*Subscriptions.* We introduced our cloud acceleration subscription services in March 2009 and we generate revenues from providing our users with exclusive services, such as access to high-speed online transmission, premium acceleration or access privileges, for a time-based subscription fee. The standard subscription fee is RMB10 (US\$1.6) per month or RMB99 (US\$15.9) per year, and we also offer premium subscription packages with prices at RMB15 (US\$2.4) per month or RMB149 (US\$23.9) per year or RMB30 (US\$4.8) per month or RMB 288 (US\$46.2) per year to cater to subscribers' different demand for acceleration speed and user experience, which are becoming increasingly popular among our subscribers. Our subscription revenues, as a percentage of our revenues, decreased from 72.3 % in 2014 to 63.4% in 2015, and 57.4% in 2016.

The most significant factor that directly affects our subscription revenues is the number of subscribers. We may maintain our subscriber base in the future by expanding our offering of fee-based services, but important factors outside of our control, such as the PRC government's regulation and censorship of information disseminated over the internet, may have a material adverse impact on our cloud acceleration services, which in turn may have an adverse effect on the number of our subscribers and on our revenues and results of operations. For example, in April 2014, the Chinese government initiated a campaign to enhance and enforce its scrutiny on internet content in China, particularly for pornographic content, and various websites were subject to penalties and in some cases outright suspension of website operations. We regularly conducted internal compliance investigation to ensure that the content transmitted by our products is in compliance with the strict standards set out by the authorities. We deleted millions of cached files, added thousands of keywords to our automatic keyword filtration system and permitted temporary suspension of services by approximately 257,000 existing subscribers as of the end of 2016. Also see "Item 3. Key Information—D. Risk Factors—Risks related to our business—Regulation and censorship of information disseminated over the internet in China have adversely affected our business and may continue to adversely affect our business, and we may be liable for the digital media content on our platform." In the future, there may be other laws and regulations that lead to further voluntary or forced removal of content or other measures to ensure compliance with standards set out by relevant regulatory authorities, which may further reduce our subscriber base. To date, we have not been able to quantify the magnitude and extent of such impact.

*Online advertising.* Our online advertising revenues are derived from various forms of advertisements that we place on our PC websites and mobile platform. A significant majority of our advertisers purchase our online advertising services through third-party advertising agencies. As is customary in the advertising industry in China, we pay rebates to third-party advertising agencies and recognize revenues net of these rebates.

The revenues from our mobile advertising have grown rapidly since we generated such revenues for the first time in the fourth quarter of 2015 and increased to US\$14.5 million in 2016, accounting for 85.8% of the online advertising revenues. We expect the revenues from mobile advertising to continuously increase with our on-going transition to mobile internet. Other advertising revenues decreased from US\$3.1 million in 2015 to US\$2.4 million in 2016 primarily due to our sale of Xunlei Kankan in July 2015 and we do not expect to generate significant revenues in the foreseeable future. For details of our sale of Xunlei Kankan, see “Item 4. Information on the Company — A. History and Development of the Company.” In the fourth quarter of 2015, we achieved mobile advertising revenue for the first time.

*Other internet value-added services.* We actively seek new business opportunities that complement our existing core acceleration business to further improve our users’ overall experience. Revenues from other internet value-added services increased from US\$31.8 million in 2014 to US\$42.8 million in 2015 and US\$49.9 million in 2016.

Revenues of other internet value-added services were generated primarily from our online games and our cloud computing services. For web games, we had approximately 283,000, 397,000 and 260,222 paying users for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2015 and 2016, respectively. For the MMOGs, we had approximately 156,000, 81,000 and 57,904 paying users for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2015 and 2016, respectively. We calculate the number of paying users during a given period as the cumulative number of users that have purchased virtual items or other products and services for our web games or MMOGs at least once during the relevant period. For cloud computing, we recognize revenue when those online video streamers pay us for the crowd-sourced uplink capacity that we collect from individuals and provide to online video streamers. We started to generate revenue from cloud computing services in 2015 and the revenue for the year ended December 31, 2016 increased by 230.4% on a year-over-year basis. We expect the revenue will continue to increase with the growth of our cloud computing services.

#### Cost of revenues

Our cost of revenues consists primarily of (i) bandwidth costs, (ii) content costs, (iii) payment handling fees, (iv) depreciation of servers and other equipment and (v) games revenue sharing costs and others. The following table sets forth the components of our cost of revenues by amounts and percentages of our revenues for the periods presented:

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Continuing operations	For the Year Ended December 31,					
	2014		2015		2016	
	(in thousands of US\$, except for percentages)					
	Amount	% of Revenues	Amount	% of Revenues	Amount	% of Revenues
Bandwidth costs	33,545	24.7	37,218	28.6	55,135	35.1
Content costs, including amortization	—	—	338	0.3	692	0.4
Payment handling fees	11,305	8.3	9,087	7.0	6,967	4.4
Depreciation of servers and other equipment	5,102	3.8	4,873	3.8	5,848	3.7
Games revenue sharing costs and others	5,803	4.3	8,518	6.5	11,677	7.5
Total	55,755	41.1	60,034	46.2	80,319	51.1

*Bandwidth costs.* Bandwidth costs consist of the fees we pay to telecommunications carriers and other service providers for telecommunications services and for hosting our servers at their internet data centers and to a less extent, the fees we pay users of our ZQB devices for the use of their idle uplink capacity. Bandwidth is a significant component of our cost of revenues. We expect our bandwidth costs to increase on an absolute basis due to an increased need for the bandwidth to support the growth of our cloud computing business. For details on our cloud computing project, see “Item 4. Information on the Company — B. Business Overview.”

*Payment handling fees.* Payment handling fees are the fees we pay to payment channels for cloud acceleration subscription services, online games and other paid services. Users can make payments for such services through third-party online, fixed phone line and mobile phone payment channels. These third-party payment channels typically charge a handling fee for their services. Our subscribers used to make subscription payments through mobile phones. However, as mobile carriers generally charge higher handling fees than other channels, we have modified our subscription fee structure to encourage our subscribers to use other available payment channels. We expect such payment handling fees to decrease as we continue to modify our subscription fee structure.

*Depreciation of servers and other equipment.* Depreciation expenses for servers and other equipment that are directly related to our business operations and technical support are included in our cost of revenues. We expect our depreciation expenses to increase on an absolute basis as we continue to invest in additional servers and other equipment to accommodate the growth of our user and subscriber base, but to decrease as a percentage of our revenues over time.

*Games revenue sharing costs and others.* These costs mainly represent the share of online game revenue remitted to developers of exclusive licensed games.

#### Operating expenses

Our operating expenses consist of (i) research and development expenses, (ii) sales and marketing expenses and (iii) general and administrative expenses. The following table sets forth the components of our operating expenses by amounts and percentages of our revenues for the periods presented:

	For the Year Ended December 31,					
	2014		2015		2016	
	(in thousands of US\$, except for percentages)					
	Amount	% of Revenues	Amount	% of Revenues	Amount	% of Revenues
Research and development expenses	29,252	21.5	38,250	29.4	64,360	41.0
Sales and marketing expenses	13,527	10.0	15,042	11.6	18,782	12.0
General and administrative expenses	26,945	19.8	28,774	22.1	26,168	16.7
Total	69,724	51.3	82,066	63.1	109,310	69.7

*Research and development expenses.* Research and development expenses consist primarily of salaries and benefits for our research and development personnel. Expenditures incurred during the research phase are expensed as incurred. Expenditures incurred for the development of the acceleration products prior to the establishment of



technological feasibility are expensed when incurred. We expect our research and development expenses to increase in the near term as we continue to expand our research and development team to develop new products and update existing products, particularly as we plan to continue devoting resources in the development of our cloud computing project and the development and updating of our mobile products.

*Sales and marketing expenses.* Sales and marketing expenses consist primarily of salaries, sales commissions and benefits for our sales and marketing personnel and marketing and promotional expenses. We expect our sales and marketing expenses to increase in the near term as we expect to hire additional sales personnel and invest in brand enhancement efforts and the promotion of our products, particularly as we plan to increase our efforts in promoting our cloud computing project, Mobile Xunlei and online games.

*General and administrative expenses.* General and administrative expenses consist primarily of salaries and benefits, professional service fees and other administrative expenses. We expect our general and administrative expenses to slightly increase in the near term as our business continues to grow.

## Taxation

### Cayman Islands

We are incorporated in the Cayman Islands. Under the current laws of the Cayman Islands, we are not subject to tax on income or capital gains. Additionally, there is no withholding tax on dividends paid by us to our shareholders.

China

On March 16, 2007, the PRC National People's Congress promulgated the EIT Law, adopting a unified EIT rate of 25%. In addition, the EIT Law also provides a five-year transitional period starting from its effective date for those enterprises that were established before the date of promulgation of the EIT Law and that were entitled to preferential income tax rates under the then effective tax laws or regulations. On December 26, 2007, the State Council issued the "Circular for Implementation of the Transitional Preferential Policies for the Enterprise Income Tax." Pursuant to this Circular, the transitional income tax rates for enterprises established in the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone before March 16, 2007 were 18%, 20%, 22%, 24% and 25% for 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, respectively. Thus, the applicable EIT rate for Giganology Shenzhen, the VIE and its subsidiaries, which were established in the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone before March 16, 2007, was 25% for each of the years 2014, 2015 and 2016.

On April 14, 2008, relevant PRC governmental regulatory authorities released further qualification criteria, application procedures and assessment processes for meeting the High and New Technology Enterprise, or HNTE status under the EIT Law which would entitle qualified and approved entities to a favorable statutory tax rate of 15%. In April 2009, the State Administration for Taxation, or SAT, issued Circular Guoshuihan [2009] No. 203 stipulating that entities qualified for the HNTE status should apply with the relevant tax authorities to enjoy the reduced EIT rate of 15% provided under the EIT Law starting from the year when the HNTE certificate becomes effective. In addition, an entity qualified for the HNTE status can continue to enjoy its remaining tax holiday from January 1, 2008 provided that it has obtained the HNTE certificate according to the new recognition criteria set by the EIT Law and the relevant regulations. In February 2011, Shenzhen Xunlei obtained the HNTE certificate and has renewed the HNTE certificate in September 2014 for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017, which enables Shenzhen Xunlei to enjoy the preferential tax rate of 15% for the years of 2015, 2016 and 2017.

According to a policy of the PRC State tax bureau, enterprises that engage in research and development activities are entitled to claim 150% of the research and development expenses incurred in a year as tax deductible expenses in determining their tax assessable profits for that year, or Super Deduction. Shenzhen Xunlei has been claiming this Super Deduction in ascertaining its tax assessable profits and brought forward tax losses from 2009 onwards. In addition, following the approval by the relevant tax authority in July 2010, Shenzhen Xunlei was recognized as an enterprise engaged in software development activities. Accordingly, it is entitled to a tax holiday of 2-year Exemption and 3-year 50% Reduction from 2010 onwards. In December 2013, Shenzhen Xunlei obtained the certificate of the Key Software Enterprise for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2014, which enables Shenzhen Xunlei to enjoy the preferential tax rate of 10% for the year of 2013 and 2014. As a result, the applicable tax rate of Shenzhen Xunlei for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2015 and 2016 were 10%, 15% and 15%, respectively.

Pursuant to the relevant PRC regulations, Xunlei Computer is entitled to the 2-year Exemption and 3-year 50% Reduction treatment. The first year of profitable operation of Xunlei Computer is 2013. Accordingly, the applicable EIT rates for Xunlei Computer were 0%, 12.5% and 12.5% for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2016, respectively. Our other subsidiaries and VIE's subsidiaries, which were established after January 1, 2008, are subject to

EIT at a rate of 25%.

In addition, according to the EIT Law and its implementation rules, foreign enterprises, which have no establishment or place in the PRC but derive dividends, interest, rents, royalties and other income (including capital gains) from sources in the PRC are subject to PRC withholding tax, or WHT, at 10% (a further reduced WHT rate may be available according to the applicable double tax treaty or arrangement). The 10% WHT is generally applicable to any dividends to be distributed from Giganology Shenzhen and Xunlei Computer to us out of any profits of Giganology Shenzhen and Xunlei Computer derived after January 1, 2008. Although Xunlei Computer and Giganology Shenzhen had retained earnings as of December 31, 2016, the directors of the company decided to reinvest the retained earnings permanently in China and therefore no such WHT is required.

## Results of operations

The following table sets forth a summary of our consolidated results of continuing operations by amounts and percentages of our revenues for the years indicated. This information should be read together with our consolidated financial statements and related notes included elsewhere in this annual report. The results of operations in any period are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for any future period.

	For the Year Ended December 31,					
	2014		2015		2016	
	Amount	% of Revenues	Amount	% of Revenues	Amount	% of Revenues
Revenues, net of rebates and discounts	135,812	100.0	129,996	100.0	156,966	100.0
Business taxes and surcharge	(1,878 )	(1.4 )	(361 )	(0.3 )	(804 )	(0.5 )
Net revenues	133,934	98.6	129,635	99.7	156,162	99.5
Cost of revenues	(55,755 )	(41.0 )	(60,034 )	46.2	(80,319 )	(51.1 )
Gross profit	78,179	57.6	69,601	53.5	75,843	48.4
Operating expenses						
Research and development expenses	(29,252 )	(21.5 )	(38,250 )	(29.4 )	(64,360 )	(41.0 )
Sales and marketing expenses	(13,527 )	(10.0 )	(15,042 )	(11.6 )	(18,782 )	(12.0 )
General and administrative expenses	(26,945 )	(19.8 )	(28,774 )	(22.1 )	(26,168 )	(16.7 )
Total operating expenses	(69,724 )	(51.3 )	(82,066 )	(63.1 )	(109,310 )	(69.7 )
Operating income/(loss)	8,455	6.3	(12,465 )	(9.6 )	(33,467 )	(21.3 )
Interest income	6,733	5.0	5,833	4.5	2,158	1.4
Interest expense	(163 )	(0.1 )	(239 )	(0.2 )	(239 )	(0.2 )
Other income, net	13,966	10.2	3,627	2.8	6,502	4.1
Share of income/(loss) from equity investees	(259 )	(0.2 )	(12 )	(0.0 )	(195 )	(0.1 )
Income/(loss) from continuing operations before income tax	28,732	21.2	(3,256 )	(2.5 )	(25,240 )	(16.1 )
Income tax (expense)/benefit	(463 )	0.4	886	0.7	1,264	0.8
Net income/(loss) from continuing operations	28,269	20.8	(2,370 )	(1.8 )	(23,976 )	(15.3 )
Discontinued operations						
Loss from discontinued operations before income taxes	(20,330 )	—	(10,048 )	—	(243 )	—
Income tax benefit/(expense)	1,923	—	(2,048 )	—	36	—
Net loss from discontinued operations	(18,407 )	(13.5 )	(12,096 )	(9.3 )	(207 )	(0.1 )
Net income/(loss)	9,862	7.3	(14,466 )	(11.1 )	(24,183 )	(15.4 )
Less: Net loss attributable to the non-controlling interest	(950 )	(0.7 )	(1,299 )	(1.0 )	(72 )	—
Net income/(loss) attributable to Xunlei Limited	10,812	8.0	(13,167 )	(10.1 )	(24,111 )	(15.4 )

Year ended December 31, 2016 compared with year ended December 31, 2015.

**Revenues.** Our revenues increased by 20.7% from US\$130.0 million in 2015 to US\$157.0 million in 2016. The increase was primarily due to the increase of revenues from cloud computing, mobile advertising and subscription services.

Our revenues from subscription services increased by 9.4% from US\$82.4 million in 2015 to US\$90.2 million in 2016. The increase was mainly attributable to the growth in average revenue per subscriber. Our number of subscribers as of December 31, 2016 was 4.2 million, compared with 4.3 million as of December 31, 2015.

Our online advertising revenues increased by 252.2% from US\$4.8 million in 2015 to US\$16.9 million in 2016, primarily due to the growth in mobile advertising which started monetization during the last quarter of 2015.

Revenues derived from other internet value-added services increased by 16.7% from US\$42.8 million in 2015 to US\$49.9 million in 2016, primarily because of the growth in cloud computing revenue.

**Cost of revenues.** Our cost of revenues increased by 33.8% from US\$60.0 million in 2015 to US\$80.3 million in 2016. The increase in our cost of revenues was primarily due to an increase in bandwidth cost for cloud computing.

**Bandwidth costs.** Our bandwidth costs increased by 48.1% from US\$37.2 million in 2015 to US\$55.1 million in 2016, primarily due to an increase in bandwidth costs for cloud computing.

*Payment handling fees.* Our payment handling fees decreased by 23.3% from US\$9.1 million in 2015 to US\$7.0 million in 2016, driven primarily by a change in the combination of payment channels used by our subscribers.

*Depreciation of servers and other equipment.* Depreciation of servers and other equipment increased by 18.0% from US\$4.9 million in 2015 to US\$5.8 million in 2016, as we invested in additional servers and other equipment in line with the growth of cloud computing business.

*Games revenue sharing costs and others.* These costs increased by 37.1% from US\$8.5 million in 2015 to US\$11.7 million in 2016, primarily due to the increase in cost of ZQB and other initiatives.

*Gross profit.* As a result of the above, our gross profit increased by 9.0% from US\$69.6 million in 2015 to US\$75.8 million in 2016. Gross profit margin decreased from 53.5% in 2015 to 48.3% in 2016, primarily due to the continued investments in cloud computing which is still incurring losses.

*Operating expenses.* Our operating expenses increased by 33.2% from US\$82.1 million in 2015 to US\$109.3 million in 2016, primarily due to expenses associated with the continued development and promotion of cloud computing and an increase of staff compensation expenses.

*Research and development expenses.* Our research and development expenses increased by 68.3% from US\$38.3 million in 2015 to US\$64.4 million in 2016. The increase in our research and development expenses was primarily due to the increase in staff salaries and benefits as a result of increased headcount and average compensation, and growth in our cloud computing project.

*Sales and marketing expenses.* Our sales and marketing expenses increased by 24.9% from US\$15.0 million in 2015 to US\$18.8 million in 2016. The increase in our sales and marketing expenses was primarily due to increased staff compensation expenses and higher marketing spending to promote certain online games.

*General and administrative expenses.* Our general and administrative expenses decreased by 9.1% from US\$28.8 million in 2015 to US\$26.2 million in 2016. The decrease in our general and administrative expenses was primarily due to the decrease in staff compensation expenses as a result of decreased headcount of our general and administrative personnel.

**Interest income.** Our interest income decreased by 63% from US\$5.8 million in 2015 to US\$2.2 million in 2016 as we converted our offshore bank deposit from RMB to U.S. dollars since last quarter of 2015 and U.S. dollars-denominated deposits offered lower interest yield.

**Interest expense.** We had an interest expense of US\$0.2 million in 2015 and US\$0.2 million in 2016, which represented interest expenses accrued for long-term payables to certain shareholders resulting from repurchase of shares in 2014.

**Other income, net.** Our other income increased by 79% from US\$3.6 million in 2015 to US\$6.5 million in 2016, primarily due to the decline of exchange loss in 2016 as a result of an appreciation of U.S. dollars against RMB.

**Income tax (expense)/benefit.** We had an income tax benefit of US\$0.9 million in 2015 and an income tax benefit of US\$1.3 million in 2016. Our income tax benefit for the year ended December 31, 2016 was primarily the result of decrease of deferred tax liabilities relating to outside basis difference.

**Net income/(loss) from continuing operations.** As a result of the above, we incurred a net loss of US\$2.4 million in 2015 and a net loss of US\$24.0 in 2016.

**Net loss from discontinued operations.** Loss from discontinued operations was US\$12.1 million in 2015 and US\$0.2 million in 2016.

**Net income/(loss) attributable to Xunlei Limited.** As a result of the above, we generated a net loss attributable to Xunlei Limited of US\$13.2 million in 2015 and a net loss attributable to Xunlei Limited of US\$24.1 in 2016.

Year ended December 31, 2015 compared with year ended December 31, 2014.

**Revenues.** Our revenues decreased by 4.3% from US\$135.8 million in 2014 to US\$130.0 million in 2015. The decrease was primarily due to a decrease in subscription revenues.

Our revenues from subscription services decreased by 16.0% from US\$98.2 million in 2014 to US\$82.4 million in 2015. The decrease was mainly attributable to lower average revenue per subscriber due to the suspension of certain accounts in 2015. Our number of subscribers as of December 31, 2015 was 4.3 million, compared with 4.2 million as of December 31, 2014.

Our online advertising revenues decreased by 17.5% from US\$5.8 million in 2014 to US\$4.8 million in 2015, primarily because we stopped placing advertisements on Xunlei Kankan after its divestiture.

Revenues derived from other internet value-added services increased by 34.5% from US\$31.8 million in 2014 to US\$42.8 million in 2015, primarily because we achieved revenue from our cloud computing project in 2015.

**Cost of revenues.** Our cost of revenues increased by 7.7% from US\$55.8 million in 2014 to US\$60.0 million in 2015. The increase in our cost of revenues was primarily due to the increase in bandwidth costs associated with our cloud computing project.

**Bandwidth costs.** Our bandwidth costs increased by 10.9% from US\$33.5 million in 2014 to US\$37.2 million in 2015, primarily due to the increased bandwidth costs associated with our cloud computing project.

**Payment handling fees.** Our payment handling fees decreased by 19.6% from US\$11.3 million in 2014 to US\$9.1 million in 2015, driven primarily by a change in the combination of payment channels used by our subscribers.

**Depreciation of servers and other equipment.** Depreciation of servers and other equipment decreased by 4.5% from US\$5.1 million in 2014 to US\$4.9 million in 2015, primarily due to the shift of strategy to our cloud computing project.



*Games revenue sharing costs and others.* These costs increased by 4.8% from US\$5.8 million in 2014 to US\$8.5 million in 2015, primarily related to the cost of hardware sold this year.

*Gross profit.* As a result of the above, our gross profit decreased by 11.0% from US\$78.2 million in 2014 to US\$69.6 million in 2015. Gross profit margin decreased from 57.6% in 2014 to 53.5% in 2015, primarily due to an increase in bandwidth cost.

*Operating expenses.* Our operating expenses increased by 17.7% from US\$69.7 million in 2014 to US\$82.1 million in 2015, primarily due to expenses associated with the development and promotion of cloud computing and an increase of staff compensation expenses, including share-based compensation.

*Research and development expenses.* Our research and development expenses increased by 30.8% from US\$29.3 million in 2014 to US\$38.3 million in 2015. The increase in our research and development expenses was primarily due to the rise in staff compensation expenses, both due to the continued investments (including more headcounts and increased bonuses) and growth in our cloud computing project.

*Sales and marketing expenses.* Our sales and marketing expenses increased by 11.2% from US\$13.5 million in 2014 to US\$15.0 million in 2015. The increase in our sales and marketing expenses was primarily due to our increased spending on marketing and promotion associated with our cloud computing project.

*General and administrative expenses.* Our general and administrative expenses increased by 6.8% from US\$26.9 million in 2014 to US\$28.8 million in 2015. The increase in our general and administrative expenses was primarily due to an increase in staff compensation expenses, including share-based compensation, both due to an increase in headcount and an increase in average salary and bonus levels.

*Interest income.* Our interest income decreased by 13.4% from US\$6.7 million in 2014 to US\$5.8 million in 2015. The increase was primarily due to the decrease of our cash and cash equivalents.

**Interest expense.** We had an interest expense of US\$0.2 million in 2014 and US\$0.2 million in 2015, which represented interest expenses accrued for long-term payables to certain shareholders resulting from repurchase of shares in 2014.

**Other income, net.** Our other income decreased by 74.0% from US\$14.0 million in 2014 to US\$3.6 million in 2015, primarily due to a decrease of US\$8.1 million in fair value changes of warrants liabilities resulting from expiration of series E warrants upon our initial public offering in 2014, an increase of US\$ 2.6 million in exchange losses and an increase of US\$1.0 million in investment income from short-term investments.

**Income tax (expense)/benefit.** We had an income tax expense of US\$0.5 million in 2014 but an income tax benefit of US\$0.9 million in 2015. The income tax benefit for 2015 was mainly attributable to the deferred tax asset related to our operating loss, which was carried forward to offset taxable income. There is no valuation allowance recognized for deferred tax assets generated from tax loss of disposal of Xunlei Kankan since we believe it can achieve enough profit in the next five years to realize all of the deferred tax assets.

**Net income/(loss) from continuing operations.** As a result of the above, we generated a net income of US\$28.3 million in 2014 but incurred a net loss of US\$2.4 million in 2015.

**Net loss from discontinued operations.** Loss from discontinued operations was US\$18.4 million in 2014 and US\$12.1 million in 2015.

**Net income/(loss) attributable to Xunlei Limited.** As a result of the above, we generated a net income attributable to Xunlei Limited of US\$10.8 million in 2014 but a net loss attributable to Xunlei Limited of US\$13.2 million in 2015.

## Inflation

Inflation in China has not affected our results of operations in recent years. According to the National Bureau of Statistics of China, the year-over-year percent changes in the consumer price index for December 2014, 2015 and 2016 were increases of 1.5%, 1.6% and 2.1%, respectively. Although we have not been affected by inflation in the past, we may be affected if China experiences higher rates of inflation in the future.

## Critical accounting policies

We prepare our financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP, which requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect our reporting of, among other things, assets and liabilities, contingent assets and liabilities and revenues and expenses. We regularly evaluate these estimates and assumptions based on the most recently available information, our own historical experiences and other factors that we believe to be relevant under the circumstances. Since our financial reporting process inherently relies on the use of estimates and assumptions, our actual results could differ from what we expect. This is especially true with some accounting policies that require higher degrees of judgment than others in their application. We consider the policies discussed below to be critical to an understanding of our audited consolidated financial statements because they involve the greatest reliance on our management's judgment.

### Revenue recognition

#### 1. Subscription revenues

We operate a VIP subscription program where subscribers can have access to acceleration services and other access privileges. The subscription fee is time-based and is collected up-front from subscribers except in the cases when they elect to pay via their mobile operators. The subscription fee is collected when the subscribers pay for their monthly phone bills. The terms of time-based subscriptions range from one to twelve months, with the subscribers having the option to renew the contracts. The receipt of subscription fees is initially recorded as deferred revenue and revenues are recognized ratably over the period of subscription as services are rendered. Unrecognized portion of the subscription fee beyond 12 months from balance sheet date is classified as non-current liability. We evaluated the principal versus agent criteria and determined that we are the principal in the transaction and accordingly record revenues on a gross basis. In determining whether to report revenues gross for the amount of subscription revenues, we assesses whether it maintains the principal relationship with the VIP subscribers, whether it bears the credit risk and whether it establishes prices for the end users. Payment handling fees levied by online system, fixed phone line and mobile payment channels are recorded as the cost of revenues in the same period as the revenues for the subscription fee are recognized.

## 2. Advertising revenues

Advertising revenues are derived principally from advertising arrangements where the advertisers pay to place their advertisements on our platform in different formats over a particular period of time. Such formats include but are not limited to videos, banners, links, logos and buttons.

Advertisements on our platform are charged on the basis of duration, and advertising contracts are signed to establish the fixed price and the advertising services to be provided. We enter into advertising contracts with third-party advertising agencies that represent advertisers, as well as directly with advertisers. A typical contract term would range from a few days to three months. Both third party advertising agencies and direct advertisers are billed at the end of the display period and payments are due usually within three months.

Where our customers purchase multiple advertising spaces with different display periods in the same contract, we allocate the total consideration to the various advertising elements based on their relative fair values and recognize revenues for the different elements over their respective display periods. We determine the fair values of different advertising elements based on the prices charged when these elements were sold on a standalone basis. We recognize revenues on the elements delivered and defer the recognition of revenues for the fair value of the undelivered elements until the remaining obligations have been satisfied. Where all of the elements within an arrangement are delivered uniformly over the contract period, revenues are recognized on a straight line basis over the contract period.

### a) Transactions with third-party advertising agencies

For contracts entered into with third-party advertising agencies, the third-party advertising agencies will in turn sell the advertising services to advertisers. Revenues are recognized ratably over the contract period of display based on the following criteria:

There is a persuasive evidence that an arrangement exists: we will enter into framework and execution contracts with the advertising agencies, specifying price, advertising content, format and timing;

Price is fixed and determinable: price charged to the advertising agencies is specified in the contracts, including relevant discount and rebate rates;

Services are rendered: we recognize revenues ratably over the contract period of display; and

Collectability is reasonably assured: we assess credit history of each advertising agency before entering into any framework and execution contracts. If the collectability from the agencies is assessed as not reasonably assured, we recognize revenues only when the cash is received and all the other revenues criteria are met.

We provide sales incentives in the forms of discounts and rebates to third party advertising agencies based on purchase amount. As the advertising agencies are viewed as the customers in these transactions, revenues are recognized based on the price charged to the agencies, net of sales rebates provided to the agencies. Sales incentives are estimated and recorded at the time of revenue recognition based on the contracted rebate rates and estimated sales amount based on historical experience.

We regularly monitor sales amount from each customer and adjust our estimated rebate at the end of each reporting period. Annual sales rebates are assessed on a quarterly basis based on the contracted rebate rates and the estimated sales amount for the full year, and actual sales to date and estimated sales for the rest of the year. Such rebates are adjusted at the year end based on actual sales amount achieved.

b) Transactions with advertisers

We also enter into advertisement contracts directly with advertisers. Under these contracts, similar to transactions with third-party advertising agencies, we recognize revenues ratably over the contract period of display. The terms and conditions, including price, are fixed according to the contracts between us and the advertisers. We also perform credit assessment of all advertisers prior to entering into contracts. Revenues are recognized based on the amount charged to the advertisers, net of discounts.

c) Transactions with third party advertising platforms

We began to cooperate with third party advertising platforms since the fourth quarter of 2015. Advertisers put their content on third party advertising platforms and platforms will dispatch the advertising content to Xunlei's platforms by certain analysis systematically. The revenue from third-party advertising platform is recognized monthly based on the data publicized on third party platforms and the price charged to these platforms.

3. Other internet value-added services

(1) Online game revenues

Users play games through our platform free of charge and are charged for purchases of virtual items including consumable and perpetual items, which can be utilized in the online games to enhance their game-playing experience. Consumable items represent virtual items that can be consumed by a specific user within a specified period of time. Perpetual items represent virtual items that are accessible to the users' account over the life of the online game. Pursuant to contracts signed between us and the game developers, revenues from the sale of virtual items are shared based on a pre-agreed ratio for each game. We enter into both non-exclusive and exclusive licensing contracts with game developers.

a) Non-exclusive game licensed contracts

The games under non-exclusive licensed contracts are maintained, hosted and updated by the game developers. We mainly provide access to our platform and limited after-sale services to the game players. The determination of whether to record these revenues using the gross or net method is based on an assessment of various factors; the primary factors are whether we act as the principal in offering services to the game players or as agent in the transactions, and the specific requirements of each contract. We have determined that for non-exclusive game licensed arrangements, the third party game developers are the principal given that the game developers design and develop the game services offered, have reasonable latitude to establish prices of virtual items, and are responsible for maintaining

and upgrading the game content and virtual items. Accordingly, we record online game revenues, net of the portion remitted to the game developers.

Given that online games are managed and administered by the game developers for non-exclusive licensed games, we do not have access to the data on the consumption details and the types of virtual items purchased by the game players. However, we have data of when a particular user makes a purchase and logs into the game. We have adopted a policy to recognize revenues relating to both consumable and perpetual items, over the shorter of (1) estimated lives of the games and (2) the estimated lives of the user relationship with us, which were approximately one to ten months for the periods presented.

Adjustments arising from the change of estimated lives of virtual items are applied prospectively as such change results from new information indicating a change in the game player behavioral patterns.

b) Exclusive game licensed contracts

For exclusive licensed contracts with game developers, the games are maintained and hosted by us. Accordingly, where we are determined to be the principal, we record online game revenues on a gross basis, with the amount remitted to the game developers reported as cost of revenues. Payment handling fees are recognized as cost of revenues when the related revenues are recognized.

For exclusive licensed games which are maintained on our servers, we have access to the data on the consumption details and types of virtual items purchased by the game players. We do not maintain information on consumption details of virtual items, and only have limited information related to the frequency of log-ons. Given that a substantial portion of the virtual items purchased by the game players in exclusive licensed games are perpetual items, our management has determined that it would be most appropriate to recognize the related revenues over the shorter of (1) estimated lives of the games and (2) estimated life of the user relationship with us, which is approximately one to six months. Revenues relating to consumable items are recognized immediately upon consumption. Any changes in our estimates of lives of virtual items may result in our revenues being recognized on a basis different from prior periods and may cause our operating results to fluctuate.

For both non-exclusive and exclusive licensed games, we estimate the life of virtual items to be the shorter of the estimated lives of the games and the estimated lives of the user relationship.

The estimated user relationship period is based on data collected from those users who have purchased virtual items. To estimate the life of the user relationship, we maintain a software system that captures the following information for each user: the date of first log-on, the date the user ceases to play the game and frequency of log-ons. We estimate the life of the user relationship to be the weighted average period from the first purchase of a virtual item to the date the user ceases to play the game based on the frequency of log-ons. The estimate of the life of the user relationship is based only on the data of those users who have purchased virtual items and is made on a game-by-game basis.

To estimate the date the user ceases to play the game, we selected all paying users that logged on during a particular month and continue to track these users' log-on behaviors over at least a three-month period to determine if each user is "active" or "inactive," which is determined based on a review of the period of inactivity or idle period from the user's last log-on. We observe the behaviors of these users to see whether they subsequently return to a game based on different inactive periods (e.g. not logging on) of one month, two months, three months and so forth. The percentage of users calculated that do not log back on is estimated to be the probability that users will not return to the game after a certain period of inactivity.

We consider a paying player to be inactive once he or she has reached a period of inactivity for which it is probable (defined as at least 80%) that a player will not return to a specific game. We believe that using an 80% threshold for the likelihood that a player will not return to a game is a reasonable estimate that achieves the magnitude of "probable" under the threshold described in ASC 450 Contingencies. We have consistently applied this threshold to our analysis. Based on our assessment, the inactive period ranges generally from one to three months depending on the games.

To estimate the life of the games, we consider both games that we operate as well as games in the market that are of a similar nature. We group these games by their nature, in categories such as simulation games, role playing games and others, which appeal to players belonging to different demographics. We estimate that the life of each group of the



games to be the average period from the date of launch for such games to the date the games are expected to be removed from the website or terminated altogether. When we launch a new game, we estimate the life of the game and user relationship based on lives of other similar games in the market until the new game establishes its own history. We also consider the game's profile, attributes, target audience, and its appeal to players of different demographic groups in estimating the user relationship period.

The consideration of user relationship with each online game is based on our best estimate that takes into account all known and relevant information at the time of assessment. Adjustments arising from the changes of estimated lives of virtual items are applied prospectively as such changes are resulted from new information indicating a change in the game player behavioral patterns. Any changes in our estimates of lives of virtual items may result in our revenues being recognized on a basis different from prior periods and may cause our operating results to fluctuate. We periodically assess the estimated lives of the virtual items and any changes from prior estimates are accounted for prospectively. Any adjustments arising from changes in user relationship as a result of new information will be accounted as a change in accounting estimate in accordance with ASC 250 Accounting Changes and Error Corrections.

Game players can purchase virtual currency via an online payment channel. We incur service fees levied by these payment channels, and such payment expenses are recorded as the cost of revenues when the related revenues are recognized.

(2) Content sub-licensing revenues

With copyright content that has been exclusively licensed to us, we have the right to sub-license the broadcasting rights on a recurring basis to third parties. We generate revenues from sub-licensing these broadcasting rights to third party customers, mainly video streaming internet platforms for cash, at a fixed rate for a fixed period of time that falls within the original exclusive license period. Revenues are recognized in full at the later of the delivery of the copy of the content with acceptance acknowledged by the customers and the commencement of the license period, as we are not obliged to provide any other services. We perform credit assessment of our customers prior to entering into contracts to ensure that collection of the arrangement fee is reasonably assured. We have no on-going obligation after delivery of the copy of the content.

(3) Pay per view revenues

We operate a pay per view program in which subscribers pay a monthly fee to watch and access a collection of movie contents. The subscription fee is time-based and is collected up-front from subscribers except in the cases where they elect to pay via their mobile operators. The subscription fee is collected when the subscribers pay for their monthly phone fees. The terms of time-based subscriptions range from one month to twelve months, with the subscribers having the option to renew the contracts. The receipt of payment is initially recorded as deferred revenue and revenue is recognized ratably over the period of subscription as services are rendered.

Viewers can also pay to watch each individual movie for an unlimited number of times. Revenues are recognized when the movie is broadcasted to the viewers.

(4) Revenues from Cloud Computing

We launched Project Crystal, our cloud computing uplink capacity crowdsourcing project, in 2014. This is an ongoing technology innovation in crowd-sourcing of idle uplink capacity and potentially storage from our user base, by providing crowd-sourced uplink capacity either for our own use or for third parties. These services are mainly used in online game, online video and mobile application.

The core principle is to collect idle uplink capacity from individuals with compensation, and we target to commercialize to online video streamers, app stores and other third parties. On a monthly basis, we record the capacity that we deliver and recognize revenue from these online video streamers under contractual rates applied.

We awarded a number of share-based compensation options to our employees, officers and directors. The details of these share-based awards and the respective terms and conditions are described in “Share-based compensation” in note 20 to our audited consolidated financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Options are accounted for as equity-classified awards because there are no explicit repurchase rights specified in the award documents and the number of shares of our common shares issued under these awards are fixed and determined at the time of grants. All options are measured based on the fair value of the award on the grant date and recognized as compensation expenses based on the straight-line vesting method, net of estimated forfeitures, over the requisite service period, which is generally the vesting period.

The following table sets forth the options granted that were outstanding as of December 31, 2016:

Date of Option Grant	Options outstanding	Exercise price (US\$)	Fair value of options (US\$)	Fair value of common shares (US\$)
prior to 2012	346,570	0.016-3.8	—	—
March 1, 2012	9,500	0.01-3.97	1.01-2.82	2.83
August 1, 2013	230,000	3.97	1.13	3.23
November 18, 2013	341,760	2.11–3.97	0.99–1.60	3.15
March 1, 2014	10,000	3.97	0.89	3.06
June 24, 2014	512,640	2.11	1.43	2.98
January 1, 2015	43,000	0.08-3.3	0.76–1.38	1.46
Total	1,493,470			

We estimate the fair value of share options granted using the Black-Scholes option pricing model. The key assumptions used to determine the fair value of the options at the relevant grant dates were as follows:

- (1) Risk-free interest rate. The risk-free interest rates of periods within the contractual life of the share options is based on the U.S. dollar Chinese government bond yield data from Bloomberg as of the valuation dates;
- (2) Expected dividend yield. We have no history or expectation of paying dividends on our common stock;
- (3) Expected volatility. We estimate expected volatility based on the average historical volatilities of shares of the comparable publicly listed companies from Bloomberg as of the valuation dates; and
- (4) Expected term. The expected term is estimated by assuming the share options will be exercised in the middle point between the vesting dates and maturity dates.

We also awarded a number of restricted shares to our executive officers and employees. The details of these share-based restricted shares and the respective terms and conditions are described in “Share-based compensation” in note 20 to our audited consolidated financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2015 and 2016.

The restricted shares are accounted for as equity-classified awards because there are no explicit repurchase rights specified in the relevant documents and the number of shares of our common shares issued under these awards is fixed and determined at the time of grants. All restricted shares are measured based on the fair value of the awards on the grant date and recognized as compensation expenses based on the straight-line vesting method net of estimated forfeitures over the requisite service period.