

DIGITAL RIVER INC /DE
Form 424B3
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Registration No. 333-73986

PROSPECTUS

DIGITAL RIVER, INC.

927,939 Shares

Common Stock

The selling stockholders identified in this prospectus may sell up to 927,939 shares of our common stock. We are not selling any shares of our common stock under this prospectus and will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of shares by the selling stockholders.

The selling stockholders may sell the shares of common stock described in this prospectus in a number of different ways and at varying prices.

Our common stock is traded on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol "DRIV." On December 11, 2001, the closing sale price of our common stock, as reported on the Nasdaq National Market, was \$18.30 per share.

INVESTING IN OUR COMMON STOCK INVOLVES A HIGH DEGREE OF RISK. SEE "RISK FACTORS" BEGINNING ON PAGE 3.

The shares offered or sold under this prospectus have not been approved or disapproved by the Securities and Exchange Commission or any state securities commission, nor have these organizations determined that this prospectus is accurate or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is December 13, 2001
Digital River is our registered trademark.

All other trademarks or service marks appearing in this prospectus are the property of their respective owners.

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PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

The following is a summary of our business. You should carefully read the section entitled "Risk Factors" in this prospectus and our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000 for more information on our business and the risks involved in investing in our stock.

DIGITAL RIVER

Overview

We are a provider of comprehensive electronic commerce outsourcing solutions. We were incorporated in Minnesota in February 1994 and commenced offering products for sale through our clients' Web stores in August 1996. We reincorporated into Delaware in December 1997. As an application service provider, we enable our clients to access our proprietary electronic commerce system over the Internet. We have developed a technology platform that allows us to provide a suite of electronic commerce services, including Web commerce development and hosting, transaction processing, fraud screening, digital delivery, integration to physical fulfillment and customer service. We also provide analytical marketing and merchandising services to assist clients in increasing Web page view traffic to, and sales through, their Web commerce systems. We provide an outsourcing solution that allows our clients to promote their own brands while leveraging our investment in infrastructure and technology. Our Software and Digital Commerce Services Division serves the software and digital products market, and our E-Business Services Division serves manufacturers, distributors and retailers outside the software industry. Our clients include 3M Company, Autodesk, Inc., Egghead.com, Inc., Fujitsu Ltd., MicroWarehouse, Inc., ScanSoft, Inc., Symantec Corporation and Xircom Inc.

Our proprietary commerce network server, or CNS, technology serves as the platform for our solutions. The CNS incorporates custom software applications that enable Web store authoring, electronic software delivery, fraud prevention, export control, merchandising programs and online registration, and features a database of more than 100,000 software and digital products. Using our CNS platform, we create Web commerce systems for our clients that replicate the look and feel of each client's Web site. End-users enter the client site and are then seamlessly transferred to our CNS. End-users can then browse for products and make purchases online, and once purchases are made, we either deliver the products digitally to the end-user through the Internet or communicate the order through its integration into a number of third-party fulfillment agencies for physical fulfillment. We also provide transaction-processing services and collect and maintain critical information about end-users. This information can later be used by our clients to facilitate add-on or upgrade sales and for other direct marketing purposes. We actively manage direct marketing campaigns for our clients, and also deliver purchase information and Web store traffic statistics to our clients through online reporting.

Recent Developments

On August 2, 2001, pursuant to a Stock Purchase Agreement dated as of August 2, 2001 by and among Digital River, RegSoft.com, Inc., a Georgia corporation ("RegSoft"), and the following individuals (collectively, the "RegSoft Selling Stockholders"): Jason Foodmen, Robert Verzera, Ken White (also serving as Stockholders' Agent), Charles Zino and Robert Zino, we purchased all of the issued and outstanding shares of RegSoft in exchange for \$750,000 in cash and a note for \$2,500,000 that is payable in full on February 2, 2002. The Stock Purchase Agreement includes a contingent earn-out whereby the RegSoft Selling Stockholders can receive up to an additional \$2,100,000 in cash based upon the revenue generated by RegSoft over the 12 months following the closing, and up to an additional \$650,000 based on the number of RegSoft clients converted to our platform on or before the fifteen month anniversary of the closing.

On September 14, 2001, pursuant to an Asset Purchase Agreement dated as of September 14, 2001 by and between Digital River and Orbit Commerce, Inc., an Illinois corporation ("Orbit"), we purchased substantially all of the assets and assumed certain liabilities of Orbit in exchange for 727,939 shares of our

common stock, valued at approximately \$4.3 million, and approximately \$964,000 in cash. The Asset Purchase Agreement includes a contingent earn-out whereby Orbit can receive additional shares of our common stock based upon the revenue generated by the Orbit business over the 15 months following the closing.

References in the prospectus to "Digital River," "we," "our," "us" and the "Company" refer to Digital River, Inc., a Delaware corporation and its subsidiaries. Our executive offices are located at 9625 West 76th Street, Suite 150, Eden Prairie, Minnesota 55344. Our telephone number is (952) 253-1234. Information contained on our Web site does not constitute part of this prospectus.

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RISK FACTORS

In addition to the other information provided in this report, stockholders or prospective investors should carefully consider the following risk factors:

We have a limited operating history, a history of losses and we have yet to achieve profitability.

We were incorporated in February 1994 and conducted our first online sale through a client's Web store in August 1996. We have not yet achieved profitability and have incurred significant losses since we were formed. As of September 30, 2001, we had an accumulated deficit of approximately \$99.6 million. Our limited operating history makes it difficult for you to evaluate our ability to achieve profitability in the future.

The success of our business model depends upon our success in generating sufficient transaction and service fees from the use of our e-commerce solutions by existing and future clients. Accordingly, we must maintain existing, and develop new relationships, with software publishers, online retailers and E-business clients. To achieve this goal, we intend to continue to expend significant financial and management resources on the development of additional services, sales and marketing, improved technology and expanded operations. As a result of these expenditures, we expect operating losses and negative cash flows to continue for the near future and may increase from current levels. If we are unable to maintain existing, and develop new, client relationships, we will not generate a profitable return on our investments and we will be unable to gain meaningful market share to justify these investments. Further, we may be unable to achieve profitability if our revenues increase slower than expected, or if operating expenses exceed our expectations and cannot be adjusted to compensate for lower than expected revenues. Even if we are able to achieve profitability, we may be unable to sustain or increase profitability on a quarterly or annual basis.

Our operating results have fluctuated in the past and are likely to continue to do so, which could cause the price of our common stock to be volatile.

Our quarterly and annual operating results have fluctuated significantly in the past and are likely to continue to do so in the future due to a variety of factors, some of which are outside our control. As a result, we believe that quarter-to-quarter and year-to-year comparisons of our revenues and operating results are not necessarily meaningful, and that these comparisons may not be accurate indicators of future performance. If our annual or quarterly operating results fail to meet the expectations of securities analysts and investors, the trading price of our common stock will likely decline. Some of the factors that have or may contribute to fluctuations in our quarterly and annual operating results include:

our ability to attract and retain software publishers and online retailers as clients;

our ability to attract and retain E-Business clients;

the introduction of new Web sites, Web stores or services by us that may require a substantial investment of our resources;

the introduction of competitive Web sites, Web stores or services by others;

slower than anticipated growth of the online market as a vehicle for the purchase of software products;

our ability to continue to upgrade and develop our systems and infrastructure to meet emerging market needs and remain competitive in our service offerings;

technical difficulties or system downtime leading to termination of client contracts and harm to our reputation;

our ability to retain and attract personnel commensurate with our business needs; and

the cost of compliance with U.S. and foreign regulations relating to our business.

In addition, revenues generated by our Software and Digital Commerce Services Division is likely to fluctuate on a seasonal basis that is typical for the software publishing market in general. We believe that our first and fourth quarters are seasonally stronger than our second and third quarters due to the timing of demand of tax preparation software and the Christmas selling period. We also believe that software publishers avoid new product releases in the summer months.

Our operating expenses, which include sales and marketing, product research and development, general and administrative expenses and amortization of intangible assets, are based on our expectations of future revenues and are relatively fixed in the short term. If our revenues for a quarter fall below our expectations and we are unable to quickly reduce spending in response, our operating results for that quarter would be harmed. In addition, the operating results of companies in the e-commerce industry have in the past experienced significant quarter-to-quarter fluctuations that may adversely affect our stock price.

A loss of any client that accounts for a large portion of our revenues could cause our revenues to decline.

Revenues related to three software publisher clients collectively accounted for approximately 20% of our revenues in 1999 and approximately 15% of our revenues in the Software and Digital Commerce Services Division in 2000. Contracts with these clients are generally short term in nature. If any one of these contracts is not renewed or otherwise terminates, and if we are unable to replace it with other client agreements, our revenues would decline and our losses would likely increase. It is important to our success that we maintain these client relationships and, at the same time, develop new client relationships.

The success of our business strategy and our future revenue growth depends on increasing consumer acceptance of the Internet as a medium of commerce.

The failure of the Internet to continue developing into a significant commercial medium will harm our ability to increase our revenues and execute our business strategy. We depend on the growing use and acceptance of the Internet as an effective medium of commerce by end-users. Rapid growth in the use of and interest in the Internet and other online services is a recent development. The acceptance and use of the Internet and other online services may not continue to develop and a sufficiently broad base of consumers may not adopt, and continue to use, the Internet and other online services as a medium of commerce. We rely on purchasers who have historically used traditional means of commerce to purchase goods or transact business. If we are to be successful, these purchasers must accept and use the Internet as a means of purchasing goods and services and exchanging information and we cannot predict the rate at which these purchasers will do so.

Our sales cycle is lengthy, which may cause us to incur substantial expenses and expend management time without generating corresponding revenues, which would impair our cash flow.

We market our services directly to software publishers, online retailers and E-Business prospects. These relationships are typically complex and take time to finalize. Due to operating procedures in many large organizations, a significant amount of time may pass between selection of our products and services by key decision makers and the signing of a contract. The period between the initial sales call and the signing of a contract with significant sales potential is difficult to predict and typically ranges from six to 12 months. If at the end of a sales effort a prospective client does not purchase our products or services, we may have incurred substantial expenses and expended management time that cannot be recovered and that will not generate corresponding revenues. As a result, our cash flow and our ability to fund expenditures incurred during the sales cycle may be impaired.

General economic uncertainty may reduce our revenues.

The revenue growth and profitability of our business depends significantly on the overall demand for Internet-based e-commerce solutions. We believe that the market for these solutions may be adversely affected by a number of factors, including reductions in capital expenditures by clients and overall

weakening of the U.S. and foreign economies. These factors may, in turn, give rise to a number of market trends that may slow our revenue growth, including:

longer sales cycles;

deferral or delay of e-commerce projects and generally reduced expenditures for e-commerce solutions and related services; and

increased price competition.

If the current economic slowdown continues, the effects of the slowdown for e-commerce solutions could reduce our revenues and limit our ability to meet our profitability goals.

Electronic software delivery, or ESD, is still an evolving and unproven technology and the industry may ultimately fail to accept ESD.

Our success will depend in large part on the growth in end-user acceptance of ESD as a method of distributing software products. ESD is a relatively new method of distributing software products to end-users, and unless ESD gains widespread market acceptance, we will be unable to achieve our business plan. Factors that will influence the market acceptance of ESD include:

the availability of sufficient bandwidth, both presently and in the future, to enable purchasers to rapidly download software products;

the cost of time-based Internet access;

the number and adequacy of software products that are available for purchase through ESD as compared to those available through physical delivery; and

the level of end-user comfort with the process of downloading software via the Internet, including the ease of use and lack of concern about transaction security.

Even if ESD achieves widespread acceptance, we may be unable to overcome the substantial existing and future technical challenges associated with electronically delivering software reliably and consistently on a long-term basis. Our failure to do so would also impair our ability to execute our business plan.

The growth of the market for our services depends on the development and maintenance of the Internet infrastructure.

Our business is based on delivering services over the Internet, and the success of our business therefore depends on the development and maintenance of a sound Internet infrastructure. This includes maintenance of a reliable network backbone with the necessary speed, data capacity and security, as well as timely development of complementary products such as high speed modems, for providing reliable Internet access and services. Our ability to increase the speed and scope of our services is limited by, and depends upon, the speed and reliability of both the Internet and our clients' internal networks. Consequently, as Internet usage increases, the growth of the market for our services depends upon improvements being made to the Internet as well as to individual client's networking infrastructures to alleviate overloading and congestion. In addition, any delays in the adoption of new standards and protocols required to govern increased levels of Internet activity or increased governmental regulation may have a detrimental effect on the Internet infrastructure.

Our failure to attract and retain software publishers as clients would cause our revenues to decline.

Our Software and Digital Commerce Services Division generates revenues by providing outsourced services to software publishers. If we cannot develop and maintain satisfactory relationships with software publishers on acceptable commercial terms, we would likely experience a decline in revenues. We also depend on our software publisher clients creating and supporting software products that end-users will purchase. If we are unable to obtain sufficient quantities of software for any reason or if the quality of service provided by these software publishers falls below a satisfactory level, we could also experience a

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decline in revenues and client satisfaction, and our reputation could be harmed. Our contracts with our software publisher clients are generally one year in duration, with an automatic renewal provision for additional one-year periods, unless we are provided with a written notice at least 90 days before the end of the contract. As is common in our industry, we have no long-term or exclusive contracts or arrangements with any software publishers that guarantee the availability of software products. Software publishers that currently supply software to us may not continue to do so and we may be unable to establish new relationships with software publishers to supplement or replace existing relationships.

Our business plans depend on increasing revenues from e-business clients.

The success of our business strategy depends upon increasing fee and service revenues from E-Business clients. Since initiating sales of electronic commerce outsourcing services in 1999, our E-Business Services Division has incurred only net losses. We have made substantial investments in technology and infrastructure and we may not succeed in establishing and maintaining sufficient relationships with E-Business clients to offset these expenses. If we are unable to develop and expand our relationships with E-Business services clients, we will fail to grow revenues as projected.

Because the electronic commerce industry is highly competitive and has low barriers to entry, we may be unable to compete effectively.

The market for Internet-based, e-commerce solutions is extremely competitive and we may find ourselves unable to compete effectively. Because there are relatively low barriers to entry in the e-commerce market, we expect competition to intensify as current competitors expand their product offerings and new competitors enter the market. In addition, our clients and partners may become competitors in the future. Increased competition is likely to result in price reductions, lower average sales prices, reduced margins, longer sales cycles and a decrease or loss of our market share, any of which reduce our revenues. We face competition from the following sources:

other providers of outsourced electronic commerce solutions, such as Beyond.com Corporation and ReleaseNow Corporation;

software publishers and online retailers who have or may choose to make substantial initial and ongoing investments in order to develop and manage their own e-commerce sites, and who may decide to market this capability to other companies;

system integrators and application service providers that offer tools and services for electronic commerce, including companies that provide a broad range of Internet and server solutions, such as Corio, Inc. and US Internetworking;

companies that provide tools and services enabling one or more of the transaction processing functions of electronic commerce, such as transaction control, data security, customer interaction and database marketing, including BroadVision Corporation, CyberSource Corporation and Preview Systems, Inc.;

in-house development of e-commerce capabilities;

companies that sell, distribute or rent software products over the Internet;

high-traffic, branded Web sites that derive a substantial portion of their revenues from e-commerce and may themselves offer, or provide means for others to offer, software products, such as Amazon.com, Inc.; and

traditional channels and methods of retail and corporate software sales, such as mail order catalogs and retail superstores.

Many of our competitors have, and new potential competitors may have, more experience developing Internet-based software, services, and e-commerce solutions, larger technical staffs, larger customer bases, more established distribution channels and customer relationships, greater brand recognition and greater

financial, marketing and other resources than we have. In addition, competitors may be able to develop services that are superior to our services, that achieve greater customer acceptance or that have significantly improved functionality as compared to our existing and future products and services. Our competitors may be able to respond more quickly to technological developments and changes in customers' needs. Our inability to compete successfully against current and future competitors could cause our revenues to decline.

Security breaches could hinder our ability to securely transmit confidential information.

A significant barrier to electronic commerce and communications is the secure transmission of confidential information over public networks. Any compromise or elimination of our security could be costly to remedy, damage our reputation and expose us to liability, and dissuade existing and new clients from using our services. We rely on encryption and authentication technology licensed from third parties to provide the security and authentication necessary for secure transmission of confidential information, such as end-user credit card numbers. A party who circumvents our security measures could misappropriate proprietary information or interrupt our operations.

We may be required to expend significant capital and other resources to protect against security breaches or to address problems caused by breaches. Concerns over the security of the Internet and other online transactions and the privacy of users could deter people from using the Internet to conduct transactions that involve transmitting confidential information, thereby inhibiting the growth of the Internet. To the extent that our activities or those of third-party contractors involve the storage and transmission of proprietary information, such as credit card numbers, security breaches could damage our reputation and expose us to a risk of loss or litigation and possible liability. Our security measures may not prevent security breaches and failure to prevent security breaches could lead to a loss of existing clients and deter potential clients away from our services.

Loss of our credit card acceptance privileges would seriously hamper our ability to process the sale of digital goods.

The payment by end-users for the purchase of digital goods that we process is typically made by credit card. If we incur significant instances of credit card fraud over an extended period of time, it may result in penalties and termination of our credit card acceptance privileges. Loss of our credit card acceptance privileges would severely impact our ability to process the sale of digital goods where the payment method is by credit card. We may be required to expend significant capital and other resources to protect against these fraudulent transactions.

Implementing our acquisition strategy could result in dilution and operating difficulties.

We have acquired, and intend to continue acquiring, businesses, technologies, services or products that we believe are strategic, such as businesses that provide outsourcing services to software publishers. The process of integrating an acquired business, technology, service or product into our business and operations may result in unforeseen operating difficulties and expenditures. Integration of an acquired business also may disrupt our ongoing business, distract management and make it difficult to maintain standards, controls and procedures. Moreover, the anticipated benefits of any acquisition may not be realized. If a significant number of clients of the acquired businesses cease doing business with us, we would experience lost revenues, and any synergies from the acquisition may be lost. Future acquisitions could result in potentially dilutive issuances of equity securities, the incurrence of debt, contingent liabilities or amortization expenses related to goodwill and other intangible assets.

We have experienced rapid growth and failure to properly manage and sustain our expansion efforts could strain our management and other resources.

Our ability to successfully offer services and implement our business plan in a rapidly evolving market requires an effective planning and management process. We have rapidly and significantly expanded our

operations. In 2000, we increased our number of employees from 278 to 381 and we anticipate that further significant expansion will be required to address potential growth in our client base and market opportunities. Failure to properly manage this expansion could place a significant strain on our managerial, operational and financial resources. Our new employees include a number of key managerial, technical and operations personnel whom we have not yet fully integrated. We expect to add additional key personnel in the near future, including direct sales, marketing and technical personnel. To manage the expected growth of our operations and personnel, we will be required to:

improve existing and implement new operational, financial and management controls, reporting systems and procedures;

install new management information systems; and

train, motivate, retain and manage our employees.

We may be unable to install management information and control systems in an efficient and timely manner, and our current or planned personnel, systems, procedures and controls may be inadequate to support our future operations. In addition, we may be unable to hire, train, retain, motivate and manage required personnel or to successfully identify, manage and exploit existing and potential market opportunities.

Failure to develop our technology to accommodate increased CNS traffic could reduce demand for our services and impair the growth of our business.

We periodically enhance and expand our technology and transaction-processing systems, and network infrastructure and other technologies to accommodate increases in the volume of traffic on the CNS. Our inability to add software and hardware or to develop and upgrade existing technology, transaction-processing systems or network infrastructure to manage increased traffic on the CNS may cause unanticipated systems disruptions, slower response times and degradation in client services, including impaired quality and speed of order fulfillment. Failure to manage increased traffic could harm our reputation and significantly reduce demand for our services, which would impair the growth of our business. We may be unable to improve and increase the capacity of our network infrastructure sufficiently or anticipate and react to expected increases in the use of the CNS to handle increased volume. In addition, additional network capacity may not be available from third-party suppliers when we need it. Our network and our suppliers' networks may be unable to maintain an acceptable data transmission capability, especially if demands on the CNS increase.

Our industry is characterized by rapid technological change that may make our technology and systems obsolete or cause us to incur substantial costs to adapt to these changes.

To remain competitive, we must continue to enhance and improve the responsiveness, functionality and features of our CNS and the underlying network infrastructure. If we incur significant costs without adequate results, or are unable to adapt rapidly to technological changes, we may fail to achieve our business plan. The Internet and the electronic commerce industry are characterized by rapid technological change, changes in user requirements and preferences, frequent new product and service introductions embodying new technologies and the emergence of new industry standards and practices that could render our technology and systems obsolete. To be successful, we must adapt to rapid technological change by licensing and internally developing technologies to enhance our existing services, developing new products, services and technologies that address the increasingly sophisticated and varied needs of our clients, and responding to technological advances and emerging industry standards and practices on a cost-effective and timely basis. The development of our CNS technology and other proprietary technology involves significant technical and business risks. We may fail to use new technologies effectively or adapt our proprietary technology and systems to client requirements or emerging industry standards.

System failures could reduce the attractiveness of our service offerings.

We provide commerce, marketing and delivery services to our clients and end-users through our CNS transaction processing and client management systems. These systems also maintain an electronic inventory of products and gather consumer marketing information. The satisfactory performance, reliability and availability of the CNS and the underlying network infrastructure are critical to our operations, level of client service, reputation and ability to attract and retain clients. We have experienced periodic interruptions, affecting all or a portion of our systems, which we believe will continue to occur from time to time. Any damage to, or systems interruption that impairs our ability to accept and fill client orders could result in an immediate loss of revenues to us, and could cause some clients to purchase services offered by our competitors. In addition, frequent systems failures could harm our reputation.

Our systems and operations are vulnerable to damage or interruption from:

fire, flood and other natural disasters;

operator negligence, improper operation by, or supervision of, employees, physical and electronic break-ins, misappropriation, computer viruses and similar events; and

power loss, computer systems failures, and Internet and telecommunications failure.

We presently have no offsite back-up facilities and do not carry sufficient business interruption insurance to fully compensate us for losses that may occur.

We may become liable to clients who are dissatisfied with our services.

We design, develop, implement and manage e-commerce solutions that are crucial to the operation of our clients' businesses. Defects in the solutions we develop could result in delayed or lost revenues, adverse end-user reaction and negative publicity or require expensive corrections. As a result, clients who experience these adverse consequences either directly or indirectly as a result of our services could bring claims against us for substantial damages. Any claims asserted could exceed the level of our insurance. The insurance we carry may not continue to be available on economically reasonable terms, or at all. The successful assertion of one or more large claims that are uninsured, exceed insurance coverage or result in changes to insurance policies, including premium increases, could adversely affect our operating results or financial condition.

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Our chief executive officer and key technical employees are critical to our business and if they do not remain with us in the future, we may be unable to effectively replace them.

Our future success significantly depends on the continued services and performance of our senior management, particularly Joel A. Ronning, our chief executive officer and member of the office of the president. Our performance also depends on our ability to retain and motivate our key technical employees who are skilled in maintaining the CNS. The loss of the services of any of our executive officers or key technical employees could harm our business if we are unable to effectively replace that officer or employee, or if that person should decide to join a competitor or otherwise directly or indirectly compete with us. Further, we may need to incur additional operating expenses and divert other management time in order to search for a replacement. We have a long-term employment agreement only with Mr. Ronning and we do not maintain any key person life insurance policies.

We must continually attract and retain technical and other key personnel in order to be able to successfully execute our business strategy.

Our future success depends on our ability to continue to identify, attract, hire, train, retain and motivate highly skilled technical, managerial, operations, merchandising, sales and marketing and client service personnel. Competition for this personnel is intense, particularly in the Internet industry and we may be unable to successfully attract, assimilate or retain sufficiently qualified personnel. Failure to do so could harm our business growth and ability to achieve profitability. In addition, the market price of our common stock has fluctuated substantially since our initial public offering in August 1998. Consequently, potential employees may perceive our equity incentives such as stock options as less attractive and current employees whose options are no longer attractively priced may choose not to remain with our organization. In that case, our ability to attract employees will be adversely affected. Finally, should our stock price substantially decline, the retention value of stock options granted since our initial public offering will decline and our employees may choose not to remain with our organization.

Protecting our intellectual property is critical to our success.

We regard the protection of our trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets and other intellectual property as critical to our success. We rely on a combination of patent, copyright, trademark, service mark and trade secret laws and contractual restrictions to protect our proprietary rights. We have entered into confidentiality and invention assignment agreements with our employees and contractors, and nondisclosure agreements with parties with whom we conduct business in order to limit access to and disclosure of our proprietary information. These contractual arrangements and the other steps taken by us to protect our intellectual property may not prevent misappropriation of our technology or deter independent third-party development of similar technologies. We also seek to protect our proprietary position by filing United States and foreign patent

applications related to our proprietary technology, inventions and improvements that are important to the development of our business. Proprietary rights relating to our technologies will be protected from unauthorized use by third parties only to the extent they are covered by valid and enforceable patents or are effectively maintained as trade secrets. We pursue the registration of our trademarks and service marks in the United States and internationally. Effective trademark, service mark, copyright and trade secret protection may not be available in every country in which our services are made available online.

The steps we have taken to protect our proprietary rights may be inadequate and third parties may infringe or misappropriate our trade secrets, trademarks and similar proprietary rights. Any significant failure on our part to protect our intellectual property could make it easier for our competitors to offer similar services and thereby adversely affect our market opportunities. In addition, litigation may be necessary in the future to enforce our intellectual property rights, to protect our trade secrets or to determine the validity and scope of the proprietary rights of others. Litigation could result in substantial costs and diversion of management and technical resources.

Claims of infringement of other parties' intellectual property rights could require us to expend significant resources.

From time to time, we may receive notice of claims of infringement of other parties' proprietary rights. Recently, an action was brought against us by Christopher M. Crawford in the U.S. District Court in the District of Columbia, alleging infringement of certain patents owned by Mr. Crawford. The parties are scheduled for an initial hearing on November 27, 2001. We believe that we have meritorious defenses to, and intend to vigorously defend, these claims.

This claim and any future assertions or prosecutions of claims like this could require us to expend significant financial and managerial resources. The defense of any claims, whether these claims are with or without merit, could be time-consuming, result in costly litigation and diversion of technical and management personnel, cause product shipment delays or require that we develop non-infringing technology or enter into royalty or licensing agreements. Royalty or licensing agreements, if required, may be unavailable on terms acceptable to us or at all. In the event of a successful claim of infringement against us and our failure or inability to develop non-infringing technology or license the infringed or similar technology on a timely basis, we may be unable to pursue our current business plan.

Claims against us related to the software products that we deliver electronically could also require us to expend significant resources.

Claims may be made against us for negligence, copyright or trademark infringement or other theories based on the nature and content of software products that we deliver electronically and are subsequently distributed to others. Because we did not create these software products, we are generally not in a position to know the quality or nature of the content of these products. Although we carry general liability insurance, our insurance may not cover potential claims of this type, adequately cover all costs incurred in defense of potential claims or indemnify us for all liability that may be imposed. Any costs or imposition of liability that are not covered by insurance or in excess of insurance coverage could be expensive and time-consuming to address, distract management and delay product deliveries even if we were ultimately successful in the defense of these claims.

Changes in government regulation could limit our Internet activities or result in additional costs of doing business over the Internet.

We are subject to the same federal, state and local laws as other companies conducting business on the Internet. Today there are relatively few laws specifically directed towards conducting business on the Internet. The adoption or modification of laws related to the Internet could harm our business, operating results and financial condition by increasing our costs and administrative burdens. Due to the increasing popularity and use of the Internet, many laws and regulations relating to the Internet are being debated at the state and federal levels. These laws and regulations could cover issues such as:

user privacy with respect to adults and minors;

pricing and taxation;

fraud;

advertising;

intellectual property rights;

information security; and

quality of products and services.

Applicability to the Internet of existing laws governing issues such as property ownership, copyrights and other intellectual property issues, taxation, libel, obscenity and personal privacy could also harm our operating results and substantially increase the cost to us of doing business. It may also require significant management resources to respond to any changes in these laws. The vast majority of these laws were

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adopted prior to the advent of the Internet, and do not contemplate or address the unique issues raised thereby. Those laws that do reference the Internet, such as the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, are only beginning to be interpreted by the courts and their applicability and reach are therefore uncertain.

Laws relating to user information and online privacy may limit the collection of end-user data for our clients.

We collect and maintain end-user data for our clients, which subjects us to increasing federal and state regulation related to online privacy and the use of personal user information. Several states have proposed legislation that would limit the uses of personal user information gathered online or require online services to establish privacy policies. In addition, the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, or the FTC, is considering adopting regulations regarding the collection and use of personal identifying information obtained from individuals when accessing Web sites, with particular emphasis on information obtained from minors. These regulations may include requirements that companies establish procedures to, among other things:

give adequate notice to users regarding information collection and disclosure practices;

provide users with the ability to have personal information deleted from a company's database;

provide users with access to their collected personal information and the ability to correct inaccuracies;

clearly identify affiliations with third parties that may collect information or sponsor activities on another company's Web site; and

obtain express parental consent prior to collecting and using personal information from children under 13 years of age.

Bills are also pending in Congress that would improve online privacy protections for adults. Laws of this kind require that we establish procedures to disclose and notify users of privacy and security policies, obtain consent from users for collection and use of information, or provide users with the ability to access, correct and delete personal information stored by us. Even in the absence of these regulations, the FTC has settled several proceedings resulting in consent decrees in which Internet companies have been required to establish programs regarding the manner in which personal information is collected from users and provided to third parties. We could become a party to a similar enforcement proceeding. These regulatory and enforcement efforts could limit our collection of demographic and personal information from end-users, which could adversely affect our ability to comprehensively serve our clients.

The adoption and implementation of international laws and regulations applicable to e-commerce may impair our efforts to expand revenues from international transactions.

The European Union has adopted a privacy directive that regulates the collection and use of information that identifies an individual person. These regulations may inhibit or prohibit the collection and sharing of personal information in ways that could harm our clients or us. The globalization of Internet commerce may be harmed by these and similar regulations because the European Union privacy directive prohibits transmission of personal information outside the European Union unless the receiving country has enacted individual privacy protection laws at

least as strong as those enacted by the European Union privacy directive. The United States and the European Union have not yet resolved this matter, and they may not ever do so, in a manner favorable to our clients or us.

Future laws imposed on e-commerce may substantially increase the costs of doing business or otherwise adversely affect our ability to offer our services.

Because our services are accessible worldwide and we facilitate sales of products to end-users worldwide, foreign jurisdictions may claim that we are required to comply with their laws. Laws regulating Internet companies outside of the United States may be less favorable than those in the United States, giving greater rights to consumers, content owners and users. Compliance may be more costly or may

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require us to change our business practices or restrict our service offerings relative to those provided in the United States. Any failure to comply with foreign laws could subject us to penalties ranging from fines to bans on our ability to offer our services.

In addition, as our services are available over the Internet in multiple states and foreign countries, these jurisdictions may claim that we are required to qualify to do business as a foreign corporation in each state or foreign country. We are qualified to do business only in California, Connecticut, Minnesota and Washington. Failure to qualify as a foreign corporation in a required jurisdiction could subject us to taxes and penalties and could result in our inability to enforce contracts in these jurisdictions.

We intend to continue to expand our international operations and these efforts may not be successful in generating additional revenues.

We sell software products and services to end-users outside the United States and we intend to continue to expand our international presence. Expansion into international markets, particularly Europe, requires significant resources that we may fail to recover by generating additional revenues. Conducting business outside of the United States is subject to risks, including:

changes in regulatory requirements and tariffs;

uncertainty of application or governing of local laws;

reduced protection of intellectual property rights;

difficulties in distribution for international sales;

higher incidences of credit card fraud and difficulties in accounts receivables collection;

the burden and cost of complying with a variety of foreign laws; and

political or economic constraints on international trade or instability.

We may be unable to successfully and cost effectively market, sell and distribute our services in foreign markets. This may be more difficult or take longer than anticipated especially due to international challenges, such as language barriers, currency exchange issues and the fact that the Internet infrastructure in foreign countries may be less advanced than the U.S. Internet infrastructure. If we are unable to successfully expand our international operations, or manage this expansion, our operating results and financial condition could be harmed.

New obligations to collect or pay sales tax could substantially increase the cost to us of doing business.

We do not currently collect sales, use or other similar taxes with respect to ESD or shipments of software products into states other than California, Connecticut, Minnesota and Washington. The application of sales tax to interstate and international sales over the Internet is unclear

and evolving. Local, state or foreign jurisdictions may seek to impose sales or use tax collection obligations on out-of-state companies like ours that engage in electronic commerce. A successful assertion by one or more states or any foreign country that we should collect sales, use or other taxes on the sale of merchandise through our E-Business Services Division or on shipments of software could harm our results of operations. In addition, any failure by an E-Business client to collect obligatory sales or use taxes could cause the relevant jurisdiction to attempt imposing that obligation on us.

Internet-related stock prices are especially volatile and this volatility may depress our stock price or cause it to fluctuate significantly.

The stock market, and the trading prices of Internet-related companies in particular, have recently been notably volatile. This volatility is likely to continue in the short-term and is not necessarily related to the operating performance of affected companies. This broad market and industry volatility could significantly reduce the price of our common stock at any time, without regard to our operating performance. In the past, following periods of volatility in the market price of a company's securities,

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securities class-action litigation has often been instituted against that company. Factors that could cause our stock price in particular to fluctuate include:

- actual or anticipated variations in quarterly operating results;
- announcements of technological innovations;
- new products or services that we or our competitors offer;
- changes in financial estimates by securities analysts;
- conditions or trends in the Internet and online commerce industries;
- changes in the economic performance and/or market valuations of other Internet or online e-commerce companies;
- our announcement of significant acquisitions, strategic partnerships, joint ventures or capital commitments;
- additions or departures of key personnel; and
- sales of our common stock.

Beginning in July 2001, we and certain of our officers and directors were named as defendants in two class action shareholder complaints filed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. Similar complaints were filed in the same Court against numerous public companies that conducted initial public offerings ("IPOs") of their common stock since the mid-1990s. On August 8, 2001, these lawsuits were consolidated for pretrial purposes. An initial case management conference was held on September 7, 2001, at which time the Court ordered, among other things, that the time for all defendants to respond to any complaint be postponed until further order of the Court. Thus, we have not been required to answer any of the complaints, and no discovery has been served on us. We believe these lawsuits are without merit and intend to defend against them vigorously. This litigation, as well as any other litigation that might be instituted, could result in substantial costs and a diversion of management's attention and resources.

We may need to raise additional capital to achieve our business objectives, which could result in dilution to existing investors.

We require substantial working capital to fund our business. If capital requirements vary materially from those currently planned, we may require additional financing sooner than anticipated. If additional funds are raised through the issuance of equity securities, the percentage ownership of our stockholders will be reduced, stockholders may experience additional dilution or these equity securities may have rights,

preferences or privileges senior to those of our common stock. We have had significant operating losses and negative cash flow from operations since inception and expect to continue to do so for the near future. We believe that our existing capital resources will be sufficient to meet our capital requirements for at least the next 18 months. However, our capital requirements depend on several factors, including the rate of market acceptance of our products, the ability to expand our client base and the growth of sales and marketing. Additional financing may not be available when needed, on terms favorable to us or at all. If adequate funds are not available or are not available on acceptable terms, we may be unable to develop or enhance our services, take advantage of future opportunities or respond to competitive pressures, which would harm our operating results and adversely affect our ability to achieve profitability.

Provisions of our charter documents, other agreements and Delaware law may inhibit potential acquisition bids for us.

Certain provisions of our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws, other agreements and Delaware law could make it more difficult for a third-party to acquire us, even if a change in control would be beneficial to our stockholders.

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USE OF PROCEEDS

We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of the shares of common stock offered by the selling stockholders.

DIVIDEND POLICY

We have never declared or paid any cash dividends on our capital stock. We intend to retain any future earnings to support operations and to finance the growth and development of our business and we do not anticipate paying cash dividends for the foreseeable future.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

In addition to the historical information contained in this prospectus, this prospectus contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. These statements may be identified by the use of words such as "expects," "anticipates," "intends," "plans" and similar expressions. The outcome of the events described in these forward-looking statements is subject to risks and actual results could differ materially. The sections entitled "Risk Factors" beginning on page 3 of this prospectus, and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and "Business" in our Annual Report and Quarterly Reports contain a discussion of some of the factors that could contribute to those differences.

WHERE YOU CAN GET MORE INFORMATION

We are a reporting company and file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy these reports, proxy statements and other information at the SEC's public reference rooms at Room 1024, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., as well as at the SEC's regional offices at 500 West Madison Street, Suite 1400, Chicago, Illinois 60661 and 233 Broadway, New York, NY 10279. You can request copies of these documents by writing to the SEC and paying a fee for the copying cost. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for more information about the operation of the public reference rooms. Our SEC filings are also available at the SEC's web site at "<http://www.sec.gov>." In addition, you can read and copy our SEC filings at the office of the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. at 1735 "K" Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" information that we file with them, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future filings we will make with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934:

Current Report on Form 8-K filed March 26, 2001;

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Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000, as amended;

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2001;

Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed June 4, 2001;

Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed August 10, 2001;

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2001;

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2001;

Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed November 21, 2001; and

The description of the common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A, as filed on July 20, 1998 with the SEC.

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You may request a copy of these filings at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at the following address:

Digital River, Inc.
9625 W. 76th Street, Suite 150
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
(952) 253-1234

This prospectus is part of a registration statement we filed with the SEC. You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus and the registration statement. We have authorized no one to provide you with different information. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of the document.

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SELLING STOCKHOLDERS

In the acquisition of substantially all of the assets of Orbit Commerce, Inc, an Illinois corporation ("Orbit"), consummated on September 14, 2001, we issued to Orbit shares of our common stock and agreed to register a number of shares of this common stock for resale. In connection with the dissolution of Orbit, Orbit distributed a portion of the shares to its stockholders and distributed the remaining shares to the Orbit Commerce Liquidating Trust, a Delaware business trust (the "Trust"). The Trust and the recipients of the distributed shares are the selling stockholders listed herein. With respect to the 323,970 shares of common stock, we have agreed to keep this registration statement effective for 180 days from the effective date of this prospectus. With respect to 403,969 shares of common stock plus any shares issued in connection with the contingent earn-out based on revenue generated by the Orbit business in the first 180 days following closing, we have agreed to keep this registration statement effective until the later of October 24, 2002 or 180 days from the effective date of this prospectus. With respect to any other shares of common stock issued in connection with the contingent earn-out, we have agreed to keep this registration statement effective until the later of April 22, 2003 or 180 days from the effective date of this prospectus. We currently estimate that an additional 200,000 shares may be issued pursuant to the contingent earn-out from September 14, 2001 through December 13, 2002. The obligation to keep this registration statement effective will terminate with respect to those shares held by the selling stockholders that may be sold under Rule 144 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, within a 90-day period. Our registration of the shares of common stock does not necessarily mean that the selling stockholders will sell all or any of the shares.

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The following table sets forth certain information regarding the beneficial ownership of the common stock, as of November 9, 2001, by the selling stockholders.

The information provided in the table below with respect to the selling stockholders has been obtained from the selling stockholders. The selling stockholders do not have, nor have any had within the past three years, any position, office or other material relationship with us. Because the selling stockholders may sell all or some portion of the shares of common stock beneficially owned by them, we cannot estimate the number of shares of common stock that will be beneficially owned by the selling stockholders after this offering. In addition, the selling stockholders may have sold, transferred or otherwise disposed of, or may sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of, at any time or from time to time since the date on which the selling stockholders provided the information regarding the shares of common stock beneficially owned by them, all or a portion of the shares of common stock beneficially owned by them in transactions exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with Rule 13d-3(d) promulgated by the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The selling stockholders possess sole voting and investment power

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with respect to its shares. The percentage in the table below is based on 25,563,381 shares outstanding on November 9, 2001, adjusted as required by rules promulgated by the SEC.

Selling Stockholder	Shares Beneficially Owned Prior To Offering		Shares Being Offered(2)
	Number	Percent	
Orbit Commerce Liquidating Trust	436,760(1)	1.17%	436,760
Utah Ventures II, L.P.	45,500	*	45,500
Svoco L.P.	40,054	*	40,054
KB Partners Venture Fund I, L.P.	34,247	*	34,247
Graystone Venture Direct Equity, L.P.	31,885	*	31,885
C.E. Unterberg, Towbin Private Equity Partners II-Q, LP	28,565	*	28,565
Paul Reilly	17,004	*	17,004
LTHS Revocable Trust u/a/d 4/4/86	11,039	*	11,039
Gryffindor Capital Partners I, L.L.C.	11,015	*	11,015
C.E. Unterberg Towbin Capital Partners I, LP	10,926	*	10,926
Resource Ventures L.P.	10,926	*	10,926
Rob Horwitz	6,101	*	6,101
Jay N. Whipple, III	5,913	*	5,913
C.E. Unterberg, Towbin Private Equity Partners II, LP	4,214	*	4,214
Peter B. Pond	3,307	*	3,307
Joseph A. Piscopo	3,001	*	3,001
Marjorie & Clarence E. Unterberg Foundation, Inc.	2,732	*	2,732
Thomas I. Unterberg	2,732	*	2,732
Joshua Mailman	2,732	*	2,732
Ben Cohen	2,732	*	2,732
Phyllis Mailman	2,732	*	2,732
The Mailman Foundation, Inc.	2,732	*	2,732
Michael Silver	1,689	*	1,689
Thomas W. Clements	1,254	*	1,254
Dieter Schuller	1,056	*	1,056
Ellen Unterberg Celli	1,093	*	1,093
Emily Unteberg Satloff	1,093	*	1,093
Stephen M. Bridges	715	*	715
BoHoDeTo Company, L.L.C.	609	*	609
Park City Investments	546	*	546
Steve Novak	546	*	546
Wendy Lavitt	546	*	546
Michael S. Moses	304	*	304
Douglas M. Quartner Family Intergenerational Trust	273	*	273

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	Shares Beneficially Owned		
	Prior To Offering	*	
Alexander Bernstein & Sonia Daccarett JTWROS		*	273
Andrew Arno	273	*	273
Jeffrey C. Moskowitz	219	*	219
T.I. Unterberg Grandchildrens Trust U/A/D 4/26/93	218	*	218
Towbin 401K Profit Sharing Plan dtd 10/26/90 FBO: Robert M. Matluck109	164	*	164
Towbin 401K Profit Sharing Plan dtd 10/26/90 FBO: Estelle E. Konviser	109	*	109
Towbin 401K Profit Sharing Plan dtd 10/26/90 FBO: Michelle O'Connor	55	*	55
Mark Hughes	55	*	55

*
Less than 1%

(1) Orbit may receive up to an additional 200,000 shares of our common stock pursuant to a contingent earn-out based upon the revenue generated by the Orbit business from September 14, 2001 through December 13, 2002. Although these additional shares are being registered as of the date of this prospectus, Orbit does not yet beneficially own these shares.

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(2) Our registration of the shares of common stock does not necessarily mean that the selling stockholder will sell all or any of the shares.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The shares of common stock may be sold from time to time by the selling stockholders in one or more transactions at fixed prices, at market prices at the time of sale, at varying prices determined at the time of sale or at negotiated prices. As used in this prospectus, "selling stockholder" includes donees, pledgees, transferees and other successors in interest selling shares received from the selling stockholders after the date of this prospectus as a gift, pledge, partnership distribution or other non-sale transfer. Upon Digital River being notified by a selling stockholder that a donee, pledgee, transferee or other successor in interest intends to sell more than 500 shares, a supplement to this prospectus will be filed. The selling stockholders may offer their shares of common stock in one or more of the following transactions:

on any national securities exchange or quotation service on which the common stock may be listed or quoted at the time of sale, including the Nasdaq National Market;

in the over-the-counter market;

in private transactions;

through options;

by pledge to secure debts and other obligations;

on the dissolution of either a corporation to its stockholders or a partnership to its limited partners; or

a combination of any of the above transactions.

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If required, we will distribute a supplement to this prospectus to describe material changes in the terms of the offering.

The shares of common stock described in this prospectus may be sold from time to time directly by the selling stockholders. Alternatively, the selling stockholders may from time to time offer shares of common stock to or through underwriters, broker/dealers or agents. The selling stockholders and any underwriters, broker/dealers or agents that participate in the distribution of the shares of common stock may be deemed to be "underwriters" within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. Any profits on the resale of shares of common stock and any compensation received by any underwriter, broker/dealer or agent may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Any shares covered by this prospectus which qualify for sale pursuant to Rule 144 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, may be sold under Rule 144 rather than pursuant to this prospectus. The selling stockholders might not sell all of the shares they hold. The selling stockholders may transfer, devise or gift such shares by other means not described in this prospectus.

To comply with the securities laws of certain jurisdictions the common stock must be offered or sold only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, in certain jurisdictions, the common stock may not be offered or sold unless they have been registered or qualified for sale or an exemption is available and complied with.

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, any person engaged in a distribution of the common stock may not simultaneously engage in market-making activities with respect to the common stock for five business days prior to the start of the distribution. In addition, the selling stockholder and any other person participating in a distribution will be subject to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, which may limit the timing of purchases and sales of common stock by the selling stockholder or any such other person. These factors may affect the marketability of the common stock and the ability of brokers or dealers to engage in market-making activities.

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All expenses of this registration, estimated at approximately \$32,000, will be paid by us. These expenses include the SEC's filing fees and fees under state securities or "blue sky" laws.

LEGAL MATTERS

For the purpose of this offering, Cooley Godward LLP, San Francisco, California, is giving an opinion as to the validity of the common stock offered by this prospectus.

EXPERTS

The financial statements of Digital River, Inc. incorporated by reference in this prospectus and elsewhere in the registration statement have been audited by Arthur Andersen LLP, independent public accountants, as indicated in their report with respect thereto, and are included herein in reliance upon the authority of said firm as experts giving said report.

The financial statements of ConnectInc.com (formerly Connect, Inc.) as at December 31, 2000 and 1999, for the period from February 1, 2000 to December 31, 2000, for the period from January 1, 2000 to January 31, 2000, and for the year ended December 31, 1999 incorporated in this prospectus by reference to Digital River's Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed November 21, 2001, have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent accountants, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

We have not authorized any dealer, sales person or other person to give any information or to make any representations other than those contained in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. You must not rely on any unauthorized information. This prospectus is not an offer of these securities in any state where an offer is not permitted. The information in this prospectus is current as of December 13, 2001. You should not assume that this prospectus is accurate as of any other date.

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927,939 SHARES

COMMON STOCK

PROSPECTUS

DIGITAL RIVER, INC.

NOVEMBER 26, 2001

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