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## EarthLink, Inc. Q4 2008 Earnings Call Transcript

### Question-and-Answer Session

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#### Operator

(Operator Instructions) And your first question comes from the line of Youssef Squali.

#### Youssef Squali - Jefferies & Company

Thank you very much, good morning.

#### Kevin Dotts

Good morning.

#### Youssef Squali - Jefferies & Company

Couple questions, as I guess the first starting with you, Rolla, so in the last 12 months or so, you talked about the possibility of doing some strategic deal one of the targets along the potential partners was AOL or Time Warner. On their call yesterday they clearly continue to explore alternatives as well but they are doing a lot of house cleaning at AOL, arguably have cleaned, you would have been doing to improve that platform. So the question is that platform as attractive to you today as it was 12 months ago, and if not can you, I mean, does that take the dial up consolidation kind of play off the table since the only other player out there is MSN and they don't think to want to be doing much with theirs and the others are too small to really I guess bother with? And then I have a couple questions with, Kevin.

#### Rolla Huff

I was thinking, there is any question that with the lower number of subscribers it is not as valuable today as it was a year ago. There is just no question about that as I said in my comments you can not go out and recover operating synergies it just, they disappear forever it's like money burning on the ground. I continue to believe that dial up consolidation is the right thing for shareholders in that industry. I do not think that has changed one iota is it as valuable. Your first question, no I do not think it is.

#### Youssef Squali - Jefferies & Company

I think whether it remains interesting to us going forward. We also had we would upon valuation?

#### Rolla Huff

I am out of the business in terms of predicting what will happen around this. I think it should have happened a long time ago. I think it's not off the table for us but it's certainly not going to be the thing that we are going to face decisions around.

**Youssef Squali - Jefferies & Company**

I guess another follow-up to that then, in terms of timing, how do you ideally how would you like to see a play out. It being there use of the cash that you have on hand? And how possible is it that we will be sitting here 12 months from now and you have \$750 million on the balance sheet which should obviously great but it would not necessarily help evaluation that much?

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