

FORM 4

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**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

Check this box to indicate that a transaction was made pursuant to a contract, instruction or written plan that is intended to satisfy the affirmative defense conditions of Rule 10b5-1(c). See Instruction 10.

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF
SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or
Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * DOWNING JOHN <small>(Last) (First) (Middle)</small> C/O NETSCOUT SYSTEMS, INC., 310 LITTLETON ROAD <small>(Street)</small> WESTFORD, MA 01886 <small>(City) (State) (Zip)</small>	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol NETSCOUT SYSTEMS INC [NTCT] 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (MM/DD/YYYY) <p align="center">2/18/2026</p>	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) EVP, World-Wide Sales 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person
Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned		

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Trans. Date	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	3. Trans. Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	2/18/2026		S ⁽¹⁾		3,000	D	\$29.18	132,494	D	

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivate Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Trans. Date	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	4. Trans. Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)		8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares				
Performance Stock Unit	(2)							(3)	(3)	Common Stock	43,200		43,200 (4)	D	

Explanation of Responses:

- (1) The shares of Common Stock were sold pursuant to a 10b5-1 plan adopted by the Reporting Person on February 20, 2025.
- (2) The price is N/A.
- (3) On October 26, 2022, the reporting person was granted 18,000 performance stock units (the "Prior PSUs"), which shall vest in a range of 0% to 100% upon the determination of the Compensation Committee of the Board of the attainment of the required relative total shareholder return over the 36-month period commencing on October 26, 2022, and ending on October 25, 2025. On November 3, 2025, the Compensation Committee of the Board determined that 0% of the Prior PSUs shall vest.
- (4) Reflects the number of performance stock units ("PSUs") held by the Reporting Person after the forfeiture of 25,920 unachieved PSUs.

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
DOWNING JOHN C/O NETSCOUT SYSTEMS, INC. 310 LITTLETON ROAD WESTFORD, MA 01886			EVP, World-Wide Sales	

Signatures

/s/ Jeff Levinson by Power of Attorney

2/20/2026

**Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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