## FORM 4

### UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

| Washington, | D.C. | 20549 |
|-------------|------|-------|
|             |      |       |

| Check this box if no longer subject to |
|--|
| Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5           |
| obligations may continue. See          |
| Instruction 1(b).                      |

#### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

| OMB APPROVAL             |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| OMB Number:              | 3235-0287 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Estimated average burden |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| haiira nar raananaa.     | 0.5       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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*  CARSON RUSSELL L                                |  |     |               | ALI   | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol ALLIANCE DATA SYSTEMS CORP [ ADS ] |  |                                     |  |                  |  |                    |                                    |   |                            | all app<br>Direc   | o of Reportin<br>dicable)<br>tor<br>er (give title               | ig Pers   | 10% C                                 |  |            |  |
|---|--|-----|---------------|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|------------------|--|--------------------|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|------------|--|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) C/O WELSH, CARSON, ANDERSON AND STOWE 320 PARK AVENUE, SUITE 2500 |  |     |               | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 11/05/2004 |  |  |                                     |  |                  |  |                    |                                    |   | belov                      |  |  | below   |                                       |  |            |  |
| (Street)  NEW YO  | DRK N  | Y 1 | 10022<br>Zip) |   | 4. If A  | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) |                                     |  |                  |  |                    |                                    |   |                            | Individue) X   | Form   | or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable<br>m filed by One Reporting Person<br>m filed by More than One Reporting<br>son |                                       |  |            |  |
|   | Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned   |     |               |   |  |  |                                     |  |                  |  |                    |                                    |   |                            |  |  |   |                                       |  |            |  |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)  2. Transact Date (Month/Day                              |  |     |               | Execution Date,   |  |  |                                     | 4. Securities Acquired (A) of Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 |                  |  |                    | and 5) Securit<br>Benefic<br>Owned |   | ies<br>cially<br>Following | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4)  |  | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership  |                                       |  |            |  |
|   |  |     |               |   |  |  |                                     |  | Code             | v  | Amount             | (A<br>(D                           | ) or<br>)                                   | Price                      |  | Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)                         |   |                                       |  | (Instr. 4) |  |
| Common Stock 11/05/2  |  |     |               | 004   |  | S  |                                     | 400,000  | )                | D  | \$41.43            |                                    | 0   |                            | I(1)   |  | By<br>Welsh,<br>Carson,<br>Anderson<br>& Stowe<br>VII, L.P.   |                                       |  |            |  |
|   | Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) |     |               |   |  |  |                                     |  |                  |  |                    |                                    |   |                            |  |  |   |                                       |  |            |  |
| Derivative Conversion Date Execution Date, or Exercise (Month/Day/Year) if any            |  |     |               | ransaction of ode (Instr. Derivat                           |  | tive<br>ties<br>ed                                       | 6. Date E<br>Expiration<br>(Month/E | n Dat  |                  | 7. Title and<br>Amount of<br>Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative<br>Security (Instrand 4) |                    | str. 3                             |   | ivative<br>urity           | 9. Number of<br>derivative<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction(<br>(Instr. 4) | Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4 | wnership<br>orm:<br>irect (D)<br>r Indirect   | Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |  |            |  |
|   |  |     |               |   |  |  |                                     |  | Date<br>Exercisa |  | Expiration<br>Date | Title                              | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>itle Shares |                            |  |  |   |                                       |  |            |  |

#### **Explanation of Responses:**

1. The Reporting Person also directly beneficially owns 242,516 shares and indirectly beneficially owns 16,160,349 shares held by Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe VIII, L.P. and 104 shares held by WCAS Management Corporation. Pursuant to Instruction (4)(b)(iv) of Form 4, the Reporting Person has elected to report as indirectly beneficially owned the entire number of securities beneficially owned by each such entity. The Reporting Person is a managing member of the sole general partner of Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe VIII, L.P. and a controlling stockholder of WCAS Management Corporation. The Reporting Person disclaims beneficial ownership of any securities, and any proceeds thereof, that exceed his pecuniary interest therein and/or that are not actually distributed to him.

2. Pursuant to Instruction (4)(b)(iv) of Form 4, the Reporting Person has elected to report as indirectly beneficially owned the entire number of securities beneficially owned by such limited partnership. The Reporting Person is a general partner of the sole general partner of Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe VII, L.P. The Reporting Person disclaims beneficial ownership of any securities, and any proceeds thereof, that exceed his pecuniary interest therein and/or that are not actually distributed to him.

# Remarks:

Jonathan M. Rather, Attorneyin-Fact

11/09/2004

\*\* 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.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.