FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

| OMB APPROVAL | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| OMB Number: | 3235-0287 | | | | | | | | | |
| Estimated average I | burden | | | | | | | | | |

0.5

hours per response:

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

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* BROWN DOUGLAS R | | | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol ASPEN TECHNOLOGY INC /DE/ [AZPN] | | | | | N (Ch | Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) X Director 10% Owner Officer (give title Other (specify | | | | ner | |
|--|---------------|------------|-------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---------------------------|---|---|--|---|--------|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) C/O ASPEN TECHNOLOGY, INC. 10 CANAL PARK | | | 12 | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 12/09/2003 | | | | | | below) | | | below) | | | |
| (Street) | IDGE MA 02141 | | | | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | | | Line | Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable le) X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | | | | | |
| (City) | (Si | | (Zip) | | - 6 | | - 0 | anninad Di | | f av Da | | h. O | | | | |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) 2. Transa Date (Month/D | | | ransaction e nth/Day/Ye | action 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | | 3. Transactio Code (Inst ar) Code V | Amount (A) or Price | | ed (A) or etr. 3, 4 and | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | | Form: Direct | | '. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership Instr. 4) | | |
| Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) (Month/Day/Year) 34. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | | | Code | Fransaction Code (Instr. 3) | | tive ties red sed 3, 4 | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number derivative Securities Beneficial Owned Following Reported Transactio (Instr. 4) | ly | 10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | |
| | | | | Code | v | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | | | | |
| Option to purchase common stock | \$8.12 | 12/09/2003 | | A | | 3,000 | | 12/09/2003 ⁽¹⁾ | 12/09/2013 | common stock | 3,000 | \$8.12 | 3,000 | | D | |

Explanation of Responses:

1. The option is immediately exercisable in full.

/s/ Douglas R. Brown

12/11/2003

** 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.