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FIRST DATA CORPORATION
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

including the resolution of any related appeals or litigation. The tax benefits recognized in the consolidated financial statements from such a position are measured as the largest benefit that has a greater than fifty percent likelihood of being realized upon ultimate resolution.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Investments (other than those included in settlement assets) with original maturities of three months or less (that are readily convertible to cash) are considered to be cash equivalents and are stated at cost, which approximates market value. Cash and cash equivalents that were restricted from use due to regulatory requirements are included in "Other long-term assets" in the Consolidated Balance Sheets and were immaterial as of December 31, 2014 and 2013.

Accounts Receivable and Leasing Receivables

Accounts receivable balances are stated net of allowance for doubtful accounts. Historically, the Company has infrequently incurred significant write-offs. The Company records allowances for doubtful accounts when it is probable that the accounts receivable balance will not be collected. Long-term accounts receivable balances are included in "Other long-term assets" in the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

The Company has receivables associated with its POS terminal leasing businesses. Leasing receivables are included in "Accounts receivable" and "Other long-term assets" in the Consolidated Balance Sheets. The Company recognizes interest income on its leasing receivables using the effective interest method. Interest income from leasing receivables is included in "Product sales and other" in the Consolidated Statements of Operations. For direct financing leases, the interest rate used incorporates initial direct costs included in the net investment in the lease. For sales type leases, initial direct costs are expensed as incurred.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation expense is computed using the straight-line method over the lesser of the estimated useful life of the related assets (generally three to 10 years for equipment, furniture, and leasehold improvements, and 30 years for buildings) or the lease term. Maintenance and repairs which do not extend the useful life of the respective assets are charged to expense as incurred. The following table presents the amounts charged to expense for the depreciation and amortization of property and equipment, including equipment under capital lease:

Year ended December 31, (in millions)	Amount
2014	\$ 286
2013	288
2012	285

Goodwill and Other Intangibles

Goodwill represents the excess of purchase price over tangible and intangible assets acquired less liabilities assumed arising from business combinations. Goodwill is generally allocated to reporting units based upon relative fair value (taking into consideration other factors such as synergies) when an acquired business is integrated into multiple reporting units. The Company's reporting units are at the operating segment level or businesses one level below the operating segment level for which discrete financial information is prepared and regularly reviewed by management. When a business within a reporting unit is disposed of, goodwill is allocated to the disposed business using the relative fair value method. Relative fair value is estimated using a discounted cash flow analysis.