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Technology

'YOU'RE FIRED' SOFTWARE IS SIGN OF TIMES

By PAUL THARP

January 9, 2002 -- Poof! You don't exist.

The newest way to fire employees without a trace is with \$500,000 software that does it all, except escort you off the premises, but that too, can be arranged.

At the press of a key, the software dumps you with a memo, closes your payroll account at the bank, cancels your credit cards, shuts down your e-mail, eliminates your parking privileges and locks down your telephone extension and cell phone numbers.

Your name is wiped off any password or company account you ever used - including Fed Ex or even a deli takeout.

"We cover the entire life cycle of an employee," said Sharon Tolpin, a spokesperson for Business Layers Inc., whose new "fire-ware" is used by giants such as Chevron.

"We provide an entire trail of everything the employee has ever dealt with - equipment, data, everything," she said.

"Laid-off employees are a risk. Companies have a lot of horror stories about what former employees have done to them," she said.

"You still have to explain to the person that he or she doesn't have a job any more, but after that, the software pulls the plug immediately. The priority is to get them out of a company system quickly."

The software's "big brother" features also alert security to collect any notebook computers, cars, cell phones or



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other hardware, software or equipment that's ever been allocated to you.


The Rochelle Park, N.J., firm was launched during the height of the dot-com explosion to help companies get new hires up and running at the job as quickly as possible.


"Up until last year, our focus was to put people into the system and make them productive instantly. Now, it's the opposite function to take them out," said Tolpin.


About 25 major firms have been downsizing with Business Layers software in recent months, averaging about \$500,000 per account.

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