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Computer Security Software - A Lifesaver for Schools

As the School Technology Coordinator for Woodford County High School in Versailles, KY, Linda Cook found an easy way to stop students from breaking into the school's computer system. About five years ago, she purchased software from Fortres Grand Corp., based in Plymouth, IN, and to this day, hasn't experienced any problems from hackers.

Q *What types of computer problems were you experiencing with students?*

A As soon as I took over as School Technology Coordinator, I discovered that we were having trouble with computers in our labs and library that were accessed by multiple users. Students were changing screen savers and backgrounds and deleting network files and even operating programs. We have 1200 students and more than 300 computers. I didn't have the time to fix these computers each day. I began looking for software that would lock up the desktop but still enable students to use the programs they needed like word processing, databases or spreadsheets.

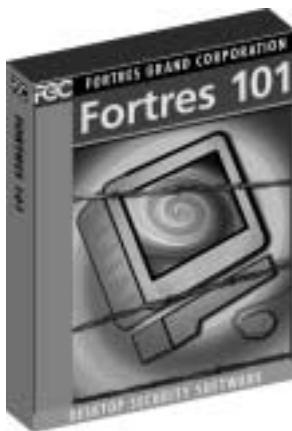**Q** *What did the software from Fortres Grand Corporation offer you?*

A When I called Fortres for information, I talked to a person, not an electronic voice, which I really liked. While the software was medium-priced, I didn't mind paying the cost because I was able to purchase a site license for my whole building instead of buying individual copies. The software does what it is supposed to do: keep students locked out of the desktop. It is user-friendly and does not require a lot of technical training to install. I really appreciated that because I don't have any formal training or technical certifications.

I like the online help desk and friendliness of the staff. They keep me informed about new upgrades and other software. That's really the kind of service I was looking for. I've also bought two upgrades for the software - each ran between $100 and $200. The latest version extends my reach because I can lock out any files I choose.

The software is also password protected. This is a nice feature since I can use separate passwords for computers in different locations. That really works well for me. If students find the password for the computer in the library, I don't have to change the passwords for every computer in the whole school.

Q *Has the software worked well?*

A Students know why the software is being used. Several student hackers have tried to get around it but haven't been able to break into the system. I've even asked some of them to try to do it right in front of me. For the past five years, no student has been able to do so. The software has been a lifesaver for my computer labs and our school system as a whole.

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