



"A Job to Lie For"

From Kiplingers Magazine, by Cybele Weisser

'Warning: A fraud may occupy the next cubical'. In the process of screening 2.6 million prospective employees for its clients in 2001, payroll company Advanced Data Processing found that 44% made false statements about their employment history, 41% misrepresented their educational achievements and 23% lied about having a professional license or credential.

Dean Suposs, head of ADP's screening services division, says many of the discrepancies found were trivial-like an inexact date of hire. But often applicants were clearly trying to gloss over rough spots in their employment history or pump up qualifications. And sometimes the checks uncovered outright fraud. "I've seen people make up universities and claim to be a different sex", said Suposs.

Companies are increasingly vigilant about background checks since Sept. 11 ADP's client base for employment screening, Suposs says, has risen by 40%. That's comforting, since one in every 20 applicants that ADP screened had been convicted of a felony in the past seven years.