

# Business

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## 'Disagreement' prompts Borland resignation

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SANTA CRUZ — A senior executive lured to Borland International in late July resigned Friday because of "disagreement with management."

The sudden departure of Jack Blount, senior vice president of business development, comes a week after the resignation of long-time board member Stephen Dow. Blount, who came from Novell Inc., reported to Philippe Kahn, Borland's founder, chairman, president and chief executive.

The reason for his departure was "a disagreement with management," according to a Borland spokesman. A formal announcement is expected today.

Also last week, Spencer Leyton,

the senior vice president Blount replaced, went on a two-week unpaid leave of absence. Leyton, 45, has been with Borland since 1985.

Blount was recruited to fill Leyton's post so he could be promoted to senior vice president, general manager of a new division, Borland Publishing Group.

Leyton remains with the Scotts Valley software company, according to spokesman Steve Grady. He was initially reported to be on indefinite leave.

"Spencer voluntarily asked for a two-week leave of absence," Grady said. It ends sometime next week.

Blount has reportedly returned to Utah. He could not be reached Tuesday. Kahn would not be available for comment, Grady said.

The suddenness of changes at Borland's senior level have raised

questions in the industry, despite the fact that management changes are frequent in the business.

Borland's stock closed unchanged at \$15.875 in over-the-counter trading Tuesday. The stock has languished in recent months.

Both Borland's departing director and newly appointed director, management consultant Stephen Lewis, said the timing of the executive and board changes are nothing more than a coincidence.

Dow, 38, was a board member since 1988, when Borland bought Ansa Software, the company he founded. He is now a partner in the venture capital firm Sevin Rosen Funds.

He said he asked to leave because of other growing commitments. "I did not have the time to

devote to the company," Dow said Tuesday. "My partners have been after me to get off the board," he said.

Monday, the three-member Borland board of directors appointed Lewis to take Dow's place on the board. Lewis, 35, is a partner and vice president of the management consulting firm Booz-Allen & Hamilton. Next month he becomes managing director and head of West Coast operations for an international investment bank, with responsibility for developing joint ventures in China.

His area of expertise is operational restructuring. "That's what I think the Borland board was looking at when (it) asked me to join."

Lewis said he met with Borland's senior management for two

days last week at a retreat in San Diego. He said he was impressed with Borland management's "level of cohesiveness" and "shared vision."

"The company is healthy, the management team is sound," he said.

Neither Blount nor Leyton attended the meeting.

"It was basically everybody but Jack. It's a tight-knit group, the same people have been together for five or six years," he said. "That's a lot of stability in this industry."

Dow, too, spoke of stability during an interview Tuesday. "The Borland management team is pretty stable," he said.

Blount's appointment to Borland was announced July 29. The 41-year-old executive was corporate vice president of corporate rela-

tions at Novell, the Utah network software company. He previously worked for IBM.

He wasn't in Scotts Valley long enough to move into his new house before leaving. Blount and his wife bought the \$710,000 unfinished house in a swank Scotts Valley development Aug. 20. Borland loaned them the entire purchase price, according to county records.

Doug Antone, senior vice president for worldwide sales, will take over some of Blount's responsibilities, including overseeing marketing, Grady said. Bill Jordan will assume Leyton's responsibilities during the leave, he said.