

For release: **IMMEDIATE**

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**ASHTON-TATE AND DIGITAL EQUIPMENT CORPORATION SHIP
dBASE IV FOR VMS**

TORRANCE, Calif., Dec. 10, 1990 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ: TATE) and Digital Equipment Corporation today announced they have shipped dBASE IV for VMS. The product was certified by Ashton-Tate in September and is being marketed and supported in the U.S. by Digital Equipment Corporation. Digital is offering introductory pricing of \$995 for single-user workstations and \$4,200 for a four-user license for any VAX system from now until March 31, 1991.

dBASE IV for VMS is a full implementation of Ashton-Tate's dBASE IV version 1.1 for DOS which is optimized to take advantage of the VMS environment and features. This fully-integrated 4GL (Fourth Generation Language) product provides PC-level ease of use and combines a comprehensive data management system and flexible application development language with 4GL programming and productivity tools.

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"Shipping dBASE IV for VMS marks a significant milestone in achieving our goal of providing existing dBASE users with a transparent growth path from the PC to more sophisticated multi-user, multi-tasking platforms like Digital's VMS," said David Proctor, Ashton-Tate's executive vice president, product development.

"With dBASE IV, users are able to run their DOS-based applications and data on a VAX VMS system without modifying or re-compiling code. This true portability not only offers a cost-effective avenue for growth but also protects the tremendous investment our customers have in data, programming and training," Proctor added.

"Our customers are excited about the power of dBASE IV for VMS together with Digital's Network Application Support," said Henry Ancona, Digital's vice president of information systems and applications. Network Application Support (NAS) is Digital's open system for multi-vendor, distributed application integration.

"From within their familiar dBASE environment, Digital users can now easily build applications that access information from VAX Rdb/VMS databases, and other corporate databases anywhere on the network," Ancona added.

Customer Reaction

Customers who have been beta testing the software have had positive reactions to dBASE IV for VMS.

"dBASE IV provides features, functionality and a wide range of applications that haven't been available to Digital users in the past," said Hewitt Jackson, SourceMate marketing manager, whose company's AccountMate software was ported to the VAX. "For PC developers, dBASE IV for VMS opens up an entirely new sales channel and customer set for our applications. We see this as an incredible opportunity for growth," Jackson added.

Jeff Smiley, computer scientist for Resource Conservation Company of Seattle, Washington, whose company designs Water Treatment Plants, said, "dBASE IV for VMS offers the same look and feel as the DOS version of the product and should provide our PC users with a simple interface to our VAX Rdb database."

"With dBASE IV for VMS, our people can migrate applications from their PCs to our VAX minicomputer with minimum changes," said Bill Campbell, Systems Manager, South Carolina Water Resources Commission. "This helps protect the major investment we have in dBASE applications and user training," Campbell added.

Product Overview

dBASE IV for VMS is a version of Ashton-Tate's dBASE IV version 1.1 software which runs on VAX systems and workstations and uses Digital's Network Application Support (NAS).

dBASE IV for VMS maintains the same look and feel as the DOS version of dBASE IV version 1.1 and allows existing DOS-based applications to run on VAX VMS systems with little or no modifications.

The product is designed to take full advantage of the enterprise-wide networking, multi-user and multi-tasking capabilities, virtual memory and full security of the VMS operating system.

dBASE IV for VMS can operate as a front-end tool for VAX Rdb/VMS databases throughout the network, using the NAS SQL data access services. It can also be used as a self-contained data management system without the use of Rdb. And, through Digital's VAX to IBM connectivity products, dBASE IV for VMS can also function as a front-end to IBM mainframe databases such as DB2.

Pricing and Availability

Pricing for dBASE IV for VMS starts at \$1,295, with an introductory price of \$995, for Digital single-user workstations. For mid-range VAX systems like the VAX 4000, dBASE IV is priced at \$21,000. In addition, Digital offers a four-user license for any VAX system for \$4,995, with an introductory price of \$4,200. This special introductory pricing is available through March 31, 1991.

dBASE IV for VMS is available now from all U.S. Digital Equipment Corporation sales offices.

Digital Equipment Corporation, headquartered in Maynard, Massachusetts, is the leading worldwide supplier of networked computer systems and services. Digital offers a full range of computing solutions and systems integration for the entire enterprise -- from the desktop to the data center.

Headquartered in Torrance, California, Ashton-Tate Corporation develops and markets microcomputer business applications and advanced connectivity software. The company's major product categories include database management systems, word processing, integrated decision support, spreadsheets, graphics and software utilities. Ashton-Tate has international operations in most countries around the world, with products available in 20 languages in more than 50 countries. The company also offers a comprehensive line of training and support services for individuals, corporations and government agencies.

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