

For release: **IMMEDIATE**
Contact: **Dian L. Melius**
(213) 538-7321

20101 Hamilton Avenue
Torrance, California 90509-9972
Telephone: 213-329-8000
Fax: 213-538-7998

**ASHTON-TATE SUCCESSFULLY MEETS dBASE IV
CROSS-PLATFORM CHALLENGE AT COMDEX '90**

Over 40 DOS-based dBASE applications were ported to VMS, Sun, UNIX 386 and Macintosh platforms without modification or re-compilation.

TORRANCE, Calif., Dec. 3, 1990 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ: TATE) today announced that the company met its dBASE Cross-Platform Challenge at Comdex '90 by successfully porting over 40 customer-submitted, DOS-based dBASE applications to VMS, UNIX and Macintosh operating systems on the fly at the booth. Participants included both U.S. and international developers, users and corporate MIS managers who brought their existing dBASE applications and data to the Ashton-Tate booth to port to the platform of their choice.

"The participants seemed to be most impressed by the true portability that dBASE IV for VMS, Sun and 386 UNIX offer," said Dave Proctor, executive vice president of Ashton-Tate product development. "To be able to run an existing dBASE DOS-originated application on a VAX VMS System, Sun or 386 UNIX workstation or Macintosh computer, without modifying or re-compiling code, opens numerous avenues for growth to our existing customer base."

Customer Reaction

"We were surprised at the high degree of reliability and ease of transportability," said Robert Davies, President and CEO of SBT Corporation, who ported the company's DOS-based dBASE IV business accounting program to a Sun Microsystems SPARCstation. "Our application performed well beyond our expectations on the Sun workstation -- the operating speed was amazing," Davies added.

"With dBASE IV, I can stay in my own comfortable DOS world and still develop programs for VMS, Sun and MAC machines," said Charles Mohler, president of Charles Mohler Consulting, who ported an address sorting program to a VAXstation 3100. "The demonstration at Comdex proved that code I write for a DOS machine can be seamlessly -- even painlessly -- ported to a variety of other platforms," Mohler added.

The dBASE IV Cross-Platform Challenge Continues

Because it received such positive reaction from the participants, the company has extended the Cross-Platform Challenge through the end of the year.

Anyone interested in having a current dBASE application ported from DOS to a VMS, UNIX or Macintosh platform should contact the company's Advance Consulting Group at (213) 538-6116, by no later than December 17, 1990.

Participants will be asked to send their application of no more than 5,000 lines of pure dBASE Code and data on either a 5-1/4" or 3-1/2" disk to Ashton-Tate, noting the target platform. Participants should also include additional blank media compatible with the target environment so a copy of the ported application can be returned to them.

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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