

For release: **IMMEDIATE**

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ASHTON-TATE INTRODUCES FRAMEWORK II

CULVER CITY, Calif., Sept. 10, 1985 -- Ashton-Tate today introduced Framework II, an integrated software package designed specifically for managers and professionals who regularly use a spreadsheet and word processor.

Available in October, Framework II is built on the company's widely-acclaimed Framework product that shipped in July 1984. Framework II contains a larger, faster and more powerful spreadsheet and an advanced word processor that includes an 80,000-word spell checker, visible page breaks and a built-in mailmerge capability. The two primary functions are supported by fully-integrated telecommunications, database, outlining and graphics modules in addition to an expanded and well-documented programming language. Framework II retains a consistent command structure throughout all functions, providing users with unparalleled ease of learning.

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Framework II's seamless integration of spreadsheet and word processor allows business users to organize concepts and develop finished documents, complete with words, numbers and graphs.

"Framework II was developed in direct response to input from hundreds of Framework users," said Edward M. Esber Jr., Ashton-Tate president and chief executive officer. "And unlike other integrated products, Framework II's spreadsheet and word processor compare favorably with competing stand-alone products. It is at last no longer necessary to sacrifice functionality for integration," added Esber.

Framework II's suggested retail price is \$695, the same as Framework, and includes the spelling checker and outliner. Until December 31, 1985, registered Framework users can upgrade to Framework II for \$140. Users who purchase Framework between August 31, 1985 and October 31, 1985 are entitled to a free upgrade. Unregistered users can call a toll free number [1-800-437-4329] for upgrade information. Registered corporate Framework users are eligible for bulk purchase discounts on volume upgrades.

Framework II's spreadsheet operates on average twice as fast as Framework's spreadsheet and is two to five times larger using the same amount of random access memory (RAM). The spreadsheet uses "sparse matrix implementation," meaning that unfilled cells within a spreadsheet take up little or no memory, providing for more efficient use of RAM.

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Framework II's spreadsheet takes advantage of "virtual memory" in which additional workspace may be accessed from either a hard disk or add-in memory boards such as the AST RamPage! and Intel Above Board. This capability permits users to go beyond the 640K-byte RAM limit imposed by current personal computer architecture. The spreadsheet can handle a maximum of 32,000 rows by 32,000 columns, although users are encouraged to break apart large spreadsheets into smaller, more manageable ones that can be linked.

Framework II's word processor includes an 80,000-word spelling checker with automatic correction and the ability to create custom lists of specialized terms. The word processor automatically inserts page breaks, and can employ soft hyphens and hard spaces to prevent selected words from becoming separated. Framework II's "record mode" allows users to record and store frequently used words or phrases as abbreviations for single-keystroke retrieval.

Framework II's word processor also provides built-in mailmerge and label printing along with a style library for creating and storing different print formats. It incorporates menu-driven print formatting and can print and format spreadsheets, graphs and text on the same page.

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A unique feature of Framework II is a special "library cabinet" that cannot be deleted and is automatically loaded into the computer each time the program is used. It includes all recorded abbreviations, macros and a phone book, and is structured in outline form to remain consistent with the rest of the program.

Framework II's telecommunications module is completely integrated into the program, and can be accessed from a new pull-down menu that includes single-key access to Dow Jones, The Source and CompuServe. The telecommunications function freely converts and exchanges data with the spreadsheet and word processing modules. It also can operate in the background, allowing users to work on other functions while waiting for a telecommunications session to finish.

The spreadsheet and word processor, along with Framework II's supportive functions of telecommunications, database and graphs, are tightly integrated so that common syntax and keystrokes are used throughout the program. For example, the spell checker works on spreadsheets as simply as it does on text. Also, all word processing and formatting features are available for any editing operation, regardless of the specific function.

Framework II provides a variety of import/export formats such as dBASE II/III, IBM DCA/Displaywrite, Lotus 1-2-3 (version 1.0), WordStar, MultiMate, ASCII text and VisiCalc DIF. Framework II makes room for additional formats such as links

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developed by in-house corporate programmers that allow communication directly with a mainframe. Framework II is automatically configured to run dBASE III, other applications and DOS programs from its pull-down menus.

Framework II runs on the IBM PC, PC XT, PC AT, 3270 PC and compatible systems with 384K bytes of RAM and two 360K-byte floppy drives or a single 360K-byte floppy and a hard disk. The product supports the AST RamPage! and Intel Above Board add-in memory boards, four different modes of the IBM Enhanced Graphics Adaptor, a monochrome or color monitor, PC DOS 2.0 or higher and more than 100 different printers, plotters and graphic cards.

In conjunction with the introduction of Framework II, Ashton-Tate today announced the Decision Maker's Series, a series of add-on packages for Framework II developed by the company's Publishing Group. With a suggested retail price of \$69.95 each, the Decision Maker's Series of products assist Framework II users to analyze projects, manage finances and make business decisions. The first two packages available will be Project Analysis and Decision Modeling. Ashton-Tate also announced that its Publishing Group will release several publications to support Framework II.

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