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**ASHTON-TATE INTRODUCES dBASE III PLUS,
RAISES dBASE STANDARD**

Features Include Ease of Use, Built-in Multi-User Capability

LAS VEGAS, November 20, 1985 -- Ashton-Tate, developer and marketer of the industry-standard dBASE family of database management software, today introduced dBASE III PLUS, a complete database management system that combines ease of use and power with built-in multi-user, as well as single-user, capability.

dBASE III PLUS, introduced today at a news conference at COMDEX/Fall '85, will succeed dBASE III, the industry's best-selling 16-bit microcomputer database management software (DBMS), according to Edward M. Esber Jr., president and chief executive officer of the Torrance, California, company.

"With dBASE III PLUS, we are raising the existing database management standard of the microcomputer software industry," Esber said. "dBASE II and dBASE III set that standard, and have more than 550,000 users worldwide. Our DBMS product family extends from single-user packages to multi-user solutions to address the needs of the entire spectrum of database users."

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dBASE III PLUS provides users with a natural growth path. It opens up day-to-day and sophisticated data management functions to a new generation of dBASE users without requiring them to learn a programming language. dBASE III PLUS also features increased programming capabilities and maintains the dot prompt interface of dBASE II and III.

"An important feature of dBASE III is its true multi-user capability -- built into every package -- which permits multiple users to access the same data files at the same time without data corruption," Esber said. "Businesses and organizations that plan to network groups of microcomputer users to share data can now do so with the industry-standard DBMS solution, backed by Ashton-Tate's quality service and support capability."

Each copy of dBASE III PLUS may be installed on a local area network (LAN) and support one initial user. All dBASE III programs and files may migrate to the LAN environment and full single-user dBASE III PLUS capabilities are available on the LAN.

dBASE III PLUS's multi-user capability includes file and record-locking features that provide true multi-user data access without data corruption, eight levels of password protection, and high-speed encryption and decryption of data.

Ashton-Tate offers several options to users who wish to network. Beginning with a copy of dBASE III PLUS, users may add multi-user capability by adding:

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(1) Multiple copies of dBASE III PLUS, which can be used for both LAN and stand-alone use.

(2) dBASE III PLUS LAN Pack, also introduced today by Ashton-Tate, which permits network-only access to dBASE III PLUS. Each LAN Pack, priced at \$995, enables three additional users to join the dBASE III PLUS network at a per-user cost of less than \$425.

(3) A combination of both dBASE III PLUS packages and dBASE III PLUS LAN Packs.

dBASE III PLUS is priced at \$695 and will be available at Ashton-Tate authorized dealers in January 1986. Registered users of dBASE III, or those with proof of purchase, may upgrade to dBASE III PLUS for \$99 during the first 90 days of the product's availability and for \$140 thereafter. Those who purchased dBASE III after October 1, 1985, and all purchasers of the dBASE III Developer's Release, are entitled to a free upgrade. Unregistered users may call a toll-free number [1-800-437-4329] for upgrade information. Registered corporate dBASE III users are eligible for bulk purchase discounts on volume upgrades.

FEATURES OF dBASE III PLUS

In developing dBASE III PLUS, Ashton-Tate listened to the advice of dBASE II and III users, dealers, its Corporate Advisory Board, and VAR (value-added remarketer) Council.

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For beginning users, dBASE III PLUS combines Framework-style pull-down menus with increased functionality that does not require programming knowledge.

The menu-driven interface, called The Assistant, enables users to accomplish day-to-day data management tasks without programming. The Assistant displays both menu options and key navigation messages to guide users. dBASE III PLUS also has on-disk and written tutorials, and documentation that addresses all levels of user sophistication.

Both interfaces, The Assistant and the dot prompt, allow access to three features that provide multiple file capability without programming: the Advanced Query System, which easily creates queries; View, which provides relational capability, combining multiple databases for data management, report writing, and other tasks; and the Screen Painter, which creates custom screens.

The Applications Generator, which helps create custom applications without programming, is also readily accessible to all users.

For experienced users, dBASE III PLUS maintains the dot prompt interface while adding more than 50 enhancements to the dBASE programming language through the incorporation of the dBASE III Developer's Release, including Runtime+. Those enhanced features include improved de-bugging aids, assembly language

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calls, environment testing, and others. In addition, dBASE III PLUS includes a data catalog for improved organization of files.

dBASE III PLUS has improved speed and performance, while maintaining dBASE III's capacity of one billion records per file and minimum stand-alone memory requirement of 256K bytes of random access memory (RAM). dBASE III PLUS sorts up to two times faster and indexes up to 10 times faster than dBASE III.

In its stand-alone mode, dBASE III PLUS runs on the IBM PC, PC XT, PC AT, or 100 percent compatible computers. In addition to 256K bytes of RAM, it requires a dual, 5 1/4-inch 360K-byte floppy disk drive, or one fixed disk drive and one 360K-byte floppy disk drive, a monochrome monitor and PC-DOS 2.0 or higher. dBASE III PLUS supports color monitors and any printer with 80 or more columns, including laser printers.

In its network mode, dBASE III PLUS also runs on the IBM PC, PC XT, PC AT, or 100 percent compatible computers and supports monochrome or color monitors and printers with 80 or more columns. Server-workstations require a minimum of 640K bytes of RAM and one fixed disk drive with one 5 1/4-inch 360K-byte floppy disk drive. Workstations require 384K RAM and one 360K-byte floppy disk drive.

dBASE III PLUS operates on the IBM PC Network under PC-DOS 3.1/PC Network Program, 3COM's 3Plus, or Novell's Advanced NetWare Version 1.01 or higher. Other local area networks that

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use a 100 percent PC-DOS 3.1 compatible operating system may also support dBASE III PLUS and dBASE III PLUS LAN Pack.

Ashton-Tate also introduced today the dBASE Tools for C Series for dBASE III PLUS, two add-in packages designed to help programmers develop applications using the company's new database management system. Developed through the company's Publishing Group, these packages -- The Programmer's Library and The Graphics Library -- allow users to add functions, commands and programs written in the C language to dBASE III PLUS applications.

In addition, the Ashton-Tate Publishing Group has announced the revision of several of its publications to support users of dBASE III PLUS. The new publications include Everyman's Database Primer for dBASE III PLUS, which is available immediately, and dBASE III PLUS Trail Guide and dBASE III PLUS for Every Business, which will be released in February 1986.

One of the fastest growing companies in the personal computer industry, Ashton-Tate had revenues of \$51.5 million and net income of \$5.8 million for the first six months of fiscal 1986, ended July 31, 1985, a substantial increase from the same period of the previous year.

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