FRAMEWORK II

PRODUCT BACKGROUND

Ashton-Tate's Framework II is the productivity tool for managers and professionals who regularly use a spreadsheet and word processor. The product's seamless integration of these two functions allows business users to organize concepts and develop finished documents, complete with words, numbers and graphs. Significantly, Framework II accomplishes these results without sacrificing functionality to the best-selling stand-alone packages in either category.

Unlike other integrated packages, Framework II provides both ease of learning and ease of use along with the depth and power that advanced business users demand. Both frequent users of spreadsheets and word processors and first-time personal computer users will find Framework II a fully functional business tool that eliminates their need for a library of software programs.

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Framework II was built on the the company's successful
Framework product introduced in July 1984. Framework
received widespread acclaim from the editorial and consulting
community, including being named Software Product of the Year in
France, where it outsells even Lotus 1-2-3. Additionally,
Framework won the PC Magazine Spreadsheet Face-off, was picked as
the number one integrated package in exhaustive benchmark tests
conducted by Software Digest Ratings Newsletter, and was named
one of the Most Significant Products of 1984 by PC Week.

Robert Carr, Ashton-Tate's chief scientist and designer of
Framework, was presented with an award for technical excellence
by PC Magazine for his efforts in developing Framework.
According to the trade publication's editor, Framework's
"combination of speed, innovative user interface, and
flexibility has set an almost insurmountable standard for
integrated software."

Framework II extends this standard further by providing
additional functionality and greater ease of use than its
predecessor.

Framework II's spreadsheet is comparable to the best stand-
alone spreadsheets and goes beyond stand-alone limitations by
including a database, graphs, telecommunications links and a

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programming language. And, Framework II's word processor is comparable to the best stand-alone word processors -- while including outlining, spelling checker, mailmerge and abbreviations. The tight integration between these two key functions provides a synergy that no other stand-alone or integrated product can equal.

Framework II's innovative user interface of pull-down menus, consistent command structure throughout all functions and outlines for organizing thoughts and ideas present users with an intuitive means of breaking down information into manageable chunks that can be tied together in the form of spreadsheets, graphs and text.

SPREADSHEET

Framework II's spreadsheet operates twice as fast as Framework's spreadsheet and, because of more efficient data representation, Framework II uses half the random access memory (RAM). The spreadsheet uses "sparse matrix implementation," which means that unfilled cells within a spreadsheet take up little or no memory, allowing for full utilization of spreadsheet space.

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Framework II's spreadsheet takes advantage of "virtual memory" in which additional workspace may be accessed from either hard disks 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 maximum size of a Framework II spreadsheet is 32,000 rows by 32,000 columns, although users will achieve optimum results by breaking apart large spreadsheets into smaller ones that are linked together.

Framework II provides full-screen word processing of spreadsheet formulas, allowing for white spaces between symbols and indentation to make for easier reading and editing. Various assumptions such as interest rates and inflation can be stored in Framework II's library for easy access from all spreadsheets. Framework II also allows notations to be included with formulas so that users can document exactly how they achieved certain figures.

FRED, Framework's advanced programming language, has been expanded and is fully available in the spreadsheet, giving text strings, conditionals, and full macro capabilities to the user. Framework II's spreadsheet automatically transfers (parses) telecommunications and text data into separate spreadsheet cells, eliminating the need for a "cut and paste" command.

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WORD PROCESSOR

Framework II's word processor includes automatic insertions of page breaks, soft hyphens, word count and hard spaces to prevent selected words from becoming separated. It also implements an 80,000-word spell checker with automatic correction and the ability to create a library of specialized terms. Framework II's "record mode" allows users to record and store frequently used words or phrases as abbreviations for quick retrieval in Framework II's library.

Framework II provides built-in mailmerge and label printing capabilities along with a style library for creating and storing different print formats. Framework II utilizes menu-driven print formatting -- eliminating the need to use FRED to create print formats -- and can print and format spreadsheets, graphs and text on the same page.

Framework II's screen automatically reformats upon command and displays onscreen exactly the style and format that will be printed. Framework II also has a speed scrolling capability that permits unrestricted cursor movement within documents. Outlines in Framework II make use of Roman numerals in addition to Arabic numbering.

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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 each module. 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.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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 word processing and spreadsheet modules. It also can operate in the background, allowing users to work with spreadsheets, graphs or text while waiting for a telecommunications session to finish. The telecommunications function supports terminal emulation for most popular asynchronous terminals as well as a point-and-dial voice call capability that permits users to point to any number on the screen to initiate automatic dialing.

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DATA MANAGEMENT AND GRAPHICS

The Framework II database supports the dBASE III "forms view" method of data input, further establishing the product as a complementary companion to the top-selling database management system. The database also employs "filter" formulas that allow only specific records to be transferred into Framework II for analysis from outside databases.

Framework II supports a wide variety of graph types, such as bar, stacked bar, scatter, line, X-Y, pie charts and high-low-close graphs for financial analysis. Graphs are linked to the database and spreadsheet modules for automatic redrawing when data is changed. Framework II allows multiple graphs of arbitrary sizes to be displayed simultaneously on the screen.

GENERAL

Framework II was developed to coexist with other productivity packages entrenched in the market. The product 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 accepts additional import/export formats such as links developed by corporate MIS managers to allow Framework II to communicate directly with a mainframe.

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Framework II is configured to automatically accept dBASE II and dBASE III applications and has the flexibility to allow other custom applications to be installed into its pull-down menus. It also has the power to access DOS and run other programs without leaving Framework II.

A unique feature of Framework II is a "library cabinet" that cannot be deleted and is automatically loaded onto 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.

The product's documentation is conveniently separated into different sections for easy access by various levels of users. Included in the documentation is detailed information on the FRED programming language.

Context sensitive help is always available in one keystroke and the product includes an "undo" command that retrieves inadvertently deleted data.

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REQUIREMENTS

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. Framework II's suggested retail price is $695 and includes the spell checker and outliner.

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