

ASHTON-TATE NEWS

(2-RELEASES INCLUDED)

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ASHTON-TATE SHIPS dBASE DIRECT/38,
DATABASE CONNECTIVITY SOLUTION FOR IBM SYSTEM/38
Product Goes to Market Ahead of Schedule

TORRANCE, Calif., May 31, 1988 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ: TATE) today announced the early shipping of dBASE DIRECT/38, a connectivity software package that links its industry-standard microcomputer database management system, dBASE III PLUS, with data residing on the IBM System/38.

Priced at \$2,995 per System/38 CPU, dBASE DIRECT/38 also will support the recently-announced dBASE IV. dBASE DIRECT/38 is available via Ashton-Tate's authorized resellers who specialize in both IBM's System/38 and Ashton-Tate's dBASE III PLUS.

"We are proud to be shipping dBASE DIRECT/38 -- the second in our family of dBASE connectivity products -- ahead of schedule," said Roy E. Folk, executive vice president and general manager of the Software Products Division. "dBASE DIRECT/38 gives System/38 installations the power and flexibility of dBASE III PLUS, the industry-standard relational database management system, while providing transparent access to System/38 files."

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From within a dBASE III PLUS application, users can view, select, sort, display and print data from System/38 files as if they are dBASE files. dBASE DIRECT/38 also supports advanced functions, such as the ability to join multiple System/38 files. Up to 32 files can be joined in a single request.

An additional advanced feature is the automatic conversion of System/38 data into dBASE III PLUS's .dbf format for immediate use within dBASE programs, making dBASE DIRECT/38 an applications gateway for other PC products that support the dBASE III PLUS .dbf standard. These PC applications include spreadsheets, graphics packages, desktop publishing and utilities.

dBASE DIRECT/38 includes a powerful set of additional extensions to the dBASE programming language, giving dBASE product users the ability to directly access the System/38 data files. Query tools allow dBASE DIRECT/38 users to:

- o Interactively manipulate, display or list details from System/38 files on a field-by-field, record-by-record basis,
- o Copy S/38 files and their structures to a dBASE III PLUS file,
- o Call for selected System/38 data from within dBASE III PLUS applications,
- o Upload data files to the System/38,
- o and join up to 32 files.

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dBASE DIRECT/38 can handle file combinations which consist of up to 32 file joins and can create a view of files that can have up to 256 fields within that view.

"By developing dBASE DIRECT/38 and getting it to market so quickly, we are responding to our major corporate customers' demand for transparent access to System/38 data from within dBASE applications," said Shelley Symonds, S/3X connectivity product manager for Ashton-Tate. "With dBASE DIRECT/38 users can now gain access to their corporate databases utilizing the sophisticated dBASE programming language."

Residing entirely on the PC, dBASE DIRECT/38 works with the System/38 resident PC Support/38, an IBM-supplied utility that connects microcomputers to the System/38. dBASE DIRECT/38 supports System/38 data files organized under IBM's Data Description Specifications (DDS). DDS allows standard descriptions of System/38 files, records and fields to be stored in a data dictionary.

dBASE DIRECT/38 supports any model System/38 operating under CPF Release 8.0 (an IBM System/38 operating system) and PC Support/38. The product also requires an IBM Personal Computer, XT, PC/AT, Personal System/2 or 100 percent compatible system with 640 Kbytes of memory; monitor, IBM Enhanced 5250 Emulation or 100 percent compatible; PC-DOS 2.XX through PC-DOS 3.3, and dBASE III PLUS or dBASE IV.

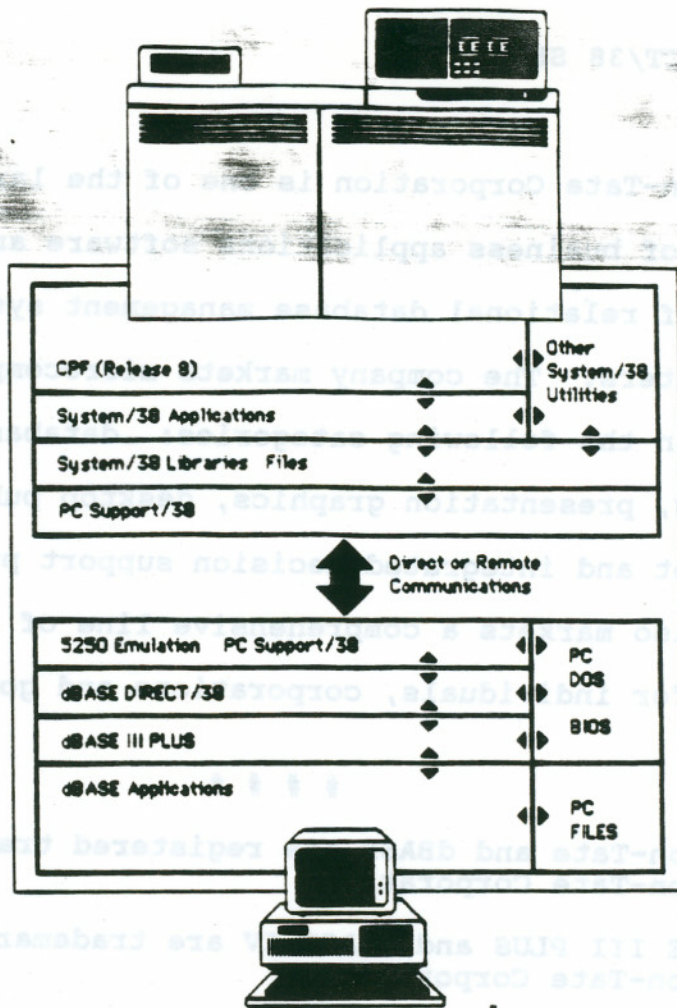
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Ashton-Tate Corporation is one of the largest developers and marketers of business applications software and the major supplier of relational database management systems for microcomputers. The company markets microcomputer software products in the following categories: database management, word processing, presentation graphics, desktop publishing, spreadsheet and integrated decision support products. The company also markets a comprehensive line of service and support programs for individuals, corporations and government agencies.

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dBASE DIRECT/38 OPERATING ENVIRONMENT