

# ASHTON-TATE NEWS

## ASHTON-TATE SHIPS FRAMEWORK III Product Goes to Market on Scheduled Delivery Date

TORRANCE, Calif., July 26, 1988 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ: TATE) announced today that it began shipping Framework III, the newest version of its integrated decision-support software for MS-DOS computers, as originally announced. Framework III, the successor to Framework II, now features optional built-in electronic mail, as well as significant improvements in its six functional areas -- word processing, spreadsheet, database management, business graphics, outlining and telecommunications.

Framework III has a suggested retail price of \$695, and will be available at Ashton-Tate's 5,500 authorized dealers in the U.S. and Canada. The five-user LAN version, to be priced at \$995, is scheduled to ship by October 31, 1988. It will feature a complete store and forward electronic mail system and support file locking and peripheral sharing.

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INTERNATIONAL VERSIONS

Ashton-Tate will begin shipping translated versions of Framework III in French, German and British English by September. Italian, Swedish, Dutch, Spanish, Danish, Norwegian and Portugese versions will ship shortly thereafter. All screens, menus, messages, spelling dictionaries, and documentation appear in the local language; optional disks for spell checking, hyphenation and thesaurus in multiple languages are also available.

"This aggressive translation program sets a new record for Ashton-Tate," said the company's president Luther J. Nussbaum, "The short time from product announcement in the U.S. to availability in a large number of international markets demonstrates our commitment to the international marketplace," he adds.

According to Nussbaum, previews of Framework III from Beta users have been very favorable. "Trade publications have called Framework III everything from 'the best integrated package ever' to a 'watershed product which will define the work group support software market for some time,'" he says.

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PRODUCT FEATURES

As a decision-support tool, Framework III allows managers to identify problems, organize data and analyze alternative actions, communicate quickly and effectively with others, and easily create applications to meet their specific needs.

Highlighting the new features in Framework III is the addition of industry-standard electronic mail using the Standard Message Format of MHS developed by Action Technologies and Novell. The electronic mail system facilitates local and remote workgroup applications -- such as group document preparation or financial planning and consolidation -- by allowing users to instantly mail live Framework III files to other workgroup members.

Other new features of Framework III include:

Word Processing

- On-screen super- and sub-scripts, strikethrough, variable tabs, and ruler line
- Snaking column text that can wrap around spreadsheet tables and graphs
- Footnoting for individual documents or group document revision
- Menu selection of up to five printers, including laser cartridges

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Spreadsheet

Powerful linking and consolidation of spreadsheets, graphs, and databases, plus:

- Faster recalculation
- Regional recalculation

Database

- New data entry typing
- Direct import and export of dBASE files

Import/Export

- New WordPerfect and Lotus version 2.01 import and export

Integrating Environment

- New DOS filing functions for creating, naming, and renaming sub-directories, and for copying and moving files between disks while in Framework
- New memory roll-out feature lets users run large applications inside Framework

ASHTON-TATE: A LEADER IN MICROCOMPUTER SOFTWARE

Ashton-Tate Corporation markets best-selling business application software in six major categories: database management systems, word processing, graphics, decision support integrated software, spreadsheets and desktop publishing. The company has products available for operation in the DOS, Macintosh and OS/2 environments. Ashton-Tate also markets a comprehensive line of service and support programs for individuals, corporations, and government agencies.

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TM Framework III is a trademark of Ashton-Tate Corporation