

IMMEDIATE

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ASHTON-TATE ANNOUNCES MULTIMATE version 4.0

Significant upgrade to MultiMate Advantage II
includes integrated graphics, electronic mail and
transparent document conversions

TORRANCE, Calif., October 30, 1989 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ: TATE) today announced MultiMate version 4.0, a major upgrade to the company's MultiMate Advantage II word processing software.

This new version of MultiMate features integrated graphics, electronic mail, transparent document conversion, a comprehensive grammar checker, WYSIWYG display, redlining and several features targeted to the legal market. Carrying a suggested retail price of \$565, MultiMate version 4.0 will begin shipping before the end of the year.

"The new MultiMate will offer both current and new users the productivity they need in their businesses," said Bill Lyons, Vice President and General Manager of Ashton-Tate's Applications Group. "We have spent a great deal of time in understanding how people use word processing; that's why we've included features such as the integrated electronic mail and transparent document conversions."

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"The new features in MultiMate focus on office productivity by letting users perform most of their daily computing activities -- sending and receiving electronic mail, working in other software applications such as database or spreadsheet software, importing from and exporting to other formats -- all from within a MultiMate document," added Terry Smail, Director of Word Processing Products. "At the same time, we've added a host of new features that word processing users have requested."

New Features and Benefits

With nearly 150 new and enhanced features, MultiMate version 4.0 includes:

- **Integrated electronic mail** - This allows users to distribute and receive messages and documents electronically without leaving their MultiMate document. This improves productivity by saving the time users spend on continually leaving their word processor to access their separate mail program. MultiMate has integrated Action Technology's Message Handling Service (MHS) to provide communication with stand-alone and network MHS users (such as Framework III from Ashton-Tate). In addition, gateways provide communication with those on IBM PROFS, DEC All-In-One, DISOSS and Wang Office, as well as public mail such as MCI Mail.
- **Grammar checking** - This offers users an easy way to improve the readability of their documents. The grammar checker (Grammatik IV, completely integrated into MultiMate) highlights stylistic and grammatical errors, suggests corrections, assesses readability by grade level and generates summary statistical reports. It can also be modified to reflect a writer's particular style or follow the guidelines of a document type (technical, business, informal, etc.).
- **Transparent document conversion** - This means that users can easily import text from a long list of software -- including WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, WordStar, XyWrite, Lotus 1-2-3 and Framework -- without lengthy conversions. The imported text is automatically converted and formatted, so users save time and keystrokes. Once work is completed, the new document can be saved in MultiMate version 4.0 format or exported to any other supported format.

- **The "run other software" feature** - This shrinks MultiMate to 2.5K of RAM, then lets users directly access and run other software through MultiMate's pulldown menus, thereby saving time and keystrokes.
For example, users can launch database, spreadsheet or graphics programs and work within them, without leaving MultiMate. When finished, the user is automatically returned to the prior location in MultiMate.
- **Integrated graphics** - This allows users to import a variety of graphic file formats -- including those from APPLAUSE II, DRAW APPLAUSE, Harvard Graphics, Lotus 1-2-3, Freelance Plus and PC Paintbrush -- to add impact to their documents.
Imported graphics, or those created within MultiMate, can be edited on-screen quickly and easily.
- **WYSIWYG display** provides document preview for users to see exactly how their documents will print.
Full-size, reduced-size and side-by-side views of facing pages show screen emulation of typefaces and type size.
- **Bitstream fontware, Postscript support and improved font selection** offer users significantly improved printed output.

In addition, MultiMate version 4.0 includes larger document size (up to one and a half megabytes), macro editing, improved cursor movements and faster one-pass spell checking. To meet the needs of the legal market, MultiMate version 4.0 includes line numbering, redlining, tables of authorities and a legal dictionary.

Current MultiMate users will find a smooth transition from MultiMate Advantage II to the new MultiMate. The pull-down menus now access all MultiMate functionality and offer keystroke alternatives. Additionally, MultiMate version 4.0 has retained its original easy-to-learn and use interface. While the software is moving towards SAA/CUA compliance, only a few keystrokes have been changed in this version.

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Price, Upgrades, Availability

MultiMate version 4.0 will have a suggested retail price of \$565 and will be available before the end of the year through the Ashton-Tate authorized reseller network.

Upgrades from MultiMate Advantage II and previous versions of the software will be available for \$75 through Ashton-Tate's customer service. All data files created in MultiMate Advantage II and previous versions of MultiMate are upwardly compatible with MultiMate version 4.0.

Based in Torrance, California, Ashton-Tate markets microcomputer business applications for DOS and Macintosh operating systems. Products are available in five major categories: database management systems, word processing, integrated decision support, spreadsheets and graphics. Ashton-Tate also markets a comprehensive line of service and support programs for individuals, corporations and government agencies.

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