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**ASHTON-TATE ANNOUNCES FRAMEWORK III
RUNTIME FOR DEVELOPERS**

**Royalty-free runtime environment for
development of office and workgroup applications**

TORRANCE, Calif., March 27, 1989 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ: TATE) today announced Framework III RunTime, an integrated runtime environment designed for developers to create office and workgroup applications. It combines Framework III's FRED programming language and the software's word processing, spreadsheet, database, graphics, communications, electronic mail and outlining functions in an unlimited use, royalty-free runtime environment.

Priced at \$995, Framework III RunTime includes the RunTime diskettes and documentation, a copy of Framework III and one year of free support. The product will begin shipping by April 30, 1989, and will be available directly from Ashton-Tate.

"Framework has garnered an enthusiastic and loyal following of developers since its introduction in 1984. Since that time, Ashton-Tate has met the needs of these individuals with new versions

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of Framework, including Framework III LAN and a recent update to the single user version. Framework III RunTime was developed as a direct result of feedback we received at Ashton-Tate's Developer Conference in September of last year," said Bill Lyons, Ashton-Tate's Vice President of PC Applications.

Added Bob Kimball, Ashton-Tate's Director of Decision Support Product Management, "With Framework III RunTime, developers can increase both their productivity and profitability. Increased productivity comes from the seamless integration of Framework III functions; now developers do not have to patch together incompatible programs. Increased productivity is the result of the royalty-free license, a first for an integrated runtime product."

Office & Workgroup Applications

Framework III RunTime offers an ideal application development environment because it includes both a programming language (FRED) and a broad selection of integrated functions. As a result, developers can create virtually any type of office or workgroup application. Examples include hypertext tools, project management software, personal information managers (PIM's), job costing systems and specialized applications for vertical markets such as legal and manufacturing.

A number of Framework developers are already taking advantage of the capabilities offered by Framework III RunTime. For example, Software Trust, a developer in Laguna Beach, California, has

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developed "Office Packs" for a wide range of organizations -- including banks, medical offices and construction firms -- using Framework III RunTime. The Mortgage Company Pack, for example, includes modules to handle escrows, loan servicing, interest reporting, client correspondence, foreclosures and aging.

Product Features & Benefits

Framework III RunTime offers developers these features and benefits:

- FRED, a powerful object-oriented programming (OOP) language with over 175 commands, that provides easy integration and data exchange between modules.
- Six full-featured applications -- word processing, spreadsheet, database, graphics, data communications and outlining -- which developers can integrate into their applications. This eliminates the need to build modules from scratch or combine often incompatible programs.
- Integrated electronic mail, unique to Framework III RunTime, provides developers with yet another tool to develop workgroup applications where electronic communication is required.
- Framework III's "frames" approach allows developers to break segments of code into smaller pieces, which is conducive to creating modular applications. Because modular applications are easy to modify, developers can quickly and easily customize applications to meet specific users' needs.
- Most of the features found in an object-oriented programming environment, including encapsulation, message passing, inheritance and late binding. This allows programmers to create flexible program modules that can be easily reused in different applications.

Framework III RunTime also includes a sample calendar/scheduling application written in the FRED programming language. The FRED source code is included, so that this model can be used as is or modified for inclusion in the developer's applications.

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Ashton-Tate Corporation markets best-selling business application software for DOS, Macintosh and OS/2 environments. Products are available in six major categories: database management systems, word processing, graphics, desktop publishing, integrated decision support software and spreadsheets. The Tate Publishing division offers third-party software applications as well as books and periodicals. The company also markets a comprehensive line of service and support programs for individuals, corporations, and government agencies.

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