ASHTON-TATE INTRODUCES cTOOLS, ADD-IN PROGRAMMING PACKAGES FOR dBASE III PLUS

LAS VEGAS, November 20, 1985 -- Ashton-Tate, developer and marketer of the industry-standard dBASE family of products, today introduced the dBASE cTOOLS Series for dBASE III PLUS, two add-in packages designed to help programmers develop applications using the company's powerful new database management system.

Developed through Ashton-Tate's Publishing Group, dBASE cTOOLS allow users to add functions, commands and programs written in the C language to dBASE III PLUS applications. dBASE III PLUS, also announced today, contains enhancements to the dBASE programming language which make it possible for the first time to combine the speed and flexibility of the C language with the dBASE language ease of use.

"These add-in packages are a significant element of the Publishing Group's planned support for dBASE III PLUS," said Jane Mellin, Ashton-Tate's director of publications. "With products such as cTOOLS and a variety of books and book/disk packages, programmers can realize the full potential of this powerful new product."

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dBASE III PLUS is the most complete relational database management system for microcomputer users. The successor to Ashton-Tate's industry-standard dBASE III, dBASE III PLUS provides greater ease of use, functionality, performance, power and built-in multi-user capability, as well as single-user capability. dBASE III PLUS LAN Pack, also introduced today, includes three dBASE Access programs that provide three users with multi-user, network-only access to dBASE III PLUS.

The dBASE cTOOLS Series for dBASE III PLUS includes two software add-in packages -- The Programmer's Library and The Graphics Library -- which include built-in C functions and a basic engine for adding the functions to dBASE III PLUS applications. Programmers also can design their own programs in C or incorporate other commercial C libraries and simply use the cTOOLS to link them to their dBASE III PLUS applications.

The Programmer's Library takes advantage of the C language, which is well adapted to numerical functions. The package provides more than 25 financial, mathematical and statistical functions including net present value, trigonometric functions and standard deviation.

The Graphics Library provides functions that enable programmers to create sophisticated, customized graphs for dBASE III PLUS applications. The package includes several business graphics for use with a monochrome monitor including bar graphs, pie charts and line charts.

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In addition, several graphics primitives, such as lines,
boxes, arcs and circles, are provided to help programmers develop
customized graphics for use with color monitors.

The Programmer's Library, available in January 1986, and The
Graphics Library, available in February 1986, will be sold at the
introductory retail price of $89.95 each. The packages require
384K bytes of random access memory and dBASE III PLUS for
operation.

The Publishing Group also is revising several publications
to support dBASE III PLUS. Everyman's Database Primer for
dBASE III PLUS will be available immediately. dBASE III PLUS
Trail Guide and dBASE III PLUS for Every Business will be
available in February 1986.

With an extensive line of book/disk packages, software add-
ons and best-selling books such as Everyman's Database Primer
for dBASE II and Framework: An Introduction, Ashton-Tate's
Publishing Group plays an integral role in supporting the
Torrance, California, company's growing line of microcomputer
software programs.

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