

Immediate

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ASHTON-TATE ANNOUNCES CONTROL ROOM

New utility software lets users control
their computers and computer environment

TORRANCE, Calif., October 30, 1989 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ: TATE) today announced Control Room, utility software that offers users an easy and convenient way to understand and inspect their computer, personalize their systems, and protect machine and software investments.

Control Room is currently in an extensive beta program, and will be shipped during the first quarter of 1990. It will carry a suggested retail price of \$129.

"Control Room is a good example of the innovative new software users will see coming from Ashton-Tate," said Bill Lyons, Vice President and General Manager of Ashton-Tate's Applications Group. "Control Room's unique capabilities and user interface will help us to take a leadership role in the utility software category. We are pleased to give users a sneak preview of the product at the Ashton-Tate road show for applications products starting November 1st."

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"Control Room addresses the needs of a wide variety of users, from novice users just learning about computers all the way up to advanced users who want utilities to make computing easier," added Walter Feigenson, Senior Product Manager for Control Room. "It is also a helpful tool for MIS/DP managers, since it produces a complete hardware and software inventory report."

Features and Benefits

Control Room consists of two main parts: a program with a series of panels, and a TSR (terminate and stay resident program) that loads and implements panel selections every time the computer is turned on. The TSR is typically 5 to 20K in size, and is incrementally built based on each option the user selects.

The panels provide options for customizing:

- **Keyboard Settings**
In this panel, users can set the key click volume and repeat rate; quick stop the cursor to prevent cursor "run-on;" switch the control and shift keys, activate keyboard macros, and perform other keyboard adjustments that improve user comfort and productivity.
- **Disk Settings**
This panel enhances the performance of machines and maintains safe operation by offering a fault-tolerant cache, an autopark feature that helps prevent hard disk crashes and information screens that display disk size, access speed, transfer rate, interleave, partitions, controller etc.
- **General Hardware Settings**
Users can further customize their machine and perform other important tasks such as setting display parameters, blanking the screen and rerouting printing to disk (this is especially useful for laptop computers).
- **Memory Usage**
Control Room provides memory information that gives users a quick and easy way to look at programs loaded in memory and displays specifics on expanded and extended memory, CPU cache and the BIOS.

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- **Machine Configuration**
A full-featured editor allows users to configure their computer environment -- such as autoexec.bat and config.sys files -- without having to exit the program and call up another editor. It also explains the commands and checks for proper syntax.
- **Expert Opinion System**
An expert system kernel produces a 15 to 20 page report explaining the system in easy-to-understand terms. It also offers context-sensitive lookup on over 1,000 technical terms and functions.
- **Equipment Summary**
A summary of hardware and performance metrics quantifies the performance of a computer, including information on memory, processors, disk cache and DOS version.
- **Tasks**
The utilities located on this panel -- undelete files, encrypt and decrypt files, wipe disk files, create and edit macros, create a backup CMOS disk and others -- provide users with quick and easy ways to perform functions critical to data security and access.

In addition to the features on the eight menu panels, Control Room includes an anti-viral scan and an automatic hardware and software inventory. The viral scan protects against data loss and system failures, while the inventory listing lets users determine exact computer equipment without removing the computer case. This information can be automatically downloaded over a network or accessed by any other program that reads ASCII or dBASE files.

System Requirements, Price and Availability

Control Room will run on any IBM, COMPAQ, Toshiba or 100% compatible microcomputer with 384K of memory. The product will have a suggested retail price of \$129, and will be available through the Ashton-Tate authorized reseller network in the first quarter of 1990.

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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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