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ASHTON-TATE SHIPS dBASE IV VERSION 1.1

TORRANCE, CALIF., July 31, 1990 -- Ashton-Tate today announced that it shipped version 1.1 of its flagship product, dBASE IV. Available now at authorized Ashton-Tate resellers, significant enhancements made to the product include reduced memory requirements, increased performance, Structured Query Language (SQL) improvements, simplified installation, new language commands, and several other new features and functions.

"dBASE IV version 1.1 is smaller, faster and more reliable," said Bill Lyons, Ashton-Tate's president. "We have made the necessary enhancements and changes so that our customers will have a very stable product that meets their requirements."

Designed to maximize the productivity of both users and developers, dBASE IV version 1.1 is a data management system that includes two highly integrated work environments in a single package. The menu-driven Control Center, with its Design Tools, lets users manage data without having to program, while the application development environment and the dBASE language allow developers to build better applications faster without sacrificing flexibility.

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"According to recent survey results, our beta testers said that we should ship version 1.1 now. But we didn't just rely on the beta testers," said Dave Proctor, Ashton-Tate's vice president and general manager for database products. "Using a suite of more than 60,000 proprietary internal tests, we performed more than 5 million automated test runs against the product. We believe it's the largest quality assurance program ever undertaken in the PC software industry."

Smaller, Faster...

Ashton-Tate has added a number of features to dBASE IV version 1.1 to enhance its memory management and performance capabilities.

- o Version 1.1 has a new dynamic Memory Management System (dMMS) that handles overlays more efficiently; the product requires less memory, which results in more applications space availability.
- o The product's lower memory requirements of only 450K of RAM provide improved network support because supplemental hardware memory is no longer required to support networks.
- o By speeding up areas of dBASE IV that are overlay-dependent, the new dMMS improves performance when working at the Control Center and in programs that use menus and windows.
- o Installed as an option, the integrated disk cache uses extended or expanded memory, if available, for caching data and program overlays to reduce disk access.
- o Unique to dBASE IV version 1.1, a user-defined performance tuning option enables users to balance requirements for speed against memory usage. Users can specify the percentage of available memory for applications versus the amount used for overlay swapping to tune the system to individual needs, ensuring optimal performance in each specific application.

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Interface and Language Enhancements

Ashton-Tate also has improved version 1.1 with significant user interface programming language enhancements.

- o Version 1.1 features improvements to dBASE IV's SQL implementation. While using SQL, users now can BROWSE tables; run reports, labels and queries; and utilize 23 new or enhanced dBASE commands.
- o A flexible new installation system makes version 1.1 easier for both beginning and experienced users to install. The program now allows the user to choose the type of installation desired from three options: QUICK, FULL and MENU-DRIVEN.
- o Several new language commands that were recommended by dLAB (the dBASE Language Advisory Board) were added, as well as many enhancements to existing commands. The new commands include CERROR(), KEYBOARD, SAVE SCREEN/RESTORE SCREEN, REPLACE FROM ARRAY, SET CURSOR ON/OFF, SET MESSAGE TO, SET DIRECTORY TO and WINDOW().
- o Other new features include the availability of conditional indexes; the lifting of restrictions on User-defined Functions (UDFs) and ON commands, access to an "Organize" menu from "Browse" and "Edit" screens, an improved QBE design screen, and expanded printer support and functionality.

New Editions

In addition to dBASE IV version 1.1, Ashton-Tate offers a version 1.1 developer's edition with a royalty-free unlimited RunTime distribution license, the template language source code, two extra LAN keys, and additional applications distribution tools and utilities.

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Another option is the dBASE IV LAN Pack. While both dBASE IV version 1.1 and the developer's edition have built-in multiuser capabilities, the LAN Pack allows the addition of up to five users to a dBASE IV local area network installation.

Pricing and Upgrades

In the U.S., the dBASE IV version 1.1 standard edition has a suggested retail price of \$795; the developer's edition sells for \$1295; and the LAN Pack retails for \$995.

Registered owners of dBASE IV 1.0 can receive a free upgrade to version 1.1. Registered dBASE III PLUS owners can upgrade to dBASE IV version 1.1 for \$175 and the dBASE IV version 1.1 Developer's Edition for \$475. For upgrades, customers can call Ashton-Tate Customer Service at (800) 2-ASHTON.

System Requirements

dBASE IV version 1.1 requires an IBM PC, XT, AT, PS/2 or other 100-percent compatible computer with 450K available user memory (some applications require more); a monochrome or color graphics (CGA, EGA or VGA) monitor; a hard disk with 4.0Mb minimum available disk space; and PC-DOS or MS-DOS 2.10 through 3.31, 4.01 or 100-percent compatible operating system.

For networking, dBASE IV version 1.1 requires PC-DOS or MS-DOS version 3.10 through 3.31, 4.01 or 100-percent compatible operating system. The product supports specific versions of Novell NetWare/286 and 386, 3Com 3+, IBM PC LAN and 100-percent compatible networks.

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Company Background

Headquartered in Torrance, California, Ashton-Tate Corporation develops and markets microcomputer business applications and advanced connectivity software. Major product categories include database management systems, word processing, integrated decision support, spreadsheets, graphics and software utilities. Ashton-Tate is a worldwide organization with products available in 20 languages and in more than 50 countries.

The company also offers a comprehensive line of training and support services for individuals, corporations and government agencies.

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