

News

For release:

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ASHTON-TATE SHIPS "TURBOSEARCH," HIGH PERFORMANCE INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SOFTWARE

TORRANCE, Calif., Sept. 20, 1988 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ-TATE) today shipped TurboSearch, high performance information retrieval software that helps personal computer users organize information and find files stored in their computers in just seconds.

Developed by IDAN Software Industries, Ltd., TurboSearch will be available at a suggested retail price of \$179 at 5,500 Ashton-Tate authorized dealers in the United States and Canada. Customers may also order the product direct from the Tate Publishing Division by calling 800-227-6900.

TurboSearch is especially beneficial for people who handle large amounts of stored information, such as word processing users, researchers, programmers who need to locate code, and users of online services who want to search information they have received electronically.

"Any computer user who has ever wasted precious time searching for a file will appreciate TurboSearch," said Rich DiGiovanni, vice president and general manager of Ashton-Tate's Publishing Group.

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"There's a definite need for 'search-and-retrieval' software -- especially for a product as fast, inexpensive and easy to use as TurboSearch. Law firms, libraries, financial services institutions and almost any business can benefit from using it."

The program operates with any word processing, database and spreadsheet software files, such as those produced with Ashton-Tate's MultiMate Advantage II, Framework II or Framework III, dBASE III PLUS or Byline products. It operates with other DOS files when they are converted to ASCII format. Files can be either in ASCII or binary format and stored on a floppy disk or a hard disk drive.

To help users organize their files, TurboSearch provides a library system. Users can create a single library to hold all their files or set up individual libraries for different subjects. TurboSearch allows up to 3,072 files in a library and 500 libraries per disk drive or subdirectory.

The program offers a variety of ways to search a library: by words (it can search up to eight words simultaneously); by filename or file date; and by words within a range (it can conduct proximity searches of up to eight words). Proximity searches can locate two or more words in conjunction or in the same paragraph.

Once users have established search criteria, TurboSearch creates a search list that contains all the files in their library that satisfy their request. If the files found in the search list are not specific enough, users can conduct a secondary search of those files. This feature provides the ability to continually refine searches to locate precisely what is needed.

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The software also creates a library dictionary that adds all new words of two or more characters to the dictionary every time a file is added to the library. The dictionary can be reviewed prior to searches or used as a tool to build a key word index for a book or manuscript.

TurboSearch offers easy-to-use pull down menus and standard print commands that let users print from within the program. It employs Boolean logic (linking word combinations with "AND," "OR" or "NOT") to conduct sophisticated searches. Users fill out a simple grid and do not need to enter complex equations.

TurboSearch operates on the IBM PC, PC/XT, PC/AT and 100 percent compatibles, and the Personal System/2 Models 50, 60 and 80, with DOS Version 2.1 or higher and a minimum of 512K bytes of free memory. Hardware configuration requirements are two double-sided diskette drives or a hard disk and one double-sided diskette drive (recommended.)

The software is available in 5 1/4-inch disk versions or 3 1/2-inch disk versions.

The Tate Publishing Division develops and markets books and periodicals that help computer users better understand and use hardware and software products. To date Ashton-Tate has published more than 60 books and periodicals, including the company's magazine, Ashton-Tate Quarterly. The Tate Publishing Division also offers

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a family of internally and externally developed software tools, utilities and add-ons; training courseware; and stand-alone applications marketed by Ashton-Tate.

IDAN Software Industries, Ltd., develops software products for industrial, educational, medical and other markets. The company developed a courseware generator system used to produce interactive training programs for the IBM Personal Computer. Founded in 1985, IDAN Software is headquartered abroad, with offices in California.

Based in Torrance, Calif., Ashton-Tate markets best-selling microcomputer business applications software for DOS, OS/2 and Macintosh operating systems. Products are available in six major categories: database management systems, word processing, integrated decision support software, spreadsheets and desktop publishing. Ashton-Tate also markets a comprehensive line of service and support programs for individuals, corporations and government agencies.

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