

Immediate

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ASHTON-TATE SHIPS MULTIMATE VERSION 4.0

Upgrade to MultiMate Advantage II
ships on schedule

TORRANCE, Calif., December 18, 1989 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ: TATE) today began shipping MultiMate version 4.0, the company's DOS-based word processor.

This new version includes integrated electronic mail, a grammar checker, transparent file conversion, a DOS shell feature to run other software and several features targeted to the legal market, including redlining. The product has a suggested retail price of \$565 and is available through all Ashton-Tate authorized resellers.

"We're pleased to begin shipping MultiMate 4.0, a product with the productivity and functionality our customers and the market have requested. This new version not only enhances a proven corporate standard; it goes beyond word processing by providing productivity tools not traditionally found in word processing software," said Bill Lyons, Vice President and General Manager of Ashton-Tate's Applications Group.

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Added Lyons, "MultiMate is an important product to Ashton-Tate and to over 750,000 users. We intend to strengthen our market position by providing competitive and timely versions of MultiMate in the 1990's."

New Features and Benefits

With nearly 150 new and enhanced features, MultiMate version 4.0 users can now produce more informative and persuasive documents. Moreover, both production word processing and new or casual users can learn and use MultiMate quickly and easily via extensive pull-down menus.

Major new features in the product include:

- **Integrated electronic mail**
MultiMate has integrated Action Technology's Message Handling Service (MHS) to provide communication with stand-alone and network MHS users (such as Framework III from Ashton-Tate). In addition, gateways provide communication with those on IBM PROFS, DEC All-In-One, DISOSS and Wang Office, as well as public mail such as MCI Mail.
- **Grammar checking**
Grammatik IV, completely integrated through MultiMate's pull-down menus, helps users improve the readability of their documents. The grammar checker highlights stylistic and grammatical errors, suggests corrections, estimates readability by grade level and generates summary statistical reports.
- **Transparent document conversion**
Almost instantaneous text import from a long list of software -- including WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, WordStar, Lotus 1-2-3 and Framework -- eliminates lengthy conversions. The imported text is automatically converted and formatted, so users save time and keystrokes. Once work is completed, the new document can be saved in MultiMate version 4.0 format or exported to any other supported format.
- **"Run other software"**
MultiMate shrinks to 12.5K of RAM, then lets users directly access and run other software through MultiMate's pull-down menus, thereby saving time and keystrokes.

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- **Integrated graphics**
A variety of graphic file formats -- including those from APPLAUSE II, DRAW APPLAUSE, Harvard Graphics, Lotus 1-2-3, Freelance Plus and PC Paintbrush -- can be imported to add impact to documents.
Imported graphics, or those created within MultiMate, can be edited on-screen quickly and easily.
- **WYSIWYG preview**
Full-size, reduced-size and side-by-side views of facing pages show screen emulation of typefaces and type size.
- **Bitstream fontware, Postscript support and improved font selection** offer users significantly improved printed output.

In addition, MultiMate version 4.0 includes larger document size (up to one and a half megabytes), macro editing, improved cursor movements and faster spell checking. To meet the needs of the legal market, MultiMate version 4.0 includes line numbering, redlining, tables of authorities and a legal dictionary.

Price, Upgrades, Availability

MultiMate version 4.0 has a suggested retail price of \$565 and is available through the Ashton-Tate authorized reseller network.

Upgrades from MultiMate Advantage II and previous versions of the software are available from authorized resellers, or directly from Ashton-Tate for \$75. To order through Ashton-Tate, customers should call (800) 2-ASHTON. Upgrade orders to MultiMate 4.0 placed by January 31, 1990 are free of charge to those who purchased MultiMate Advantage II after October 16, 1989.

All data files created in MultiMate Advantage II and previous versions of MultiMate are upwardly compatible with the new MultiMate.

With the purchase of MultiMate version 4.0, customers will be entitled to unlimited, free technical support and toll-free access to the Ashton-Tate Bulletin Board System.

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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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