

IMMEDIATE

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ASHTON-TATE INTRODUCES TRAINING
SOFTWARE FOR SQL SERVER AT INFO '89

NEW YORK, Oct. 10, 1989 -- Ashton-Tate Corp. today unveiled its first offering in the computer-based training (CBT) marketplace at the Info '89: Information Management Exposition and Conference. Called SQL Tutor for SQL Server, the new software training program easily and methodically teaches users the fundamentals of Transact-SQL commands to facilitate the access of data from the Ashton-Tate/Microsoft SQL Server.

“While a number of front-ends will provide transparent access to SQL Server through user interfaces such as pull-down menus and QBE, many also will provide direct SQL query capability for use within customized macros and applications,” said Eric Kim, Ashton-Tate’s vice president, database division. “We feel that SQL Tutor’s interactive approach will enable our customers to easily learn how to access SQL Server data via Transact-SQL. SQL Server is a complex tool, and this easy-to-use training program is simply one step toward our goal of bringing the power and functionality of SQL Server to the mainstream PC user.”

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Designed as a support product for SQL Server, the new program is targeted at end-users and developers who need to access information from SQL Server databases but are unfamiliar with querying via Transact-SQL, a superset of the industry-standard Structured Query Language (SQL) through which applications communicate with databases. SQL Tutor also is a cost-effective tool for resellers, VARs and corporate trainers to instruct personnel in the use of Transact-SQL for sales and training purposes.

An interactive training program, SQL Tutor features more than 20 training modules, covering a variety of subjects from simple SQL queries to creating triggers and stored procedures. The modular design allows a user to select topics of interest to study from easy-to-use on-screen menus.

Once a subject is selected, SQL Tutor presents written information about the topic, provides key definitions, then walks the user through a series of exercises using actual commands to define (create or drop), manipulate (insert, update, delete or select) and control (grant or revoke) SQL Server data.

If the user successfully completes the exercises, he is congratulated, then the program transfers to the menu for selection of the next subject. The user is returned back for a review or provided on-line help if the exercises aren't completed successfully.

With a built-in memory feature, SQL Tutor will track up to 50 users per hard disk directory. All users proceed at their own individual paces because SQL Tutor records and remembers each user's status. Upon login, each user is returned to the point of completion at the last signoff.

An on-line training program, SQL Tutor doesn't require much supplementary reading; it comes with minimal documentation to minimize required learning time.

"SQL Tutor is an effective and convenient training tool because it is self-paced and always available on demand," said Pamela Goldschmidt, SQL Server product manager at Ashton-Tate. "We feel that SQL Tutor strongly complements our existing SQL Server

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curriculum for end-users, developers and systems administrators.”

As for system requirements, SQL Tutor needs 384Kbytes of memory, MS-DOS 2.1 or a higher version, and a hard disk. A color monitor is suggested, but not required. For software installation, the user simply copies files from the SQL Tutor disks into a subdirectory on the system hard disk.

SQL Tutor for SQL Server was created for Ashton-Tate by Relational Courseware Inc. in Boston, Mass. Featuring a suggested retail price of \$199, the program is scheduled for shipment in November. It is available from Ashton-Tate authorized resellers on both 3 1/2- and 5 1/4-inch diskettes. The program also can be purchased directly from the Professional Services Division at Ashton-Tate by phoning (213) 538-7738.

Based on a client/server architecture, SQL Server is a database server that, unlike a file server, offers processing power of its own in a local area network (LAN) environment. As a result, processing can be effectively distributed between the server and LAN workstations. SQL Server's processing power also provides many of the minicomputer-based network benefits -- such as performance, integrity, security and concurrency -- at a fraction of the cost.

Headquartered in Torrance, Calif., Ashton-Tate markets microcomputer business applications software for DOS, OS/2 and Macintosh operating systems. Products are available in five major categories: database management systems, word processing, integrated decision support software, 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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