

For release:

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**ASHTON-TATE AND DIGITAL EQUIPMENT CORPORATION ANNOUNCE
dBASE IV FOR VAX VMS SYSTEMS**

New York, New York -- July 31, 1990 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ: TATE) and Digital Equipment Corporation (NYSE: DEC) today announced dBASE IV for VAX VMS systems. The product is a full implementation of dBASE IV version 1.1 software, runs on VAX systems and workstations, and uses Digital's Network Applications Support (NAS). NAS is Digital's open system for multivendor, distributed application integration. dBASE IV for VAX VMS will be marketed and supported worldwide by Digital and will be available in the U.S. in the fourth quarter 1990.

Digital and Ashton-Tate today also announced plans to develop dBASE IV for RISC ULTRIX systems. ULTRIX is Digital's implementation of the UNIX operating system. The two companies again stated their intentions to develop dBASE IV for DECwindows on both the VMS and ULTRIX operating systems and to develop a PC-based dBASE IV connectivity product for VAX Rdb/VMS.

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"With today's announcement, Ashton-Tate can now offer its industry-standard dBASE IV to users of VAX VMS system, from desktop devices to the VAX 9000 mainframe," said David Proctor, vice president and general manager of Ashton-Tate's database division.

"dBASE IV for VAX VMS also delivers on Ashton-Tate's and Digital's shared vision of creating a computing environment that makes information and productivity tools readily available to all levels of users within an organization," Proctor added.

The combination of dBASE IV and Digital's NAS makes this product more than a personal productivity tool -- it becomes a tool that helps our customers run their business," said Henry Ancona, Digital's vice president of Information Systems and Applications. "With dBASE IV for VAX VMS our customers can now deploy dBASE applications as an integral part of their application and productivity needs," he added.

Product Overview

dBASE IV for VAX VMS is a version of Ashton-Tate's dBASE IV version 1.1 for DOS which is optimized to take advantage of the VMS environment and features, including enterprise-wide networking, multi-user and multi-tasking capabilities, virtual memory and full security. This fully-integrated 4GL (Fourth Generation Language) product combines a comprehensive data management system and flexible application development language with 4GL programming and productivity tools.

dBASE IV for VAX VMS maintains the same look and feel as the DOS version of dBASE IV 1.1 and allows existing DOS-based dBASE applications to run on VAX VMS systems with little or no modification.

dBASE IV for VAX VMS can operate as a front-end tool for VAX Rdb/VMS databases throughout the network, using the NAS SQL data access services. It can also be used as a self-contained data management system without the use of Rdb. And, through Digital's VAX to IBM connectivity products, dBASE IV for VAX VMS can also function as a front-end to IBM mainframe databases such as DB2.

Product Features & Benefits

*** High Level Portability Protects Application and Training Investments**

- dBASE applications can be moved across DOS-based PCs, UNIX and VAX VMS systems without reprogramming or data conversion (except for hardware differences)
- dBASE source files, data files and compiled object files are compatible across PCs, VAX VMS and UNIX systems so applications written in dBASE IV can be moved across these platforms without changes
- dBASE IV provides a migration path for thousands of dBASE applications that have been written and used on DOS-based PCs
- The migration path is transparent to preserve existing application investment while bringing the greater depth and breadth of sophisticated VAX VMS features to the workgroup dBASE environment
- PC-based dBASE applications are enhanced by the extended features of the multi-user, multi-tasking VAX VMS system such as extended data storage and data sharing, larger memory, higher performance and greater security

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*** Distributed Solutions**

- dBASE IV for VAX VMS systems is a part of Digital's strategy to offer industry-leading applications that take advantage of NAS, across all its desktop platforms and family of systems, including VMS, UNIX, OS/2 and MAC
- dBASE IV can operate as a front-end interface for VAX Rdb/VMS databases through Digital's VAX SQL Services component of NAS
- The product allows users to transparently use SQL commands in dBASE IV applications while maintaining data in enterprise-wide VAX/Rdb VMS storage
- The VAX Rdb/VMS database can be located on the same host as dBASE IV or on a remote VAX server accessed through DECnet
- Support for NAS Compound Document Services simplifies the sharing of information between dBASE IV and other applications throughout the network
- dBASE IV for VAX VMS can function as a front-end to IBM mainframe databases such as DB2 through Digital's VAX to IBM connectivity products

*** 4GL Tools Decrease Application Development Costs**

- dBASE IV Design Tools allow developers to quickly create such objects as screens, reports, views, pull-down and pop-up menus and sign-on banners
- The Automatic Code Generator produces documented code for the created objects to maximize developer productivity
- The Template Language permits developers to control the operation of the Automatic Code Generator in order to generate custom-tailored code
- The symbolic, multi-windowed debugger and integrated program editor reduce debugging time
- dBASE IV Utilities such as dB-Link and Build simplify distribution of end-user applications

*** Menu-driven Interface Minimizes Training and Support**

- An innovative user interface streamlines data management and allows users, regardless of their computer experience, to perform many tasks without MIS support

- The menu-driven Control Center, with its built-in design tools, lets users create tables, forms, reports, queries and labels without programming

*** dBASE IV Complements Existing Corporate Databases**

- dBASE IV complements an existing OLTP DBMS with an easy-to-use productivity tool for users who do not have extensive VAX VMS or VAX Rdb/VMS expertise
- dBASE IV brings the power of VAX VMS systems to more users, for more tasks, thereby, leveraging hardware investments

*** Worldwide Support Network To Ensure Successful Implementation**

- dBASE IV for VAX VMS systems was developed by Ashton-Tate with the engineering support and expertise of Digital Equipment Corporation
- The product will be backed by Ashton-Tate and will be supported worldwide 24 hours a day, seven days a week by Digital Equipment Corporation
- dBASE users are backed by a worldwide network of third-party training and application development organizations

Pricing and Availability

dBASE IV for VAX VMS, with identical features as the Developer's Edition on a PC, starts at \$1,295, with a introductory price of \$995, for Digital single user workstations. For mid-range VAX systems like the VAX 4000, dBASE IV costs \$21,000 and for the VAX 6000-410, dBASE IV is priced at \$33,000. In addition, Digital offers a 4-user license for any VAX system for \$4,995, with an introductory price of \$4,200. dBASE IV for VAX VMS will be available in the fourth quarter 1990.

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System Requirements

dBASE IV for VAX VMS systems will run on all VAX Systems including VAXstation, MicroVAX and VAXcluster with Digital's VAX VMS version 5.2.

Digital Equipment Corporation, headquartered in Maynard, Massachusetts, is the leading worldwide supplier of networked computer systems and services.

Digital offers a full range of computing solutions and systems integration for the entire enterprise -- from the desktop to the data center.

Headquartered in Torrance, California, Ashton-Tate Corporation develops and markets microcomputer business applications and advanced connectivity software. The company's major product categories include database management systems, word processing, integrated decision support, spreadsheets, graphics and software utilities. Ashton-Tate has international operations in most countries around the world, with products available in 20 languages 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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