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ASHTON-TATE INTRODUCES NEW
MULTIMATE ADVANTAGE II WORD PROCESSING SOFTWARE

TORRANCE, Calif., April 14, 1987 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation today introduced its new flagship word processing product, MultiMate Advantage II, designed to provide more power and ease of use for a new generation of users.

Shipping today, MultiMate Advantage II will soon be available at Ashton-Tate's more than 5,500 authorized dealers in the U.S. and Canada.

MultiMate Advantage II addresses users' expectations of quicker results, flexibility, ease of use, full functionality and quality output. Lydia J. Dobyms, Ashton-Tate vice president of marketing, said that MultiMate Advantage II is the result of extensive discussions with MultiMate's 500,000-strong customer base.

"A new class of knowledge workers who currently use word processing software has emerged," Dobyms said. "Almost half of MultiMate's 500,000-strong users are managerial and professional people who want quick results without taking a lot of time to learn and use the software.

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"MultiMate Advantage II has been designed to meet the needs of these users, while still supporting word processing's traditional customer base of secretarial and administrative workers. With this product, Ashton-Tate is raising the word processing standard established by the MultiMate family," she said.

The product includes the key word processing features that users told the company they want: the option of document or page orientation; an optional, pull-down menu interface consistent with those found in Ashton-Tate's dBASE III PLUS, Framework II and RapidFile; a merge with dBASE files without leaving MultiMate; an extensive, continual undo/delete function to retrieve deleted text (limited only by disk space); increased laser support that allows up to 26 fonts within a document and up to 18 soft (down-loadable) fonts, and higher performance.

The new, direct dBASE merge feature makes MultiMate Advantage II a convenient word processing companion for dBASE users. dBASE merge allows users to select and merge with existing dBASE records to generate personalized form letters.

Other product highlights include a "hot start" menu bypass, six-function math, auto-hyphenation, sorting within a document, single-key execution, and an FFT-DCA conversion feature for FFT-DCA-formatted files.

MultiMate Advantage II has improved speed in scrolling from page to page, in outputting to laser printers, in searching and replacing, and in spell-checking.

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Other new features include:

- o a comment feature to annotate documents,
- o a document summary screen bypass option that allows users to go directly into a document,
- o full support for DOS 2.0 and above pathing to create sub-directories for organizing files,
- o backward search,
- o a directory of key procedures to allow users to select names of key procedures (macros) from a directory,
- o ASCII import to bring ASCII files directly into an existing MultiMate document,
- o and an enhanced footnote function to increase footnote size and create endnotes. This allows legal and academic users to create appropriate footnotes.

MultiMate Advantage II supports over 400 printers; and 26 fonts within a document, with up to 18 soft (down-loadable) fonts. Down-loading of fonts is improved so users only have to down-load once.

Other enhancements include a merge feature that works with ASCII, dBASE or MultiMate data files allowing users to select records by logical operator, menu terminology changes that make the user interface more consistent and easier to use, and a Word Star conversion feature.

With MultiMate On-File, MultiMate Advantage II's integrated mail list manager, users now can sort in three fields, in either ascending or descending order; print labels, envelopes or columnar reports; and merge directly with MultiMate and search by subject, character string, date, or index word. In addition, users may perform ASCII conversions, free format for

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information and create templates. MultiMate On-File also has a Document Cataloging feature that allows users to manage their MultiMate Advantage II documents by copying document summary screens and creating "cards" of them to keep on file.

MultiMate Advantage II includes all of the text-editing functions and document-handling features found in its predecessor, the best-selling MultiMate Advantage 3.60, plus its other key features including: column mode for layout formatting, a 40,000-word thesaurus, a 110,000-word speller/dictionary with medical and legal terminology, and typewriter mode to make minor tasks easier.

Priced at \$565 for the 5 1/4-inch formatted disk version, MultiMate Advantage II runs on the IBM PC, PC/XT, PC/AT and IBM true plug-compatibles with a minimum of 384K bytes of free memory for DOS 2.0 or higher. Hardware configuration requirements are two double-sided diskette drives, or a hard disk and one double-sided diskette drive (recommended).

As of April 2, 1987, MultiMate became available in 3 1/2-inch disk format to run on IBM's newest computers, the IBM Personal System/2 line. In addition to shipping MultiMate Advantage II in packages containing 5 1/4-inch formatted disk versions, Ashton-Tate is shipping both 3 1/2- and 5 1/4-inch formatted disk versions in one package called the "Premium Pack." The suggested list price for the MultiMate Advantage II Premium Pack is \$595.

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The Premium Pack also includes a "Personal Use Extension" which allows all registered users of any Ashton-Tate product to obtain an extension to the End User License Agreement. The Extension allows registered users personal use of the software on another computer, without the need to purchase an additional copy of the software. The Extension does not cover using two computers at one time, now does it allow anyone other than the registered user to use the software on a second machine.

Purchasers of the Premium Pack can activate the Personal Use Extension, which is included in the package price, simply by registering their software. For further information about obtaining the Extension or receiving 3 1/2-inch disks, registered and unregistered users can call 1-800-367-8126.

Quantity-one, introductory upgrades from any version of MultiMate are \$100. Volume discounts are available.

Ashton-Tate, the second-largest developer and marketer of microcomputer business applications software, reported revenues of \$210.8 million and net income of \$30.1 million for the fiscal year 1987, ended January 31, 1987; increases of 73.4 percent and 81.3 percent, respectively, from the previous year.

Based in Torrance, Calif., Ashton-Tate markets best-selling microcomputer business applications software in three other categories: database management software with the industry-standard dBASE III PLUS and RapidFile, business graphics with the

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MASTER-GRAPHICS Series and integrated software with Framework II. Ashton-Tate also markets a comprehensive line of support programs for individuals and for corporations.

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