

Microsoft News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MICROSOFT AND SYBASE ANNOUNCE DEVELOPMENT AND LICENSING AGREEMENT FOR SQL SERVER PRODUCT

REDMOND, WA, January 13, 1988 -- Microsoft Corporation and Sybase, Inc., today publicly announced a long-term strategic alliance which the two companies began in 1986. Under their agreement, Sybase is licensing to Microsoft its relational database server technology for local area networks. SQL Server is based on Sybase's field-proven relational database management system, enhanced with technology from Microsoft and database technology from Ashton-Tate Corporation. Microsoft and Sybase are working together to optimize SQL Server for the OS/2 local area network environment.

SQL Server implements the industry-standard Structured Query Language (SQL). The product provides an OS/2 system-based, open platform for software developers writing applications to multi-user networked environments. Microsoft will license SQL Server to hardware OEMs. Under a separate agreement announced today, Ashton-Tate Corporation is licensing SQL Server from Microsoft for distribution through its retail channels. Sybase will distribute the Ashton-Tate packaged version of SQL Server to corporate customers of the Sybase product line through its own direct sales force.

Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates said, "Microsoft surveyed the entire SQL database market and chose Sybase technology as the most powerful. Sybase is the perfect partner to help Microsoft apply the power of OS/2 to multi-user database environments. This agreement demonstrates the strong commitment Microsoft has made to database and local area network technology."

Sybase executive vice president and company co-founder Bob Epstein said, "Our agreement with Microsoft, and Microsoft's agreement with Ashton-Tate, will bring this proven technology to the microcomputer world and make SQL Server a standard for local area network databases. This alliance validates our technology and extends our ability to establish SYBASE as the standard relational database for workgroup and mid-range computing."

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The SYBASE system was the first high-performance SQL-based relational database management system designed specifically for on-line applications. It is built on an advanced client/server architecture that provides high-volume performance, database-enforced integrity, high availability, and distributed data management. SQL Server will be fully compatible with the SYBASE DataServer.

Sybase is headquartered in Berkeley, California, and markets its products worldwide to corporate and government end-users, OEMs, and value-added remarketers.

Microsoft Corporation (NASDAQ: "MSFT") develops, markets, and supports a wide range of software for business and professional use, including operating systems, languages, and application programs, as well as books and hardware for the microcomputer marketplace.

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SYBASE is a registered trademark and DataServer a trademark of Sybase, Inc.

Microsoft is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation.

Ashton-Tate is a registered trademark of Ashton-Tate Corporation.

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