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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASHTON-TATE CORRECTS MANUFACTURING ERROR IN dBASE III PLUS

TORRANCE, CA., JANUARY 14, 1986 -- Ashton-Tate today announced it is notifying distributors and retailers of a disk manufacturing error in initial copies of dBASE III PLUS, serial numbers 2500001 through 2533960, in which a unique access code was not recorded.

Ashton-Tate has implemented an exchange policy for the affected disks. The company estimates approximately 24,000 affected units are currently in the channel. Copies of dBASE III PLUS with other serial numbers are fully functional and are not affected.

The company corrected the manufacturing problem within two hours of first notification, and fully operational copies of dBASE III PLUS are now being shipped. Effective today, and until February 15, 1986, all fully functional product can be identified by a color sticker next to the serial number on the bottom of the package.

The defect only involves local area network (LAN) use. It does not affect the functionality or data integrity of dBASE III PLUS when used in its stand-alone, single-user mode. The problem was created when a special access code that permits dBASE III PLUS to be networked with other copies of dBASE III PLUS was not put on System Disk #1 and System Disk #1 Back-up. The problem was not caused by a coding error ("bug") in the software itself. All other disks comprising the product are unaffected.

The problem, discovered in early production runs of dBASE III PLUS, prohibited multiple copies of dBASE III PLUS from being networked together on a local area network (LAN).

To expedite the exchange program, Ashton-Tate today announced the following:

- * Distributors should return the product immediately to Ashton-Tate.
- * Dealers who purchased dBASE III PLUS through distributors can exchange their product directly through Ashton-Tate. Dealers can call Ashton-Tate at (213) 538-7913.
- * Distributors and dealers will receive free replacements from Ashton-Tate.
- * End users with affected copies of dBASE III PLUS should call Ashton-Tate at (213) 538-7913 to receive new System Disk #1 and System Disk #1 Back-up disks at no cost. End users are requested to return their defective disks, in prepaid mailers provided by the company, after receiving replacements.

Ashton-Tate began shipping dBASE III PLUS on December 30, 1985. Introduced at Fall Comdex, 1985, dBASE III PLUS is a complete single-user database management system with built-in multi-user capability.