News

For release:

Contact:

Immediate

**Linda Duttenhaver
Ashton-Tate
(213) 538-7011**

ASHTON-TATE SHIPS CONTROL ROOM

New utility software lets users control
their computers and computer environment

TORRANCE, Calif., March 27, 1990 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation

(NASDAQ: TATE) today began shipping Control Room, utility software

that offers users an easy and convenient way to inspect their

computer configuration, personalize their systems, and protect their

machine and software investments. The product has a suggested retail

price of $129 and is immediately available through Ashton-Tate

authorized resellers.

The software is designed around nine panels that outline, in

plain English, system specifics and customization options. These

panels also list a wide range of useful tasks such as a viral scan

and a hardware and software inventory report.

"Control Room opens a new market for Ashton-Tate and meets our

users' needs for greater productivity," said Bill Lyons, Vice

President and General Manager of Ashton-Tate's Applications Group.

"It also reaffirms our focus on strong links between applications

software and the dBASE family of products."

(more)

"Control Room's features -- such as the hardware and software inventory report, viral scan and an expert system -- combined with the product's unique user interface will help us to take a leadership role in the utility software category," said Toby Corey, Control Room Product Manager.

User Reactions

Cary Prague, Assistant Director of Financial Systems, Corporate Finance at The Travelers Companies, likes Control Room's ability to inventory hardware and software. "As part of my job to administer and manage the LANs in Corporate Finance, I need to have control over the machines on the network," said Prague. "Control Room offers that, and saves time, since it combines many hardware utilities into one software package. I plan to use Control Room for maintenance of my hardware and software inventory on all the PCs on the LANs."

Bert Bruce of Micro Datatronics, a systems integrator and consulting firm in Kennewick, Washington, has been a beta test site for Control Room since November of last year. Said Bruce, "Control Room is an innovative new product that demonstrates Ashton-Tate's foresight in providing software beyond the scope of its current product line."

He emphasizes some of the unique features of the product: "Control Room includes several useful tools that are not available in other utility software packages -- for example, you can edit system files without using a line editor, turn off the 'num lock' key when

(more)

booting up a computer, and control cursor run-on. Plus, the virus

check and system configuration control will be great for my customers

in large MIS departments."

Features and Benefits

Control Room consists of two main parts: a program with a series

of panels, and a TSR (terminate and stay resident program) that loads

and implements panel selections every time the computer is turned

on. The TSR is typically 5 to 20K in size, and is incrementally

built based on each option the user selects.

The panels provide options for customizing:

-    Keyboard Settings
     In this panel, users can set the key click volume and repeat
     rate; quick stop the cursor to prevent cursor "run-on;"
     switch the control and shift keys, activate keyboard macros,
     and perform other keyboard adjustments that improve user
     comfort and productivity.

-    Disk Settings
     This panel enhances the computer's performance and safe
     operation by offering a fault-tolerant cache, an autopark
     feature that helps prevent data loss and information screens
     that display disk size, access speed, transfer rate,
     interleave, partitions, controller etc.

-    General Settings
     Users can further customize their machine and perform other
     important tasks such as setting display parameters, blanking
     the screen and rerouting printing to disk (this is
     especially useful for laptop computers). It also includes a
     viral scan and a DOS command editor.

-    Memory Usage
     Control Room provides memory information that gives users a
     quick and easy way to look at programs loaded in memory and
     displays specifics on expanded and extended memory, CPU
     cache and the BIOS. This is useful information when users
     request technical support assistance.

(more)

- **System Configuration**
  A full-featured editor allows users to edit and explain their configuration files without having to exit the program and call another editor. It also explains the DOS commands and checks for proper syntax.

- **Expert Opinion**
  An expert system kernel produces a 15 to 20 page report explaining the system in easy-to-understand terms. It also offers context-sensitive lookup on hundreds of technical terms and functions, and a built-in glossary containing over 300 technical terms.

- **Equipment Summary**
  A summary of hardware and performance metrics quantifies the performance of a computer, including information on memory, processors, disk cache and DOS version.

- **Tasks**
  The utilities located on this panel -- undelete files, encrypt and decrypt files, wipe disk files, create and edit macros, create a backup CMOS disk, purify a transmittal disk and others -- provide users with quick and easy ways to perform functions critical to data security and access.

In addition to the features on the eight menu panels, Control Room includes an automatic hardware and software inventory. This listing lets users determine computer configuration without removing the computer case. The information collected during the equipment and executable file surveys is automatically downloaded over a network or accessed by any other program that reads ASCII or dBASE files. dBASE templates are included for simple hardware and software reports.

<u>System Requirements, Price, Availability</u>

Control Room runs on any IBM or 100% compatible microcomputer with at least 384K of memory, and 2 floppy diskettes or a hard disk. The product has a suggested retail price of $129, and is available through the Ashton-Tate authorized reseller network.

Based in Torrance, California, Ashton-Tate markets microcomputer business applications for DOS and Macintosh operating systems. Products are available in five major categories: database management systems, word processing, integrated decision support, spreadsheets and graphics. Ashton-Tate also markets a comprehensive line of service and support programs for individuals, corporations and government agencies.

#   #   #   #

R   Ashton-Tate, dBASE, MultiMate and Framework are registered
     trademarks of Ashton-Tate Corporation.

TM   Control Room is a trademark of Ashton-Tate Corporation.