ASHTON-TATE ANNOUNCES dBASE DIRECT/38 --
DATABASE CONNECTIVITY SOLUTION FOR SYSTEM/38

Links IBM Minicomputer Data with dBASE III PLUS Running on PCs

TORRANCE, Calif., March 30, 1988 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation
(NASDAQ: TATE) today unveiled dBASE DIRECT/38, a connectivity
software package that links its industry-standard microcomputer
database management system, dBASE III PLUS, with data residing on
the IBM System/38. It will be available in June 1988 at $2,995
per System/38 CPU. dBASE Direct/38 will also support the
recently announced dBASE IV, due to ship in late July.

"dBASE DIRECT/38 is the second in a family of dBASE
connectivity products from Ashton-Tate," said Roy E. Folk,
executive vice president and general manager of the software
products division. "dBASE DIRECT/38 gives System/38 installations
the power and flexibility of dBASE III PLUS, the
industry-standard relational database management system, while
providing transparent access to System/38 files."

dBASE Direct/36, the first dBASE connectivity product for
the IBM System/36, was released last fall.

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"A key element in our database strategy is to provide a seamless interface between dBASE and the data our customers have residing on their departmental and corporate minicomputers," said Folk.

From within a dBASE III PLUS application, users can view and use System/38 data files as if they were dBASE files. Using dBASE DIRECT/38, dBASE III PLUS users can select, sort, display and print System/38 data from within their dBASE applications. dBASE DIRECT/38 also supports advanced functions, such as the ability to join multiple System/38 files; up to 32 files can be joined in a single request. An additional advanced feature is the automatic conversion of System/38 data into dBASE's .dbf format, for immediate use within dBASE programs.

dBASE Direct/38 is also an applications gateway for other PC products that support the dBASE .dbf file format standard. These PC applications include spreadsheets, graphic packages, desktop publishing and utilities.

dBASE DIRECT/38 will be available via resellers who specialize in both IBM's System/38 and Ashton-Tate's dBASE III PLUS. For dealer information, contact Ashton-Tate directly at (213) 327-1111.

dBASE DIRECT/38 includes a powerful set of additional extensions to the dBASE language. These extensions give dBASE users the ability to directly access the System/38 data files. Query tools allow dBASE DIRECT/38 users to:

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o   Interactively manipulate, display or list details from
    System/38 files on a field by field, record by record
    basis

o   Copy S/38 files and their structures to a dBASE file

o   Call for selected System/38 data from within dBASE
    III PLUS applications

o   Upload data files to the System/38

o   Join up to 32 files.

dBASE DIRECT/38 can handle file combinations which
consist of up to 32 file joins, and can create a view of files
that can have up to 256 fields within that view.

The heart of dBASE DIRECT/38's data manipulation language is
the SELECT command which is used for retrieval operations and
supports relational operators. The SELECT verb also supports
powerful aggregate functions such as COUNT, SUM, AVG, MIN and
MAX.

"We are responding to our major corporate customers' demand
for transparent access to System/38 data from within dBASE
applications. We estimate there are more that 25,000 System/38
minicomputers worldwide," said Shelley Symonds, S/3X connectivity
product manager for Ashton-Tate. "With dBASE DIRECT/38, users
can now gain access to their corporate databases utilizing the
sophisticated dBASE programming language."

Symonds added that dBASE DIRECT/38 will help System/38
managers reduce their backlog of requests for development by
allowing users to make their own ad hoc queries and write their
own applications in dBASE III PLUS.

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"Extremely positive response to dBASE DIRECT/36 has led to an incredible interest in a System/38 product," she said.

dBASE DIRECT/38 introduces shared processing and greater use of computing resources between PCs and System/38 minicomputers. Transaction processing remains on the System/38, while dBASE III PLUS performs decision support functions such as data analysis and reporting.

Residing entirely on the PC, dBASE DIRECT/38 works with PC Support/38, an IBM supplied utility that connects microcomputers to the System/38.

dBASE DIRECT/38 supports System/38 data files organized under IBM's Data Description Specifications (DDS). DDS allows standard descriptions of System/38 files, records and fields to be stored in a data dictionary.

dBASE DIRECT/38 supports any model System/38 operating under CPF Release 8.0 (an IBM System/38 operating system), and PC Support/38.

It also requires an IBM PC, PC/XT, Personal Computer AT, Personal System/2 or 100 percent compatible system with 640 Kbytes of memory, monitor, IBM Enhanced 5250 Emulation or 100 percent compatible, PC DOS 2.XX through PC DOS 3.3, and dBASE III PLUS or dBASE IV.

Ashton-Tate Corporation is one of the largest developers and marketers of business applications software and the major supplier of relational database management systems for

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microcomputers. The company markets microcomputer software
products in the following categories: database management, word
processing, business graphics, desktop publishing and integrated
decision-support products.

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