

IMMEDIATE

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ASHTON-TATE AND SUN MICROSYSTEMS SIGN
JOINT PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING AGREEMENT

TORRANCE, Calif., January 23, 1990 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ:TATE) and Sun Microsystems (NASDAQ:SUNW) today announced the signing of a joint development and marketing agreement to make dBASE IV available for Sun computer systems. Terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

This announcement marks Ashton-Tate's entry into the Sun workstation market with dBASE IV, a productivity data management and application development environment. dBASE software is the PC industry standard for data management with more than 2.5 million users worldwide and in excess of 10,000 applications programs. dBASE IV includes 4GL (4th Generation Language) tools such as query, report, form, symbolic debugger, template language and automatic code generator.

The agreement also supports Sun Microsystems' strategy of offering industry-standard, shrink-wrapped UNIX software to users of its powerful desktop systems such as the SPARCStation 1. Product development has been underway since June of 1988.

"dBASE IV for Sun allows us to address the needs of our dBASE customers who told us that they need power beyond what a PC

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can currently provide and need the level of computing power offered by UNIX-based workstations," said Ed Esber, president and chief executive officer of Ashton-Tate. "We selected the Sun platform because of its leadership in the workstation market and the growing acceptance of SPARC by power users of desktop systems," Esber added.

"The product we're developing gives Sun workstation users the PC-level ease of use and 4GL productivity tools of dBASE IV," Esber continued. "dBASE products have long been recognized in the PC community for their power and flexibility. With dBASE IV for Sun, Sun customers will have immediate access to thousands of existing dBASE applications and a large pool of dBASE expertise."

"Our partnership with Ashton-Tate underscores a major shift in the computer industry that greatly benefits users," said Scott McNealy, chief executive officer of Sun Microsystems. "Now they can have dBASE IV, a leading PC application, on the next-generation hardware of the nineties. Sun's SPARCStation platform features the power of SPARC and UNIX plus the easy to use OPEN LOOK graphical user interface. Sun and Ashton-Tate expect the resulting workgroup productivity gains to be phenomenal."

dBASE IV for Sun will allow current dBASE users to leverage their investments in applications, data and training by enabling them to port applications and share data between PCs and workstations. For those customers who are not currently using dBASE products, dBASE IV for Sun will complement their existing database system with an easy-to-use and productive language and

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tool set. dBASE IV for Sun brings the power of UNIX to a wider group of people.

Ashton-Tate's commitment to the UNIX market can also be seen in the company's investment in Interbase Software Corporation of Bedford, Massachusetts. Interbase is a Sun Catalyst Advantage Vendor that designs advanced database management systems for workstations and minicomputers.

Sun Microsystems, Inc., headquartered in Mountain View, Calif., is a leading worldwide supplier of network-based distributed computing systems, including professional workstations, servers and UNIX operating system and productivity software.

Ashton-Tate Corporation, based in Torrance, California, is one of the largest developers and marketers of business software worldwide. Its products cover five application areas including database management systems, word processing, business graphics, integrated decision support systems and spreadsheets.

Ashton-Tate has a majority interest in Interbase Software Corporation. Interbase develops and markets distributed relational database management systems for Sun, Apollo, HP and DEC workstations and minicomputers.

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