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**ASHTON-TATE SHIPS dBASE DIRECT FOR AS/400**

**Provides Direct Access to AS/400 Data From  
dBASE PC Application Programs**

TORRANCE, Calif., February 12, 1990 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ:TATE) today announced first customer shipment of dBASE DIRECT for AS/400 which links its dBASE III PLUS database management system with IBM's AS/400 midrange systems. The company also announced an upgrade and introductory bundling program.

dBASE DIRECT for AS/400 allows PC users to access, transfer and manipulate AS/400 data from within dBASE III PLUS applications via the IBM PC Support utility. The product is available immediately through authorized Ashton-Tate dBASE DIRECT resellers.

To support the introduction of the product, Ashton-Tate will ship a complimentary copy of dBASE III PLUS with each copy dBASE DIRECT AS/400 until December 21, 1990.

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Currently registered users of dBASE DIRECT/36 or dBASE DIRECT/38 who have an active maintenance plan with Ashton-Tate will be given a free upgrade to the new AS/400 product. Registered dBASE DIRECT/36 or dBASE DIRECT/38 users who do not have a maintenance agreement with the company, will be able to purchase an upgrade at a reduced cost. This two-part upgrade plan is in effect until December 21, 1990.

dBASE DIRECT for AS/400 is one of two recent additions to Ashton-Tate's family of dBASE DIRECT connectivity products (see related release). In addition to dBASE DIRECT for AS/400, Ashton-Tate offers connectivity products for the IBM's System/36, System/38 and 370 mainframe. dBASE DIRECT products are designed to provide low cost, highly functional micro-to-midrange or mainframe integration solutions in the corporate environment.

"dBASE DIRECT for AS/400 brings us one step closer to meeting our goal of providing transparent connectivity from PCs to all significant files, applications and databases with an organization -- regardless of where the data is located or the operating environment," said Ed Esber, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Ashton-Tate Corporation.

"dBASE DIRECT for AS/400 coupled with the high level dBASE programming language, provides users with a familiar environment from which to implement highly productive applications on PCs using AS/400 information," Esber explained.

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"And, we've designed the AS/400 product to operate through existing system security services to protect data integrity and ensure that administrative control over data access is maintained," added Esber.

#### PRODUCT FEATURES & BENEFITS:

dBASE DIRECT for AS/400 is PC-based connectivity software which interfaces to an IBM AS/400 through IBM's PC Support utility. PC Support works over various communications hardware and allows dBASE DIRECT to access information stored in AS/400 databases in an efficient and simple manner. dBASE DIRECT can be used through either the procedural or two user interfaces.

The procedural interface is a powerful set of dBASE language extensions which enable it to work directly with PC Support. This interface provides seamless access to AS/400 data from within dBASE III PLUS programs and can be accessed from either dBASE programs or the dBASE dot prompt. The procedural interface uses an SQL-like syntax for AS/400 data selection.

There are two user interfaces which allow users to interactively issue dBASE DIRECT commands. The two interfaces are the dBASE DIRECT Utility (DDU) and the Doubledot (DBLDOT). Both allow users to issue ad hoc queries into the AS/400 database using familiar dBASE and SQL-like commands.

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The interfaces can also be used by program developers to interactively debug the SQL-like commands of dBASE DIRECT before inclusion into a dBASE program.

Specific highlights of the products include:

**- Maximizes the Efficiency of Corporate-Wide Computing**

dBASE DIRECT maximizes the efficiency of corporate computing operations by distributing tasks between PCs and AS/400s. This cooperative processing results in improved overall system response times and increased overall system capacity.

**-Leverages Corporate Training and Support Investments**

Companies can leverage their existing investments in software training and support, because users are operating with the familiar dBASE language and interface for their applications. With dBASE DIRECT, users do not have to intervene in or understand AS/400 technology or interfaces.

**- Maintains Data Integrity and Control**

dBASE DIRECT works with existing AS/400 security to allow wide distribution of AS/400 data without sacrificing control or data integrity.

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**SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:**

To run dBASE DIRECT for AS/400, the following hardware is required: any model of the IBM AS/400 with OS/400 Release 1.2 or higher and AS/400 PC Support.

dBASE DIRECT for AS/400 also requires any IBM PC, XT, AT, PS/2 or 100% compatible system plus the following: a mono or color monitor, PC-DOS Version 3.30 or higher (required for PC Support), dBASE III PLUS Version 1.1 as well as an IBM 5250 emulation board, IBM Token Ring adapter or 100% compatible.

**PRICING & UPGRADES:**

dBASE DIRECT for AS/400 has suggested retail prices of \$2,495 for the AS/400 9404 System Unit and \$4,995 for the AS/400 9406 System Unit. One copy of dBASE DIRECT is required for each AS/400 CPU, but allows all PCs connected to the AS/400 to use the software.

From now until December 21, 1990, Ashton-Tate is offering registered users of dBASE DIRECT/36 and dBASE DIRECT/38 with an active maintenance contract free upgrades to dBASE DIRECT for AS/400.

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Registered users without an active maintenance contract, may upgrade to dBASE DIRECT for AS/400 for \$500 (AS/400 9404 System Unit) and \$800 (AS/400 9406 System Unit).

Headquartered in Torrance, California, Ashton-Tate develops and markets a wide range of microcomputer business applications software. The company offers products in five major categories: database management systems, word processing, integrated decision support software, spreadsheets and graphics.

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tm dBASE DIRECT is a trademark of Ashton-Tate Corporation

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