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ASHTON-TATE ANNOUNCES dBASE IV FOR SUN

Anaheim, California -- September 10, 1990 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ: TATE) today announced dBASE IV for Sun. The product is a full implementation of dBASE IV version 1.1 software, which has been optimized for the SunOS operating system. dBASE IV for Sun will be available in the fourth quarter of 1990 through authorized resellers in the United States. The product will be marketed and supported worldwide by Ashton-Tate.

"We are excited about today's announcement and what it means to both existing dBASE users and the UNIX community," said David Proctor, vice president and general manager of Ashton-Tate's database division. "For the first time, dBASE IV users can transparently port their existing DOS-based dBASE applications to take advantage of the power and sophistication of Sun workstations. And, the UNIX community now has the PC-level ease of use and 4GL productivity tools of dBASE IV available on the leading UNIX-based workstations," Proctor explained.

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"dBASE IV for Sun supports our strategy of promoting development of industry-standard, shrink-wrapped UNIX software previously available only to PC users," said Ed Zander, vice president, corporate marketing at Sun Microsystems. "The new software offers an easy-to-use language and tool set, as well as the ability to port thousands of existing dBASE applications for use in Sun's distributed workgroup computing environment. We anticipate phenomenal gains in resulting workgroup productivity."

Product Overview

dBASE IV for Sun is a full implementation of Ashton-Tate's dBASE IV for DOS version 1.1. The product has been enhanced to take advantage of the SunOS environment and features, including multi-user and multi-tasking capabilities, virtual memory and full security. This integrated 4GL (Fourth Generation Language) product combines a comprehensive data management system and flexible application development language with 4GL programming and productivity tools.

dBASE IV for Sun maintains the same look and feel as the DOS version of dBASE IV version 1.1 and allows existing DOS-based dBASE applications to run on Sun workstations with little or no modification.

Product Features & Benefits

*** True Portability Protects Application and Training Investments**

- dBASE applications can be moved across DOS-based PCs, UNIX systems including Sun and VAX VMS systems without reprogramming or data conversion (except for hardware differences)
- dBASE source files, data files and compiled object files are compatible across PCs, UNIX systems and VAX VMS systems so applications written in dBASE IV can be moved across these platforms without changes
- dBASE IV provides a migration path for thousands of dBASE applications that have been written and used on DOS-based PCs
- The migration path is transparent to preserve existing application investment while bringing the greater depth and breadth of sophisticated SunOS features to the workgroup dBASE environment
- PC-based dBASE applications are enhanced by the extended features of the multi-user, multi-tasking SunOS environment such as extended data storage and data sharing, larger memory, higher performance and greater security

*** 4GL Tools Decrease Application Development Costs**

- dBASE IV Design Tools allow developers to quickly create such objects as screens, reports, views, pull-down and pop-up menus and sign-on banners
- The Automatic Code Generator produces documented code for the created objects to maximize developer productivity
- The Template Language permits developers to control the operation of the Automatic Code Generator in order to generate custom-tailored code
- The symbolic, multi-windowed debugger and integrated program editor reduce debugging time
- dBASE IV Utilities such as dB-Link and Build simplify distribution of end-user applications

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*** Menu-driven Interface Minimizes Training and Support**

- An innovative user interface streamlines data management and allows users, regardless of their computer experience, to perform many tasks without MIS support
- The menu-driven Control Center, with its built-in design tools, lets users create tables, forms, reports, queries and labels without programming

*** dBASE IV Complements Existing Corporate Databases**

- dBASE IV complements an existing OLTP DBMS with an easy-to-use productivity tool for users who do not have extensive UNIX and DBMS expertise
- dBASE IV brings the power of Sun workstations to more users, for more tasks, thereby, leveraging hardware investments

*** Worldwide Support Network To Ensure Successful Implementation**

- dBASE IV for Sun was developed by Ashton-Tate with the engineering support and expertise of Sun Microsystems and Interactive Systems Corporation
- The product will be supported worldwide by Ashton-Tate Corporation
- dBASE users are backed by a worldwide network of third-party training and application development organizations

Pricing and Availability

dBASE IV for Sun, with similar features as the Developer's Edition on a PC, starts at \$995 for the single-user license. A Multi-User Pack, which adds up to four users, is priced at \$2,995. Single-user and four-user RunTime licenses can be purchased for \$395 and \$995, respectively. Additional documentation can be purchased for \$195. dBASE IV for Sun will be available in the fourth quarter of 1990.

System Requirements

dBASE IV for Sun will run on all Sun systems including Sun-3, Sun-4, Sun386i, SPARCstations and SPARCservers. dBASE IV for Sun requires the SunOS version 4.0 operating system and a minimum of 4 MB of memory.

Headquartered in Torrance, California, Ashton-Tate Corporation develops and markets microcomputer business applications and advanced connectivity software. The company's major product categories include database management systems, word processing, integrated decision support, spreadsheets, graphics and software utilities. Ashton-Tate has international operations in most countries around the world, with products available in 20 languages in more than 50 countries. The company also offers a comprehensive line of training and support services for individuals, corporations and government agencies.

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