News

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ASHTON-TATE SHIPS dBASE DIRECT FOR 3270

Provides Direct Access to IBM 370 Mainframe
From dBASE PC Application Programs

TORRANCE, Calif., February 12, 1990 -- Ashton-Tate

Corporation (NASDAQ:TATE) today announced first customer shipment

of dBASE DIRECT for 3270 which links its dBASE III PLUS database

management system with the IBM 370 mainframe. This new dBASE

connectivity product allows dBASE III PLUS users to access IBM

mainframe data and applications via standard 3270 terminal

emulators without modification to the mainframe.

dBASE DIRECT for 3270 is one of two additions to

Ashton-Tate's family of dBASE DIRECT connectivity products being

announced (see related release). The dBASE DIRECT family

originated in 1987 with the introduction of dBASE DIRECT/36.

Today, Ashton-Tate offers dBASE DIRECT products for IBM's

System/36, System/38 and AS/400 midrange systems as well as the

370 mainframe. All dBASE DIRECT products are designed to provide

low cost, highly functional micro-to-mainframe or

micro-to-midrange integration solutions in the corporate

environment.

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"dBASE DIRECT for 3270 is evidence of Ashton-Tate's commitment to provide transparent connectivity from PCs to all significant files, applications and databases within an organization -- regardless of data location or the operating environment," said Ed Esber, chairman, president and chief executive officer.

"The transparency and connectivity of dBASE DIRECT combined with the high level dBASE programming language allows PC users to implement highly productive applications from a familiar dBASE environment," Esber added. "And, because the product operates though existing system security services, data integrity is protected and administrative control over data access is maintained."

PRODUCT FEATURES & BENEFITS:

dBASE DIRECT for 3270 resides on the PC as an extension of commands to dBASE III PLUS. The product enables PC users to perform 3270 operations directly from dBASE applications through standard 3270 terminal emulators such as IBM, DCA/IRMA or Attachmate. dBASE DIRECT can be accessed through either a procedural or non-procedural interface.

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The procedural interface is a powerful set of dBASE language extensions which work directly with the 3270 emulator software through the IBM-defined High Level Language Application Program Interface (HLLAPI). Through this interface, dBASE DIRECT for 3270 provides seamless access to IBM 370 resident data and applications from within dBASE III PLUS programs. The non-procedural interface is the DIRECT Control Center which is modeled after the dBASE IV Control Center. The DIRECT Control Center provides access to information stored in DB2, IMS, and VSAM files as well as in other 370 databases and files. It also permits communication directly with commercial host application packages, utilities and other mainframe resident programs.

With dBASE DIRECT for 3270, users can build basic sequences to access and retrieve data from the mainframe through mainframe applications, transfer files between the PC and IBM 370, send 3270 keystrokes or read selected fields from 3270 applications without host programming.

Specific highlights of dBASE DIRECT for 3270 include:
- Provides Wide Access to Enterprise-Wide Data
    dBASE DIRECT gives PC users access to data and applications resident on the IBM 370 mainframe from within a familiar dBASE environment. Users can access, manipulate and consolidate information from multiple applications without having to navigate through multiple screens to collect the data they need.

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With dBASE DIRECT, users can also give mainframe applications a new look and feel without modifying the original application.

- Maximizes Investments in Training and Support

With dBASE DIRECT, investments in training and support are maximized because users are working with the familiar dBASE language and user interface for their mainframe applications. Data transfer between dBASE applications and the mainframe is performed and controlled from within the dBASE application without user intervention. dBASE DIRECT reduces the number of steps to run applications, eliminates unnecessary data handling, simplifies operations and saves users time.

- Leverages Current Hardware/Software Investment

With dBASE DIRECT, no additional software or hardware is required on the mainframe for PC users to immediately access current mainframe applications. dBASE DIRECT offers a cost effective means of implementing PC to mainframe cooperative processing by using currently installed hardware and software.

- Maximizes Efficiency of the Enterprise-Wide Computing System

dBASE DIRECT products allow wide distribution of mainframe data without sacrificing control or data integrity. Processing tasks are distributed between PCs and mainframes to take full advantage of desktop computing power and to free-up mainframe capacity.

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dBASE DIRECT reduces mainframe programming backlog by reducing the need to modify mainframe applications. Mainframe data is manipulated on PCs and presented in a form understandable to the user.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:

Required hardware for dBASE DIRECT for 3270 is any IBM PC, XT, Personal Computer AT, Personal System/2, 100% compatible machine or Compaq 386 with the following: MS-DOS or PC-DOS Version 2.10 through 3.31; dBASE III PLUS Version 1.1, 128K RAM minimum in addition to the memory required for dBASE III PLUS, terminal emulation and the operating system; one 5-1/4 inch 360 KB minimum capacity floppy disk drive or one 3-1/2 720 KB minimum capacity diskette and a hard disk drive; and, an IBM, DCA/IRMA or Attachmate 3270 emulation board with associated emulation software and HLLAPI.

PRICING & AVAILABILITY:

dBASE DIRECT for 3270 is available now through authorized Ashton-Tate distributors, at a suggested retail price of $595 for a PC-based license.

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Headquartered in Torrance, California, Ashton-Tate develops and markets a wide range of mcirocomputer 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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