

For release:

Immediate

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ASHTON-TATE ANNOUNCES FRAMEWORK XE

**\$149 integrated package focuses on ease-of-use
with a single menu system across multiple applications**

TORRANCE, California, September 24, 1990 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ: TATE) today announced Framework XE, new integrated software targeted to managers and small businesses. Carrying a suggested retail price of \$149, Framework XE will be available next week through Ashton-Tate authorized resellers. AT&T Computer Systems will also offer Framework XE as part of a promotional package in the fourth quarter, 1990.

Framework XE combines seven programs -- word processing, spreadsheet, data management, graphics, outlining, telecommunications and electronic mail -- into one "windows-like" environment that maximizes productivity and ease-of-use. The software also includes a "quick start menu" for first-time and occasional users, a built-in time manager and calculator, and extensive data sharing capabilities.

"Framework XE expands our decision support product line by offering users software at different levels and on different platforms," said Bill Lyons, Ashton-Tate president and chief

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operating officer. "And its ease-of-use, extensive functionality and low price make Framework XE a compelling product."

Added Richard Goodhue, Ashton-Tate's senior product manager for decision support products, "Framework XE is a perfect complement to Framework III, Ashton-Tate's integrated software that was first introduced in 1984. Framework III features the FRED programming language, LAN support, and extras like multiple columns and advanced outlining. There is complete file compatibility between the two products, and Framework XE users can migrate to Framework III and future Framework products as their needs grow."

Continued Goodhue, "Framework XE's 'quick start' menu is designed to get new users up and running quickly. Yet Framework XE also includes advanced features such as spreadsheet linking and outlining, which are typically found only in high-end packages."

Framework XE Features & Benefits

Framework XE is an integrated set of applications that work closely together. The software includes these features and benefits:

Productivity

- "Quick start" menu
This consolidates the most frequently-used functions into one menu. As a result, first-time and occasional users become productive quickly and easily.
- Multiple windows on-screen
This allows users to view and work on many tasks simultaneously. For example, a user can view a budget spreadsheet in one window, a memo in another and a telecommunications session in a third window.
- The same menus across all applications
Consistent menus eliminate the need to learn a new set of menus and duplicate commands for each application. This ensures maximum productivity, consistency and ease-of-use.

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Productivity (cont.)

- Built-in productivity tools
A calendar, "to do list" and pop-up calculator increases Framework XE's versatility and usability.
- Compatibility with other software
Information can be shared with such software as Ashton-Tate's dBASE III PLUS, dBASE IV, MultiMate and APPLAUSE II; Lotus 1-2-3; WordPerfect; Microsoft Word, and other products through ASCII and SYLK.

Document Creation

- Compound document generation
Text, graphs, data and spreadsheets can easily be combined into a single document. As items change in a database or spreadsheet, Framework XE updates the entire document, automatically recalculating values and redrawing graphs.
- Full-featured word processing
Such features as an 80,000 word spell checker, automatic table of contents generation with page numbers, "boiler-plate" text insertion, and complete text attributes -- including bold, underline, italic, super/subscripts and strikethrough -- make professional-looking documents easy to create.
- Built-in mail merge and label printing
Integration between word processing and database programs saves time and effort when performing mail merge and label printing.

Spreadsheet

- Spreadsheet linking
Spreadsheets can be linked together to simplify forecasts, budgets and other analytical tasks. Changes made on one spreadsheet are automatically incorporated into all linked spreadsheets.
- Over 70 spreadsheet functions
Regional recalculation, comments in formulas, full-screen formula editing and color options provide powerful spreadsheet capabilities.

Database

- dBASE import and export
Instant access to dBASE data lets users easily print form letters and mailing labels, analyze dBASE data in spreadsheets and present dBASE data in charts and graphs.

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Database (cont.)

- Unlimited number of sort keys
Data can be sorted in any number of ways, providing maximum flexibility.
- Flexible data entry
Three database views provide maximum flexibility; 6 customizable data entry types allow data validation.

Graphics

- Wide range of chart types
High-low-close, bar, stacked bar, line, scatter, X-Y and pie charts offer users many options to effectively graph their data.
- Automatic linking
Users can display graphs together with text, spreadsheets and data -- all at the same time. When spreadsheet or database values changes, Framework XE automatically redraws associated graphs.

Telecommunications

- Access to on-line information services
Access to Dow Jones, CompuServe, Telemail, MCI Mail, LEXIS/NEXIS, Official Airline Guides, the Ashton-Tate Bulletin Board and other information services is quick and easy. Users can also send and receive faxes from their PC's using Framework XE.

Electronic Mail

- Communication with others using MHS
Users can communicate with any software that uses the MHS standard message format (for example, Framework III and MultiMate version 4.0). This includes compatibility with most Novell networks.
Text, spreadsheets, databases and graphs can be sent electronically. This is particularly helpful when travelling to communicate with the home office and exchange documents.

Product Specifics

Framework XE will run on IBM PC, XT, AT, PS/2's and 100% compatibles with 640KB RAM.

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The software will be available at a suggested retail price of \$149 next week through the Ashton-Tate authorized reseller network. Unlimited, free support from Ashton-Tate, along with local access to the Ashton-Tate Bulletin Board System, will be included.

Framework XE will also be available in a special fourth quarter promotion offered by AT&T Computer Systems. It will be sold as part of a bundle that includes Ashton-Tate's APPLAUSE II graphics and Control Room utility software.

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 operations worldwide, 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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