News

Ashton-Tate

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ASHTON-TATE BEGINS BETA TESTING OF dBASE IV SERVER EDITION

TORRANCE, Calif., Sept. 26, 1990 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ:TATE) today announced that it began beta testing of the dBASE IV Server Edition, its front-end database product for the client/server marketplace.

"We're pleased with the progress we're making with the product; this announcement is another positive step forward in our overall product strategy," said Dave Proctor, Ashton-Tate vice president and general manager for the database division. "Building on the stable dBASE IV version 1.1 baseline, the additional functionality of the Server Edition will be tested thoroughly in the beta program by high-level users interested in developing client/server applications."

The company also said that it will implement a phased strategy of incremental releases for the Server Edition product.

"Based on customer feedback, users said that they wanted a product now, so we decided to take a phased approach to providing incremental product functionality," said Proctor.

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"We waited too long to bring out dBASE IV version 1.1, and we don't want this to happen again," he explained. "We believe that a series of incremental releases with increasing functionality is the best approach."

Designed for Intel 80286-, 80386- and 80486-based systems, the Server Edition will permit multiple personal computer users to access and manipulate data across client/server-based local area networks (LANs) through the dBASE environment.

In addition, dBASE IV Server Edition provides an extended memory solution for users. The Server Edition executes the majority of dBASE code from extended or virtual memory. This leaves more space available for large applications for users working in memory-intensive environments, such as those using terminal emulation, large terminate and stay resident (TSR) applications and large LANs.

The initial Server Edition software, currently in beta testing, features the full dBASE IV system with the ability to run locally as well as in a LAN file server environment. In addition, the software provides the capability to develop and run integrated dBASE/Structured Query Language (SQL) applications, utilizing SQL to access remote database servers in a true client/server architecture. Developers will be able to take advantage of the dBASE/SQL language, as well as use a pass-through mechanism to access native server functionality such as stored procedures and triggers for improved performance and

data integrity.

Future software releases are planned to enable the Control Center Design Tools to access remote database servers via SQL and will provide .prg application compatibility for selected servers.

"This phased approach allows developers to begin developing applications in the new client/server architecture in preparation for the future, as well as take advantage of the performance and data integrity features of this architecture now.

"Ashton-Tate remains committed to client/server technology," said Proctor. "We will provide a consistent set of front-end tools to a variety of popular back-ends. First, we will support the Microsoft SQL Server, followed by other popular servers."

Headquartered in Torrance, Calif., Ashton-Tate Corp. develops and markets microcomputer business applications and advanced connectivity software. Major product categories include database management systems, word processing, integrated decision support, spreadsheets, graphics and utilities. Ashton-Tate is a worldwide organization with products available in 20 languages and 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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