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INDIVIDUAL SOFTWARE ANNOUNCES FAMILY TIES FOR WINDOWS; Software program designed to help PC users document family history

PLEASANTON, Calif. -- Delving into one's genealogical history is a rewarding endeavor, but it can present challenges in terms of researching, tracking and organizing the information that is uncovered. For personal computer users who want a useful tool to help them organize the fruits of their genealogical search, Individual Software today announced Family Ties for Windows -- a software program designed to help users organize and create family trees. The program will ship in June and reach the retail shelves at a street price of \$19.95.

"As computer hardware prices drop, the number of people buying computers for home use continues to rise," said Diane Dietzler, INDIVIDUAL's vice president of sales and marketing. "Home computer enthusiasts are looking for software -- besides games -- that offers them new and productive ways to use their computers. We anticipate a good market for this product from our growing lifestyles product line."

"There's been a significant increase in the number of people who want to research and document their family history. This is largely due to the fact that we are approaching the end of the 20th Century and people of all ages are becoming aware of their place in history and of their connections with both the past and future," said Myrna LeFerver Smith, genealogical consultant with the Menlo Park Family History Center. "Family Ties is a great timesaving tool for organizing the myriad of names, dates and other important details required to develop a rich, accurate family tree."

How Family Ties Works

Family Ties has a clean, easy to use notecard-like interface that makes the process of entering data simple. The main screen of the program is the Family Page, the base point from which all information is entered. As new names are added to the Family Page, tabs automatically appear on the right side of the screen for each new family member that is added. After completing a Family Page, the user simply clicks on one of the tabbed names to move forward or backward by generation.

Each Family Page includes separate fields for information about the husband, wife and children including date of birth, marriage and death. In addition, a full page is available per person for recording details like occupation, nationality, religion, special interests, accomplishments, address and other personal facts. In keeping with the modern day family, Family Ties is designed to accurately record divorce and second marriages.

Once the date is entered in the Family Page, the user simply clicks on the Ascendant or Descendant buttons to view the family tree. Ascendant trees trace the family history up from the individual, to parents to grandparents to great grandparents -- up to five generations of information. Descendant trees branch out from the individual to children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, etc. In addition to

creating family trees, the user can click on the Index button to view a complete list of all individuals in their current family.

Key Features of Family Ties for Windows

Creating family trees can become a challenge when juggling several hundred names, dates, birthdays and marriages. Family Ties includes many time saving features for organizing and storing genealogical information:

- * A Quick Tour gets users up and running immediately, and Help and Tip screens are available throughout the program.
- * Automatic verification when duplicate or conflicting information is entered.
- * Ability to transfer names from one family tree to another.
- * Ability to quickly view all names in the family tree and search for names.
- * Automatic save/backup feature to ensure that information is never lost in the event that the user accidentally quits the program or shuts off the computer.
- * Cut, copy and paste to move or delete information quickly.
- * Search by key word or by name.
- * Ability to add extensive notes and additional information about any individual.
- * Context-sensitive help.

Family Ties also allows users to import and export data into GEDCOM format files. GEDCOM stands for GENEalogical Data COMMunications. This feature enables the user to transfer data to and from other genealogical programs.

Program Includes Expert Advice on Jump Starting Genealogical Research

Knowing where to go to get accurate information on one's relatives is the biggest challenge in developing a rich and detailed family tree. The help users get off on the right foot, the Family Ties manual includes an extensive reference section with advice on how to begin researching their family tree, where to go for information, a suggested genealogy reading list, and a listing of archives, libraries and genealogical centers nationwide that are available to help users get the information they need to complete their family tree. This section of the manual was prepared by genealogical consultant Myrna Leferver Smith.

Pricing, Availability and System Requirements

Family Ties for Windows is from INDIVIDUAL's growing line of personal productivity and lifestyle software programs. The program has a suggested retail price of \$24.95 and will be distributed through Ingram Micro and Merisel and available in computers including Egghead Software, CompUSA and Best Buy. Family Ties requires a 386 based PC or higher with 2 MB or RAM, Windows 3.1 or higher, a hard disk with 2MB of space available, a VGA or higher resolution display, a Microsoft or compatible mouse.