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**VERTEX[®] INTRODUCES eQUANTUM[™] FOR SALES AND USE TAX, FEATURING
THE FIRST OBJECT-ORIENTED ARCHITECTURE FOR THE TAX COMPLIANCE
INDUSTRY**

Designed specifically for calculating taxes on electronic commerce transactions

BERWYN, Pa. – Dec. 6, 1999 – Vertex Inc., the leading provider of state and local tax compliance solutions for corporations, will introduce eQuantum for Sales and Use Tax, featuring integration via Java and XML programming languages to Java-based storefront applications. The eQuantum product, scheduled for general availability during the first quarter of 2000, will provide maximum functionality, flexibility, and efficiency in calculating sales and use taxes on electronic commerce transactions.

eQuantum will enable data to be passed from the host application using either Java Objects or Extensible Mark-up Language (XML) documents, thus making it the most technologically robust tax compliance software available for electronic commerce.

“Our Quantum system has an established track record as the most reliable, comprehensive, and accurate sales tax compliance system available today,” said John Viglione, Vertex’s Chief Technology Officer. “Now we’re pleased to deliver an object-oriented solution for the e-commerce storefront that goes beyond a simple Java wrapper approach to truly leverage today’s technology. We’re confident the e-business community will recognize eQuantum as the most advanced system available.”

eQuantum accepts transaction data passed from the host application, via either Java Objects or XML documents, in order to provide a sales tax quote and/or final tax calculation to the on-line customer. The system includes databases to determine the appropriate taxing jurisdiction, applicable tax rates, and any customer-, product-, or jurisdiction-based exceptions. The tax amount is then passed back to the host application and, if necessary, recorded in a register database for tax reporting purposes.

Vertex has established relationships with a number of electronic commerce application providers, including Microsoft, IBM, and InterWorld Corporation. It has also partnered with all of the established enterprise resource planning (ERP) software providers that have extended their functionality into e-commerce solutions, such as SAP, Oracle, J.D. Edwards, PeopleSoft, and Baan, to provide advanced sales tax calculation and compliance systems for mutual customers. “eQuantum will play an integral role as these ERP providers extend their systems to the front office via the Internet,” said Viglione.

In addition to integration with electronic commerce storefront applications, Vertex anticipates expanding its partnerships with Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software application developers to provide sales tax calculation capabilities. “We’re excited to have recently signed an agreement with Siebel Systems, a CRM market leader, to develop an integration between their solution and eQuantum,” said Paul Beirnes, Vertex Manager of Strategic Alliances.

Vertex has also launched a new eTax Central section of its award-winning web site, **www.vertexinc.com**, in conjunction with the development of eQuantum. This site contains a wide range of information regarding taxation and electronic commerce, as well as Vertex’s partnerships and products.

Vertex Inc. is headquartered in Berwyn, Pennsylvania, with regional offices in Chicago, Dallas, and Walnut Creek, California. Vertex is a registered trademark and Quantum is a trademark of Vertex Inc.