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Subject: Re: Basic Math: I \_hope\_ this is a stupid question  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sun, 24 Apr 2005 21:48:42 GMT  
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Ed Hyer writes:

```
> IDL> print,288*180
> -13696
> IDL> print,long(288*180)
> -13696
> IDL> print,ulong64(288*180)
> 18446744073709537920
> IDL> print,288.*180
> 51840.0
>
> I just want to multiply two integers! Is that so wrong?
```

Here are a couple of articles for you:

[http://www.dfanning.com/math\\_tips/sky\\_is\\_falling.html](http://www.dfanning.com/math_tips/sky_is_falling.html)  
[http://www.dfanning.com/math\\_tips/double.html](http://www.dfanning.com/math_tips/double.html)

Where you see "double" you should read "long integer", and where you see "float" you should read "integer".

Basically, casting a short multiplication (288\*180) to a long \*after\* you do the arithmetic, doesn't gain you anything. You have to do it \*before\* you do the arithmetic. :-)

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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