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Subject: Set Intersection Code

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 02 Nov 2009 13:54:05 GMT

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Folks,

I have often made use of the set operation code that was originally supplied by RSI engineers to this newsgroup and made available on this web page:

[http://www.dfanning.com/tips/set\\_operations.html](http://www.dfanning.com/tips/set_operations.html)

Over the weekend I decided to formalize the SetIntersection code because I find myself using it over and over again, and because the original code lacked error handling and parameter checking.

So, of course, my first e-mail this morning is from Maatin Sneep pointing out the obvious bug in the program: it doesn't work when both sets of integers are negative. Well, sure enough. And the error was in the original code and missed all these years, probably because I always obtained my integer sets from the WHERE function.

In any case, I have now corrected both my new SetIntersection code and the code on the original web page. If any of you, like me, have used this code in the past, you might want to get the update.

<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/setintersection.pro>

Cheers,

David

P.S. Craig Markwardt has code that does something like this, too. I haven't checked, but think I can say with 100% confidence that that code *\*never\** had any bugs in it. ;-)

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

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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