ABSTRACT
This paper and its accompanying poster is prepared for SAS Users and SAS Programmers of any experience level. They review basic applications of the “IF _N_=1 THEN SET dsname” feature of the SAS Data Step. It allows merging one record-datasets to multiple-record datasets.

INTRODUCTION
Ever have a one-record SAS dataset and you want that one record attached to every record of another dataset? This idea is for you!

HOW IT WORKS

THE CODE (EXAMPLE)
Simply put, you have two “set” statements. The first one is encountered only on the first record (if _n_=1) and is for the data set of one record—in the example, AVGSALES. The second is the main dataset that you want to add the one observation of the first on to every observation—in the example, TOTSALES.

```
data national;
  if _n_=1 then set avgsales;
  set totsales;
run;
```

There is a real good description of this example in the SAS Language Guide (Reference) Version 6 First Edition on page 487.

WHAT IT DOES
The conditional SET statement creates an implied RETAIN statement for every variable in the dataset AVGSALES. The data is then “retained” across every observation of TOTSALES. That’s it!

VARIATIONS—JUST IN CASE SOMEONE ASKS (AND SOMEONE PROBABLY WILL…)
The table shown reflects the expected results from the following source code:

```
data out ;
  if _n_ = <value> then set data1 ;
  set data2 ;
run ;
```

CONCLUSION
The conclusion summarizes your paper and ties together any loose ends. You can use the conclusion to make any final points such as recommendations, predictions, or judgments.

REFERENCES

CONTACT INFORMATION
Your comments and questions are valued and encouraged. Contact the author at:

Paul D. McDonald
SPIKEware, Inc.
1450 East American Lane Suite 1400
Schaumburg, IL 60173
Work Phone: (847) 330-4460
Fax: (847) 798-0732
Email: PDM@SPIKEware.com

Table: Variations on normal application of “If _n_=1 then SET”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>&lt;value&gt;</th>
<th>Nobs1 = 1</th>
<th>1 &lt; NOBST &lt; NOBS2</th>
<th>NOBS1 &gt;= NOBS2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Normal Operation</td>
<td>Uses first record of DATA1 only</td>
<td>Use first record of DATA1 only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater than 1 and less than nobs2</td>
<td>Skips the first <em>n</em> observations</td>
<td>Skips the first <em>n</em> observations and uses the first record of DATA1 only</td>
<td>Initializes all variables in DATA1 for final dataset and records them as missing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater than nobs2</td>
<td>Initializes all variables in DATA1 for final dataset and records them as missing</td>
<td>Initializes all variables in DATA1 for final dataset and records them as missing</td>
<td>Initializes all variables in DATA1 for final dataset and records them as missing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>