

603 Consecutive Available Seats [🔗](#)

★★★★★

★★★★★

Several friends at a cinema ticket office would like to reserve consecutive available seats. Can you help to query all the consecutive available seats order by the seat_id using the following table?

```
| seat_id | free |
|-----|-----|
| 1       | 1    |
| 2       | 0    |
| 3       | 1    |
| 4       | 1    |
| 5       | 1    |
```

Your query should return the following result for the sample case above

```
| seat_id |
|-----|
| 3      |
| 4      |
| 5      |
```

Note:

- The seat_id is an auto increment int, and free is bool ('1' means free, and '0' means occupied.).
- Consecutive available seats are more than 2(inclusive) seats consecutively available.

Solution

Approach: Using self `join` and `abs()` [Accepted]

• • • • •

There is only one table in this problem, so we probably need to use **self join** for this relative complex problem.

Algorithm

First, let's see what we have after joining this table with itself

Note: The result of join two tables is the **Cartesian product** of these two tables.

```
select a.seat_id, a.free, b.seat_id, b.free
from cinema a join cinema b;
```

seat_id	free	seat_id	free
1	1	1	1
2	0	1	1
3	1	1	1
4	1	1	1
5	1	1	1
1	1	2	0
2	0	2	0
3	1	2	0
4	1	2	0
5	1	2	0
1	1	3	1
2	0	3	1
3	1	3	1
4	1	3	1
5	1	3	1
1	1	4	1
2	0	4	1
3	1	4	1
4	1	4	1
5	1	4	1
1	1	5	1
2	0	5	1
3	1	5	1
4	1	5	1
5	1	5	1

To find the consecutive available seats, the value in the a.seat_id should be more(or less) than the value b.seat_id, and both of them should be free.

```
select a.seat_id, a.free, b.seat_id, b.free
from cinema a join cinema b
  on abs(a.seat_id - b.seat_id) = 1
  and a.free = true and b.free = true;
```

seat_id	free	seat_id	free
4	1	3	1
3	1	4	1
5	1	4	1
4	1	5	1

At last, choose the concerned column `seat_id`, and display the result ordered by `seat_id`.

Note: You may notice that the seat with `seat_id` '4' appears twice in this table. This is because seat '4' next to '3' and also next to '5'. So we need to use `distinct` to filter the duplicated records.

MySQL

```
select distinct a.seat_id
from cinema a join cinema b
  on abs(a.seat_id - b.seat_id) = 1
  and a.free = true and b.free = true
order by a.seat_id
;
```

Rate this article: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

[< Previous](#)

Next

Comments: 39





Sort By ▼



Type comment here... (Markdown is supported)


 Preview

Post

 skloganat  34  December 5, 2018 12:53 PM  Report

```
select distinct a.seat_id
from cinema a join
cinema b on a.seat_id = b.seat_id + 1
or a.seat_id = b.seat_id-1
where a.free = 1 and b.free = 1
```




[Read More](#)

 **semynina** ★ 16 · February 14, 2018 12:05 AM

I have different logic, and my solution was accepted as well:

```
SELECT distinct seat_id
FROM cinema
WHERE free = 1 AND
(seat_id - 1 in (select seat_id FROM cinema WHERE free = 1) OR
```

[Read More](#)

16 ·   Share  Reply

drfluid ★ 24 · October 27, 2018 5:51 AM

```
select distinct a.seat_id from
  cinema a join cinema b on a.seat_id = b.seat_id + 1
    or a.seat_id = b.seat_id-1
  where a.free = 1 and b.free = 1
```

Read More

 **ravinfy** ★ 10 · 🌐 October 5, 2018 6:19 AM 🚩 Report


Using Analytic Functions:

select
mico

[Read More](#)


5 ⬆️ ⬇️ ⬅️ | 🗄 Share | ↻ Reply

[SHOW 2 REPLIES](#)

 **lingchern** ★ 3 · January 22, 2018 10:03 PM


```
select distinct c1.seat_id as seat_id
from cinema c1, cinema c2
where c1.free = 1
and c2.free = 1
and abs(c1.seat_id - c2.seat_id) = 1
```

[Read More](#)

 **cwang1201** ★ 1 🕒 October 3, 2018 5:00 AM


```
select  
seat_id  
from  
cinema  
where (seat_id in (select seat_id-1 from cinema where free=1))
```

1 🗑️ | 🔄 Share | 📄 Reply [Read More](#)

 **loveFISHly** ★ 19 · February 23, 2018 7:16 AM [Report](#)

```
SELECT SEAT_ID  
FROM CINEMA  
WHERE FREE = 1  
AND (
```

[Read More](#)

 **aaronmok** ★ 0 🗨️ March 25, 2019 9:53 PM

```
SELECT DISTINCT(c1.seat_id)
FROM cinema c1
JOIN cinema c2
ON c1.seat_id + 1 = c2.seat_id
WHERE c1.free + c2.free = 2;
```

[Read More](#)

SHOW 1 REPLY

pachiappan ★ 12 · May 23, 2018 10:58 AM

```
select distinct c1.seat_id
from cinema c1,
cinema c2
where (c1.seat_id+1 = c2.seat_id or
c1.seat_id-1 = c2.seat_id)
```

 **Akrita** 2 July 26, 2019 4:44 AM Share Reply Report

What is wrong with my solution?

```
SELECT seat_id
FROM (Select seat_id, LEAD(seat_id,1) OVER(ORDER BY seat_id) as next_seat_id, Count(SeatId) OVER
(ORDER BY seat_id) AS total_seats FROM Cinema WHERE free = 1) t
```