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Subject: Re: Undocumented array indexing feature?  
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Tue, 26 Jan 1999 08:00:00 GMT  
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wbiagiot@suffolk.lib.ny.us wrote:

```
> In article <36AC8341.EC8@rosa.mpin-koeln.mpg.de>,
> Alex Schuster <alex@rosa.mpin-koeln.mpg.de> wrote:
>> wrb1000@my-dejanews.com wrote:
>>
>>> This is veering offtopic, but I'd just like to add my two cents.
>>> IDL, like C, has many constructs that may add placed on a line to
>>> condense the actual length of the program. However, just like C, the
>>> readability and understanding factors tend to drop. I intend to use the
>>> a=(b=(c=1)) example. I always wondered how to initialize multiple variables
>>> on the same IDL line.
>>
>> Now that's an easy one:
>>
>> IDL> a=1 & b=2 & c=3 & d=4 &
>>
>> Voila, one line :-)
```

```
>> Alex
```

```
>
> Oh, I knew that one, Alex. Anyone know which method offers faster execution -
>
> a = 0 & b = 0 * OR * a = (b = 0)
>
> this is important when applying the same principle to large arrays. At least
> to those of us with slower PCs :(
```

Initializing of big arrays should be done by `a=make_array(200,100000,/nozero)`  
This is the fastest method

R.Bauer

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