
Subject: Re: array handling

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sat, 06 Jan 2007 16:47:33 GMT

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Brian Larsen writes:

```
> Something I have always wondered is the difference between using
> finite() and just using ne?
>
> As an example:
> IDL> array = [ 1.0, 2.0, !Values.F_NAN, 4.0, !Values.F_NAN ]
> IDL> Print, Where( NOT Float( Finite(array) ) )
>      2      4
> IDL> print, where(array ne array)
>      2      4
>
> What is the fundamental difference here? Speed? Style? or something
> else entirely?
```

I don't know the answer, but I would guess the latter formulation would lead some programmers to a general feeling of unease regarding treating things that aren't numbers as if they were. There are no hard and fast rules for such things, I don't think, so you are at the mercy of programmers you don't know and implementations that could, I guess, change in the future.

Plus, you get that damn "Arithmetic error: Floating illegal operation" message when you try it. That generally causes a loss of confidence among customers. :-(

Cheers,

David

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

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