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Subject: Re: fastest way to find the first non-zero value in an array

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 08 Apr 2008 13:34:38 GMT

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Vince Hradil writes:

- > Wow - I'd be interested in knowing how slow 'where' is. Are we
- > talking the difference between 0.01 seconds and 0.05 seconds? Or even
- > the difference between 1 and 5 seconds? Time is money, but at what
- > point does our 'need for speed' end?

I've gotten to the point where anything that takes less time than it takes to go get a cup of coffee is fast enough. I used to think fast, elegant programs were required. But when you are writing one-offs day after day, why bother? With Starbucks just across the street, I can afford to be a little loose with a FOR loop.

Cheers,

David

P.S. That said, I just spent the entire weekend re-working a program I inherited from someone else. It is generally a good idea to write a program in such a way that someone else can get it to work in less time than it takes to write the darn thing from scratch. :-)

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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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