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Subject: Re: Interesting advantage of using indices instead of iterators

Posted by [Balage](#) on Wed, 10 Jan 2007 11:24:26 GMT

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I've also read a lot about this. It's not just iterators.

Many newcomers (including myself at that time) try to use pointer arithmetic to save that addition on array indexing inside loops. But they all fail to realize, that the compiler can do way much better optimizations if it knows what is just read from memory, and what is updated (and also when). Pointer arithmetic makes it a lot harder to figure that out, as the compiler cannot easily track where a pointer currently points to.

With regular array indexing, it exactly knows what element, when, and how is being accessed, and that's very good for optimization.

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