

Re: [Feature Request] "first:" "last:" sections in a "foreach" block

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"Paul E Collins" <find_my_real_address@CL4.org> wrote in message news:c4ovj5\$ij8\$1@hercules.btinternet.com...

> *'foreach' and indexed 'for' are pretty much interchangeable.*

Actually they aren't. foreach works for every class that implements IEnumerable, which is small and easy to implement. Indexing requires implementing IList which is more complicated. Many collection implementations don't lend themselves well to indexing (anything which using a tree instead of an array behind the scenes). Check out their description pages in the MSDN. In the framework over twice as many classes implement IEnumerable as IList.

>> *I'm somewhat influenced by the fact that I tend to use 'foreach' when I want*

to iterate over all of the elements but don't care which order they come up in <<

Just because there is no particular order to the items in the collection, does not mean when being processed, the first and last do not need to be processed differently. As in my example of adding the comma, often it's just the fact that this item is the first processed is enough to require special processing.

> *What if it's the *second* iteration you want to treat differently;*
> *should there be a 'second' keyword as well, or some kind of 'foreach ...*
> *case' construct?*

No. Needing to treat the first or last item differently is fairly common. Needing to treat an item besides the first or last differently is much rarer. Also, there is no simple implementation for treating a middle item differently.

I guess the basic question is what is the point of having a foreach in the language anyway, when it can always be replaced by a for or while statement?

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If you see an advantage in having it in the language, you should see the advantage of this.