

## Re: what is the best datatype for..

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.languages.csharp/2007-11/msg02494.html>

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- *From:* "Hilton" <nospam@xxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Tue, 20 Nov 2007 00:56:41 GMT
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Peter,

A dictionary implementation will be faster than your suggested implementation.

You misunderstood probably because I never explained it well enough.

If I understand your suggestion correctly, you are proposing creating an array that will be scanned searching for the index value, at which point the count can be updated.

Nope, no scanning whatsoever.

If you know you'll have say 1000 possible indices, then define an array of 1000 structs, then when you see a value of 605, you simply do "array[605].count++" (i.e. your basic histogram code). I bet that is faster than any dictionary implementation. In fact, you don't even need the struct if most of the work is 'reading' the value and the sorting doesn't need to be 'high-performance' – then you can define an array of ints and not structs and spend a little more time doing the sorting. To decide, we'd need to understand more about the nature of the data.

Hilton

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