

# Re: how do people feel about exit function from loop

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/VB/microsoft.public.vb.general.discussion/2007-07/msg02968.html>

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- *From:* "Robert Morley" <[rmorley@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:rmorley@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Mon, 30 Jul 2007 14:08:35 -0400
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I think it all comes back to the reason we allow more than 2 or 3 characters for a variable name in the first place. For myself, as a general rule, if I have nested loops, I try to make the index names indicate their function. For example:

```
For lngRow = 1 To 10
For lngCol = 1 To 10
SomeArray(lngRow, lngCol) = SomeArray(lngRow, lngCol) + 1
Next
Next
```

That said, in something not nested, I'll often use a simpler name (unless I'm already using a logical name in other loops), even though when you think about it, the context is nearly the same. For example:

```
For i = 1 To 10
SomeArray(1, i) = SomeArray(1, i) + 1
Next
```

But at the risk of inciting another debate over what constitutes style, I believe this is a style choice for each user to decide on their own.

Rob

"dpb" <[none@xxxxxxx](mailto:none@xxxxxxx)> wrote in message [news:f81833\\$6qj\\$1@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:f81833$6qj$1@xxxxxxxxxxx)

Ralph wrote:

"Larry Serflaten" <[serflaten@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:serflaten@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message [news:OArXqJs0HHA.3916@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:OArXqJs0HHA.3916@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

"Steve Gerrard" <[mynamehere@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:mynamehere@xxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote

Re: how do people feel about exit function from loop

\* Does the loop index have a meaningful name?

Does "n" count as a meaningful name? :)

I use single letter variables almost exclusively as for loop indexes

used with

arrays, so to me it is.

You must be one of those GenX coders, eh? <g> I come from an era when 3 was the magic number for characters in a variable name. idx (index), itm (item), row & col, etc... About the only time I'd use a single

letter for

an iterator would be for referencing X and Y coordinates and the

occasional

throw-away test routines.

I use idx 'n such, mainly because it always seemed more readable and more amendable for search 'n replace. But then I occasionally side to the dark side and use i% and n&. <g>

Almost nothing I hate more than something like

```
my_wonderfully_named_array(uselessly_described_index) = _  
my_wonderfully_named_array(uselessly_described_index) + _  
your_wonderfully_named_array(uselessly_described_index-1)+1
```

:(

Unless there's a really solid reason for otherwise in a specific application, indices of For...Next loops should be brief and the traditional i,j,k,..., etc. Offhand, I have a hard time of thinking of a place that does justify the use of the longer name that tends to obfuscate more than clarify.

If there's any doubt at all of the intent or the reason for the iterator

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being the values it takes on, a comment adds that explicitly and doesn't distract further from the code itself.

In VB for deep or long loops I either make sure to declare them as Long or do use the "&" for the performance gain of the Long over the Integer.

imo, ymmv, \$0.02, etc., ...

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