## How do I get the handle of the primary monitor?

devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20070809-00

August 9, 2007



Raymond Chen

The primary monitor by definition has its upper left corner at (0, 0). Therefore, you can use this function:

```
HMONITOR GetPrimaryMonitorHandle()
{
   const POINT ptZero = { 0, 0 };
   return MonitorFromPoint(ptZero, MONITOR_DEFAULTTOPRIMARY);
}
```

To make double extra sure (belt and suspenders), we also tell it, "If you're not sure what monitor to return, give us the primary."

Sure, this sounds obviously simple, but I actually found somebody who <u>fumbled around in</u> <u>the dark passing intentionally invalid parameters</u> to <u>MonitorFromWindow</u> trying to find one that would return the primary monitor handle. (I've heard this called *Programming By Accident*.)

Raymond Chen

Follow

