

# How to prevent nvm from slowing down your shell

NOTE: This also works on bash.

Load `nvm` when you use it, instead of at shell init

This is literally the best optimization I've done for my `zsh` configuration.

If you're using `nvm` chances are that it slows down your shell startup significantly (in a scale of half a second or so). This happens when These lines are executed (`~/.zshrc`):

```
export NVM_DIR="$HOME/.nvm"  
[ -s "$NVM_DIR/nvm.sh" ] && \. "$NVM_DIR/nvm.sh"  
[ -s "$NVM_DIR/bash_completion" ] && \. "$NVM_DIR/bash_completion"
```

You put these into your shell configuration file to load `nvm` (which is slow for some reason). Now you don't necessarily use `nvm` on every shell startup, so it makes more sense to load it up when you actually need it. So a very simple shell function can take care of that. Here goes:

```
n () {  
  if ! command -v nvm &> /dev/null; then  
    export NVM_DIR="$HOME/.nvm"  
    [ -s "$NVM_DIR/nvm.sh" ] && \. "$NVM_DIR/nvm.sh"  
    [ -s "$NVM_DIR/bash_completion" ] && \. "$NVM_DIR/bash_completion"  
  fi  
  nvm "$@"  
}
```

In other words, just wrap the loading stuff in an if statement which checks to see if `nvm` is available or not. Only when it's not available, it loads `nvm` and then proceeds with the rest of the function. The rest of the function is this tiny line `nvm "$@"` which simply passes all the arguments to `nvm`.

So now the first time you use this `n` function, you're gonna get a bit more delay (which is fine since `nvm` is slow already) but then, every other time (in that same shell) it'll skip over that if statement.

Note: This has one tiny flaw, you can't use completion with the `n` command, but you can add it if you want. For my case, the `~/.nvm/bash_completion` is responsible for adding those completion items to my shell. So at the very end of this file, you can add this line:

```
complete -o default -F __nvm n
```