
CTTextTab Reference

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CTTextTab Reference

Derived From:	CType
Framework:	ApplicationServices/CoreText
Declared in	CTTextTab.h

Overview

The `CTTextTab` opaque type represents a tab in a paragraph style, storing an alignment type and location.

Core Text supports four alignment types: left, center, right, and decimal. These alignment types are absolute, not based on the line sweep direction of text. For example, tabbed text is always positioned to the left of a right-aligned tab, whether the line sweep direction is left to right or right to left. A tab's location, on the other hand, is relative to the back margin. A tab set at 1.5 inches, for example, is at 1.5 inches from the right in right-to-left text.

Functions by Task

Creating Text Tabs

[CTTextTabCreate](#) (page 6)
Creates and initializes a new text tab object.

Getting Text Tab Data

[CTTextTabGetAlignment](#) (page 6)
Returns the text alignment of the tab.

[CTTextTabGetLocation](#) (page 6)
Returns the tab's ruler location.

[CTTextTabGetOptions](#) (page 7)
Returns the dictionary of attributes associated with the tab.

Getting the Type Identifier

[CTTextTabGetTypeID](#) (page 7)
Returns the Core Foundation type identifier of the text tab object.

Functions

CTTextTabCreate

Creates and initializes a new text tab object.

```
CTTextTabRef CTTextTabCreate( CTextAlignment alignment, double location,
CFDictionaryRef options );
```

Parameters

alignment

The tab's alignment. This is used to determine the position of text inside the tab column. This parameter must be set to a valid `CTTextAlignment` value or this function returns `NULL`.

location

The tab's ruler location, relative to the back margin.

options

Options to pass in when the tab is created. Currently, the only option available is `kCTTabColumnTerminatorsAttributeName` (page 8). This parameter is optional and can be set to `NULL` if not needed.

Return Value

A reference to a `CTTextTab` object if the call was successful; otherwise, `NULL`.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

Declared In

`CTTextTab.h`

CTTextTabGetAlignment

Returns the text alignment of the tab.

```
CTTextAlignment CTTextTabGetAlignment( CTextTabRef tab );
```

Parameters

tab

The tab whose text alignment is obtained.

Return Value

The tab's text alignment value.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

Declared In

`CTTextTab.h`

CTTextTabGetLocation

Returns the tab's ruler location.

```
double CTTextTabGetLocation( CTTextTabRef tab );
```

Parameters

tab

The tab whose location is obtained.

Return Value

The tab's ruler location relative to the back margin.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

Declared In

CTTextTab.h

CTTextTabGetOptions

Returns the dictionary of attributes associated with the tab.

```
CFDictionaryRef CTTextTabGetOptions( CTTextTabRef tab );
```

Parameters

tab

The tab whose attributes are obtained.

Return Value

The dictionary of attributes associated with the tab, or if no dictionary is present, NULL.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

Declared In

CTTextTab.h

CTTextTabGetTypeID

Returns the Core Foundation type identifier of the text tab object.

```
CFTypeID CTTextTabGetTypeID( void );
```

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

Declared In

CTTextTab.h

Data Types

CTTextTabRef

A reference to a text tab object.

```
typedef const struct __CTTextTab *CTTextTabRef;
```

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

Declared In

CTTextTab.h

Constants

kCTTabColumnTerminatorsAttributeName

Specifies the terminating character for a tab column.

```
const CFStringRef kCTTabColumnTerminatorsAttributeName;
```

Constants

kCTTabColumnTerminatorsAttributeName

Specifies the terminating character for a tab column.

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

Declared in CTTextTab.h.

Discussion

The value associated with this attribute is a CFCharacterSet object. The character set is used to determine the terminating character for a tab column. The tab and newline characters are implied even if they don't exist in the character set. This attribute can be used to implement decimal tabs, for instance. This attribute is optional.

Declared In

CTTextTab.h

Document Revision History

This table describes the changes to *CTTextTab Reference*.

Date	Notes
2007-05-01	New document that describes the Core Text opaque type used to represent a tab in a paragraph style.

REVISION HISTORY

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