NSCursor Class Reference

Cocoa > User Experience



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Contents

NSCursor Class Reference 5

```
Overview 5
  Cursor Rectangles 6
Adopted Protocols 7
Tasks 7
  Initializing a New Cursor 7
  Setting Cursor Attributes 7
  Controlling Which Cursor Is Current 7
  Retrieving Cursor Instances 8
Class Methods 9
  arrowCursor 9
  closedHandCursor 9
  crosshairCursor 10
  currentCursor 10
  disappearingItemCursor 10
  hide 11
  IBeamCursor 11
  openHandCursor 11
  pointingHandCursor 12
  pop 12
  resizeDownCursor 13
  resizeLeftCursor 13
  resizeLeftRightCursor 13
  resizeRightCursor 13
  resizeUpCursor 14
  resizeUpDownCursor 14
  setHiddenUntilMouseMoves: 14
  unhide 15
Instance Methods 15
  hotSpot 15
  image 16
  initWithImage:foregroundColorHint:backgroundColorHint:hotSpot: 16
  initWithImage:hotSpot: 17
  isSetOnMouseEntered 18
  isSetOnMouseExited 18
  mouseEntered: 18
  mouseExited: 19
  pop 20
  push 20
  set 20
  setOnMouseEntered: 21
```

setOnMouseExited: 21

Constants 22

AppKit Versions for NSCursor Bug Fixes 22

Document Revision History 23

Index 25

NSCursor Class Reference

Inherits from NSObject

Conforms to NSCoding

NSObject (NSObject)

Framework /System/Library/Frameworks/AppKit.framework

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Companion guide Cursor Management

Declared in NSCursor.h

Related sample code CarbonCocoa_PictureCursor

DragItemAround

PDFView Sketch-112 TextLinks

Overview

Instances of the NSCursor class manage the appearance of the cursor.

The following table shows and describes the system cursors, and indicates the class method for obtaining them:

Cursor	Description
J.	The arrow cursor (arrowCursor (page 9))
£	The I-beam cursor for indicating insertion points (IBeamCursor (page 11))
+	The cross-hair cursor (crosshairCursor (page 10))
n	The closed-hand cursor (closedHandCursor (page 9))

Cursor	Description
<u>ፈ</u> ጣን	The open-hand cursor (openHandCursor (page 11))
4	The pointing-hand cursor (pointingHandCursor (page 12))
4	The resize-left cursor (resizeLeftCursor (page 13))
H	The resize-right cursor (resizeRightCursor (page 13))
+	The resize-left-and-right cursor (resizeLeftRightCursor (page 13))
±	The resize-up cursor (resizeUpCursor (page 14))
Ŧ	The resize-down cursor (resizeDownCursor (page 13))
+	The resize-up-and-down cursor (resizeUpDownCursor (page 14))
9	The disappearing item cursor (disappearing I tem Cursor (page 10))

In Mac OS X version 10.3 and later, cursor size is no longer limited to 16 by 16 pixels.

Cursor Rectangles

In Cocoa, you can change the currently displayed cursor based on the position of the mouse over one of your views. You might use this technique to provide visual feedback about what actions the user can take with the mouse. For example, you might display one of the resize cursors whenever the mouse moves over a portion of your view that acts as a custom resizing handle. To set this up, you associate a cursor object with one or more cursor rectangles in the view.

Cursor rectangles are a specialized type of tracking rectangles, which are used to monitor the mouse location in a view. Views implement cursor rectangles using tracking rectangles but provide methods for setting and refreshing cursor rectangles that are distinct from the generic tracking rectangle interface. For information on how to set up cursor rectangles, see "Handling Tracking-Rectangle and Cursor-Update Events in Views".

Adopted Protocols

NSCoding encodeWithCoder: initWithCoder:

Tasks

Initializing a New Cursor

```
    initWithImage:hotSpot: (page 17)
    Initializes a cursor with the given image and hot spot.
```

initWithImage:foregroundColorHint:backgroundColorHint:hotSpot: (page 16)
 Initializes the cursor with the specified image and hot spot.

Setting Cursor Attributes

```
- image (page 16)
```

Returns the receiver's image.

hotSpot (page 15)

Returns the position of the cursor's hot spot.

+ hide (page 11)

Makes the current cursor invisible.

+ unhide (page 15)

Negates an earlier call to hide (page 11) by showing the current cursor.

+ setHiddenUntilMouseMoves: (page 14)

Sets whether the cursor is hidden until the mouse moves.

Controlling Which Cursor Is Current

```
+ pop (page 12)
```

Pops the current cursor off the top of the stack.

pop (page 20)

Sends a pop (page 12) message to the receiver's class.

- push (page 20)

Puts the receiver on top of the cursor stack and makes it the current cursor.

- set (page 20)

Makes the receiver the current cursor.

- mouseEntered: (page 18)

Automatically sent to the receiver when the cursor enters a cursor rectangle owned by the receiver.

- setOnMouseEntered: (page 21)

Specifies whether the receiver accepts mouseEntered: (page 18) events.

- isSetOnMouseEntered (page 18)

Returns a Boolean value indicating whether the receiver becomes current on receiving a mouseEntered: (page 18) message.

- mouseExited: (page 19)

Automatically sent to the receiver when the cursor exits a cursor rectangle owned by the receiver.

- setOnMouseExited: (page 21)

Sets whether the receiver accepts mouseExited: (page 19) events.

isSetOnMouseExited (page 18)

Returns a Boolean value indicating whether the receiver becomes current when it receives a mouseExited: (page 19) message.

Retrieving Cursor Instances

+ currentCursor (page 10)

Returns the application's current cursor.

+ arrowCursor (page 9)

Returns the default cursor, the arrow cursor.

+ closedHandCursor (page 9)

Returns the closed-hand system cursor.

+ crosshairCursor (page 10)

Returns the cross-hair system cursor.

+ disappearingItemCursor (page 10)

Returns a cursor indicating that the current operation will result in a disappearing item.

+ IBeamCursor (page 11)

Returns a cursor that looks like a capital I with a tiny crossbeam at its middle.

+ openHandCursor (page 11)

Returns the open-hand system cursor.

+ pointingHandCursor (page 12)

Returns the pointing-hand system cursor.

+ resizeDownCursor (page 13)

Returns the resize-down system cursor.

+ resizeLeftCursor (page 13)

Returns the resize-left system cursor.

+ resizeLeftRightCursor (page 13)

Returns the resize-left-and-right system cursor.

+ resizeRightCursor (page 13)

Returns the resize-right system cursor.

+ resizeUpCursor (page 14)

Returns the resize-up system cursor.

+ resizeUpDownCursor (page 14)

Returns the resize-up-and-down system cursor.

Class Methods

arrowCursor

Returns the default cursor, the arrow cursor.

```
+ (NSCursor *)arrowCursor
```

Return Value

The default cursor, a slanted arrow with its hot spot at the tip. The arrow cursor is the one you're used to seeing over buttons, scrollers, and many other objects in the window system.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- + IBeamCursor (page 11)
- + currentCursor (page 10)
- hotSpot (page 15)

Related Sample Code

CocoaDVDPlayer

PDFKitLinker2

PDFView

Sketch-112

TextLinks

Declared In

NSCursor.h

closedHandCursor

Returns the closed-hand system cursor.

```
+ (NSCursor *)closedHandCursor
```

Return Value

The closed-hand cursor.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Related Sample Code

DragItemAround

Declared In

NSCursor.h

Class Methods 9

crosshairCursor

Returns the cross-hair system cursor.

```
+ (NSCursor *)crosshairCursor
```

Return Value

The cross-hair cursor. This cursor is used for situations when precise location is required (where the lines cross is the hot spot).

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Related Sample Code

TrackIt

Declared In

NSCursor.h

currentCursor

Returns the application's current cursor.

```
+ (NSCursor *)currentCursor
```

Return Value

The top cursor on the application's cursor stack. This cursor may not be the visible cursor on the screen if a different application is currently active.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

```
set (page 20)push (page 20)pop (page 20)mouseEntered: (page 18)
```

- mouseExited: (page 19)

Declared In

NSCursor.h

disappearing Item Cursor

Returns a cursor indicating that the current operation will result in a disappearing item.

```
+ (NSCursor *)disappearingItemCursor
```

Return Value

The system cursor that indicates that the current operation will result in a disappearing item (for example, when dragging an item from the dock or a toolbar).

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Declared In

NSCursor.h

hide

Makes the current cursor invisible.

+ (void)hide

Discussion

If another cursor becomes current, that cursor will be invisible, too. It will remain invisible until you invoke the unhide (page 15) method.

hide (page 11) overrides setHiddenUntilMouseMoves: (page 14).

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Related Sample Code

CarbonCocoa_PictureCursor

Declared In

NSCursor.h

IBeamCursor

Returns a cursor that looks like a capital I with a tiny crossbeam at its middle.

```
+ (NSCursor *) I Beam Cursor
```

Return Value

The I-beam cursor. This is the cursor that you're used to seeing over editable or selectable text. The I-beam cursor's default hot spot is where the crossbeam intersects the I.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- + arrowCursor (page 9)
- + currentCursor (page 10)

Declared In

NSCursor.h

openHandCursor

Returns the open-hand system cursor.

+ (NSCursor *)openHandCursor

Class Methods 11

Return Value

The open-hand cursor.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Related Sample Code

DragItemAround

Declared In

NSCursor.h

pointingHandCursor

Returns the pointing-hand system cursor.

+ (NSCursor *)pointingHandCursor

Return Value

The pointing-hand cursor. The tip of the pointing finger is the hot spot.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Related Sample Code

CocoaDVDPlayer

Declared In

NSCursor.h

pop

Pops the current cursor off the top of the stack.

+ (void)pop

Discussion

The new object on the top of the stack becomes the current cursor. If the current cursor is the only cursor on the stack, this method does nothing.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- push (page 20)

Related Sample Code

DragItemAround

Declared In

NSCursor.h

resizeDownCursor

Returns the resize-down system cursor.

+ (NSCursor *)resizeDownCursor

Return Value

The resize-down cursor. This cursor is used when moving or resizing an object to indicate that the user can move only in the indicated direction.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Declared In

NSCursor.h

resizeLeftCursor

Returns the resize-left system cursor.

+ (NSCursor *)resizeLeftCursor

Return Value

The resize-left cursor. This cursor is used when moving or resizing an object to indicate that the user can move only in the indicated direction.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Declared In

NSCursor.h

resizeLeftRightCursor

Returns the resize-left-and-right system cursor.

+ (NSCursor *)resizeLeftRightCursor

Return Value

The resize-left-and-right cursor. This cursor is used when moving or resizing an object and the object can be moved left or right.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Declared In

NSCursor.h

resizeRightCursor

Returns the resize-right system cursor.

+ (NSCursor *)resizeRightCursor

13 Class Methods

Return Value

The resize-right cursor. This cursor is used when moving or resizing an object to indicate that the user can move only in the indicated direction.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Declared In

NSCursor.h

resizeUpCursor

Returns the resize-up system cursor.

+ (NSCursor *)resizeUpCursor

Return Value

The resize-up cursor. This cursor is used when moving or resizing an object to indicate that the user can move only in the indicated direction.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Declared In

NSCursor.h

resizeUpDownCursor

Returns the resize-up-and-down system cursor.

+ (NSCursor *)resizeUpDownCursor

Return Value

The resize-up-and-down cursor. This cursor is used when moving or resizing an object and the object can be moved up or down.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Declared In

NSCursor.h

setHiddenUntilMouseMoves:

Sets whether the cursor is hidden until the mouse moves.

 $+ \ (\verb"void") \textbf{setHiddenUntilMouseMoves:} (\verb"BOOL") \textit{flag}$

Parameters

flag

YES to hide the cursor until one of the following occurs:

- The mouse moves.
- \blacksquare You invoke the method again, with flag set to NO.

Discussion

Do not try to counter this method by invoking unhide (page 15). The results are undefined.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

```
+ hide (page 11)
```

Declared In

NSCursor.h

unhide

Negates an earlier call to hide (page 11) by showing the current cursor.

```
+ (void)unhide
```

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

```
+ setHiddenUntilMouseMoves: (page 14)
```

```
+ hide (page 11)
```

Related Sample Code

CarbonCocoa_PictureCursor

Declared In

NSCursor.h

Instance Methods

hotSpot

Returns the position of the cursor's hot spot.

```
- (NSPoint)hotSpot
```

Return Value

The point describing the position of the hot spot, specified according to the cursor's flipped coordinate system.

Instance Methods 2009-01-06 | © 2009 Apple Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Discussion

For a more complete explanation, see the class description.

Note that an NSCursor object is immutable: you cannot change its hot spot after it's created. Instead, use initWithImage:hotSpot: (page 17) to create a new cursor with the new settings.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

```
- initWithImage:hotSpot: (page 17)
```

Declared In

NSCursor.h

image

Returns the receiver's image.

```
- (NSImage *)image
```

Return Value

The cursor image or nil if none exists

Discussion

Note that an NSCursor object is immutable: you cannot change its image after it's created. Instead, use initWithImage: hotSpot: (page 17) to create a new cursor with the new settings.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

```
- initWithImage:hotSpot: (page 17)
```

Declared In

NSCursor.h

in it With Image: for eground Color Hint: background Color Hint: hot Spot:

Initializes the cursor with the specified image and hot spot.

```
- (id)initWithImage:(NSImage *)newImage foregroundColorHint:(NSColor *)fg
backgroundColorHint:(NSColor *)bg hotSpot:(NSPoint)hotSpot
```

Parameters

newImage

The image to assign to the cursor.

fg

The foreground color. This is currently ignored.

bg

The background color. This is currently ignored.

hotSpot

The point to assign as the cursor's hot spot.

Return Value

The initialized cursor object.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

```
- initWithImage:hotSpot: (page 17)
```

Declared In

NSCursor.h

initWithImage:hotSpot:

Initializes a cursor with the given image and hot spot.

```
- (id)initWithImage:(NSImage *)newImage hotSpot:(NSPoint)aPoint
```

Parameters

newImage

The image to assign to the cursor.

aPoint

The point to set as the cursor's hot spot.

Return Value

An initialized cursor object.

Discussion

This method is the designated initializer for the class.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- hotSpot (page 15)
- image (page 16)
- initWithImage:foregroundColorHint:backgroundColorHint:hotSpot: (page 16)

Related Sample Code

PDFView

Sketch-112

TextLinks

Declared In

NSCursor.h

Instance Methods 2009-01-06 | © 2009 Apple Inc. All Rights Reserved.

isSetOnMouseEntered

Returns a Boolean value indicating whether the receiver becomes current on receiving a mouse Entered: (page 18) message.

- (BOOL)isSetOnMouseEntered

Return Value

YES if the receiver will become current when it receives a mouseEntered: (page 18) message; otherwise, NO.

Discussion

To receive such a message, the receiver must first be assigned a cursor rectangle. This assignment can be made using the NSView method addCursorRect:cursor:. For a more complete explanation, see the class description.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- setOnMouseEntered: (page 21)isSetOnMouseExited (page 18)
- **Declared In**

NSCursor.h

isSetOnMouseExited

Returns a Boolean value indicating whether the receiver becomes current when it receives a mouseExited: (page 19) message.

- (BOOL)isSetOnMouseExited

Return Value

YES if the receiver becomes current when it receives a mouseExited: (page 19) message; otherwise, NO.

Discussion

To receive such a message, the receiver must first be assigned a cursor rectangle. This assignment can be made using the NSView method addCursorRect:cursor:. For a more complete explanation, see the class description.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- setOnMouseExited: (page 21)

Declared In

NSCursor.h

mouseEntered:

Automatically sent to the receiver when the cursor enters a cursor rectangle owned by the receiver.

- (void)mouseEntered:(NSEvent *)anEvent

Parameters

anEvent

The event generated when the cursor enters the cursor rectangle.

Discussion

If used after setOnMouseEntered: (page 21) has been called with an argument of YES, mouseEntered: can make the receiver the current cursor.

In your programs, you won't invoke mouseEntered: explicitly. It's only included in the class interface so you can override it.

For a more complete explanation, see "Handling Tracking-Rectangle and Cursor-Update Events in Views" and the NSView method addTrackingRect:owner:userData:assumeInside:.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- isSetOnMouseEntered (page 18)
- mouseExited: (page 19)

Declared In

NSCursor.h

mouseExited:

Automatically sent to the receiver when the cursor exits a cursor rectangle owned by the receiver.

```
- (void)mouseExited:(NSEvent *)anEvent
```

Parameters

anEvent

The event generated when the cursor exits the cursor rectangle.

Discussion

Like mouseEntered: (page 18), this message is part of the class interface only so you can override it.

For a more complete explanation, see "Handling Tracking-Rectangle and Cursor-Update Events in Views" and the NSView method addTrackingRect:owner:userData:assumeInside:.

19

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- setOnMouseExited: (page 21)
- isSetOnMouseExited (page 18)

Declared In

NSCursor.h

Instance Methods

pop

Sends a pop (page 12) message to the receiver's class.

- (void)pop

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- push (page 20)
- pop (page 20)

Declared In

NSCursor.h

push

Puts the receiver on top of the cursor stack and makes it the current cursor.

- (void)push

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- pop (page 20)
- pop (page 20)

Related Sample Code

DragItemAround

Declared In

NSCursor.h

set

Makes the receiver the current cursor.

- (void)set

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

TrackIt

+ currentCursor (page 10)

Related Sample Code

CocoaDVDPlayer PDFKitLinker2

Declared In

NSCursor.h

setOnMouseEntered:

Specifies whether the receiver accepts mouseEntered: (page 18) events.

- (void)setOnMouseEntered:(BOOL)flag

Parameters

flag

YES if the receiver accepts future mouseEntered: (page 18) event messages; otherwise it ignores them.

Discussion

Accepting mouseEntered: (page 18) event messages allows the cursor to be made the current cursor when the cursor enters a view's cursor rectangle.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

```
- mouseEntered: (page 18)
```

Declared In

NSCursor.h

setOnMouseExited:

Sets whether the receiver accepts mouseExited: (page 19) events.

```
- (void)setOnMouseExited:(BOOL)flag
```

Parameters

flag

YES if the receiver accepts future mouseExited: (page 19) event messages; otherwise it ignores them.

Discussion

Accepting mouseExited: (page 19) event messages allows the cursor to be made the current cursor when the cursor exits a view's cursor rectangle.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In

NSCursor.h

Instance Methods

21

Constants

AppKit Versions for NSCursor Bug Fixes

The version of the AppKit framework containing a specific bug fix.

#define NSAppKitVersionNumberWithCursorSizeSupport 682.0

Constants

NSAppKitVersionNumberWithCursorSizeSupport

The specific version of the AppKit framework that introduced support for cursors larger than 16 x 16 pixels in size. Developers should not need to use this constant unless they are writing applications for Mac OS \times v10.2 and earlier.

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Declared in NSCursor.h.

Document Revision History

This table describes the changes to NSCursor Class Reference.

Date	Notes
2009-01-06	Added a definition for the NSAppKitVersionNumberWithCursorSizeSupport macro.
2008-02-08	Clarified the function of the currentCursor method.
2007-01-19	Updated for Mac OS X v10.5.
2006-05-23	First publication of this content as a separate document.

REVISION HISTORY

Document Revision History

Index

A		
AppKit Versions for NSCursor Bug Fixes 22 arrowCursor class method 9	<pre>mouseEntered: instance method 18 mouseExited: instance method 19</pre>	
ClosedHandCursor class method 9 crosshairCursor class method 10 currentCursor class method 10	NSAppKitVersionNumberWithCursorSizeSupport constant 22	
	0	
D	openHandCursor class method 11	
disappearingItemCursor class method 10	Р	
H hide class method 11 hotSpot instance method 15	pointingHandCursor class method 12 pop class method 12 pop instance method 20 push instance method 20	
<u>I</u>	R	
<pre>IBeamCursor class method 11 image instance method 16 initWithImage:foregroundColorHint: backgroundColorHint:hotSpot:instance method 16 initWithImage:hotSpot:instance method 17 isSetOnMouseEntered instance method 18 isSetOnMouseExited instance method 18</pre>	resizeDownCursor class method 13 resizeLeftCursor class method 13 resizeLeftRightCursor class method 13 resizeRightCursor class method 13 resizeUpCursor class method 14 resizeUpDownCursor class method 14	
	S	
	set instance method 20 setHiddenUntilMouseMoves: class method 14	

Μ

INDEX

setOnMouseEntered: instance method 21
setOnMouseExited: instance method 21

U

unhide class method 15