NSFormCell Class Reference

Cocoa > User Experience

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NSFormCell Class Reference

Inherits from	NSActionCell : NSCell : NSObject
Conforms to	NSCoding (NSCell) NSCopying (NSCell) NSObject (NSObject)
Framework	/System/Library/Frameworks/AppKit.framework
Availability	Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.
Companion guide	Forms
Declared in	NSFormCell.h
Related sample code	TemperatureTester

Overview

The `NSFormCell` class is used to implement text entry fields in a form. The left part of an `NSFormCell` object contains a title. The right part contains an editable text entry field.

An `NSFormCell` object implements the user interface of an NSForm object.

Tasks

Initializing an NSFormCell

`- initTextCell:` (page 7)
Returns an `NSFormCell` object initialized with the specified title string.

Asking About a Cell's Appearance

`- isOpaque` (page 8)
Returns a Boolean value indicating whether the title is empty and an opaque bezel is set.

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Asking About a Cell's Title

- `attributedTitle` (page 7)
  Returns the title of the cell as an attributed string.
- `title` (page 12)
  Returns the receiver's title.
- `titleAlignment` (page 12)
  Returns the alignment of the title.
- `titleBaseWritingDirection` (page 13)
  Returns the default writing direction used to render the form cell's title.
- `titleFont` (page 13)
  Returns the font used to draw the receiver's title.
- `titleWidth` (page 13)
  Returns the width of the title field.
- `titleWidth:` (page 14)
  Returns the width of the title field constrained to the specified size.

Changing the Cell's Title

- `setAttributedTitle:` (page 9)
  Sets the receiver's title using an attributed string.
- `setTitle:` (page 10)
  Sets the receiver's title to the specified plain-text string.
- `setTitleAlignment:` (page 10)
  Sets the alignment of the title.
- `setTitleBaseWritingDirection:` (page 11)
  Sets the default writing direction used to render the form cell's title.
- `setTitleFont:` (page 11)
  Sets the font of the receiver's title.
- `setTitleWidth:` (page 11)
  Sets the width of the title.

Setting a Keyboard Equivalent

- `setTitleWithMnemonic:` (page 12)
  Sets the cell title and mnemonic character.

Asking About Placeholder Values

- `placeholderAttributedString` (page 8)
  Returns the cell's attributed placeholder string.
- `placeholderString` (page 8)
  Returns the cell's plain text placeholder string.

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- `setPlaceholderAttributedString:` (page 9)
  Sets the attributed placeholder string for the cell.
- `setPlaceholderString:` (page 9)
  Sets the plain-text placeholder string for the cell.

Instance Methods

attributedTitle

Returns the title of the cell as an attributed string.

```
- (NSAttributedString *)attributedTitle
```

Return Value
The title of the cell.

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In
`NSFormCell.h`

initTextCell:

Returns an `NSFormCell` object initialized with the specified title string.

```
- (id)initTextCell:(NSString *)aString
```

Parameters

aString
The title for the new form cell object.

Return Value
An initialized `NSFormCell` object.

Discussion
The contents of the cell's editable text entry field are set to the empty string (@“”). The font for both title and text is the user’s chosen system font in 12.0 point, and the text area is drawn with a bezel. This method is the designated initializer for the `NSFormCell` class.

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also
- `setTitle:` (page 10)

Declared In
`NSFormCell.h`

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isOpaque

Returns a Boolean value indicating whether the title is empty and an opaque bezel is set.

```
- (BOOL)isOpaque
```

Return Value
`YES` if the title is empty and an opaque bezel is set; otherwise, `NO`.

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In
`NSFormCell.h`

placeholderAttributedString

Returns the cell's attributed placeholder string.

```
- (NSAttributedString *)placeholderAttributedString
```

Return Value
The attributed placeholder string, or `nil` if the cell has no attributed placeholder string.

Discussion
If this method returns `nil`, you can also call `placeholderString` to see if the cell has a plain text placeholder string.

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

See Also
- `placeholderString` (page 8)
- `setPlaceholderAttributedString:` (page 9)

Declared In
`NSFormCell.h`

placeholderString

Returns the cell's plain text placeholder string.

```
- (NSString *)placeholderString
```

Return Value
The plain-text placeholder string, or `nil` if the cell has no plain-text placeholder string.

Discussion
If this method returns `nil`, you can also call `placeholderAttributedString` to see if the cell has an attributed placeholder string.

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

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See Also
- placeholderAttributedString (page 8)
- setPlaceholderString: (page 9)

Declared In
NSFormCell.h

setAttributedTitle:

Sets the receiver's title using an attributed string.

```
- (void)setAttributedTitle:(NSAttributedString *)anAttributedString
```

Parameters
anAttributedString
The formatted title of the cell.

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In
NSFormCell.h

setPlaceholderAttributedString:

Sets the attributed placeholder string for the cell.

```
- (void)setPlaceholderAttributedString:(NSAttributedString *)string
```

Parameters
string
The attributed placeholder string.

Discussion
Note that invoking this method clears out any plain text string set by calling the setPlaceholderString: (page 9) method.

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

See Also
- placeholderAttributedString (page 8)
- setPlaceholderString: (page 9)

Declared In
NSFormCell.h

setPlaceholderString:

Sets the plain-text placeholder string for the cell.

```
- (void)setPlaceholderString:(NSString *)string
```


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Parameters

string

The plain-text placeholder string.

Discussion

Note that invoking this method clears out any attributed string set by the `setPlaceholderAttributedString:` (page 9) method.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

See Also

`- placeholderString` (page 8)

`- setPlaceholderAttributedString:` (page 9)

Declared In

`NSFormCell.h`

setTitle:

Sets the receiver's title to the specified plain-text string.

```
- (void)setTitle:(NSString *)aString
```

Parameters

aString

The plain-text title of the cell.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In

`NSFormCell.h`

setTitleAlignment:

Sets the alignment of the title.

```
- (void)setTitleAlignment:(NSTextAlignment)alignment
```

Parameters

alignment

The alignment can be one of the following constants: `NSRightTextAlignment`, `NSCenterTextAlignment`, or `NSLeftTextAlignment`.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In

`NSFormCell.h`

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setTitleBaseWritingDirection:

Sets the default writing direction used to render the form cell's title.

```
- (void)setTitleBaseWritingDirection:(NSWritingDirection)writingDirection
```

Parameters

writingDirection

This value can be one of the following constants: `NSWritingDirectionNatural`, `NSWritingDirectionLeftToRight`, or `NSWritingDirectionRightToLeft`.

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

See Also
- `setTitleBaseWritingDirection:` (page 11)
- `baseWritingDirection` (NSCell)

Declared In
`NSFormCell.h`

setTitleFont:

Sets the font of the receiver's title.

```
- (void)setTitleFont:(NSFont *)font
```

Parameters

font

The font to use.

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In
`NSFormCell.h`

setTitleWidth:

Sets the width of the title.

```
- (void)setTitleWidth:(CGFloat)width
```

Parameters

width

The width of the title, measured in points in the user coordinate space.

Discussion
You usually do not need to invoke this method. The Application Kit automatically sets the title width whenever the title changes. If the automatic width doesn't suit your needs, though, you can use this method to set the width explicitly.

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Once you have set the width this way, the Application Kit stops setting the width automatically; you must invoke this method every time the title changes. If you want the Application Kit to resume automatic width assignments, invoke this method with a negative *width* value.

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In
NSFormCell.h

setTitleWithMnemonic:

Sets the cell title and mnemonic character.

```
- (void)setTitleWithMnemonic:(NSString *)titleWithAmpersand
```

Parameters

titleWithAmpersand

The title of the cell, including a mnemonic identifier. To specify the mnemonic character, place an ampersand (&) in the front of the desired character.

Discussion
Mnemonics are not supported in Mac OS X.

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also
- setTitle: (page 10)

Declared In
NSFormCell.h

title

Returns the receiver's title.

```
- (NSString *)title
```

Return Value
The title of the cell. The default value is "Field:".

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In
NSFormCell.h

titleAlignment

Returns the alignment of the title.

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```
- (NSTextAlignment)titleAlignment
```

Return Value
The alignment can be one of the following values: `NSLeftTextAlignment`, `NSCenterTextAlignment`, or `NSRightTextAlignment`. The default alignment is `NSRightTextAlignment`.

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In
`NSFormCell.h`

titleBaseWritingDirection

Returns the default writing direction used to render the form cell's title.

```
- (NSWritingDirection)titleBaseWritingDirection
```

Return Value
One of the following constants: `NSWritingDirectionNatural`, `NSWritingDirectionLeftToRight`, or `NSWritingDirectionRightToLeft`.

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

See Also
`- setTitleBaseWritingDirection:` (page 11)

Declared In
`NSFormCell.h`

titleFont

Returns the font used to draw the receiver's title.

```
- (NSFont *)titleFont
```

Return Value
The font object used for the title.

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In
`NSFormCell.h`

titleWidth

Returns the width of the title field.

```
- (CGFloat)titleWidth
```


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Return Value
The width of the title field, measured in points in the user coordinate space.

Discussion
If you set the width using `setTitleWidth:` (page 11), this method returns the value you set; otherwise, it returns the width calculated automatically by the Application Kit.

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also
`- titleWidth:` (page 14)

Declared In
`NSFormCell.h`

titleWidth:

Returns the width of the title field constrained to the specified size.

```
- (CGFloat)titleWidth:(NSSize)aSize
```

Parameters

aSize

The maximum size of the field when calculated by the Application Kit.

Return Value
The width of the title field, measured in points in the user coordinate space.

Discussion
If you set the width using `setTitleWidth:` (page 11), this method returns the value you set; otherwise, the Application Kit calculates the width, constraining the field size to the specified value.

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also
`- titleWidth` (page 13)

Declared In
`NSFormCell.h`

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Document Revision History

This table describes the changes to *NSFormCell Class Reference*.

Date	Notes
2006-05-23	First publication of this content as a separate document.

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