
NSPrinter Class Reference

[Cocoa > Printing](#)



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NSPrinter Class Reference

Inherits from	NSObject
Conforms to	NSCoding NSCopying NSObject (NSObject)
Framework	/System/Library/Frameworks/AppKit.framework
Availability	Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.
Companion guide	Printing Programming Topics for Cocoa
Declared in	NSPrinter.h

Overview

An `NSPrinter` object describes a printer's capabilities as defined in its PPD file. An `NSPrinter` object can be constructed by specifying either the printer name or the make and model of an available printer. You use a printer object to get information about printers, not to modify printer attributes or control a printing job.

Adopted Protocols

NSCoding

- `encodeWithCoder:`
- `initWithCoder:`

NSCopying

- `copyWithZone:`

Tasks

Creating an NSPrinter

+ `printerWithName:` (page 8)

Creates and returns an `NSPrinter` object initialized with the specified printer name.

- + [printerWithType:](#) (page 8)
Creates and returns an `NSPrinter` object initialized to the first available printer with the specified make and model information.

Getting General Printer Information

- + [printerNames](#) (page 7)
Returns the names of all available printers.
- + [printerTypes](#) (page 8)
Returns descriptions of the makes and models of all available printers.

Getting Attributes

- [name](#) (page 11)
Returns the printer's name.
- [type](#) (page 15)
Returns a description of the printer's make and model.

Getting Specific Information

- [pageSizeForPaper:](#) (page 12)
Returns the size of the page for the specified paper type.
- [languageLevel](#) (page 11)
Returns the PostScript language level recognized by the printer.

Querying the Tables

- [isKey:inTable:](#) (page 11)
Returns a Boolean value indicating whether the specified key is in the specified table.
- [stringForKey:inTable:](#) (page 14)
Returns the first occurrence of a value associated with specified key.
- [stringListForKey:inTable:](#) (page 14)
Returns an array of strings, one for each occurrence, associated with specified key.
- [booleanForKey:inTable:](#) (page 9)
Returns the Boolean value associated with the specified key.
- [floatForKey:inTable:](#) (page 10)
Returns the floating-point value associated with the specified key.
- [intForKey:inTable:](#) (page 10)
Returns the integer value associated with the specified key.
- [rectForKey:inTable:](#) (page 12)
Returns the rectangle associated with the specified key.
- [sizeForKey:inTable:](#) (page 13)
Returns the size data type associated with the specified key.

- [statusForTable:](#) (page 13)
Returns the status of the specified table.
- [deviceDescription](#) (page 9)
Returns a dictionary of keys and values describing the device.

Deprecated Methods

- + [printerWithName:domain:includeUnavailable:](#) (page 17) **Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2**
Deprecated.
- [acceptsBinary](#) (page 17) **Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2**
Deprecated.
- [domain](#) (page 17) **Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2**
Deprecated.
- [host](#) (page 18) **Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2**
Deprecated.
- [imageRectForPaper:](#) (page 18) **Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2**
Deprecated.
- [isColor](#) (page 18) **Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2**
Deprecated.
- [isFontAvailable:](#) (page 19) **Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2**
Deprecated.
- [isOutputStackInReverseOrder](#) (page 19) **Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2**
Deprecated.
- [note](#) (page 19) **Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2**
Deprecated.

Class Methods

printerNames

Returns the names of all available printers.

```
+ (NSArray *)printerNames
```

Return Value

An array of `NSString` objects, each of which contains the name of an available printer.

Discussion

The user constructs the list of available printers using the Print Center application.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

+ [printerTypes](#) (page 8)

- [name](#) (page 11)

Declared In

NSPrinter.h

printerTypes

Returns descriptions of the makes and models of all available printers.

+ (NSArray *)printerTypes

Return Value

An array of NSString objects, each of which contains the make and model information for a supported printer.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [type](#) (page 15)

Declared In

NSPrinter.h

printerWithName:

Creates and returns an NSPrinter object initialized with the specified printer name.

+ (NSPrinter *)printerWithName:(NSString *)name

Parameters

name

The name of the printer.

Return Value

An initialized NSPrinter object, or nil if the specified printer was not available.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

+ [printerWithType:](#) (page 8)

+ [printerNames](#) (page 7)

- [name](#) (page 11)

Declared In

NSPrinter.h

printerWithType:

Creates and returns an NSPrinter object initialized to the first available printer with the specified make and model information.


```
+ (NSPrinter *)printerWithType:(NSString *)type
```

Parameters

type

A string describing the make and model information. You can get this string using the [printerTypes](#) (page 8) method.

Return Value

An initialized `NSPrinter` object, or `nil` if the specified printer was not available.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

+ [printerWithName:](#) (page 8)

- [type](#) (page 15)

Declared In

`NSPrinter.h`

Instance Methods

booleanForKey:inTable:

Returns the Boolean value associated with the specified key.

```
- (BOOL)booleanForKey:(NSString *)key inTable:(NSString *)table
```

Parameters

key

The key whose value you want.

table

The name of a table from the printer's PPD file.

Return Value

The Boolean value associated with the key. Returns `NO` if the key is not in the table or the receiver lacks a PPD file.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [isKey:inTable:](#) (page 11)

- [stringForKey:inTable:](#) (page 14)

Declared In

`NSPrinter.h`

deviceDescription

Returns a dictionary of keys and values describing the device.

- (NSDictionary *)deviceDescription

Return Value

A dictionary of the device properties. See `NSGraphics.h` for possible keys. The only key guaranteed to exist is `NSDeviceIsPrinter`.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In

`NSPrinter.h`

floatForKey:inTable:

Returns the floating-point value associated with the specified key.

- (float)floatForKey:(NSString *)key inTable:(NSString *)table

Parameters

key

The key whose value you want.

table

The name of a table from the printer's PPD file.

Return Value

The floating-point value. Returns 0.0 if the key is not in the table or the receiver lacks a PPD file.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [isKey:inTable:](#) (page 11)
- [stringForKey:inTable:](#) (page 14)

Declared In

`NSPrinter.h`

intForKey:inTable:

Returns the integer value associated with the specified key.

- (int)intForKey:(NSString *)key inTable:(NSString *)table

Parameters

key

The key whose value you want.

table

The name of a table from the printer's PPD file.

Return Value

The integer value. Returns 0 if the key is not in the table or the receiver lacks a PPD file.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [isKey:inTable:](#) (page 11)
- [stringForKey:inTable:](#) (page 14)

Declared In

NSPrinter.h

isKey:inTable:

Returns a Boolean value indicating whether the specified key is in the specified table.

- (BOOL)isKey:(NSString *)key inTable:(NSString *)table

Parameters

key

The key whose value you want.

table

The name of a table from the printer's PPD file.

Return Value

YES if the key is in the table; otherwise, NO.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In

NSPrinter.h

languageLevel

Returns the PostScript language level recognized by the printer.

- (NSInteger)languageLevel

Return Value

The PostScript language level. The value is 0 if the receiver is not a PostScript printer.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In

NSPrinter.h

name

Returns the printer's name.

- (NSString *)name

Return Value

The printer name.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

+ [printerNames](#) (page 7)

+ [printerWithName:](#) (page 8)

Declared In

NSPrinter.h

pageSizeForPaper:

Returns the size of the page for the specified paper type.

```
- (NSSize)pageSizeForPaper:(NSString *)paperName
```

Parameters

paperName

Possible values are printer-dependent and are contained in the printer's PPD file. Typical values are "Letter" and "Legal".

Return Value

The size of the page, measured in points in the user coordinate space. The returned size is zero if the specified paper name is not recognized or its entry in the PPD file cannot be parsed.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [imageRectForPaper:](#) (page 18)

Declared In

NSPrinter.h

rectForKey:inTable:

Returns the rectangle associated with the specified key.

```
- (NSRect)rectForKey:(NSString *)key inTable:(NSString *)table
```

Parameters

key

The key whose value you want.

table

The name of a table from the printer's PPD file.

Return Value

The rectangle value. Returns `NSZeroRect` if the key is not in the table or the receiver lacks a PPD file.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [isKey:inTable:](#) (page 11)
- [stringForKey:inTable:](#) (page 14)

Declared In

NSPrinter.h

sizeForKey:inTable:

Returns the size data type associated with the specified key.

```
- (NSSize)sizeForKey:(NSString *)key inTable:(NSString *)table
```

Parameters

key

The key whose value you want.

table

The name of a table from the printer's PPD file.

Return Value

The size value. Returns `NSZeroSize` if the key is not in the table or the receiver lacks a PPD file.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [isKey:inTable:](#) (page 11)
- [stringForKey:inTable:](#) (page 14)

Declared In

NSPrinter.h

statusForTable:

Returns the status of the specified table.

```
- (NSPrinterTableStatus)statusForTable:(NSString *)table
```

Parameters

table

The name of a table from the printer's PPD file.

Return Value

One of the return values described in [“Constants”](#) (page 15).

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In

NSPrinter.h

stringForKey:inTable:

Returns the first occurrence of a value associated with specified key.

```
- (NSString *)stringForKey:(NSString *)key inTable:(NSString *)table
```

Parameters

key

The key whose value you want.

table

The name of a table from the printer's PPD file.

Return Value

The value for the specified key, or `nil` if the key is not in the table. The returned string may also be empty.

Discussion

If *key* is a main keyword only, and if that keyword has options in the PPD file, this method returns an empty string. Use [stringListForKey:inTable:](#) (page 14) to retrieve the values for all occurrences of a main keyword.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [isKey:inTable:](#) (page 11)
- [booleanForKey:inTable:](#) (page 9)
- [floatForKey:inTable:](#) (page 10)
- [intForKey:inTable:](#) (page 10)
- [rectForKey:inTable:](#) (page 12)
- [sizeForKey:inTable:](#) (page 13)

Declared In

NSPrinter.h

stringListForKey:inTable:

Returns an array of strings, one for each occurrence, associated with specified key.

```
- (NSArray *)stringListForKey:(NSString *)key inTable:(NSString *)table
```

Parameters

key

The key whose value you want.

table

The name of a table from the printer's PPD file.

Return Value

An array of `NSString` objects, each containing a value associated with the specified key. Returns `nil` if the key is not in the table.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [isKey:inTable:](#) (page 11)
- [stringForKey:inTable:](#) (page 14)

Declared In

NSPrinter.h

type

Returns a description of the printer's make and model.

- (NSString *)type

Return Value

A description of the printer's make and model.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- + [printerTypes](#) (page 8)

Declared In

NSPrinter.h

Constants

NSPrinterTableStatus

These constants describe the state of a printer information table stored by an NSPrinter object.

```
typedef enum _NSPrinterTableStatus {
    NSPrinterTableOK = 0,
    NSPrinterTableNotFound = 1,
    NSPrinterTableError = 2
} NSPrinterTableStatus;
```

Constants

NSPrinterTableOK

Printer table was found and is valid.

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared in NSPrinter.h.

NSPrinterTableNotFound

Printer table was not found.

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared in NSPrinter.h.

NSPrinterTableError

Printer table is not valid.

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared in `NSPrinter.h`.

Discussion

These constants are used by [statusForTable:](#) (page 13)..

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In

`NSPrinter.h`

Deprecated NSPrinter Methods

A method identified as deprecated has been superseded and may become unsupported in the future.

Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2

printerWithName:domain:includeUnavailable:

Deprecated. (Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2.)

```
+ (NSPrinter *)printerWithName:(NSString *)name domain:(NSString *)domain
  includeUnavailable:(BOOL)includeUnavailable
```

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2.

Declared In

NSPrinter.h

acceptsBinary

Deprecated. (Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2.)

```
- (BOOL)acceptsBinary
```

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2.

Declared In

NSPrinter.h

domain

Deprecated. (Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2.)

```
- (NSString *)domain
```

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2.

Deprecated NSPrinter Methods

Declared In
NSPrinter.h

host

Deprecated. (Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2.)

- (NSString *)host

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2.

Declared In
NSPrinter.h

imageRectForPaper:

Deprecated. (Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2.)

- (NSRect)imageRectForPaper:(NSString *)*paperName*

Discussion

If used, it attempts to determine and return the bounds of the imagable area for a particular paper named *paperName*, but the result is not completely reliable.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2.

See Also

- [pageSizeForPaper:](#) (page 12)

Declared In
NSPrinter.h

isColor

Deprecated. (Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2.)

- (BOOL)isColor

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2.

Declared In
NSPrinter.h

isFontAvailable:

Deprecated. (Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2.)

- (BOOL)isFontAvailable:(NSString *)*faceName*

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2.

Declared In

NSPrinter.h

isOutputStackInReverseOrder

Deprecated. (Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2.)

- (BOOL)isOutputStackInReverseOrder

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2.

Declared In

NSPrinter.h

note

Deprecated. (Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2.)

- (NSString *)note

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2.

Declared In

NSPrinter.h

Document Revision History

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

Date	Notes
2007-01-29	Updated for Mac OS X v10.5.
2006-05-23	First publication of this content as a separate document.

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