
NSStatusBar Class Reference

[Cocoa](#) > [User Experience](#)



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NSStatusBar Class Reference

Inherits from	NSObject
Conforms to	NSObject (NSObject)
Framework	/System/Library/Frameworks/AppKit.framework
Availability	Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.
Companion guide	Status Bars
Declared in	NSStatusBar.h

Overview

The `NSStatusBar` class defines an object that manages a collection of `NSStatusItem` objects displayed within the system-wide menu bar. A status item can be displayed with text or an icon, can provide a menu and a target-action message when clicked, or can be a fully customized view that you create.

Use status items sparingly and only if the alternatives (such as a Dock menu, preference pane, or status window) are not suitable. Because there is limited space in which to display status items, status items are not guaranteed to be available at all times. For this reason, do not rely on them being available and always provide a user preference for hiding your application's status items to free up space in the menu bar.

Tasks

Getting the System-Wide Instance

- + `systemStatusBar` (page 6)
Returns the system-wide status bar located in the menu bar.

Managing Status Items

- `statusItemWithLength:` (page 7)
Returns a newly created status item that has been allotted a specified space within the status bar.
- `removeStatusItem:` (page 6)
Removes the specified status item from the receiver.

Getting Status-Bar Attributes

- `isVertical` (page 6)
Returns YES if the receiver has a vertical orientation.
- `thickness` (page 7)
Returns the thickness of the status bar.

Class Methods

systemStatusBar

Returns the system-wide status bar located in the menu bar.

```
+ (NSStatusBar *)systemStatusBar
```

Discussion

The status bar begins at the right side of the menu bar (to the left of Menu Extras and the menu bar clock) and grows to the left as `NSStatusItem` objects are added to it.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In

`NSStatusBar.h`

Instance Methods

isVertical

Returns YES if the receiver has a vertical orientation.

```
- (BOOL)isVertical
```

Discussion

The status bar returned by `systemStatusBar` (page 6) is horizontal, so it always returns NO.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In

`NSStatusBar.h`

removeStatusItem:

Removes the specified status item from the receiver.

```
- (void)removeStatusItem:(NSStatusItem *)item
```

Parameters*item*The `NSStatusItem` object to remove.**Discussion**

Status items to the left of the specified one in the status bar shift to the right to reclaim its space.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also- [statusItemWithLength:](#) (page 7)**Declared In**

NSStatusBar.h

statusItemWithLength:

Returns a newly created status item that has been allotted a specified space within the status bar.

- (NSStatusItem *)statusItemWithLength:(CGFloat)length

Parameters*length*

A float specifying the number pixels of space allotted to the status item.

Return ValueAn `NSStatusItem` object or `nil` if the item could not be created.**Discussion**

The receiver does not retain a reference to the status item, so you need to retain it. Otherwise, the object is removed from the status bar when it is deallocated.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also- [removeStatusItem:](#) (page 6)**Declared In**

NSStatusBar.h

thickness

Returns the thickness of the status bar.

- (CGFloat)thickness

DiscussionThe status bar returned by [systemStatusBar](#) (page 6) has a thickness of 22 pixels, the thickness of the menu bar.**Availability**

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In
NSStatusBar.h

Constants

The following constants are defined as a convenience by NSStatusBar:

Constant	Description
NSSquareStatusItemLength	Sets the status item length to the status bar thickness.
NSVariableStatusItemLength	Makes the status item length dynamic, adjusting to the width of its contents.

Document Revision History

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

Date	Notes
2007-03-05	Revised task headings.
2006-05-23	First publication of this content as a separate document.

REVISION HISTORY

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