
NSStatusItem Class Reference

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



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NSStatusItem 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	NSStatusItem.h

Overview

The `NSStatusItem` class represents the individual elements displayed within an `NSStatusBar` object. Instances are created by the `NSStatusBar` method `statusItemWithLength:`, which automatically adds the new status item to the status bar. The appearance and behavior of the status item are then set using the various `NSStatusItem` methods, such as `setTitle:` (page 15) and `setAction:` (page 11).

Tasks

Getting the Item's Status Bar

- `statusBar` (page 16)
Returns the status bar in which the receiver is displayed.

Configuring the Status Item's Appearance

- `setTitle:` (page 15)
Sets the string that is displayed at the receiver's position in the status bar.
- `title` (page 17)
Returns the string that is displayed at the receiver's position in the status bar.
- `setAttributedTitle:` (page 12)
Sets the attributed string that is displayed at the receiver's position in the status bar.
- `attributedTitle` (page 8)
Returns the attributed string that is displayed at the receiver's position in the status bar.

- [setImage:](#) (page 13)
Sets the image that is displayed at the receiver's position in the status bar to *image*.
- [image](#) (page 9)
Returns the image that is displayed at the receiver's position in the status bar.
- [setAlternateImage:](#) (page 12)
Sets an alternate image to be displayed when a status bar item is highlighted.
- [alternateImage](#) (page 7)
Returns the alternate image that is displayed when a status bar item is highlighted.
- [setLength:](#) (page 14)
Sets the amount of space in the status bar that should be allocated to the receiver.
- [length](#) (page 10)
Returns the amount of space allocated to the receiver within its status bar.
- [setHighlightMode:](#) (page 13)
Sets whether the receiver is highlighted when it is clicked.
- [highlightMode](#) (page 9)
Returns whether the receiver is highlighted when clicked.
- [setToolTip:](#) (page 16)
Sets the tool tip string that is displayed when the cursor pauses over the receiver.
- [toolTip](#) (page 17)
Returns the tool tip string that is displayed when the cursor pauses over the receiver.

Managing the Status Item's Behavior

- [setEnabled:](#) (page 13)
Sets whether the receiver is enabled to respond to clicks.
- [isEnabled](#) (page 9)
Returns whether the receiver is enabled and responding to clicks.
- [setTarget:](#) (page 15)
Sets the target object to which the receiver's action message is sent when the receiver is clicked.
- [target](#) (page 17)
Returns the target to which the receiver's action message is sent when the user clicks the receiver.
- [setAction:](#) (page 11)
Sets the selector that is sent to the receiver's target when the receiver is clicked.
- [action](#) (page 7)
Returns the selector that is sent to the receiver's target when the user clicks the receiver.
- [setDoubleAction:](#) (page 12)
Sets the selector that is sent to the receiver's target when the receiver is double-clicked.
- [doubleAction](#) (page 8)
Returns the selector that is sent to the receiver's target when the user double-clicks the receiver.
- [sendActionOn:](#) (page 11)
Sets the conditions on which the receiver sends action messages to its target.
- [setMenu:](#) (page 14)
Sets the pull-down menu that is displayed when the receiver is clicked.

- [menu](#) (page 10)
Returns the drop-down menu that is displayed when the receiver is clicked.
- [popupStatusItemMenu:](#) (page 10)
Displays a menu under a custom status bar item.

Managing a Custom View

- [setView:](#) (page 16)
Sets the custom view that is displayed at the receiver's position in the status bar.
- [view](#) (page 17)
Returns the custom view that is displayed at the receiver's position in the status bar.

Drawing a Status Item

- [drawStatusBarBackgroundInRect:withHighlight:](#) (page 8)
Draws the menu background pattern for a custom status-bar item in regular or highlight pattern.

Instance Methods

action

Returns the selector that is sent to the receiver's target when the user clicks the receiver.

- (SEL)action

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [setAction:](#) (page 11)
- [target](#) (page 17)

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

alternateImage

Returns the alternate image that is displayed when a status bar item is highlighted.

- (NSImage *)alternateImage

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

See Also

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

- [image](#) (page 9)

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

attributedString

Returns the attributed string that is displayed at the receiver's position in the status bar

- (NSAttributedString *)attributedString

Discussion

.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

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

- [setTitle:](#) (page 15)

- [title](#) (page 17)

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

doubleAction

Returns the selector that is sent to the receiver's target when the user double-clicks the receiver.

- (SEL)doubleAction

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

See Also

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

- [target](#) (page 17)

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

drawStatusBarBackgroundInRect:withHighlight:

Draws the menu background pattern for a custom status-bar item in regular or highlight pattern.

- (void)drawStatusBarBackgroundInRect:(NSRect)rect withHighlight:(BOOL)highlight

Parameters

rect

A rectangle defining the area of a custom status-bar item.

highlight

YES to draw the background pattern in the standard highlight pattern, NO to not highlight the pattern..

Discussion

You can use this method to help a custom status-bar item emulate the behavior of a standard item.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

See Also

- [setView:](#) (page 16)

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

highlightMode

Returns whether the receiver is highlighted when clicked.

- (BOOL)highlightMode

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [setHighlightMode:](#) (page 13)

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

image

Returns the image that is displayed at the receiver's position in the status bar.

- (NSImage *)image

Discussion

Returns `nil` if an image has not been set.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [setImage:](#) (page 13)

- [alternateImage](#) (page 7)

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

isEnabled

Returns whether the receiver is enabled and responding to clicks.

- (BOOL)isEnabled

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [setEnabled:](#) (page 13)

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

length

Returns the amount of space allocated to the receiver within its status bar.

- (CGFloat)length

Discussion

If the status bar is horizontal, the return value is the width of the status item. Besides a physical length, the return value may be `NSSquareStatusItemLength` or `NSVariableStatusItemLength` (see `NSStatusBar` “Constants”), if the status item size is either determined by the status bar thickness or allowed to vary according to the status item’s true size, respectively.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [setLength:](#) (page 14)
- `statusItemWithLength:` (`NSStatusBar`)

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

menu

Returns the drop-down menu that is displayed when the receiver is clicked.

- (NSMenu *)menu

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [setMenu:](#) (page 14)

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

popUpStatusItemMenu:

Displays a menu under a custom status bar item.

- (void)popupStatusItemMenu:(NSMenu *)*menu*

Parameters

menu

The NSMenu object to display.

Discussion

You can use this method to cause a popup menu to appear under a custom status bar item when the user clicks the item. Note that the view of the receiver must exist (that is, it must not be `nil`).

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

See Also

- [setMenu:](#) (page 14)
- [setView:](#) (page 16)

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

sendActionOn:

Sets the conditions on which the receiver sends action messages to its target.

- (NSInteger)sendActionOn:(NSInteger)*mask*

Parameters

mask

Takes one or more of the following bit masks described in “Constants” section of the NSEvent class reference: NSLeftMouseUpMask, NSLeftMouseDownMask, NSLeftMouseDraggedMask, and NSPeriodicMask. Bitwise-OR multiple bit masks.

Return Value

A bit mask containing the previous settings. This bit mask uses the same values as specified in the *mask* parameter.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

setAction:

Sets the selector that is sent to the receiver’s target when the receiver is clicked.

- (void)setAction:(SEL)*action*

Discussion

If the receiver has a menu set, *action* is not sent to the target when the receiver is clicked; instead, the click causes the menu to appear.

See *Action Messages* for additional information on action messages.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [action](#) (page 7)
- [setMenu:](#) (page 14)

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

setAlternateImage:

Sets an alternate image to be displayed when a status bar item is highlighted.

```
- (void)setAlternateImage:(NSImage *)image
```

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

See Also

- [alternateImage](#) (page 7)
- [setImage:](#) (page 13)

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

setAttributedTitle:

Sets the attributed string that is displayed at the receiver's position in the status bar.

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

Discussion

If an image is also set, the title appears to the right of the image.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [attributedTitle](#) (page 8)
- [setImage:](#) (page 13)
- [setTitle:](#) (page 15)

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

setDoubleAction:

Sets the selector that is sent to the receiver's target when the receiver is double-clicked.

```
- (void)setDoubleAction:(SEL)action
```

Discussion

For the method to have any effect, the receiver's action and target must be set to the class in which the selector is declared. See *Action Messages* for additional information on action messages.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

See Also

- [doubleAction](#) (page 8)

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

setEnabled:

Sets whether the receiver is enabled to respond to clicks.

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

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [isEnabled](#) (page 9)

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

setHighlightMode:

Sets whether the receiver is highlighted when it is clicked.

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

Discussion

The default is `NO`, which means the receiver isn't highlighted when it is clicked.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [highlightMode](#) (page 9)

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

setImage:

Sets the image that is displayed at the receiver's position in the status bar to *image*.

```
- (void)setImage:(NSImage *)image
```

Discussion

If a title is also set, the image appears to the left of the title.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [image](#) (page 9)
- [setAlternateImage:](#) (page 12)
- [setAttributedTitle:](#) (page 12)
- [setTitle:](#) (page 15)

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

setLength:

Sets the amount of space in the status bar that should be allocated to the receiver.

```
- (void)setLength:(CGFloat)len
```

Parameters

len

If the status bar is horizontal, *len* is the horizontal space to allocate. In addition to a fixed length, *len* can be `NSSquareStatusItemLength` or `NSVariableStatusItemLength` (see “Constants” in the `NSStatusBar` class reference) to allow the status bar to allocate (and adjust) the space according to either the status bar’s thickness or the status item’s true size.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [length](#) (page 10)
- [statusItemWithLength:](#) (`NSStatusBar`)

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

setMenu:

Sets the pull-down menu that is displayed when the receiver is clicked.

```
- (void)setMenu:(NSMenu *)menu
```

Parameters

menu

The `NSMenu` object to display.

Discussion

When set, the receiver’s single click action behavior is not used. The menu can be removed by setting *menu* to `nil`.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [menu](#) (page 10)
- [setAction:](#) (page 11)
- [setTarget:](#) (page 15)
- [popUpStatusItemMenu:](#) (page 10)

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

setTarget:

Sets the target object to which the receiver's action message is sent when the receiver is clicked.

```
- (void)setTarget:(id)target
```

Discussion

If the receiver has a menu set, the action is not sent to *target* when the receiver is clicked; instead, the click causes the menu to appear.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [target](#) (page 17)
- [setMenu:](#) (page 14)

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

setTitle:

Sets the string that is displayed at the receiver's position in the status bar.

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

Discussion

If an image is also set, the title appears to the right of the image.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [title](#) (page 17)
- [setAttributedTitle:](#) (page 12)
- [setImage:](#) (page 13)

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

setToolTip:

Sets the tool tip string that is displayed when the cursor pauses over the receiver.

```
- (void)setToolTip:(NSString *)tooltip
```

Parameters

tooltip

A string that functions as the title of the status item.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [tooltip](#) (page 17)

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

setView:

Sets the custom view that is displayed at the receiver's position in the status bar.

```
- (void)setView:(NSView *)view
```

Parameters

view

The `NSView` object representing the custom view.

Discussion

Setting a custom view overrides all the other appearance and behavior settings defined by `NSStatusItem`. The custom view is responsible for drawing itself and providing its own behaviors, such as processing mouse clicks and sending action messages.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [view](#) (page 17)

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

statusBar

Returns the status bar in which the receiver is displayed.

```
- (NSStatusBar *)statusBar
```

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

target

Returns the target to which the receiver's action message is sent when the user clicks the receiver.

- (id)target

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [setTarget:](#) (page 15)
- [action](#) (page 7)

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

title

Returns the string that is displayed at the receiver's position in the status bar.

- (NSString *)title

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [setAttributedTitle:](#) (page 12)
- [setTitle:](#) (page 15)

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

toolTip

Returns the tool tip string that is displayed when the cursor pauses over the receiver.

- (NSString *)toolTip

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [setToolTip:](#) (page 16)

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

view

Returns the custom view that is displayed at the receiver's position in the status bar.

- (NSView *)view

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [setView:](#) (page 16)

Declared In

NSStatusItem.h

Document Revision History

This table describes the changes to *NSStatusItem 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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