NSComboBoxCellDataSource Protocol Reference

Cocoa > User Experience

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NSComboBoxCellDataSource Protocol Reference

(informal protocol)

Framework	/System/Library/Frameworks/AppKit.framework
Companion guide	Combo Box Programming Topics
Declared in	NSComboBoxCell.h

Overview

The `NSComboBoxCellDataSource` category declares the methods that an `NSComboBoxCell` uses to access the contents of its data source object.

For more information, see "Providing Data for a Combo Box".

Tasks

Returning Information About Combo Box Items

`– comboBoxCell:objectValueForItemAtIndex:` (page 7)
Returns the object that corresponds to the item at the given index in the combo box cell.

`– numberOfItemsInComboBoxCell:` (page 7)
Returns the number of items managed for the combo box cell by your data source object.

Working with Entered Strings

`– comboBoxCell:completedString:` (page 6)
Returns the item from the combo box's pop-up list that matches the text entered by the user.

`– comboBoxCell:indexOfItemWithStringValue:` (page 6)
Invoked by an `NSComboBoxCell` object to synchronize the pop-up list's selected item with the text field's contents.

Instance Methods

comboBoxCell:completedString:

Returns the item from the combo box's pop-up list that matches the text entered by the user.

```
- (NSString *)comboBoxCell:(NSComboBoxCell *)aComboBoxCell completedString:(NSString
     *)uncompletedString
```

Parameters

aComboBoxCell

The combo box cell.

uncompletedString

The substring containing the text the user typed into the text field of the combo box cell.

Return Value

The completed string, from the items in the pop-up list, that matches the text entered by the user. Your implementation should return the first complete string that starts with *uncompletedString*.

Discussion

An NSComboBoxCell object uses this method to perform incremental—or "smart"—searches when the user types into the text field.

As the user types in the text field, the receiver uses this method to search for items from the pop-up list that start with what the user has typed. The receiver adds the new text to the end of the field and selects the new text, so when the user types another character, it replaces the new text.

This method is optional. If you don't implement it, the receiver does not perform incremental searches.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In

NSComboBoxCell.h

comboBoxCell:indexOfItemWithStringValue:

Invoked by an NSComboBoxCell object to synchronize the pop-up list's selected item with the text field's contents.

```
- (NSUInteger)comboBoxCell:(NSComboBoxCell *)aComboBoxCell
    indexOfItemWithStringValue:(NSString *)aString
```

Parameters

aComboBoxCell

The combo box cell.

aString

The string to match. If comboBoxCell:completedString: (page 6) is implemented, *aString* is the string returned by that method. Otherwise, *aString* is the text that the user has typed.

Return Value

The index for the pop-up list item matching *aString*, or NSNotFound if no item matches.

Discussion
This method is optional. If you don't implement it, the receiver does not synchronize the pop-up list's selected item with the text field's contents.

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

Declared In
`NSComboBoxCell.h`

comboBoxCell:objectValueForItemAtIndex:

Returns the object that corresponds to the item at the given index in the combo box cell.

```
- (id)comboBoxCell:(NSComboBoxCell *)aComboBoxCell
    objectValueForItemAtIndex:(NSInteger)index
```

Parameters

aComboBoxCell
The combo box cell for which to return the item.

index
The index of the item to return.

Return Value
The object corresponding to the item at the specified index in the given combo box cell.

Discussion
Your data source must implement this method.

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

Declared In
`NSComboBoxCell.h`

numberOfItemsInComboBoxCell:

Returns the number of items managed for the combo box cell by your data source object.

```
- (NSInteger)numberOfItemsInComboBoxCell:(NSComboBoxCell *)aComboBoxCell
```

Parameters

aComboBoxCell
The combo box cell for which your data source manages items.

Return Value
The number of items your data source object manages.

Discussion
An `NSComboBoxCell` object uses this method to determine how many items it should display in its pop-up list. Your data source must implement this method.

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

Declared In

`NSComboBoxCell.h`

Document Revision History

This table describes the changes to *NSComboBoxCellDataSource Protocol Reference*.

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

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