
NSToolbarItemValidation Protocol Reference

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



2006-05-23



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NSToolBarItemValidation Protocol Reference

(informal protocol)

Framework	/System/Library/Frameworks/AppKit.framework
Companion guide	Toolbar Programming Topics for Cocoa
Declared in	NSToolBarItem.h

Overview

A toolbar item with a valid target and action is enabled by default. To allow a toolbar item to be disabled in certain situations, a toolbar item's target can implement the `validateToolbarItem:` (page 5) method.

Note: NSToolBarItem's `validate` method calls this method only if the item's target has a valid action defined on its target and if the item is not a custom view item. If you want to validate a custom view item, then you have to subclass NSToolBarItem and override `validate`.

Tasks

Validating Toolbar Items

- `validateToolbarItem:` (page 5)

If this method is implemented and returns NO, NSToolbar will disable *theItem*; returning YES causes *theItem* to be enabled.

Instance Methods

validateToolbarItem:

If this method is implemented and returns NO, NSToolbar will disable *theItem*; returning YES causes *theItem* to be enabled.

- (BOOL)validateToolbarItem:(NSToolBarItem *)*theItem*

Discussion

NSToolbar only calls this method for image items.

Note: `validateToolBarItem:` is called very frequently, so it must be efficient.

If the receiver is the `target` for the actions of multiple toolbar items, it's necessary to determine which toolbar item *theItem* refers to by testing the `itemIdentifier`.

```
-(BOOL)validateToolBarItem:(NSToolBarItem *)toolbarItem
{
    BOOL enable = NO;
    if ([[toolbarItem itemIdentifier] isEqual:SaveDocToolBarItemIdentifier]) {
        // We will return YES (enable the save item)
        // only when the document is dirty and needs saving
        enable = [self isDocumentEdited];
    } else if ([[toolbarItem itemIdentifier]
isEqual:NSToolbarPrintItemIdentifier]) {
        // always enable print for this window
        enable = YES;
    }
    return enable;
}
```

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- `validateVisibleItems` (NSToolbar)
- `validate` (NSToolBarItem)
- `target` (NSToolBarItem)
- `action` (NSToolBarItem)

Declared In

NSToolBarItem.h

Document Revision History

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

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

REVISION HISTORY

Document Revision History

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V

validateToolbarItem: <NSObject> instance method

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