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# NSDirectoryEnumerator Class Reference

[Cocoa](#) > [File Management](#)



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# NSDirectoryEnumerator Class Reference

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<b>Inherits from</b>	NSEnumerator : NSObject
<b>Conforms to</b>	NSFastEnumeration (NSEnumerator) NSObject (NSObject)
<b>Framework</b>	/System/Library/Frameworks/Foundation.framework
<b>Availability</b>	Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.
<b>Companion guide</b>	Low-Level File Management Programming Topics
<b>Declared in</b>	NSFileManager.h
<b>Related sample code</b>	BundleLoader DeskPictAppDockMenu NSOperationSample

## Overview

An `NSDirectoryEnumerator` object enumerates the contents of a directory, returning the pathnames of all files and directories contained within that directory. These pathnames are relative to the directory.

You obtain a directory enumerator using `NSFileManager`'s `enumeratorAtPath:` method. For more details, see *Low-Level File Management Programming Topics*.

An enumeration is recursive, including the files of all subdirectories, and crosses device boundaries. An enumeration does not resolve symbolic links, or attempt to traverse symbolic links that point to directories.

## Tasks

### Getting File and Directory Attributes

- [directoryAttributes](#) (page 6)  
Returns an `NSDictionary` object that contains the attributes of the directory at which enumeration started.
- [fileAttributes](#) (page 6)  
Returns an `NSDictionary` object that contains the attributes of the most recently returned file or subdirectory (as referenced by the pathname).

## Skipping Subdirectories

- [skipDescendants](#) (page 7)

Causes the receiver to skip recursion into the most recently obtained subdirectory.

## Instance Methods

### directoryAttributes

Returns an `NSDictionary` object that contains the attributes of the directory at which enumeration started.

- (NSDictionary \*)directoryAttributes

#### Return Value

An `NSDictionary` object that contains the attributes of the directory at which enumeration started.

#### Discussion

See the description of the `fileAttributesAtPath:traverseLink:` method of `NSFileManager` for details on obtaining the attributes from the dictionary.

#### Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

#### See Also

`createDirectoryAtPath:attributes:` (`NSFileManager`)

#### Declared In

`NSFileManager.h`

### fileAttributes

Returns an `NSDictionary` object that contains the attributes of the most recently returned file or subdirectory (as referenced by the pathname).

- (NSDictionary \*)fileAttributes

#### Return Value

An `NSDictionary` object that contains the attributes of the most recently returned file or subdirectory (as referenced by the pathname).

#### Discussion

See the description of the `fileAttributesAtPath:traverseLink:` method of `NSFileManager` for details on obtaining the attributes from the dictionary.

#### Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

#### Related Sample Code

`NSOperationSample`

**Declared In**

NSFileManager.h

**skipDescendents**

Causes the receiver to skip recursion into the most recently obtained subdirectory.

- (void)skipDescendents

**Availability**

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

**Declared In**

NSFileManager.h





# Document Revision History

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

Date	Notes
2008-10-15	Added note in Introduction to show how to retrieve a directory enumerator instance.
2007-02-23	Revised task headings.
2006-05-23	First publication of this content as a separate document.

## REVISION HISTORY

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