
NSSerializer Class Reference

[Cocoa > Data Management](#)



2006-05-23



Apple Inc.
© 2006 Apple Computer, Inc.
All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, mechanical, electronic, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior written permission of Apple Inc., with the following exceptions: Any person is hereby authorized to store documentation on a single computer for personal use only and to print copies of documentation for personal use provided that the documentation contains Apple's copyright notice.

The Apple logo is a trademark of Apple Inc.

Use of the "keyboard" Apple logo (Option-Shift-K) for commercial purposes without the prior written consent of Apple may constitute trademark infringement and unfair competition in violation of federal and state laws.

No licenses, express or implied, are granted with respect to any of the technology described in this document. Apple retains all intellectual property rights associated with the technology described in this document. This document is intended to assist application developers to develop applications only for Apple-labeled computers.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this document is accurate. Apple is not responsible for typographical errors.

Apple Inc.
1 Infinite Loop
Cupertino, CA 95014
408-996-1010

Apple, the Apple logo, Cocoa, Mac, and Mac OS are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the United States and other countries.

Simultaneously published in the United States and Canada.

Even though Apple has reviewed this document, APPLE MAKES NO WARRANTY OR REPRESENTATION, EITHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, WITH RESPECT TO THIS DOCUMENT, ITS QUALITY, ACCURACY, MERCHANTABILITY, OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. AS A RESULT, THIS DOCUMENT IS PROVIDED "AS IS," AND YOU, THE READER, ARE ASSUMING THE ENTIRE RISK AS TO ITS QUALITY AND ACCURACY.

IN NO EVENT WILL APPLE BE LIABLE FOR DIRECT, INDIRECT, SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES RESULTING FROM ANY

DEFECT OR INACCURACY IN THIS DOCUMENT, even if advised of the possibility of such damages.

THE WARRANTY AND REMEDIES SET FORTH ABOVE ARE EXCLUSIVE AND IN LIEU OF ALL OTHERS, ORAL OR WRITTEN, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED. No Apple dealer, agent, or employee is authorized to make any modification, extension, or addition to this warranty.

Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of implied warranties or liability for incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

Contents

NSSerializer Class Reference 5

Overview 5

Tasks 5

 Serializing a Property List 5

Appendix A Deprecated NSCoder Methods 7

Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2 7

 serializePropertyList: 7

 serializePropertyList:intoData: 7

Document Revision History 9

Index 11

NSSerializer Class Reference

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Inherits from | NSObject |
| Conforms to | NSObject (NSObject) |
| Framework | /System/Library/Frameworks/Foundation.framework |
| Availability | Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2. |
| Companion guide | Archives and Serializations Programming Guide for Cocoa |
| Declared in | NSSerialization.h |

Overview

`NSSerializer` is obsolete and has been deprecated. Instead use `NSPropertyListSerialization`.

The `NSSerializer` class provides a mechanism for creating an abstract representation of a property list. (In Cocoa, property lists are defined to be—and to contain—objects of these classes: `NSDictionary`, `NSArray`, `NSString`, `NSData`.) The `NSSerializer` class stores this representation in an `NSData` object using an architecture-independent format, so that property lists can be used with distributed applications. `NSSerializer`'s companion class `NSDeserializer` declares methods that take the representation and recreate the property list in memory.

The `NSSerializer` class object provides the interface to the serialization process; you don't create instances of `NSSerializer`. You might subclass `NSSerializer` to modify the representation it creates, for example, to encrypt the data or add authentication information.

Other types of data besides property lists can be serialized using `serializeDataAt:ofObjCType:context:` and `deserializeDataAt:ofObjCType:atCursor:context:`, declared by `NSData` and `NSMutableData`, allowing these types to be represented in an architecture-independent format. Furthermore, the `NSObjectTypeSerializationCallback` protocol allows you to serialize and deserialize objects that are not property lists.

Tasks

Serializing a Property List

+ `serializePropertyList:` (page 7) **Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2**

Creates a data object, serializes *aPropertyList* into it, and returns the data object.

+ [serializePropertyList:intoData:](#) (page 7) **Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2**
Serializes the property list *aPropertyList* into the mutable data object *mdata*.

Deprecated NSSerializer Methods

A method identified as deprecated has been superseded and may become unsupported in the future.

Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2

serializePropertyList:

Creates a data object, serializes *aPropertyList* into it, and returns the data object. (Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2.)

```
+ (NSData *)serializePropertyList:(id)aPropertyList
```

Discussion

aPropertyList must be a kind of NSData, NSString, NSArray, or NSDictionary object.

Availability

Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2.

Declared In

NSSerialization.h

serializePropertyList:intoData:

Serializes the property list *aPropertyList* into the mutable data object *mdata*. (Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2.)

```
+ (void)serializePropertyList:(id)aPropertyList intoData:(NSMutableData *)mdata
```

Discussion

aPropertyList must be a kind of NSData, NSString, NSArray, or NSDictionary object. The property list is appended to *mdata*.

Availability

Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.2.

Declared In

NSSerialization.h

Document Revision History

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

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

REVISION HISTORY

Document Revision History

Index

S

serializePropertyList: **class method** [7](#)

serializePropertyList:intoData: **class method** [7](#)