NSUndoManager Class Reference

Cocoa > Data Management



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NSUndoManager Class Reference

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Framework Availability	/System/Library/Frameworks/Foundation.framework Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.
Companion guide	Undo Architecture
Declared in	NSUndo Manager.h
Related sample code	CoreRecipes iSpend Quartz Composer WWDC 2005 TextEdit Sketch-112 TextEditPlus

Overview

NSUndoManager is a general-purpose recorder of operations for undo and redo.

You register an undo operation by specifying the object that's changing (or the owner of that object), along with a method to invoke to revert its state, and the arguments for that method. When performing undo an NSUndoManager saves the operations reverted so that you can redo the undos. If used in a Cocoa Application Kit-based application, NSUndoManager groups all operations within a single cycle of the run loop, so that performing an undo reverts all changes that occurred during the cycle.

NSUndoManager is implemented as a class of the Foundation framework because executables other than applications might want to revert changes to their states. For example, you might have an interactive command-line tool with undo and redo commands, or there could be distributed object implementations that can revert operations "over the wire." However, users typically see undo and redo as application features. The Application Kit implements undo and redo in its NSTextView object and makes it easy to implement it in objects along the responder chain.

Tasks

Registering Undo Operations

- registerUndoWithTarget:selector:object: (page 16)

Records a single undo operation for a given target, so that when an undo is performed it is sent a specified selector with a given object as the sole argument.

- prepareWithInvocationTarget: (page 14)

Prepares the receiver for invocation-based undo with the given target as the subject of the next undo operation and returns self.

forwardInvocation: (page 11)
 Overrides NSObject's implementation to record the given invocation as an undo operation.

Checking Undo Ability

canUndo (page 9)

Returns a Boolean value that indicates whether the receiver has any actions to undo.

- canRedo (page 9)

Returns a Boolean value that indicates whether the receiver has any actions to redo.

Performing Undo and Redo

- undo (page 20)

Closes the top-level undo group if necessary and invokes undoNestedGroup (page 22).

- undoNestedGroup (page 22)

Performs the undo operations in the last undo group (whether top-level or nested), recording the operations on the redo stack as a single group.

redo (page 15)

Performs the operations in the last group on the redo stack, if there are any, recording them on the undo stack as a single group.

Limiting the Undo Stack

- setLevelsOfUndo: (page 19)
 Sets the maximum number of top-level undo groups the receiver holds.
- levelsOfUndo (page 14)
 Returns the maximum number of top-level undo groups the receiver holds.

Creating Undo Groups

beginUndoGrouping (page 8)
 Marks the beginning of an undo group.

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- endUndoGrouping (page 10)

Marks the end of an undo group.

- enableUndoRegistration (page 10)

Enables the recording of undo operations.

- groupsByEvent (page 12)

Returns a Boolean value that indicates whether the receiver automatically creates undo groups around each pass of the run loop.

- setGroupsByEvent: (page 19)

Sets a Boolean value that specifies whether the receiver automatically groups undo operations during the run loop.

- groupingLevel (page 12)

Returns the number of nested undo groups (or redo groups, if Redo was invoked last) in the current event loop.

Disabling Undo

disableUndoRegistration (page 10)

Disables the recording of undo operations, whether by registerUndoWithTarget:selector:object: (page 16) or by invocation-based undo.

isUndoRegistrationEnabled (page 13)

Returns a Boolean value that indicates whether the recording of undo operations is enabled.

Checking Whether Undo or Redo Is Being Performed

- isUndoing (page 13)

Returns a Boolean value that indicates whether the receiver is in the process of performing its undo (page 20) or undoNestedGroup (page 22) method.

- isRedoing (page 12)

Returns a Boolean value that indicates whether the receiver is in the process of performing its redo (page 15) method.

Clearing Undo Operations

- removeAllActions (page 17)

Clears the undo and redo stacks and re-enables the receiver.

- removeAllActionsWithTarget: (page 17)

Clears the undo and redo stacks of all operations involving the specified target as the recipient of the undo message.

Managing the Action Name

```
- setActionName: (page 18)
```

Sets the name of the action associated with the Undo or Redo command.

- redoActionName (page 15)

Returns the name identifying the redo action.

- undoActionName (page 21)
 - Returns the name identifying the undo action.

Getting and Localizing the Menu Item Title

- redoMenuItemTitle (page 15)
 - Returns the complete title of the Redo menu command, for example, "Redo Paste."
- undoMenuItemTitle (page 21)
 - Returns the complete title of the Undo menu command, for example, "Undo Paste."
- redoMenuTitleForUndoActionName: (page 16)
 - Returns the complete, localized title of the Redo menu command for the action identified by the given name.
- undoMenuTitleForUndoActionName: (page 22)
 - Returns the complete, localized title of the Undo menu command for the action identified by the given name.

Working with Run Loops

- runLoopModes (page 18)
 - Returns the modes governing the types of input handled during a cycle of the run loop.
- setRunLoopModes: (page 20)
 - Sets the modes that determine the types of input handled during a cycle of the run loop.

Instance Methods

beginUndoGrouping

Marks the beginning of an undo group.

- (void)beginUndoGrouping

Discussion

All individual undo operations before a subsequent endUndoGrouping (page 10) message are grouped together and reversed by a later undo (page 20) message. By default undo groups are begun automatically at the start of the event loop, but you can begin your own undo groups with this method, and nest them within other groups.

This method posts an NSUndoManagerCheckpointNotification (page 23) unless a top-level undo is in progress. It posts an NSUndoManagerDidOpenUndoGroupNotification (page 23) if a new group was successfully created.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In NSUndoManager.h

canRedo

Returns a Boolean value that indicates whether the receiver has any actions to redo.

- (BOOL)canRedo

Return Value

YES if the receiver has any actions to redo, otherwise NO.

Discussion

Because any undo operation registered clears the redo stack, this method posts an NSUndoManagerCheckpointNotification (page 23) to allow clients to apply their pending operations before testing the redo stack.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- canUndo (page 9)
- redo (page 15)

Declared In NSUndoManager.h

canUndo

Returns a Boolean value that indicates whether the receiver has any actions to undo.

- (BOOL)canUndo

Return Value

YES if the receiver has any actions to undo, otherwise NO.

Discussion

The return value does not mean you can safely invoke undo (page 20) or undoNestedGroup (page 22)—you may have to close open undo groups first.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- canRedo (page 9)
- enableUndoRegistration (page 10)
- registerUndoWithTarget:selector:object: (page 16)

Declared In

NSUndoManager.h

disableUndoRegistration

Disables the recording of undo operations, whether by registerUndoWithTarget:selector:object: (page 16) or by invocation-based undo.

- (void)disableUndoRegistration

Discussion

This method can be invoked multiple times by multiple clients. The enableUndoRegistration (page 10) method must be invoked an equal number of times to re-enable undo registration.

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

Related Sample Code Departments and Employees File Wrappers with Core Data Documents

Declared In

NSUndoManager.h

enableUndoRegistration

Enables the recording of undo operations.

- (void)enableUndoRegistration

Discussion

Because undo registration is enabled by default, it is often used to balance a prior disableUndoRegistration (page 10) message. Undo registration isn't actually re-enabled until an enable message balances the last disable message in effect. Raises an NSInternalInconsistencyException if invoked while no disableUndoRegistration (page 10) message is in effect.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Related Sample Code

Departments and Employees File Wrappers with Core Data Documents

Declared In NSUndoManager.h

endUndoGrouping

Marks the end of an undo group.

- (void)endUndoGrouping

Discussion

All individual undo operations back to the matching beginUndoGrouping (page 8) message are grouped together and reversed by a later undo (page 20) or undoNestedGroup (page 22) message. Undo groups can be nested, thus providing functionality similar to nested transactions. Raises an NSInternalInconsistencyException if there's no beginUndoGrouping (page 8) message in effect.

This method posts an NSUndoManagerCheckpointNotification (page 23) and an NSUndoManagerWillCloseUndoGroupNotification (page 24) just before the group is closed.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- levels0fUndo (page 14)

Declared In

NSUndoManager.h

forwardInvocation:

Overrides NSObject's implementation to record the given invocation as an undo operation.

- (void) forwardInvocation: (NSInvocation *) an Invocation

Parameters

anInvocation

The invocation to record.

Discussion

Also clears the redo stack. *anInvocation* and its arguments that are objects are retained. You can override this method if you want different or supplementary invocation-based behavior. See "Registering Undo Operations" for more information.

Raises an NSInternalInconsistencyException if prepareWithInvocationTarget: (page 14) was not invoked before this method. This method then clears the prepared invocation target. Also raises an NSInternalInconsistencyException if invoked when no undo group has been established using beginUndoGrouping (page 8). Undo groups are normally set by default, so you should rarely need to begin a top-level undo group explicitly.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 through Mac OS X v10.4.

See Also

- undoNestedGroup (page 22)
- registerUndoWithTarget:selector:object: (page 16)
- groupingLevel (page 12)

Declared In NSUndoManager.h

groupingLevel

Returns the number of nested undo groups (or redo groups, if Redo was invoked last) in the current event loop.

- (NSInteger)groupingLevel

Return Value

An integer indicating the number of nested groups. If 0 is returned, there is no open undo or redo group.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- levels0fUndo (page 14)

- setLevelsOfUndo: (page 19)

Declared In

NSUndoManager.h

groupsByEvent

Returns a Boolean value that indicates whether the receiver automatically creates undo groups around each pass of the run loop.

- (BOOL)groupsByEvent

Return Value

YES if the receiver automatically creates undo groups around each pass of the run loop, otherwise NO.

Discussion

The default is YES.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- beginUndoGrouping (page 8)

- setGroupsByEvent: (page 19)

Declared In

NSUndoManager.h

isRedoing

Returns a Boolean value that indicates whether the receiver is in the process of performing its redo (page 15) method.

- (BOOL)isRedoing

Return Value

YES if the method is being performed, otherwise NO.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also - isUndoing (page 13)

Declared In NSUndoManager.h

isUndoing

Returns a Boolean value that indicates whether the receiver is in the process of performing its undo (page 20) or undoNestedGroup (page 22) method.

- (BOOL)isUndoing

Return Value YES if the method is being performed, otherwise NO.

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

See Also - isRedoing (page 12)

Declared In NSUndoManager.h

is Undo Registration Enabled

Returns a Boolean value that indicates whether the recording of undo operations is enabled.

- (BOOL)isUndoRegistrationEnabled

Return Value

YES if registration is enabled; otherwise, NO.

Discussion

Undo registration is enabled by default.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- disableUndoRegistration (page 10)
- enableUndoRegistration (page 10)

Declared In

NSUndoManager.h

levelsOfUndo

Returns the maximum number of top-level undo groups the receiver holds.

- (NSUInteger)levelsOfUndo

Return Value

An integer specifying the number of undo groups. A limit of 0 indicates no limit, so old undo groups are never dropped.

Discussion

When ending an undo group results in the number of groups exceeding this limit, the oldest groups are dropped from the stack. The default is 0.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- enableUndoRegistration (page 10)

- setLevelsOfUndo: (page 19)

Declared In

NSUndoManager.h

prepareWithInvocationTarget:

Prepares the receiver for invocation-based undo with the given target as the subject of the next undo operation and returns self.

- (id)prepareWithInvocationTarget:(id)target

Parameters

target

The target of the undo operation.

Return Value

self.

Discussion See "Registering Undo Operations" for more information.

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

See Also
- forwardInvocation: (page 11)

Related Sample Code Squiggles

Declared In NSUndoManager.h

redo

Performs the operations in the last group on the redo stack, if there are any, recording them on the undo stack as a single group.

- (void)redo

Discussion

Raises an NSInternalInconsistencyException if the method is invoked during an undo operation.

This method posts an NSUndoManagerCheckpointNotification (page 23) and NSUndoManagerWillRedoChangeNotification (page 24) before it performs the redo operation, and it posts the NSUndoManagerDidRedoChangeNotification (page 24) after it performs the redo operation.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- registerUndoWithTarget:selector:object: (page 16)

Declared In

NSUndoManager.h

redoActionName

Returns the name identifying the redo action.

- (NSString *)redoActionName

Return Value

The redo action name. Returns an empty string (@"") if no action name has been assigned or if there is nothing to redo.

Discussion

For example, if the menu title is "Redo Delete," the string returned is "Delete."

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- setActionName: (page 18)
- undoActionName (page 21)

Declared In

NSUndoManager.h

redoMenultemTitle

Returns the complete title of the Redo menu command, for example, "Redo Paste."

- (NSString *)redoMenuItemTitle

Return Value The menu item title. **Discussion** Returns "Redo" if no action name has been assigned or nil if there is nothing to redo.

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

See Also
- undoMenuItemTitle (page 21)

Declared In NSUndoManager.h

redoMenuTitleForUndoActionName:

Returns the complete, localized title of the Redo menu command for the action identified by the given name.

- (NSString *)redoMenuTitleForUndoActionName:(NSString *)actionName

Parameters

actionName

The name of the undo action.

Return Value

The localized title of the redo menu item.

Discussion

Override this method if you want to customize the localization behavior. This method is invoked by redoMenuItemTitle (page 15).

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- undoMenuTitleForUndoActionName: (page 22)

Declared In

NSUndoManager.h

registerUndoWithTarget:selector:object:

Records a single undo operation for a given target, so that when an undo is performed it is sent a specified selector with a given object as the sole argument.

- (void)registerUndoWithTarget:(id)target selector:(SEL)aSelector object:(id)anObject

Parameters

target

The target of the undo operation.

aSelector

The selector for the undo operation.

anObject

The argument sent with the selector.

Discussion

Also clears the redo stack. Does not retain *target*, but does retain *anObject*. See "Registering Undo Operations" for more information.

Raises an NSInternalInconsistencyException if invoked when no undo group has been established using beginUndoGrouping (page 8). Undo groups are normally set by default, so you should rarely need to begin a top-level undo group explicitly.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- undoNestedGroup (page 22)
- forwardInvocation: (page 11)
- groupingLevel (page 12)

Related Sample Code

File Wrappers with Core Data Documents

Declared In NSUndoManager.h

removeAllActions

Clears the undo and redo stacks and re-enables the receiver.

```
- (void)removeAllActions
```

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- enableUndoRegistration (page 10)
- removeAllActionsWithTarget: (page 17)

Related Sample Code

Departments and Employees

Declared In NSUndoManager.h

removeAllActionsWithTarget:

Clears the undo and redo stacks of all operations involving the specified target as the recipient of the undo message.

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

Parameters

target

The recipient of the undo messages to be removed.

Discussion

Doesn't re-enable the receiver if it's disabled. An object that shares an NSUndoManager with other clients should invoke this message in its implementation of dealloc.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- enableUndoRegistration (page 10)
- removeAllActions (page 17)

Declared In

NSUndoManager.h

runLoopModes

Returns the modes governing the types of input handled during a cycle of the run loop.

- (NSArray *)runLoopModes

Return Value

An array of string constants specifying the current run-loop modes.

Discussion

By default, the sole run-loop mode is NSDefaultRunLoopMode (which excludes data from NSConnection objects).

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- setRunLoopModes: (page 20)

- performSelector:target:argument:order:modes: (NSRunLoop)

Declared In

NSUndoManager.h

setActionName:

Sets the name of the action associated with the Undo or Redo command.

- (void)setActionName:(NSString *)actionName

Parameters

actionName

The name of the action.

Discussion

If *actionName* is an empty string, the action name currently associated with the menu command is removed. There is no effect if *actionName* is nil.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- redoActionName (page 15)
- undoActionName (page 21)

Related Sample Code Sketch-112

Declared In NSUndoManager.h

setGroupsByEvent:

Sets a Boolean value that specifies whether the receiver automatically groups undo operations during the run loop.

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

Parameters

flag

If YES, the receiver creates undo groups around each pass through the run loop; if N0 it doesn't.

Discussion

The default is YES. If you turn automatic grouping off, you must close groups explicitly before invoking either undo (page 20) or undoNestedGroup (page 22).

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- groupingLevel (page 12)
- groupsByEvent (page 12)

Declared In

NSUndoManager.h

setLevelsOfUndo:

Sets the maximum number of top-level undo groups the receiver holds.

- (void)setLevelsOfUndo:(NSUInteger)anInt

Parameters

anInt

The maximum number of undo groups. A limit of 0 indicates no limit, so that old undo groups are never dropped.

Discussion

When ending an undo group results in the number of groups exceeding this limit, the oldest groups are dropped from the stack. The default is 0.

If invoked with a limit below the prior limit, old undo groups are immediately dropped.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- enableUndoRegistration (page 10)
- levelsOfUndo (page 14)

Declared In

NSUndoManager.h

setRunLoopModes:

Sets the modes that determine the types of input handled during a cycle of the run loop.

```
- (void)setRunLoopModes:(NSArray *)modes
```

Parameters

modes

An array of string constants specifying the run-loop modes to set.

Discussion

By default, the sole run-loop mode is NSDefaultRunLoopMode (which excludes data from NSConnection objects). With this method, you could limit the input to data received during a mouse-tracking session by setting the mode to NSEventTrackingRunLoopMode, or you could limit it to data received from a modal panel with NSModalPanelRunLoopMode.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- runLoopModes (page 18)
- performSelector:target:argument:order:modes: (NSRunLoop)

Declared In

NSUndoManager.h

undo

Closes the top-level undo group if necessary and invokes undoNestedGroup (page 22).

- (void)undo

Discussion

This method also invokes endUndoGrouping (page 10) if the nesting level is 1. Raises an NSInternalInconsistencyException if more than one undo group is open (that is, if the last group isn't at the top level).

This method posts an NSUndoManagerCheckpointNotification (page 23).

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- enableUndoRegistration (page 10)
- groupingLevel (page 12)

Declared In

NSUndoManager.h

undoActionName

Returns the name identifying the undo action.

- (NSString *)undoActionName

Return Value

The undo action name. Returns an empty string (@"") if no action name has been assigned or if there is nothing to undo.

Discussion

For example, if the menu title is "Undo Delete," the string returned is "Delete."

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

See Also

redoActionName (page 15)setActionName: (page 18)

Declared In

NSUndoManager.h

undoMenuItemTitle

Returns the complete title of the Undo menu command, for example, "Undo Paste."

- (NSString *)undoMenuItemTitle

Return Value The menu item title.

Discussion Returns "Undo" if no action name has been assigned or nil if there is nothing to undo.

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

See Also
- redoMenuItemTitle (page 15)

Declared In

NSUndoManager.h

undoMenuTitleForUndoActionName:

Returns the complete, localized title of the Undo menu command for the action identified by the given name.

- (NSString *)undoMenuTitleForUndoActionName:(NSString *)actionName

Parameters

actionName

The name of the undo action.

Return Value The localized title of the undo menu item.

Discussion

Override this method if you want to customize the localization behavior. This method is invoked by undoMenuItemTitle (page 21).

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- redoMenuTitleForUndoActionName: (page 16)

Declared In

NSUndoManager.h

undoNestedGroup

Performs the undo operations in the last undo group (whether top-level or nested), recording the operations on the redo stack as a single group.

- (void)undoNestedGroup

Discussion

Raises an NSInternalInconsistencyException if any undo operations have been registered since the last enableUndoRegistration (page 10) message.

This method posts an NSUndoManagerCheckpointNotification (page 23) and NSUndoManagerWillUndoChangeNotification (page 24) before it performs the undo operation, and it posts an NSUndoManagerDidUndoChangeNotification (page 24) after it performs the undo operation.

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

See Also - undo (page 20)

Declared In NSUndoManager.h

Constants

NSUndoCloseGroupingRunLoopOrdering

NSUndoManager provides this constant as a convenience; you can use it to compare to values returned by some NSUndoManager methods.

```
enum {
    NSUndoCloseGroupingRunLoopOrdering = 350000
};
```

Constants

```
NSUndoCloseGroupingRunLoopOrdering
```

Used with NSRunLoop's performSelector:target:argument:order:modes:

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared in NSUndoManager.h.

Declared In

NSUndoManager.h

Notifications

NSUndoManagerCheckpointNotification

Posted whenever an NSUndoManager object opens or closes an undo group (except when it opens a top-level group) and when checking the redo stack in canRedo (page 9). The notification object is the NSUndoManager object. This notification does not contain a *userInfo* dictionary.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In

NSUndoManager.h

NSUndoManagerDidOpenUndoGroupNotification

Posted whenever an NSUndoManager object opens an undo group, which occurs in the implementation of the beginUndoGrouping (page 8) method. The notification object is the NSUndoManager object. This notification does not contain a *userInfo* dictionary.

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

Declared In NSUndoManager.h

NSUndoManagerDidRedoChangeNotification

Posted just after an NSUndoManager object performs a redo operation (redo (page 15)). The notification object is the NSUndoManager object. This notification does not contain a *userInfo* dictionary.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In NSUndoManager.h

NSUndoManagerDidUndoChangeNotification

Posted just after an NSUndoManager object performs an undo operation. If you invoke undo (page 20) or undoNestedGroup (page 22), this notification is posted. The notification object is the NSUndoManager object. This notification does not contain a *userInfo* dictionary.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In NSUndoManager.h

NSUndoManagerWillCloseUndoGroupNotification

Posted before an NSUndoManager object closes an undo group, which occurs in the implementation of the endUndoGrouping (page 10) method. The notification object is the NSUndoManager object. This notification does not contain a *userInfo* dictionary.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In NSUndoManager.h

NSUndoManagerWillRedoChangeNotification

Posted just before an NSUndoManager object performs a redo operation (redo (page 15)). The notification object is the NSUndoManager object. This notification does not contain a *userInfo* dictionary.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In

NSUndoManager.h

NSUndoManagerWillUndoChangeNotification

Posted just before an NSUndoManager object performs an undo operation. If you invoke undo (page 20) or undoNestedGroup (page 22), this notification is posted. The notification object is the NSUndoManager object. This notification does not contain a *userInfo* dictionary.

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

Declared In

NSUndoManager.h

NSUndoManager Class Reference

Document Revision History

This table describes the changes to NSUndoManager Class Reference.

Date	Notes
2007-01-18	Corrected description of return value for undoActionName: and redoActionName: if no action is registered.
2007-02-08	Corrected the return-value descriptions for undoActionName: and redoActionName: when no action is registered.
2006-05-23	First publication of this content as a separate document.

REVISION HISTORY

Document Revision History

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