NSMutableCopying Protocol Reference

Cocoa > Objective-C Language

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NSMutableCopying Protocol Reference

Adopted by	Various Cocoa classes
Framework	/System/Library/Frameworks/Foundation.framework
Availability	Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.
Companion guide	Memory Management Programming Guide for Cocoa
Declared in	NSObject.h

Overview

The `NSMutableCopying` protocol declares a method for providing mutable copies of an object. Only classes that define an "immutable vs. mutable" distinction should adopt this protocol. Classes that don't define such a distinction should adopt `NSCopying` instead.

`NSMutableCopying` declares one method, `mutableCopyWithZone:` (page 6), but mutable copying is commonly invoked with the convenience method `mutableCopy`. The `mutableCopy` method is defined for all NSObjects and simply invokes `mutableCopyWithZone:` (page 6) with the default zone.

If a subclass inherits NSMutableCopying from its superclass and declares additional instance variables, the subclass has to override `mutableCopyWithZone:` (page 6) to properly handle its own instance variables, invoking the superclass's implementation first.

Tasks

Copying

`- mutableCopyWithZone:` (page 6)
Returns a new instance that's a mutable copy of the receiver.

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Instance Methods

mutableCopyWithZone:

Returns a new instance that's a mutable copy of the receiver.

```
- (id)mutableCopyWithZone:(NSZone *)zone
```

Parameters

zone

The zone from which memory is allocated for the new instance. If *zone* is `NULL`, the new instance is allocated from the default zone, which is returned by `NSDefaultMallocZone`.

Discussion

The returned object is implicitly retained by the sender, which is responsible for releasing it. The copy returned is mutable whether the original is mutable or not.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- `copyWithZone:` (NSCopying protocol)
- `mutableCopy` (NSObject class)

Declared In

`NSObject.h`

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Document Revision History

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

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

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