NSScriptObjectSpecifiers Protocol Reference

Cocoa > Scripting & Automation

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, Mac OS, and Quartz 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

NSScriptObjectSpecifiers Protocol Reference 5

Overview 5
Tasks 5
  Working with Object Specifiers 5
Instance Methods 5
  indicesOfObjectsByEvaluatingObjectSpecifier: 5
  objectSpecifier 6

Document Revision History 7

Index 9

2006-05-23 | © 2006 Apple Computer, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

2006-05-23 | © 2006 Apple Computer, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

NSScriptObjectSpecifiers Protocol Reference

(informal protocol)

Framework	/System/Library/Frameworks/Foundation.framework
Companion guide	Cocoa Scripting Guide
Declared in	NSScriptObjectSpecifiers.h

Overview

Informal `protocol`. Allows scriptable objects that can provide a fully specified object specifier to themselves within an application to do so. It also enables containers of objects to perform their own specifier evaluation.

For a comprehensive treatment of object specifiers, including sample code, see Object Specifiers in *Cocoa Scripting Guide*.

Tasks

Working with Object Specifiers

- `objectSpecifier` (page 6)
  Returns an object specifier for the receiver.
- `indicesOfObjectsByEvaluatingObjectSpecifier:` (page 5)
  Returns the indices of the specified container objects.

Instance Methods

indicesOfObjectsByEvaluatingObjectSpecifier:

Returns the indices of the specified container objects.

```
- (NSArray *)indicesOfObjectsByEvaluatingObjectSpecifier:(NSScriptObjectSpecifier
    *)specifier
```

Parameters

specifier
  An object specifier for the container objects for which to obtain the indices.

2006-05-23 | © 2006 Apple Computer, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Return Value
A zero-based array of `NSNumber` objects that identify the zero-based indices of the container objects that match *`specifier`*, or `nil` if no matching objects were found.

Discussion
Containers that want to evaluate some specifiers on their own should implement this method. If this method returns `nil`, the object specifier will go on to do its own evaluation, so you should only return `nil` if that's the behavior you want, or if an error occurs. If this method returns an array, the object specifier will use the `NSNumber` objects in it as the indices. So, if you evaluate the specifier and there are no objects that match, you should return an empty array, not `nil`. If you find only one object, you should still return its index in an array. Returning an array with a single index where the index is –1 is interpreted to mean all the objects.

For an example implementation, see "Implementing Object Specifiers" in Object Specifiers in *Cocoa Scripting Guide*

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

Declared In
`NSScriptObjectSpecifiers.h`

objectSpecifier

Returns an object specifier for the receiver.

```
- (NSScriptObjectSpecifier *)objectSpecifier
```

Return Value
A fully specified object specifier to the receiver within the application.

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

Related Sample Code
Quartz Composer WWDC 2005 TextEdit
Sketch-112
TextEditPlus

Declared In
`NSScriptObjectSpecifiers.h`

2006-05-23 | © 2006 Apple Computer, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Document Revision History

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

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

2006-05-23 | © 2006 Apple Computer, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Document Revision History

2006-05-23 | © 2006 Apple Computer, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Index

I

`indicesOfObjectsByEvaluatingObjectSpecifier:` <NSObject> instance method 5

O

`objectSpecifier` <NSObject> instance method 6

2006-05-23 | © 2006 Apple Computer, Inc. All Rights Reserved.