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# NSPathControl Class Reference

[Cocoa](#) > [User Experience](#)



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# NSPathComponent Class Reference

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<b>Inherits from</b>	NSControl : NSView : NSResponder : NSObject
<b>Conforms to</b>	NSAnimatablePropertyContainer (NSView) NSCoding (NSResponder) NSObject (NSObject)
<b>Framework</b>	/System/Library/Frameworks/AppKit.framework
<b>Availability</b>	Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.
<b>Declared in</b>	NSPathComponent.h
<b>Related sample code</b>	ObjectPath

## Overview

`NSPathComponent` is a subclass of `NSControl` that represents a file system path or virtual path.

The `NSPathComponent` class uses `NSPathComponent` to implement its user interface. `NSPathComponent` provides cover methods for most `NSPathComponent` methods—the cover method simply invokes the corresponding cell method. See also `NSPathComponentCell`, which represents individual components of the path, and two associated protocols: `NSPathComponentDelegate` and `NSPathComponentDelegate`.

`NSPathComponent` has three styles represented by the `NSPathComponentStyle` enumeration constants `NSPathComponentStyleStandard`, `NSPathComponentStyleNavigationBar`, and `NSPathComponentStylePopUp`. The represented path can be a file system path or any other type of path leading through a sequence of nodes or components, as defined by the programmer.

`NSPathComponent` automatically supports drag and drop, which can be further customized via delegate methods. To accept drag and drop, `NSPathComponent` calls `registerForDraggedTypes:` with `NSFileNamesPboardType` and `NSURLPboardType`. When the URL value in the `NSPathComponent` object changes because of an automatic drag and drop operation or the user selecting a new path via the open panel, the action is sent, but the value returned by `clickedPathComponentCell` (page 7) is `nil`.

## Tasks

### Setting the Control Style

- [pathStyle](#) (page 9)  
Returns the receiver's path style.
- [setPathStyle:](#) (page 11)  
Sets the receiver's path style.

### Setting the Background Color

- [setBackground-color:](#) (page 9)  
Sets the receiver's background color.
- [background-color](#) (page 7)  
Returns the current background color of the receiver.

### Managing Path Components

- [clickedPathComponentCell](#) (page 7)  
Returns the clicked cell, or `nil`, if no cell was clicked.
- [pathComponentCells](#) (page 8)  
Returns an array of the `NSPathComponentCell` objects currently being displayed.
- [setPathComponentCells:](#) (page 11)  
Sets the array of `NSPathComponentCell` objects currently being displayed.

### Setting the Double-Click Action

- [doubleAction](#) (page 8)  
Returns the receiver's double-click action method.
- [setDoubleAction:](#) (page 10)  
Sets the receiver's double-click action.

### Setting the Path

- [URL](#) (page 12)  
Returns the path value displayed by the receiver.
- [setURL:](#) (page 12)  
Sets the path value displayed by the receiver.

## Setting the Delegate

- [delegate](#) (page 8)  
Returns the receiver's delegate.
- [setDelegate:](#) (page 10)  
Sets the receiver's delegate.

## Setting the Drag Operation Mask

- [setDraggingSourceOperationMask:forLocal:](#) (page 10)  
Configures the default value returned from `draggingSourceOperationMaskForLocal:`.

## Instance Methods

### backgroundColor

Returns the current background color of the receiver.

- (NSColor \*)backgroundColor

#### Return Value

The background color.

#### Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

#### See Also

- [setBackground-color:](#) (page 9)

#### Declared In

NSPathControl.h

### clickedPathComponentCell

Returns the clicked cell, or `nil`, if no cell was clicked.

- (NSPathComponentCell \*)clickedPathComponentCell

#### Return Value

The component cell that was clicked.

#### Discussion

The value returned is generally valid only when the action or double action is being sent.

#### Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

**See Also**

- [PathComponentCells](#) (page 8)

**Declared In**

NSPathComponentCell.h

## delegate

Returns the receiver's delegate.

- (id)delegate

**Return Value**

The receiver's delegate.

**Availability**

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

**See Also**

- [setDelegate:](#) (page 10)

**Declared In**

NSPathComponentCell.h

## doubleAction

Returns the receiver's double-click action method.

- (SEL)doubleAction

**Return Value**

The action method invoked when the user double-clicks the receiver.

**Availability**

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

**See Also**

- [setDoubleAction:](#) (page 10)

**Declared In**

NSPathComponentCell.h

## PathComponentCells

Returns an array of the NSPathComponentCell objects currently being displayed.

- (NSArray \*)PathComponentCells

**Return Value**

The array of NSPathComponentCell objects.



### Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

### See Also

- [clickedPathComponentCell](#) (page 7)
- [setPathComponentCells:](#) (page 11)

### Declared In

NSPathControl.h

## pathStyle

Returns the receiver's path style.

- (NSPathStyle)pathStyle

### Return Value

The style of the path control.

### Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

### See Also

- [setPathStyle:](#) (page 11)

### Declared In

NSPathControl.h

## setBackground-color:

Sets the receiver's background color.

- (void)setBackgroundColor:(NSColor \*)color

### Parameters

*color*

The color to draw.

### Discussion

By default, the background is set to a light blue color for `NSPathStyleStandard` and `nil` for the other styles. You can use `[NSColor clearColor]` to make the background transparent.

### Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

### See Also

- [backgroundColor](#) (page 7)

### Declared In

NSPathControl.h

**setDelegate:**

Sets the receiver's delegate.

```
- (void)setDelegate:(id)delegate
```

**Parameters**

*delegate*

The object to set as the receiver's delegate.

**Availability**

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

**See Also**

- [delegate](#) (page 8)

**Declared In**

NSPathControl.h

**setDoubleAction:**

Sets the receiver's double-click action.

```
- (void)setDoubleAction:(SEL)action
```

**Parameters**

*action*

The action method to invoke when the receiver is double-clicked.

**Availability**

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

**See Also**

- [doubleAction](#) (page 8)

**Declared In**

NSPathControl.h

**setDraggingSourceOperationMask:forLocal:**

Configures the default value returned from `draggingSourceOperationMaskForLocal:`.

```
- (void)setDraggingSourceOperationMask:(NSDragOperation)mask
forLocal:(BOOL)isLocal
```

**Parameters**

*mask*

The types of drag operations allowed.

*isLocal*

If YES, *mask* applies when the drag destination object is in the same application as the receiver; if NO, *mask* applies when the destination object is outside the receiver's application.

**Discussion**

By default, `draggingSourceOperationMaskForLocal:` returns `NSDragOperationEvery` when `isLocal` is YES and `NSDragOperationNone` when `isLocal` is NO.

**Availability**

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

**Declared In**

`NSPathControl.h`

**setPathComponentCells:**

Sets the array of `NSPathComponentCell` objects currently being displayed.

```
- (void)setPathComponentCells:(NSArray *)cells
```

**Parameters**

*cells*

An array of `NSPathComponentCell` objects.

**Discussion**

Each item in the array must be an instance of `NSPathComponentCell` or a subclass thereof. You cannot set this value to `nil`, but you can set it to an empty array using, for example, `[NSArray array]`.

**Availability**

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

**See Also**

- [PathComponentCells](#) (page 8)

**Declared In**

`NSPathControl.h`

**setPathStyle:**

Sets the receiver's path style.

```
- (void)setPathStyle:(NSPathStyle)style
```

**Parameters**

*style*

The new path style.

**Availability**

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

**See Also**

- [pathStyle](#) (page 9)

**Declared In**

`NSPathControl.h`

**setURL:**

Sets the path value displayed by the receiver.

```
- (void)setURL:(NSURL *)url
```

**Parameters**

*url*

The new path value to display.

**Discussion**

When setting, an array of `NSPathComponentCell` objects is automatically set based on the path in *url*. If *url* is a file URL (returns `YES` from `isFileURL`), the images are automatically filled with file icons, if the path exists. The URL value itself is stored in the `objectValue` property of the cell.

**Availability**

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

**See Also**

- [URL](#) (page 12)

**Declared In**

`NSPathComponentCell.h`

**URL**

Returns the path value displayed by the receiver.

```
- (NSURL *)URL
```

**Return Value**

The path value.

**Availability**

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

**See Also**

- [setURL:](#) (page 12)

**Declared In**

`NSPathComponentCell.h`

# Document Revision History

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

Date	Notes
2007-04-11	New document that describes the Objective-C API for the control that represents a file path or virtual path.

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