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# SFAuthorization Class Reference

[Security](#) > [Authorization](#)



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# SFAuthorization Class Reference

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<b>Inherits from</b>	NSObject
<b>Conforms to</b>	NSCoding NSObject (NSObject)
<b>Framework</b>	/Library/Frameworks/SecurityFoundation.framework
<b>Availability</b>	Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later
<b>Companion guide</b>	Authorization Services Programming Guide
<b>Declared in</b>	SFAuthorization.h

## Overview

The `SFAuthorization` class allows you to restrict a user's access to particular features in your Mac OS X application or daemon.

The `SFAuthorization` class is an Objective-C interface for some of the functions in the Authorization Services API. You can use the [`authorizationRef`](#) (page 8) method to obtain an authorization reference, used in other calls to Authorization Services functions. The Authorization Services API is documented in *Authorization Services C Reference*.

## Tasks

### Allocating and Initializing an Authorization Object

- + [`authorization`](#) (page 6)  
Returns an authorization object initialized with a default environment, flags, and rights.
- + [`authorizationWithFlags:rights:environment:`](#) (page 7)  
Returns an authorization object initialized with the specified flags, rights and environment.
- [`initWithFlags:rights:environment:`](#) (page 8)  
Initializes an authorization object with the specified flags, rights, and environment.

## Obtaining an Authorization Reference

- [authorizationRef](#) (page 8)  
Returns the authorization reference for this object.

## Authorizing Rights

- [permitWithRights:flags:environment:authorizedRights](#) (page 12)  
Authorizes and preauthorizes rights to access a privileged operation and returns the granted rights. (**Deprecated.** Use [obtainWithRights:flags:environment:authorizedRights:error:](#) (page 10) instead.)
- [obtainWithRights:flags:environment:authorizedRights:error:](#) (page 10)  
Authorizes and preauthorizes rights to access a privileged operation and returns the granted rights.
- [permitWithRight:flags:](#) (page 12)  
Authorizes and preauthorizes one specific right. (**Deprecated.** Use [obtainWithRight:flags:](#) (page 9) instead.)
- [obtainWithRight:flags:](#) (page 9)  
Authorizes and preauthorizes one specific right.

## Preventing Credentials from Being Shared

- [invalidateCredentials](#) (page 9)  
Prevents any rights that were obtained by this object from being preserved.

## Class Methods

### authorization

Returns an authorization object initialized with a default environment, flags, and rights.

```
+ (id)authorization
```

#### Return Value

The authorization object.

#### Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

#### See Also

- + [authorizationWithFlags:rights:environment:](#) (page 7)
- [initWithFlags:rights:environment:](#) (page 8)

#### Declared In

SFAuthorization.h

**authorizationWithFlags:rights:environment:**

Returns an authorization object initialized with the specified flags, rights and environment.

```
+ (id)authorizationWithFlags:(AuthorizationFlags)flags rights:(const
    AuthorizationRights *)rights environment:(const AuthorizationEnvironment
    *)environment
```

**Parameters**

*flags*

A bit mask for specifying authorization options. Use the following option sets:

- Pass the constant `kAuthorizationFlagDefaults` if no options are necessary.
- Specify the `kAuthorizationFlagExtendRights` mask to request rights. You can also specify the `kAuthorizationFlagInteractionAllowed` mask to allow user interaction.
- Specify the `kAuthorizationFlagPartialRights` and `kAuthorizationFlagExtendRights` masks to request partial rights. You can also specify the `kAuthorizationFlagInteractionAllowed` mask to allow user interaction.
- Specify the `kAuthorizationFlagPreAuthorize` and `kAuthorizationFlagExtendRights` masks to preauthorize rights.
- Specify the `kAuthorizationFlagDestroyRights` mask to prevent the Security framework from preserving the rights obtained during this call.

*rights*

A pointer to a set of authorization rights you create. Pass `NULL` if the application requires no rights at this time.

*environment*

Data used when authorizing or preauthorizing rights. In Mac OS X v10.3 and later, you can pass icon or prompt data to be used in the authentication dialog box. Possible values for this parameter are listed in `Security.framework/Headers/AuthorizationTags.h`. The data passed in this parameter is not stored in the authorization reference; it is used only during authorization. If you are not passing any data in this parameter, pass the constant `kAuthorizationEmptyEnvironment`.

**Return Value**

The authorization object.

**Discussion**

Normally, such initialization is not required, as you pass in flags, rights, and environmental data when you request authorization.

**Availability**

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

**See Also**

+ [authorization](#) (page 6)

**Declared In**

`SFAuthorization.h`

## Instance Methods

### authorizationRef

Returns the authorization reference for this object.

```
- (AuthorizationRef)authorizationRef
```

#### Return Value

The authorization reference.

#### Discussion

You can use the authorization reference in calls to Authorization Services functions.

For additional information see *Authorization Services C Reference*.

#### Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

#### Declared In

SFAuthorization.h

### initWithFlags:rights:environment:

Initializes an authorization object with the specified flags, rights, and environment.

```
- (id)initWithFlags:(AuthorizationFlags)flags rights:(const AuthorizationRights *)rights environment:(const AuthorizationEnvironment *)environment
```

#### Parameters

*flags*

A bit mask for specifying authorization options. Use the following option sets:

- Pass the constant `kAuthorizationFlagDefaults` if no options are necessary.
- Specify the `kAuthorizationFlagExtendRights` mask to request rights. You can also specify the `kAuthorizationFlagInteractionAllowed` mask to allow user interaction.
- Specify the `kAuthorizationFlagPartialRights` and `kAuthorizationFlagExtendRights` masks to request partial rights. You can also specify the `kAuthorizationFlagInteractionAllowed` mask to allow user interaction.
- Specify the `kAuthorizationFlagPreAuthorize` and `kAuthorizationFlagExtendRights` masks to preauthorize rights.
- Specify the `kAuthorizationFlagDestroyRights` mask to prevent the Security framework from preserving the rights obtained during this call.

*rights*

A pointer to a set of authorization rights you create. Pass `NULL` if the application requires no rights at this time.



*environment*

Data used when authorizing or preauthorizing rights. In Mac OS X v10.3 and later, you can pass icon or prompt data to be used in the authentication dialog box. Possible values for this parameter are listed in `Security/AuthorizationTags.h`. If you are not passing any data in this parameter, pass the constant `kAuthorizationEmptyEnvironment`.

**Return Value**

The authorization object.

**Discussion**

You can use this method to initialize an authorization object. Normally, such initialization is not required, as you pass in flags, rights, and environmental data when you request authorization.

**Availability**

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

**See Also**

+ [authorization](#) (page 6)

+ `alloc` (NSObject)

+ [authorizationWithFlags:rights:environment:](#) (page 7)

- [obtainWithRights:flags:environment:authorizedRights:error:](#) (page 10)

**Declared In**

`SFAuthorization.h`

**invalidateCredentials**

Prevents any rights that were obtained by this object from being preserved.

```
- (void)invalidateCredentials
```

**Discussion**

This method effectively ensures that authorizations are not shared.

**Availability**

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

**See Also**

- [obtainWithRights:flags:environment:authorizedRights:error:](#) (page 10)

- [obtainWithRight:flags:](#) (page 9)

+ [authorizationWithFlags:rights:environment:](#) (page 7)

- [initWithFlags:rights:environment:](#) (page 8)

**Declared In**

`SFAuthorization.h`

**obtainWithRight:flags:**

Authorizes and preauthorizes one specific right.

```
- (BOOL)obtainWithRight:(AuthorizationString)rightName
    flags:(AuthorizationFlags)flags error:(NSError **)error
```

**Parameters***rightName*

The name of an authorization right.

*flags*

A bit mask for specifying authorization options. See [obtainWithRights:flags:environment:authorizedRights:error:](#) (page 10) for details about possible flag values.

*error*

On completion, the result code returned by the method. See “Result Codes” in *Authorization Services C Reference*.

**Return Value**

YES if operation completes successfully.

**Discussion**

Use this method to authorize or preauthorize a single right.

**Availability**

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

**See Also**

- [obtainWithRights:flags:environment:authorizedRights:error:](#) (page 10)

**obtainWithRights:flags:environment:authorizedRights:error:**

Authorizes and preauthorizes rights to access a privileged operation and returns the granted rights.

```
- (BOOL)obtainWithRights:(const AuthorizationRights *)rights
  flags:(AuthorizationFlags)flags environment:(const AuthorizationEnvironment
*)environment authorizedRights:(AuthorizationRights **)authorizedRights
  error:(NSError **)error;
```

**Parameters***rights*

A pointer to a set of authorization rights you create. Pass NULL if the application requires no rights at this time.

*flags*

A bit mask for specifying authorization options. Use the following option sets:

- Pass the constant `kAuthorizationFlagDefaults` if no options are necessary.
- Specify the `kAuthorizationFlagExtendRights` mask to request rights. You can also specify the `kAuthorizationFlagInteractionAllowed` mask to allow user interaction.
- Specify the `kAuthorizationFlagPartialRights` and `kAuthorizationFlagExtendRights` masks to request partial rights. You can also specify the `kAuthorizationFlagInteractionAllowed` mask to allow user interaction.
- Specify the `kAuthorizationFlagPreAuthorize` and `kAuthorizationFlagExtendRights` masks to preauthorize rights.
- Specify the `kAuthorizationFlagDestroyRights` mask to prevent the Security framework from preserving the rights obtained during this call.

*environment*

Data used when authorizing or preauthorizing rights. In Mac OS X v10.3 and later, you can pass icon or prompt data to be used in the authentication dialog box. Possible values for this parameter are listed in `Security/AuthorizationTags.h`. If you are not passing any data in this parameter, pass the constant `kAuthorizationEmptyEnvironment`.

*authorizedRights*

A pointer to a newly allocated `AuthorizationRights` structure. On return, this structure contains the rights granted by the Security framework. If you do not require this information, pass `NULL`. If you specify the `kAuthorizationFlagPreAuthorize` mask in the `flags` parameter, the method returns all the requested rights, including those not granted, but the flags of the rights that could not be preauthorized include the `kAuthorizationFlagCanNotPreAuthorize` bit.

Free the memory associated with this set of rights by calling the Authorization Services function `AuthorizationFreeItemSet`.

*error*

On completion, the result code returned by the method. See “Result Codes” in *Authorization Services C Reference*.

**Return Value**

YES if operation completes successfully.

**Discussion**

There are three main reasons to use this method. The first reason is to preauthorize rights by specifying the `kAuthorizationFlagPreAuthorize`, `kAuthorizationFlagInteractionAllowed`, and `kAuthorizationFlagExtendRights` masks as authorization options. Preauthorization is most useful when a right has a zero timeout. For example, you can preauthorize in the application and if it succeeds, call the helper tool and request authorization. This eliminates calling the helper tool if the Security framework cannot later authorize the specified rights.

The second reason to use this method is to authorize rights before performing a privileged operation by specifying the `kAuthorizationFlagInteractionAllowed`, and `kAuthorizationFlagExtendRights` masks as authorization options.

The third reason to use this method is to authorize partial rights. By specifying the `kAuthorizationFlagPartialRights`, `kAuthorizationFlagInteractionAllowed`, and `kAuthorizationFlagExtendRights` masks as authorization options, the Security framework grants all rights it can authorize. On return, the authorized set contains all the rights.

If you do not specify the `kAuthorizationFlagPartialRights` mask and the Security framework denies at least one right, then the method returns `NO` and the `error` parameter returns `errAuthorizationDenied`.

If you do not specify the `kAuthorizationFlagInteractionAllowed` mask and the Security framework requires user interaction, then the method returns `NO` and the `error` parameter returns `errAuthorizationInteractionNotAllowed`.

If you specify the `kAuthorizationFlagInteractionAllowed` mask and the user cancels the authentication process, then the method returns `NO` and the `error` parameter returns `errAuthorizationCanceled`.

**Availability**

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

**See Also**

`AuthorizationFreeItemSet`

`AuthorizationCopyRights`

- [obtainWithRight:flags:](#) (page 9)
- + [authorizationWithFlags:rights:environment:](#) (page 7)
- [initWithFlags:rights:environment:](#) (page 8)

**Declared In**

SFAuthorization.h

**permitWithRight:flags:**

Authorizes and preauthorizes one specific right. (**Deprecated.** Use [obtainWithRight:flags:](#) (page 9) instead.)

```
- (OSStatus)permitWithRight:(AuthorizationString)rightName
    flags:(AuthorizationFlags)flags
```

**Parameters***rightName*

The name of an authorization right.

*flags*

A bit mask for specifying authorization options. See [permitWithRights:flags:environment:authorizedRights](#) for details about possible flag values.

**Discussion**

Use this method to authorize or preauthorize a single right.

**Availability**

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

**See Also**

- [permitWithRights:flags:environment:authorizedRights](#) (page 12)

**Declared In**

SFAuthorization.h

**permitWithRights:flags:environment:authorizedRights**

Authorizes and preauthorizes rights to access a privileged operation and returns the granted rights. (**Deprecated.** Use [obtainWithRights:flags:environment:authorizedRights:error:](#) (page 10) instead.)

```
- (OSStatus)permitWithRights:(const AuthorizationRights *)rights
    flags:(AuthorizationFlags)flags environment:(const AuthorizationEnvironment *)environment
    authorizedRights:(AuthorizationRights **)authorizedRights
```

**Parameters***rights*

A pointer to a set of authorization rights you create. Pass NULL if the application requires no rights at this time.

*flags*

A bit mask for specifying authorization options. Use the following option sets:

- Pass the constant `kAuthorizationFlagDefaults` if no options are necessary.
- Specify the `kAuthorizationFlagExtendRights` mask to request rights. You can also specify the `kAuthorizationFlagInteractionAllowed` mask to allow user interaction.
- Specify the `kAuthorizationFlagPartialRights` and `kAuthorizationFlagExtendRights` masks to request partial rights. You can also specify the `kAuthorizationFlagInteractionAllowed` mask to allow user interaction.
- Specify the `kAuthorizationFlagPreAuthorize` and `kAuthorizationFlagExtendRights` masks to preauthorize rights.
- Specify the `kAuthorizationFlagDestroyRights` mask to prevent the Security framework from preserving the rights obtained during this call.

*environment*

Data used when authorizing or preauthorizing rights. In Mac OS X v10.3 and later, you can pass icon or prompt data to be used in the authentication dialog box. Possible values for this parameter are listed in `Security/AuthorizationTags.h`. If you are not passing any data in this parameter, pass the constant `kAuthorizationEmptyEnvironment`.

*authorizedRights*

A pointer to a newly allocated `AuthorizationRights` structure. On return, this structure contains the rights granted by the Security framework. If you do not require this information, pass `NULL`. If you specify the `kAuthorizationFlagPreAuthorize` mask in the `flags` parameter, the method returns all the requested rights, including those not granted, but the flags of the rights that could not be preauthorized include the `kAuthorizationFlagCanNotPreAuthorize` bit.

Free the memory associated with this set of rights by calling the Authorization Services function `AuthorizationFreeItemSet`.

**Discussion**

There are three main reasons to use this method. The first reason is to preauthorize rights by specifying the `kAuthorizationFlagPreAuthorize`, `kAuthorizationFlagInteractionAllowed`, and `kAuthorizationFlagExtendRights` masks as authorization options. Preauthorization is most useful when a right has a zero timeout. For example, you can preauthorize in the application and if it succeeds, call the helper tool and request authorization. This eliminates calling the helper tool if the Security framework cannot later authorize the specified rights.

The second reason to use this method is to authorize rights before performing a privileged operation by specifying the `kAuthorizationFlagInteractionAllowed`, and `kAuthorizationFlagExtendRights` masks as authorization options.

The third reason to use this method is to authorize partial rights. By specifying the `kAuthorizationFlagPartialRights`, `kAuthorizationFlagInteractionAllowed`, and `kAuthorizationFlagExtendRights` masks as authorization options, the Security framework grants all rights it can authorize. On return, the authorized set contains all the rights.

If you do not specify the `kAuthorizationFlagPartialRights` mask and the Security framework denies at least one right, then the status of this method on return is `errAuthorizationDenied`.

If you do not specify the `kAuthorizationFlagInteractionAllowed` mask and the Security framework requires user interaction, then the status of this method on return is `errAuthorizationInteractionNotAllowed`.

If you specify the `kAuthorizationFlagInteractionAllowed` mask and the user cancels the authentication process, then the status of this method on return is `errAuthorizationCanceled`.

### Special Considerations

The `authorizedRights` parameter is not supported in Mac OS X v10.3; use the Authorization Services function `AuthorizationCopyRights` instead. In Mac OS X v10.3 there is an error in the signature in the header file for this parameter. If you pass this argument as `(AuthorizationRights **)authorizedRights`, as shown in this document, it works as described.

### See Also

`AuthorizationFreeItemSet`

`AuthorizationCopyRights`

- [permitWithRight:flags:](#) (page 12)
- + [authorizationWithFlags:rights:environment:](#) (page 7)
- [initWithFlags:rights:environment:](#) (page 8)

# Document Revision History

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

Date	Notes
2009-01-06	permitWithRight:flags: and permitWithRights:flags:environment: authorizedRights are deprecated and replaced with obtainWithRight:flags: and obtainWithRights:flags:environment: authorizedRights:error:
2006-05-23	First publication of this content as a separate document.

**REVISION HISTORY**

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