ABMultiValue Class Objective-C Reference

Cocoa > Apple Applications

2007-07-08

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Inherits from	NSObject
Conforms to	NSCopying NSMutableCopying NSFastEnumeration NSObject (NSObject)
Framework	/System/Library/Frameworks/AddressBook.framework
Availability	Available in Mac OS X v10.2 and later.
Companion guide	Address Book Programming Guide for Mac OS X
Declared in	ABMultiValue.h

Overview

The ABMultiValue and ABMutableMultiValue classes are used to represent properties that might have multiple values. Each value in a multi-value list must be the same type, and has an associated pre-defined or user-defined label, and unique identifier. The labels, however, need not be unique. For example, you can have multiple "Home" phone numbers. Each multi-value object may have a primary identifier—used as a default value when a label is not provided. For example, a person record may have multiple addresses with the labels "Home" and "Work", where "Work" is designated as the primary value. Instances of this class are immutable, see ABMutableMultiValue for methods that manipulate the content of a multi-value list.

You can access values using a numeric index (similar to an array). Use the `identifierAtIndex:` (page 7) method to get an identifier, the `labelAtIndex:` (page 7) method to get a label, and the `valueAtIndex:` (page 9) method to get a value. However, a numeric index is temporary since a multi-value list may change. Each value or entry in a multi-value list has a unique identifier which can be used to save a reference to a specific value—the identifier is guaranteed never to change.

Use the `primaryIdentifier` (page 8) method to get the primary identifier (the identifier associated with the primary value).

The ABMultiValue class is "toll-free bridged" with its procedural C, opaque type, counterpart. This means that the `ABMultiValueRef` type is interchangeable in function or method calls with instances of the ABMultiValue class.

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Tasks

Accessing the Primary Identifier

- `primaryIdentifier` (page 8)

Accessing Identifiers

- `identifierAtIndex:` (page 7)

- `indexForIdentifier:` (page 7)

Accessing Entries

- `labelAtIndex:` (page 7)

- `valueAtIndex:` (page 9)

- `valueForIdentifier:` (page 9)

- `labelForIdentifier:` (page 8)

Querying the List

- `count` (page 6)

- `propertyType` (page 8)

Instance Methods

count

```
- (NSUInteger)count
```

Discussion
Returns the number of entries in a multi-value list.

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Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.2 and later.

Declared In
ABMultiValue.h

identifierAtIndex:

```
- (NSString *)identifierAtIndex:(NSUInteger)index
```

Discussion
Returns the identifier for the given index. If the *index* argument is out of bounds, this method raises an exception.

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.2 and later.

See Also
- indexForIdentifier: (page 7)

Declared In
ABMultiValue.h

indexForIdentifier:

```
- (NSUInteger)indexForIdentifier:(NSString *)identifier
```

Discussion
Returns the index for the given identifier. Returns NSNotFound if the identifier is not found.

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.2 and later.

See Also
- identifierAtIndex: (page 7)

Declared In
ABMultiValue.h

labelAtIndex:

```
- (NSString *)labelAtIndex:(NSUInteger)index
```

Discussion
Returns the label for the given index. If the *index* argument is out of bounds, this method raises an exception.

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.2 and later.

See Also
- labelForIdentifier: (page 8)

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Declared In
ABMultiValue.h

labelForIdentifier:

```
- (id)labelForIdentifier:(NSString *)identifier
```

Discussion
Returns the label for the given identifier. Returns `nil` if the identifier is not found.

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

See Also
- `labelAtIndex:` (page 7)

Declared In
ABMultiValue.h

primaryIdentifier

```
- (NSString *)primaryIdentifier
```

Discussion
Returns the identifier for the primary value.

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.2 and later.

See Also
- `indexForIdentifier:` (page 7)
- `setPrimaryIdentifier:` (ABMutableMultiValue)

Declared In
ABMultiValue.h

propertyType

```
- (ABPropertyType)propertyType
```

Discussion
Returns the type for the values in a multi-value list. If the multi-value list is empty or its values are of different types, it returns `kABErrorInProperty`.

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.2 and later.

Declared In
ABMultiValue.h

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valueAtIndex:

```
- (id)valueAtIndex:(NSUInteger)index
```

Discussion
Returns the value for the given index. If the *index* argument is out of bounds, this method raises an exception.

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.2 and later.

See Also
- valueForIdentifier: (page 9)

Declared In
ABMultiValue.h

valueForIdentifier:

```
- (id)valueForIdentifier:(NSString *)identifier
```

Discussion
Returns the value for the given identifier. Returns `nil` if the identifier is not found.

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

See Also
- valueAtIndex: (page 9)

Declared In
ABMultiValue.h

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Document Revision History

This table describes the changes to *ABMultiValue Class Objective-C Reference*.

Date	Notes
2007-07-08	Updated for Mac OS X v10.5.
2006-05-23	First publication of this content as a separate document.
	First publication of this content as a separate document.

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Document Revision History

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