
ABRecord Class Objective-C Reference

[Apple Applications](#) > [Address Book](#)



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ABRecord Class Objective-C Reference

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Inherits from | NSObject |
| Conforms to | 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 | ABRecord.h ABTypeDefs.h |
| Related sample code | AddressBookCocoa CocoaPeoplePicker |

Overview

ABRecord is an abstract superclass providing a common interface to and defining common properties for all Address Book records. A property is a field in the database record such as the first or last name of a person record. ABRecord defines the types of properties supported, and basic methods for getting, setting, and removing property values.

Use [valueForProperty:](#) (page 8) to get a record's property value, use [setValue:forProperty:](#) (page 7) to set a value, and [removeValueForProperty:](#) (page 7) to remove a value. Don't just invoke [setValue:forProperty:](#) with `nil` as the property value argument, it will raise an exception.

Each record in the Address Book database has a corresponding unique ID obtained using the [uniqueId](#) (page 8) method. The unique ID is used by other classes in the AddressBook framework.

Use [isReadOnly](#) (page 7) to determine whether or not a record is read-only.

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

Tasks

Initializing

- `initWithAddressBook:` (page 6)
Initializes the receiver and adds it to the given address book.

Retrieving and Setting Values

- `removeValueForProperty:` (page 7)
- `setValue:forProperty:` (page 7)
- `valueForProperty:` (page 8)

Retrieving a Specific Record

- `isReadOnly` (page 7)

Determining Properties

- `uniqueId` (page 8)

Instance Methods

initWithAddressBook:

Initializes the receiver and adds it to the given address book.

- `(id) initWithAddressBook:(ABAddressBook *)addressBook`

Parameters

addressBook

An address book that you want to initialize the receiver with.

Discussion

The receiver is added to *addressBook* but is not visible to other address books until *addressBook* is saved. This is the designated initializer for this class.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

Declared In

ABRecord.h

isReadOnly

- (BOOL)isReadOnly

Discussion

Returns YES if the record is read-only, NO otherwise.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared In

ABRecord.h

removeValueForProperty:

- (BOOL)removeValueForProperty:(NSString *)property

Discussion

Removes the value for a given property. When you next call [valueForProperty:](#) (page 8) on that property, it returns `nil`.

If `property` is `nil`, this method raises an exception. This method returns YES if the value is removed successfully, NO otherwise.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.2 and later.

Declared In

ABRecord.h

setValue:forProperty:

- (BOOL)setValue:(id)value forProperty:(NSString *)property

Discussion

Sets the value of a given property for a record. The type of the value must match the property's type (see ["Constants"](#) (page 8) for a list of possible property types). If `property` is `nil` or if `value` is not of the correct type, this method raises an exception. If `property` is a multi-value list property, this method checks to see if the values in the multi-value list are the same type. If the multi-value list contains mixed types, this method returns NO. This method returns YES if the value was set successfully, and NO otherwise.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.2 and later.

Declared In
ABRecord.h

uniqueId

- (NSString *)uniqueId

Discussion

Returns the unique ID of the receiver. This method is equivalent to invoking [valueForProperty:](#) (page 8) passing `kABUIDProperty` as the argument.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.2 and later.

See Also

- `recordForUniqueId:` (ABAddressBook)

Declared In
ABRecord.h

valueForProperty:

- (id)valueForProperty:(NSString *)property

Discussion

Returns the value of the given property. The type of the value depends on the property type (see [“Constants”](#) (page 8) for a list of possible property types). Note that the returned value is always of an immutable type (for example, an NSString not an NSMutableString is returned).

If *property* is `nil`, this method raises an exception.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.2 and later.

Related Sample Code

AddressBookCocoa

Declared In
ABRecord.h

Constants

These are of type `ABPropertyType` and describe the possible types for ABRecord properties:

| Constant | Description |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <code>kABStringProperty</code> | Indicates a NSString object. Available in Mac OS X v10.2 and later. Declared in <code>ABTypedefs.h</code> . |

| Constant | Description |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <code>kABIntegerProperty</code> | Indicates a <code>NSNumber</code> object representing an integer. Available in Mac OS X v10.2 and later. Declared in <code>ABTypedefs.h</code> . |
| <code>kABRealProperty</code> | Indicates a <code>NSNumber</code> object representing a real number. Available in Mac OS X v10.2 and later. Declared in <code>ABTypedefs.h</code> . |
| <code>kABDateProperty</code> | Indicates a <code>NSDate</code> object. Available in Mac OS X v10.2 and later. Declared in <code>ABTypedefs.h</code> . |
| <code>kABArrayProperty</code> | Indicates a <code>NSArray</code> object. Available in Mac OS X v10.2 and later. Declared in <code>ABTypedefs.h</code> . |
| <code>kABDictionaryProperty</code> | Indicates a <code>NSDictionary</code> object. Available in Mac OS X v10.2 and later. Declared in <code>ABTypedefs.h</code> . |
| <code>kABDataProperty</code> | Indicates a <code>NSData</code> object. Available in Mac OS X v10.2 and later. Declared in <code>ABTypedefs.h</code> . |
| <code>kABMultiStringProperty</code> | Indicates a <code>ABMultiValue</code> containing <code>NSString</code> objects. Available in Mac OS X v10.2 and later. Declared in <code>ABTypedefs.h</code> . |
| <code>kABMultiIntegerProperty</code> | Indicates a <code>ABMultiValue</code> containing <code>NSNumber</code> objects representing integers. Available in Mac OS X v10.2 and later. Declared in <code>ABTypedefs.h</code> . |
| <code>kABMultiRealProperty</code> | Indicates a <code>ABMultiValue</code> containing <code>NSNumber</code> objects representing real numbers. Available in Mac OS X v10.2 and later. Declared in <code>ABTypedefs.h</code> . |
| <code>kABMultiDateProperty</code> | Indicates a <code>ABMultiValue</code> containing <code>NSDate</code> objects. Available in Mac OS X v10.2 and later. Declared in <code>ABTypedefs.h</code> . |
| <code>kABMultiArrayProperty</code> | Indicates a <code>ABMultiValue</code> containing <code>NSArray</code> objects. Available in Mac OS X v10.2 and later. Declared in <code>ABTypedefs.h</code> . |

| Constant | Description |
|----------------------------|---|
| kABMultiDictionaryProperty | Indicates a ABMultiValue containing NSDictionary objects. Available in Mac OS X v10.2 and later. Declared in ABTypedefs.h. |
| kABMultiDataProperty | Indicates a ABMultiValue containing NSData objects. Available in Mac OS X v10.2 and later. Declared in ABTypedefs.h. |
| kABErrorInProperty | Returned by some methods when an invalid property is used. Available in Mac OS X v10.2 and later. Declared in ABTypedefs.h. |

These properties are in all types of records.

| Constant | Description |
|-----------------------------|--|
| kABUIDProperty | The unique ID for this record. It's guaranteed never to change, no matter how much the record changes. If you need to store a reference to an ABRecord, use this value. (NSString) |
| kABCreationDateProperty | The date when the record was first saved (NSDate) |
| kABModificationDateProperty | The date when the record was last saved (NSDate) |

Document Revision History

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

| Date | Notes |
|------------|---|
| 2006-07-26 | Updated for Mac OS X v10.5. |
| 2006-05-23 | First publication of this content as a separate document. |

REVISION HISTORY

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