
NSCursor Class Reference

User Experience



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


NSCursor Class Reference










Inherits from	NSObject
Conforms to	NSCoding NSObject (NSObject)
Framework	/System/Library/Frameworks/AppKit.framework
Availability	Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.
Companion guide	Cursor Management
Declared in	NSCursor.h
Related sample code	DragItemAround GLUT Sketch+Accessibility Sketch-112 TextLinks

Overview

Instances of the `NSCursor` class manage the appearance of the cursor.

The following table shows and describes the system cursors, and indicates the class method for obtaining them:

Cursor	Description
	The arrow cursor (arrowCursor (page 9))
	The I-beam cursor for indicating insertion points (IBeamCursor (page 12))
	The cross-hair cursor (crosshairCursor (page 10))
	The closed-hand cursor (closedHandCursor (page 9))

Cursor	Description
	The open-hand cursor (openHandCursor (page 13))
	The pointing-hand cursor (pointingHandCursor (page 14))
	The resize-left cursor (resizeLeftCursor (page 15))
	The resize-right cursor (resizeRightCursor (page 15))
	The resize-left-and-right cursor (resizeLeftRightCursor (page 15))
	The resize-up cursor (resizeUpCursor (page 16))
	The resize-down cursor (resizeDownCursor (page 14))
	The resize-up-and-down cursor (resizeUpDownCursor (page 16))
	The disappearing item cursor (disappearingItemCursor (page 11))

In Mac OS X version 10.3 and later, cursor size is no longer limited to 16 by 16 pixels.

Cursor Rectangles

In Cocoa, you can change the currently displayed cursor based on the position of the mouse over one of your views. You might use this technique to provide visual feedback about what actions the user can take with the mouse. For example, you might display one of the resize cursors whenever the mouse moves over a portion of your view that acts as a custom resizing handle. To set this up, you associate a cursor object with one or more cursor rectangles in the view.

Cursor rectangles are a specialized type of tracking rectangles, which are used to monitor the mouse location in a view. Views implement cursor rectangles using tracking rectangles but provide methods for setting and refreshing cursor rectangles that are distinct from the generic tracking rectangle interface. For information on how to set up cursor rectangles, see [Mouse-Tracking and Cursor-Update Events](#).

Tasks

Initializing a New Cursor

- [initWithImage:hotSpot:](#) (page 19)
Initializes a cursor with the given image and hot spot.
- [initWithImage:foregroundColorHint:backgroundColorHint:hotSpot:](#) (page 18)
Initializes the cursor with the specified image and hot spot.

Setting Cursor Attributes

- [image](#) (page 18)
Returns the receiver's image.
- [hotSpot](#) (page 17)
Returns the position of the cursor's hot spot.
- + [hide](#) (page 12)
Makes the current cursor invisible.
- + [unhide](#) (page 17)
Negates an earlier call to [hide](#) (page 12) by showing the current cursor.
- + [setHiddenUntilMouseMoves:](#) (page 16)
Sets whether the cursor is hidden until the mouse moves.

Controlling Which Cursor Is Current

- + [pop](#) (page 14)
Pops the current cursor off the top of the stack.
- [pop](#) (page 21)
Sends a [pop](#) (page 14) message to the receiver's class.
- [push](#) (page 22)
Puts the receiver on top of the cursor stack and makes it the current cursor.
- [set](#) (page 22)
Makes the receiver the current cursor.
- [mouseEntered:](#) (page 20)
Automatically sent to the receiver when the cursor enters a cursor rectangle owned by the receiver.
- [setOnMouseEntered:](#) (page 23)
Specifies whether the receiver accepts [mouseEntered:](#) (page 20) events.
- [isSetOnMouseEntered](#) (page 19)
Returns a Boolean value indicating whether the receiver becomes current on receiving a [mouseEntered:](#) (page 20) message.
- [mouseExited:](#) (page 21)
Automatically sent to the receiver when the cursor exits a cursor rectangle owned by the receiver.

- [setOnMouseExited:](#) (page 23)
Sets whether the receiver accepts [mouseExited:](#) (page 21) events.
- [isSetOnMouseExited](#) (page 20)
Returns a Boolean value indicating whether the receiver becomes current when it receives a [mouseExited:](#) (page 21) message.

Retrieving Cursor Instances

- + [currentCursor](#) (page 10)
Returns the application's current cursor.
- + [currentSystemCursor](#) (page 11)
Returns the current system cursor.
- + [arrowCursor](#) (page 9)
Returns the default cursor, the arrow cursor.
- + [contextualMenuCursor](#) (page 10)
Returns the contextual menu system cursor.
- + [closedHandCursor](#) (page 9)
Returns the closed-hand system cursor.
- + [crosshairCursor](#) (page 10)
Returns the cross-hair system cursor.
- + [disappearingItemCursor](#) (page 11)
Returns a cursor indicating that the current operation will result in a disappearing item.
- + [dragCopyCursor](#) (page 11)
Returns a cursor indicating that the current operation will result in a copy action.
- + [dragLinkCursor](#) (page 12)
Returns a cursor indicating that the current operation will result in a link action.
- + [IBeamCursor](#) (page 12)
Returns a cursor that looks like a capital I with a tiny crossbeam at its middle.
- + [openHandCursor](#) (page 13)
Returns the open-hand system cursor.
- + [operationNotAllowedCursor](#) (page 13)
Returns the operation not allowed cursor.
- + [pointingHandCursor](#) (page 14)
Returns the pointing-hand system cursor.
- + [resizeDownCursor](#) (page 14)
Returns the resize-down system cursor.
- + [resizeLeftCursor](#) (page 15)
Returns the resize-left system cursor.
- + [resizeLeftRightCursor](#) (page 15)
Returns the resize-left-and-right system cursor.
- + [resizeRightCursor](#) (page 15)
Returns the resize-right system cursor.
- + [resizeUpCursor](#) (page 16)
Returns the resize-up system cursor.

- + [resizeUpDownCursor](#) (page 16)
Returns the resize-up-and-down system cursor.

Class Methods

arrowCursor

Returns the default cursor, the arrow cursor.

```
+ (NSCursor *)arrowCursor
```

Return Value

The default cursor, a slanted arrow with its hot spot at the tip. The arrow cursor is the one you're used to seeing over buttons, scrollers, and many other objects in the window system.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- + [IBeamCursor](#) (page 12)
- + [currentCursor](#) (page 10)
- [hotSpot](#) (page 17)

Related Sample Code

CocoaDVDPlayer
GLUT
PDFKitLinker2
PDFView
Sketch-112

Declared In

NSCursor.h

closedHandCursor

Returns the closed-hand system cursor.

```
+ (NSCursor *)closedHandCursor
```

Return Value

The closed-hand cursor.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Related Sample Code

DragItemAround
GeekGameBoard

Declared In
NSCursor.h

contextualMenuCursor

Returns the contextual menu system cursor.

+ (NSCursor *)contextualMenuCursor

Return Value
The contextual menu cursor

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.6 and later.

Declared In
NSCursor.h

crosshairCursor

Returns the cross-hair system cursor.

+ (NSCursor *)crosshairCursor

Return Value
The cross-hair cursor. This cursor is used for situations when precise location is required (where the lines cross is the hot spot).

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Related Sample Code
TrackIt

Declared In
NSCursor.h

currentCursor

Returns the application's current cursor.

+ (NSCursor *)currentCursor

Return Value
The top cursor on the application's cursor stack. This cursor may not be the visible cursor on the screen if a different application is currently active.

Discussion
The method only returns the cursor set by your application using NSCursor methods. It does not return cursors set by other applications or cursors set by your application using Carbon API.

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

See Also

- [set](#) (page 22)
- [push](#) (page 22)
- [pop](#) (page 21)
- [mouseEntered:](#) (page 20)
- [mouseExited:](#) (page 21)

Declared In

NSCursor.h

currentSystemCursor

Returns the current system cursor.

+ (NSCursor *)currentSystemCursor

Return Value

A cursor whose image and hot spot match those of the currently-displayed cursor on the system

Discussion

This method returns the current system cursor regardless of which application set the cursor, and whether Cocoa or Carbon APIs were used to set it.

This method replaces the now deprecated `QDGetCursorData` function.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.6 and later.

Declared In

NSCursor.h

disappearingItemCursor

Returns a cursor indicating that the current operation will result in a disappearing item.

+ (NSCursor *)disappearingItemCursor

Return Value

The system cursor that indicates that the current operation will result in a disappearing item (for example, when dragging an item from the dock or a toolbar).

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Declared In

NSCursor.h

dragCopyCursor

Returns a cursor indicating that the current operation will result in a copy action.

+ (NSCursor *)dragCopyCursor

Return Value

The drag copy cursor.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.6 and later.

Declared In

NSCursor.h

dragLinkCursor

Returns a cursor indicating that the current operation will result in a link action.

```
+ (NSCursor *)dragLinkCursor
```

Return Value

The drag link cursor.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.6 and later.

Declared In

NSCursor.h

hide

Makes the current cursor invisible.

```
+ (void)hide
```

Discussion

If another cursor becomes current, that cursor will be invisible, too. It will remain invisible until you invoke the [unhide](#) (page 17) method.

[hide](#) (page 12) overrides [setHiddenUntilMouseMoves:](#) (page 16).

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Related Sample Code

iChatTheater

LightTable

Declared In

NSCursor.h

IBeamCursor

Returns a cursor that looks like a capital I with a tiny crossbeam at its middle.

```
+ (NSCursor *)IBeamCursor
```

Return Value

The I-beam cursor. This is the cursor that you're used to seeing over editable or selectable text. The I-beam cursor's default hot spot is where the crossbeam intersects the I.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

+ [arrowCursor](#) (page 9)

+ [currentCursor](#) (page 10)

Related Sample Code

GLUT

Declared In

NSCursor.h

openHandCursor

Returns the open-hand system cursor.

```
+ (NSCursor *)openHandCursor
```

Return Value

The open-hand cursor.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Related Sample Code

DragItemAround

GeekGameBoard

Declared In

NSCursor.h

operationNotAllowedCursor

Returns the operation not allowed cursor.

```
+ (NSCursor *)operationNotAllowedCursor
```

Return Value

The operation not allowed cursor.

Discussion

This cursor indicates that the operation that is being attempted, perhaps dragging to an item that can't accept the drag type, is being denied.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.6 and later.

Declared In
NSCursor.h

pointingHandCursor

Returns the pointing-hand system cursor.

+ (NSCursor *)pointingHandCursor

Return Value

The pointing-hand cursor. The tip of the pointing finger is the hot spot.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Related Sample Code

CocoaDVDPlayer

Declared In
NSCursor.h

pop

Pops the current cursor off the top of the stack.

+ (void)pop

Discussion

The new object on the top of the stack becomes the current cursor. If the current cursor is the only cursor on the stack, this method does nothing.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [push](#) (page 22)

Related Sample Code

DragItemAround

GeekGameBoard

Declared In
NSCursor.h

resizeDownCursor

Returns the resize-down system cursor.

+ (NSCursor *)resizeDownCursor

Return Value

The resize-down cursor. This cursor is used when moving or resizing an object to indicate that the user can move only in the indicated direction.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Declared In

NSCursor.h

resizeLeftCursor

Returns the resize-left system cursor.

```
+ (NSCursor *)resizeLeftCursor
```

Return Value

The resize-left cursor. This cursor is used when moving or resizing an object to indicate that the user can move only in the indicated direction.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Declared In

NSCursor.h

resizeLeftRightCursor

Returns the resize-left-and-right system cursor.

```
+ (NSCursor *)resizeLeftRightCursor
```

Return Value

The resize-left-and-right cursor. This cursor is used when moving or resizing an object and the object can be moved left or right.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Declared In

NSCursor.h

resizeRightCursor

Returns the resize-right system cursor.

```
+ (NSCursor *)resizeRightCursor
```

Return Value

The resize-right cursor. This cursor is used when moving or resizing an object to indicate that the user can move only in the indicated direction.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Declared In

NSCursor.h

resizeUpCursor

Returns the resize-up system cursor.

```
+ (NSCursor *)resizeUpCursor
```

Return Value

The resize-up cursor. This cursor is used when moving or resizing an object to indicate that the user can move only in the indicated direction.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Declared In

NSCursor.h

resizeUpDownCursor

Returns the resize-up-and-down system cursor.

```
+ (NSCursor *)resizeUpDownCursor
```

Return Value

The resize-up-and-down cursor. This cursor is used when moving or resizing an object and the object can be moved up or down.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Declared In

NSCursor.h

setHiddenUntilMouseMoves:

Sets whether the cursor is hidden until the mouse moves.

```
+ (void)setHiddenUntilMouseMoves:(BOOL)flag
```

Parameters

flag

YES to hide the cursor until one of the following occurs:

- The mouse moves.
- You invoke the method again, with *flag* set to NO.

Discussion

Do not try to counter this method by invoking [unhide](#) (page 17). The results are undefined.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

+ [hide](#) (page 12)

Related Sample Code

LightTable

PhotoSearch

Declared In

NSCursor.h

unhide

Negates an earlier call to [hide](#) (page 12) by showing the current cursor.

```
+ (void)unhide
```

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

+ [setHiddenUntilMouseMoves:](#) (page 16)

+ [hide](#) (page 12)

Related Sample Code

iChatTheater

LightTable

Declared In

NSCursor.h

Instance Methods

hotSpot

Returns the position of the cursor's hot spot.

```
- (NSPoint)hotSpot
```

Return Value

The point describing the position of the hot spot, specified according to the cursor's flipped coordinate system.

Discussion

For a more complete explanation, see the class description.

Note that an `NSCursor` object is immutable: you cannot change its hot spot after it's created. Instead, use [initWithImage:hotSpot:](#) (page 19) to create a new cursor with the new settings.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [initWithImage:hotSpot:](#) (page 19)

Declared In

`NSCursor.h`

image

Returns the receiver's image.

```
- (NSImage *)image
```

Return Value

The cursor image or `nil` if none exists

Discussion

Note that an `NSCursor` object is immutable: you cannot change its image after it's created. Instead, use [initWithImage:hotSpot:](#) (page 19) to create a new cursor with the new settings.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [initWithImage:hotSpot:](#) (page 19)

Declared In

`NSCursor.h`

initWithImage:foregroundColorHint:backgroundColorHint:hotSpot:

Initializes the cursor with the specified image and hot spot.

```
- (id)initWithImage:(NSImage *)newImage foregroundColorHint:(NSColor *)fg
    backgroundColorHint:(NSColor *)bg hotSpot:(NSPoint)hotSpot
```

Parameters

newImage

The image to assign to the cursor.

fg

The foreground color. This is currently ignored.

bg

The background color. This is currently ignored.

hotSpot

The point to assign as the cursor's hot spot.

Return Value

The initialized cursor object.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [initWithImage:hotSpot:](#) (page 19)

Declared In

NSCursor.h

initWithImage:hotSpot:

Initializes a cursor with the given image and hot spot.

```
- (id)initWithImage:(NSImage *)newImage hotSpot:(NSPoint)aPoint
```

Parameters

newImage

The image to assign to the cursor.

aPoint

The point to set as the cursor's hot spot.

Return Value

An initialized cursor object.

Discussion

This method is the designated initializer for the class.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [hotSpot](#) (page 17)

- [image](#) (page 18)

- [initWithImage:foregroundColorHint:backgroundColorHint:hotSpot:](#) (page 18)

Related Sample Code

GLUT

PDFView

QuickLookSketch

Sketch-112

TextLinks

Declared In

NSCursor.h

isSetOnMouseEntered

Returns a Boolean value indicating whether the receiver becomes current on receiving a [mouseEntered:](#) (page 20) message.

- (BOOL)isSetOnMouseEntered

Return Value

YES if the receiver will become current when it receives a [mouseEntered:](#) (page 20) message; otherwise, NO.

Discussion

To receive such a message, the receiver must first be assigned a cursor rectangle. This assignment can be made using the `NSView` method `addCursorRect:cursor:`. For a more complete explanation, see the class description.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [setOnMouseEntered:](#) (page 23)
- [isSetOnMouseExited](#) (page 20)

Declared In

NSCursor.h

isSetOnMouseExited

Returns a Boolean value indicating whether the receiver becomes current when it receives a [mouseExited:](#) (page 21) message.

- (BOOL)isSetOnMouseExited

Return Value

YES if the receiver becomes current when it receives a [mouseExited:](#) (page 21) message; otherwise, NO.

Discussion

To receive such a message, the receiver must first be assigned a cursor rectangle. This assignment can be made using the `NSView` method `addCursorRect:cursor:`. For a more complete explanation, see the class description.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [setOnMouseExited:](#) (page 23)

Declared In

NSCursor.h

mouseEntered:

Automatically sent to the receiver when the cursor enters a cursor rectangle owned by the receiver.

- (void)mouseEntered:(NSEvent *)anEvent

Parameters*anEvent*

The event generated when the cursor enters the cursor rectangle.

Discussion

If used after [setOnMouseEntered:](#) (page 23) has been called with an argument of YES, `mouseEntered:` can make the receiver the current cursor.

In your programs, you won't invoke `mouseEntered:` explicitly. It's only included in the class interface so you can override it.

For a more complete explanation, see [Mouse-Tracking and Cursor-Update Events](#) and the `NSView` method `addTrackingRect:owner:userData:assumeInside:`.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [isSetOnMouseEntered](#) (page 19)
- [mouseExited:](#) (page 21)

Declared In

`NSCursor.h`

mouseExited:

Automatically sent to the receiver when the cursor exits a cursor rectangle owned by the receiver.

```
- (void)mouseExited:(NSEvent *)anEvent
```

Parameters*anEvent*

The event generated when the cursor exits the cursor rectangle.

Discussion

Like [mouseEntered:](#) (page 20), this message is part of the class interface only so you can override it.

For a more complete explanation, see [Mouse-Tracking and Cursor-Update Events](#) and the `NSView` method `addTrackingRect:owner:userData:assumeInside:`.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [setOnMouseExited:](#) (page 23)
- [isSetOnMouseExited](#) (page 20)

Declared In

`NSCursor.h`

pop

Sends a [pop](#) (page 14) message to the receiver's class.

- (void)pop

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [push](#) (page 22)

- [pop](#) (page 21)

Declared In

NSCursor.h

push

Puts the receiver on top of the cursor stack and makes it the current cursor.

- (void)push

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [pop](#) (page 21)

- [pop](#) (page 21)

Related Sample Code

DragItemAround

GeekGameBoard

Declared In

NSCursor.h

set

Makes the receiver the current cursor.

- (void)set

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

+ [currentCursor](#) (page 10)

Related Sample Code

CocoaDVDPlayer

PDFKitLinker2

TrackIt

Declared In

NSCursor.h

setOnMouseEntered:

Specifies whether the receiver accepts [mouseEntered:](#) (page 20) events.

```
- (void)setOnMouseEntered:(BOOL)flag
```

Parameters

flag

YES if the receiver accepts future [mouseEntered:](#) (page 20) event messages; otherwise it ignores them.

Discussion

Accepting [mouseEntered:](#) (page 20) event messages allows the cursor to be made the current cursor when the cursor enters a view's cursor rectangle.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

See Also

- [mouseEntered:](#) (page 20)

Declared In

NSCursor.h

setOnMouseExited:

Sets whether the receiver accepts [mouseExited:](#) (page 21) events.

```
- (void)setOnMouseExited:(BOOL)flag
```

Parameters

flag

YES if the receiver accepts future [mouseExited:](#) (page 21) event messages; otherwise it ignores them.

Discussion

Accepting [mouseExited:](#) (page 21) event messages allows the cursor to be made the current cursor when the cursor exits a view's cursor rectangle.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In

NSCursor.h

Constants

AppKit Versions for NSCursor Bug Fixes

The version of the AppKit framework containing a specific bug fix.

```
#define NSAppKitVersionNumberWithCursorSizeSupport 682.0
```

Constants

`NSAppKitVersionNumberWithCursorSizeSupport`

The specific version of the AppKit framework that introduced support for cursors larger than 16 x 16 pixels in size. Developers should not need to use this constant unless they are writing applications for Mac OS X v10.2 and earlier.

Available in Mac OS X v10.3 and later.

Declared in `NSCursor.h`.

Document Revision History

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

Date	Notes
2009-05-27	Updated for Mac OS X v10.6. Added new methods for retrieving cursors.
2009-01-06	Added a definition for the <code>NSAppKitVersionNumberWithCursorSizeSupport</code> macro.
2008-02-08	Clarified the function of the <code>currentCursor</code> method.
2007-01-19	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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