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# NSMenuValidation Protocol Reference

User Experience: Menus



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# Contents

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## **NSMenuValidation Protocol Reference 5**

---

Overview 5

Tasks 5

    Validating Menu Items 5

Instance Methods 5

    validateMenuItem: 5

---

## **Document Revision History 7**

---

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## **Index 9**

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# NSMenuValidation Protocol Reference

(informal protocol)

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<b>Framework</b>	/System/Library/Frameworks/AppKit.framework
<b>Companion guide</b>	Application Menu and Pop-up List Programming Topics for Cocoa
<b>Declared in</b>	NSMenu.h

## Overview

This informal protocol allows your application to update the enabled or disabled status of an `NSMenuItem` object. It declares only one method, `validateMenuItem:` (page 5).

## Tasks

### Validating Menu Items

- `validateMenuItem:` (page 5)  
Implemented to override the default action of enabling or disabling a specific menu item.

## Instance Methods

### **validateMenuItem:**

Implemented to override the default action of enabling or disabling a specific menu item.

- (BOOL)validateMenuItem:(NSMenuItem \*)menuItem

#### **Parameters**

*menuItem*

An `NSMenuItem` object that represents the menu item.

#### **Return Value**

YES to enable *menuItem*, NO to disable it.

#### **Discussion**

The object implementing this method must be the target of *menuItem*. You can determine which menu item *menuItem* is by querying it for its tag or action.

The following example disables the menu item associated with the `nextRecord` action method when the selected line in a table view is the last one; conversely, it disables the menu item with `priorRecord` as its action method when the selected row is the first one in the table view. (The `countryKeys` array contains names that appear in the table view.)

```
- (BOOL)validateMenuItem:(NSMenuItem *)item {
    int row = [tableView selectedRow];
    if ([item action] == @selector(nextRecord) &&
        (row == [countryKeys indexOfObject:[countryKeys lastObject]])) {
        return NO;
    }
    if ([item action] == @selector(priorRecord) && row == 0) {
        return NO;
    }
    return YES;
}
```

**Availability**

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

**Related Sample Code**

QTAudioContextInsert  
QTAudioExtractionPanel  
QTKitImport  
QTKitPlayer

**Declared In**

NSMenu.h

# Document Revision History

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This table describes the changes to *NSMenuValidation Protocol Reference*.

Date	Notes
2009-11-13	Updated optional status of protocol methods.
2007-03-02	Changed reference to deprecated NSMenuItem protocol to NSMenuItem class.
2006-05-23	First publication of this content as a separate document.

## REVISION HISTORY

### Document Revision History

# Index

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## V

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validateMenuItem: <NSObject> instance method [5](#)