
NSScriptObjectSpecifiers Protocol Reference

Interapplication Communication



2009-11-13



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Apple Inc.
1 Infinite Loop
Cupertino, CA 95014
408-996-1010

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NSScriptObjectSpecifiers Protocol Reference

(informal protocol)

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Framework | /System/Library/Frameworks/Foundation.framework |
| Companion guide | Cocoa Scripting Guide |
| Declared in | NSScriptObjectSpecifiers.h |

Overview

Informal protocol. Allows scriptable objects that can provide a fully specified object specifier to themselves within an application to do so. It also enables containers of objects to perform their own specifier evaluation.

For a comprehensive treatment of object specifiers, including sample code, see *Object Specifiers* in *Cocoa Scripting Guide*.

Tasks

Working with Object Specifiers

- [objectSpecifier](#) (page 6)
Returns an object specifier for the receiver.
- [indicesOfObjectsByEvaluatingObjectSpecifier:](#) (page 5)
Returns the indices of the specified container objects.

Instance Methods

indicesOfObjectsByEvaluatingObjectSpecifier:

Returns the indices of the specified container objects.

```
- (NSArray *)indicesOfObjectsByEvaluatingObjectSpecifier:(NSScriptObjectSpecifier *)specifier
```

Parameters

specifier

An object specifier for the container objects for which to obtain the indices.

Return Value

A zero-based array of `NSNumber` objects that identify the zero-based indices of the container objects that match *specifier*, or `nil` if no matching objects were found.

Discussion

Containers that want to evaluate some specifiers on their own should implement this method. If this method returns `nil`, the object specifier will go on to do its own evaluation, so you should only return `nil` if that's the behavior you want, or if an error occurs. If this method returns an array, the object specifier will use the `NSNumber` objects in it as the indices. So, if you evaluate the specifier and there are no objects that match, you should return an empty array, not `nil`. If you find only one object, you should still return its index in an array. Returning an array with a single index where the index is `-1` is interpreted to mean all the objects.

For an example implementation, see "Implementing Object Specifiers" in *Object Specifiers in Cocoa Scripting Guide*

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared In

`NSScriptObjectSpecifiers.h`

objectSpecifier

Returns an object specifier for the receiver.

```
- (NSScriptObjectSpecifier *)objectSpecifier
```

Return Value

A fully specified object specifier to the receiver within the application.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Related Sample Code

Quartz Composer WWDC 2005 TextEdit
Sketch-112

Declared In

`NSScriptObjectSpecifiers.h`

Document Revision History

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

| Date | Notes |
|------------|---|
| 2009-11-13 | Updated optional status of protocol methods. |
| 2006-05-23 | First publication of this content as a separate document. |

REVISION HISTORY

Document Revision History

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O

`objectSpecifier <NSObject>` instance method [6](#)