

# Describing Property Relationships

Class descriptions provide a method of describing the to-one and to-many properties in a class. Defining these relationships between class properties allows for more intelligent and flexible manipulation of these properties with key-value coding.

## Class Descriptions

`NSClassDescription` is a base class that provides the interface for obtaining meta-data about classes. A class description object records the available attributes of objects of a particular class and the relationships (one-to-one, one-to-many, and inverse) between objects of that class and other objects. For example the `attributeKeys` method returns the list of all attributes defined for a class; the methods `toManyRelationshipKeys` and `toOneRelationshipKeys` return arrays of keys that define to-many and to-one relationships; and `inverseRelationshipKey:` returns the name of the relationship pointing back to the receiver from the destination of the relationship for the provided key.

`NSClassDescription` does not define methods for defining the relationships. Concrete subclasses must define these methods. Once created, you register a class description with the `NSClassDescription` `registerClassDescription:forClass:` class method.

`NSScriptClassDescription` is the only concrete subclass of `NSClassDescription` provided in Cocoa. It encapsulates an application's scripting information.

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