
Desktop Manager Routines

All low-level desktop manager routines exchange parameters with your application through a parameter block. When calling a low-level routine, you pass a pointer to the parameter block.

Three **Desktop Manager** functions-namely, **PBDTGetPath**, **PBDTOpenInform**, and **PBDTCloseDown**-run synchronously only. All other **Desktop Manager** routines can run either asynchronously or synchronously. There are three versions of each of these routines. The first version takes two parameters: a pointer to the parameter block, and a Boolean value that determines whether the routine is run asynchronously (**TRUE**) or synchronously (**FALSE**). Here, for example, is the first version of a routine that retrieves the user's comment stored for a file or a directory:

OSErr PBDTGetComment (**DTPBPtr** paramBlock, **Boolean** async);

The second version does not take a second parameter; instead, it adds the suffix "Async" to the name of the routine:

OSErr PBDTGetCommentAsync (**DTPBPtr** paramBlock);

Similarly, the third version of the routine does not take a second parameter; instead, it adds the suffix "Sync" to the name of the routine:

OSErr PBDTGetCommentSync (**DTPBPtr** paramBlock);

All **Desktop Manager** routines that have separate synchronous and asynchronous versions are documented using the first version only. Note, however, that the second and third versions of these routines do not use the glue code that the first versions use and are therefore more efficient.