



cocoa

cocoa

xcode

## Grabbing current Safari webpage url

**Steve Sheets** [Grabbing current Safari webpage url](#)

Mar 07 2008, 03:59

Good evening all...

Is there a way of finding out what is the current topmost webpage being viewed by Safari? Somehow then grabbing the url & title of that page? I have seen a couple applications that do exactly that. You goto a web page using Safari, but then goto the other applications window, and press a button. That application somehow acquires the information from Safari, and then uses it for some purpose. Some Bookmark apps do it this way, as well as some download utilities.

I think I can get this information using Applescript, but one of the developers hinted that he was not using Applescript to do this. Is there an application service or Safari API that passes your application this information?

Information (or better yet, source code) for doing this whatever your method would be appreciated!

Thanks,

Steve Sheets  
Midnight Mage Software

**Nick Zitzmann** [Re: Grabbing current Safari webpage url](#)

Mar 07 2008, 04:39

On Mar 6, 2008, at 7:59 PM, Steve Sheets wrote:

> Is there a way of finding out what is the current topmost webpage  
> being viewed by Safari?

Yes, through AppleScript.

> I think I can get this information using Applescript, but one of the  
> developers hinted that he was not using Applescript to do this. Is  
> there an application service or Safari API that passes your  
> application this information?

Mac OS X does not allow applications to get NSWindows or WindowRefs of other applications' windows for obvious security reasons (unless the developer creates a back door via DO), so I don't see how that would be possible.

Nick Zitzmann  
<<http://www.chronosnet.com/>>

**Ken Ferry** Re: Grabbing current Safari webpage url

Mar 07 2008, 06:26

On Thu, Mar 6, 2008 at 7:39 PM, Nick Zitzmann <nick...> wrote:

```
>
> On Mar 6, 2008, at 7:59 PM, Steve Sheets wrote:
>
>> I think I can get this information using Applescript, but one of the
>> developers hinted that he was not using Applescript to do this. Is
>> there an application service or Safari API that passes your
>> application this information?
>
>
> Mac OS X does not allow applications to get NSWindows or WindowRefs of
> other applications' windows for obvious security reasons (unless the
> developer creates a back door via DO), so I don't see how that would
> be possible.
```

The developer might have been making a distinction between Apple Events and AppleScript.

Scripting Bridge, for example, would allow you to pull this information from Safari without using AppleScript. AppleScript and the Scripting Bridge use the same basic mechanism to talk to Safari, which is Apple Events.

I don't think there's much reason to avoid using Apple Events in some form for this task. Seems well suited.

–Ken

**Adam P Jenkins** Re: Grabbing current Safari webpage url

Mar 07 2008, 06:27

You can use Scripting Bridge to do the same things you could do in AppleScript, but in Objective-C, or other languages.

[http://developer.apple.com/documentation/Cocoa/Conceptual/ScriptingBridgeConcepts/Introduction/chapter\\_1\\_section\\_1.html](http://developer.apple.com/documentation/Cocoa/Conceptual/ScriptingBridgeConcepts/Introduction/chapter_1_section_1.html)

On Mar 6, 2008, at 9:59 PM, Steve Sheets wrote:

> show quoted text

**Adam Leonard** Re: Grabbing current Safari webpage url

Mar 07 2008, 07:25

If you are looking to do it in Applescript (you want it to work in 10.4, for example), here is the script I use:

```
tell application "System Events"
if application process "Safari" exists then tell application "Safari"
to get URL of document 1
end tell
```

To get the title of the webpage, just substitute "name" for "URL"

Then, call it with NSApplescript and grab the result with an NSAppleEventDescriptor

Adam Leonard

On Mar 6, 2008, at 9:27 PM, Adam P Jenkins wrote:

> [show quoted text](#)

**has** Re: Grabbing current Safari webpage url

Mar 07 2008, 10:50

> Steve Sheets wrote:

> Is there a way of finding out what is the current topmost webpage  
> being viewed by Safari? Somehow then grabbing the url & title of that  
> page?

Using objc-appscript (<http://appscript.sourceforge.net/objc-appscript.html>):

```
#import <Foundation/Foundation.h>
#import "SFGlue/SFGlue.h"

// To make Safari glue: osaglue -o SFGlue -p SF Safari

int main (int argc, const char * argv[]) {
    NSAutoreleasePool * pool = [[NSAutoreleasePool alloc] init];

    SFApplication *safari = [[SFApplication alloc] initWithBundleID:
@"com.apple.safari"];

    if ([safari isRunning]) {

        SFReference *docRef = [[safari documents] at: 1];

        NSError *err;

        // get front document's name
        id name = [[[docRef name] get] sendWithError: &err];

        if (name)
            NSLog(@"Title: %@", name);
        else
            NSLog(@"Error:\n%@", err);

        // get its URL
        id url = [[[docRef URL] get] sendWithError: &err];

        if (url)
            NSLog(@"URL: %@", url);
```

```

else
    NSLog(@"Error:\n%@", err);

} else
    NSLog(@"Safari is not running.");

[safari release];
[pool drain];
return 0;
}

```

HTH

has

--

<http://appscript.sourceforge.net>

**has** Re: Grabbing current Safari webpage url

Mar 07 2008, 12:11

Adam Leonard wrote:

> If you are looking to do it in Applescript (you want it to work in  
> 10.4, for example)

ObjC-appscript supports Panther onwards, and is MIT-licensed so you  
can freely include it in your application bundle for distribution.

HTH

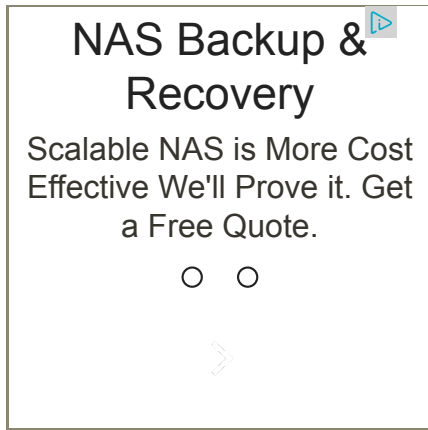
has

--

<http://appscript.sourceforge.net>

## Cocoa - March 07, 2008

march 2008						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
Go to today						



**Cocoabuilder.com** *beta* - Site by Bertrand Mansion - [contact](#)

This site is an archive of mailing lists related to osx and iphone development.

**Hint** :configure your browser Monospace font in the Preferences.