Addon Interfaces Library Reference



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About This Reference

The Addon Interfaces Library Reference is intended for developers who want to use the **libaoi** library to create addons to enhance the functionality of their applications. Addons let you dynamically add functionality to your application without having to redeploy it.

This table may help you find what you need in this guide:

For information about:	See:
The purpose of the Addon Interfaces Library and a step-by-step example of how to write your own interface	Overview
The basic API (structures and functions) of the Addon Interfaces Library, including a list of additional interface-specific functions	Addon Interfaces Library Reference
The existing interfaces designed for use with the Addon Interfaces Library, which you can use in your applications	Appendix A: Existing Interfaces
Accessing data (resources) in an addon using the AOResourceAccess interface	Appendix B: Using Addon Resources
The existing structures designed for use with the Addon Interfaces Library, which you can use in your applications	Appendix C: Defined Structures

Typographical conventions

Throughout this manual, we use certain typographical conventions to distinguish technical terms. In general, the conventions we use conform to those found in IEEE POSIX publications.

The following table summarizes our conventions:

Reference	Example
Code examples	if(stream == NULL)
Command options	-1R
Commands	make
Constants	NULL
Data types	unsigned short
Environment variables	PATH
File and pathnames	/dev/null
Function names	exit()
Keyboard chords	Ctrl-Alt-Delete
Keyboard input	Username
Keyboard keys	Enter
Program output	login:
Variable names	stdin
Parameters	parm1
User-interface components	Navigator
Window title	Options

We use an arrow in directions for accessing menu items, like this:

You'll find the Other... menu item under Perspective → Show View.

We use notes, cautions, and warnings to highlight important messages:



Notes point out something important or useful.



CAUTION: Cautions tell you about commands or procedures that may have unwanted or undesirable side effects.



DANGER: Warnings tell you about commands or procedures that could be dangerous to your files, your hardware, or even yourself.

Note to Windows users

In our documentation, we typically use a forward slash (/) as a delimiter in pathnames, including those pointing to Windows files. We also generally follow POSIX/UNIX filesystem conventions.

Technical support

Technical assistance is available for all supported products.

To obtain technical support for any QNX product, visit the Support area on our website (www.qnx.com). You'll find a wide range of support options, including community forums.

Chapter 1 Overview

The Addon Interfaces Library, **libaoi.so**, contains functions for accessing addon interfaces. An *addon* is an implementation of a set of interfaces that provide some new functionality and that can be dynamically loaded and unloaded by an application. An *interface* is a group of related functions and data. By using a known set of interfaces, you can add functionality to deployed applications without having to recompile and redeploy them. Addons are typically contained in DLLs and are sometimes called *plugins*.

This approach to dynamically adding functionality is different from simply loading a DLL at runtime using a function such as *dlopen()* because the application doesn't have to know the specific functionality contained by the DLL ahead of time. Rather, the application can search the DLL for a known interface and access that functionality if it's available.

Library components:

- the basic elements (structures and functions) required to create and manage interfaces
- some predefined interfaces and supporting predefined structures

An example

Suppose that you want to write a screensaver application. You could define a screensaver interface that allows you to write addons containing screensaver functionality. Each addon would have a known interface that the application would use to start, stop, and set options for that particular screensaver. To write such an application, you must perform these general steps with the Addon Interfaces Library:

- 1. Determine the mandatory functionality for the application. For each screensaver addon, you need a function that creates and populates an options pane. You may also want a function that initializes the addon and another to uninitialize it to restore any resources acquired during initialization.
- 2. Next, you need a function to start and stop the screensaver display. Your interface might look like this:

```
typedef struct
{
    int32_t Initialize(void);
    int32_t Uninitialize(void);
    int32_t *Options(void);
    int32_t Start(void);
    int32_t Stop(void);
}
```

3. In your addon, you must declare the available interfaces to allow the AOI library to discover and use them:

- **4.** Your application can use the AOI library to find the available addons (which are loaded DLLs containing the screensavers) that have this set of interfaces. It can then allow the user to select a screensaver (and options for that screensaver) to use.
- **5.** A screensaver addon might have user-set preferences. In this case, the addon would have a "preferences" interface. The application would display preferences for only those screensavers with a "ScreenSaverPrefs" interface, which might look like this:

```
typedef struct
{
    int32_t LoadPrefs(void);
    int32_t SavePrefs(void);
} ScreenSaverPrefs;
```

Chapter 2

Addon Interfaces Library Reference

The Addon Interfaces Library provides a framework for developing standard interfaces. Interfaces are used to build extendibility into an application without rewriting and redeploying it. For example, the multimedia renderer utility (**mm-renderer**) implements standard addon interfaces. This means that you can use this utility to write a video playback application that handles new video formats as they become available, simply by adding a new filter or set of filters for the new format.

The library uses two structures to manage interfaces: AOInterface_t, which represents an interface, and AOICtrl_t, which represents an addon interface (AOI) control for one or more interfaces. Typically, addon code (including the interface(s) and control) is contained in a DLL and is dynamically loaded by an application.

Each time an application requires an interface, it should hold the addon control containing the interface to prevent the addon from being unloaded while still in use. At this point, the addon control is loaded into memory and its hold count is incremented. An addon control may be unloaded when there are no more holds on it.

Basic library components:

AOI Structures

Structure	Description
AOICtrl_t	A structure that defines an interface control.
AOInterface_t	A structure that defines an interface.

AOI Functions

Function	Description
AoAdd()	Add the interfaces contained in a DLL to the global list of interfaces.
AoAddStatic()	Add a static list of interfaces to the global list of interfaces.
AoAddDirectory()	Add the interfaces contained in all DLLs in a directory to the global list of interfaces.
AoRemove()	Remove a control from the global list of interfaces.
AoHold()	Hold a control; ensure it's loaded if necessary.
AoRelease()	Release a control; unload it if necessary.
AoGetInterface()	Get a specific interface for a control.

Function	Description
Aolterate()	Iterate through the global list of controls and return the one that meets some criteria.
AoIterateHoldGet()	Iterate through the global list of controls to find a control that meets some criteria, hold, and then return the control.
AoAddUnloadSignal()	Add a signal handler to an application to unload an addon on.

Additional interface-specific functions:

Element	Description
AoFindExt()	Find a control with a AOExtInspector interface, and which is best suited for a specific file extension.
AoFindFormats()	Find a control with the best rating for a specific media format.
AoFindMime()	Find a control with the best rating for a mimetype.
AoFindName()	Find a control by its "Name" interface.
AoFindStreams()	Find a control with the best rating for a specific stream.
AoOpenFileSpec()	Find the first control that can open a filespec in a given mode.

AOICtrl_t

The structure used to define an interface control

Synopsis:

```
#include <aoi.h>
typedef struct AOICtrl AOICtrl t;
```

Description:

The AOICtrl_t structure is a private data type that defines an interface control. It contains at least these members:

char* name

The name of the interfaces that the control is for.

char* dllname

The path and filename of the DLL that contains the control's interfaces.

Use this structure to pass the control for an interface.

Classification:

QNX Neutrino

Related Links

AOInterface t (p. 14)

The structure used to define an interface

AOInterface_t

The structure used to define an interface

Synopsis:

```
#include <aoi.h>

typedef struct
{
    char * name;
    int32_t version;
    void *interface;
}
AOInterface_t;
```

Description:

 $\label{thm:continuous} The \ \texttt{AOInterface_t} \ structure \ defines \ an \ interface \ and \ contains \ at \ least \ the \ following \ members:$

name

The name of the interface.

version

The version number of the interface.

interface

A pointer to the interface.

The interface itself can be anything you want. Typically it's a pointer to an array of function pointers, a pointer to a function, or a pointer to a string.

Classification:

QNX Neutrino

Related Links

```
AOICtrl t (p. 13)
```

The structure used to define an interface control

AoAdd()

Add the interfaces contained in a DLL to the global list of interfaces

Synopsis:

```
#include <aoi.h>
const AOICtrl t *AoAdd(const char *path);
```

Arguments:

path

The path and filename of the DLL you want to add.

Library:

libaoi.so

Description:

This function loads the DLL at the given path, registers all the interfaces contained in the DLL, and then unloads the DLL. The function returns the AOICtrl_t control for the registered interfaces. You can then access the control's interfaces with AoGetInterface(), or search for a specific set of interfaces with one of the AoFind*() functions.

Returns:

A pointer to the interfaces control of type ${\tt AOICtrl}\ {\tt t}$ for the added DLL's interfaces.

Classification:

QNX Neutrino

Safety:

Interrupt handler	No
Signal handler	No
Thread	No

Related Links

```
AOICtrl t (p. 13)
```

The structure used to define an interface control

AoRemove() (p. 31)

Remove a control from the global list of interfaces

AoAddStatic() (p. 19)

Add a static list of interfaces to the global list of interfaces

AoAddDirectory() (p. 17)

Add the interfaces contained in all DLLs in a directory to the global list of interfaces

AoAddDirectory()

Add the interfaces contained in all DLLs in a directory to the global list of interfaces

Synopsis:

Arguments:

path

The directory that contains the DLLs with interfaces you want to make available within your application.

pattern

A filename pattern, such as **.so** or **decoder**, that limits the type of files added as DLLs. Set to NULL to match all files.

Library:

libaoi.so

Description:

This function attempts to add all the interfaces in the DLLs that match a *pattern* at the given directory *path* to the global list of interfaces.

Returns:

0 if successful.

Classification:

QNX Neutrino

Safety:

Interrupt handler	No
Signal handler	No
Thread	No

Related Links

AoAdd() (p. 15)

Add the interfaces contained in a DLL to the global list of interfaces

AoAddStatic() (p. 19)

Add a static list of interfaces to the global list of interfaces

AoAddStatic()

Add a static list of interfaces to the global list of interfaces

Synopsis:

```
#include <aoi.h>
```

const AOICtrl_t *AoAddStatic(AOInterface_t *interfaces);

Arguments:

interfaces

An array of AOInterface_t structures that is the static list of interfaces you want to make available to your application.

Library:

libaoi.so

Description:

This function makes statically defined (that is, not loaded from a DLL) interfaces available to the AOI API. Use this function when you want to directly link your application with a set of interfaces.

Returns:

NULL

Classification:

QNX Neutrino

Safety:

Interrupt handler	No	
Signal handler	No	
Thread	No	

Related Links

AOInterface_t (p. 14)

The structure used to define an interface

AoAdd() (p. 15)

Add the interfaces contained in a DLL to the global list of interfaces

AoAddDirectory() (p. 17)

Add the interfaces contained in all DLLs in a directory to the global list of interfaces

AoAddUnloadSignal()

Add an unload signal for an addon to an application

Synopsis:

#include <aoi.h>

int32_t AoAddUnloadSignal(int sig);

Arguments:

sig

The unload signal you want to add.

Library:

libaoi.so

Description:

This function allows you to add signals on which the addons should be unloaded. By default, the addons are automatically unloaded when an application exits normally, but not if the application is killed in some way.

Returns:

0 if successful.

Classification:

QNX Neutrino

Safety:

Interrupt handler No
Signal handler No
Thread No

AoGetInterface()

Retrieve an interface from a control

Synopsis:

Arguments:

control

A pointer to an AOICtrl_t structure for the control that contains the interface you want to retrieve.

name

Optional. The name of the interface you want to retrieve, or NULL if you don't want to find an interface using the "Name" interface.

version

Optional. The minimum version of the interface you want to retrieve. This argument is used only if *name* is specified.

nth

The instance number of the interface you want to retrieve.

Library:

libaoi.so

Description:

This function searches for the *nth* (starting at 0) interface with the given *name* and minimum *version* number in the given control, if specified.

You must hold the control (using AoHold()) before calling this function.

Returns:

The *nth* interface control, if found, or NULL if no interface control is found.

Classification:

QNX Neutrino

Safety:

Interrupt handler	No	
Signal handler	No	
Thread	No	

Related Links

 $AOICtrl_t$ (p. 13)

The structure used to define an interface control

AoHold() (p. 24)

Increment the hold counter for a control

Aolterate() (p. 26)

Find a list of controls for an interface name and version

AolterateHoldGet() (p. 28)

Search for a specific interface and hold its control

AoHold()

Increment the hold counter for a control

Synopsis:

```
#include <aoi.h>
```

int32_t AoHold(const AOICtrl_t *ctrl);

Arguments:

ctrl

A pointer to the AOICtrl t structure for the AOI control you want to hold.

Library:

libaoi.so

Description:

This function increments the hold counter for a control. If the control was previously not held, and it's a DLL, the DLL is loaded and initialized if necessary. You must hold a control before you attempt to get one of its interfaces, and release it with *AoRelease()* when you're finished using the interface.

Returns:

0 if successful.

Classification:

QNX Neutrino

Safety:

Interrupt handler	No
Signal handler	No
Thread	No

Related Links

 $AOICtrl_t$ (p. 13)

The structure used to define an interface control

AoGetInterface() (p. 22)

Retrieve an interface from a control

AolterateHoldGet() (p. 28)

Search for a specific interface and hold its control

AoRelease() (p. 30)

Decrement the hold counter for a control

Aolterate()

Find a list of controls for an interface name and version

Synopsis:

Arguments:

name

The name of the interface that the returned control contains.

version

The minimum version of the interface that the returned control contains.

cookie

An opaque variable used to iterate through available AOI controls. Set the value to 0 on the first call to this function.

Library:

libaoi.so

Description:

This function iterates through all available AOI controls, returning each AOI control that has the given interface *name* and minimum version number *version*. The first time you call this function, you should set the value in *cookie to 0. You can keep calling this function until it returns NULL. If *name* is NULL, *AoIterate()* iterates through all the controls in the global list.

Returns:

A a pointer to an AOIControl_t structure for the control containing an interface that matches name and version. Subsequent calls return the next matched control, until there are no more matches. When there are no more matches, the function returns NULL.

Classification:

QNX Neutrino

Safety:

		_
Interrupt handler	No	_
Signal handler	No	
Thread	No	

Related Links

 $AOICtrl_t$ (p. 13)

The structure used to define an interface control

AoGetInterface() (p. 22)

Retrieve an interface from a control

AolterateHoldGet() (p. 28)

Search for a specific interface and hold its control

AoHold() (p. 24)

Increment the hold counter for a control

AolterateHoldGet()

Search for a specific interface and hold its control

Synopsis:

Arguments:

name

The name of the interface in the control you want to find and hold.

version

The minimum version of the interface in the control you want to find and hold.

cookie

An opaque variable used to control the iteration through the list of controls. Set this parameter to 0 on the first call to this function.

interface

The returned interface within the held control that meets the search critera.

Library:

libaoi.so

Description:

This function iterates through the global list of controls, returning each control that has the given interface *name* with the minimum *version* number. Unlike *Aolterate()*, it also holds the control returned, and sets **interface* to the interface you're looking for. The first time that you call this function, you should set the value in **cookie* to 0. You can keep calling this function until it returns NULL. If *name* is NULL, *Aolterate()* iterates through all available controls.

AolterateHoldGet() is a convenience function that combines Aolterate(), AoHold(), and AoGetInterface(). You must release each AOICtrl_t at some point, or you will end up with an incorrect hold count, and the DLLs won't be automatically unloaded.

Returns:

A pointer to an AOICtrl_t structure for each control that contains the interface *name* with a minimum *version*. The *interface* parameter is set to the interface that meets the search critera.

When there are no remaining controls that contain a matching interface, this function returns NULL.

Classification:

QNX Neutrino

Safety:	
Interrupt handler	No
Signal handler	No
Thread	No

Related Links

AOICtrl t (p. 13)

The structure used to define an interface control

AoRelease() (p. 30)

Decrement the hold counter for a control

Aolterate() (p. 26)

Find a list of controls for an interface name and version

AoHold() (p. 24)

Increment the hold counter for a control

AoRelease()

Decrement the hold counter for a control

Synopsis:

```
#include <aoi.h>
int32_t AoRelease(const AOICtrl_t *control);
```

Arguments:

control

A pointer to an AOICtrl_t structure for the control you want to release.

Library:

libaoi.so

Description:

This function decrements the hold counter for the given control. If the control represents a DLL, once the hold counter for a control reaches 0, that DLL is unloaded,

Returns:

0 if successful.

Classification:

QNX Neutrino

Safety:

Interrupt handler	No
Signal handler	No
Thread	No

Related Links

```
AOICtrl_t (p. 13)
```

The structure used to define an interface control

AoHold() (p. 24)

Increment the hold counter for a control

AolterateHoldGet() (p. 28)

Search for a specific interface and hold its control

AoRemove()

Remove a control from the global list of interfaces

Synopsis:

```
#include <aoi.h>
int32_t AoRemove(const AOICtrl_t *control);
```

Arguments:

control

A pointer to an AOICtrl_t structure for the control you want to remove.

Library:

libaoi.so

Description:

This function removes the given control *control* from the global list of interfaces. The DLL is unloaded if necessary. You should be certain that all holds are released before this function is called by calling *AoRelease()* for every hold you place.

Returns:

0 if successful.

Classification:

QNX Neutrino

Safety:

Interrupt handler	No
Signal handler	No
Thread	No

Related Links

 $AOICtrl_t$ (p. 13)

The structure used to define an interface control

AoRelease() (p. 30)

Decrement the hold counter for a control

AoFindExt()

Find a control with a AOExtInspector interface, and which is best suited for a specific file extension

Synopsis:

Arguments:

extension

The file extension you want to inspect.

rating

A pointer to where the function stores the returned rating for how well the control can inspect the given *ext*.

interface

The name of the interface the control must have.

version

The minimum interface version the control must have.

Library:

libaoi.so

Description:

This function finds the control that has an AOExtInspector interface which returns the best rating for the given *extension*, *and* has the given *interface* and *version*, if specified.

Returns:

A pointer to an AOICtrl t control, or NULL if no control is found.

Classification:

QNX Neutrino

Safety:

Interrupt handler	No	
Signal handler	No	
Thread	No	

Related Links

 $AOICtrl_t$ (p. 13)

The structure used to define an interface control

AoFindFormats() (p. 34)

Find the interface control that can handle a specific media format

AoFindMime() (p. 36)

Find a control with the best rating for a mimetype

AoFindName() (p. 38)

Find a control by its "Name" interface

AoFindStreams() (p. 40)

Find a control with the best rating for a specific stream

AoFindFormats()

Find the interface control that can handle a specific media format

Synopsis:

Arguments:

format

A pointer to a AODataFormat_t structure that specifies the media format you want to find the best interface control for.

rating

A pointer to where the function stores a returned rating, from 0 to 100, for the returned AOI control.

interface

The interface required in the control.

version

The minimum version of the interface required in the control.

Library:

libaoi.so

Description:

This function finds the control that has an AOFormatInspector interface that returns the best rating for the given *format* and has the given *interface* and *version*, if specified.

Returns:

The AOI control with the best rating for *format*, or NULL if no control is found.

Classification:

QNX Neutrino

Safety:

Interrupt handler	No
Signal handler	No
Thread	No

Related Links

AODataFormat_t (p. 76)

A merged formats structure

AoFindExt() (p. 32)

Find a control with a AOExtInspector interface, and which is best suited for a specific file extension

AoFindMime() (p. 36)

Find a control with the best rating for a mimetype

AoFindName() (p. 38)

Find a control by its "Name" interface

AoFindStreams() (p. 40)

Find a control with the best rating for a specific stream

AoFindMime()

Find a control with the best rating for a mimetype

Synopsis:

Arguments:

mimetype

The mimetype for which you want to find the best rated control.

rating

A pointer to where the function stores the rating, from 0 to 100, of how well the returned control can handle the *mimetype*.

interface

The interface that the returned control must contain.

version

The minimum version of the interface that the returned control must contain.

Library:

libaoi.so

Description:

This function finds the control that has an AOMimetypeInspector interface that returns the best rating for the given *mimetype*, and has the given *interface* and *version*, if specified.

Returns:

A AOICtrl t control that meets the search criteria, or NULL if no AOI control is found.

Classification:

QNX Neutrino

Safety:

Interrupt handler	No	
Signal handler	No	
Thread	No	

Related Links

AoFindExt() (p. 32)

Find a control with a AOExtInspector interface, and which is best suited for a specific file extension

AoFindFormats() (p. 34)

Find the interface control that can handle a specific media format

AoFindName() (p. 38)

Find a control by its "Name" interface

AoFindStreams() (p. 40)

Find a control with the best rating for a specific stream

AOICtrl t (p. 13)

The structure used to define an interface control

AoFindName()

Find a control by its "Name" interface

Synopsis:

Arguments:

name

The name of the control you want to find, set in a control's "Name" interface.

interface

The interface contained in the control you want to find.

version

The version of the interface in the control you want to find.

Library:

libaoi.so

Description:

This function finds a control with the *name*, that also has the *interface* and *version* specified. Controls are named if they have a string interface called "Name" declared in their interfaces list.

Returns:

A pointer to an AOICtrl_t structure for a control with a matched *name*, if one exists, and NULL if no control is found.

Examples:

Here's an example of a "Name" interface declaration:

```
{ 0, 0, 0 }, };
```

If the above interfaces were already added to the list of available interfaces, and you wanted to find the AOI control for the pnm idecoder interface, you would write code like:

```
AOICtrl_t *ctrl;
ctrl = AoFindName( "pnm_idecoder", NULL, 0 );
// now we can use the ctrl to find specific interfaces, etc.
```

Classification:

QNX Neutrino

Safety:

Interrupt handler	No
Signal handler	No
Thread	No

Related Links

AoFindExt() (p. 32)

Find a control with a AOExtInspector interface, and which is best suited for a specific file extension

AoFindMime() (p. 36)

Find a control with the best rating for a mimetype

AoFindFormats() (p. 34)

Find the interface control that can handle a specific media format

AoFindStreams() (p. 40)

Find a control with the best rating for a specific stream

```
AOICtrl t (p. 13)
```

The structure used to define an interface control

AoFindStreams()

Find a control with the best rating for a specific stream

Synopsis:

Arguments:

stream

A pointer to an AOIStream_t structure for the stream you want to find the best rated control for.

rating

A pointer to where the function stores the rating, from 0 to 100, of how well the returned control can handle the *stream*.

interface

The name of the interface the returned control must contain.

version

The minimum version of the interface the returned control must contain.

Library:

libaoi.so

Description:

This function finds the control that has an AOStreamInspector interface that returns the best rating for the given *stream* and has the given *interface* and *version*, if specified.

Returns:

A pointer to an AOICtrl_t structure for the control with the best rating for the given *stream*, or NULL if no streamer addons are found.

Classification:

QNX Neutrino

Safety:

Interrupt handler	No
Signal handler	No
Thread	No

Related Links

AoFindExt() (p. 32)

Find a control with a AOExtInspector interface, and which is best suited for a specific file extension

AoFindMime() (p. 36)

Find a control with the best rating for a mimetype

AoFindFormats() (p. 34)

Find the interface control that can handle a specific media format

AoFindName() (p. 38)

Find a control by its "Name" interface

AOICtrl t (p. 13)

The structure used to define an interface control

AoOpenFilespec()

Finds the first control that can open a file in a given mode

Synopsis:

Arguments:

filename

The file name you want to open

mode

The mode for opening the file; one of:

rb

Read binary.

wb

Write binary.

Library:

libaoi.so

Description:

This function iterates through all the available addons (addons that have been added using an AoAdd*() function) that export a AOIStreamer interface and returns the AOIStream_t for the first addon that successfully opens the given filespec in the given mode. In this case, the control element of the AOIStream_t structure is filled in with the control, and the control is held. When the stream has been closed, you should release this control.

Returns:

A pointer to an AOIStream_t for the successfully opened stream, or NULL if no streamer addons are found.

Classification:

QNX Neutrino

Safety:

		_
Interrupt handler	No	
Signal handler	No	
Thread	No	

Related Links

AOIStream_t (p. 70)

A stream object

AoRelease() (p. 30)

Decrement the hold counter for a control

Chapter 3

Implemented Interfaces

This chapter provides an overview of interfaces that have been defined for use with the Addon Interfaces Library. These interfaces define functions for commonly required functionality. To use these interfaces to create your own addon, you must implement the functions they define. If you use an interface, you should implement all its defined functions.

AOStreamer

An interface containing all the functions necessary to implement a one-way byte stream.

AODeConstructor

A context constructor/destructor interface.

AOStreamInspector

An interface that allows your addon to return a rating as to how well it can process a given stream.

AOFormatInspector

An interface that allows your addon to return a rating as to how well it can process data in the given media format.

AOExtInspector

An interface that allows your addon to return a rating as to how well it can process the given file extension.

AOMimetypeInspector

An interface that allows your addon to return a rating as to how well it can process data with the given mimetype.

AOResourceAccess

An interface that allows an application to access your addon's resources.

Built-in Interfaces

There are three built-in interfaces:

Unloading

This interface gives controls that access hardware a chance to leave that hardware in a stable state before being unloaded.

InitializeInterface

This interface allows DLLs to create or choose certain interfaces at runtime instead of at compile time.

Name

An interface pointer that points to a string. You need to declare this interface to use *AoFindName()*.

AODeConstructor

A context constructor/destructor interface. It defines two functions:

Create()

Synopsis:

```
#include <aoi.h>
void *(*Create) (const AOICtrl_t *interfaces);
```

Arguments:

interfaces

A pointer to an AOICtrl_t structure for the control for the created interface.

Description:

This function should create and return a new context for the addon.

Returns:

A new context for the addon.

#include <aoi.h>

Destroy()

Synopsis:

```
int32_t (*Destroy) (void *context);
```

Arguments:

context

The addon context you want to destroy.

Description:

This function should free the *context* for an addon.

Returns:

0 if successful.

AOExtInspector

An interface that allows your addon to return a rating as to how well it can process the given file extension. It defines one function:

RateExtension()

Synopsis:

```
#include <aoi.h>
int32_t (*RateExtension) (const char *ext);
```

Arguments:

ext

The file extension you want to rate.

Description:

This function should return a rating for the given extension.

Returns:

A rating from 0 to 100 of how well the addon can handle the given file extension. 100 is the best rating.

AOFormatInspector

An interface that allows your addon to return a rating as to how well it can process data in the given media format. It defines one function:

RateFormat()

Synopsis:

```
#include <aoi.h>
int32_t (*RateFormat) (const AODataFormat_t *format);
```

Arguments:

format

The media format you want to rate.

Description:

This function should return a rating for the given media *format*. Usually this function checks the media type and four character code (fourcc). If it has more stringent requirements, it checks the AODataFormat_t's corresponding union members.

Returns:

A rating from 0 to 100 of how well the addon can handle the given media format. 100 is best rating.

AOMimetypeInspector

An interface that allows your addon to return a rating as to how well it can process data with the given mimetype. It defines one function:

RateMimetype()

Synopsis:

```
#include <aoi.h>
int32_t (*RateMimetype)(const char *mimetype);
```

Arguments:

mimetype

The mimetype you want to rate.

Description:

This function should return a rating for the given mimetype.

Returns:

A rating between 0 and 100 of how well your addon can handle a given mimetype. 100 is the best rating.

AOStreamer

An interface that defines all the functions necessary to implement a one-way byte stream. It defines these functions:

Open()

Synopsis:

Arguments:

name

The name of the stream you want to open.

mode

The mode you want to open the stream in. The mode string should match modes for *fopen()*, such as:

rb

Read binary.

wb

Write binary.

Description:

This function should open the stream with the given *name* in the *mode*.

Returns:

A pointer to an AOIStream_t instance, or NULL if the function can't open the given stream in the given mode.

Close()

Synopsis:

```
#include <aoi.h>
int32_t (*Close) (AOIStream_t *stream);
```

Arguments:

stream

The stream you want to close.

Description:

This function should close the *stream* and free any data allocated at open.

Returns:

0 if successful.

Sniff()

Synopsis:

Arguments:

ctx

The context for the stream you want to read from.

buf

The buffer into which you want to put read bytes.

num

The number of bytes to be read from the beginning of the stream.

Description:

This function should nondestructively read *num* bytes from the beginning of a stream. All streamers should implement this function. Once stream data is read with *Read()*, you can no longer use *Sniff()*.

Returns:

The number of bytes successfully sniffed from the stream.

Read()

Synopsis:

Arguments:

ctx

The context for the stream you want to read from.

buf

The buffer into which you want to read data.

num

The number of bytes to be read from the stream (the length of buf).

Description:

This function should read *num* bytes from the stream at the stream's current file position.

Returns:

The number of bytes successfully read from the stream.

Write()

Synopsis:

Arguments:

ctx

The context of the stream you want to write to.

buf

The buffer containing the data you want to write to the stream.

num

The number of bytes to be written to the stream (the length of buf).

Description:

This function should write *num* bytes to the stream at the stream's current file position.

Returns:

The number of bytes succesfully written to the stream.

Seek()

Synopsis:

Arguments:

ctx

The context for the stream you want to seek in.

offset

The offset, in bytes, to which you want to seek.

whence

The position from which to apply the offset; one of:

SEEK SET

Compute the new file position relative to the start of the file. The value of *offset* must not be negative.

SEEK_CUR

Compute the new file position relative to the current file position. The value of *offset* may be positive, negative or zero.

SEEK_END

Compute the new file position relative to the end of the file.

Description:

This function should seek to the given position in the stream.

Returns:

The new stream position.

Tell()

Synopsis:

```
#include <aoi.h>
int64 t (*Tell) (void *ctx);
```

Arguments:

ctx

The context for the stream you're querying.

Description:

This function should return the current position in the stream.

Returns:

The current position in the stream.

Length()

Synopsis:

```
#include <aoi.h>
int64 t (*Length)(void *ctx);
```

Arguments:

ctx

The context for the stream.

Description:

This function should return the length of the stream, in bytes, if known.

Returns:

The length of the stream.

SideInfo()

Synopsis:

Arguments:

context

A pointer to the context for the stream you want to retrieve side information from.

sideinfo

The address of a pointer to space where the function can store the side information for the stream.

length

A pointer to a space where the function can store the returned length of the *sideinfo* parameter.

Description:

This function should store the current side information for a stream in the space provided by *sideinfo*, and set the sideinfo *length*. Side information can change any time, and often does, as in the case for inline information in streaming audio.

Returns:

0 if successful.

AOStreamInspector

An interface that allows your addon to return a rating as to how well it can process a given stream. It defines one function:

RateStream()

Synopsis:

```
#include <aoi.h>
int32 t (*RateStream) (AOIStream_t *stream);
```

Arguments:

stream

A pointer to the ${\tt AOIStream_t}$ structure for the stream you want to rate.

Description:

This function should return a rating for the given stream. This function should only ever call the *Sniff()* function in the given stream's AOStreamer interface.

Returns:

A rating from 0 to 100 of how well the addon can handle the stream. 100 is the best rating.

AOResourceAccess

An interface that allows an application to access to your addon's resources. It defines two functions:

GetResources()

Synopsis:

```
#include <aoi.h>
const AOResource t *(*GetResources) (void *ctx);
```

Arguments:

ctx

The context for the control you want a list of resources for.

Description:

This function should return all the resources of a DLL for the given context.



The returned resources should be read only.

Returns:

An AOResource_t list of resources.

SetResource()

Synopsis:

Arguments:

ctx

A pointer to the control that contains the resource you want to set.

resource

The resource you want to set.

data

A pointer to the data you want to set the *resource* to.

Description:

This function should set the value in a specific resource. You should be sure of the type of values you can set.

Returns:

0 if successful.

Built-in interfaces

There are three built-in interfaces in the Addon Interfaces Library: Unloading, InitializeInterface, and Name.

Unloading and InitializeInterface

These interfaces define functions that manage different hardware configurations when the application initializes and unloads.

InitializeInterface is an interface pointer that points to a (void *(*) (AOInterface_t *)) function. This function is called automatically to determine the actual value of any interface pointer whose initial value was NULL. This allows DLLs to create or choose certain interfaces at runtime instead of at compile time.

Unloading is an interface pointer that points to a (void (*) (void)) function. If you call AoRelease(), and the count reaches zero, the unloading function is called before the DLL is unloaded. This gives controls that access hardware a chance to leave that hardware in a stable state before being unloaded.

Let's say we have an addon that supports two slightly different pieces of hardware. In this case, we want two different HardwareControl interfaces, and we want to use the one that the hardware the user has installed is for. In this case, we set the interface pointer for the HardwareControl interface to NULL, and create a InitializeInterface interface that returns the appropriate interface. Also, we want to do some cleanup on the hardware when its done, so we implement a Unloading interface as well:

```
static void *InitializeInterface( AOInterface t *i )
{
    // we only initialize the "HardwareControl" interface
    if ( strcmp( i->name, "HardwareControl" ) != 0 )
        return 0;
    // return the HardwareControlA/BInterface if either type of
    // hardware is found
    if ( hardware is type a )
        return HardwareControlAInterface;
    else
    if ( hardware is type b )
        return HardwareControlBInterface;
    // neither piece of hardware found? return 0
    return 0;
}
static void Unloading (void)
```

```
{
    // release the hardware, whatever it is
    release_hardware();
}

AOInterface_t my_hardware_interface[] =
{
    { "Name", 0, "my_hardware" },
    { "Description", 0, "Plugin for my hardware" },
    { "HardwareControl", 0, NULL },
    { "InitializeInterface", 0, InitializeInterface },
    { "Unloading", 0, Unloading },
    ... (other interfaces)
    { 0, 0, 0 },
};
```

The first time an application requests the <code>HardwareControl</code> interface for the above addon, the Addon Interfaces Library sees that the interface pointer is 0, and calls the <code>InitializeInterface()</code> function with the <code>HardwareControl</code> <code>AOInterface_t</code> as its parameter. The <code>InitializeInterface()</code> function recognizes the <code>HardwareControl</code> interface, checks which hardware is available, and returns the appropriate interface pointer.

Later, when the DLL is unloading, or the application is exiting, the Addon Interfaces Library checks to see if the addon has an Unloading interface, and because it does, that function in the addon is called.

Name

An interface pointer that points to a string. You need to declare this interface to use AoFindName().

Chapter 4 Using Addon Resources

This appendix contains information about using resources in your addon. A resource is any piece of data that you want to have access to. For example, in a multimedia interface, you may want to specify "volume" as a resource. You can then write functions to get and set the volume, using <code>GetResource()</code> and <code>SetResource()</code> as defined in the <code>AOResourceAccess</code> interface.

An Example

Here's an example of working with a resource in an addon. Lets start with creating resources in your addon. One approach is to create a const structure containing your resources definitions, and then use that as a template to create a resources structure for each context, if your addon uses contexts. You would use contexts if you needed more than one instance of the same addon. Lets create a context structure first:

We'll need typing info for our volume and position resources, such as minimum, maximum, and increment values. In an AOResource_t there is pre-defined typing info in the *type* element flags. When the *type* flag for an AOResource_t is AOR_TYPE_LONG, then *value* is an int32_t and the resource *info* is a pointer to int32_t *min*, *max*, and *step* values:

```
// volume range from 0 to 100, in increments of one
static const int32 t volumerange[] = { 0, 100, 1 };
```

When *type* is AOR_TYPE_LONGLONG, the resource *value* is an int64_t and *info* is a pointer to int64_t *min*, *max*, and *step* values:

```
// position range from 0 to 86400000000 (86400 seconds, or 24 hours.) static const int64_t posrange[] = { 0, 86400000000, 1 };
```

The AOResource t structure is defined as:

```
typedef struct
{
    char *name;
    char *description;
    void *value;
    void *info;
    int32_t type;
} AOResource t;
```

For more information about the AOResource t structure, see AOResource t.

Now we can define our const AOResource_t resources structure:

```
&posrange, AOR_TYPE_LONGLONG | AOR_TYPE_READABLE | AOR_TYPE_WRITABLE
{ 0 }
};
```

As you can see, the pointer to the current value of the resource is not valid; its an offset into the context. When we create a new context, we'll have to adjust this pointer accordingly. Assuming we use the AODeConstructor interface, our create function might look like:

```
static void *Create(const AOICtrl t *interfaces)
    my context *ctx = (my context*)calloc( 1, sizeof(my context) );
    int32 t n;
    AOResource t *res;
    // allocate new resource structure, and copy const version
    // into it:
    ctx->res = (AOResource t*)malloc( sizeof(resources) );
    memcpy( ctx->res, &resources, sizeof(resources) );
    for (res=ctx->res;res->name;res++)
        char *p = (char *)ctx;
        // Add the address of the context to the offset, making
        // the value pointer now point to the correct location
        // in our context:
        res->value = (void*)(&p[(int32 t)res->value]);
    }
    // initialize our context elements, if necessary
    ctx->volume = 50;
    return ctx;
}
static void Destroy(void *p)
{
    my context *ctx = (my context*)p;
    free(ctx->res);
    free (ctx);
}
static AODeConstructor media filter =
```

```
{
     Create,
     Destroy
 };
If we want the outside world to be able to access our resources, we'll need to implement the
AOResourceAccess interface. This is quite easy as well:
 static const AOResource t *GetResources( void *handle )
     my context *ctx = (my context*)handle;
     return handle->resources;
 }
 static int32 t SetResource( void *handle,
                               const char *res,
                               const void *data )
 {
     my context *ctx = (my context*)handle;
     // first resource is volume
     if ( strcmp( res, ctx->resources[0].name ) == 0 )
         ctx->volume = *((int32 t*)data);
         // do any other volume control stuff here
         // return success
         return 0;
     }
     else
     // second resource is position
     if ( strcmp( res, ctx->resources[1].name ) == 0 )
         ctx->position = *((int64 t*)data);
         // do any other positioning stuff here
         // return success
         return 0;
     }
```

```
// no matching resource, return error
return -1;
}
static AOResourceAccess resource_access =
{
    GetResources,
    SetResource,
};
```

At the end of our addon, we put them all together in our interfaces list:

We use the #ifdef in order to build a shared (DLL) and static (library) version of our addon with the same source code. This way we can link directly with the static version if we want our application to be completely self contained, and use the DLL if not.

Using addon resources in your application

To use the our addon's resources in an application, we simply get the addon's AOResourceAccess interface using the *AOGetInterface()* function, call its *GetResources()* function, and iterate through the resources until we find one we want to look at. If we want to change one of the resources, and its AOR_TYPE_WRITABLE type flag is set, we call the interfaces *SetResource()* function. Here are examples for getting and setting the volume:

```
int32_t GetVolume( AOICtrl_t *ctrl, void *ctx )
    AOResource t *res;
    AOInterface t *i;
    // does it have resource access?
    if ( i = AOGetInterface( ctrl, "AOResourceAccess", AORESOURCEACCESS VERSI
        // does it have resources?
        if ( res = i->GetResources(ctx) )
        {
            // iterate through the resources
            for (;res->name;res++)
            {
                // is the current resource the volume?
                if ( strcmp( res->name, "Volume" ) == 0 )
                    return *( (int32_t*)res->value );
        }
    }
    return -1;
}
int32_t SetVolume( AOICtrl_t *ctrl, void *ctx, int32_t volume )
    AOInterface t *i;
    // does it have resource access?
    if ( i = AOGetInterface( ctrl, "AOResourceAccess", AORESOURCEACCESS VERSI
        // try to set its Volume resource.
        return i->SetResource(ctx, "Volume", &volume);
    return -1;
```

Chapter 5 Defined Structures

This chapter lists the structures that are defined in the Addon Interface Library headers:

- AOImageFormat_t
- AOVideoFormat_t
- AOAudioFormat t
- AODataFormat_t
- AOResource_t
- AOMimeInfo_t
- AOIStream_t

AOIStream t

A stream object

Synopsis:

See below.

Description:

This structure defines a stream object, and is used to simplify AOStreamer usage. It contains at least the following members:

```
const char *filespec
```

The name of the open file/stream.

const AOStreamer *streamer

The actual AOStreamer being used to stream the data.

```
const AOICtrl_t*control
```

A pointer to the $\texttt{AOICtrl_t}$ structure for the streamer's control, if it is an interface from an addon.

void *ctx

The streamer context; the data it points to is specific to the streamer.

Classification:

QNX Neutrino

Related Links

AOICtrl t (p. 13)

The structure used to define an interface control

AOMimeInfo_t

Mimetype information

Synopsis:

See below.

Description:

This structure defines mimetype information. The structure contains at least the following members:

char **mimetype*

The mimetype (type and subtype) supported (e.g. image/jpeg).

char *extensions

A comma-separated list of file extensions (e.g. jpg, jpeg).

char *description

A description of the mimetype.

Classification:

QNX Neutrino

AOResource t

The addon's resource structure

Synopsis:

```
typedef struct
{
    char *name;
    char *description;
    void *value;
    void *info;
    int32_t type;
} AOResource t;
```

Description:

This structure defines an addon's resources. It contains at least the following members:

```
char *name
```

The name of the resource.

char *description

A short description of the resource.

void * parent

The parent control for the resource.

void * value

A pointer to the actual value of the resource.

void * info

A pointer to typing information (such as a range, list of items, etc.).

```
int32_t type
```

The resource type flags, which is one of:

- AOR_TYPE_LONG a long integer; value points to an int32_t, and info points to
 an array of three int32_t numbers containing minimum, maximum, and increment
 values.
- AOR_TYPE_LONGLONG a long long integer; value points to an int64_t, and info
 points to an array of three int64_t numbers containing minimum, maximum, and
 increment values.
- AOR_TYPE_FLOAT a float; value points to a float, and info points to an array of three float numbers containing minimum, maximum, and increment values.

- AOR_TYPE_STRING a string; value points to an allocated string buffer, and info
 points to an int32_t that contains the maximum length of the string.
- AOR_TYPE_RADIO a radio button; value points to an int32_t, and info points to
 a structure containing an int32_t for the count value, followed by count char*
 pointers.
- AOR_TYPE_TOGGLE a toggle button; value points to an int32_t. There is no info
 pointer requirement.
- AOR_TYPE_POINTER a pointer; *value* is the actual pointer.

You can OR the *type* member with one or more of the following permission values:

- AOR_TYPE_READABLE readable using resource functions.
- AOR_TYPE_WRITABLE writable using resource functions.
- AOR_TYPE_ENABLED enabled.
- AOR_TYPE_VISIBLE visible.

These values are used when automatically generating a GUI for a DLL's resources, for example.

Classification:

QNX Neutrino

Related Links

AOIStream_t (p. 70)
A stream object

AOMimeInfo_t (p. 71)
Mimetype information

AOAudioFormat t

A structure that defines an audio format

Synopsis:

See below.

Description:

This structure defines an audio format. It contains at least the following members:

```
uint32_t channels
```

The number of audio channels. For example, a stereo signal has 2 channels.

```
uint32_t depth
```

The audio depth (sample rate) in bytes.

```
int32_t frame_rate
```

The frame rate (frequency), in frames per second. This value may be divided by *scale* to represent a floating-point frame rate.

```
int32_t scale
```

A scaling variable to convert *frame_rate* into an actual rate. For example: 2997/100=29.97.

```
int32_t duration
```

The duration of the audio, in frames.

Classification:

QNX Neutrino

Related Links

```
AOImageFormat t (p. 75)
```

A structure that defines an image format

```
AOVideoFormat t (p. 77)
```

A structure that defines a video format

```
AODataFormat_t (p. 76)
```

A merged formats structure

ImageFormat t

A structure that defines an image format

Synopsis:

See below.

Description:

The ImageFormat_t structure describes an image format. It contains at least the following members:

```
uint32_t width
```

The width of the image, in pixels.

```
uint32_t height
```

The height of the image, in pixels.

```
uint16_t depth
```

The color depth of the image, in bits.

int16_t transparent

If this image is transparent, this value is the transparency index + 1. If the image isn't transparent, this value is 0.

```
uint8_t pal [256] [3]
```

The image palette.

Classification:

QNX Neutrino

Related Links

```
AudioFormat_t (p. 74)
```

A structure that defines an audio format

```
VideoFormat t (p. 77)
```

A structure that defines a video format

```
MediaFormat t (p. 76)
```

A merged formats structure

MediaFormat_t

A merged formats structure

Synopsis:

See below.

Description:

This structure defines a generic media type, which can be audio, video, or image, and includes compression information. It contains the following members:

uint32 t mtype

A flag indicating media type, which can be one of:

- MEDIA_TYPE_IMAGE (0x0000001)
- MEDIA_TYPE_VIDEO (0x00000002)
- MEDIA_TYPE_AUDIO (0x00000004)

These flags can be ORed with MEDIA_TYPE_COMPRESSED (0x80000000) if the data is compressed.

uint32_t fourcc

A standard "four character code" that describes the media type. This is the standard FOURCC value used in avi and quicktime files. A number of additional values are defined:

- RGB6 16 bit RGB
- RGB5 15 bit RGB
- RGB4 24 bit RGB
- RGB2 32 bit RGB

И

A straight union for the above media formats. The union contains members *image*, *audio*, and *video*, of type ImageFormat_t, AudioFormat_t, and VideoFormat_t respectively.

Classification:

QNX Neutrino

Related Links

```
ImageFormat t (p. 75)
```

A structure that defines an image format

```
VideoFormat t (p. 77)
```

A structure that defines a video format

```
AudioFormat t (p. 74)
```

A structure that defines an audio format

VideoFormat t

A structure that defines a video format

Synopsis:

See below.

Description:

This structure defines a video format. It contains at least the following members:

```
uint32_t width
```

The width of the video image, in pixels.

```
uint32_t height
```

The height of the video image, in pixels.

```
uint32_t depth
```

The color depth (number of bits per pixel).

```
int32_t frame_rate
```

The scaled frame rate. This value is divided by scale for the actual frame rate.

```
int32 t scale
```

A scaling value for the frame rate. This value is required if the frame rate isn't an integer. For example, if the frame rate is 29.97, set *frame_rate* to 2997 and *scale* to 100.

```
int32_t duration
```

The duration of the video, in frames. Set to 0 if unknown.

Classification:

QNX Neutrino

Related Links

```
ImageFormat t (p. 75)
```

A structure that defines an image format

AudioFormat t (p. 74)

A structure that defines an audio format

MediaFormat_t (p. 76)

A merged formats structure