WebPlugIn Protocol Reference

Cocoa > User Experience

2009-04-08

Apple Inc.
© 2009 Apple Inc.
All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, mechanical, electronic, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior written permission of Apple Inc., with the following exceptions: Any person is hereby authorized to store documentation on a single computer for personal use only and to print copies of documentation for personal use provided that the documentation contains Apple's copyright notice.

The Apple logo is a trademark of Apple Inc.

Use of the "keyboard" Apple logo (Option-Shift-K) for commercial purposes without the prior written consent of Apple may constitute trademark infringement and unfair competition in violation of federal and state laws.

No licenses, express or implied, are granted with respect to any of the technology described in this document. Apple retains all intellectual property rights associated with the technology described in this document. This document is intended to assist application developers to develop applications only for Apple-labeled computers.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this document is accurate. Apple is not responsible for typographical errors.

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

Apple, the Apple logo, Cocoa, Mac, Mac OS, and Objective-C are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the United States and other countries.

WebScript is a trademark of Apple Inc.

Java and all Java-based trademarks are trademarks or registered trademarks of Sun Microsystems, Inc. in the U.S. and other countries.

Simultaneously published in the United States and Canada.

Even though Apple has reviewed this document, APPLE MAKES NO WARRANTY OR REPRESENTATION, EITHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, WITH RESPECT TO THIS DOCUMENT, ITS QUALITY, ACCURACY, MERCHANTABILITY, OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. AS A RESULT, THIS DOCUMENT IS PROVIDED "AS IS," AND YOU, THE READER, ARE ASSUMING THE ENTIRE RISK AS TO ITS QUALITY AND ACCURACY.

IN NO EVENT WILL APPLE BE LIABLE FOR DIRECT, INDIRECT, SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES RESULTING FROM ANY DEFECT OR INACCURACY IN THIS DOCUMENT, even if advised of the possibility of such damages.

THE WARRANTY AND REMEDIES SET FORTH ABOVE ARE EXCLUSIVE AND IN LIEU OF ALL OTHERS, ORAL OR WRITTEN, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED. No Apple dealer, agent, or employee is authorized to make any modification, extension, or addition to this warranty.

Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of implied warranties or liability for incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

Contents

WebPlugIn Protocol Reference 5

Overview 5
Tasks 5
- Accessing the Scripting Environment 5
- Using Plug-in State Information 5
- Controlling the Plug-in 5

Instance Methods 6
- objectForWebScript 6
- webPlugInDestroy 6
- webPlugInInitialize 7
- webPlugInSetIsSelected: 7
- webPlugInStart 7
- webPlugInStop 8

Document Revision History 9

Index 11

2009-04-08 | © 2009 Apple Inc. All Rights Reserved.

2009-04-08 | © 2009 Apple Inc. All Rights Reserved.

WebPlugIn Protocol Reference

(informal protocol)

Framework	/System/Library/Frameworks/WebKit.framework
Availability	Available in Mac OS X v10.3.9 and later.
Declared in	WebPlugin.h
Companion guides	WebKit Plug-In Programming Topics WebKit Objective-C Programming Guide

Overview

The `WebPlugIn` informal protocol defines methods that enable interaction between an application using the WebKit framework and any WebKit-based plug-ins it may use.

Tasks

Accessing the Scripting Environment

- `objectForWebScript` (page 6)
  Returns an object that exposes the plug-in's scripting interface.

Using Plug-in State Information

- `webPlugInSetIsSelected:` (page 7)
  Controls plug-in behavior based on its selection.

Controlling the Plug-in

- `webPlugInDestroy` (page 6)
  Prepares the plug-in for deallocation.
- `webPlugInInitialize` (page 7)
  Initializes the plug-in.
- `webPlugInStart` (page 7)
  Tells the plug-in to start normal operation.

2009-04-08 | © 2009 Apple Inc. All Rights Reserved.

- webPlugInStop (page 8)
  Tells the plug-in to stop normal operation.

Instance Methods

objectForWebScript

Returns an object that exposes the plug-in's scripting interface.

```
- (id)objectForWebScript
```

Return Value
An object representing the plug-in's scripting interface.

Discussion
The methods of the object are exposed to the script environment. Messages sent to the returned object will be invoked in the scripting environment. See the WebScripting Protocol Reference informal protocol for more details.

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.3.9 and later.

Related Sample Code
QT Capture Widget
SayIt
WebKitCIPlugIn
WebKitPluginWithJavaScript

Declared In
WebPlugin.h

webPlugInDestroy

Prepares the plug-in for deallocation.

```
- (void)webPlugInDestroy
```

Discussion
Typically, this method releases the memory and other resources used by the plug-in. For example, if the plug-in retained a WebPlugInContainer object, this method should release that object. Do not send any other messages to the plug-in after invoking this method, because calling this method destroys the plug-in. No other methods in this interface may be called after the application has called this method.

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.3.9 and later.

Related Sample Code
SayIt
WebKitCIPlugIn

2009-04-08 | © 2009 Apple Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Declared In
`WebPlugin.h`

webPlugInInitialize

Initializes the plug-in.

```
- (void)webPlugInInitialize
```

Discussion
Tells the plug-in to perform one-time initialization. This method must be called only once per instance of the plug-in object, before any other methods in the protocol are called.

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.3.9 and later.

Related Sample Code
QT Capture Widget
SayIt
WebKitCIPlugIn

Declared In
`WebPlugin.h`

webPlugInSetIsSelected:

Controls plug-in behavior based on its selection.

```
- (void)webPlugInSetIsSelected:(BOOL)selected
```

Parameters
isSelected
If `YES`, the plug-in is currently selected. Otherwise, it is not selected.

Discussion
This may be used, for example, to change the plug-in's appearance when it is selected by the user.

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.3.9 and later.

Declared In
`WebPlugin.h`

webPlugInStart

Tells the plug-in to start normal operation.

```
- (void)webPlugInStart
```


2009-04-08 | © 2009 Apple Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Discussion
The plug-in usually begins its primary task (such as drawing, playing sounds, or animating) in this method. This method may be called more than once, provided that the application has already called `webPlugInInitialize` (page 7) and that each call to this method is followed later by a call to `webPlugInStop` (page 8).

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.3.9 and later.

Related Sample Code
WebKitCIPlugIn

Declared In
`WebPlugin.h`

webPlugInStop

Tells the plug-in to stop normal operation.

```
- (void)webPlugInStop
```

Discussion
This method may be called more than once, provided that the application has already called `webPlugInInitialize` (page 7) and that each call to this method is preceded by a call to `webPlugInStart` (page 7).

Availability
Available in Mac OS X v10.3.9 and later.

Related Sample Code
WebKitCIPlugIn

Declared In
`WebPlugin.h`

2009-04-08 | © 2009 Apple Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Document Revision History

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

Date	Notes
2009-04-08	Added separate parameter and return-value descriptions.
2008-10-15	Minor edits throughout.
2006-05-23	First publication of this content as a separate document.

2009-04-08 | © 2009 Apple Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Document Revision History

2009-04-08 | © 2009 Apple Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Index

O

`objectForWebScript` <NSObject> instance method 6

W

`webPlugInDestroy` <NSObject> instance method 6
`webPlugInInitialize` <NSObject> instance method 7
`webPlugInSetIsSelected:` <NSObject> instance method 7
`webPlugInStart` <NSObject> instance method 7
`webPlugInStop` <NSObject> instance method 8

2009-04-08 | © 2009 Apple Inc. All Rights Reserved.