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# NSPathControlDelegate Protocol Reference

[Cocoa](#) > [User Experience](#)



2007-04-11



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# NSPathControlDelegate Protocol Reference

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|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Conforms to</b>  | NSObject                                    |
| <b>Framework</b>    | /System/Library/Frameworks/AppKit.framework |
| <b>Availability</b> | Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.      |
| <b>Declared in</b>  | NSPathControl.h                             |

## Overview

The `NSPathControlDelegate` optional protocol is implemented by the delegate of an `NSPathControl` object to support dragging to and from the control.

## Tasks

### Dragging Support

- [pathControl:shouldDragPathComponentCell:withPasteboard:](#) (page 6)  
Implement this method to enable dragging from the control.
- [pathControl:validateDrop:](#) (page 7)  
Implement this method to enable dragging onto the control.
- [pathControl:acceptDrop:](#) (page 6)  
Implement this method to accept previously validated contents dropped onto the control.

### Customizing a Pop-Up–Style Path

- [pathControl:willDisplayOpenPanel:](#) (page 7)  
Implement this method to customize the Open panel shown by a pop-up–style path.
- [pathControl:willPopUpMenu:](#) (page 8)  
Implement this method to customize the menu of a pop-up–style path.

## Instance Methods

### **pathControl:acceptDrop:**

Implement this method to accept previously validated contents dropped onto the control.

```
- (BOOL)pathControl:(NSPathControl *)pathControl
    acceptDrop:(id <NSDraggingInfo>)info
```

#### **Parameters**

*pathControl*

The path control that sent the message.

*info*

An object containing details about this dragging operation.

#### **Discussion**

In order to accept the dropped contents previously accepted from [pathControl:validateDrop:](#) (page 7), you must implement this method. This method is called from `performDragOperation:`. You should change the URL value based on the dragged information.

If not implemented, and the control's cell is editable, the drop is accepted if it contains an `NSURLPboardType` or `NSFilenamesPboardType` that conforms to the cell's allowed types. The cell's URL value is automatically changed, and the action is invoked. Implementation of this method is optional.

#### **Availability**

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

#### **Declared In**

`NSPathControl.h`

### **pathControl:shouldDragPathComponentCell:withPasteboard:**

Implement this method to enable dragging from the control.

```
- (BOOL)pathControl:(NSPathControl *)pathControl
    shouldDragPathComponentCell:(NSPathComponentCell *)pathComponentCell
    withPasteboard:(NSPasteboard *)pasteboard
```

#### **Parameters**

*pathControl*

The path control that sent the message.

*pathComponentCell*

The path component cell from which the drag is beginning.

*pasteboard*

The pasteboard.

**Discussion**

This method is called when a drag is about to begin. You can refuse to allow the drag to happen by returning NO and allow it by returning YES. By default, the pasteboard automatically has the following types on it: NSStringPboardType, NSURLPboardType (if there is a URL value for the cell being dragged), and NSFileNamesPboardType (if the URL value returns YES from -isFileURL). You can customize the types placed on the pasteboard at this time, if desired. Implementation of this method is optional.

**Availability**

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

**Declared In**

NSPathControl.h

**pathControl:validateDrop:**

Implement this method to enable dragging onto the control.

```
- (NSDragOperation)pathControl:(NSPathControl *)pathControl
    validateDrop:(id <NSDraggingInfo>)info
```

**Parameters**

*pathControl*

The path control that sent the message.

*info*

An object containing details about this dragging operation.

**Discussion**

This method is called when something is dragged over the control. Return `NSDragOperationNone` to refuse the drop, or return anything else to accept it.

If not implemented, and the control's cell is editable, the drop is accepted if it contains an `NSURLPboardType` or `NSFileNamesPboardType` that conforms to the cell's allowed types. Implementation of this method is optional.

**Availability**

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

**Declared In**

NSPathControl.h

**pathControl:willDisplayOpenPanel:**

Implement this method to customize the Open panel shown by a pop-up-style path.

```
- (void)pathControl:(NSPathControl *)pathControl
    willDisplayOpenPanel:(NSOpenPanel *)openPanel
```

**Parameters**

*pathControl*

The path control displaying the Open panel.

*openPanel*

The Open panel to be displayed.

**Discussion**

This method is called before the Open panel is shown but after its allowed file types are set to the cell's allowed types. At this time, you can further customize the Open panel as required. This method is called only when the style is set to `NSPathStylePopUp`. Implementation of this method is optional.

**Availability**

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

**Declared In**

`NSPathControl.h`

**pathControl:willPopUpMenu:**

Implement this method to customize the menu of a pop-up-style path.

```
- (void)pathControl:(NSPathControl *)pathControl
    willPopUpMenu:(NSMenu *)menu
```

**Parameters**

*pathControl*

The path control displaying the pop-up menu.

*menu*

The pop-up menu to be displayed.

**Discussion**

This method is called before the pop-up menu is shown. At this time, you can further customize the menu as required, adding and removing items. This method is called only when the style is set to `NSPathStylePopUp`. Implementation of this method is optional.

**Availability**

Available in Mac OS X v10.5 and later.

**Declared In**

`NSPathControl.h`



# Document Revision History

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

| Date       | Notes   |
|------------|---|
| 2007-04-11 | New document that describes the protocol optionally implemented by the delegate of an NSPathControl object to support dragging and pop-up menu customization. |

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