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BSD System Manager's Manual

PlistBuddy(8)

NAME

PlistBuddy -- read and write values to plists

SYNOPSIS

PlistBuddy [-cxh] *file.plist*

DESCRIPTION

The **PlistBuddy** command is used to read and modify values inside of a plist. Unless specified by the **-c** switch, **PlistBuddy** runs in interactive mode.

The following commands are used to manipulate plist data:

- Help** Prints this information.
- Exit** Exits the program. Changes are not saved to the file.
- Save** Saves the current changes to the file.
- Revert** Reloads the last saved version of the file.
- Clear** *type* Clears out all existing entries, and creates root of type *type*. See below for a list of types.
- Print** [*entry*] Prints value of *entry*. If an entry is not specified, prints entire file. See below for an explanation of how entry works.
- Set** *entry value* Sets the value at *entry* to *value*.
- Add** *entry type* [*value*] Adds *entry* with type *type* and optional value *value*. See below for a list of types.
- Copy** *entrySrc entryDst* Copies the *entrySrc* property to *entryDst*.
- Delete** *entry* Deletes *entry* from the plist.
- Merge** *file* [*entry*] Adds the contents of plist *file* to *entry*.
- Import** *entry file* Creates or sets *entry* to the contents of *file*.

Entries consist of property key names delimited by colons. Array items are specified by a zero-based integer index. Examples:

```
:CFBundleShortVersionString
:CFBundleDocumentTypes:2:CFBundleTypeExtensions
```

Entries may be of the following types:

```
string
array
dict
bool
real
integer
date
data
```

OPTIONS

- c** *command* Execute command and exit. By default, PlistBuddy will run in interactive mode.
- x** Output will be in the form of an xml plist where appropriate.
- h** Print the complete help info.

EXAMPLES

```
Set the CFBundleIdentifier property to com.apple.plistbuddy:
    Set :CFBundleIdentifier com.apple.plistbuddy

Add the CFBundleGetInfoString property to the plist:
    Add :CFBundleGetInfoString string "App version 1.0.1"

Add a new item of type dict to the CFBundleDocumentTypes array:
    Add :CFBundleDocumentTypes: dict

Add the new item to the beginning of the array:
    Add :CFBundleDocumentTypes:0 dict

Delete the FIRST item in the array:
    Delete :CFBundleDocumentTypes:0 dict

Delete the ENTIRE CFBundleDocumentTypes array:
    Delete :CFBundleDocumentTypes
```

EXIT STATUS

PlistBuddy command returns a zero exit status if it succeeds. Non zero is returned in case of failure.

Mac OS X	February 19, 2007	Mac OS X
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Mac OS X 10.7 - Generated Tue Aug 30 12:40:08 CDT 2011