

[AppKit](#) / [NSCollectionViewDelegate](#) / `collectionView(_:pasteboardWriterForItemAt:)`

Instance Method

collectionView(_:pasteboardWriterForItemAt:)

Provides the pasteboard writer for the item at the specified index

macOS 10.5+

```
@MainActor
optional func collectionView(
    _ collectionView: NSCollectionView,
    pasteboardWriterForItemAt index: Int
) -> (any NSPasteboardWriting)?
```

Parameters

collectionView

The collection view making the request.

index

The index of the item requiring a pasteboard writer.

Return Value

The pasteboard writer object to use for managing the item data. Return `nil` to prevent the collection view from dragging the item.

Discussion

The collection view calls this method for each item involved in the drag operation after it has determined that a drag should begin but before the drag operation has started. Your implementation of this method should create and return the pasteboard writer—an object conforming to the [NSPasteboardWriting](#) protocol—to use for providing the item's data. Using the object you provide, the collection view creates an [NSDraggingItem](#) object for you and configures its [draggingFrame](#) and [imageComponents](#) properties for you using information from the item at the specified index path.

If you implement this method, the collection view does not call the [collectionView\(_:draggingImageForItemsAt:with:offset:\)](#) of your delegate or the [draggingImageForItems\(at:with:offset:\)](#) method of [NSCollectionView](#).

See Also

Legacy Collection View Support

`func collectionView(NSCollectionView, canDragItemsAt: IndexSet, with: NSEvent) -> Bool`

Returns a Boolean indicating whether the collection view can begin dragging the specified items.

~~`func collectionView(NSCollectionView, writeItemsAt: IndexSet, to: NSPasteboard) -> Bool`~~

Invoked after it has been determined that a drag should begin, but before the drag has been started.

Deprecated

~~`func collectionView(NSCollectionView, namesOfPromisedFilesDroppedAtDestination: URL, forDraggedItemsAt: IndexSet) -> [String]`~~

Invoked to return an array of filenames that the receiver promises to create.

Deprecated

`func collectionView(NSCollectionView, draggingImageForItemsAt: IndexSet, with: NSEvent, offset: NSPointPointer) -> NSImage`

Creates and returns a drag image to represent the specified items during a drag.

`func collectionView(NSCollectionView, draggingSession: NSDraggingSession, willBeginAt: NSPoint, forItemsAt: IndexSet)`

Notifies your delegate that a drag session is about to begin.

```
func collectionView(NSCollectionView, validateDrop: any NSDraggingInfo,  
proposedIndex: UnsafeMutablePointer<Int>, dropOperation: UnsafeMutable  
Pointer<NSCollectionView.DropOperation>) -> NSDragOperation
```

Validates the specified location to see if it is a valid drop target.

```
func collectionView(NSCollectionView, acceptDrop: any NSDraggingInfo,  
index: Int, dropOperation: NSCollectionView.DropOperation) -> Bool
```

Invoked when the mouse is released over a collection view that previously allowed a drop.