

Forrst | Layer hosting vs. Layer-backed NSViews

- [Indragie Karunaratne](#)
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```
1. // This is the code to make an NSView a layer HOSTING view
2. [view setLayer:[CALayer layer]];
3. [view setWantsLayer:YES];
4. // This is the code to make an NSView a layer BACKED view
5. [view setWantsLayer:YES];
```

The two code samples are almost identical. So what's the difference between a layer-backed view and a layer hosting view? The [Apple docs](#) explain it fairly well, but to summarize:

In a layer-backed view...

- The contents of the view are just cached onto a backing CALayer
- Enables you to use some of the Core Animation goodness with the NSView with no changes to the actual drawing code
- You cannot manipulate the layer directly, it is owned entirely by the view itself

In a layer hosting view...

- The view simply serves as a host for the layer
- The layer can be manipulated, sublayers can be added, etc. (more flexibility in terms of Core Animation, but less flexibility when it comes to operating as a standard NSView)
- You cannot draw into the view itself, all drawing has to be handled by the view's layer (and its sublayers)

The two are pretty distinct and it can sometimes get confusing to differentiate between each one, hope this helps all the Cocoa folks :-)