
MDSchema Reference

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Overview

The MDSchema functions provide information about the metadata returned for an item including the type of metadata provided for a file type, the localized display name for a metadata attribute key, and the schema for a metadata attribute key.

Functions

MDSchemaCopyAllAttributes

Returns an array containing all the metadata attributes defined in the schema.

```
CFArrayRef MDSchemaCopyAllAttributes (
    void
);
```

Availability

Available in Mac OS X version 10.4 or later.

Declared In

MDSchema.h

MDSchemaCopyAttributesForContentType

Returns a dictionary containing the metadata attributes for the specified UTI type.

```
MD_BEGIN_C_DECLS CFDictionaryRef MDSchemaCopyAttributesForContentType (
    CFStringRef contentTypeUTI
);
```

Parameters

utiType

The UTI type.

Return Value

A dictionary containing `kMDAttributeDisplayValues` and `kMDAttributeAllValues` keys. Returns `NULL` if the UTI type is unknown.

Discussion

This function returns the metadata attributes for the specified UTI type only.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X version 10.4 or later.

Declared In

`MDSchema.h`

MDSchemaCopyDisplayDescriptionForAttribute

Returns the localized description of a metadata attribute key.

```
CFStringRef MDSchemaCopyDisplayDescriptionForAttribute (
    CFStringRef name
);
```

Parameters

name

The name of the metadata attribute key.

Return Value

The localized description of the metadata attribute, or `NULL` if no localized description is available.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X version 10.4 or later.

Declared In

`MDSchema.h`

MDSchemaCopyDisplayNameForAttribute

Returns the localized display name of a metadata attribute key.

```
CFStringRef MDSchemaCopyDisplayNameForAttribute (
    CFStringRef name
);
```

Parameters

name

The name of the metadata attribute key.

Return Value

The localized display name of the metadata attribute, or `NULL` if no localized display name is available.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X version 10.4 or later.

Declared In

`MDSchema.h`

MDSchemaCopyMetaAttributesForAttribute

Returns a dictionary describing the values for the specified metadata attribute key.

```

CFDictionaryRef MDSchemaCopyMetaAttributesForAttribute (
    CFStringRef name
);

```

Parameters

name

The name of the metadata attribute key.

Return Value

A dictionary describing the schema of the metadata attribute key.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X version 10.4 or later.

Declared In

MDSchema.h

Constants

Available Metadata Attribute Keys

Specify the available metadata attribute keys for a content type.

```

const CFStringRef    kMDAttributeDisplayValues;
const CFStringRef    kMDAttributeAllValues;

```

Constants

`kMDAttributeDisplayValues`

An array of strings containing the available display metadata attribute keys, or NULL if the type is not known by the system.

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared in MDSchema.h.

`kMDAttributeAllValues`

An array of strings containing available the metadata attribute keys, or NULL if the type is not known by the system.

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared in MDSchema.h.

Discussion

These keys are in the dictionary returned by the function `MDSchemaCopyAttributesForContentType`.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X version 10.4 and later.

Metadata Attribute Schema Description Keys

Specify the schema of a metadata attribute key.

```
const CFStringRef kMDAttributeName;  
const CFStringRef kMDAttributeType;  
const CFStringRef kMDAttributeMultiValued;
```

Constants

`kMDAttributeName`

A string containing the name of the metadata attribute key.

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared in `MDSchema.h`.

`kMDAttributeType`

A `CFNumberRef` or `CFTypeID` describing the type of data returned as the value of the metadata attribute key.

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared in `MDSchema.h`.

`kMDAttributeMultiValued`

A boolean that indicates if the metadata attribute value is multi-valued. If this is `TRUE`, the metadata attribute value is an array of the types specified in `kMDAttributeType`.

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared in `MDSchema.h`.

Discussion

These keys are in the dictionary returned by the function `MDSchemaCopyMetaAttributesForAttribute`.

Availability

Available in Mac OS X version 10.4 and later.

Document Revision History

This table describes the changes to *MDSchema Reference*.

Date	Notes
2005-04-29	Added new schema API. First public version.
2004-06-28	New document that describes the functions that allow inspection of a metadata schema.

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