
Spotlight Metadata Attributes Reference

[Carbon](#) > [File Management](#)



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Introduction to Spotlight Metadata Attributes Reference

Metadata works best when developers coordinate on the type of metadata they plan to share for a given type of asset. For example, programs that play MP3 or similar types of files should all use similar keys. Spotlight defines many standard attribute keys that you can use to categorize metadata extracted from your documents.

Who Should Read This Document

You should read this document if you are developing a Spotlight metadata importer. All applications that support saving documents to disk should consider providing metadata support by implementing a metadata importer.

It is important to use existing keys whenever possible. Avoid creating new metadata keys if an existing key would be appropriate. For example, if your document tracks the photographer of an image, use the `kMDItemAuthors` key rather than defining a custom `photographer` key.

Organization of This Document

This article contains descriptions of the metadata attribute keys that Apple provides:

- [“Spotlight Metadata Attributes \(page 7\)”](#) describes Spotlight’s metadata attribute keys.

See Also

This document is primarily a reference. You may want to read these additional topics for a better understanding of the concepts required to effectively use Spotlight and metadata.

- *Spotlight Overview* covers the conceptual details surrounding Spotlight’s metadata usage.
- *Spotlight Importer Programming Guide* describes how to write and troubleshoot Spotlight importers.

Spotlight Metadata Attributes

Common Metadata Attribute Keys

Metadata attribute keys that are common to many file types.

`kMDItemAttributeChangeDate`

Date and time of the last change made to a metadata attribute.

Value Type:	CFDate
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

`kMDItemAudiences`

The audience for which the file is intended. The audience may be determined by the creator or the publisher or by a third party.

Value Type:	Array of CFStrings
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

`kMDItemAuthors`

The author, or authors, of the contents of the file. The order of the authors is preserved, but does not represent the main author or relative importance of the authors.

Value Type:	Array of CFStrings
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

`kMDItemCity`

Identifies city of origin according to guidelines established by the provider. For example, "New York", "Cupertino", or "Toronto".

Value Type:	CFString
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Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemComment

A comment related to the file. This comment is not displayed by the Finder.

Value Type: CFString
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemContactKeywords

A list of contacts that are associated with this document, not including the authors.

Value Type: Array of CFStrings
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemContentCreationDate

The date and time that the content was created.

Value Type: CFDate
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemContentModificationDate

Date and time when the content of this item was modified.

Value Type: CFDate
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemContentType

Uniform Type Identifier of the file. For example, a jpeg image file will have a value of public.jpeg. The value of this attribute is set by the Spotlight importer. Changes to this value are lost when the file attributes are next imported.

This attribute is marked as nosearch. You must specify this attribute key explicitly in a query in order for its contents to be searched.

Value Type:	CFString
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemContentTypeTree

Uniform Type Identifier hierarchy of the file. For example, a jpeg image file will return an array containing “public.jpeg”, “public.image”, and “public.data”. The value of this attribute is set by the Spotlight importer. Changes to this value are lost when the file attributes are next imported.

This attribute is marked as nosearch. You must specify this attribute key explicitly in a query in order for its contents to be searched.

Value Type:	Array of CFStrings
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemContributors

Entities responsible for making contributions to the content of the resource. Examples of a contributor include a person, an organization or a service.

Value Type:	Array of CFStrings
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemCopyright

Copyright owner of the file contents.

Value Type:	CFString
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemCountry

The full, publishable name of the country or primary location where the intellectual property of the item was created, according to guidelines of the provider.

Value Type:	CFString
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemCoverage

Extent or scope of the content of the resource. Coverage will typically include spatial location (a place name or geographic co-ordinates), temporal period (a period label, date, or date range) or jurisdiction (such as a named administrative entity). Recommended best practice is to select a value from a controlled vocabulary, and that, where appropriate, named places or time periods be used in preference to numeric identifiers such as sets of co-ordinates or date ranges.

Value Type:	CFString
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemCreator

Name of the application used to create the document content. For example, "Pages" or "Keynote".

Value Type:	CFString
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemDescription

Description of the kind of item this file represents.

Value Type:	CFString
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemDisplayName

Localized version of the file name. This is the localized version of the LaunchServices call `LSCopyDisplayNameForURL()` / `LSCopyDisplayNameForRef()`.

Value Type: CFString
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemDueDate

Date this item is due.

Value Type: CFDate
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemDurationSeconds

The duration, in seconds, of the content of the item. A value of 10.5 represents media that is 10 and 1/2 seconds long.

Value Type: CFNumber
Units: seconds
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemEmailAddress

Email addresses related to this item.

Value Type: Array of CFStrings
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemEncodingApplications

Applications used to convert the original content into its current form. For example, a PDF file might have an encoding application set to "Distiller".

Value Type: Array of CFStrings
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemFinderComment

Finder comments for this item.

Value Type:	CFString
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemFonts

Fonts used by this item. You should store the font's full name, the postscript name, or the font family name, based on the available information.

Value Type:	Array of CFStrings
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemHeadline

Publishable entry providing a synopsis of the contents of the item. For example, "Apple Introduces the iPod Photo".

Value Type:	CFString
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemIdentifier

Formal identifier used to reference the resource within a given context. For example, the Message-ID of a mail message.

Value Type:	CFString
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemInstantMessageAddresses

Instant message addresses related to this item.

Value Type:	Array of CFStrings
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h

Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemInstructions

Instructions concerning the use of the item, such as embargoes and warnings. For example, "Second of four stories".

Value Type: CFString
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemKeywords

Keywords associated with this file. For example, "Birthday", "Important", etc.

Value Type: Array of CFStrings
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemKind

Description of the kind of item this file represents.

Value Type: CFString
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemLanguages

Indicates the languages used by the item. The recommended best practice for the values of this attribute are defined by RFC 3066.

Value Type: Array of CFStrings
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemLastUsedDate

Date and time that the file was last used. This value is updated automatically by LaunchServices everytime a file is opened by double clicking, or by asking LaunchServices to open a file.

Value Type:	CFDate
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemNumberOfPages

Number of pages in the document.

Value Type:	CFNumber
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemOrganizations

Companies or organizations that created the document.

Value Type:	Array of CFStrings
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemPageHeight

Height of the document page, in points (72 points per inch). For PDF files this indicates the height of the first page only.

Value Type:	CFNumber
Units:	points
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemPageWidth

Width of the document page, in points (72 points per inch). For PDF files this indicates the width of the first page only.

Value Type:	CFNumber
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Units: points
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemPhoneNumbers

Phone numbers related to this item.

Value Type: Array of CFStrings
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemProjects

List of projects related to this item. For example, if you were working on a movie, all of the files could be marked as belonging to the project "My Movie".

Value Type: Array of CFStrings
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemPublishers

Publishers of the item. For example, a person, an organization, or a service.

Value Type: Array of CFStrings
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemRecipients

Recipients of this item.

Value Type: Array of CFStrings
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemRights

Provides a link to information about rights held on the document. Contains a rights management statement for the document, or reference a service providing such information. Rights information often encompasses Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), copyright, and various property rights. If this attribute is absent, no assumptions can be made about the status of these and other rights with respect to the document.

Value Type:	CFString
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemSecurityMethod

Encryption method used to make the item secure. PDF files return "None" or "Password Encrypted".

Value Type:	CFString
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemStarRating

User rating of this item. For example, the user rating (number of stars) of an iTunes track.

Value Type:	CFNumber
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemStateOrProvince

Province or state of origin according to guidelines established by the provider. For example, "CA", "Ontario", or "Sussex".

Value Type:	CFString
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemTextContent

Contains a text representation of the content of the document. Data in multiple fields should be combined using a whitespace character as a separator. An application's Spotlight importer provides the content of this attribute.

Applications can create queries using this attribute, but are not able to read the value of this attribute directly.

Value Type: CFString
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemTitle

Title of the item. For example, this could be the title of a document, the name of a song, or the subject of an email message.

Value Type: CFString
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemVersion

Version number of the item.

Value Type: CFString
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemWhereFroms

Describes where the item was obtained from. For example, a downloaded file may refer to the URL, files received by email may indicate the sender's email address, message subject, etc.

Value Type: Array of CFStrings
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Image Metadata Attribute Keys

Metadata attribute keys that are common to image files.

kMDItemAcquisitionMake

Manufacturer of the device used to acquire the document contents.

Value Type: CFString
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemAcquisitionModel

Model of the device used to acquire the document contents.

Value Type: CFString
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemAlbum

Title for the collection containing this item. This is analogous to a record label or photo album.

Value Type: CFString
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemAperture

Aperture setting used to acquire the document contents. This unit is the APEX value.

Value Type: CFNumber
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemBitsPerSample

Number of bits per sample. For example, the bit depth of an image (8-bit, 16-bit etc...) or the bit depth per audio sample of uncompressed audio data (8, 16, 24, 32, 64, etc..).

Value Type: CFNumber
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemColorSpace

Color space model used by the document contents. For example, “RGB”, “CMYK”, “YUV”, or “YCbCr”.

Value Type:	CFString
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemEXIFVersion

Version of the EXIF header used to generate the metadata.

Value Type:	CFString
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemExposureMode

Exposure mode used to acquire the document contents.

Value Type:	CFNumber
Expected Values:	0 (auto exposure), 1 (manual exposure), 2 (auto bracket)
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemExposureProgram

Type of exposure program used by the camera to acquire the document contents. Possible values include: Manual, Normal, Aperture priority, etc.

Value Type:	CFString
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemExposureTimeSeconds

Exposure time used to capture the document contents.

Value Type:	CFNumber
Units:	seconds
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h

Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemExposureTimeString

Time when the document contents were captured. Typically this corresponds to when a photograph is exposed.

Value Type: CFString
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemFNumber

Diameter of the aperture relative to the effective focal length of the lens.

Value Type: CFNumber
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemFlashOnOff

Whether a camera flash was used to capture the document contents.

Value Type: CFBoolean
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemFocalLength

Actual focal length of the lens, in millimeters.

Value Type: CFNumber
Units: millimeters
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemHasAlphaChannel

Whether the image has an alpha channel.

Value Type: CFBoolean
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemISOSpeed

ISO speed used to acquire the document contents. For example, 100, 200, 400, etc.

Value Type: CFNumber
Units: ISO Speed
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemLayerNames

Names of the layers in the file.

Value Type: Array of CFStrings
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemMaxAperture

Smallest F number of the lens in APEX value units, usually in the range of 00.00 to 99.99.

Value Type: CFNumber
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemMeteringMode

Metering mode used to acquire the image.

Value Type: CFString
Expected Values: Unknown, Average, CenterWeightedAverage, Spot, MultiSpot, Pattern, Partial
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemOrientation

Orientation of the document contents.

Value Type:	CFNumber
Expected Values:	0 (landscape), 1 (portrait)
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemPixelHeight

Height, in pixels, of the contents. For example, the image height or the video frame height.

Value Type:	CFNumber
Units:	pixels
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemPixelWidth

Width, in pixels, of the contents. For example, the image width or the video frame width.

Value Type:	CFNumber
Units:	pixels
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemProfileName

Name of the color profile used by the document contents.

Value Type:	CFString
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemRedEyeOnOff

Whether red-eye reduction was used to take the picture.

Value Type:	CFBoolean
--------------------	-----------

Expected Values: 0 (no red-eye reduction mode or unknown), 1 (red-eye reduction used)
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemResolutionHeightDPI

Resolution height, in DPI, of the item.

Value Type: CFNumber
Units: dots per inch (DPI)
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemResolutionWidthDPI

Resolution width, in DPI, of the item.

Value Type: CFNumber
Units: dots per inch (DPI)
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemWhiteBalance

White balance setting of the camera when the picture was taken.

Value Type: CFNumber
Expected Values: 0 (auto white balance), 1 (manual)
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Video Metadata Attribute Keys

Metadata attribute keys that are common to video files.

kMDItemAudioBitRate

Bit rate of the audio in the media.

Value Type: CFNumber
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemCodecs

Codecs used to encode/decode the media.

Value Type: Array of CFStrings
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemDeliveryType

Method used to deliver streaming media.

Value Type: CFString
Expected Values: "Fast Start", "RTSP"
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemMediaTypes

Media types present in the content. For example, a QuickTime movie may return:

```
kMDItemMediaTypes = (Sound, Video, "Hinted Video Track", "Hinted Sound Track")
kMDItemMediaTypes = (Sound, Video)
kMDItemMediaTypes = ("MPEG1 Muxed")
```

Value Type: Array of CFStrings
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemStreamable

Whether the content is prepared for streaming.

Value Type: CFBoolean
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemTotalBitRate

Total bit rate, audio and video combined, of the media.

Value Type:	CFNumber
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemVideoBitRate

Bit rate of the video in the media.

Value Type:	CFNumber
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Audio Metadata Attribute Keys

Metadata attribute keys that describe an audio file.

kMDItemAppleLoopDescriptors

Specifies multiple pieces of descriptive information about a loop. Besides genre and instrument, files can contain descriptive information that help users in refining searches.

Value Type:	Array of CFStrings
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemAppleLoopsKeyFilterType

Specifies key filtering information about a loop. Loops are matched against projects that often differ in a major or minor key. To assist users in identifying loops that will "fit" with their compositions, loops can be tagged with one of the following key filters: "AnyKey", "Minor", "Major", "NeitherKey", or "BothKeys". "AnyKey" means that it fits with anything (whether in a major key, minor key or neither). "Minor" fits with compositions in a minor key. "NeitherKey" doesn't work well with compositions that are in major or minor key. "BothKeys" means it fits with compositions that are in major or minor key.

Value Type:	CFString
Expected Values:	"AnyKey", "Minor", "Major", "NeitherKey", "BothKeys"
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h

Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemAppleLoopsLoopMode

Specifies how a file should be played. Tagged files can either be loops or non-loops (e.g., a cymbal crash). "Looping" indicates if the file should be treated as a loop. "Non-looping" indicates the file should not be treated as a loop.

Value Type: CFString
Expected Values: "Looping", "Non-looping"
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemAppleLoopsRootKey

Specifies the loop's original key. The key is the root note or tonic for the loop, and does not include the scale type

Value Type: CFString
Expected Values: "C", "C#/Db", "D", "D#/Eb", "E", "F", "F#/Gb", "G", "G#/Ab", "A", "A#/Bb", "B", "NoKey"
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemAudioChannelCount

Number of channels in the audio data contained in the file. This integer value only represents the number of discrete channels of audio data found in the file. It does not indicate any configuration of the data in regards to a user's speaker setup.

Value Type: CFNumber
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemAudioEncodingApplication

Name of the application that encoded the audio of the document.

Value Type: CFString
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemAudioSampleRate

Sample rate of the item's audio data. The sample rate is a float value representing hz (audio_frames/second). For example: 44100.0, 22254.54.

Value Type:	CFNumber
Units:	hz (audio_frames/second)
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemAudioTrackNumber

Track number of a song or composition when it is part of an album.

Value Type:	CFNumber
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemComposer

Composer of the song in the audio file.

Value Type:	CFString
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemIsGeneralMIDISequence

Whether the MIDI sequence contained in the file is set up for use with a General MIDI device.

Value Type:	CFBoolean
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemKeySignature

Musical key of the song in the audio file. For example: "C", "Dm", "F#m", "Bb".

Value Type:	CFString
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h

Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

`kMDItemLyricist`

Lyricist of the song in the audio file.

Value Type: CFString

Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h

Header: MDItem.h

Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

`kMDItemMusicalGenre`

Musical genre of the song or composition contained in the audio file. For example: "Jazz", "Pop", "Rock", "Classical".

Value Type: CFString

Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h

Header: MDItem.h

Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

`kMDItemMusicalInstrumentCategory`

Specifies the category of an instrument. Files should have an instrument associated with them ("Other Instrument" is provided as a catch-all). For some categories, such as "Keyboards", there are instrument names which provide a more detailed instrument definition, for example "Piano" or "Organ".

Value Type: CFString

Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h

Header: MDItem.h

Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

`kMDItemMusicalInstrumentName`

Specifies the name of instrument relative to the instrument category. Files can have an instrument name associated with them if they have certain instrument categories. For example, the "Percussion" category has multiple instruments, including "Conga" and "Bongo".

Value Type: CFString

Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h

Header: MDItem.h

Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemRecordingDate

Recording date of the song or composition. This is in contrast to `kMDItemContentCreationDate` which, could indicate the creation date of an edited or "mastered" version of the original art.

Value Type:	CFDate
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemRecordingYear

Year the item was recorded. For example: 1964, 1995, 1997, or 2003.

Value Type:	CFNumber
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemTempo

Tempo of the music in the audio file. A floating point value.

Value Type:	CFNumber
Units:	Beats per Minute (BPM)
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemTimeSignature

Time signature of the musical composition contained in the audio/MIDI file. For example: "4/4", "7/8".

Value Type:	CFString
Framework Path:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header:	MDItem.h
Availability:	Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

File System Metadata Attribute Keys

Metadata attribute keys that describe the file system attributes for a file. These attributes are available for files on any mounted volume.

kMDItemFSContentChangeDate

Date the file contents last changed.

Value Type: CFDate
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemFSCreationDate

Date that the contents of the file were created.

Value Type: CFDate
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemFSInvisible

Whether the file is invisible.

Value Type: CFBoolean
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemFSIsExtensionHidden

Whether the file extension of the file is hidden.

Value Type: CFBoolean
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemFSLabel

Index of the Finder label of the file. Possible values are 0 through 7.

Value Type: CFNumber
Expected Values: 0 through 7
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h

Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemFSName

File name of the item.

Value Type: CFString

Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h

Header: MDItem.h

Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemFSNodeCount

Number of files in a directory.

Value Type: CFNumber

Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h

Header: MDItem.h

Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemFSOwnerGroupID

Group ID of the owner of the file.

Value Type: CFNumber

Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h

Header: MDItem.h

Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemFSOwnerUserID

User ID of the owner of the file.

Value Type: CFNumber

Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h

Header: MDItem.h

Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemFSSize

Size, in bytes, of the file on disk.

Value Type: CFNumber

Units: bytes

Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemPath

Complete path to the file. This value of this attribute can be retrieved, but can't be used in a query or to sort search results. This attribute can't be used as a member of the `valueListAttrs` array parameter for `MDQueryCreate` or `MDQueryCreateSubset`.

Value Type: CFString
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Deprecated Metadata Attribute Keys

Metadata attribute keys that have been deprecated.

kMDItemFSExists

This attribute is deprecated and was never implemented.

Value Type: CFBoolean
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemFSIsReadable

This attribute is deprecated and was never implemented.

Value Type: CFBoolean
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

kMDItemFSIsWritable

This attribute is deprecated and was never implemented.

Value Type: CFBoolean
Framework Path: CoreServices/CoreServices.h

Spotlight Metadata Attributes

Header: MDItem.h
Availability: Deprecated in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Document Revision History

This table describes the changes to *Spotlight Metadata Attributes Reference*.

Date	Notes
2007-05-22	Updated description of kMDItemPath.
2006-04-04	Corrected minor typos.
2005-09-08	Updated kMDItemFSExists, kMDItemFSIsReadable, and kMDItemFSIsWriteable availability to indicate that those attributes are deprecated and were never implemented.
2005-08-11	Added new Spotlight attribute kMDItemContentTypeTree. Enhanced descriptions of other attributes.
2005-06-04	Corrected kMDItemSecurityMethod attribute value type. Expanded attribute descriptions.
2005-04-29	Added kMDItemTextContent, kMDItemMusicalInstrumentCategory, kMDItemMusicalInstrumentName, and kMDItemAppleLoop* attributes. kMDItemFSSize now reports the actual file size.
	New document that describes the usage and types of metadata attributes for various file types used with Spotlight.

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