
MDImporter Reference

[Carbon > File Management](#)



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Contents

MDImporter Reference 5

- Overview 5
- Callbacks 5
 - ImporterImportData 5
- Constants 6
 - kMDImporterTypeID 6
 - kMDImporterInterfaceID 6

Document Revision History 7

Index 9

MDImporter Reference

Framework:	CoreServices/CoreServices.h
Declared in	MDImporter.h
Companion guides	Spotlight Overview Spotlight Importer Programming Guide Plug-ins

Overview

An MDImporter is responsible for returning the metadata contained with a file. The Spotlight server is notified when a file is changed and loads the appropriate importer to extract the metadata. An importer is implemented as a CFPlugin.

Callbacks

ImporterImportData

Defines a pointer to an importer import callback that imports importers.

```
typedef Boolean (* ImporterImportData)
(
    void *thisInterface,
    CFMutableDictionaryRef attributes,
    CFStringRef contentTypeUTI,
    CFStringRef pathToFile
)
```

If you name your function `GetMetadataForFile`, you would declare it like this:

```
Boolean GetMetadataForFile
(
    void *thisInterface,
    CFMutableDictionaryRef attributes,
    CFStringRef contentTypeUTI,
    CFStringRef pathToFile
)
```

Parameters*thisInterface*

The CFPlugin object that is called. This value is passed to the callback function.

attributes

A mutable dictionary that you should populate with the metadata key/value pairs. This dictionary is created and passed to the callback function.

contentTypeUTI

The content type of the file as a uniform type identifier. This value is passed to the callback function.

pathToFile

The full path to the file. This value is passed to the callback function.

Return Value

Your callback function should return `true` if the metadata was successfully returned, `false` if the metadata was not returned.

Constants

kMDImporterTypeID

Type ID of an importer plug-in.

```
#define kMDImporterTypeID
CFUUIDGetConstantUUIDWithBytes(kCFAAllocatorDefault, 0x8B, 0x08, 0xC4, 0xBF, 0x41, 0x5
B, 0x11, 0xD8, 0xB3, 0xF9, 0x00, 0x03, 0x93, 0x67, 0x26, 0xFC);
```

Constants`kMDImporterTypeID`

Only importers with this type ID are loaded.

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared in `MDImporter.h`.

Discussion

The string representation of this UUID is 8B08C4BF-415B-11D8-B3F9-0003936726FC.

kMDImporterInterfaceID

Interface required by a importer plug-in.

```
#define kMDImporterInterfaceID
CFUUIDGetConstantUUIDWithBytes(kCFAAllocatorDefault, 0x6E, 0xBC, 0x27, 0xC4, 0x89, 0x9
C, 0x11, 0xD8, 0x84, 0xAE, 0x00, 0x03, 0x93, 0x67, 0x26, 0xFC);
```

Constants`kMDImporterInterfaceID`

Importers must implement an interface corresponding to this UUID.

Available in Mac OS X v10.4 and later.

Declared in `MDImporter.h`.

Discussion

The string representation of this UUID is 6EBC27C4-899C-11D8-84A3-0003936726FC.

Document Revision History

This table describes the changes to *MDImporter Reference*.

Date	Notes
2005-04-29	Corrected typos. First public version.
2004-06-28	New document that describes the plug-in architecture and callbacks required by a document metadata importer.

REVISION HISTORY

Document Revision History

Index

I

ImporterImportData [callback](#) [5](#)

K

kMDImporterInterfaceID [6](#)

kMDImporterInterfaceID [constant](#) [6](#)

kMDImporterTypeID [6](#)

kMDImporterTypeID [constant](#) [6](#)