

Cocoa Tips and Tricks

Cool Cocoa code

Corbin Dunn

Cocoa Software Engineer

Introduction

- Quick and cool Cocoa tips and tricks
- Learn new things you may not know
- Focused mostly on AppKit classes

What You'll Learn

- TableView tips
- Nib tips
- Accessibility tips
- Image tips
- Document tips
- PathControls, SplitViews, and CollectionViews
- ...and more

DON'T PANIC

TableView Tips

Corbin Dunn

Cocoa Software Engineer

Links in a TableView

NSAttributedString

● ○ ○ TableView	Links
Link Title	URL
Apple	http://www.apple.com
Cocoa	http://developer.apple.com/cocoa
AppKit Release Notes (read these today!)	http://developer.apple.com/ma
Xcode Developer Technologies Website	http://developer.apple.com/tec
Developer Website	http://developer.apple.com/
WWDC Page	http://developer.apple.com/wwdc/
MobileMe	http://me.com

Custom Cell

Creating a Link

- -attributedStringValue for the NSTextFieldCell
- NSAttributedString with the NSLinkAttributeName attribute

```
NSMutableAttributedString *attrString =
    [[NSMutableAttributedString alloc] initWithString:@"Title"];

[attrString addAttribute:NSLinkAttributeName value:aURL range:range];

[attrString addAttribute:NSForegroundColorAttributeName
    value:[NSColor blueColor] range:range];

[attrString addAttribute:NSUnderlineStyleAttributeName
    value:[NSNumber numberWithInteger:NSSingleUnderlineStyle]
    range:range];
```

Custom Cell

LinkTextFieldCell in the sample code

Using Blocks as a Click Handler

```
@interface LinkTextFieldCell : NSTextFieldCell {
    @private
    void (^_linkClickedHandler)(NSURL *url, id sender);
}

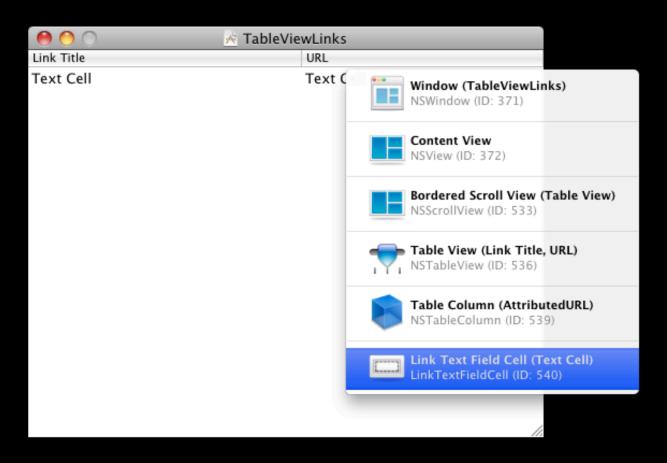
@property(copy) void (^linkClickedHandler)(NSURL *url, id sender);

@end
```

Custom Cell

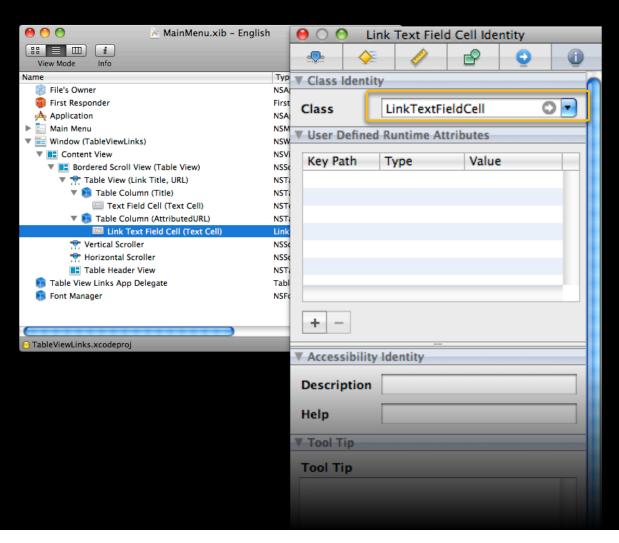
LinkTextFieldCell in the sample code

Ctrl-Shift Click in Interface Builder



Using a Custom Cell in IB

Selection in the nib



Using Blocks as a Click Handler

Using Blocks as a Click Handler

Document Tips

Mark Piccirelli Cocoa Software Engineer

Overriding NSDocument Correctly

- Try to override as little as possible
 - Don't override a –save... method when you can override a –write... method
- See "Message Flow in the Document Architecture"
 - See <AppKit/NSDocument.h> comments too
- We keep adding features
 - The less customization you do, the more your app gets for free

Overriding NSDocument Correctly

- -write... and -save... methods are passed the URL and type
- Use those instead of [self fileURL] and [self fileType]

```
- (B00L)writeToURL:(NSURL *)url ofType:(NSString *)typeName
        error:(NSError **)outError;
```

• Don't set values in –write... methods

Use Blocks Even with Pre-Block API

AppKit has a lot of methods that look like this

- You have to add a method just to find out when the work is done
- With blocks you can add a few generic methods and use them over and over

Use Blocks Even with Pre-Block API

Add generic block-invoking methods like this

```
+ (void)document:(NSDocument *)document succeeded:(B00L)didSucceed
  withCompletionHandler:(void (^)(B00L didSucceed))completionHandler {
    completionHandler(didSucceed);
    Block_release(completionHandler);
}
```

And reuse them like this

Use File Packages

- Good for new document formats that support lots of attachments
- NSFileWrapper!
 - Much improved in Snow Leopard
 - Uses hard links as an optimization
 - See the Mac OS 10.6 AppKit release notes

Autosaving

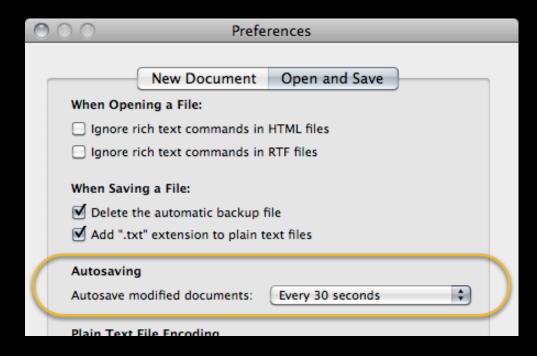
Turn on autosaving in NSDocumentController

[[NSDocumentController sharedDocumentController] setAutosavingDelay:30];

 See the Mac OS 10.4 AppKit release notes for NSDocument methods to override and invoke

Autosaving

See TextEdit for example



/Developer/Examples/TextEdit

Exceptions and Error Handling

Exceptions Are for Programming Errors

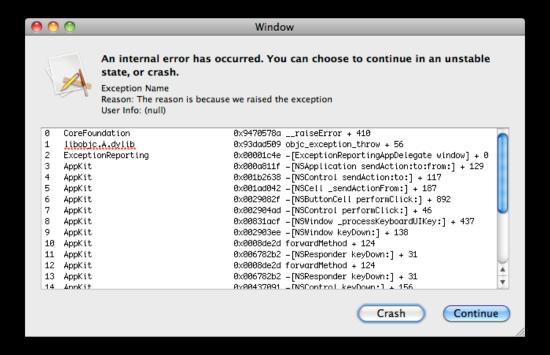
- In general, exceptions shouldn't be used for normal control flow
 - Your tests should run with no exceptions thrown
 - Unless you're using them within your own subsystems
- Be careful about catching and not rethrowing
 - Good at some subsystem boundaries
 - Grand Central Dispatch (libdispatch)
 - Bad almost everywhere else
 - At least log

Catching Exceptions in the Debugger

- Breaking on objc_exception_throw allows you to catch programming errors
 - "Stop on Objective-C Exceptions"
 - NSAccessibilityException

Reporting Exceptions

Let the user see them and report bugs



Reporting Exceptions

Override -[NSApplication reportException:]

```
@implementation MyApplication

- (void)reportException:(NSException *)exception {
    @try {
        // Show [exception reason] and [exception callStackSymbols] to the user
        // See demo source code for an example
    } @catch (NSException *e) {
        // Suppress exceptions from the above code
    }
}

@end
```

Reporting Exceptions Setting the custom NSApplication subclass

Key	Value
▼ Information Property List	(13 items)
Localization native development re	English
Executable file	\${EXECUTABLE_NAME}
Icon file	
Bundle identifier	com.yourcompany.\${PRODUCT_NAME:rfc1034identifier}
InfoDictionary version	6.0
Bundle name	\${PRODUCT_NAME}
Bundle OS Type code	APPL
Bundle creator OS Type code	????
Bundle versions string, short	1.0
Minimum system version	\${MACOSX_DEPLOYMENT_TARGET}
Bundle version	1
Main nib file base name	MainMenu
Principal class \$	MyApplication

Errors Are for Showing to the User

- Used in a lot of places in Cocoa now
- Meant to be "presentable" to the user
- NSResponder has methods for presenting them

```
- (B00L)presentError:(NSError *)error;
```

Nib Tips

Corbin Dunn

Cocoa Software Engineer

NSWindowController and NSViewController

```
MyWindowController *myWindowController =
        [[MyWindowController alloc] initWithWindowNibName:@"Window"];

[_myWindowController.window makeKeyAndOrderFront:nil];
```

Top level objects automatically released for you

Manually Loading Nibs

• An NSNib can be reused to create multiple instances from a nib

```
NSNib *nib = [[NSNib alloc] initWithNibNamed:@"NibName" bundle:nil];

// self has an IBOutlet called _secondWindow
[nib instantiateNibWithOwner:self topLevelObjects:nil];
[_secondWindow makeKeyAndOrderFront:nil];

// The IBOutlet is overwritten on the second call
[nib instantiateNibWithOwner:self topLevelObjects:nil];
[_secondWindow makeKeyAndOrderFront:nil];
```

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```

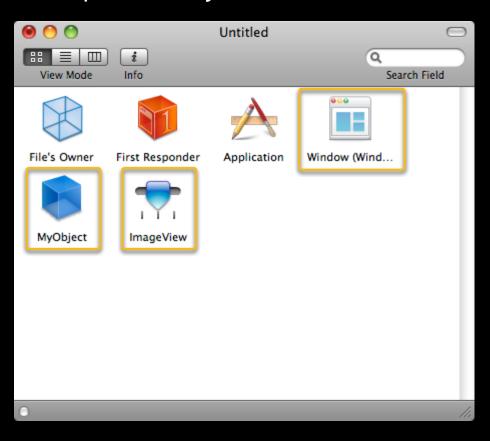
The Owner and -awakeFromNib

```
- (void)awakeFromNib {
    static NSInteger awakeFromNibCount = 0;
    NSLog(@"awakeFromNib called %ld", (long)++awakeFromNibCount);
}

2010-05-12 14:49:42.948 NibLoading[11709:a0f] awakeFromNib called 1
2010-05-12 14:49:44.871 NibLoading[11709:a0f] awakeFromNib called 2
2010-05-12 14:49:44.878 NibLoading[11709:a0f] awakeFromNib called 3
```

Tips on Manually Loading Nibs

You must release all top-level objects

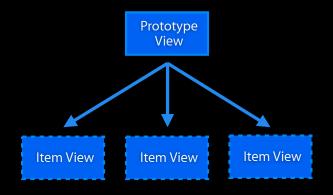


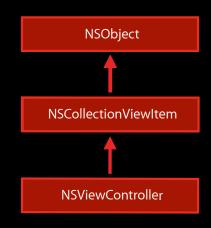
SplitViews, PathControls, and NSCollectionView

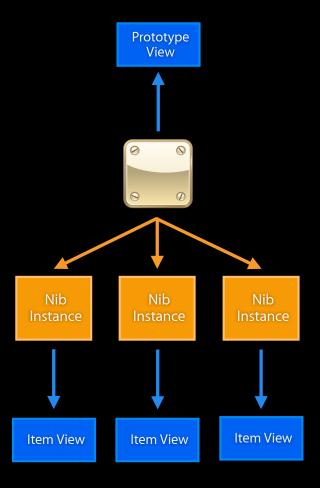
Kevin Perry

Cocoa Software Engineer

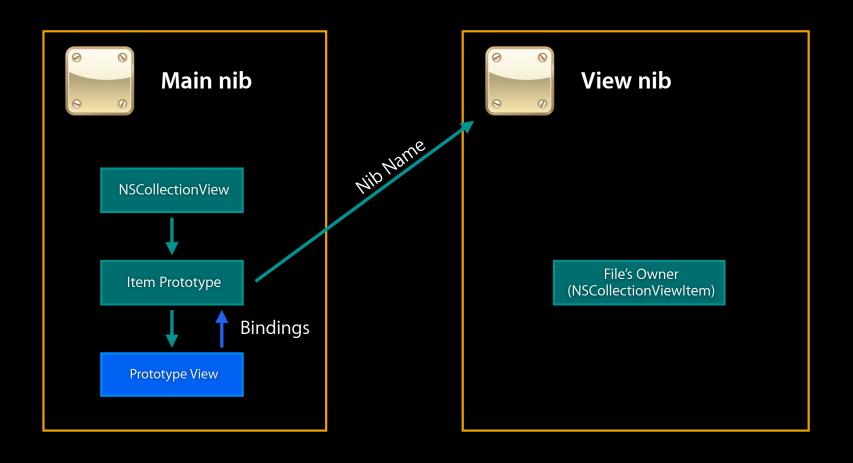
Nib-Based NSCollectionViewItem







Nib-Based NSCollectionViewItem



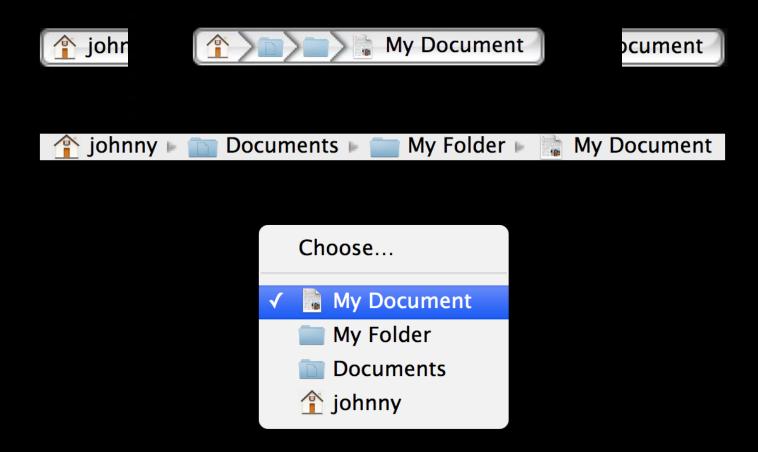
Nib-Based NSCollectionViewItem

Leopard

```
- (id)copyWithZone:(NSZone *)zone {
   id copy = [[[self class] alloc] init];
   NSNib *viewNib = // ...
   [viewNib instantiateNibWithOwner:copy topLevelObjects:NULL];
   return copy;
}

- (void)loadView {
   // Do nothing.
}
```

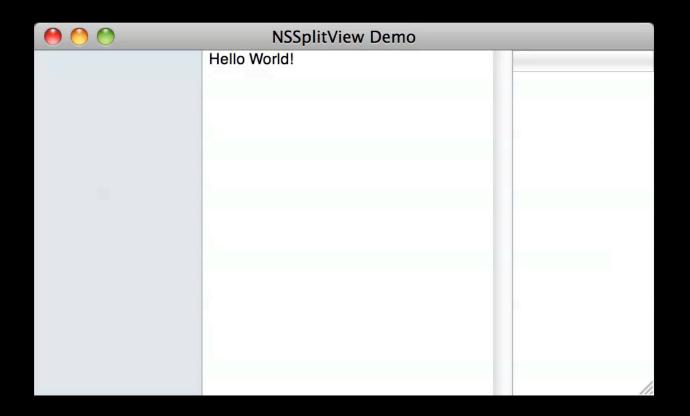
NSPathControl



NSPathControl

- More than file paths
 - -[NSPathControl setStringValue:]
 - -[NSPathComponentCell setImage:]
- Custom drawing
 - +[NSPathCell pathComponentCellClass]
 - -[NSPathCell rectOfPathComponentCell:withFrame:inView:]

NSSplitView



NSSplitView

Leopard and before

```
- (void)splitView:(NSSplitView *)sv
           resizeSubviewsWithOldSize:(NSSize)size {
   CGFloat deltaWidth = NSWidth([sv bounds]) - size.width;
   CGFloat height = NSHeight([sv bounds]);
   NSView *firstView = [[sv subviews] objectAtIndex:0];
   NSSize firstSize = [firstView frame].size;
   firstSize.height = height;
   [firstView setFrameSize:firstSize];
   NSView *middleView = [[sv subviews] objectAtIndex:1];
   NSSize middleSize = [middleView frame].size;
   middleSize.width += deltaWidth;
   middleSize.height = height;
   [middleView setFrameSize:middleSize];
   NSView *lastView = [[sv subviews] lastObject];
   NSRect lastFrame = [lastView frame];
   lastFrame.origin.x += deltaWidth;
   lastFrame.size.height = height;
    [lastView setFrame:lastFrame];
```

NSSplitView

Snow Leopard

Objective-C Tips

Corbin Dunn

Cocoa Software Engineer

Static "Methods" in Objective-C

Wait a minute—what and why?

@implementation AppDelegate

```
static void _processData(AppDelegate *self, NSInteger i) {
    // We have a private _window ivar
    NSLog(@"Processing %d in window %@", i, self->_window);
}

- (void)applicationDidFinishLaunching:(NSNotification *)aNotification {
    for (NSInteger i = 0; i < 200; i++) {
        _processData(self, i);
    }
}</pre>

@end
```

OBJC_HELP

export OBJC HELP=YES

```
corbin@neeb:/Applications/TextEdit.app/Contents/MacOS/TextEdit
objc[2569]: Objective-C runtime debugging. Set variable=YES to enable.
objc[2569]: OBJC HELP: describe available environment variables
objc[2569]: OBJC PRINT OPTIONS: list which options are set
objc[2569]: OBJC PRINT IMAGES: log image and library names as they are loaded
objc[2569]: OBJC PRINT LOAD METHODS: log calls to class and category +load methods
objc[2569]: OBJC_PRINT_INITIALIZE_METHODS: log calls to class +initialize methods
objc[2569]: OBJC PRINT RESOLVED METHODS: log methods created by
                       +resolveClassMethod: and +resolveInstanceMethod:
objc[2569]: OBJC PRINT CLASS SETUP: log progress of class and category setup
objc[2569]: OBJC PRINT PROTOCOL SETUP: log progress of protocol setup
objc[2569]: OBJC PRINT IVAR SETUP: log processing of non-fragile ivars
objc[2569]: OBJC PRINT VTABLE SETUP: log processing of class vtables
objc[2569]: OBJC PRINT VTABLE IMAGES: print vtable images showing overridden
                        methods
objc[2569]: OBJC PRINT CACHE SETUP: log processing of method caches
objc[2569]: OBJC PRINT FUTURE CLASSES: log use of future classes for toll-free
                       bridging
objc[2569]: OBJC PRINT RTP: log initialization of the Objective-C runtime pages
```

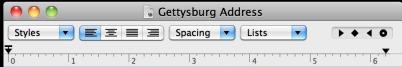
Demo: Xcode Cocoa Tricks

Corbin Dunn

Cocoa Software Engineer

The Secret Life of Your App's User Interface

James Dempsey Cocoa Software Engineer

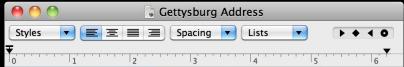


Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

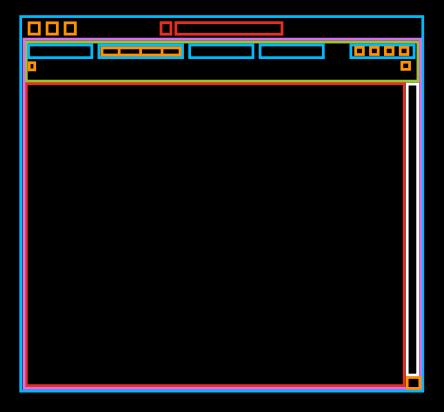


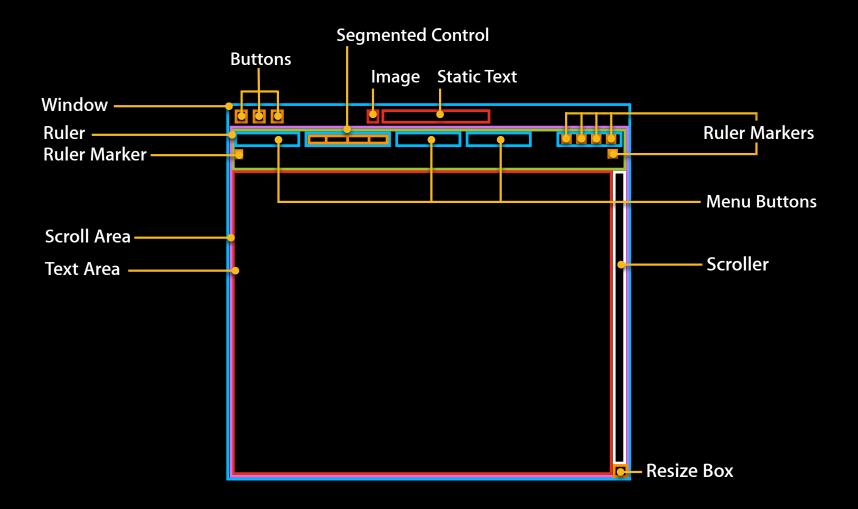


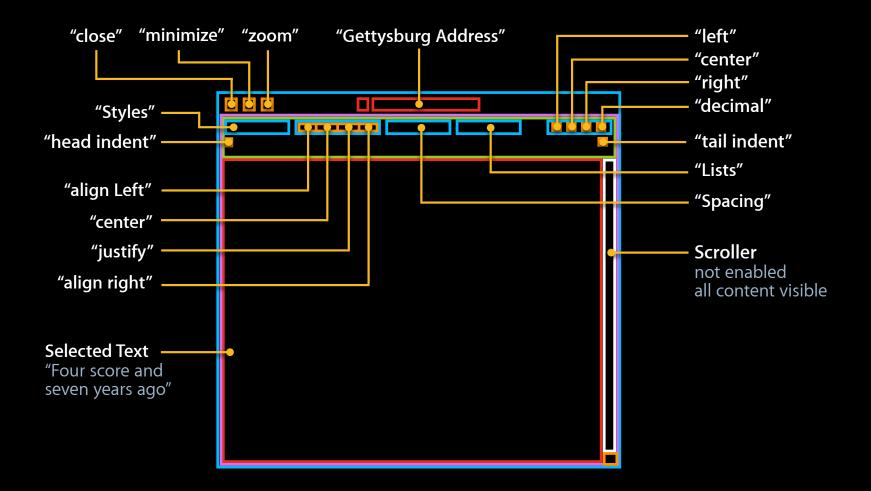
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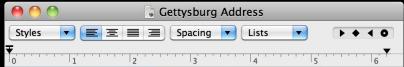
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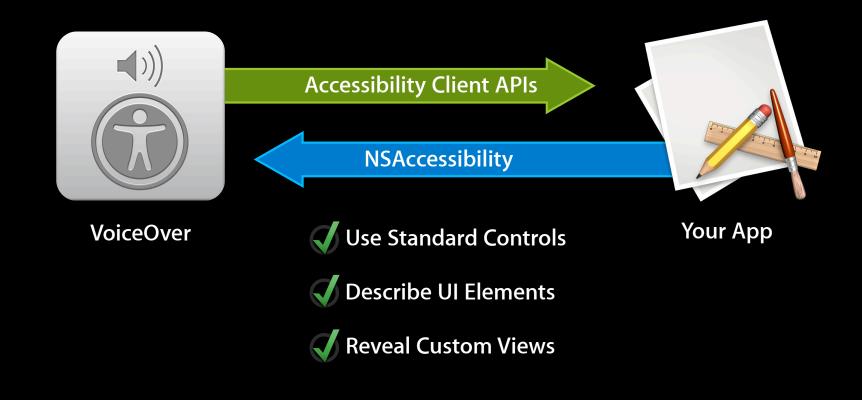




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Demo: Easy Image Descriptions

James Dempsey
Cocoa Software Engineer

Demo: Automated UI Testing

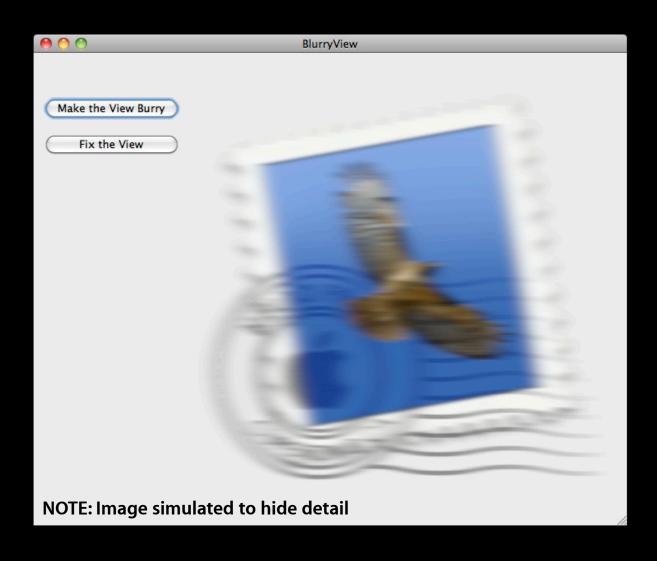
James DempseyCocoa Software Engineer

Blurry Views

Corbin Dunn

Cocoa Software Engineer

Have You Seen Blurry Views?



Have You Seen Blurry Views?



Cause: Non Integral Pixel Alignment



Two Solutions: First—centerScanRect:

```
NSRect frame = [_imageView frame];
frame = [[_imageView superview] centerScanRect:frame];
[_imageView setFrame:frame];
```

Two Solutions: Second—Explicit

```
NSRect frame = [_imageView frame];

// Convert to pixel space
frame = [_imageView.superview convertRectToBase:frame];

// At this point we can floor/round/ceil
frame.origin.x = floor(frame.origin.x);
frame.origin.y = floor(frame.origin.y);

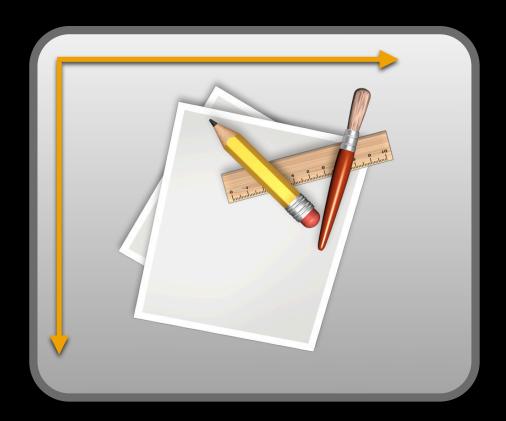
// Convert back to the view's coordinate space
frame = [_imageView.superview convertRectFromBase:frame];

[_imageView setFrame:frame];
```

Image Tips

Ken FerryCocoa Software Engineer

Flippedness



Flippedness

Drawing images right side up

```
-[NSImage drawInRect:fromRect:operation:fraction:respectFlipped:hints:]
-[NSImage compositeToPoint:fromRect:operation:fraction:]
-[NSImage setFlipped:]
```

Mutation Non-local effects

[image setFlipped:YES]





Mutation

Mutate as part of set up

```
[[NSImage alloc] init]
    set...
    set...
    set...
```

```
[image copy]
    set...
    set...
    set...
```

Performance

Same drawing, same image



NSImage Wrap Up

- Use -draw methods respecting flippedness
- Mutate only as part of setup
- Perform identical drawing with identical images

10.6 AppKit release notes
NSImage in SnowLeopard, WWDC 2009

More Table Tips

Corbin Dunn

Cocoa Software Engineer

Variable Row Heights

● ○ ○ TableViewVariableRowHeights		
Wrapper!	Non Wrapper	
Hello world! Hello World line two!	Hello world!	
Let's add some sample text that can wrap and truncate	Let's add some sample text that c	
I think it is time to go outside and ride the unicycle around town for a bit. Maybe down Lombard Street? I bet we could go faster than the cars.	I think it is time to go outside an	
Well, it turns out going 25 mph down Lombard Street wasn't such a good idea.	Well, it turns out going 25 mph d	
At least I'm still here to give tips and tricks!	At least I'm still here to give tips	
A few tips, a few tricks, a little bit of Cocoa, and a little bit of caffeine.	A few tips, a few tricks, a little bit	
	//	

Variable Row Heights Delegate

Use the cell to find the preferred height

```
- (CGFloat)tableView:(NSTableView *)tableView heightOfRow:(NSInteger)row {
    NSCell *cell = [tableView preparedCellAtColumn:0 row:row];
    NSRect constrainedBounds = NSMakeRect(0, 0, _tableColumnWidth, CGFLOAT_MAX);
    NSSize naturalSize = [cell cellSizeForBounds:constrainedBounds];
    return naturalSize.height;
}
```

Variable Row Heights Delegate

Cache the Table Column's width

Summary

- Lots of tips
- Hopefully you learned a few new things
- Download the sample code that illustrates most of these tips

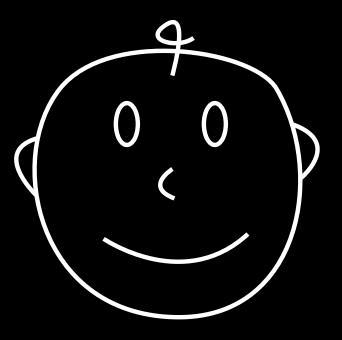
Labs

Cocoa Lab	Application Frameworks Lab C Tuesday 3:15PM–6:30PM
	Application Frameworks Lab D Thursday 2:00PM–4:15PM

Song

James Dempsey and the Breakpoints



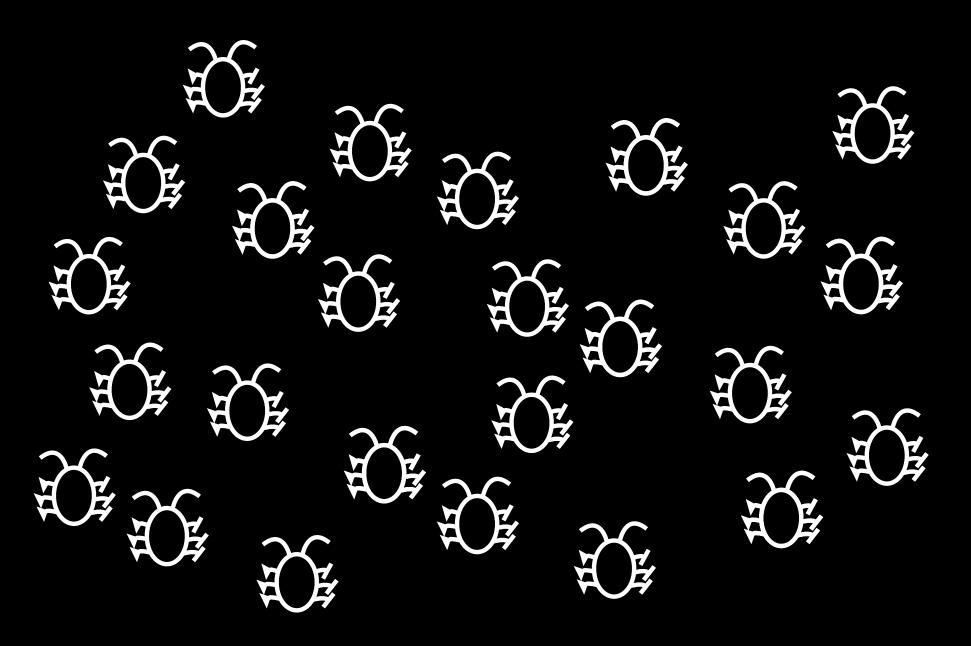


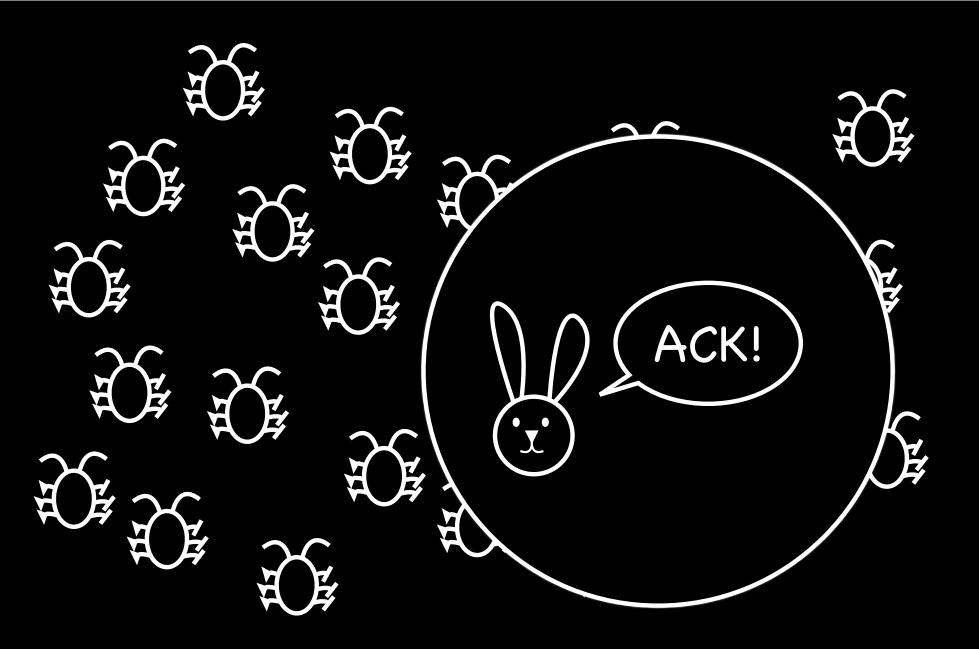




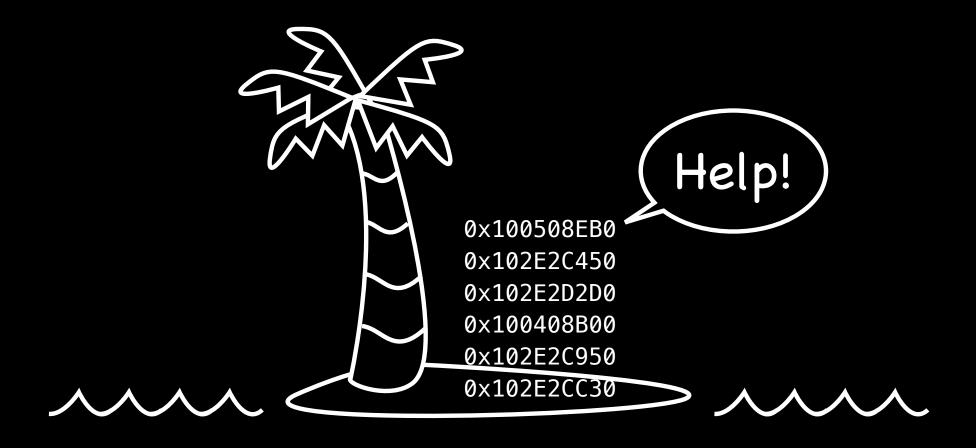
(Book Learnin' Too)











```
while ([self | Count] > 0) {
  [self release]
}
```

Memory Management Programming Guide for Cocoa

Performance



```
// Hold Me
[myObj retain];
```

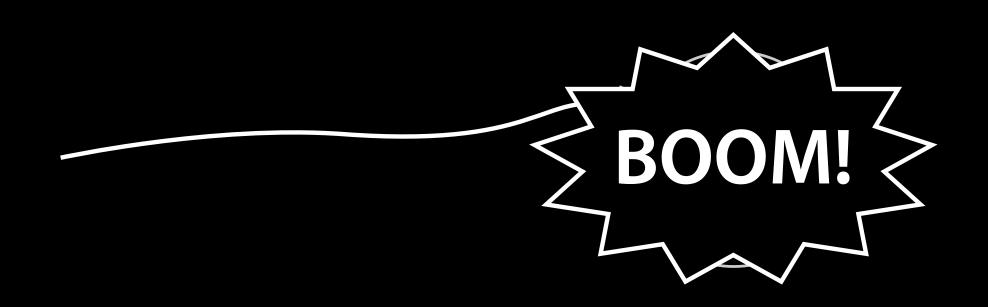
```
// Hold Me
[myObj retain];
// Use Me
[myObj doStuff];
```

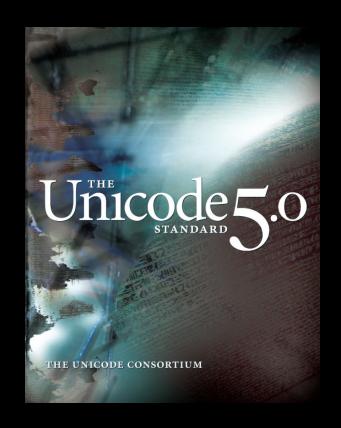
```
// Hold Me
[myObj retain];
// Use Me
[myObj doStuff];
// Release Me
[myObj release];
```

```
// Hold Me
[myObj retain];
// Use Me
[myObj doStuff];
// Release Me
[my0bj release];
```

```
// Hold Me
[myObj retain];
// Use Me
[myObj doStuff];
// Release Me
[my0bj release];
```

```
// Hold Me
[myObj retain];
// Use Me
[myObj doStuff];
// Release Me
[myObj release];
```





1472 page printed document

[myObject __sec PrivateMethod];



I BREAK FOR ENCAPSULATION



Code Snippet Hall of Shame

(Abridged)

-subvilled returns NS

[(NSMutableArray *) [myView subviews] singSelector:@selector(sortViews:)];

This violates the contract in a big way

```
// 1. Get a menu
NSMenuItem *aMenu = [mainMenu itemAtIndex:index];

// 2. Pretend its not
NSMenu *someMenu = (NSMe) aMenu;

Don't overestimate
the power of
typecasting

// 3. Hilarity ensues
-[NSMenuItem superme unre nized selector sent
to instance 0x10010ca70
```



Anti-Patterns

```
NSObject *objectID = 0;
for (NSUInteger i=0; i < count; ++i) {
                                                   Looping back to the head of the loop
 NSObject *object = [trackedElements objectAtIndex:i];
  if ([object isMemberOfClass:[NSString class]])
    objectID = [[NSString alloc] initWithString:aString];
                  Method returns an Objective-C object with a +1 retain count (owning reference)
  *if (objectID != nil)
    [objectID release];
                                       Object released
                                       Reference-counted object is used after it is released
```

Anti-Patterns

More Information

Bill Dudney

Application Frameworks Evangelist dudney@apple.com

Apple Developer Forums

http://devforums.apple.com

É WWDC10

