
UITabBarControllerDelegate Protocol Reference

User Experience: Controls



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UITabBarControllerDelegate Protocol Reference

Conforms to	NSObject
Framework	/System/Library/Frameworks/UIKit.framework
Availability	Available in iOS 2.0 and later.
Companion guide	View Controller Programming Guide for iOS
Declared in	UITabBarController.h
Related sample code	MoviePlayer

Overview

You use the `UITabBarControllerDelegate` protocol when you want to augment the behavior of a tab bar. In particular, you can use it to determine whether specific tabs should be selected, to perform actions after a tab is selected, or to perform actions before or after the user customizes the order of the tabs. After implementing these methods in your custom object, you should then assign that object to the `delegate` property of the corresponding `UITabBarController` object.

All of the methods in this protocol are optional. For more information on how to use and configure tab bar controllers and their delegates, see *View Controller Programming Guide for iOS*.

Tasks

Managing Tab Bar Selections

- [tabBarController:shouldSelectViewController:](#) (page 7)
Asks the delegate whether the specified view controller should be made active.
- [tabBarController:didSelectViewController:](#) (page 6)
Tells the delegate that the user selected an item in the tab bar.

Managing Tab Bar Customizations

- [tabBarController:willBeginCustomizingViewControllers:](#) (page 7)
Tells the delegate that the tab bar customization sheet is about to be displayed.

- [tabBarController:willEndCustomizingViewControllers:changed:](#) (page 8)
Tells the delegate that the tab bar customization sheet is about to be dismissed.
- [tabBarController:didEndCustomizingViewControllers:changed:](#) (page 6)
Tells the delegate that the tab bar customization sheet was dismissed.

Instance Methods

tabBarController:didEndCustomizingViewControllers:changed:

Tells the delegate that the tab bar customization sheet was dismissed.

```
- (void)tabBarController:(UITabBarController *)tabBarController
  didEndCustomizingViewControllers:(NSArray *)viewControllers
  changed:(BOOL)changed
```

Parameters

tabBarController

The tab bar controller that is being customized.

viewControllers

The view controllers of the tab bar controller. The arrangement of the controllers in the array represents the new display order within the tab bar.

changed

A Boolean value indicating whether items changed on the tab bar. YES if items changed or NO if they did not.

Discussion

You can use this method to respond to changes to the order of tabs in the tab bar.

Availability

Available in iOS 2.0 and later.

Declared In

UITabBarController.h

tabBarController:didSelectViewController:

Tells the delegate that the user selected an item in the tab bar.

```
- (void)tabBarController:(UITabBarController *)tabBarController
  didSelectViewController:(UIViewController *)viewController
```

Parameters

tabBarController

The tab bar controller containing *viewController*.

viewController

The view controller that the user selected. In iOS v3.0 and later, this could be the same view controller that was already selected.

Discussion

In iOS v3.0 and later, the tab bar controller calls this method regardless of whether the selected view controller changed. In addition, it is called only in response to user taps in the tab bar and is not called when your code changes the tab bar contents programmatically.

In versions of iOS prior to version 3.0, this method is called only when the selected view controller actually changes. In other words, it is not called when the same view controller is selected. In addition, the method was called for both programmatic and user-initiated changes to the selected view controller.

Availability

Available in iOS 2.0 and later.

Declared In

UITabBarController.h

tabBarController:shouldSelectViewController:

Asks the delegate whether the specified view controller should be made active.

```
- (BOOL)tabBarController:(UITabBarController *)tabBarController
    shouldSelectViewController:(UIViewController *)viewController
```

Parameters

tabBarController

The tab bar controller containing *viewController*.

viewController

The view controller belonging to the tab that was tapped by the user.

Return Value

YES if the view controller's tab should be selected or NO if the current tab should remain active.

Discussion

The tab bar controller calls this method in response to the user tapping a tab bar item. You can use this method to dynamically decide whether a given tab should be made the active tab.

Availability

Available in iOS 3.0 and later.

Declared In

UITabBarController.h

tabBarController:willBeginCustomizingViewControllers:

Tells the delegate that the tab bar customization sheet is about to be displayed.

```
- (void)tabBarController:(UITabBarController *)tabBarController
    willBeginCustomizingViewControllers:(NSArray *)viewControllers
```

Parameters

tabBarController

The tab bar controller that is being customized.

*viewController*s

The view controllers to be displayed in the customization sheet. This list typically contains all custom view controllers you added but does not include some standard controllers, such as the one that manages the More tab.

Availability

Available in iOS 3.0 and later.

Declared In

UITabBarController.h

tabBarController:willEndCustomizingViewControllers:changed:

Tells the delegate that the tab bar customization sheet is about to be dismissed.

```
- (void)tabBarController:(UITabBarController *)tabBarController
  willEndCustomizingViewControllers:(NSArray *)viewControllers
  changed:(BOOL)changed
```

Parameters*tabBarController*

The tab bar controller that is being customized.

viewControllers

The view controllers of the tab bar controller. The arrangement of the controllers in the array represents the new display order within the tab bar.

changed

A Boolean value indicating whether items changed on the tab bar. YES if items changed or NO if they did not.

Discussion

This method is called in response to the user tapping the Done button on the sheet but before the sheet is dismissed.

Availability

Available in iOS 3.0 and later.

Declared In

UITabBarController.h

Document Revision History

This table describes the changes to *UITabBarControllerDelegate Protocol Reference*.

Date	Notes
2009-07-17	Removed a sentence fragment in the <code>tabBarController:didSelectViewController:</code> method discussion.
2009-05-22	Modified the description of the <code>tabBarController:didSelectViewController:</code> method
2008-05-01	New document that describes the protocol for augmenting the behavior of a customized tab bar.

REVISION HISTORY

Document Revision History