

EOFDirtyDoc

by Kenny Leung, NeXT Technical Support

Overview

EOControllers alert their delegates when the user has completed an edit, but not when the user begins editing. If you are trying to implement a document-style paradigm for editing your objects, this delayed reaction does not fit very well. You need to know when editing has begun so you can enable controls and mark the window dirty.

How It Works

When you begin editing a control such as a TextField or a Form, EOControlAssociation is set up as the textdelegate for that editing session. Similarly, EOTextAssociation is set up as the delegate of a Text object in a scrollview. These associations already pass some text delegate messages on to the controller's delegate, just not all of them.

The category;EOAssociationAdditions.m;;- TextDelegation is added to EOAssociation which implements Text's delegate method *textWillChange:*. All this method does is invoke *controller:associationDidBeginEditing:* in the EOController's delegate.

Adding *textWillChange:* to EOAssociation works for all of the standard text interface objects except for NXTableView. This is because NXTableView uses formatters to do its display and editing, and

the protocol is a little different. When you edit text in an `NXTableView`, `NXEditableFormatter` is set up as the `textdelegate`. It catches *textWillChange:* and passes it on to `EOColumnAssociation` via the methods *formatterWillChangeValueFor::sender:* and *formatterWillChangeValueFor::sender:* (described in the `NXFormatterValidation` informal protocol). Since which message actually gets sent depends on the setup of the `NXTableView`, we have to implement both of these methods in `EOColumnAssociation`. Again, these methods are implemented as a category; `EOColumnAssociationAdditions.m`; of `EOColumnAssociation`, and all they do is invoke *controller:associationDidBeginEditing:* in `EOController`'s delegate.

Database Data

This example uses the People database on Oracle. (See the `PeopleDBScripts` directory.) The `EOModel` is included in the project directory. This should work with little or no modification with the People data on Sybase. Alternatively, you can hook this up with almost any data you want.

Further Work

You will notice when you hit the Discard button, the data in the scrolling text will not revert properly. The workaround for this bug is to re-fetch the object from the database.

Valid for NEXTSTEP Release 3.2 installed with the Enterprise Objects Framework Release 1.0.
Valid for NEXTSTEP Release 3.3 installed with the Enterprise Objects Framework Release 1.1.

April 1995 Created example