SortedStorageAgent

Adopted By: Classes used to implement various inspectors in TTools.

Declared In: SortedStorageAgent.h

Protocol Description

SortedStorageAgent is a protocol describing the methods that a SortedStorage's *agent* is expected to respond to.   These methods encompass functionality that is specific to particular set of records that will be kept in a SortedStorage.

The functionality that the protocol requires relates to two things: sorting and hierarchical display.   Only one method in the protocol is necessary to implement sorting; that is the **compare:with:sender:** method.   The other methods are all concerned with hierarchical display in browsers.   This protocol is an extremely close analog to the SortedListAgent protocol.

Method Types

Sorting	**-** compare:with:sender:
Hierarchical display	**-** displayStringFor:sender:
	- titleOfColumn:
	- isLeaf:sender:
	- subdirectoryFor:sender:

Instance Methods

compare:with:sender:
  - (int)**compare:**(void *)*first* **with:**(void *)*second* **sender:***sender*

Returns a negative number to indicate that *first < second*; returns 0 to indicate that *first==second*.   Returns a positive number to indicate that *first>second*.   For instance, StringAgent's implementation just returns strcmp([first stringValue], [second stringValue]).   If you can bend your mind around it, consider that ClassAgent's implementation of this method returns strcmp([first name], [second name]).   Note the use of class methods - *first* and *second* can be any object, even a class object.

displayStringFor:sender:
  - (const char *)**displayStringFor:**(void *)*anElement* **sender:***sender*

Returns the string to use while displaying *anElement* in a browser.

isLeaf:sender:
   - (BOOL)**isLeaf:**(void *)*anElement* **sender:***sender*

Returns YES to indicate that *anElement* has no sub-nodes in the file browser.   Returns NO to indicate that it does.

subdirectoryFor:sender:
   - (id)**subdirectoryFor:**(void *)*anElement*   **sender:***sender*

Returns a SortedStorage (or subclass thereof) containing the sub-nodes of *anElement*.   This is less likely to happen for the SortedStorage class than it is for the SortedList; nevertheless, like all the other methods in this protocol, they operate similarly to the SortedListAgent analog.

titleOfColumn:
   - (const char *)**titleOfColumn:**(int)*col*

Returns a read-only string indicating the title of the next browser column.   Note that this works only if the browser is set up to ask for titles.