NSMutableCopying

Adopted By: Various OpenStep classes

Declared In: Foundation/NSObject.h

Protocol Description

The NSMutableCopying protocol declares a method for providing mutable copies of an object. Only classes that define an "immutable vs. mutable" distinction should adopt this protocol. Classes that don't define such a distinction should adopt NSCopying instead.

NSMutableCopying declares one method, **mutableCopyWithZone:**, but mutable copying is commonly invoked with the convenience method **mutableCopy**. The **mutableCopy** method is defined for all NSObjects and simply invokes **mutableCopyWithZone:** with the default zone.

See the NSCopying protocol for details on implementing copying behavior.

Instance Methods

mutableCopyWithZone:

– **mutableCopyWithZone:**(NXZone *)*zone*

Returns a new instance that's a mutable copy of the receiver. Memory for the new instance is allocated from *zone*, which may be NULL. If *zone* is NULL, the new instance is allocated from the default zone, which is returned by **NSDefaultMallocZone()**. The returned object is implicitly retained by the sender, who is responsible for releasing it. The copy returned is mutable whether the original is mutable or not.

See also: – **copyWithZone:** (NSCopying protocol), – **mutableCopy** (NSObject)