NSEnumerator

Inherits From: NSObject

Declared In: foundation/NSUtilities.h

Class Description

NSEnumerator is a simple abstract class whose instances enumerate collections of other objects. Collection objects Ð such as arrays and dictionaries Ð provide special NSEnumerator objects with which to enumerate their contents. You send **nextObject** repeatedly to the NSEnumerator object to have it return the next object in the original collection until **nil** is encountered.

Collection classes such as NSArray and NSDictionary include methods that return an enumerator appropriate to the type of collection. NSArray has two methods that return an NSEnumerator object, **objectEnumerator** and **reverseObjectEnumerator** (the former traverses the array starting at base zero, while the other starts with the last object in the array and works down). NSDictionary has two enumerator-providing methods: **keyEnumerator** and **objectEnumerator**.

Note: Enumeration through mutable collections is not safe if the original collection is modified.

Instance Variables

None declared in this class.

Method Types

Getting the next object   - nextObject:

Instance Methods

nextObject
- nextObject

Returns the next object in the enumeration object (which can be an array, dictionary, or similar object). When **nextObject** returns **nil**, the enumeration object has been traversed. The following code illustrates how this might work:

```
NSEnumerator *enumerator = [anArray objectEnumerator];
id object;
while (object = [enumerator nextObject]) {
    // do something with object...
}
```