

macOS Preferences

Clayton Burlison

Overview

- defaults
- CFPreferences
- NSUserDefaults
- Profiles + ProfileCreator

Data types

- String `<string>foo</string>`
- Integer `<integer>10</string>`
- Float `<real>10.00300407409668</real>`
- Array
- Dictionary
- Boolean `<true/>` or `<false/>`
- Data
- Date `<date>2018-07-19 18:42:32 +0000</date>`

defaults the dirty little liar

- defaults write com.clburlison.test baz -bool YES
- defaults read com.clburlison.test baz

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Type is boolean

NSUserDefaults vs CFPreferences

Are you an App Developer? Use NSUserDefaults

NSUserDefaults is a higher-level API that allows you to read/write to a single preference domain. So if you're Microsoft you would read/write to `com.microsoft.Word`.

CFPreferences is a lower-level API that is written in C which allows tools like python, go, etc to bridge to this API. Allows reading/writing to multiple preference domains in the same call.

CFPreferences

I don't know python?

```
/usr/bin/python -c "from Foundation import  
CFPreferencesCopyAppValue; print  
CFPreferencesCopyAppValue('HowToCheck',  
'com.microsoft.autoupdate2')"
```

Samples

ProfileCreator & Profiles

Links

- <https://gist.github.com/gregneagle/010b369e86410a2f279ff8e980585c68>
- <https://github.com/scriptingosx/PrefsTool>
- <https://github.com/clburlison/profiles>
- <https://github.com/erikberglund/ProfileCreator>