

---

# EOGlobalID

<b>Inherits From:</b>	NSObject
<b>Conforms To:</b>	NSCopying NSObject (NSObject)
<b>Declared In:</b>	EOControl/EOGlobalID.h

## Class Description

An EOGlobalID is a compact, universal identifier for a persistent object, forming the basis for uniquing in Enterprise Objects Framework. An EOGlobalID uniquely identifies the same object or record both between EOEditingContexts in a single application, and in multiple applications (as in distributed systems). EOGlobalID is an abstract class, declaring only the methods needed for identification. A concrete subclass must define appropriate storage for identifying values (such as primary keys), as well as an initialization or creation method to build IDs. See the EOKeyGlobalID class specification in the Access layer for an example of a concrete ID class.

## Temporary Identifiers

EOEditingContexts and other object stores support the insertion of new objects without established IDs, creating temporary IDs that get replaced with permanent ones as soon as the new objects are saved to their persistent stores. The temporary IDs are instances of the EOTemporaryGlobalID class.

When an EOObjectStore saves these newly inserted objects, it must replace the temporary IDs with persistent ones. When it does this, it must post an EOGlobalIDChangedNotification announcing the change so that observers can update their accounts of which objects are identified by which global IDs. The notification's **userInfo** dictionary contains a mapping from the temporary IDs (the keys) to their permanent replacements (the values).

## Adopted Protocols

NSCopying – copyWithZone:

---

## Method Types

Comparison and identification	– hash – isEqual:
Distinguishing temporary IDs	– isTemporary

## Instance Methods

### hash

@protocol NSObject  
– (unsigned int)hash

Returns an integer that can be used as a table address in a hash table structure. If two objects are equal (as determined by **isEqual:**), they must have the same hash value. For more information, see the descriptions of this method in the NSObject class and protocol specifications of the Foundation Framework.

### isEqual:

@protocol NSObject  
– (BOOL)isEqual:(id)anObject

Returns YES if the receiver and *anObject* share the same identifying values, NO if they don't. For more information, see the descriptions of this method in the NSObject class and protocol specifications of the Foundation Framework.

### isTemporary

– (BOOL)isTemporary

Returns NO. See the class description for more information.

## Notifications

### EOGlobalIDChangedNotification

Posted whenever EOTemporaryGlobalIDs are replaced by permanent EOGlobalIDs. The notification contains:

<b>Notification Object</b>	<b>nil</b>
Userinfo	A mapping from the temporary IDs (keys) to permanent IDs (values)