

# INatAutoCommands

This chapter covers the following topics:

- Purpose
  - Properties
  - Methods
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## Purpose

The collection of commands defined by plug-ins.

## Properties

The following properties are available:

- Parent
- Studio
- System

### Parent

Used to navigate to the parent interface of this interface.

Natural Data Format	Variant Type	Remark
HANDLE OF OBJECT	VT_DISPATCH (INatAutoControlBars)	Get only

### Studio

Used to navigate to the root interface.

Natural Data Format	Variant Type	Remark
HANDLE OF OBJECT	VT_DISPATCH (INatAutoStudio)	Get only

### System

The number of commands that were registered by plug-ins.

Natural Data Format	Variant Type	Remark
I4	VT_DISPATCH (INatAutoSystem)	Get only

## Methods

The following methods are available:

- Add
- Item

### Add

Creates a new command and adds it to the collection.

#### Parameters

Name	Natural Data Format	Variant Type	Remark
Return value	HANDLE OF OBJECT	VT_DISPATCH (INatAutoCommand)	
CommandID	I4	VT_I4	
Caption	A	VT_BSTR	
Image	A HANDLE OF OBJECT I4	VT_BSTR VT_DISPATCH (IPictureDisp) VT_I4	Optional

#### Return value

The newly added command.

#### CommandID

Numeric ID of the new command. The plug-in can choose any positive integer value. When the user later selects the command in the user interface, this ID is passed to the plug-in in the method `INaturalStudioPlugIn::OnCommand`.

#### Caption

A string used to identify the command in menus and toolbars.

#### Image

An image used to represent the command visually. The image must be a 16 color, 16x16 bitmap, using RGB(192,192,192) as the background color.

The image can be specified in three ways:

- As an absolute path name of a .bmp file.
- As an `IPictureDisp` interface. An `IPictureDisp` interface can be created in Natural using the method `INatAutoImages::LoadImage`. An `IPictureDisp` interface cannot be passed across process boundaries. This is due to a Microsoft restriction (MSDN Q150034). Therefore this alternative can only be used with plug-ins running as in-process servers. Natural written plug-ins always run as local servers and can therefore not use this alternative.

- As an index into a table of user images pre-defined in Natural Studio. These are the images that can be assigned to user commands in the **Customize** dialog.

## Item

Returns a specific command from the collection. Used to iterate through the collection.

### Parameters

Name	Natural Data Format	Variant Type	Remark
Return value	HANDLE OF OBJECT	VT_DISPATCH (INatAutoCommand)	
Index	I4	VT_I4	

### Return value

The command identified by the value specified in Index.

### Index

The index of the command in the collection (a value between 1 and Count).