

# Changing properties of presentation elements

Most of presentation elements can have properties (for example *Autosize* for shapes or *Path Style* for paths):

- To check if an element has some properties (or uses properties from its parent), use the method [com.nomagic.magicdraw.uml.symbols.PresentationElement.useParentProperties\(\)](#).
- To get all properties of this element, use the method [PresentationElement.getPropertyManager\(\)](#).
- To get a property of this element with a given ID, use the method [com.nomagic.magicdraw.uml.symbols.PresentationElement.getProperty\(java.lang.String\)](#).
- To change element properties, use the method [com.nomagic.magicdraw.openapi.uml.PresentationElementsManager.setPresentationElementProperties\(PresentationElement, PropertyManager\)](#). The given [com.nomagic.magicdraw.properties.PropertyManager](#) can have only few element's properties (for example, just properties you want to change).

The IDs of all used properties are defined in the class [com.nomagic.magicdraw.properties.PropertyID](#).

Look at [Properties](#) page for more details about properties structure.



There is no information about what exactly properties every presentation element has. Use java debugger and analyze [PresentationElement.getPropertyManager\(\)](#) object. You can also guess property ID from the Symbol Properties name.



If you want to change a value of existing property, recommendation would be clone that property, change value for a clone and set it. Don't use constructor if possible.

The following code example shows how to change element properties:

```
ShapeElement element = ...;
Property property = element.getProperty(PropertyID.AUTOSIZE);
if (property instanceof BooleanProperty)
{
    BooleanProperty autoSize = (BooleanProperty) property.clone();
    autoSize.setValue(true);

    PropertyManager properties = new PropertyManager();
    properties.addProperty(autoSize);

    SessionManager.getInstance().createSession(project, "Test");
    PresentationElementsManager.getInstance().
setPresentationElementProperties(element, properties);
    SessionManager.getInstance().closeSession(project);
}
```



The properties must be new instances. You cannot do something like this:

```
ShapeElement element = ...;
PropertyManager properties = element.getPropertyManager();
properties.getProperty(PropertyID.AUTOSIZE).setValue(new
Boolean(true));
SessionManager.getInstance().createSession(project, "Test");
PresentationElementsManager.getInstance().
setPresentationElementProperties(element, properties);
SessionManager.getInstance().closeSession(project);
```

## Related pages

- [Properties](#)
- [Session management](#)