the width of display **102**, so no notification is provided as to horizontal scrollability, as by illuminating notification element **114**. However, if the width of information were greater than the width of display **102**, then notification element **114** would have also been illuminated to alert the device user that horizontal scrolling could be performed using scroll wheel **116**.

[**0030**] Many other types of notification elements are possible. These include, but are not limited to, activation of a light (e.g. by turning on a light associated with scrollability in a particular direction, or selectively turning on one of multiple lights associated with scrollability in a respective one of multiple directions), a change in light intensity (e.g. by dimming or heightening one or more lights associated with corresponding scrolling directions), a change in light color (e.g. indicating scrollability via a green light and non-scrollability via a red light), a change in light location (e.g. turning off one light illuminating a "No Scroll" legend and turning on another light illuminating a "Scroll" legend), a change in a light blinking pattern (e.g. a slow blink pattern to indicate non-scrollability and a fast blink pattern to indicate scrollability), activation of a legend (as in the example shown in **FIG. 2**), a change in a legend (e.g. a blinking light to indicate scrollability and a steady light to indicate non-scrollability), activation of a sound (e.g. initiation of a tone to indicate scrollability and silence to indicate no scrollability), a change in a sound (e.g. a first pitch and/or pulse pattern to indicate scrollability and a second pitch and/or pulse pattern to indicate non-scrollability, activation of a physical movement (a vibration to indicate scrollability), and a change in a physical movement (e.g. a first type of movement of some portion of the computing device to indicate scrollability and a second type of movement to indicate non-scrollability).

[**0031**] **FIG. 3** illustrates two display windows **202** and **204** of a computing device **200** that provides notification of scrollability, showing current user focus on a non-scrollable display window **202**. Display window **202** is non-scrollable, because none of the information displayed in window **202** is truncated in either the vertical or horizontal directions.

[**0032**] In the embodiment illustrated, computing device **200** comprises a mouse **210** coupled via cord **212**. Mouse **210** comprises a left-hand button **214** and a right-hand button **216**. Mouse **210** also comprises a vertical scroll wheel **222** with a corresponding vertical scrollability light **220**. Mouse **210** further comprises a horizontal scroll wheel **226** with a corresponding horizontal scrollability light **224**.

[**0033**] In the example shown in **FIG. 3**, the device user has operated mouse **210** to move cursor **206** within display window **202**. The presence of cursor **206** within display window **202** indicates that the device user has "focused" on display window **202**. That is, the device user selects display window **202** to be the active window for the purposes of viewing data, entering data, editing data, and so forth. Correspondingly, display window **204** is inactive.

[**0034**] In addition to using a mouse such as mouse **210**, a device user can achieve focus on a specific display window by any other suitable user interface element. These include, but are not limited to, any element to move a cursor position on a display. Such elements include pointing devices, keys, buttons, a touch-sensitive screen, or a combination of the foregoing.

[**0035**] As a result of focus being achieved on a specific display window, a focus control signal is generated in a manner well known to those of ordinary skill in the art. The focus control signal can take the form, for example, of a software attribute or status indicator with respect to a video display buffer associated with the specific display window. This focus control signal represents the selection of the specific display window. If the device user focuses on a different display window, a different focus control signal is generated.

[**0036**] In addition to the focus control signal, a scrollability control signal is generated for the selected display window in a manner well known to those of ordinary skill in the art. The scrollability control signal can take the form, for example, of a software attribute or status indicator with respect to a video display buffer associated with the specific display window. This scrollability control signal reflects whether information to be displayed in the specific display window is scrollable or not. If all of the information to be displayed in the selected display window can be viewed within the display window without scrolling, the scrollability control signal is indicates "no scrolling". However, if scrolling of the information is required in the vertical and/or horizontal directions, the scrollability control signal accordingly indicates "vertical scrolling" and/or "horizontal scrolling".

[**0037**] When the device user focuses on a specific display window, the corresponding focus control signal for that window gates the value of the scrollability control signal corresponding to the same display window. The present invention utilizes the unique control signal corresponding to the gated scrollability control signal for a selected display window as a basis for switching on the appropriate scrollability indicator(s) to notify the device user if information in the selected display window can be scrolled. One of ordinary skill in the art is capable of writing suitable computer program instructions, for storage on suitable storage media, which when accessed by a processor or other computational machine result in a scrollability notification being generated to the device user, depending in part upon the status of the scrollability control signal as described above.

[**0038**] **FIG. 4** illustrates two display windows **202** and **204** of a computing device **200** that provides notification of scrollability, showing current user focus on a scrollable display window **204** and corresponding notification of scrollability, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention. Display window **204** is scrollable in the vertical direction, because there is more information in the vertical dimension than can be displayed simultaneously in window **204**.

[**0039**] In the example shown in **FIG. 4**, the device user has operated mouse **210** to move cursor **206** within display window **204**. The presence of cursor **206** within display window **204** indicates that the device user has "focused" on display window **204**. That is, the device user desires that display window **204** be the active window for the purposes of entering data, editing data, and so forth. Correspondingly, display window **202** is inactive.

[**0040**] Because the device user has focused on display window **204**, the display attribute of display window **204** that is set to indicate that display window **204** is scrollable in the vertical dimension is gated by the focus control signal