

some circumstances, the orientation of what is displayed may not match how the device 450 is currently orientated. The user may rotate or changes the orientation of the device 450, for example, to the orientation shown in FIG. 9B. The orientation sensor 490 is used to determine the new orientation (i.e., rotation of 90-degrees), and the processing circuitry (not shown) of the device 450 determines that the areas 471 designated on the bezel 470 for certain user controls of the electronic device 450 should be changed. Accordingly, the processing circuitry alters the designation of the areas 471 of the bezel 470 so that they will better match the newly sensed orientation of the device 450. In addition, because the electronic device 450 can display visual guides 480 relative to the designated areas 471 of the bezel 470, the processing circuitry also alters location of the visual guides 480 on the display 460 so that their new locations match the new locations of the designated areas 471 of the bezel 470.

[0086] For example, the area 471A of where the “Left” control 480 in FIG. 9A will remain on the same side 454 of the device 450 as shown in FIG. 9B. Yet, the “Left” control 480 is preferably orientated along the new bottom edge 456 of the device 450 so that it is in a position more amenable to the user. Thus, the old area 471A is no longer designated for the “Left” control. Instead, a new area 421B of the bezel 470 is designated for the “Left” control 480, and the visual guide 480 for the “Left” control is displayed in the appropriate position of the display 470 along the new bottom edge 456 to match the new designated area 471B.

[0087] In the example of FIGS. 9A-9B, orientation data from the orientation sensor 490 is used to alter the designation of the areas 471 for the user controls and the location of visual guides 480. In other embodiments, the orientation of the content to be displayed may dictate how the designation of the areas 471 for the user controls and the location of visual guides 480 should be for the device 450. For example, the display 460 of the electronic device 450 in FIGS. 9A-9B is rectangular and can be used to show content in “portrait” or “landscape” orientations. Depending then on the desired or required orientation for particular content (e.g., image, screen, user interface, or picture) to be shown on the display 460, the electronic device 450 can alter the designation of the areas 471 for the user controls and the location of visual guides 480 according to the “portrait” or “landscape” orientations of the content. In other words, when the device 450 is preparing to display particular content, the electronic device 450 can determine the particular orientation for that content. Then, when the device 450 switches to show that new content on the display 460, the electronic device 450 alters the designation of the areas 471 for the user controls and the location of visual guides 480 if the orientation of the newly displayed content is different from that previously displayed. Thus, the user can naturally rotate the device 450 to better view the newly displayed content in its preferred orientation (e.g., “portrait” or “landscape”), and the visual guides 480 and designated areas 471 will be already matched to the content’s orientation.

[0088] Turning to FIG. 10, the electronic device 500 of the present disclosure can also be configured to discriminate or ignore certain forms of touch data made on the bezel 520. For example, the housing 502 of the electronic device 500 may be designed to fit mainly around the display 510 and the

surrounding bezel 520. As a result, when a user holds the electronic device 500, it may be likely that portion of the user’s hand (e.g., one of the user’s fingers or thumb) will maintain consistent contact on portion 522 of the bezel 520. In this instance, it is desirable that the electronic device 500 ignores such consistent contact made on the bezel 520. The processing circuitry (not shown) of the device 500 can store information tracking how long touch data has occurred on portions of the bezel 520 and/or how many adjacent, designated areas have had repeated touch data. Then, after a predefined time limit, the processing circuitry can begin to ignore that consistent touch data in the portion 522 of the bezel 520 when determining what user controls the user is implicating. Furthermore, the processing circuitry can designate new locations for areas of the bezel 520 for user controls that are part of the ignored portion 522 of the bezel 520. In the present example, the areas 524 and 526 for the “page up” and page down” user controls on the left side of the bezel 520 have been moved to new locations outside the ignored portion 522. Likewise, the visual guides 512 associated with the “page up” and page down” user controls have been shifted to new locations adjacent to the newly designated areas 524 and 526.

[0089] In previous embodiments of the present disclosure, the touch sensitive bezel of the present disclosure is arranged substantially around the entire perimeter of the display. In one alternative shown in FIG. 11, an embodiment of an electronic device 530 can have a touch sensitive bezel 550 around a display 540 just as before. In addition, the electronic device 530 can have one or more additional touch sensitive pads or surfaces 560 incorporated throughout various sides of the housing 532 for the device 530. These additional touch sensitive pads 560 can be used to detect location caused by a user touching the pads 560 and/or can be used to detect force caused by a user pressing the pads 560. The additional touch sensitive pads 560 can be positioned along edges of the housing 532 and can be positioned on the back of the housing 530.

[0090] Any user controls designated for areas 562 on these additional touch sensitive pads 560 may be preconfigured and may not be change during operation. In this way, the user may know the functionality of the various pads 560 and can use the areas 562 to control features of the device 530 without the need of any visual guides 542 on the display 540. Alternatively, the user may be able to designate any user controls for these additional touch sensitive pads 560 using setup and configuration operations of the device 530. In yet another alternative, user controls for areas 562 of these additional pads 560 can be designated and re-designated by the electronic device 530 during operation in much the same way disclosed herein for areas 552 on the bezel 550. For example, areas 562 on the pads 560 can be designated for user controls similar to the areas 552 that can be designated on the bezel 550, and visual guides 542 can be displayed around the perimeter of the display 540 adjacent to corresponding areas 562 on the additional pads 560 in the same way that the visual guides 542 are displayed adjacent designated areas 552 of the bezel 550.

[0091] In FIG. 11, for example, the area 552 on the bezel 550 can be designated to adjust values, and the areas 562 of the adjacent side pad 560 can be designated to select various attributes of the display 540. Because the device 530 can be hand-held, the user can selected from the various attributes