3. The portable electronic device of claim 2,

wherein the at least one input device includes an adaptable keypad, and

in response to a change in the physical configuration of the portable electronic device, the mode of operation of the adaptable keypad changes between numeric layout and text layout.

4. The portable electronic device of claim 3, in response to a change in the physical configuration of the portable electronic device, the active software application being executed by the processor is changed between a phone application and a text application.

5. The portable electronic device of claim 2, in response to a change in the physical configuration of the portable electronic device, the active software application being executed by the processor is changed between a phone application and a text application.

6. The portable electronic device of claim 1,

wherein the at least one input device includes an adaptable keypad, and

in response to a change in the physical configuration of the portable electronic device, the mode of operation of the adaptable keypad changes between numeric layout and text layout.

7. The portable electronic device of claim 6, in response to a change in the physical configuration of the portable electronic device, the active software application being executed by the processor is changed between a phone application and a text application.

8. The portable electronic device of claim 1,

wherein the at least one input device includes a directional input device selected from the group consisting of a mouse, a touchpad, a trackball, and a rotating dial, and

in response to a change in the physical configuration of the portable electronic device, the mode of operation of the directional input device is changed between a portrait orientation and a landscape orientation.

9. The portable electronic device of claim 1, in response to a change in the physical configuration of the portable electronic device, the active software application being executed by the processor is changed between a phone application and a text application.

10. The portable electronic device of claim 1, wherein in response to a change in the physical configuration of the portable electronic device the active software application is changed on the fly without a need to load or reload an operating system, drivers, or software applications.

11. The portable electronic device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of physical configurations of the portable electronic device include a portrait configuration and a landscape configuration.

12. The portable electronic device of claim 11,

wherein in response to a change in the physical configuration of the portable electronic device from the portrait configuration to the landscape configuration, the active software application being executed by the processor is changed between a phone application and a text application,

the phone applications includes at least one of a phone dialer and an address book, and

the text application includes at least one of text messaging, a notepad, a spreadsheet, an organizer, and a media player.

13. The portable electronic device of claim 11,

wherein in the portrait configuration the portable electronic device functions as a wireless phone, and in the landscape configuration the portable electronic device functions as one or more of a text messaging pager, a PDA, a handheld computer, an electronic organizer, and a media player.

14. The portable electronic device of claim 1, further comprising sensing switches for detecting the physical configuration of the portable electronic device, the sensing switches being integrated into at least one of the first and send body elements.

15. The portable electronic device of claim 14, further comprising logic circuitry coupled between the sensing switches and the processor, the logic circuitry supplying an interrupt to the processor in response to a change in the physical configuration of the portable electronic device.

16. A method of operating a portable electronic device having a plurality of physical configurations, said method comprising the steps of:

generating an interrupt in response to a change in the physical configuration of the device; and

in response to the interrupt, changing at least two of a mode of operation of an input of the device, a mode of operation of a display of the device, and an active software application being executed on the device.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the changing step includes the sub-steps of:

changing the mode of operation of the display between a portrait view and a landscape view; and

changing the mode of operation of the input by changing a keypad between a numeric layout and a text layout.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the changing step includes the sub-steps of:

changing the mode of operation of the display between a portrait view and a landscape view; and

changing the active software application between a phone application that causes the device to function as a wireless phone and a text application that causes the device to functions as one or more of a text messaging pager, a PDA, a handheld computer, an electronic organizer, and a media player.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the changing step includes the sub-steps of:

changing the mode of operation of the input by changing a keypad between a numeric layout and a text layout; and

changing the active software application between a phone application that causes the device to function as a wireless phone and a text application that causes the device to functions as one or more of a text messaging pager, a PDA, a handheld computer, an electronic organizer, and a media player.

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