ous or analog data. By way of example, the sensor may be configured to measure the position or the amount of tilt of the touch pad **34** relative to the frame when a user presses on the touch pad **34**. Any suitable mechanical, electrical and/or optical switch or sensor may be used. For example, tact switches, force sensitive resistors, pressure sensors, proximity sensors, and the like may be used. In some case, the spring bias for placing the touch pad **34** in the upright position is provided by a movement indicator that includes a spring action.

[**0051**] **FIG. 4** is a simplified block diagram of a computing system, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. The computing system generally includes an input device **40** operatively connected to a computing device **42**. By way of example, the input device **40** may generally correspond to the input device **30** shown in **FIGS. 2, 3A** and **3**B, and the computing device **42** may correspond to a computer, PDA, media player or the like. As shown, the input device **40** includes a depressible touch pad **44** and one or more movement indicators **46**. The touch pad **44** is configured to generate tracking signals and the movement indicator **46** is configured to generate a button signal when the touch pad is depressed. Although the touch pad **44** may be widely varied, in this embodiment, the touch pad **44** includes capacitance sensors **48** and a control system **50** for acquiring the position signals from the sensors **48** and supplying the signals to the computing device **42**. The control system **50** may include an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC) that is configured to monitor the signals from the sensors **48**, to compute the angular location, direction, speed and acceleration of the monitored signals and to report this information to a processor of the computing device **42**. The movement indicator **46** may also be widely varied. In this embodiment, however, the movement indicator **46** takes the form of a switch that generates a button signal when the touch pad **44** is depressed. The switch **46** may correspond to a mechanical, electrical or optical style switch. In one particular implementation, the switch **46** is a mechanical style switch that includes a protruding actuator **52** that may be pushed by the touch pad **44** to generate the button signal. By way of example, the switch may be a tact switch.

[**0052**] Both the touch pad **44** and the switch **46** are operatively coupled to the computing device **42** through a communication interface **54**. The communication interface provides a connection point for direct or indirect connection between the input device and the electronic device. The communication interface **54** may be wired (wires, cables, connectors) or wireless (e.g., transmitter/receiver).

[**0053**] Referring to the computing device **42**, the computing device **42** generally includes a processor **54** (e.g., CPU or microprocessor) configured to execute instructions and to carry out operations associated with the computing device **42**. For example, using instructions retrieved for example from memory, the processor may control the reception and manipulation of input and output data between components of the computing device **42**. In most cases, the processor **54** executes instruction under the control of an operating system or other software. The processor **54** can be a single-chip processor or can be implemented with multiple components.

[**0054**] The computing device **42** also includes an input/output (I/O) controller **56** that is operatively coupled to the processor **54**. The (I/O) controller **56** may be integrated with the processor **54** or it may be a separate component as shown. The I/O controller **56** is generally configured to control interactions with one or more I/O devices that can be coupled to the computing device **42** as for example the input device **40**. The I/O controller **56** generally operates by exchanging data between the computing device **42** and I/O devices that desire to communicate with the computing device **42**.

[**0055**] The computing device **42** also includes a display controller **58** that is operatively coupled to the processor **54**. The display controller **58** may be integrated with the processor **54** or it may be a separate component as shown. The display controller **58** is configured to process display commands to produce text and graphics on a display screen **60**. By way of example, the display screen **60** may be a monochrome display, color graphics adapter (CGA) display, enhanced graphics adapter (EGA) display, variable-graphics-array (VGA) display, super VGA display, liquid crystal display (e.g., active matrix, passive matrix and the like), cathode ray tube (CRT), plasma displays and the like. In the illustrated embodiment, the display device corresponds to a liquid crystal display (LCD).

[**0056**] In most cases, the processor **54** together with an operating system operates to execute computer code and produce and use data. The computer code and data may reside within a program storage area **62** that is operatively coupled to the processor **54**. Program storage area **62** generally provides a place to hold data that is being used by the computing device **42**. By way of example, the program storage area may include Read-Only Memory (ROM), Random-Access Memory (RAM), hard disk drive and/or the like. The computer code and data could also reside on a removable program medium and loaded or installed onto the computing device when needed. In one embodiment, program storage area **62** is configured to store information for controlling how the tracking and button signals generated by the input device are used by the computing device **42**.

[**0057**] **FIG. 5** is a simplified perspective diagram of an input device **70**, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. Like the input device shown in the embodiment of **FIG. 3**, this input device **70** incorporates the functionality of a button (or buttons) directly into a touch pad **72**, i.e., the touch pad acts like a button. In this embodiment, however, the touch pad **72** is divided into a plurality of independent and spatially distinct button zones **74**. The button zones **74** represent regions of the touch pad **72** that may be moved by a user to implement distinct button functions. The dotted lines represent areas of the touch pad **72** that make up an individual button zone. Any number of button zones may be used. For example, two or more, four, eight, etc. In the illustrated embodiment, the touch pad **72** includes four button zones **74**A-**74**D.

[**0058**] As should be appreciated, the button functions generated by pressing on each button zone may include selecting an item on the screen, opening a file or document, executing instructions, starting a program, viewing a menu, and/or the like. The button functions may also include functions that make it easier to navigate through the electronic system, as for example, zoom, scroll, open different menus, home the input pointer, perform keyboard related actions such as enter, delete, insert, page up/down, and the