

[0149] At step 1660 it is determined whether the “A” setting indicates that the button is to accept Quicklaunch or Favorites features. If YES, the appropriate attributes are applied to the button at a step 1662. If not, flow proceeds to step 1638 so as to process any further buttons. Once all buttons are processed, flow continues back to step 1314 as shown at a step 1642.

[0150] These collections of styles that can be applied to a button (attributes, properties, or the like, e.g., a bitmap, a font, tool tip, flyover characteristic) have a particular precedence. Such characteristics are defined in the configuration file. If no such characteristics are found in the configuration file, the theme is searched. If such a characteristic is found in the theme it is applied. If no such characteristic is found in the theme, or it wasn’t in the configuration file, the template is searched. If no such characteristic is located in the template, any predetermined default is applied. Thus, softer defaults as well as overrides at the template level, theme level, and user configuration level are available according to this embodiment of the present invention. The flow of FIG. 16 follows this iteration to determine what attributes to apply to the buttons. For example, the “set tweak amount” for positioning at step 1646 searches the configuration file and the theme to determine whether a modification has been made to the position of the button. In the case in which Zenu™ buttons are nested, in other words, clicking a button opens another level of buttons, each level of buttons has different parent templates, and a theme associated with each level. Thus, the position of buttons of a particular level is determined by their template and their appearance is determined by the theme of that level.

[0151] Turning again to the “waiting for an event” step 1314, two events can occur: a “button click”, which is described in connection with FIGS. 17 and 18, or “a dropped file unbutton file event”, which is described at FIG. 19.

[0152] FIGS. 17 and 18 describe the process that occurs when a button is clicked.

[0153] This process begins at a step 1702, and proceeds to determine whether the UDI is in button configuration mode, at a step 1704. If so, the current settings for the button are displayed in the configuration window at a step 1706. The process then enters the “wait for event” mode, at a step 1716 (which is equivalent to the wait for event step 1314). If not in the configuration mode, flow proceeds to a step 1708, which determines if there is a user defined button command for the button that applies to this theme. If so, the command is executed at a step 1710, then flow proceeds to step 1716. If no button command is defined, flow proceeds to step 1712 to determine if there is a built-in command for the button with the theme applied to the UDI as specified in the theme file. If YES, that command is then executed at step 1710. If not, flow proceeds to step 1714 to determine if a default command for the button is found in the default template file. If so, the default command is executed at step 1710. Otherwise, flow proceeds to step 1716 to wait for another event.

[0154] FIG. 18 illustrates the process for executing a command formed at step 1710. The execute command process begins at a step 1802. The command string is parsed at a step 1804. The syntax of the command string as described above in connection with Tables 1 and 2. Next, the first command is evaluated at a step 1806. If the command

is a plug-in, as determined at a step 1808, the plug-in .dll is loaded to create a plug-in object and a command is executed at a step 1810. If the command is not a plug-in, it is determined whether the command specifies opening a template or theme, at a step 1812. If so, the theme, template, or both are opened, at a step 1814. Next, it is determined whether the command was to close a template, at a step 1816. If so, the closed template specified is performed, at a step 1818. As a result of steps 1810, 1814 and step 1818, or if the result of step 1816 is NO, it is next determined whether a command has been executed, at a step 1820. If YES, it is then determined whether there is another command in the string to process, at a step 1822. If so, the next command is obtained, at a step 1826, and flow proceeds to evaluate the command, at step 1808. If the result of the query in step 1820 is NO, a shell execute command is performed, at a step 1824. Control then proceeds after step 1824 to step 1822. If no other commands are to be executed in the string flow proceeds to step 1828 to wait for an event, which is the equivalent of “wait for event” step 1314.

[0155] FIG. 19 illustrates the process for handling a “dropped file on button event.” Flow begins at a step 1902. Next, a short-cut is created to the file that is dropped on the button, and that short-cut is placed in a Zenu™ short-cut directory, at a step 1904. Next, a short-cut icon for the file association is placed on the button and is modified according to the theme/layer specific characteristics, at a step 1906. Finally, the button command is edited based on the current theme, so that when the button is clicked the file is opened if that theme is currently applied, at a step 1908. The wait for event step is entered again at a step 1910.

[0156] IV Example Computer System and Computer Program Product Implementations

[0157] The Zenu™ UDI of the present invention can be implemented using hardware, software or a combination thereof and may be implemented in one or more computer systems or other processing systems. In fact, in one embodiment, the invention is directed toward one or more computer systems capable of carrying out the functionality described herein. An example of a computer system 2000 is shown in FIG. 20. The computer system 2000 includes one or more processors, such as processor 2004. Processor 2004 can support various operating systems such as Microsoft® Windows, Unix, Lixux, or the like. The processor 2004 is connected to a communication infrastructure 2006 (e.g., a communications bus, cross-over bar, or network). Various software embodiments are described in terms of this exemplary computer system. After reading this description, it will become apparent to a person skilled in the relevant art(s) how to implement the invention using other computer systems and/or computer architectures.

[0158] Computer system 2000 can include a display interface 2005 that forwards graphics, text, and other data from the communication infrastructure 2002 (or from a frame buffer not shown) for display on the display device 2030.

[0159] Computer system 2000 also includes a main memory 2008, preferably random access memory (RAM), and can also include a secondary memory 2010. The secondary memory 2010 can include, for example, a hard disk drive 2012 and/or a removable storage drive 2014, representing a floppy disk drive, a magnetic tape drive, an optical disk drive, or the like. The removable storage drive 2014