reads from and/or writes to a removable storage unit **2018** in a well known manner. Removable storage unit **2018**, represents a floppy disk, magnetic tape, optical disk, of the like, which is read by and written to by removable storage drive **2014**. As will be appreciated, the removable storage unit **2018** includes a computer usable storage medium having stored therein computer software and/or data.

[**0160**] In alternative embodiments, secondary memory **2010** can include other similar means for allowing computer programs or other instructions to be loaded into computer system **2000**. Such means can include, for example, a removable storage unit **2022** and an interface **2020**. Examples of such can include a program cartridge and cartridge interface (such as that found in video game devices), a removable memory chip (such as an EPROM, or PROM) and associated socket, and other removable storage units **2022** and interfaces **2020** which allow software and data to be transferred from the removable storage unit **2022** to computer system **2000**.

[**0161**] Computer system **2000** can also include a communications interface **2024**.

[**0162**] Communications interface **2024** allows software and data to be transferred between computer system **2000** and external devices. Examples of communications interface **2024** can include a modem, a network interface (such as an Ethernet card), a communications port, a PCMCIA slot and card, infrared, radio frequency (RF), or the like. Software and data transferred via communications interface **2024** are in the form of signals **2028** which can be electronic, electromagnetic, optical or other signals capable of being received by communications interface **2024**. These signals **2028** are provided to communications interface **2024** via a communications path (i.e., channel) **2026**. This channel **2026** carries signals **2028** and can be implemented using wire or cable, fiber optics, a phone line, a cellular phone link, an RF link and other communications channels.

[**0163**] In this document, the terms "computer program medium" and "computer usable medium" are used to generally refer to media such as removable storage drive **2014**, a hard disk installed in hard disk drive **2012**, and signals **2028**. These computer program products are means for providing software to computer system **2000**. The invention is directed to such computer program products.

[**0164**] Computer programs (also called computer control logic) are stored in main memory **2008** and/or secondary memory **2010**. Computer programs can also be received via communications interface **2024**. Such computer programs, when executed, enable the computer system **2000** to perform the features of the present invention as discussed herein. In particular, the computer programs, when executed, enable the processor **2004** to perform the features of the present invention. Accordingly, such computer programs represent controllers or modules of the computer system **2000**.

[**0165**] In an embodiment where the invention is implemented using software, the software can be stored in a computer program product and loaded into computer system **2000** using removable storage drive **2014**, hard drive **2012** or communications interface **2024**. The control logic or modules (software), when executed by the processor **2004**, causes the processor **2004** to perform the functions of the invention as described herein.

[**0166**] In another embodiment, the invention is implemented primarily in hardware using, for example, hardware components such as application specific integrated circuits (ASICs). Implementation of the hardware state machine so as to perform the functions described herein will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art(s).

[**0167**] In yet another embodiment, the invention is implemented using a combination of both hardware and software.

V. Conclusion

[**0168**] While various embodiments of the present invention have been described above, it should be understood that they have been presented by way of example, and not limitation. It will be apparent to persons skilled in the relevant art that various changes in form and detail can be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. This is especially true in light of technology and terms within the relevant art(s) that may be later developed.

[**0169**] The present invention has been described above with the aid of functional building blocks or modules (see **FIGS. 11 and 20**, for example) illustrating the performance of specified functions and relationships thereof. The boundaries of these functional building blocks have been defined herein for the convenience of the description. Alternate boundaries can be defined so long as the specified functions and relationships thereof are appropriately performed. Any such alternate boundaries are thus within the scope and spirit of the claimed invention. One skilled in the art will recognize that these functional building blocks can be implemented by discrete components, application specific integrated circuits, processors executing appropriate software and the like or any combination thereof. Thus, the breadth and scope of the present invention should not be limited by any of the above-described exemplary embodiments, but should be defined only in accordance with the following claims and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. In a cursor-based computing apparatus having a display, a method comprising the steps of:

(a) displaying a user definable interface (UDI) upon activation by a user, wherein the UDI has a plurality of buttons and is displayed in a relative position about a cursor position to reduce cursor commute;

(b) permitting the user to select a visual appearance and shape of the UDI, and the number of buttons; and

(c) permitting the user to assign a command to each of the plurality of buttons by dragging and dropping from one or more applications of the apparatus.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein step (c) further comprises the steps of:

(d) permitting the user to form a first group of buttons and at least a second group of buttons;

(e) permitting the user to assign a first icon representing a first specific one of the one or more applications to a first given button of the first group;

(f) permitting the user to assign commands, associated with the first specific one of the one or more applications to the second group of buttons;