

within the area of the icon 23 in a manner similar to the aforementioned specific examples. When within the area, the control unit 17 determines that the user has touched at the position within the area of the movable icon 23 (step 403), and displays a image (2) on the display screen 2 for indicating that the icon 23 is movable, as illustrated in FIG. 19. For indicating that the icon 23 is movable, the icon 23 may be changed, for example, in color, vibrated, or the like.

[0112] Next, as shown in FIG. 20, the user moves the finger tip 16 with the pushing force P maintained to be $P2 > P \geq P1$, a shadow icon 23' having the same appearance is produced from the icon 23, and is dragged following the moving finger tip 16 (step 404). A image (3) in FIG. 19 indicates an image displayed on the display screen 2 in this event, wherein the icon 23' moves together with the finger tip 16.

[0113] As the user releases the finger tip 16 from the touch panel 9 in the middle of the movement so that the pushing force becomes smaller than P1 (step 405), the dragging operation is interrupted, and the icon 23' disappears (or automatically returns to the position of the icon 23 in the icon display region 21 and lies on the icon 23) (step 410). Consequently, the initial image (1) illustrated in FIG. 19 is displayed on the display screen 2 (step 400).

[0114] Also, as illustrated in FIG. 20, the user moves the finger tip 16 without releasing from the touch panel 9 with the pushing force P equal to or larger than P2 and smaller than P2 ($P1 \leq P < P2$) to continuously drag the icon 23' (steps 404-406), and then drops the icon 23' on a desired function in the menu displayed in the function setting region 22, for example, a function "PURCHASE" when the user wishes to purchase the item (step 407). In response, the control unit 17 displays a image (4) illustrated in FIG. 19 on the display screen 2. Next, as the user pushes the touch panel 9 in with the finger tip 16 remaining in touch with the icon 23' so that the pushing force P becomes equal to or larger than P2 ($P \geq P2$) as shown in FIG. 20 (step 407), the control unit 17 displays a image (5) on the display screen 2 for showing a detailed guidance 24 on the item associated with the icon 23' as illustrated in FIG. 19 (step 408). Thus, the guidance 24 displayed in this way can reduce erroneous operations of the user even if the user erroneously selects an unintended function from the menu.

[0115] For purchasing the item, the user may touch a "PURCHASE" button 25 in the guidance 24, permitting the user to purchase the item through downloading. On the other hand, as the user touches a "CANCEL" button 26, the user can cancel the purchase. After completion of such processing (step 409), the flow returns to step 400, wherein the initial image (1) illustrated in FIG. 19 is displayed on the display screen 2. As described above, when the operations on a plurality of functional buttons are associated to activate a single function, as is the case of requiring the delivery of a content, the display unit in this specific example eliminates from the user the need for confirming a sequence of touch operations on the plurality of touch-driven members, and permits the user to activate the function through a simple touch operation. In addition, the display unit in this specific example can ensure that the user receives a delivered content while preventing the user from erroneously selecting an unintended function.

[0116] Particularly, in the foregoing embodiment, when the user touches the icon (touch-driven member) with a

pushing force P equal to or larger than P1 and smaller than P2 ($P1 \leq P < P2$), the user can drag the icon following a movement of the finger tip (indicating means) (first processing). In addition, the user can activate the process previously assigned to the icon in combination with a region (a desired function in the menu) to which the user drags the icon (second processing).

[0117] In the foregoing embodiment, when the user pushes an object 23 in within the object display region 21, a function associated with the object 23 may be activated. For example, in this embodiment, the user may be allowed to "listen to a content for trail."

[0118] FIG. 21 is a flow chart illustrating a fifth specific example of the function control performed by the control unit 17 in FIG. 5. In this fifth specific example, the display unit provides a function of selecting an item from a pop-up menu.

[0119] FIG. 22 in turn illustrates images displayed on the display screen 2 in the process of the function control performed by the control unit 17 in the fifth specific example. The images include menu objects 27; a pop-up menu 28; and a selection frame (cursor) 29.

[0120] FIG. 23 further shows a change in the pushing force P for executing the operation in the fifth specific example of the function control. Specifically, FIG. 23 denotes sequential numbers (1)-(5) corresponding to the images in FIG. 22 along a time axis.

[0121] Referring first to FIG. 21, steps 500-502 and 511 are similar to steps 100-102 and 113 in FIG. 7, wherein the finger tip 16 is not in touch with the touch panel 9, and a image (1) illustrated in FIG. 19 is displayed on the display screen 2. The menu objects 27 are displayed on the image (1).

[0122] For changing one menu object to another on the image (1), the user may touch a currently displayed menu object 27a with a finger tip 16. As the control unit 17 responsively senses a pushing force smaller than P2 and equal to or larger than P1 ($P2 > P \geq P1$), as shown in FIG. 23 (step 502), the control unit 17 determines whether or not the position at which the finger tip 16 touches the touch panel 9 falls within the area of the menu object 27a in a manner similar to the aforementioned specific examples. When within the area, the control unit 17 determines that the touched position is included in the area of the movable menu object 27a (step 503), and displays a image (2) illustrated in FIG. 22 on the display screen 2. On the image (2), the pop-up menu 28 comprising other menu objects arranged therein is displayed together with the menu object 27a so far displayed thereon. One of the menu objects within the pop-up menu 28, the menu object 27a so far displayed and touched by the finger tip 16 in this event, is displayed as selected by the selection frame 29 at the previous position.

[0123] As the user moves the finger tip 16, which is in touch with the menu object 27a as described above, within the pop-up menu 28 in a direction in which the menu objects are arranged, the selection frame 29 is also moved (dragged) together with the finger tip 16. A image (3) illustrated in FIG. 22 shows an image displayed on the display screen 2 in this event (step 504). As long as the user is moving the finger tip 16 with the pushing force P maintained equal to or larger than P1 and smaller than P2 ($P1 \leq P < P2$), the opera-