

66. A user input apparatus according to claim 64, characterized in that

the transmitter supplies the alternating current to the plurality of transmission electrodes in a time-division manner.

67. A user input apparatus according to claim 64, characterized in that

the user input means detects a change in the capacitance according to a change in the intensity of the alternating current received by the receiver.

68. A user input apparatus according to claim 62, characterized by

further comprising use-form detection means for detecting the form of use applied to the user input means.

69. A user input apparatus according to claim 68, characterized in that

the user input means is a keyboard; and

the use-form detection means determines whether the user is using the keyboard in a usual mode in which the user can perform key inputs by using both hands or in an unusual mode in which the user can perform key inputs by using one hand only.

70. A user input apparatus according to claim 62, characterized by

further comprising authentication means for performing user authentication processing according to the multi-dimensional value.

71. A user input apparatus according to claim 62, characterized in that

the user input means comprises a keyboard and/or a mouse.

72. A user input apparatus according to claim 62, characterized in that

the input operation applied to the user input means is related to a data input or a command input to an application program running on the information processing apparatus.

73. A user input apparatus for receiving data, a command, or others input by the user to an information processing apparatus, characterized by comprising:

user input means for the user to perform an input operation by using a dielectric object, including the human body; and

detection means for determining the position of a contact or an approach of the dielectric object and how close the dielectric object has approached the user input apparatus or whether the dielectric object has contacted the user input apparatus, as inputs in the input operation applied to the user input means.

74. A user input apparatus for receiving data or a command input by the user to an information processing apparatus, characterized by comprising:

user input means for the user to perform an input operation by using a dielectric object, including the human body; and

detection means for detecting the position of a contact or an approach of the dielectric object and another state in a contact or approach state of the dielectric object as inputs in the input operation applied to the user input means, and

characterized in that

the detection means detects the position of a contact or an approach and the another state for each of a plurality of dielectric objects independently.

75. A user input apparatus according to claim 74, characterized in that

the detection means distinguishes the plurality of dielectric objects through integration processing of the positions of contacts or approaches.

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