[0031] It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are merely exemplary of the invention and are intended to provide an overview of framework for understanding the nature and character of the invention as it is claimed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS/FIGURES

[0032] The features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the detailed description set forth below when taken in conjunction with the drawings/figures in which like reference numbers indicate identical or functionally similar elements. Additionally, the left-most digit of a reference number identifies the drawing in which the reference number first appears.

[0033] **FIG. 1** is a screen grab depicting a cluttered desktop.

[0034] **FIGS. 2A, 2B** and 2C are screen grabs depicting a Zenu™ UDI, in accordance with the present invention.

[0035] **FIG. 3A** illustrates a conventional toolbar accessing a web page.

[0036] **FIG. 3B** illustrates a Zenu™ UDI accessing the web page of **FIG. 3A**, in accordance with the present invention.

[0037] **FIG. 4** illustrates a Zenu™ UDI corresponding to the present invention.

[0038] **FIG. 5** illustrates the opening of a file with the Zenu™ UDI of **FIG. 4**, in accordance with the present invention.

[0039] **FIG. 6** illustrates an alternative control capability of a Zenu™ UDI, in accordance with the present invention.

[0040] **FIG. 7** illustrated a Zenu™ UDI configured with an instant messager plug-in, in accordance with the present invention.

[0041] FIGS. **8**A-F illustrate six exemplary Zenu™ UDIs, in accordance with the present invention.

[0042] **FIG. 9A** illustrates a Zenu™ UDI and a interactive skin control panel, which is accessed by the user selecting Zenu™ UDI customization button, in accordance with the present invention.

[0043] **FIG. 9B** illustrates an alternative to the Zenu™ UDI and a interactive skin control panel of **FIG. 9A**, in accordance with the present invention.

[0044] **FIG. 10A** illustrates a Zenu™ UDI and a functionality control panel, in accordance with the present invention.

[0045] **FIG. 10B** illustrates a Zenu™ UDI and a properties control panel, which permits the user to define various "Startup Options", in accordance with the present invention.

[0046] **FIG. 11** depicts an exemplary architecture having a command processor that manages an interactive skin (IS), in accordance with the present invention.

[0047] **FIGS. 12 through 19** are flow diagrams illustrating the operation of an exemplary Zenu™ UDI system and method according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0048] **FIG. 20** illustrates an example of a computer system capable of carrying out the functionality described herein, in accordance with the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0049] The preferred embodiment of the present invention will now be discussed in detail. While specific features, configurations and arrangements are discussed, it should be understood that this is done for illustration purposes only. A person skilled in the relevant art will recognize that other steps, configurations and arrangements may be used without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Indeed, for the sake of brevity, conventional electronics, software and/or computer architecture, and other functional aspects of the method/apparatus (and components of the individual operating components of the apparatus) may not be described in detail herein. Furthermore, for purposes of brevity, the invention is frequently described herein as pertaining to data processing devices, such as personal computer or laptop computers, or set-top boxes in a television computing environment. It should be appreciated, however, that many other devices having a user viewable display for interaction therewith, and/or control thereof could be readily modified to included the present invention, and thus the techniques described herein could be used in connection with other such devices. Moreover, it should be understood that the spatial descriptions (e.g., "next to", "above", "below", "up", "down", etc.) made herein are for purposes of illustration only.

[0050] The term "button" is used herein according to its customary meaning to refer to a graphical representation of an electrical push-button appearing as part of a graphical user interface, as would be apparent to a person skilled in the relevant art. Moving the pointer device over the graphical "button" and pressing (or "clicking") one of the physical buttons of the pointing device, for example, starts some software action such as closing a window or deleting a file.

[0051] The term "command" is used herein to refer to a software action taken when a button is activated. A command can launch an application, open a file, or perform some predefined function or set of functions.

[0052] The term "cursor" is used herein according to its customary meaning to refer to a movable symbol on a display device that shows where the user is working, whether typing in text, drawing lines, or moving something around. The cursor can be moved with the arrow keys or a pointing device. It usually appears in text programs as a blinking dash or rectangle, or an arrow. In graphics programs the cursor is often called a pointer, and can take many different shapes such as a brush, pencil, or hand, as would be apparent to a person skilled in the relevant art.

[0053] The term "display device" is used herein according to its customary meaning to refer to a device capable of displaying an image, such as a cathode ray tube (CRT) monitor, liquid crystal display (LCD), plasma display, or like device used to display text, graphics, images, etc., to a user, as would be apparent to a person skilled in the relevant art.

[0054] The term "pointing device" is used herein according to its customary meaning to refer to a mouse, track ball,