

[0060] FIG. 6 is a front view of the pocket computer, demonstrating a typical display screen layout of its user interface.

[0061] FIG. 7 illustrates a typical disposition of the display screen layout, including a home view.

[0062] FIG. 8 illustrates a display screen layout for text input into a text handling application in the pocket computer.

[0063] FIGS. 9 and 10 illustrate prior art approaches for word completion functionality.

[0064] FIGS. 11 and 12 are display screen snapshots that illustrate the word completion functionality according to one embodiment, which employs a virtual keyboard as text input means.

[0065] FIGS. 13 and 14 are a display screen snapshot and a schematic block diagram that illustrate word completion functionality according to an alternative embodiment, which employs handwriting recognition (HWR) functionality as text input means.

[0066] FIG. 15 illustrates word completion functionality according to yet an alternative embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0067] The pocket computer 1 of the illustrated embodiment comprises an apparatus housing 2 and a relatively large touch-sensitive display screen 3 provided at a front side 2_f of the apparatus housing 2. Next to the display screen 3 a plurality of hardware keys 5a-d are provided, as well as a speaker 6.

[0068] More particularly, key 5a is a five-way navigation key, i.e. a key which is depressible at four different peripheral positions to command navigation in respective orthogonal directions ("up", "down", "left", "right") among information shown on the display screen 3, as well as depressible at a center position to command selection among information shown on the display screen 3. Key 5b is a cancel key, key 5c is a menu or options key, and key 5d is a home key.

[0069] In addition, a second plurality of hardware keys 4a-c are provided at a first short side 2_u of the apparatus housing 2. Key 4a is a power on/off key, key 4b is an increase/decrease key, and key 4c is for toggling between full-screen and normal presentation on the display screen 3.

[0070] At a second short side 2_l of the apparatus housing 2, opposite to said first short side 2_u, there are provided an earphone audio terminal 7a, a mains power terminal 7b and a wire-based data interface 7c in the form of a serial USB port.

[0071] Being touch-sensitive, the display screen 3 will act both as a visual output device 52 and as an input device 53, both of which are included in a user interface 51 to a user 9 (see FIG. 5). More specifically, as seen in FIG. 1, the user 9 may operate the pocket computer 1 by pointing/tapping/dragging with a writing tool 9c such as a stylus or pen, held in one hand 9a, on the surface of the touch-sensitive display screen 3 and/or by actuating any of the hardware keys 4a-c, 5a-d (which also are included as input devices in the user interface 51) with the thumb and index finger of the other hand 9b.

[0072] As seen in FIG. 5, the pocket computer 1 also has a controller 50 with associated memory 54. The controller is responsible for the overall operation of the pocket computer 1 and may be implemented by any commercially available CPU (Central Processing Unit), DSP (Digital Signal Processor) or any other electronic programmable logic device. The associated memory may be internal and/or external to the controller 50 and may be RAM memory, ROM memory, EEPROM memory, flash memory, hard-disk, or any combination thereof. The memory 54 is used for various purposes by the controller 50, one of them being for storing data and program instructions for various pieces of software in the pocket computer 1. The software may include a real-time operating system, drivers e.g. for the user interface 51, as well as various applications.

[0073] At least some of these applications may be text handling applications 57, for instance in the form of a notes application (further shown in FIGS. 8, 11 and 12), a messaging application (e.g. SMS, MMS, email), a contacts application, a word processing application, etc. To facilitate text input, the user interface 51 includes a virtual keyboard module 56 with word completion functionality, having the general purpose which has already been explained above. In addition to this, the user interface may include other text input means.

[0074] To allow portable use, the pocket computer 1 has a rechargeable battery. The pocket computer also has at least one interface 55 for wireless access to network resources on at least one digital network. More detailed examples of this are given in FIG. 4. Here, the pocket computer 1 may connect to a data communications network 32 by establishing a wireless link via a network access point 30, such as a WLAN (Wireless Local Area Network) router. The data communications network 32 may be a wide area network (WAN), such as Internet or some part thereof, a local area network (LAN), etc. A plurality of network resources 40-44 may be connected to the data communications network 32 and are thus made available to the user 9 through the pocket computer 1. For instance, the network resources may include servers 40 with associated contents 42 such as www data, wap data, ftp data, email data, audio data, video data, etc. The network resources may also include other end-user devices 44, such as personal computers.

[0075] A second digital network 26 is shown in FIG. 4 in the form of a mobile telecommunications network, compliant with any available mobile telecommunications standard such as GSM, UMTS, D-AMPS or CDMA2000. In the illustrated exemplifying embodiment, the user 9 may access network resources 28 on the mobile telecommunications network 26 through the pocket computer 1 by establishing a wireless link 10b to a mobile terminal 20, which in turn has operative access to the mobile telecommunications network 26 over a wireless link 22 to a base station 24, as is well known per se. The wireless links 10a, 10b may for instance be in compliance with Bluetooth, WLAN (Wireless Local Area Network, e.g. as specified in IEEE 802.11), HomeRF or HIPERLAN. Thus, the interface(s) 55 will contain all the necessary hardware and software required for establishing such links, as is readily realized by a man skilled in the art.

[0076] FIG. 6 shows a front view of the pocket computer and indicates a typical display screen layout of its user interface. A typical disposition of the display screen layout,