

74. A machine-readable medium having instructions to cause a machine to perform a machine-implemented method comprising:

receiving first text input within a search field of a web page;

determining, based on characteristics of the first text input, whether to automatically submit a first query to an Internet search engine;

automatically submitting the first query to the search engine, the first query based the received first search input; and

presenting, within the web page, first results returned from the first query submitted to the search engine.

75. The machine-readable medium of claim 74, wherein the search field is presented within a first frame of the web page, and wherein the first results are presented within in a second frame of the web page.

76. The machine-readable medium of claim 75, wherein the method further comprises:

receiving second text input within the search field, the second text input added to the first search input to create cumulative text input;

determining, based on characteristics of the cumulative text input, whether to automatically submit a second query to the search engine;

automatically submitting the second query to the search engine, the second query based the received cumulative text input; and

presenting, within the second frame of the web page, second results returned from the second query submitted to the search engine, wherein the second results replace the first results.

77. A machine-implemented method comprising:

displaying a graphical user interface (GUI) object; and

displaying at least one user-manipulable control element within the GUI object, the user-manipulable control element manipulable to specify a parameter used in determining whether to automatically submit received search input as a query to a search engine.

78. The method of claim 77, further comprising:

receiving input through the user-manipulable control element, the input specifying the parameter.

79. The method of claim 78, further comprising:

automatically submitting a first query to the search engine based on the specified parameter.

80. The method of claim 79, wherein the parameter is a temporal trigger specifying a length of elapsed time without receiving additional search input, and wherein the first query is submitted to the search engine after the temporal threshold is satisfied.

81. The method of claim 77, wherein the user-manipulable control element is a slider bar.

82. An apparatus comprising:

means for displaying a graphical user interface (GUI) object; and

means for displaying at least one user-manipulable control element within the GUI object, the user-manipulable

control element manipulable to specify a parameter used in determining whether to automatically submit received search input as a query to a search engine.

83. The apparatus of claim 82, further comprising:

means for receiving input through the user-manipulable control element, the input specifying the parameter.

84. The apparatus of claim 83, further comprising:

means for automatically submitting a first query to the search engine based on the specified parameter.

85. The apparatus of claim 84, wherein the parameter is a temporal trigger specifying a length of elapsed time without receiving additional search input, and wherein the first query is submitted to the search engine after the temporal threshold is satisfied.

86. A machine-implemented method for providing an interface between a first software component and a second software component, the method comprising:

the first software component determining a timing parameter based on when a plurality of keys are actuated; and

the first software component causing a temporal threshold specified by the second software component to be set to the determined timing parameter, the temporal threshold to determine when to automatically submit a query to a search engine.

87. The method of claim 86, further comprising:

receiving first search input within a search field of a web browser application;

determining, based on characteristics of the first search input, a length of elapsed time without receiving further search input in addition to the first search input;

calling the second software component to determine the temporal threshold;

automatically submitting the first query to the search engine if the length of the elapsed time is greater than the temporal threshold.

88. A machine-readable medium having instructions to cause a machine to perform a machine-implemented method for providing an interface between a first software component and a second software component, the method comprising:

the first software component determining a timing parameter based on when a plurality of keys are actuated; and

the first software component causing a temporal threshold specified by the second software component to be set to the determined timing parameter, the temporal threshold to determine when to automatically submit a query to a search engine.

89. The machine-readable medium of claim 88, wherein the method further comprises:

receiving first search input within a search field of a web browser application;

determining, based on characteristics of the first search input, a length of elapsed time without receiving further search input in addition to the first search input;