



US 20060085757A1

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication** (10) **Pub. No.: US 2006/0085757 A1**

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(43) **Pub. Date: Apr. 20, 2006**

(54) **ACTIVATING VIRTUAL KEYS OF A TOUCH-SCREEN VIRTUAL KEYBOARD**

**Publication Classification**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**G06F 3/00** (2006.01)  
(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **715/771**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A method of operating a touch screen to activate one of a plurality of virtual keys is provided. A touch location is determined based on location data pertaining to touch input on the touch screen, wherein the touch input is intended to activate one of the plurality of virtual keys. Each of the plurality of virtual keys has a set of at least one key location corresponding to it. For each of the virtual keys, a parameter (such as physical distance) is determined for that virtual key that relates the touch location and the set of at least one key location corresponding to that virtual key. The determined parameters are processed to determine one of the virtual keys. For example, the determined one virtual key may be the virtual key with a key location (or more than one key location, on average) being closest to the touch location. A signal is generated indicating activation of the determined one of the virtual keys.

(73) Assignee: **Apple Computer, Inc.**

(21) Appl. No.: **11/228,737**

(22) Filed: **Sep. 16, 2005**

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 10/903,964, filed on Jul. 30, 2004.

