

instead of the language, in which case the keyboard layout corresponding to the selected region may be displayed on touch screen 102.

[0048] FIGS. 5B-5D illustrate various other exemplary systems including an input device as described herein. In particular, FIG. 5B illustrates an exemplary laptop computer including a keyboard 504b comprising a touch-sensitive display screen 502b and overlay including a plurality of extruded areas 501b. The laptop further includes a conventional display 505b associated with keyboard 504b. In addition to the laptop shown in FIG. 5B, which may include wireless capability, other remote or handheld devices, such as mobile phones, personal digital assistants (PDAs), GPS devices, navigation systems, and the like may also include an input device as described herein.

[0049] FIGS. 5C and 5D illustrate exemplary table-top and stand alone kiosks 590 and 592, each including a touch-sensitive keyboard as described herein. In these examples, kiosk 590 and 592 include a touch-sensitive screen divided into two portions, a first portion 502-1 for displaying the virtual keyboard corresponding to an overlay (not shown) and a second portion 502-2 for displaying additional information, such as advertising information (described in greater detail below), hot keys (e.g., for changing applications), stock ticker, Instant Messenger interface, sports score ticker, news crawlers, or the like. The examples may further include an input device such as a roller ball 503c and 503d or the like.

[0050] FIG. 6A illustrates an exploded top view of a faceplate 610, keyboard overlay 600, and touch-sensitive screen 602, and FIG. 6B illustrates an exploded front view of faceplate 610 positioned over an overlay 600 according to other embodiments of the invention. In this example, faceplate 610 is used to secure overlay 600 with respect to touch-sensitive screen 602. For example, faceplate may be snapped, screwed, latched, glued, or otherwise removably or permanently fixed with respect to screen 602. It may be desired to replace overlay 600 over time, e.g., the life of overlay 600 may be significantly less than that of screen 602, and a system where overlay 600 may be easily replaced is by quickly removing faceplate 610 may be desired. Additionally, it may be desired to swap overlay 600 with another configuration, such as overlay 200 of FIG. 2. In other examples, faceplate may include multiple members and need not extend entirely around screen 602 or may be formed integral with a housing for the input device.

[0051] FIG. 7 illustrates an exploded view of an input device including a faceplate 710 positioned over a touch-sensitive screen 702 and an overlay 700 according to other embodiments of the invention. In this example, a first portion 703 of screen 702 is used for displaying an image, e.g. of a keyboard, under overlay 700 similar to that described with reference to FIGS. 1-4, and a second portion 704 of screen 702 is used for displaying information. In this example, an optional faceplate 710 includes a lower aperture 705 corresponding to first portion 703 of screen 702 and an upper aperture 706 corresponding to second portion 704 of screen 702. In other examples, face plate 710 may include a single aperture. When faceplate 710 is positioned on top of touch screen 702, the image displayed on first portion 703 is visible to a user through lower aperture 705, and the information displayed on second portion 704 is visible to a

user through upper aperture 706. The information in second portion 704 may be visual information displayed for the computer or additional visual information displayed in addition to a separate monitor. For example, the second portion 704 may display advertising information in addition to a conventional display monitor for user information.

[0052] Suitable logic or software may be used to display the keyboard and the information on the same screen 702, e.g., in first and second portion 703 and 704 as described. For example, software may retrieve all or part of the information from a server, and the software may store all or part of the information on the computer associated with the screen (e.g., on a hard drive on computer 501 of FIG. 5). The additional information may include advertising items, links, layout, and so on. Screen 702 may be of any standard touch screen size, such as 10", 12", 13", 15", or 17". In one example, a 15" screen may have an 11" by 5" first area and an 11" by 3" second area. The aperture 706 may further include a transparent insert or portion allowing a user to see underlying second portion 704 of screen 702.

[0053] The keyboard image may be "docked" in place corresponding to the first display portion 703 by suitable software (e.g., the keyboard image is locked in place on the screen and remains in the foreground during operation). Additionally, other touch-sensitive functions, systems, and methods known in the art may be carried out in second portion 704. For examples, hot keys operable to launch program applications, audio/video players, or the like may be included in this area.

[0054] FIGS. 8A and 8B illustrate top and perspective views of exemplary keyboard 804 including a virtual keyboard area 802-1 and display area 802-2 on a touch-sensitive screen according to another example. In particular, a faceplate 810 includes openings to define display area 802-1 for the virtual keyboard corresponding to overlay 800 and extruded areas 801 as well as display area 802-2, which may display and/or include various other features and functions as described herein. Keyboard 804 is shown with a laptop computer and laptop display 805, but keyboard 804 may also be used with a desktop computer, tablet personal computer (e.g., without display 805), kiosk, remote/handheld device, or the like.

[0055] FIG. 9 illustrates a top view of an exemplary system including a virtual keyboard area 902-1 and display area 902-2 associated with a touch-sensitive screen according to another example. The example is shown for variation in the keyboard size and key configuration. Additionally, overlay 900 and extruded areas 901 may vary and be swappable with faceplate or housing 910, e.g., to include an overlay such as that shown in FIG. 2 or the like.

[0056] The above description is exemplary only and it will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art that numerous modifications and variations are possible. For example, various exemplary methods and systems described herein may be used alone or in combination with various other computer and computer peripheral systems and methods. Additionally, particular examples have been discussed and how these examples are thought to address certain disadvantages in related art. This discussion is not meant, however, to restrict the various examples to methods and/or systems that actually address or solve the disadvantages.