

**14.** The touchscreen device of claim 7, wherein the set of movable pins is further configured for:  
receiving an actuation from a user;  
providing tactile feedback to the user incident to receipt of the actuation; and  
communicating an indication of the actuation to the processing unit.

**15.** A computerized method for manipulating user-input elements to manage outwardly-extending protrusions expressed at a flexible touchpad incorporated in a touchscreen device, the computerized method comprising:

receiving a request to manipulate the expression of the outwardly-extending protrusions;

processing the request by executing a manipulation procedure for controlling a portion of the user-input elements, the manipulation procedure comprising:

(1) accessing configuration settings based on processing the one or more requests; and

(2) manipulating the portion of the user-input elements in accordance with the configuration settings, thereby affecting the outwardly-extending protrusions; and

rendering a user-interface (UI) display at the flexible touchpad according to the request.

**16.** The computerized method of claim 15, wherein rendering a UI display comprises:

extracting presentation data from the request;

communicating the presentation data to the flexible touchpad; and

rendering the UI display at the flexible touchpad to present one or more characters in association with each of the outwardly-extending protrusions,

wherein the one or more characters visually indicate which of the user-input elements are in an active condition.

**17.** The computerized method of claim 15, wherein the manipulation procedure further comprises:

identifying the configuration settings as indicating an adjustment of the portion of the user-input elements to a text-entry mode; and

manipulating the portion of the user-input elements such that the outwardly-extending protrusions replicate a physically-extending keypad.

**18.** The computerized method of claim 17, wherein manipulating comprises manipulating the portion of the user-input elements to an extended orientation, wherein the portion of the user-input elements resides in an active condition, and wherein a remainder of the user-input elements resides in a retracted orientation and an idle condition.

**19.** The computerized method of claim 15, wherein the request is a user-initiated actuation at a location on the flexible touchpad, and wherein the manipulated portion of the user-input elements are proximate to the location of the actuation.

**20.** The computerized method of claim 15, wherein manipulating comprises:

releasing the portion of the user-input elements to an extended orientation, wherein the released portion of the user-input elements resides in an active condition; and

retaining a remainder of the user-input elements in a retracted orientation, wherein the retained remainder of the user-input elements resides in an idle condition.

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