[0037] The invention may be implemented on a handheld device in an example embodiment according to the present invention. Refer to **FIG. 3**. As depicted in a block diagram, a handheld device **300** comprises an actuator **310** and a display **340**. The user interface may be a spring loaded jog/shuttle dial, joystick, or track pad. The user may actuate the actuator **310** to scroll either up or down. User interaction software **320** works in response to the selected key and the array of choices stored in memory **350**. In the example handheld device, the memory **350** may have addresses and phone numbers. The user interaction software **320** provides output to software performing an action based on the user selection **360** and to user interface generation software **330**. The UI generation software **330** generates information for the display **340** to depict the helper character or array entry along with presentation attributes such a font style, size, color, and object placement.

[0038] In an example embodiment according to the present invention, the jog/shuttle may be part of a handheld device that controls a set top box (STB). The STB, in turn, is connected to a network and it is enabled to receive program content from that network. The connection may be through a cable or via a satellite dish. The STB may store a super set of program information for the user. A subset of information may be transmitted to the handheld device and stored locally on it. This subset may be the user's favorite programs or URLs on the Internet. Information may be found that is directed toward the obtaining of content information as it relates to a method of selecting content through a network via a Uniform Resource Locator (URL), in a U.S. patent application titled, "One-Touch URL or Program Selection," of Thomas Dubil et al, Ser. No. 09/872, 715 (Docket No. US 018067) filed Jun. 1, 2001 and is incorporated by reference, herein.

[0039] The user may scroll through the subset of data on the handheld, after having downloaded from the STB.

[0040] While the present invention has been described with reference to several particular example embodiments, those skilled in the art will recognize that many changes may be made thereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention, which is set forth in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A consumer electronics device comprising:

an information-rendering device; and

a force-sensitive interface, operative to enable a user to scroll through an ordered list of a data array that is rendered on the information rendering device.

2. The device of claim 1 wherein the information-rendering device is selected from at least one of the following: visual display, audio output, tactile feedback.

3. The device of claim 1 wherein the force-sensitive interface is coupled to a user interface assisting in searching for information from an ordered list in a data array, the user interface comprising,

an array scroller responsive to user actuation of the force-sensitive interface, the user actuation being a magnitude of a force applied to the force-sensitive interface, a scrolling speed of the array scroller being controlled by the magnitude of the force applied; and

a helper character-generator, actuated by continued user actuation of the array scroller, the helper character generator being operative to render a helper indication representative of a portion in the list being scrolled.

4. The device of claim 1 wherein, the helper character generator conditionally renders a record of additional helper characters.

5. In a data processing environment, a method for enabling a user to scroll through an ordered list in a data array accessible through a data processing device, the method comprising:

enabling the user to scroll through the list at a predetermined rate, in response to the user actuating the data processing device via a force-sensitive interface, the predetermined rate being controlled by the magnitude of force the user exerts on the force sensitive interface; and

generating a helper character representative of a portion of the list being scrolled.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the data processing environment comprises a distributed environment.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the force-sensitive interface comprises at least one of the following: jog/shuttle dial, touch pad, drawing tablet, mouse scroll wheel, joystick.

8. A consumer electronics device comprising:

a rendering device for rendering of an ordered list representing user-selectable items; and

a force-sensitive user-interface for control of a speed of scrolling through the list rendered on the rendering device.

9. Software, stored on computer-readable media, for enabling a user to scroll through an ordered list in a data array accessible through a data processing device, the software comprising:

instructions for enabling the user to scroll through the list at a predetermined rate, in response to the user actuating the data processing device via a force-sensitive interface, the predetermined rate being controlled by the magnitude of force the user exerts on the force sensitive interface; and

instructions for generating a helper character representative of a portion of the list being scrolled.

10. The software of claim 9 wherein the computer-readable media comprises at least one of the following: semiconductor memory, optical storage, magnetic storage, client/server data storage.

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