

and **560** are not shown to scale. In addition, flip interface **500** can include a different number of leaves than illustrated, and may include a single leaf. Furthermore, flip interface **500** can be coupled to any edge or surface of computer system **100**.

[0062] FIG. 5 illustrates a flip interface **500** coupled to a peripheral device (e.g., cursor control device **607**, such as a mouse) in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. Here, flip interface **500** performs in a similar manner as that described above in conjunction with FIG. 4A to control aspects of display device **605**, or to control aspects of an image displayed on display device **605**. In this embodiment, flip interface **500** can be used with devices other than hand-held devices, such as desktop computer system **690**. In this embodiment, flip interface **500** enhances the user interface by taking advantage of the capability to control certain peripheral devices (such as a mouse) with a single hand.

[0063] Exemplary Computer System Platforms

[0064] FIG. 6 illustrates circuitry of exemplary portable computer system **100**, some of which can be implemented on PC board **225** (FIG. 3). Portable computer system **100** includes an address/data bus **110** for communicating information, a central processor **101** coupled with the bus for processing information and instructions, a volatile memory **102** (e.g., random access memory, RAM) coupled with the bus **110** for storing information and instructions for the central processor **101** and a non-volatile memory **103** (e.g., read only memory, ROM) coupled with the bus **110** for storing static information and instructions for the processor **101**. Portable computer system **100** also includes an optional data storage device **104** (e.g., memory stick) coupled with the bus **110** for storing information and instructions. Data storage device **104** can be removable. PC board **225** can contain the processor **101**, the bus **110**, the ROM **103** and the RAM **102**.

[0065] With reference still to FIG. 6, portable computer system **100** also includes a signal transmitter/receiver device **108**, which is coupled to bus **110** for providing a physical communication link between portable computer system **100** and a network environment. As such, signal transmitter/receiver device **108** enables central processor unit **101** to communicate wirelessly with other electronic systems coupled to the network. It should be appreciated that within the present embodiment, signal transmitter/receiver device **108** is coupled to antenna **85** (FIG. 3) and provides the functionality to transmit and receive information over a wireless communication interface. It should be further appreciated that the present embodiment of signal transmitter/receiver device **108** is well suited to be implemented in a wide variety of ways. For example, signal transmitter/receiver device **108** could be implemented as a modem.

[0066] In one embodiment, portable computer system **100** of FIG. 6 includes a communication circuit **109** coupled to bus **110**. Communication circuit **109** includes an optional digital signal processor (DSP) **120** for processing data to be transmitted or data that are received via signal transmitter/receiver device **108**. Alternatively, processor **101** can perform some or all of the functions performed by DSP **120**.

[0067] Also included in portable computer system **100** of FIG. 6 is an optional alpha-numeric input device **106** that in one implementation is a handwriting recognition pad (“digi-

tizer”) having regions **106a** and **106b** (FIG. 2), for instance. Alpha-numeric input device **106** can communicate information and command selections to processor **101**.

[0068] Portable computer system **100** also contains a display device **105** coupled to the bus **110** for displaying information to the computer user. The display device **105** utilized with computer system **100** may be a liquid crystal display (LCD) device, a cathode ray tube (CRT), a field emission display device (also called a flat panel CRT) or other display device suitable for generating graphic images and alphanumeric characters recognizable to the user. In one embodiment, display device **105** is a flat panel display. In one embodiment, display device **105** is a touch screen able to register contact between the screen and the tip of a stylus element (e.g., stylus **80** of FIG. 1). In another embodiment, display device **105** incorporates electronic paper/ink technology.

[0069] Continuing with reference to FIG. 6, portable computer system **100** also includes an optional cursor control or directing device (on-screen cursor control **107**) coupled to bus **110** for communicating user input information and command selections to processor **101**. In one implementation, on-screen cursor control device **107** is a touch screen device incorporated with display device **105**. On-screen cursor control device **107** is capable of registering a position on display device **105** where the stylus makes contact.

[0070] In accordance with the present embodiment of the present invention, portable computer system **100** of FIG. 6 also includes a flip interface **500** coupled to bus **110**. Accordingly, movement of flip interface **500** can be forwarded to processor **101** and translated into a change to a displayed image. Flip interface **500** is for controlling and changing the images displayed on display device **105**, for selecting an application, and for moving within an application, and can also fulfill other functions of a user interface. Flip interface **500** can replace the touch screen embodiment of portable computer system **100** or it can be used in combination with the touch screen. Similarly, flip interface can replace or be used in combination with on-screen cursor control **107**.

[0071] Refer now to FIG. 7 which illustrates an exemplary computer system **690** upon which embodiments of the present invention may be practiced. In general, computer system **690** comprises bus **600** for communicating information, processor **601** coupled with bus **600** for processing information and instructions, random access (volatile) memory (RAM) **602** coupled with bus **600** for storing information and instructions for processor **601**, read-only (nonvolatile) memory (ROM) **603** coupled with bus **600** for storing static information and instructions for processor **601**, data storage device **604** such as a magnetic or optical disk and disk drive coupled with bus **600** for storing information and instructions, an optional user output device such as display device **605** coupled to bus **600** for displaying information to the computer user, an optional user input device such as alphanumeric input device **606** including alphanumeric and function keys coupled to bus **600** for communicating information and command selections to processor **601**, and an optional user input device such as cursor control device **607** coupled to bus **600** for communicating user input information and command selections to processor **601**.