

shown, a processing unit **202** (for example, a CPU) connected via bus **201** to a computer readable medium **218**. The computer-readable medium **218** provides a memory store for computer programs and data located in the enhanced keyboard-type device **200**, including, in this embodiment, input management system **20**, operating system **22A**, and second process **34** (represented by the predictive text entry system **34.1A**). The computer-readable medium **218** can include one or more types of computer-readable media including volatile memory such as Random Access Memory (RAM), and non-volatile memory, such as a hard disk or Read Only Memory (ROM). In the embodiment shown, the computer-readable medium **218** comprises RAM, ROM and flash memory.

[0129] Like the predictive text entry system **34.1** in the first embodiment, the predictive text entry system **34.1A** is an application configured to predict and retrieve predictive text completion candidates (or completion candidates) from a dictionary by determining which predictive text completion candidates in the dictionary are more likely to be the ones that the user is attempting to type based on the characters in the partial text entry generated by the user. In the embodiment shown in **FIGS. 21 and 22**, the predictive text entry system **34.1A** is configured to operate on the enhanced keyboard-type device **200**. Note that other types of user programs, such as a calculator or thesaurus, can also be stored in the enhanced keyboard-type device **200** and used in connection with the input management system **20**.

[0130] The processor circuit shown in **FIG. 21** is configured to:

[0131] (i) generate a plurality of predictive text completion candidates in response to the first input signals produced by the user input signal generators in response to user actuation thereof and to display the plurality of predictive text completion candidates on the display device; and

[0132] (ii) communicate (via interface **214**) at least one of the predictive text completion candidates to a personal computing device remote from the enhanced keyboard-type device **200** in response to user selection of the at least one of the predictive text completion candidates.

[0133] Thus, the enhanced keyboard-type device **200** provides both a mechanism for providing keyboard-type input (input signals) generated through user actuation of the keyboard **206** to the remote personal computing device and a mechanism for processing the keyboard-type input using the processor circuit so that predictive text completion candidates can be displayed on the touch sensitive screen **210** and are available for user selection and transmission to the remote personal computing device for processing by a remote computer program running on the remote personal computing device. Preferably, such processing includes inserting the user selected predictive text completion candidate in a text editor window provided by the remote computer program and displayed on a remote display device associated with the remote personal computing device.

[0134] The user can provide user input to the remote personal computing device using either the keyboard **206** or the touch sensitive screen **210**. The keyboard **206** operates in a similar way as the keyboard **14.1** in the first embodiment. Each selection of a key and each deselection of a key on the

keyboard **206** will result in a scan code being sent by the enhanced keyboard-type device **200** to the remote personal computing device. However selections and deselections of keys on the keyboard **206** will also be received as input key events by the input management system **20** operating within the keyboard-type device **200**. In response to receiving such input key events, the input management system **20** is configured to process the input key events according to the flow diagram shown in **FIG. 24**. The logical flow of the operation of the input management system **20** and the input management director **34.3** for the enhanced keyboard-type device **200** is shown in **FIGS. 24 and 25**.

[0135] In this embodiment, the predictive text entry system **34.1A**, which is running on the enhanced keyboard-type device **200**, is configured to display on a display area on the touch sensitive screen **210** a plurality of predictive text completion candidates for user selection, wherein the plurality of predictive text completion candidates are generated by the predictive text entry system **34.1A** based on the contents of an input string generated from the input key events received by the predictive text entry system **34.1A** from the keyboard **206**.

[0136] The enhanced keyboard-type device **200** is also configured to direct the input key events being sent to the remote personal computing device instead to the input management system **20** in response to identifying (detecting) a first predefined input key event for at least a predetermined time period T_1 . In the present embodiment, the first predefined input key event is the selection of an alphanumeric key on the keyboard **206** for a predetermined time period T_1 . The detection of a first predefined input key event for at least a predetermined time period T_1 represents a redirection event. In the embodiment shown, a redirection timer is used to determine if the first predefined input key event is detected for predetermined time period T_1 . In response to detection of the redirection event, the input management system **20** is configured to set a redirection flag to "ON" (see blocks **148 and 150**) and to direct all user input (in the form of input key events) to the input management director **34.3** located within the enhanced keyboard-type device **200** (in the illustrative embodiment, embedded within the predictive text entry system **34.1A**) effectively stopping the flow of keystrokes to the remote personal computing device from the keyboard **206** for so long as the redirection event is not terminated (canceled). During the redirection event, the input management director **34.3** is configured to pass the input key events (in the form of keyboard messages) on to the predictive text entry system **34.1A** at block **138C**. The predictive text entry system **34.1A** in turn is configured to update the list of available predictive text completion candidates for display in the touch sensitive screen **210** based on the input key events received from the input management director **34.3**.

[0137] When the user selects a predictive text completion candidate displayed on the touch sensitive screen **210** a "mouse down" event (more generally, a "point device down" event) will be received by the predictive text entry system **34.1A**. Continuing selection of the selected predictive text completion candidate will trigger the redirection event once the redirection timer (set at block **144** of **FIG. 25**) reaches the predetermined time period T_1 .

[0138] The predictive text entry system **34.1A** is configured to treat reception of a "mouse up" event as detection of