

a redirection cancellation event. In the present embodiment, the “mouse up” event indicates the occurrence of the redirection cancellation event and is identified at block 132 of FIG. 25 as a redirection cancellation required. If the redirection cancellation event is detected (in the form of a redirection cancellation request), the input management director 34.3 is configured to pass at block 134C a termination request (representing an indication of the redirection cancellation event) to the predictive text entry system 34.1A so that the predictive text entry system 34.1A can finalize its selection (if any) of a predictive text completion candidate from the list of predictive text completion candidates displayed in the touch sensitive screen 210. In this case, if a predictive text completion candidate is selected when a redirection cancellation event occurs, it will be transmitted by the enhanced keyboard-type device 200 to the remote personal computing device for use by a remote program operating on the remote personal computing device. Transmission of the selected predictive text completion candidate (where one is selected) comprises sending a sequence of associated scan codes for each character of the selected predictive text completion candidate to the remote personal computing device where the sequence of scan codes represent the selection and deselection of keys for the selected predictive text completion candidate in the same way that such scan codes would represent the selection and deselection of keys for the sequence of characters making up the selected predictive text completion candidate had the sequence of characters been typed by the user using simply the keyboard 206.

[0139] In response to detecting a redirection cancellation event at block 132 (of FIG. 25), the input management director 34.3 is also configured to instruct the input management system 20 to direct further input key events received from the keyboard 206 to the remote personal computing device. In the embodiment shown in FIGS. 21, 22, 24 and 25, this is performed by clearing the redirection flag at block 136.

[0140] The particular embodiment illustrated with FIGS. 24 and 25 operates largely in the manner described above for the first embodiment (with reference to FIGS. 3 and 4). However, in the embodiment illustrated with FIGS. 24 and 25, the user input management system 20 is configured to send a scan code to the remote personal computing device at blocks 102, 108 and 118. As well, in the embodiment shown with FIGS. 24 and 25 system-level input focus is not recorded and therefore there is no need to use a focus recorder such as is used in the first embodiment. Instead the input management director 34.3 is configured in FIG. 25 to check whether the redirection flag is set at block 130A. In addition, the input management director 34.3 is configured at blocks 138C and 146C to pass input key event currently received (ie. keyboard input current received) from the input management system 20 to the predictive text entry system 34.1A in the form of a key message.

[0141] Preferably, events generated through operation of the touch sensitive screen 210 (e.g. mouse down and mouse up events) are immediately received by the predictive text entry system 34.1A, bypassing the input management system 20 and the input management director 34.3. In this case, when a mouse up event is received by the predictive text entry system 34.1A while the redirection flag is set to “ON”, the predictive text entry system 34.1A is configured to notify

the input management director 34.3 that a redirection cancellation event has occurred, in which case processing proceeds according to blocks 132, 134C and 136.

[0142] On start-up of the enhanced keyboard-type device 200, the user selects the user-preferred keyboard layout available on the portable keyboard, which should be known and selected on the remote personal computing device. In this manner both the remote personal computing device as well as the enhanced keyboard-type device 200 are in synch insofar as the scan codes being used, when these scan codes are sent from the enhanced keyboard-type device 200 to the remote personal computing device following user input. The arrangement of the keys for this keyboard layout can vary according to the user’s preference.

[0143] The communication between the enhanced keyboard-type device 200 and the remote personal computing device occurs in the form of scan codes. The enhanced keyboard-type device 200 generates two scan codes when the user types a key, one when the user presses the key and another when the user releases the key. This technique is well known art in the industry.

[0144] In the above embodiment, the enhanced keyboard-type device 200 is configured to send the scan codes representing a selected predictive text completion candidate to the remote personal computing device at a rate that the remote personal computing device is able to handle.

[0145] It will be noted that the above embodiment (shown in FIGS. 21, 22, 24 and 25) separates a portion of the input processing and associated data from the remote personal computing device that the keyboard-type input and associated data (e.g. completion candidates, if selected) will be used upon. In one aspect, this provides an operating system-independent way of storing and using a prediction system. In another aspect, this provides an improved set of functionality on the enhanced keyboard-type device 200, allowing for a more intelligent keyboard. In another aspect, the enhanced keyboard-type device 200 is also portable and adaptive to different types of remote personal computing devices.

[0146] In an alternative arrangement, a plurality of operating system-specific configurations of the predictive text entry system 34.1 and at least one instance of the data associated with predictive text entry system 34.1 can be stored on an external computer-readable medium (such as a removable USB drive) configured to communicate with the enhanced keyboard-type device 200. In this arrangement, the operating system running on the enhanced keyboard-type device 200 is one of the operating systems for which there is an operating system-specific configuration of the predictive text entry system 34.1 stored on the external computer-readable medium. The enhanced keyboard-type device 200 in this case is configured to operate the operating system-specific configuration of the predictive text entry system 34.1 from the external computer-readable medium if it is available and to use the associated data (e.g. a dictionary comprising predictive text completion candidates) located on the external computer-readable medium.

[0147] In this alternative arrangement, the external computer-readable medium is adapted to be disconnected (decouplable) from the enhanced keyboard-type device 200 and to be connected (couplable) directly to the remote