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(54) **METHOD AND MEDIUM FOR COMPUTER READABLE KEYBOARD DISPLAY INCAPABLE OF USER TERMINATION**

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(58) **Field of Search** **345/173, 175, 345/174, 168**

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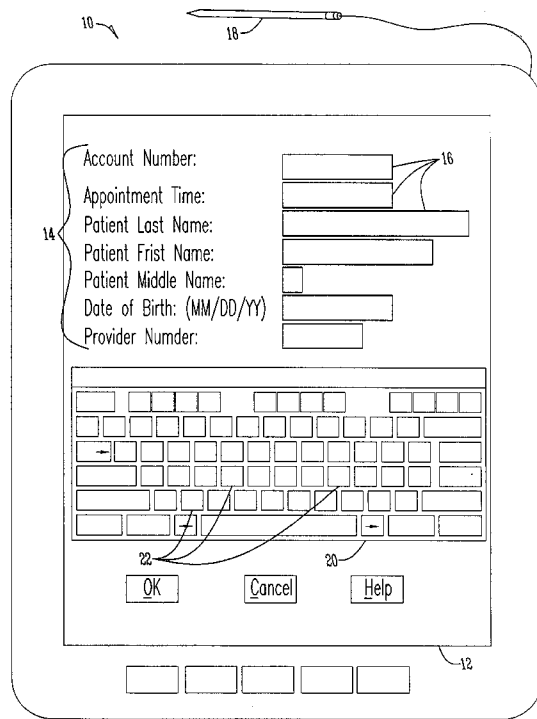
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method and medium for a computer readable input area. The input area is created by a computer program on a display capable of receiving touch-screen input. The computer on which the input area is used is at least a 32-bit system. The input area may contain a keyboard which is an image map. External programming may selectively access the input area through a dynamic link library. The input area has no task bar and may not be minimized, maximized, or deleted. Therefore, the input area becomes an integral component and provides the user with a constant and reliable method of inputting information into the computer program.

10 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets



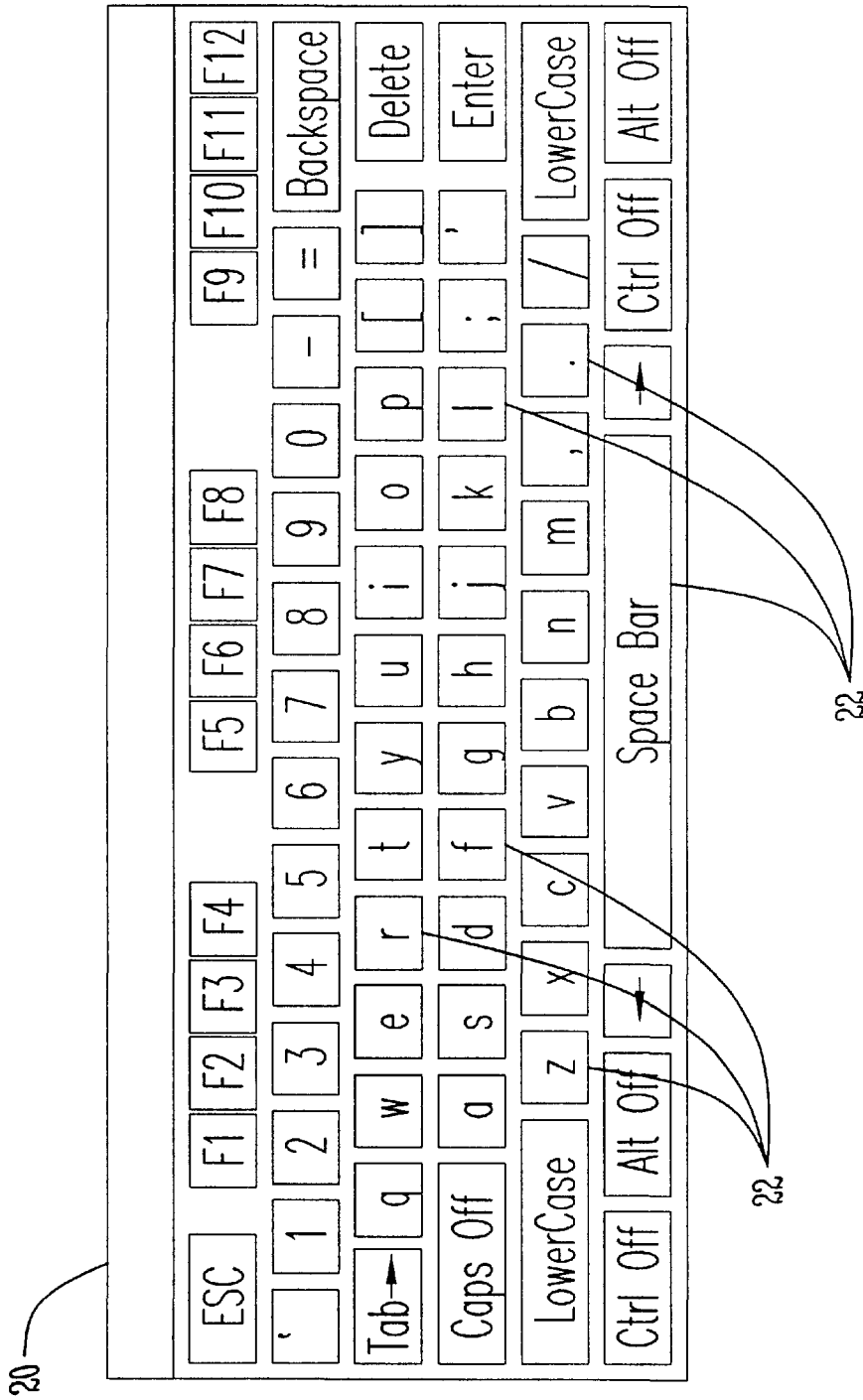


Fig. 2

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METHOD AND MEDIUM FOR COMPUTER READABLE KEYBOARD DISPLAY INCAPABLE OF USER TERMINATION

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to a method and medium for inputting data, and more particularly, to a keyboard of constant size and shape present on the screen of a touch-screen style computer whenever user input may be desired. The keyboard display may be used by any number of computer software programs, including any known operating system in which a touch-sensitive computer display may be incorporated. Additionally, the present invention may be used in conjunction with any individual computer, network and/or Internet based system.

2. Problem in the Art

Computers with touch-screen displays, allowing a user to simply press on a desired location to obtain a desired input, have been around for some time. For example, a pen-based computer, such as the Fujitsu Model Point 1600, allows a user to press on the screen using the attached pen or other styli, and thereby provide user input. The use of such a pen-based computer allows a user to enter all necessary data without the need for an external keyboard, mouse or other input device. The use of an on-screen keyboard in such a computer allows a user to input data without the need for additional handwriting recognition software. Handwriting recognition software, while constantly improving, is often inaccurate and cumbersome. Further, such handwriting recognition software is often processor intensive.

Currently, on-screen keyboards allow a user to maximize, minimize, or simply remove the keyboard on the display. Further, the shape and size of the keyboard may be altered. Often, such alterations or terminations are accidental and returning a keyboard to a useable size and shape wastes valuable time. In a medical setting, for example, it is highly undesirable to have a care provider attempting to recover from an accidental keyboard alteration when the care provider should be attending to and recording information on patients. It is therefore desirable to provide an on-screen keyboard which is incapable of alteration or termination by a user.

More and more applications are being developed for pen-based or touch-screen based computers. These applications will typically require a user to input data at a specific location on the screen. An on-screen keyboard may be necessary to provide the desired input. However, current on-screen keyboards may be moved by the user and therefore placed in undesirable locations which may block necessary text input fields or instructions. Further, current on-screen keyboard include a task bar having minimizing and maximizing buttons which allow a user to enlarge or reduce the window in which the keyboard appears. Often, such keyboards also include a close button which allows the user to terminate the keyboard. Upon pressing these buttons, many computer novices have difficulty launching another instance of the keyboard or recovering the keyboard to a usable state. It is therefore desirable to have an on-screen keyboard which is capable of permanent placement on a computer display.

Computer programs may require input only randomly. Many ask for user input and then present the results. As it would clearly hamper the presentation of results, data or other information to have an on-screen keyboard present at

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all times, it is desirable to provide an on-screen keyboard which may be selectively called up as a subroutine or subprogram by a variety of programming.

There is therefore a need to have an on-screen keyboard which solves these and other problems in the art.

FEATURES OF THE INVENTION

A general feature of the present invention is the provision of an input area which overcomes the problems found in the prior art.

A further feature of the present invention is the provision of an input area which may be used in conjunction with touch-sensitive displays.

Another feature of the present invention is the provision of an input area which is immutable.

A further feature of the present invention is the provision of an input area which may not be moved.

A still further feature of the present invention is the provision of an input area which allows a user to input data without the need for handwriting recognition software.

An additional feature of the present invention is the provision of an input area which may not be maximized.

Another feature of the present invention is the provision of an input area which may not be minimized.

A still further feature of the present invention is the provision of an input area which may not be removed by the user.

A further feature of the present inventions the provision of an input area which contains a keyboard.

Another feature of the present invention i the provision of an input area which may be selectively used by a computer program.

A still further feature of the present invention is the provision of an input area which provides an easy to use and reliable method of inputting information into a computer system regardless of the level of computer skill possessed by the user.

These, as well as other features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following specification and claims.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention generally comprises an immutable keyboard display. In a preferred embodiment, the present invention includes a software application that provides a keyboard display which may not be minimized, maximized, closed, or deleted. Further, the keyboard display allows a user to input information as desired via a touch-screen based or pen based computer.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a pictorial representation of a display of a pen-based computer incorporating the keyboard display of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a close-up view of the keyboard display of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENT

The present invention will be described as it applies to its preferred embodiment. It is not intended that the present invention be limited to the described embodiment. It is intended that the invention cover all modifications and

alternatives which may be included within the spirit and scope of the invention.

As shown in FIG. 1, a pen-based computer 10, such as the Fujitsu Model Point 1600, includes a touch-sensitive display 12. On the display 12 is shown the user interface for a software application 14 which may be running from or accessed by the computer 10. It is to be understood that the computer 10 could be a stand-alone computer or a part of any network or Internet based system. However, the computer 10 preferably provides a 32 bit environment. Computer 10 may access any type of software application through any number of known drives or via a network or web server. Once accessed, the user will see the application as it appears on the display 12 of the computer 10. The application may ask for user input at various locations through the use of text boxes 16 or other fields. The user may provide the desired input by holding the pen 18 or any other known input device which may include the user's finger, and pressing on the display 12 of the computer 10 so as to strike a desired key 22 of the keyboard 20.

The keyboard 20 is preferably an image map or active map incorporated at a set location on the display 12. The keyboard 20 may not be moved, maximized, or minimized. Therefore, the keyboard 20 provides the user with a constant input area to which the user may become accustomed and becomes an integral component.

The keyboard 20, as shown in FIG. 2, contains a plurality of keys 22. The keys 22 may include all those currently found on any standard typewriter or computer keyboard, or may be application-specific. For instance, if the software in which user input is desired is primarily financial software, the keyboard 20 may include only numbers. Further, if the software requires the user to input names or words, the keyboard 20 may include one key 22 for every letter of the alphabet and any necessary punctuation or function keys. Further, the keys 22 may be programmed to represent any symbol or accentuated letter to allow the keyboard to be used in applications in which input may be required in various languages.

The keyboard 20 is preferably the result of a software application written in Visual Basic or C++, though various software programming languages may be used. The keyboard has all task bars removed and may not be minimized, maximized, deleted, closed or resized and is therefore immutable. Preferably, the keyboard application is a sub-routine or subprogram which is made available for use by external software applications. The keyboard application is preferably part of the operating system running on the computer 10. Incorporating the keyboard application into the computer 10 allows the keyboard application to be available to any external software application capable of running on the computer 10. The keyboard application may include a dynamic link library (dll) application. The dll application allows the external software to selectively use the keyboard and either have the keyboard in or out. This allows the software to use the entirety of the screen when necessary for displaying information or results.

An example of the keyboard application programming as it would appear in Visual Basic is:

```
Option Explicit
Public Sub Shift_Down()
cmdLeftShift.Caption="LowerCase"
cmdRightShift.Caption="LowerCase"
cmdLeftShift.Tag="OFF"
cmdRightShift.Tag="OFF"
Caps_OFF
```

```
Command1(26).Caption="0"
Command1(27).Caption="1"
Command1(28).Caption="2"
Command1(29).Caption="3"
5 Command1(30).Caption="4"
Command1(31).Caption="5"
Command1(32).Caption="6"
Command1(33).Visible=False
Command1(44).Visible=True
10 Command1(34).Caption="8"
Command1(35).Caption="9"
Command1(36).Caption=","
Command1(37).Caption="."
Command1(38).Caption="/"
15 Command1(39).Caption=";"
Command1(40).Caption="'"
Command1(41).Caption="["
Command1(42).Caption="]"
Command1(43).Caption="\`"
20 Command1(48).Caption="F1"
Command1(49).Caption="F2"
Command1(50).Caption="F3"
Command1(51).Caption="F4"
Command1(52).Caption="F5"
25 Command1(53).Caption="F6"
Command1(54).Caption="F7"
Command1(55).Caption="F8"
Command1(56).Caption="F9"
Command1(57).Caption="F10"
30 Command1(58).Caption="F11"
Command1(59).Caption="F12"
Command1(46).Caption="-"
Command1(47).Caption="="
Command1(45).Caption="`"
35 Command1(0).Caption="a"
Command1(1).Tag="b"
Command1(2).Tag="c"
Command1(3).Tag="d"
Command1(4).Tag="e"
40 Command1(5).Tag="f"
Command1(6).Tag="g"
Command1(7).Tag="h"
Command1(8).Tag="i"
Command1(9).Tag="j"
45 Command1(10).Tag="k"
Command1(11).Tag="l"
Command1(12).Tag="m"
Command1(13).Tag="n"
Command1(14).Tag="o"
50 Command1(15).Tag="p"
Command1(16).Tag="q"
Command1(17).Tag="r"
Command1(18).Tag="s"
Command1(19).Tag="t"
55 Command1(20).Tag="u"
Command1(21).Tag="v"
Command1(22).Tag="w"
Command1(23).Tag="x"
Command1(24).Tag="y"
60 Command1(25).Tag="z"
Command1(26).Tag="0"
Command1(27).Tag="1"
Command1(28).Tag="2"
Command1(29).Tag="3"
65 Command1(30).Tag="4"
Command1(31).Tag="5"
Command1(32).Tag="6"
```

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Command1(44).Tag="7"
Command1(34).Tag="8"
Command1(35).Tag="9"
Command1(36).Tag=","
Command1(37).Tag="."
Command1(38).Tag="/"
Command1(39).Tag=";"
Command1(40).Tag="'"
Command1(41).Tag="["
Command1(42).Tag="]"
Command1(43).Tag="\
Command1(48).Tag="{F1}"
Command1(49).Tag="{F2}"
Command1(50).Tag="{F3}"
Command1(51).Tag="{F4}"
Command1(52).Tag="{F5}"
Command1(53).Tag="{F6}"
Command1(54).Tag="{F7}"
Command1(55).Tag="{F8}"
Command1(56).Tag="{F9}"
Command1(57).Tag="{F10}"
Command1(54).Tag="{F11}"
Command1(58).Tag="{F12}"
Command1(46).Tag="-"
Command1(47).Tag="="
Command1(45).Tag="*"
cmdTab.Caption="Tab>"
End Sub
Public Sub Shift_Up( )
cmdLeftShift.Caption="UpperCase"
cmdRightShift.Caption="UpperCase"
cmdLeftShift.Tag="ON"
cmdRightShift.Tag="ON"
Caps_On
Command1(26).Caption=""
Command1(27).Caption="!"
Command1(28).Caption="@
Command1(29).Caption="#
Command1(30).Caption="$
Command1(31).Caption="%
Command1(32).Caption="'"
Command1(33).Visible=True
Command1(44).Visible=False
Command1(34).Caption="*"
Command1(35).Caption("("
Command1(36).Caption("<"
Command1(37).Caption(">"
Command1(38).Caption="?"
Command1(39).Caption=":"
Command1(40).Caption=""""
Command1(41).Caption="{
Command1(42).Caption="}"
Command1(43).Caption="|"
Command1(48).Caption="F13"
Command1(49).Caption="F14"
Command1(50).Caption="F15"
Command1(51).Caption="F16"
Command1(52).Caption="F17"
Command1(53).Caption="F18"
Command1(54).Caption="F19"
Command1(55).Caption="F20"
Command1(56).Caption="F21"
Command1(57).Caption="F22"
Command1(58).Caption="F23"
Command1(59).Caption="F24"
Command1(46).Caption="_"
Command1(47).Caption="+

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Command1(45).Caption="~"
Command1(0).Tag="+A"
Command1(1).Tag="B"
Command1(2).Tag="C"
5 Command1(3).Tag="D"
Command1(4).Tag="E"
Command1(5).Tag="F"
Command1(6).Tag="G"
Command1(7).Tag="H"
10 Command1(8).Tag="I"
Command1(9).Tag="J"
Command1(10).Tag="K"
Command1(11).Tag="L"
Command1(12).Tag="M"
15 Command1(13).Tag="N"
Command1(14).Tag="O"
Command1(15).Tag="P"
Command1(16).Tag="Q"
Command1(17).Tag="R"
20 Command1(18).Tag="S"
Command1(19).Tag="T"
Command1(20).Tag="U"
Command1(21).Tag="V"
Command1(22).Tag="W"
25 Command1(23).Tag="X"
Command1(24).Tag="Y"
Command1(25).Tag="Z"
Command1(26).Tag="{ }"
Command1(27).Tag="!"
30 Command1(28).Tag="@
Command1(29).Tag="#
Command1(30).Tag="$
Command1(31).Tag="{%}"
Command1(32).Tag="{^}"
35 Command1(44).Tag="7"
Command1(34).Tag="*"
Command1(35).Tag="{(}"
Command1(36).Tag="<"
Command1(37).Tag=">"
40 Command1(38).Tag="!"
Command1(39).Tag=":"
Command1(40).Tag=""""
Command1(41).Tag="{ { }"
Command1(42).Tag="{ } }"
45 Command1(43).Tag="|"
Command1(48).Tag="{F13}"
Command1(49).Tag="{F14}"
Command1(50).Tag="{F15}"
Command1(51).Tag="{F16}"
50 Command1(52).Tag="{F17}"
Command1(53).Tag="{F18}"
Command1(54).Tag="{F19}"
Command1(55).Tag="{F20}"
Command1(56).Tag="{F21}"
55 Command1(57).Tag="{F22}"
Command1(58).Tag="{F23}"
Command1(59).Tag="{F24}"
Command1(46).Tag=" "
Command1(47).Tag="{+}"
60 Command1(45).Tag="{-}"
cmdTab.Caption="Tab>"
End Sub
Public Sub Caps_On( )
Command1(0).Caption="A"
65 Command1(1).Caption="B"
Command1(2).Caption="C"
Command1(3).Caption="D"

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Command1(4).Caption="E"
Command1(5).Caption="F"
Command1(6).Caption="G"
Command1(7).Caption="H"
Command1(8).Caption="I"
Command1(9).Caption="J"
Command1(10).Caption="K"
Command1(11).Caption="L"
Command1(12).Caption="M"
Command1(13).Caption="N"
Command1(14).Caption="O"
Command1(15).Caption="P"
Command1(16).Caption="Q"
Command1(17).Caption="R"
Command1(18).Caption="S"
Command1(19).Caption="T"
Command1(20).Caption="U"
Command1(21).Caption="V"
Command1(22).Caption="W"
Command1(23).Caption="X"
Command1(24).Caption="Y"
Command1(25).Caption="Z"
End Sub
Public Sub Caps_OFF( )
Command1(0).Caption="a"
Command1(1).Caption="b"
Command1(2).Caption="c"
Command1(3).Caption="d"
Command1(4).Caption="e"
Command1(5).Caption="f"
Command1(6).Caption="g"
Command1(7).Caption="h"
Command1(8).Caption="i"
Command1(9).Caption="j"
Command1(10).Caption="k"
Command1(11).Caption="l"
Command1(12).Caption="m"
Command1(13).Caption="n"
Command1(14).Caption="o"
Command1(15).Caption="p"
Command1(16).Caption="q"
Command1(17).Caption="r"
Command1(18).Caption="s"
Command1(19).Caption="t"
Command1(20).Caption="u"
Command1(21).Caption="v"
Command1(22).Caption="w"
Command1(23).Caption="x"
Command1(24).Caption="y"
Command1(25).Caption="z"
End Sub
Public Sub Set_Caps_Lock( )
If cmdCapsLock.Tag="OFF" Then
cmdCapsLock.Caption="Caps On"
cmdCapsLock.Tag="ON"
Caps_On
Else
cmdCapsLock.Caption="Caps Off"
cmdCapsLock.Tag="OFF"
Caps_OFF
End If
strKeys=""
strKeys=strKeys & "{CAPSLOCK}"
SendVKeys(strKeys)
End Sub
Public Sub Key_Layout( )

```

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```

Dim intTemp, intRightBorder As Integer
Dim lngPcnt As Double
Dim dblFontSize As Double
Dim lngFormWidth As Long
5 Dim intRow1Top, intRow2Top, intRow3Top,
intRow4Top, intRow5Top, intRow6Top, intRow7Top As
Integer
Dim intFontSize, intHeight, intLetterWidth, intFunction-
Width As Integer
10 lngFormWidth=frmKeys.Width
If frmKeys.BorderStyle>0 Then
lngPcnt=lngFormWidth/7135
Else
15 lngPcnt=lngFormWidth/6975
End If
'lngPcnt=lngFormWidth/6975
'pKB.Height=2790*lngPcnt
'pKB.Height=(3390*lngPcnt)
20 intHeight=330*lngPcnt
intLetterWidth=350*lngPcnt
intFunctionWidth=470*lngPcnt
intTemp=intFunctionWidth/24
25 intFunctionWidth=(intTemp+1)*24
intFontSize=9*lngPcnt
dblFontSize=8*lngPcnt
intRow1Top=60*lngPcnt
30 intRow2Top=540 lngPcnt
intRow3Top=960*lngPcnt
intRow4Top=1380*lngPcnt
intRow5Top=1860*lngPcnt
35 intRow6Top=2340*lngPcnt
intRow7Top=2820*lngPcnt
'Set the form height to porportion with form width
If frmKeys.BorderStyle>0 Then
40 frmKeys.Height=intRow6Top+intHeight+465
Else
frmKeys.Height=intRow6Top+intHeight+60
End If
'Row 1
45 'Escape Key
cmdEscape.Font.Size=dblFontSize
cmdEscape.Top=intRow1Top
cmdEscape.Left=60*lngPcnt
50 cmdEscape.Width=670*lngPcnt
cmdEscape.Height=intHeight
'F1 Key
Command1(48).Font.Size=intFontSize
Command1(48).Top=intRow1Top
55 Command1(48).Left=805*lngPcnt
Command1(48).Width=intFunctionWidth
Command1(48).Height=intHeight
'F2 Key
60 Command1(49).Font.Size=intFontSize
Command1(49).Top=intRow1Top
Command1(49).Left=Command1(48).Left+Command1
(48).Width '1285*lngPcnt
65 Command1(49).Width=intFunctionWidth
Command1(49).Height=intHeight
'F3 Key

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Command1(50).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(50).Top=intRow1Top
 Command1(50).Left=Command1(49).Left+Command1
 (49).Width '1765*IngPent
 Command1(50).Width=intFunctionWidth
 Command1(50).Height=intHeight
 'F4 Key
 Command1(51).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(51).Top=intRow1Top
 Command1(51).Left=Command1(50).Left+Command1
 (50).Width '2245*Ingpcnt
 Command1(51).Width=intFunctionWidth
 Command1(51).Height=intHeight
 'F5 Key
 Command1(52).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(52).Top=intRow1Top
 Command1(52).Left=2905*Ingpcnt
 Command1(52).Width=intFunctionWidth
 Command1(52).Height=intHeight
 'F6 Key
 Command1(53).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(53).Top=intRow1Top
 Command1(53).Left=Command1(52).Left+Command1
 (52).Width '3385*IngPent
 Command1(53).Width=intFunctionWidth
 Command1(53).Height=intHeight
 'F7 Key
 Command1(54).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(54).Top=intRow1Top
 Command1(54).Left=Command1(53).Left+
 Command1(53).Width '3865*IngPent
 Command1(54).Width=intFunctionWidth
 Command1(54).Height=intHeight
 'F8 Key
 Command1(55).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(55).Top=intRow1Top
 Command1(55).Left=Command1(54).Left+Command1
 (54).Width '4345*IngPent
 Command1(55).Width=intFunctionWidth
 Command1(55).Height=intHeight
 'F9 Key
 Command1(56).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(56).Top=intRow1Top
 Command1(56).Left=5005*IngPent
 Command1(56).Width=intFunctionWidth
 Command1(56).Height=intHeight
 'F10 Key
 Command1(57).Font.Size=dblFontSize
 Command1(57).Top=intRow1Top
 Command1(57).Left=Command1(56).Left+Command1
 (56).Width '5485*IngPent
 Command1(57).Width=intFunctionWidth
 Command1(57).Height=intHeight
 'F11 Key
 Command1(58).Font.Size=dblFontSize
 Command1(58).Top intRow1Top
 Command1(58).Left=Command1(57).Left+Command1
 (57).Width '5965*Ingpcnt

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Command1(58).Width=intFunctionWidth
 Command1(58).Height=intHeight
 'F12 Key
 Command1(59).Font.Size=dblFontSize
 Command1(59).Top=intRow1Top
 Command1(59).Left=Command1(58).Left+Command1
 (58).Width '6445*Ingpcnt
 Command1(59).Width=intFunctionWidth
 Command1(59).Height=intHeight
 intRightBorder=Command1(59).Left+Command1(59).
 Width
 'Row 2
 "Key
 Command1(45).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(45).Top=intRow2Top
 Command1(45).Left=60*Ingpcnt
 Command1(45).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(45).Height=intHeight
 '1 Key
 Command1(27).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(27).Top=intRow2Top Command1(27).Left=
 480*IngPent
 Command1(27).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(27).Height=intHeight
 '2 Key
 Command1(28).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(28).Top=intRow2Top
 Command1(28).Left=900*IngPent
 Command1(28).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(28).Height=intHeight
 '3 Key
 Command1(29).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(29).Top=intRow2Top
 Command1(29).Left=1320*IngPent
 Command1(29).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(29).Height=intHeight
 '4 Key
 Command1(30).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(30).Top=intRow2Top
 Command1(30).Left=1740*Ingpcnt
 Command1(30).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(30).Height=intHeight
 '5 Key
 Command1(31).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(31).Top=intRow2Top
 Command1(31).Left=2160*IngPent
 Command1(31).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(31).Height=intHeight
 '6 Key
 Command1(32).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(32).Top=intRow2Top Command1(32).Left=
 2580*IngPent
 Command1(32).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(32).Height=intHeight
 '& Key
 Command1(33).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(33).Top=intRow2Top

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Command1(33).Left=3000*IngPent
 Command1(33).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(33).Height=intHeight
 '7 Key
 Command1(44).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(44).Top=intRow2Top
 Command1(44).Left=3000*IngPent
 Command1(44).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(44).Height=intHeight
 '8 Key
 Command1(34).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(34).Top=intRow2Top
 Command1(34).Left=3420*IngPent
 Command1(34).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(34).Height=intHeight
 '9 Key
 Command1(35).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(35).Top=intRow2Top
 Command1(35).Left=3840*IngPent
 Command1(35).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(35).Height=intHeight
 0 Key
 Command1(26).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(26).Top=intRow2Top
 Command1(26).Left=4260*IngPent
 Command1(26).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(26).Height=intHeight
 '-' Key
 Command1(46).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(46).Top=intRow2Top
 Command1(46).Left=4680*IngPent
 Command1(46).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(46).Height=intHeight
 '=' Key
 Command1(47).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(47).Top=intRow2Top
 Command1(47).Left=5100*IngPent
 Command1(47).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(47).Height=intHeight
 'Backspace Key
 cmdBackspace.Font.Size=dblFontSize
 cmdBackspace.Top=intRow2Top
 cmdBackspace.Left=5520*IngPent
 cmdBackspace.Width=intRightBorder—
 cmdBackspace.Left
 cmdBackspace.Height=intHeight
 'Row 3
 'TAB Key
 cmdTabFont.Size=dblFontSize
 cmdTabTop=intRow3Top
 cmdTabLeft=60*IngPent
 cmdTabWidth=650*IngPent
 cmdTabHeight=intHeight
 'Q Key
 Command1(16).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(16).Top=intRow3Top
 Command1(16).Left=780*IngPent

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Command1(16).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(16).Height=intHeight
 'W Key
 5 Command1(22).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(22).Top=intRow3Top
 Command1(22).Left=1200*IngPent
 Command1(22).Width=intLetterWidth
 10 Command1(22).Height=intHeight
 'E Key
 Command1(4).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(4).Top=intRow3Top
 15 Command1(4).Left=1620*IngPent
 Command1(4).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(4).Height=intHeight
 'R Key
 Command1(17).Font.Size=intFontSize
 20 Command1(17).Top=intRow3Top
 Command1(17).Left=2040*IngPent
 Command1(17).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(17).Height=intHeight
 25 'T Key
 Command1(19).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(19).Top=intRow3Top
 Command1(19).Left=2460*IngPent
 30 Command1(19).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(19).Height=intHeight
 'Y Key
 Command1(24).Font.Size=intFontSize
 35 Command1(24).Top=intRow3Top
 Command1(24).Left=2880*IngPent
 Command1(24).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(24).Height=intHeight
 40 'U Key
 Command1(20).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(20).Top=intRow3Top
 Command1(20).Left=3300*IngPent
 45 Command1(20).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(20).Height=intHeight
 'I Key
 Command1(8).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(8).Top=intRow3Top
 50 Command1(8).Left=3720*IngPent
 Command1(8).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(8).Height=intHeight
 'O Key
 55 Command1(14).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(14).Top=intRow3Top
 Command1(14).Left=4140*IngPent
 Command1(14).Width=intLetterWidth
 60 Command1(14).Height=intHeight
 'P Key
 Command1(15).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(15).Top=intRow3Top
 65 Command1(15).Left=4560*IngPent
 Command1(15).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(15).Height=intHeight

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[Key
 Command1(41).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(41).Top=intRow3Top
 Command1(41).Left=4980*IngPent
 Command1(41).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(41).Height=intHeight
] Key
 Command1(42).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(42).Top=intRow3Top
 Command1(42).Left=5400*IngPent
 Command1(42).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(42).Height=intHeight
 \ Key
 Command1(43).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(43).Top=intRow3Top
 Command1(43).Left=5820*IngPent
 Command1(43).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(43).Height=intHeight
 'Delete
 cmdDelete.Font.Size=dblFontSize
 cmdDelete.Top=intRow3Top
 cmdDelete.Left=6240*IngPent
 cmdDelete.Width=intRightBorder—cmdDelete.Left
 cmdDelete.Height=intHeight
 'Row 4
 'Caps Lock Key
 cmdCapsLock.Font.Size=dblFontSize
 cmdCapsLock.Top=intRow4Top
 cmdCapsLock.Left=60*IngPent
 cmdCapsLock.Width=1070*IngPent
 cmdCapsLock.Height=intHeight
 'A Key
 Command1(0).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(0).Top=intRow4Top
 Command1(0).Left=1200*IngPent
 Command1(0).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(0).Height=intHeight
 'S Key
 Command1(18).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(18).Top=intRow4Top
 Command1(18).Left=1620*IngPent
 Command1(18).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(18).Height=intHeight
 'D Key
 Command1(3).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(3).Top=intRow4Top
 Command1(3).Left=2040*IngPent
 Command1(3).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(3).Height=intHeight
 'F Key
 Command1(5).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(5).Top=intRow4Top
 Command1(5).Left=2460*IngPent
 Command1(5).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(5).Height=intHeight
 'G Key

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Command1(6).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(6).Top=intRow4Top
 Command1(6).Left=2880*IngPent
 Command1(6).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(6).Height=intHeight
 'H Key
 Command1(7).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(7).Top=intRow4Top
 Command1(7).Left=3300*IngPent
 Command1(7).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(7).Height=intHeight
 'J Key
 Command1(9).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(9).Top=intRow4Top
 Command1(9).Left=3720*IngPent
 Command1(9).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(9).Height=intHeight
 'K Key
 Command1(10).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(10).Top=intRow4Top
 Command1(10).Left=4140*IngPent
 Command1(10).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(10).Height=intHeight
 'L Key
 Command1(11).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(11).Top=intRow4Top
 Command1(11).Left=4560*IngPent
 Command1(11).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(11).Height=intHeight
 ';' Key
 Command1(39).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(39).Top=intRow4Top
 Command1(39).Left=4980*IngPent
 Command1(39).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(39).Height=intHeight
 ""Key
 Command1(40).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(40).Top=intRow4Top
 Command1(40).Left=5400*IngPent
 Command1(40).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(40).Height=intHeight
 'Enter
 cmdEnter.Font.Size dblFontSize
 cmdEnter.Top=intRow4Top
 cmdEnter.Left=5820*IngPent
 cmdEnter.Width=intRightBorder—cmdEnter.Left
 cmdEnter.Height=intHeight
 'Row 5
 'Left Shift Key cmdLeftShift.Font.Size=dblFontSize
 cmdLeftShift.Top=intRow5Top cmdLeftShift.Left=
 60*IngPent cmdLeftShift.Width=1293*IngPent
 cmdLeftShift.Height=intHeight
 'Z Key
 Command1(25).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(25).Top=intRow5Top
 Command1(25).Left=1423*IngPent
 Command1(25).Width=intLetterWidth

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Command1(25).Height=intHeight
 'X Key
 Command1(23).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(23).Top=intRow5Top
 Command1(23).Left=1843*IngPent
 Command1(23).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(23).Height=intHeight
 'C Key
 Command1(2).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(2).Top=intRow5Top
 Command1(2).Left=2263*IngPent
 Command1(2).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(2).Height=intHeight
 'V Key
 Command1(21).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(21).Top=intRow5Top
 Command1(21).Left=2683*IngPent
 Command1(21).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(21).Height=intHeight
 'B Key
 Command1(1).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(1).Top=intRow5Top
 Command1(1).Left=3103*IngPent
 Command1(1).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(1).Height=intHeight
 'N Key
 Command1(13).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(13).Top=intRow5Top
 Command1(13).Left=3523*IngPent
 Command1(13).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(13).Height=intHeight
 'M Key
 Command1(12).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(12).Top=intRow5Top
 Command1(12).Left=3943*IngPent
 Command1(12).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(12).Height=intHeight
 ', Key
 Command1(36).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(36).Top=intRow5Top
 Command1(36).Left=4363*IngPent
 Command1(36).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(36).Height=intHeight
 '. Key
 Command1(37).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(37).Top=intRow5Top
 Command1(37).Left=4783*IngPent
 Command1(37).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(37).Height=intHeight
 '/' Key
 Command1(38).Font.Size=intFontSize
 Command1(38).Top=intRow5Top
 Command1(38).Left=5203*IngPent
 Command1(38).Width=intLetterWidth
 Command1(38).Height=intHeight
 'Right Shift Key

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cmdRightShift.Font.Size=dblFontSize
 cmdRightShift.Top=intRow5Top
 cmdRightShift.Left=5623*Ingpent
 5 cmdRightShift.Width=intRightBorder—
 cmdRightShift.Left
 cmdRightShift.Height=intHeight
 'Row 6
 'Left Ctrl Key
 10 cmdCntrl.Font.Size=dblFontSize
 cmdCntrl.Top=intRow6Top
 cmdCntrl.Left=60*Ingpent
 15 cmdCntrl.Width=795*Ingpent
 cmdCntrl.Height=intHeight
 'Left Alt Key
 cmdAlt.Font.Size=dblFontSize
 20 cmdAlt.Top=intRow6Top
 cmdAlt.Left=925*Ingpent
 cmdAlt.Width=735*IngPent
 cmdAlt.Height=intHeight
 25 'Move Left Key
 cmdMoveLeft.Font.Size=intFontSize
 cmdMoveLeft.Top=intRow6Top
 cmdMoveLeft.Left=1730*IngPent
 30 cmdMoveLeft.Width=465*Ingpent
 cmdMoveLeft.Height=intHeight
 'Space Bar Key
 cmdSpaceBar.Font.Size=intFontSize
 35 cmdSpaceBar.Top=intRow6Top
 cmdSpaceBar.Left=2265*IngPent
 cmdSpaceBar.Width=2445*IngPent
 cmdSpaceBar.Height=intHeight
 40 'Move Right Key
 cmdMoveRight.Font.Size=intFontSize
 cmdMoveRight.Top=intRow6Top
 cmdMoveRight.Left=4780*Ingpent
 45 cmdMoveRight.Width=465*Ingpent
 cmdMoveRight.Height=intHeight
 'Right Alt Key
 cmdAlt2.Font.Size=dblFontSize
 cmdAlt2.Top=intRow6Top
 50 cmdAlt2.Left=5315*Ingpent
 cmdAlt2.Width=735*Ingpent
 cmdAlt2.Height=intHeight
 'Right Ctrl Key
 55 cmdCntrl2.Font.Size=dblFontSize
 cmdCntrl2.Top=intRow6Top
 cmdCntrl2.Left=6120*IngPent
 cmdCntrl2.Width intRightBorder—cmdCntrl2.Left
 60 cmdCntrl2.Height=intHeight
 'Exit Keyboard
 cmdExitKeyboard.Font.Size=dblFontSize
 cmdExitKeyboard.Top=intRow7Top
 65 cmdExitKeyboard.Left=60*IngPent
 cmdExitKeyboard.Width=6915*Ingpent
 cmdExitKeyboard.Height=intHeight

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End Sub
Private Sub cmdAlt_Click ( )
  If cmdAlt.Tag="OFF" Then
    cmdAlt.Tag="ON"
    cmdAlt.Caption="Alt On"
    cmdAlt2.Tag="ON"
    cmdAlt2.Caption="Alt On"
  Else
    cmdAlt.Tag="OFF"
    cmdAlt.Caption="Alt Off"
    cmdAlt2.Tag="OFF"
    cmdAlt2.Caption="Alt Off"
  End If
End Sub
Private Sub cmdAlt2_Click ( )
  cmdAlt_Click
End Sub
Private Sub cmdBackspace_Click ( )
  strKeys="{BKSP}"
  SendVKeys (strKeys)
End Sub
Private Sub cmdCntrl_Click ( )
  If cmdCntrl.Tag="OFF" Then
    cmdCntrl.Tag="ON"
    cmdCntrl.Caption="Ctrl On"
    cmdCntrl2.Tag="ON"
    cmdCntrl2.Caption="Ctrl On"
  Else
    cmdCntrl.Tag="OFF"
    cmdCntrl.Caption="Ctrl Off"
    cmdCntrl2.Tag="OFF"
    cmdCntrl2.Caption="Ctrl Off"
  End If
End Sub
Private Sub cmdCntrl2_Click ( )
  cmdCntrl_Click
End Sub
Private Sub cmdDelete_Click ( )
  strKeys=" "
  strKeys=strKeys & "{DEL}"
  SendVKeys (strKeys)
End Sub
Private Sub cmdEnter_Click ( )
  strKeys=""
  strKeys=strKeys & "{ENTER}"
  SendVKeys (strKeys)
End Sub
Private Sub cmdEscape_Click ( )
  strKeys="{ESC}"
  SendVKeys (strKeys)
End Sub
Private Sub cmdExitKeyboard_Click ( )
End
End Sub
Private Sub cmdLeftShift_Click ( )
  If cmdLeftShift.Tag="OFF" Then
  If cmdCapsLock.Tag="OFF" Then
    Shift_Up
  Else
    Set_Caps_Lock
    Shift_Up
  End If
Else

```

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  Shift_Down
  End If
End Sub
Private Sub cmdMoveLeft_Click ( )
  strKeys=" "
  strKeys=strKeys & "{LEFT}"
  SendVKeys (strKeys)
End Sub
Private Sub cmdMoveRight_Click ( )
  strKeys=""
  strKeys=strKeys & "{RIGHT}"
  SendVKeys (strKeys)
End Sub
Private Sub cmdRightShift_Click ( )
  cmdLeftShift_Click
End Sub
Private Sub cmdSpaceBar_Click ( )
  strKeys=""
  strKeys=strKeys & " "
  SendVKeys (strKeys)
End Sub
Private Sub cmdTab_Click ( )
  strKeys=""
  If cmdLeftShift.Tag="ON" Then
    strKeys=strKeys & "+"
  End If
  strKeys=strKeys & "{TAB}"
  SendVKeys (strKeys)
End Sub
Private Sub Form_Activate ( )
  Dim dl&
  ' KeyboardWindow=GetForegroundWindow dl&=
  SetWindowPos(hwnd, -1, 4905, 7965, 6975, 2475, &H1 Or
  &H2)
End Sub
Private Sub Form_GotFocus
  If Me.WindowState <>0 Then
    Me.WindowState=0
    ' Me.Width=7000
End If
End Sub
Private Sub Form_Resize ( )
  If Me.WindowState <>0 Then
    Me.WindowState=0
    Me.Width=7000
End If
End Sub
Key_Layout1
End Sub
Private Sub cmdCapsLock_Click ( )
  ' Caps Lock Key
  If cmdCapsLock.Tag="OFF" Then
    cmdCapsLock.Caption="Caps On"
    cmdCapsLock.Tag="ON"
    Caps_On
  Else
    cmdCapsLock.Caption="Caps Off"
    cmdCapsLock.Tag="OFF"
    Caps_OFF
  End If
  strkeys=""
  strkeys=strkeys & "{CAPSLOCKII}"
  SendVKeys (strKeys)
End Sub
Private Sub Command1_Click(Index As Integer)
  strKeys=""
  If cmdCapsLock.Tag="ON" Then
    strKeys=strKeys & "{CAPSLOCK}"

```

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End If
If cmdLeftShift.Tag="ON" Then
strKeys=strKeys & "+"
End If
If cmdAlt.Tag="ON" Then
strKeys=strKeys & "%"
End If
If cmdCntrl.Tag="ON" Then
strKeys=strKeys & "~"
End If
strKeys=strKeys & Command1(Index).Tag
SendVKeys (strKeys)
End Sub
Private Sub Form_Load( )
Dim hSysMenu As Long
Dim nCnt As Long
' First, show the form
Me.Show
' Get handle to our form's system menu
' (Restore, Maximize, Move, close etc.)
SysMenu=GetSystemMenu(Me.hwnd, False)
If hSysMenu Then
'=0 Get System menu's menu count
nCnt=GetMenuItemCount(hSysMenu)
If nCnt Then
'Menu count is based on 0 (0, 1, 2, 3 . . . )
RemoveMenu hSysMenu, nCnt-1, _
MF_BYPOSITION Or MF_REMOVE
RemoveMenu hSysMenu, nCnt-2, _
MF_BYPOSITION Or MF_REMOVE ' Remove the separator
DrawMenuBar Me.hwnd
' Force caption bar's refresh. Disabling X button
Me.Caption="GeniSus Keyboard"
End If
End If
Shift_Down
Hook
#If CurrentProcOnly=1 Then
Form1.Show
#End If
DeactivateClose
End Sub
Private Sub Form_Unload(Cancel As Integer)
UnHook
End Sub
Public Sub DeactivateClose( )
End Sub
An example of an accompanying dynamic link library, .dll application, through which external applications may access the keyboard application is:
// vKeyHook.cpp : Defines the entry point for the DLL application.
//
#include <windows.h>
#include <winuser.h>
#pragma data_seg(".SHARDATA")
static int hWndActive=0;
static int hWndSelf=0;
static HHOOK hHook=0;
#pragma data_seg( )
BOOL APIENTRY DllMain( HANDLE hModule,
DWORD ul_reason_for_call,
LPVOID lpReserved
)
{
switch (ul_reason_for_call)

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}
case DLL_PROCESS_ATTACH:
case DLL_THREAD_ATTACH:
case DLL_THREAD_DETACH:
5 case DLL_PROCESS_DETACH: break;
}
return TRUE;
}
long CALLBACK CBTProc(
10 int nCode, // hook code
WPARAM wparam, // current-process flag
LPARAM lParam // message data
)
{
if (nCode==HCBT_ACTIVATE &&
15 (int)wParam !=hWndSelf){
hWndActive=(int)wParam;
}
return CallNextHookEx(hHook, nCode, wParam,
20 lparam);
}
void_stdcall HookMsg(int hwnd)
{
HINSTANCE hModule;
hModule=GetModuleHandle("vKeyHook.dll");
25 hHook=SetWindowsHookEx(WH_CBT, CBTProc,
hModule, 0);
hWndSelf=hwnd;
}
void_stdcall UnHookMsg( )
{
30 UnhookWindowsHookEx(hHook);
}
int_stdcall GetActiveWnd( )
{
35 return hWndActive;
These codes are preferably executed in conjunction with a Windows 98® operating system. These codes may be executed in any type of system, including, but not limited to, a web based system, a computer network, or any personal computer, personal digital assistant or other device.
As can clearly be seen in FIGS. 1 and 2, there are no minimizing, maximizing, or close options available for the user. Therefore, a user can input data by selecting keys 22 on the keyboard 20 as necessary.
A general description of the present invention as well as a preferred embodiment of the present invention has been set forth above. Those skilled in the art to which the present invention pertains will recognize and be able to practice additional variations in the methods and systems described which fall within the teachings of this invention. Accordingly, all such modifications and additions are deemed to be within the scope of the invention which is to be limited only by the claims appended hereto.
What is claimed is:
55 1. A method of entering data on a touch screen display, the method comprising:
invoking a computer program in which user input is sought;
60 invoking an input area, including a plurality of data input fields;
invoking a graphical keyboard area incapable of user termination independent of termination of the input area, the graphical keyboard area having a plurality of keys on the display;
65 selecting keys on the keyboard to provide the desired input; and

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- automatically terminating the graphical keyboard area after the desired input is received in the input area.
- 2. The method of entering data on a touch screen display of claim 1 wherein the input area is created by an executable code.
- 3. The method of entering data on a touch screen display of claim 2 wherein the executable code is compiled visual basic code.
- 4. The method of entering data on a touch screen display of claim 1 wherein the computer program invokes the input area.
- 5. The method of entering data on a touch screen display of claim 4 wherein the computer program accesses a dynamic link library file in order to invoke the input area.
- 6. The method of entering data on a touch screen display of claim 5 wherein the dynamic link library file is a C++ program.
- 7. The method of entering data on a touch screen display of claim 1 wherein the computer program is executing on a personal computer.
- 8. The method of entering data on a touch screen display of claim 1 wherein the computer program is executing on a pen-based computer.
- 9. The method of entering data on a touch screen display of claim 1 wherein the computer program is executing on a computer with a touch-screen display.

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- 10. A method of providing a user interface for receiving information from a user using a user immutable graphical keyboard linked to an input area, comprising:
 - invoking the input area;
 - determining that input from the user using the graphical keyboard is needed within the input area;
 - invoking the graphical keyboard on a touch screen display to receive input from a user, the graphical keyboard placed in a set position;
 - persistently maintaining the graphical keyboard on the touch screen display such that the user cannot move, resize, remove, or close the graphical keyboard through the user interface while the input area remains and requires input;
 - receiving input within the input area from the user through the graphical keyboard;
 - determining that further input from the user is no longer needed in the input area; and
 - removing the graphical keyboard.

* * * * *