

COMPUTER SYSTEM AND CONTROL METHOD THEREFOR

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of Korean Patent Application No. 2006-87576, filed Sep. 11, 2006, in the Korean Intellectual Property Office, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

Aspects of the present invention relate to a computer system and a control method thereof, and more particularly, to a computer system having a touch pad and a control method thereof.

2. Description of the Related Art

Generally, a computer system comprises a main body part, a display to display an image, and an inputting device connected with the main body unit to input commands and data. Keyboards and mice are widely used inputting devices.

Recently, computer systems have begun including a touch pad as an input device. The touch pad is usually arranged in a planar shape, provided in a portable computer as a pointing device, and functions like a mouse. If a user moves a finger along the surface of the touch pad, pressure caused by the finger is converted into a voltage or into an electric current. The CPU calculates position coordinates of areas touched by the finger based on the converted signal. The position of a cursor or a pointer displayed on a monitor is moved, or an operation such as a mouse click or a movement of a scroll bar can be performed, according to the calculated position coordinates.

However, in conventional computer systems provided with touch pads, the touch pad can perform only the functions of a mouse. Accordingly, a keyboard to input characters should also be provided. In addition, as the size of computers continues to decrease, the inclusion of both a touch panel and a keyboard in the computer may create portability problems due to the larger volume needed to incorporate both types of input devices into the same system.

Computers incorporating the touch screen into the display receive pressure signals generated as a user touches the surface of the touch screen/display. The computer translates the pressure signals into the motion of a pointer or the inputting of a character. However, if characters are inputted through the touch screen, part of the display can not be utilized, since a portion of the visual space is taken up by a virtual keyboard.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Aspects of the invention provide a computer system and a control method of the computer system capable of easily inputting characters through the touch pad. Also, the computer system and the control method of the computer system can be minimized in its size by replacing a touch pad for a function of a conventional mouse and a keyboard.

Additional aspects of the present invention will be set forth in part in the description which follows and, in part, will be obvious from the description, or may be learned by practice of the general inventive concept.

According to an aspect of the present invention, a computer system is provided comprising a touch pad having a plurality of key areas to generate a key signal according to a touch input, the key signal corresponding to one of the key areas; a

display; a storing unit to store a relation table relating each of a plurality of character values to a corresponding key area in the plurality of key areas; and a controller to read, from the storing unit, the character value corresponding to a key area corresponding to the key signal generated in the touch pad and to display the character value on the display if a key signal is generated in the touch pad, and if successive key signals are generated with respect to the plurality of key areas, to sequentially convert the successive key signals into the corresponding successive character values and to display each of the successive character values on the display by replacing a previously displayed character value with the character value to be displayed.

According to another embodiment of the present invention, the controller comprises a driver to convert the character value generated from the touch pad into the character value corresponding to the key signal, and an application to processing the converted character value and to displaying the character value on the display unit.

According to another embodiment of the present invention, when the key signal disappears, the controller displays the character value corresponding to the key area in which the key signal disappeared.

According to another embodiment of the present invention, the computer system further comprises a user selecting unit to set the character values corresponding to the key areas; wherein the controller stores in the storing unit the character values set by the user selecting unit.

According to another aspect of the present invention, a control method of a computer system having a touch pad comprises: determining whether a key signal is generated in the touch pad; displaying a character value corresponding to the key area in which the key signal was generated; determining whether successive key signals were generated; converting each of the successive key signals into the character value corresponding to the key signal corresponding to the key area if successive key signals were generated; and displaying the character values corresponding to the successive key areas if successive key signals were generated.

According to another embodiment of the present invention, the control method of the computer system further comprises displaying the character value corresponding to the key area in which the key signal disappeared if the key signal disappeared.

According to another embodiment of the present invention, the control method of the computer system further comprises storing the character value corresponding to the key area.

According to another embodiment of the present invention, storing the character value comprises setting the character values corresponding to the key areas and storing the set character values.

Additional aspects and/or advantages of the invention will be set forth in part in the description which follows and, in part, will be obvious from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above and/or other aspects and advantages of the invention will become apparent and more readily appreciated from the following description of the embodiments, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings of which:

FIG. 1 is a control block diagram of a computer system according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;