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21. A method of configuring an input device for a data processing system, the input device having a set of display elements capable of displaying symbols, the method comprising:

- selecting an input device layout; 5
- determining whether the selected input device layout is displayed;
- determining a location of the selected input device layout when it is determined that the selected input device layout is not displayed; 10
- retrieving the selected input device layout; and
- displaying a set of symbols on the display elements.

22. An input device for a data processing system, the input device having a set of display elements capable of displaying symbols, comprising: 15

- a memory having program instructions to display symbols on the input device; and
- a processor responsive to the program instructions to select an input device layout, determine whether the selected input device layout is displayed, determine a location of the selected input device layout when it is determined that the selected device layout is not displayed, retrieve the selected input device layout based on the location, and display a set of symbols on the display elements based on the retrieved input device layout, 20

wherein the input device is selected from the group of a mouse, a joystick, a touch pad, a touch-screen, or another device used to interact with the processor. 30

23. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of retrieving the selected input device further comprises:

- retrieving the selected input device layout from a memory associated with the data processing system when it is determined that the selected input device layout is

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- located in a memory associated with the data processing system; and
- retrieving the selected input device layout from a network when it is determined that the selected input device layout is not located in the memory.

24. The input device of claim 18 further comprising:

- means for retrieving the selected input device layout from a memory associated with the data processing system when it is determined that the selected input device layout is located in a memory associated with the data processing system; and
- means for retrieving the selected input device layout from a network when it is determined that the selected input device layout is not located in the memory.

25. The input device of claim 19 further comprising:

- retrieving the selected input device layout from a memory associated with the data processing system when it is determined that the selected input device layout is located in a memory associated with the data processing system; and
- retrieving the selected input device layout from a network when it is determined that the selected input device layout is not located in the memory.

26. The data processing system of claim 20 further comprising:

- retrieving the selected input device layout from a memory associated with the input device when it is determined that the selected input device layout is located in a memory associated with the input device; and
- downloading the selected input device layout from a network when it is determined that the selected input device layout is not located in the memory.

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