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In some embodiments, the suggested character string comprises a complete word that includes at least one character not currently included in the plurality of displayed key icons. For example, if the user enters the letters “bete,” the suggested word may be “bête.” The suggested word includes “ê”, which may not be displayed on a key icon on the keyboard.

FIGS. 11A and 11B illustrate an exemplary user interface for inputting text in accordance with some embodiments.

In some embodiments, user interfaces 1100A and 1100B include the following elements, or a subset or superset thereof:

Signal strength indicator(s) 650 for wireless communication(s), such as cellular and Wi-Fi signals;

Time 652;

Battery status indicator 654;

Text entry area 612;

Send icon 614 that when activated (e.g., by a finger tap on the icon) initiates sending of the message in text box 612 to another party (e.g., Mike Van Os);

Soft keyboard 616 for entering text in area 612;

Alternate keyboard selector icon 618 that when activated (e.g., by a finger tap on the icon) initiates the display of a different keyboard (e.g., a soft keyboard with numbers);

Return icon 620 that when activated (e.g., by a finger tap on the icon) initiates a new line in the message in text box 612;

Shift key 628 that when activated (e.g., by a finger tap on the icon) capitalizes the next letter chosen on soft keyboard 616

Recipient input field 632 that when activated (e.g., by a finger tap on the field) receives and displays the phone number of the recipient of the instant message (or the recipient’s name if the recipient is already in the user’s contact list);

Add recipient icon 634 that when activated (e.g., by a finger tap on the icon) initiates the display of a scrollable list of contacts;

Cancel icon 636 that when activated (e.g., by a finger tap on the icon) cancels the new instant message;

Second area with suggested word 644 (e.g., adjacent to the word being input in text entry area 612);

Rejection icon 645;

Space bar 646; and/or

Insertion marker 656 (e.g., a cursor, insertion bar, insertion point, or pointer).

In some embodiments, a user can set whether the second area 644 with a suggested word is shown (e.g., by setting a user preference). In some embodiments, a letter is enlarged briefly before or after it is selected (e.g., an enlarged “N” 660 is displayed briefly while typing the “n” in “din” in FIG. 11A) to provide feedback to the user.

FIG. 12 is a flow diagram illustrating a process 1200 for inputting text on a portable electronic device with a soft keyboard and a touch screen display (e.g., device 100) in accordance with some embodiments. The process makes it very simple and intuitive for a user to accept or reject suggested words.

In a first area (e.g., text entry area 612) of the touch screen display, the device displays (1202) a current character string being input by a user with the soft keyboard (e.g., “din”, FIG. 11A).

In a second area 644 of the touch screen display, the device displays (1204) a suggested replacement character string for the current character string (e.g., “dinner” in area 644, FIG. 11A). In some embodiments, the second area 644 includes a

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suggestion rejection icon 645 adjacent to the suggested replacement character string (e.g., the circled “X” in area 644 adjacent to “dinner”).

The device replaces (1206) the current character string in the first area with the suggested replacement character string in response to detecting user activation of a key on the soft keyboard associated with a delimiter. For example, if the user activates the space bar key 646 on keyboard 615, the character string “din” in area 612 is replaced with the suggested replacement character string “dinner,” as shown in FIG. 11B.

The device keeps (1208) the current character string in the first area in response to detecting a finger gesture on the suggested replacement character string displayed in the second area (e.g., a tap gesture on the suggested replacement character string “dinner” ends display of the suggested replacement character string “dinner” and the suggestion rejection icon 645, while the current character string “din” is kept in area 612, not shown).

The foregoing description, for purpose of explanation, has been described with reference to specific embodiments. However, the illustrative discussions above are not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise forms disclosed. Many modifications and variations are possible in view of the above teachings. The embodiments were chosen and described in order to best explain the principles of the invention and its practical applications, to thereby enable others skilled in the art to best utilize the invention and various embodiments with various modifications as are suited to the particular use contemplated.

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method, comprising:

at a portable electronic device having a touch screen display:

displaying a plurality of key icons, each key icon having a fixed displayed size and an adjustable undisplayed hit region of dynamically adjustable size;

receiving a sequence of individual touch points input by a user on the touch screen display, wherein:

each touch point is determined at lift off of a contact from the touch screen display, and

an image with an enlarged version of a character that will be selected as the character corresponding to an individual touch point is displayed prior to lift off of a respective contact, wherein the character image that is displayed prior to lift off is selected in accordance with the adjustable undisplayed hit regions of the displayed key icons; and

after receiving each of the individual touch points:

forming a user-input directed graph for the sequence of individual touch points received so far;

determining a character corresponding to a last received individual touch point in accordance with the adjustable undisplayed hit regions of the displayed key icons;

displaying a sequence of characters corresponding to the sequence of individual touch points, including the determined character; and

updating a size of an adjustable undisplayed hit region for at least one of the plurality of the key icons in accordance with the sequence of individual touch points input by the user, wherein the updating includes changing the size of at least one adjustable undisplayed hit region.

2. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, including:

determining one of more alternate sequences of characters corresponding to the sequence of individual touch