CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of managing input devices, the method comprising:

providing an input surface configured to double up as a mouse pad so that a computer mouse can be used over it;

determining whether a surface input is received at ~~an~~ the input surface;

determining whether a mouse input is received at ~~a~~ the computer mouse; and

disabling one of the input surface and the computer mouse that has a lower priority than another of the input surface and the computer mouse when the surface input and the mouse input are received at respective input device within a threshold window of time.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising disabling the input surface when the mouse input is received at the computer mouse and the surface input is not received at the input surface.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising disabling the computer mouse when the surface input is received at the input surface and the mouse input is not received at the computer mouse.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the input surface comprises one of a touchpad, a digitizer stylus pad, and a graphic tab.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein each of the input surface and the computer mouse has product identifier information or vendor identifier information embedded in firmware for device identification.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising re-enabling the disabled one of the input surface and the computer mouse when a time out period expires after a last usage of the other of the input surface and the computer mouse.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a user input to adjusting priority between the input surface and the computer mouse.

8. An apparatus for managing input devices, the apparatus comprising:

a memory; and

at least one processor coupled to the memory and configured to:

determine whether a surface input is received at an input surface, wherein the input surface is configured to double up as a mouse pad so that a computer mouse can be used over it;

determine whether a mouse input is received at ~~a~~ the computer mouse; and

disable one of the input surface and the computer mouse that has a lower priority than another of the input surface and the computer mouse when the surface input and the mouse input are received at respective input device within a threshold window of time.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to disable the input surface when the mouse input is received at the computer mouse and the surface input is not received at the input surface.

10. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to disable the computer mouse when the surface input is received at the input surface and the mouse input is not received at the computer mouse.

11. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the input surface comprises one of a touchpad, a digitizer stylus pad, and a graphic tab.

12. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein each of the input surface and the computer mouse has product identifier information or vendor identifier information embedded in firmware for device identification.

13. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to re-enable the disabled one of the input surface and the computer mouse when a time out period expires after a last usage of the other of the input surface and the computer mouse.

14. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the at least one processor is further configured to receive a user input to adjusting priority between the input surface and the computer mouse.

15. An input ~~surface~~ device system comprising:

an input surface and a computer mouse, wherein the input surface is configured to double up as a mouse pad so that the computer mouse can be used over it;

a wireless communication circuit configured to communicate wirelessly with ~~a~~ the computer mouse to receive information regarding whether a mouse input is received at the computer mouse; and

a control circuit configured to:

determine whether a surface input is received at the input surface; and

disable the input surface when the input surface has lower priority than the computer mouse and when the surface input and the mouse input are received at respective input device within a threshold window of time.

16. The input device system ~~surface~~ of claim 15, wherein the control circuit is further configured to disable the input surface when the mouse input is received at the computer mouse and the surface input is not received at the input surface.

17. The input device system ~~surface~~ of claim 15, wherein each of the input surface and the computer mouse has product identifier information or vendor identifier information embedded in firmware for device identification.

18. The input device system ~~surface~~ of claim 15, wherein the control circuit is further configured to re-enable the disabled input surface when a time out period expires after a last mouse input is received at the computer mouse.

19. The input device system ~~surface~~ of claim 15, further comprising a switch, wherein the wireless communication circuit is further configured to transmit a command to the computer mouse to disable the computer mouse when the switch is pressed.

20. The input device system of claim 15, wherein the input surface comprises the wireless communication circuit and the control circuit or the computer mouse comprises the wireless communication circuit and the control circuit.

~~20. A computer mouse comprising:~~

a wireless communication circuit configured to communicate wirelessly with a input surface to receive information regarding whether a surface input is received at the input surface; and

a control circuit configured to:

determine whether a mouse input is received at the computer mouse; and

disable the computer mouse when the computer mouse has lower priority than the input surface and when the surface input and the mouse input are received at respective input device within a threshold window of time.

21. The computer mouse of claim 20, wherein the control circuit is further configured to disable the computer mouse when the surface input is received at the input surface and the mouse input is not received at the computer mouse.

22. The computer mouse of claim 20, wherein each of the input surface and the computer mouse has product identifier information or vendor identifier information embedded in firmware for device identification.

23. The computer mouse of claim 20, wherein the control circuit is further configured to re-enable the disabled computer mouse when a time out period expires after a last surface input is received at the input surface.

24. The computer mouse of claim 20, further comprising a switch, wherein the wireless communication circuit is further configured to transmit a command to the input surface to disable the input surface when the switch is pressed.