

USER INTERFACE FOR TOUCHSCREEN DEVICEABSTRACT

5 A free-flowing user interface for a touchscreen
device of a mobile electronic device provides touch-
sensitive application icons and a touch-sensitive hotspot
having an optional activation radius surrounding the
hotspot. A user can launch a selected application by
10 touching the hotspot and then touching and dragging the
application icon corresponding to the selected application
onto the hotspot or at least partially into the activation
radius surrounding the hotspot. Alternatively, an
application can be launched by dragging the hotspot and its
15 surrounding activation zone such that the hotspot or
activation zone at least partially overlaps the application
icon of the application to be launched. The free-flowing
interface can be optionally enhanced by displacing icons
onscreen, when dragged or when collisions occur between
20 icons, based on at least one of a virtual inertia parameter,
a virtual friction parameter and a virtual collision-
elasticity parameter to create more realistic onscreen
motion for the icons.

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Figure 1