smartphone on which the message is compiled and the smartphone on which the message is received and reproduced.

[0006] Accordingly, there is a need for improved systems and methods for allowing messaging between a first computing device operated by a first user and a second computing device operated by a second user.

Summary

[0007] It is an object of the present invention to overcome or ameliorate at least one of the disadvantages of the prior art, or to provide a useful alternative.

[0008] According to a first aspect there is provided a system for allowing messaging between a first computing device operated by a first user and a second computing device operated by a second user, the system including:

a first messaging module on the first computing device for providing:

a first message field into which the first user is able to enter a plurality of text elements;

timing data associated with the text elements; and

a message that is indicative of the text elements and the timing data;

a communications module for allowing communication of the message from the first computing device to the second computing device; and

a second messaging module on the second computing device that is responsive to the message for extracting the text elements and the timing data and for providing a second message field to playback the text elements to the second user in accordance with the timing data.

[0009] In an example the text elements include one of: a single text character; and a string of text characters.

[0010] In an example at least one of the text elements includes one or more control

characters.

[0011] In an example the first user is able to enter into the first field data elements other than text elements.

[0012] In an example each of the data elements other than text elements is a media file.

[0013] In an example the media file is selected from the group including: an audio file; a video file; an image file; and the like.

[0014] In an example the timing data is derived from a sequencing of the entry of the text elements into the first message field.

[0015] In an example the timing data is derived from a chronology of the entry of the text elements into the first message field.

[0016] In an example the timing data is derived from timing input to the first computing device by the first user.

[0017] In an example the timing input includes updating the timing data to change one or more of: the sequencing for one or more of the elements relative to another of the elements; and the chronology of one or more of the elements relative to another of the elements.

[0018] In an example the timing data includes a playback variation field for one or more of the elements and the further input includes updating the playback variation field.

[0019] In an example the second module is responsive to the playback variation field for a given element for selectively presenting that element to the second user during a given playback of the text elements.

[0020] In an example the selective presentation is responsive to whether the playback has previously occurred on the second device.

[0021] In an example the selective presentation is responsive to the number of times the playback has previously occurred on the second device.

[0022] According to a second aspect there is provided a system for allowing

messaging between a first computing device operated by a first user and a second computing device operated by a second user, the system including:

a first messaging module on the first computing device for providing:

a first message field into which the first user is able to enter a plurality of data elements;

timing data associated with the data elements; and

a message that is indicative of the data elements and the timing data;

a communications module for allowing communication of the message from the first computing device to the second computing device; and

a second messaging module on the second computing device that is responsive to the message for extracting the data elements and the timing data and for providing a second message field to playback the data elements to the second user in accordance with the timing data.

[0023] In an example the data elements are selected from the group including: text characters; text strings; and media files.

[0024] In an example the media file is selected from the group including: an audio file; a video file; an image file; and the like.

[0025] According to a third aspect there is provided a method for allowing messaging between a first computing device operated by a first user and a second computing device operated by a second user, the method including the steps of:

installing a first messaging module on the first computing device for providing:

a first message field into which the first user is able to enter a plurality of text elements;

timing data associated with the text elements; and

a message that is indicative of the text elements and the timing data;

allowing communication of the message from the first computing device to the second computing device; and

installing a second messaging module on the second computing device that is responsive to the message for extracting the text elements and the timing data and for providing a second message field to playback the text elements to the second user in accordance with the timing data.

[0026] According to a fourth aspect there is provided a method for allowing messaging between a first computing device operated by a first user and a second computing device operated by a second user, the method including the steps of:

installing a first messaging module on the first computing device for providing:

a first message field into which the first user is able to enter a plurality of data elements;

timing data associated with the data elements; and

a message that is indicative of the data elements and the timing data;

allowing communication of the message from the first computing device to the second computing device; and

installing a second messaging module on the second computing device that is responsive to the message for extracting the data elements and the timing data and for providing a second message field to playback the data elements to the second user in accordance with the timing data.

[0027] According to a fifth aspect there is provided a computing device for operating by a user, the device including:

a user interface for receiving user input from the user;

memory for storing an instance of application software;

a processor for accessing and executing the application software for providing:

a message field with the user interface into which the user is able to enter a plurality of data elements by providing user input;

timing data associated with the data elements; and

a message that is indicative of the data elements and the timing data; and

a communications interface for allowing the computing device to communicate the message with at least one other computing device that is operated by another user.

[0028] In an example the at least one other computing device includes a user interface for providing user output to the second user, memory for storing another instance of application software and a processor for accessing and executing the application software for: extracting the data elements and the timing data; and providing a further message field to playback the data elements to the second user in accordance with the timing data.

[0029] According to a sixth aspect there is provided a method of allowing a user to operate a computing device, the method including the steps of:

receiving user input from the user with the user interface;

storing an instance of application software in memory;

providing a processor for accessing and executing the application software for providing:

a message field into which the user is able to enter a plurality of data elements by providing user input;

timing data associated with the data elements; and

a message that is indicative of the data elements and the timing data; and

allowing the computing device to communicate the message with at least one other computing device that is operated by another user.

[0030] According to a seventh aspect there is provided a computing device for operating by a user, the device including:

a user interface for providing user output to the user;

memory for storing an instance of application software;

a communications interface for allowing the computing device to receive a message from at least one other computing device; and

a processor for accessing and executing the application software for:

being responsive to the message for extracting a plurality of data elements and timing data associated with the data elements; and

providing with the user interface a second message field to playback the data elements to the user in accordance with the timing data.

[0031] According to an eighth aspect there is provided a method for allowing a user to operate a computing device, the method including the steps of:

providing user output to the user with a user interface;

storing in memory an instance of application software;

allowing the computing device to receive a message from at least one other computing device; and

providing a processor for accessing and executing the application software for:

being responsive to the message for extracting a plurality of data elements and timing data associated with the data elements; and

providing with the user interface a second message field to playback the

data elements to the user in accordance with the timing data.

[0032] According to a ninth aspect there is provided a structured message data set that is compiled on a first computing device for allowing a message to be conveyed to a second computing device, the message data set including:

a message field containing a plurality of data elements; and

timing data associated with the data elements, wherein a playback of the data elements on the second device in accordance with the timing data defines the message.

[0033] In an example the timing data includes one or more of: sequencing data; and chronological data.

[0034] In an example at least some of the timing data relates to a subset of the data elements.

[0035] In an example at least some of the timing data relates to a single data element.

[0036] In an example the first computing device is operated by a first user and includes a first user interface for receiving user input from the first user, and wherein the data elements are included in the message field by the first user providing user input to the first user interface.

[0037] In an example the first computing device includes a first messaging module that is responsive to either or both of the sequencing and/or the chronology of the data elements being included in the message field for deriving the timing data.

[0038] Reference throughout this specification to “one embodiment”, “some embodiments” or “an embodiment” means that a particular feature, structure or characteristic described in connection with the embodiment is included in at least one embodiment of the present invention. Thus, appearances of the phrases “in one embodiment”, “in some embodiments” or “in an embodiment” in various places throughout this specification are not necessarily all referring to the same embodiment, but may. Furthermore, the particular features, structures or characteristics may be combined in any suitable manner, as would be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art from this disclosure, in one or more embodiments.