

Claims

1. A method of providing a virtual office, the method comprising:
generating (S10) an output for display of a virtual office including a plurality of images of items of office equipment arranged in the virtual office, wherein the office equipment comprises paper carrying the electronic document content and a writing instrument, each item of office equipment having stored image data for use in the generation of the image in the virtual office and code to perform an associated office function;
receiving (S11) a user input to select an image of an item of office equipment and to identify an operation to be performed by the office equipment;
performing (S12) the identified operation; and
modifying (S13) the generated output for display to display an image of the selected item of office equipment performing the selected function;
wherein the identified operation comprises writing on the paper, the generated output is modified to display the image of the writing appearing on the paper, and the electronic document is modified according to the writing.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein at least one office function comprises an operation on an electronic document.
3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the generated output is modified to display an animation of the image of the selected item performing the selected function.
4. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the identified operation comprises turning a page, and the generated output is modified to display the image of the paper and electronic document content with a page turning.
5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the office equipment includes an envelope and the identified operation comprises writing on the envelope, inserting the paper in the envelope and posting the envelope, the generated output is modified to display the image of the paper being inserted into the envelope, the image of the writing appearing on the envelope, and the image of the envelope being inserted into a postbox, and

the identified operation comprises electronically communicating the electronic document in accordance with the writing on the envelope.

6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the office equipment includes files containing electronic documents, the electronic documents are stored in electronic files associated with images of the files, the identified operation comprises selecting a file, and the generated output is modified to display an image of the file being selected.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the identified operation comprises opening a file, and the generated output is modified to display an image of the file being opened.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the identified operation comprises selecting a document in the file, and the generated output is modified to display an image of the document being opened.

9. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the office equipment includes a telephone or videophone and the associated operation stored for the office function for the telephone is to make a voice or video telephone call.

10. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the output for display of the virtual office is generated using a virtual office application, the at least one of the office functions is implemented using an office application, and the virtual office application is interfaced to the at least one office application.

11. A system to provide a virtual office comprising:
at least one processor; and
a memory storing instructions, which instructions being executable by the at least one processor to carry out the method of any preceding claim.

12. A carrier medium carrying processor executable code for execution by a processor to carry out the method of any one of claims 1 to 10.