

THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A method comprising:

using a processor executing an application interaction program, the application interaction program having a plurality of application programs associated therewith;
using the processor associating interactive functionalities of the plurality of application programs with respective interaction zones, wherein an interactive functionality being a same for at least two application programs is associated with a single interaction zone;
using the processor generating display data indicative of a single user interface comprising the interaction zones, the interaction zones for enabling user interaction with the plurality of application programs; and,
using a graphical display connected to the processor displaying the display data in a human comprehensible fashion.

2. A method as defined in claim 1 comprising:

using the processor receiving user input data;
using the processor determining an association of the received user input data to a respective interaction zone; and,
using the processor providing the user input data to the application program associated with the respective interaction zone.

3. A method as defined in claim 2 comprising:

using the processor receiving application program data in dependence upon the user input data;
and,
using the processor generating display data in dependence upon the application program data for displaying the application program data using the single user interface.

4. A method as defined in claim 2 or 3 wherein the user input data are simultaneously provided to at least two application programs associated with a single interaction zone.

5. A method as defined in any one of claims 2 to 4 comprising:

using the processor receiving first application program data and second application program data from a first application program and a second application program, respectively; and, using the processor generating display data in dependence upon the first application program data and the second application program data for displaying the first application program data and the second application program data using the single user interface.

6. A method as defined in claim 5 wherein the display data are generated for simultaneously displaying the first application program data and the second application program data using the single user interface.

7. A method as defined in any one of claims 2 to 6 wherein the association of the received user input data to a respective interaction zone is determined based on a location of the interaction zone on the graphical display image.

8. A method as defined in claim 7 wherein the association of the received user input data to a respective interaction zone is determined in a pixel-wise fashion.

9. A method as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein the associated interactive functionalities are a subset of the functionalities of at least one of the plurality of application programs.

10. A method as defined in claim 9 wherein the subset is user selected.

11. A method as defined in any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein the plurality of application programs associated with the application interaction program is user selected.

12. A method as defined in claim 11 wherein the interactive functionalities of the plurality of application programs are simultaneously associated with respective interaction zones.

13. A method as defined in claim 11 wherein the interactive functionalities of the plurality of application programs are associated with respective interaction zones separately for each of the plurality of application programs.

14. A storage medium having stored therein executable commands for execution on a processor of a computer system, the processor when executing the commands performing:
executing an application interaction program, the application interaction program having a plurality of application programs associated therewith;
associating interactive functionalities of the plurality of application programs with respective interaction zones, wherein an interactive functionality being a same for at least two application programs is associated with a single interaction zone;
generating display data indicative of a single user interface comprising the interaction zones, the interaction zones for enabling user interaction with the plurality of application programs; and,
providing the display data to a graphical display connected to the processor for displaying the display data in a human comprehensible fashion.

15. A storage medium as defined in claim 14 the processor when executing the commands further performing:
receiving user input data;
determining an association of the received user input data to a respective interaction zone; and,
providing the user input data to the application program associated with the respective interaction zone.

16. A storage medium as defined in claim 14 the processor when executing the commands further performing:
receiving application program data in dependence upon the user input data; and,
generating display data in dependence upon the application program data for displaying the application program data using the single user interface.

THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A method comprising:

executing an application interaction program on a processor of a computing device, the application interaction program having a plurality of application programs associated therewith, the application interaction program further accessing the plurality of applications over a network connection; associating interactive functionalities of the plurality of application programs with respective interaction zones, wherein an interactive functionality being a same for at least two application programs is associated with a single interaction zone that is adapted to receive a user input and provide the user input to the at least two application programs to simultaneously provide the user input to the at least two application programs while the at least two application programs are in a running state;

linking operation of a first application program of the plurality of applications programs to operation of a second application program of the plurality of applications programs such that during the operation of the second application program, data produced by the first application program is used; generating display data indicative of a single user interface comprising the interaction zones, the interaction zones for enabling user interaction with the plurality of application programs; and, using a graphical display connected to the processor displaying the display data in a human comprehensible fashion.

2. A method as defined in claim 1, comprising:

receiving user input data;

determining an association of the received user input data to a respective interaction zone; and,

providing the user input data to the application program associated with the respective interaction zone.

3. A method as defined in claim 2, comprising:

receiving application program data in dependence upon the user input data; and,

generating display data in dependence upon the application program data for displaying the application program data using the single user interface.

4. A method as defined in any one of claims 2 to 3, comprising:

receiving first application program data and second application program data from a first application program and a second application program, respectively; and,
generating display data in dependence upon the first application program data and the second application program data for displaying the first application program data and the second application program data using the single user interface.

5. A method as defined in claim 4, wherein the display data are generated for simultaneously displaying the first application program data and the second application program data using the single user interface.

6. A method as defined in any one of claims 2 to 5, wherein the association of the received user input data to a respective interaction zone is determined based on a location of the interaction zone on the graphical display image.

7. A method as defined in claim 6, wherein the association of the received user input data to a respective interaction zone is determined in a pixel-wise fashion.

8. A method as defined in any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the associated interactive functionalities are a subset of the functionalities of at least one of the plurality of application programs.

9. A method as defined in claim 8, wherein the subset is user selected.

10. A method as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the plurality of application programs associated with the application interaction program is user selected.

11. A method as defined in claim 10, wherein the interactive functionalities of the plurality of application programs are simultaneously associated with respective interaction zones.

12. A method as defined in claim 10, wherein the interactive functionalities of the plurality of application programs are associated with respective interaction zones separately for each of the plurality of application programs.

13. A storage medium having stored therein executable commands for execution on a processor of a computer system, the processor when executing the commands performing:
executing an application interaction program, the application interaction program having a plurality of application programs associated therewith, the application interaction program further accessing the plurality of applications over a network connection;
associating interactive functionalities of the plurality of application programs with respective interaction zones, wherein an interactive functionality being a same for at least two application programs is associated with a single interaction zone that is adapted to receive a user input and provide the user input to the at least two application programs to simultaneously provide the user input to the at least two application programs while the at least two application programs are in a running state;
linking operation of a first application program of the plurality of applications programs to operation of a second application program of the plurality of applications programs such that during the operation of the second application program, data produced by the first application program is used;
generating display data indicative of a single user interface comprising the interaction zones, the interaction zones for enabling user interaction with the plurality of application programs; and,
providing the display data to a graphical display connected to the processor for displaying the display data in a human comprehensible fashion.

14. A storage medium as defined in claim 13, the processor when executing the commands further performing:
receiving user input data;
determining an association of the received user input data to a respective interaction zone; and,
providing the user input data to the application program associated with the respective interaction zone.

15. A storage medium as defined in claim 13, the processor when executing the commands further performing:
receiving application program data in dependence upon the user input data; and,
generating display data in dependence upon the application program data for displaying the application program data using the single user interface.