CLAIMS

1) A computing machine for allowing web applications to be run from a Wi-Fi capable computer device independent of the operating system of the computer device, the computer device having a browser;

the computing machine comprising:

a web server having at least one web application;

a wireless access point for wireless communication with the computer device;

at least one port which at least one peripheral device is connected to, the peripheral device associated with a function of the web application, and the peripheral device being locally accessible to a user;

a processor having an operating system and a device driver for allowing the web application to communicate with the peripheral device;

wherein in operation, a web page of the web application is loaded wirelessly onto the browser of the computer device and thereafter, the user can use the computer device to select on the web page the function of the web application which then sends instructions to the peripheral device.

2) The computing machine of claim 1 wherein the web page of the web application has computer device specific cascading style sheets.

3) The computing machine of claims 1 or 2 wherein the computing machine further comprising a housing.

4) The computing machine of any one of the preceding claims wherein the peripheral device is integrated mechanically within the housing or is an independent device external to the housing.

5) The computing machine of any one of the preceding claims wherein the operating system is Linux.

6) The computing machine of any one of the preceding claims wherein the computing machine has internet connecting capabilities.

7) A method for allowing web applications to be run from a Wi-Fi capable computer device independent of the operating system of the computer device, the computer device having a browser;

the method comprising the steps of :

establishing wireless connection between the computer device and a wireless access point; the wireless access point operatively connected to a web server and a peripheral device which is locally accessible to a user; the web server having at least one web application;

loading a web page of the web application onto the browser of the computer device via the wireless connection;

using the computer device to select on the web page a function of the web application, the peripheral device associated with the function of the web application;

interfacing the web application and the peripheral device with a processor having an operating system and a device driver;

sending instructions from the web application to the peripheral device.

8) The method of claim 7 wherein the step of loading a web page of the web application onto the browser of the computer device via the wireless connection further comprises loading computer device specific cascading style sheets of the web page onto the browser of the computer device.

9) The method of claims 7 or 8 further comprising the step of providing an Application Programming Interface and a toolkit to help customers develop their own web applications and integrate new peripheral devices.

10) The method of any one of claims 7 to 9 wherein the operating system is Linux.

11) The method of any one of claims 7 to 10 wherein the computer device browser is a webkit browser.

12) A method of deploying web applications for use with computer devices in a location comprising the steps of :-

installing a computing machine as claimed in any one of claims 1-6 in the location.

CLAIMS

1. A computing machine for allowing web applications to be run from a Wi-Fi capable computer device independent of the operating system of the computer device, the computer device having a browser;

the computing machine comprising:

a web server having at least one web application;

a wireless access point for creating a Wi-Fi network;

at least one port connected to a plurality of peripheral devices, the plurality of peripheral devices capable of sending information to one another, and each of the plurality of peripheral devices associated with a function of the web application, and the plurality of peripheral devices being locally accessible to a user;

a processor having an operating system and a device driver for allowing the web application to communicate with the plurality of peripheral devices;

wherein in operation, the user uses the computer device to select and connect to a Wi-Fi network created by the wireless access point, a web page of the web application is loaded wirelessly onto the browser of the computer device and thereafter, the user can use the computer device to select on the web page the function of the web application which then sends instructions to at least one of the plurality of peripheral devices, wherein there is no direct communication between the computer device and the plurality of peripheral devices as all communication between the computer device and the plurality of peripheral devices is via the computing machine.

2. The computing machine of claim 1 wherein the web page of the web application has computer device specific cascading style sheets.

3. The computing machine of claims 1 or 2 wherein the computing machine further comprising a housing.

4. The computing machine of any one of the preceding claims wherein the peripheral device is integrated mechanically within the housing or is an independent device external to the housing.

5. The computing machine of any one of the preceding claims wherein the operating system is Linux.

6. The computing machine of any one of the preceding claims wherein the computing machine has internet connecting capabilities.

7. A method for allowing web applications to be run from a Wi-Fi capable computer device independent of the operating system of the computer device, the computer device having a browser;

the method comprising the steps of :

establishing wireless connection between the computer device and a wireless access point of a computing machine; the computing machine further comprising a web server and at least one port, the at least one port connected to a plurality of peripheral devices being locally accessible to a user, the plurality of peripheral devices capable of sending information to one another, and the web server having at least one web application and each of the plurality of peripheral devices associated with a function of the web application;

loading a web page of the web application onto the browser of the computer device via the wireless connection;

using the computer device to select on the web page the function of the web application;

interfacing the web application and the peripheral device with a processor of the computing machine, the processor having an operating system and a device driver;

sending instructions from the web application to at least one of the plurality of peripheral devices, wherein there is no direct communication between the computer device and the plurality of peripheral devices as all communication between the computer device and the plurality of peripheral devices is via the computing machine.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of loading a web page of the web application onto the browser of the computer device via the wireless connection further comprises loading computer device specific cascading style sheets of the web page onto the browser of the computer device.

9. The method of claims 7 or 8 further comprising the step of providing an Application Programming Interface and a toolkit to help customers develop their own web applications and integrate new peripheral devices.

10. The method of any one of claims 7 to 9 wherein the operating system is Linux.

11. The method of any one of claims 7 to 10 wherein the computer device browser is a webkit browser.

12. A method of deploying web applications for use with computer devices in a location comprising the steps of :-

installing a computing machine as claimed in any one of claims 1-6 in the location.