WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A portable communication device for use in supporting voice and/or data communication, said portable communication device comprising:

a housing;

a processor disposed at least partially within said housing; and

an interface connector disposed at said housing and coupled to said processor, said interface connector configured to couple to a module configured to provide at least one accessory function, wherein said processor is configured to communicate, through said interface connector, via a plurality of communication protocols and to select at least one of the plurality of communication protocols based on the module coupled to said interface connector.

2. The portable communication device of Claim 1, wherein said interface connector comprises at least two of a USB interface, an I^2C interface, an SPI interface, a UART interface, or a display interface.

3. The portable communication device of Claim 1, wherein said interface connector comprises a detect connection configured to permit said processor to detect the presence of the module.

4. The portable communication device of Claim 1, wherein said processor is configured to authenticate the module, wherein said processor is configured to inhibit communication with an unapproved module.

5. The portable communication device of Claim 4, wherein said processor is further configured to select the at least one of the plurality of communication protocols substantially only for approved modules.

6. The portable communication device of Claim 4, wherein said interface connector comprises at least two of a USB interface, an I^2C interface, an SPI interface, a UART interface, or a display interface.

7. The portable communication device of Claim 1, further comprising a crypto processor coupled to the processor, said crypto processor configured to provide cryptographic operation on a portion of data accessed by said processor.

8. The portable communication device of Claim 1, wherein housing is configured to slidably engage the module configured to provide at least one accessory function.

9. The portable communication device of Claim 1, further comprising a GPS component coupled to said processor.

10. The portable communication device of Claim 1, further comprising a cellular controller, at least two SIM card sockets coupled to said cellular controller, and an input device, each of said at least two SIM card sockets configured to couple to a SIM card associated with a user account, said input device configured to toggle between SIM cards coupled to said at least two SIM card sockets.

11. The portable communication device of Claim 1, wherein said processor is configured to manage power at said interface connector to permit hot-swap of the module.

12. The portable communication device of Claim 1, wherein said interface connector is structured to provide a high mating life cycle.

13. The portable communication device of Claim 1, further comprising a battery disposed within said housing, said processor is configured to detect a module battery associated with the module configured to provide at least one accessory function and provide charging in at least one direction between said battery and the module battery.

14. A method for use in appending at least one accessory function to a portable communication device, the portable communication device including a processor and an interface connector, said method comprising: detecting the presence of a module coupled to the interface connector of the portable communication device;

identifying, at the processor, the module; and

selecting, at the processor, at least one of a plurality of communication protocols supported by the portable communication device to communicate through the interface connector with the module, based on the identity of the module.

15. The method of Claim 14, wherein identifying the module includes determining if the module is an approved module for use with the portable communication device, based on the identity of the module.

16. The method of Claim 15, further comprising powering at least one communication channel between the module and the portable communication device to support the selected communication protocol.

17. The method of Claim 14, further comprising determining if the module includes at least one battery, selecting the at least one battery of the module to power the portable communication device when included, and monitoring a power level of the at least one battery.

18. The method of Claim 14, wherein selecting at least one of a plurality of communication protocols includes selecting at least two of a plurality of communication protocols.

CLAIMS:

1. An accessory module for providing at least one accessory function to a portable communication device, the portable communication device including a processor and an interface connector, the interface connector disposed at a housing of said portable communication device, said accessory module comprising:

a means for providing at least one accessory function;

a module connector configured to mate with the interface connector of the portable communication device; and

a means for coupling said accessory module to the housing in place of a back panel of the portable communication device when the back panel is uncoupled from the housing, such that said accessory module is coupled to the portable communication device and communicates with the processor of the portable communication device via said module connector to provide said at least one accessory function.

2. The accessory module of claim 1, wherein said accessory module is configured to communicate with the processor using at least one of a USB interface, an I2C interface, an SPI interface, and a UART interface.

3. The accessory module of claim 1, wherein said accessory module comprises identify information interrogatable by the processor for authenticating said accessory module.

4. The accessory module of claim 1, wherein said accessory module is further configured to select at least one of a plurality of communication protocols available from the portable communication device.

5. The accessory module of claim 1, wherein a cross-section of said accessory module is substantially consistent with a cross-section of the housing of the portable communication device.

6. The accessory module of claim 1, wherein said accessory module comprises an encryption module, said encryption module configured to operate with or in place of a crypto processor of the portable communication device.

7. The accessory module of claim 1, wherein said module connector is configured to mate with the interface connector when the back panel is removed to provide access to the interface connector.

8. The accessory module of claim 7, wherein said accessory module is configured to slidably engage the housing of the portable communication device while simultaneously engaging said module connector of said accessory module with the interface connector.

9. The accessory module of claim 7, wherein said accessory module is configured to snap engage to the housing of the portable communication device to connect said accessory module and the interface connector.

10. The accessory module of claim 1, wherein said module connector is positionable in a void disposed within the housing of the portable communications device, such that said module connector is positioned proximate to the interface connector for sliding engagement with the interface connector.

11. The accessory module of claim 1, wherein said means for providing at least one accessory function comprises at least one of a display, a sensor, a radio, an external power source, a reader, a positioning hardware, an auxiliary processor, and an encryption module.

12. The accessory module of claim 1, wherein said means for coupling said accessory module to said housing comprises a plurality of mounting tabs disposed on said accessory module, said tabs configured to engage a corresponding plurality of latching mechanisms disposed on the housing.

13. A method for providing at least one accessory function to a portable communication device, the portable communication device including a processor and an interface connector, said method comprising:

uncoupling a back panel from a housing of the portable communication device;

coupling an accessory module to the housing in place of the back panel such that a module connector of the accessory module is communicatively coupled to the interface connector of the portable communication device; and

communicating, by the processor through the interface connector, with the accessory module to provide the at least one accessory function.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising identifying, at the processor, the accessory module, and wherein said communicating by the processor is based on the identification of the accessory module.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein identifying the accessory module includes determining if the accessory module is an approved module for use with the portable communication device, based on the identity of the accessory module.

16. The method of claim 14, further comprising selecting at least one of a plurality of communication protocols based on the identity of the accessory module and powering at least one communication channel between the accessory module and the portable communication device to support the selected communication protocol.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising disabling a component of the portable communication device and permitting the processor to utilize a similar component within the accessory module.

18. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

determining if the accessory module includes at least one module battery;

presenting to a user a selection of a battery of the portable communication device and the at least one module battery; and

powering the portable communication device using the battery selected by the user.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising receiving a user selection for a direction of charge to determine which of the portable communication device battery and the at least one module battery is charged from the other.

20. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

powering the portable communication device from a module battery of the accessory module; and

maintaining uninterrupted power to the portable communication device when the accessory module is removed from the portable communication device.