

SYSTEM, METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR USING A WIRELESS CELL PHONE DEVICE TO CREATE A DESKTOP COMPUTER AND MEDIA CENTER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to methods for using a wireless cell phone device in combination with a desktop computer monitor to create a desktop computing environment. In particular, the invention relates to a method and system in which the user of a wireless cell phone device establishes a direct connection with a desktop computer monitor using any combination wireline connections and wireless connections.

Description of the Related Art

Changes in the use and capabilities of wireless cell phone devices have led to the rapid adoption of handheld cell phone devices as communications tools capable of supporting voice mail, email, calendars, contact lists and related applications. Handheld wireless devices are also commonly used to store and access music, videos and other forms of electronic entertainment and media. The increasing availability of Internet services and applications that store a user's data in a computer server, data center or other location on the network independently of the user's handheld or desktop computer and make that data available to other Internet or network hosted services and applications have given end-users the ability to access and store their important data, documents and applications on the Internet using a browser in combination with their desktop computer hardware and software. Software applications such as word processors, spreadsheets and database applications previously required the use of a traditional desktop computer having a CPU, large amounts of random access memory, and one or more disk drives.

Software applications and services available over the Internet no longer require a high-performance CPU, large amounts of random access memory, a desktop computer disk drive or a traditional desktop computer operating system for their operation. What these Internet software applications and services do require to operate effectively is an Internet or other network connection, a browser capability and standard desktop input and output devices such as a digital display screen, a keyboard and mouse, a printer, and speakers or speaker system.

In all cases where wireless cell phone devices are used to send and receive data, the user is confined to the use of the cell phone as a handheld computing device. None of the present methods of using a wireless cell phone device as a computer takes into account the need to have a full-size computer monitor or other full-size digital display device as a visual output device and a full-size keyboard and full-size mouse device as user operated input devices. Specifically, the prior art fails to demonstrate any method or system that disengages wireless cell phone users from the constraints of the small low-resolution displays associated with handheld computing devices and the small, portable keypad and control key input devices associated with handheld computing devices. Furthermore, the prior art also fails to demonstrate any method or system whereby a wireless cell phone device may be used in place of a traditional computer to treat a wireless cell phone device as a thin client having only a TCP/IP software interface, browser software capable of supporting a high-resolution desktop monitor, the software device drivers necessary to allow desktop computer based Internet software applications and services to communicate directly with the desktop monitor, keyboard, mouse, speakers and printer devices, and the peripheral communications hardware and software

necessary to establish physical communications with the desktop monitor, keyboard, mouse, speakers and printer devices, thereby removing any requirements for the disk drives and other high-capacity storage mechanisms normally associated with desktop computers. Furthermore, the prior art fails to demonstrate any method or system that allows wireless cell phone users to access forms of digital media including movies, music, and streaming video over the Internet or other network and to display and otherwise transmit that media through the cell phone to full-size audio and video devices such as desktop computer monitors, digital display screens and speaker systems directly attached to the wireless cell phone device.

There is, therefore, a present need to provide an improved paradigm for using a wireless cell phone device as a central component of a desktop computing environment that includes a desktop computer monitor or other full-size digital display device used as a visual output device and a full-size desktop keyboard and mouse as a user input device, overcoming the aforementioned constraints of existing handheld cell phone devices, exploiting the enhancements of the new technologies offered. There is a further need to provide an improved paradigm for using a wireless cell phone device as a central component of a desktop computing environment that includes, in addition to a desktop computer monitor and a desktop keyboard and mouse, the use of desktop speakers and a desktop printer.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In contrast to the traditional model, the present invention involves a method and system which permits the use of a wireless cell phone device as a connection,

communications and control device able to connect a full-sized desktop monitor or other digital display device, keyboard, mouse, speakers and printer to a wireless cell phone device using any combination of wireline or wireless connections from the desktop devices to the wireless cell phone device. The wireless cell phone device is used to create an Internet or other network connection capable of accessing any browser based web site or browser based software application commonly accessible to a standard desktop computer having an Internet connection. Once the connections between the desktop monitor, keyboard, mouse, speakers and printer are established with the wireless cell phone device and the Internet connection is established with the wireless cell phone device, the user may access any browser based web site or software application using the desktop monitor, keyboard, mouse, speakers and printer. Access to Internet software, services and media includes all forms of browser-based desktop software as well as digital movies, music, and streaming video.

It is, accordingly, an object of the present invention to set forth an improved paradigm for the use of a wireless cell phone device as a connection, communications and controlling device for desktop devices including a digital display monitor, keyboard and mouse, these desktop devices to be used to access and operate desktop browser based software applications and software services available over the Internet.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a method and system for the use of a wireless cell phone device as a connection, communications and controlling device for additional desktop devices including but not limited to a desktop printer and a desktop speaker or speaker system, these devices to be used in conjunction with desktop browser based software applications and software services available over the Internet.

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