



US 20100011304A1

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication**
van Os

(10) **Pub. No.: US 2010/0011304 A1**

(43) **Pub. Date: Jan. 14, 2010**

(54) **ADDING A CONTACT TO A HOME SCREEN**

(52) **U.S. Cl. 715/762**

(75) **Inventor: Marcel MWA van Os, San Francisco, CA (US)**

Correspondence Address:
FISH & RICHARDSON P.C.
PO BOX 1022
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022 (US)

(73) **Assignee: APPLE INC., Cupertino, CA (US)**

(21) **Appl. No.: 12/170,295**

(22) **Filed: Jul. 9, 2008**

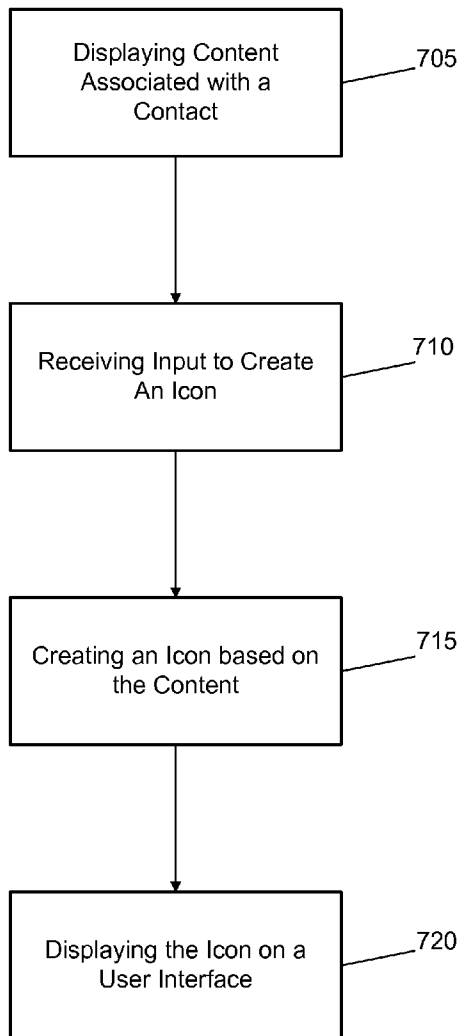
Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl. G06F 3/048 (2006.01)**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

An icon can be created for a contact (e.g., an individual(s) or an entity) and presented on a user interface of a mobile device, such as a "home screen." The icon can be used to retrieve and display contact information. The icon can also be used to invoke one or more applications that are personalized to the contact. The icon can be modified to display information related to the contact. In one aspect, an icon associated with an entity can be temporarily displayed on the mobile device based on the proximity of the mobile device to the entity. The icon can be used to retrieve and display information related to the entity. Additionally, the icon can be removed from the display on the mobile device when the mobile device is no longer within a certain proximity of the entity.

700 →



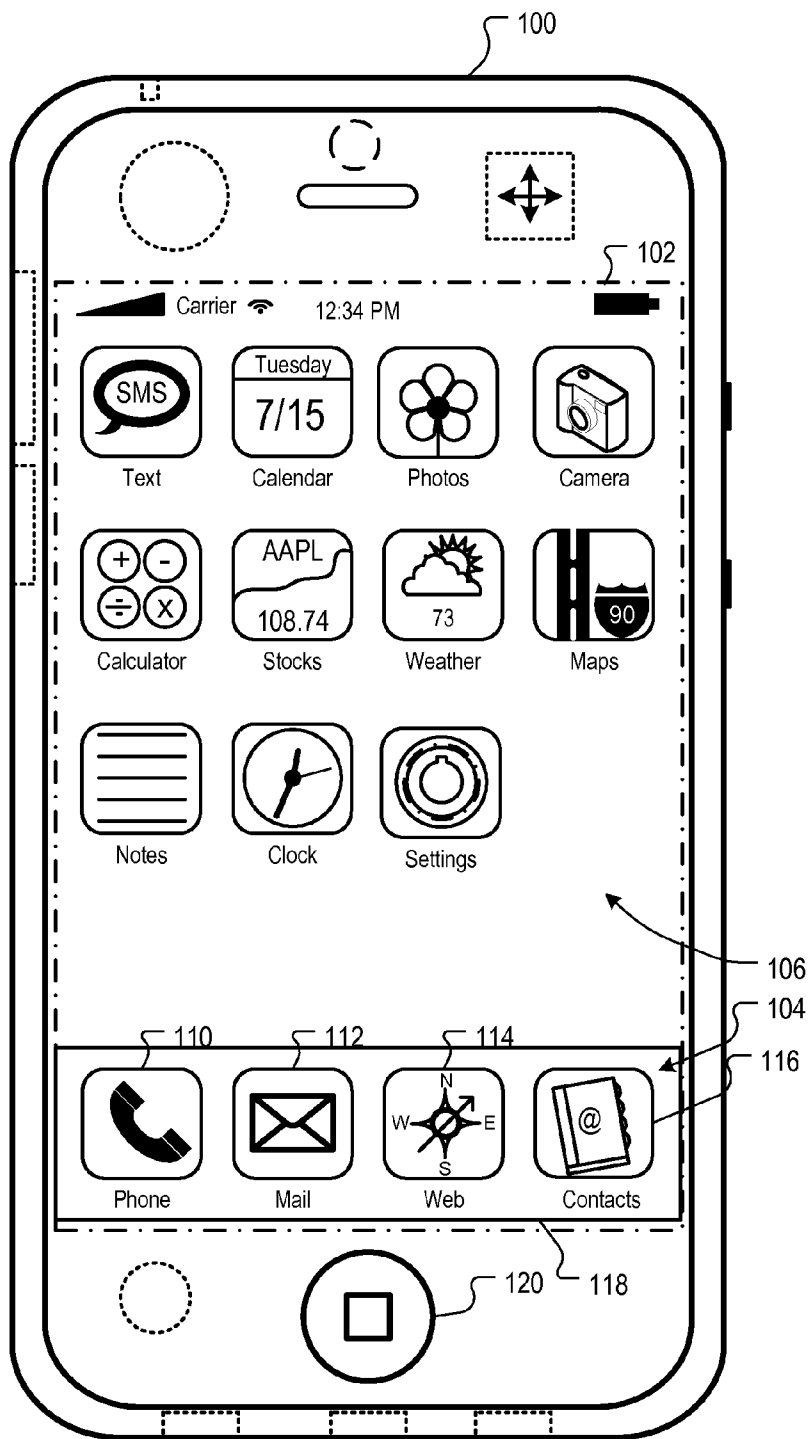


FIG. 1

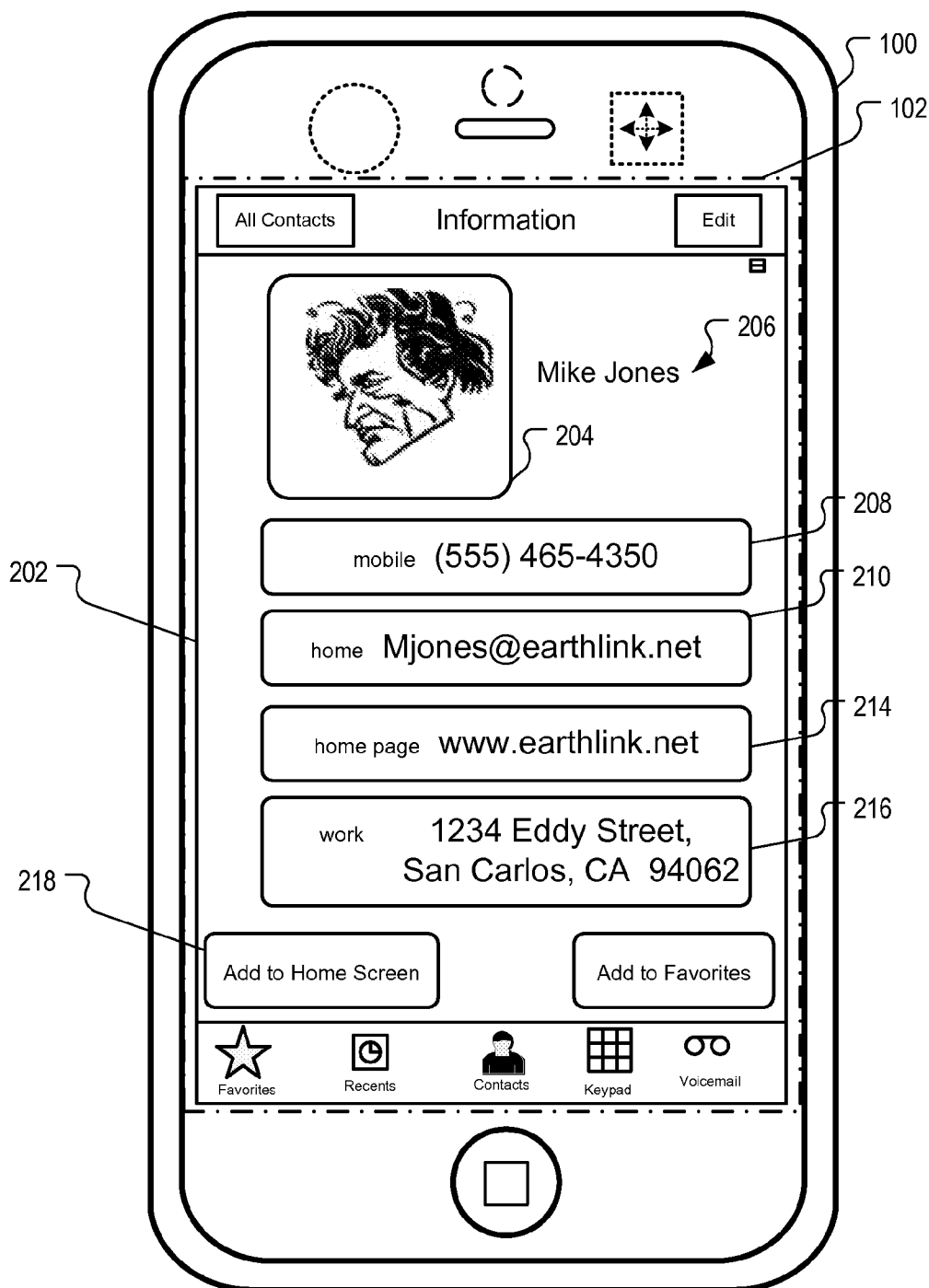


FIG. 2

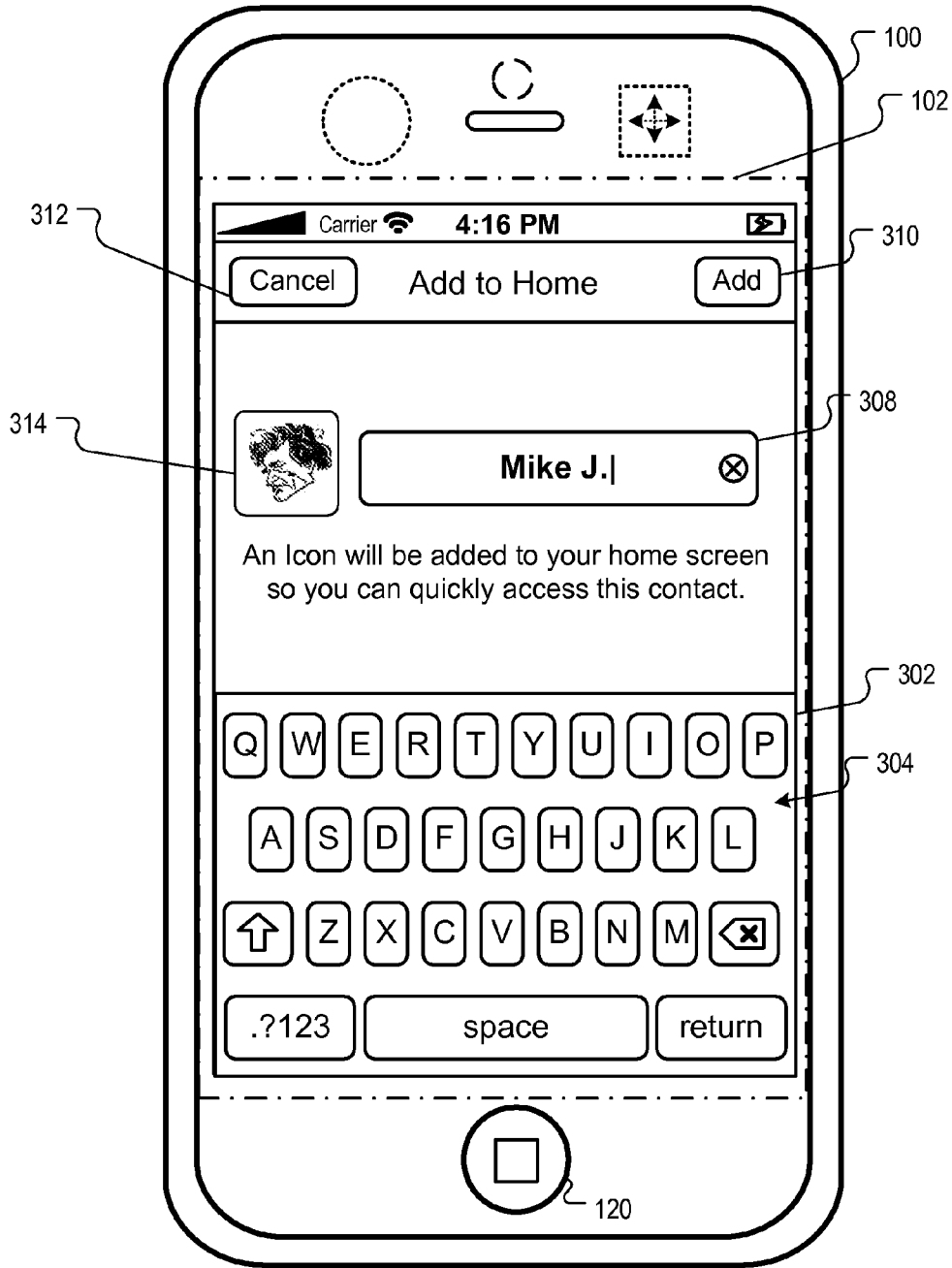


FIG. 3

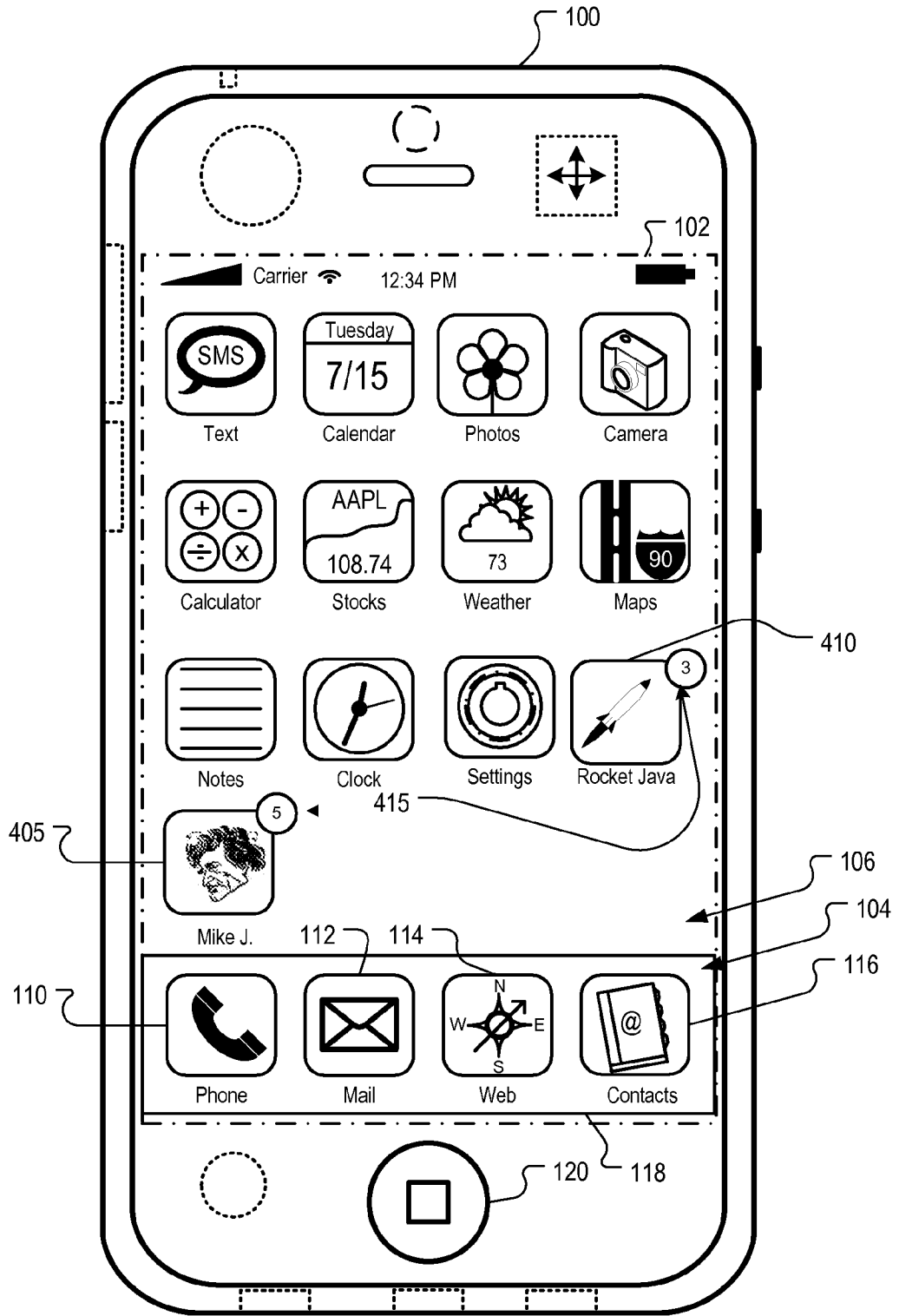


FIG. 4

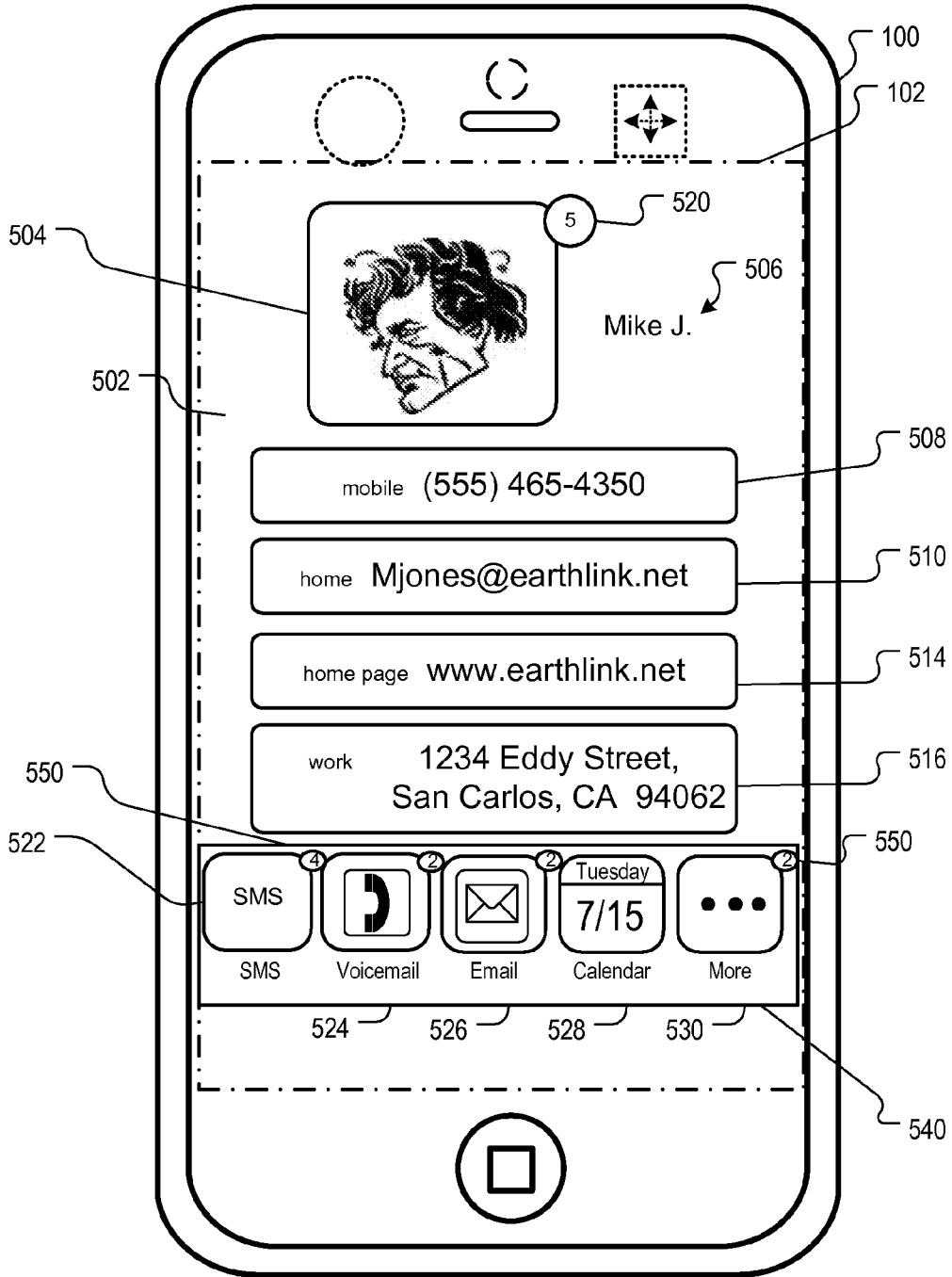


FIG. 5A

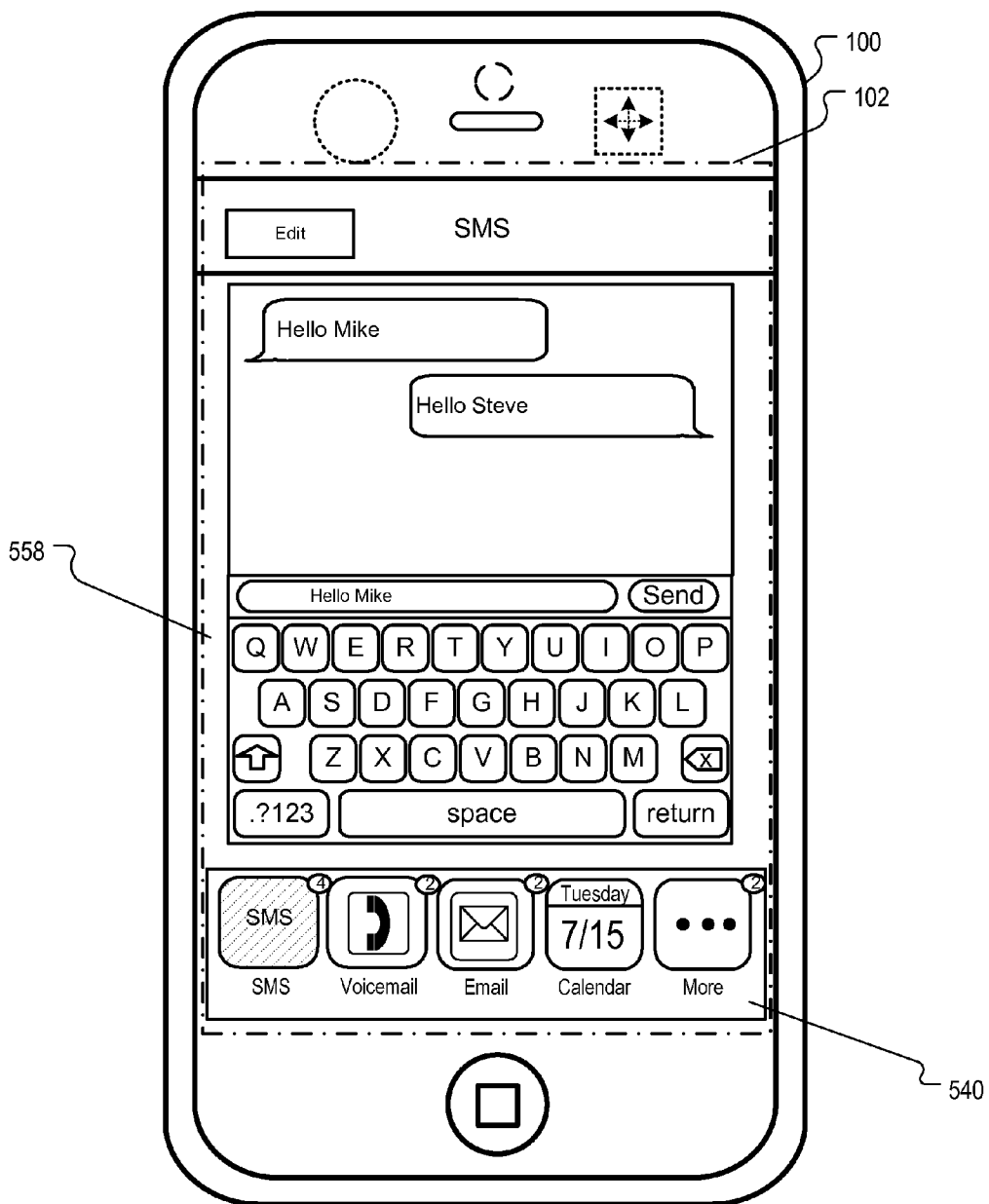


FIG. 5B

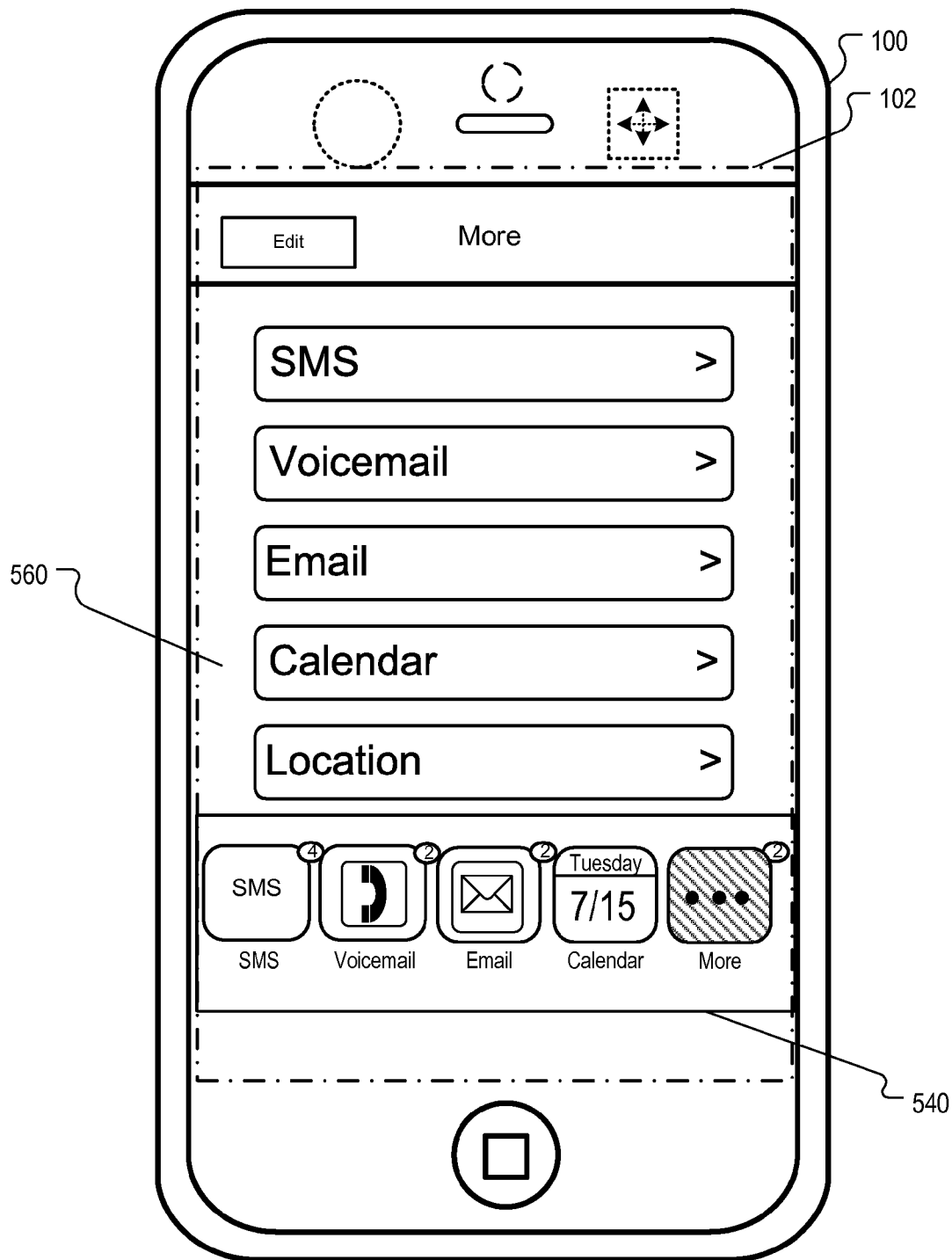


FIG. 5C

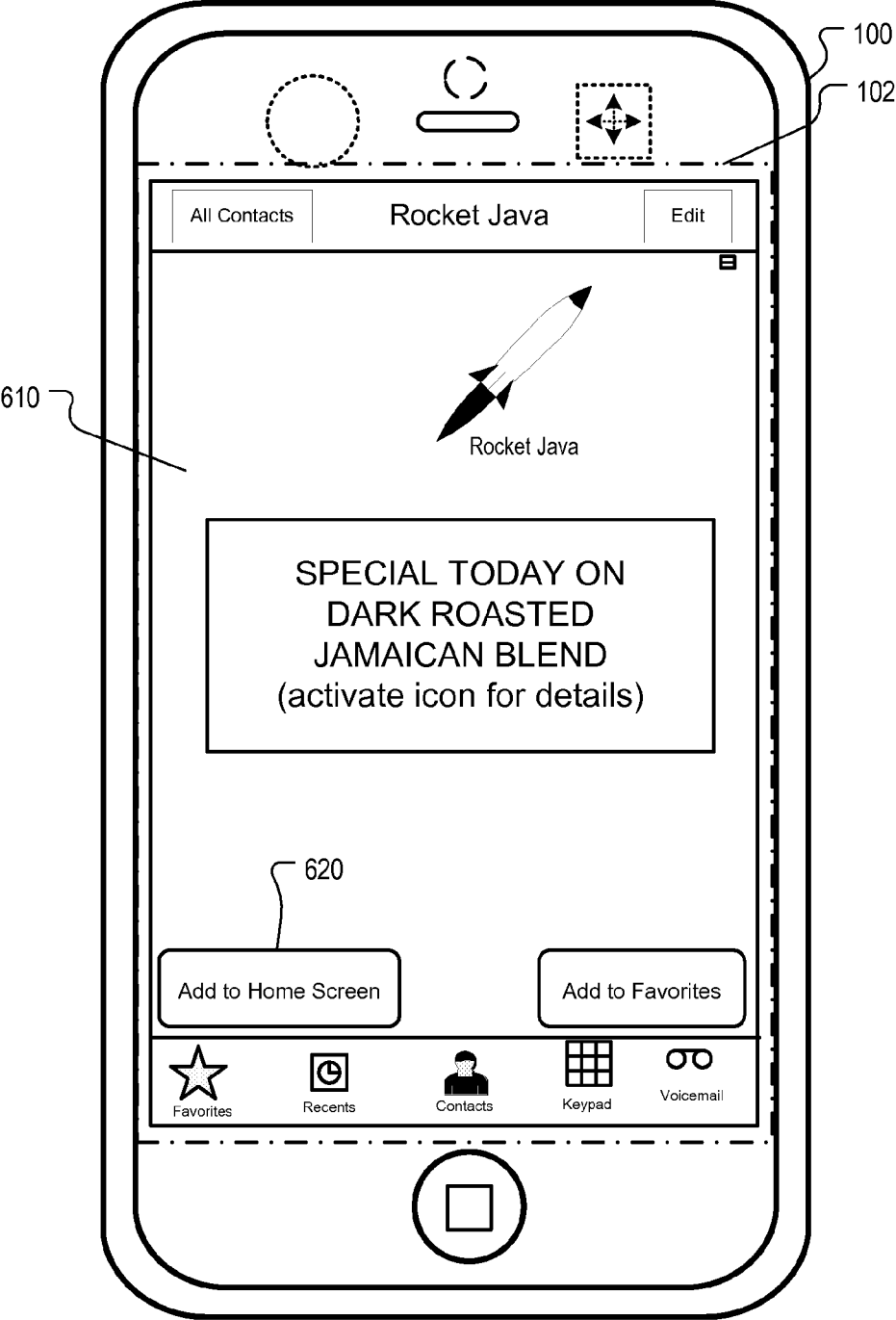


FIG. 6A

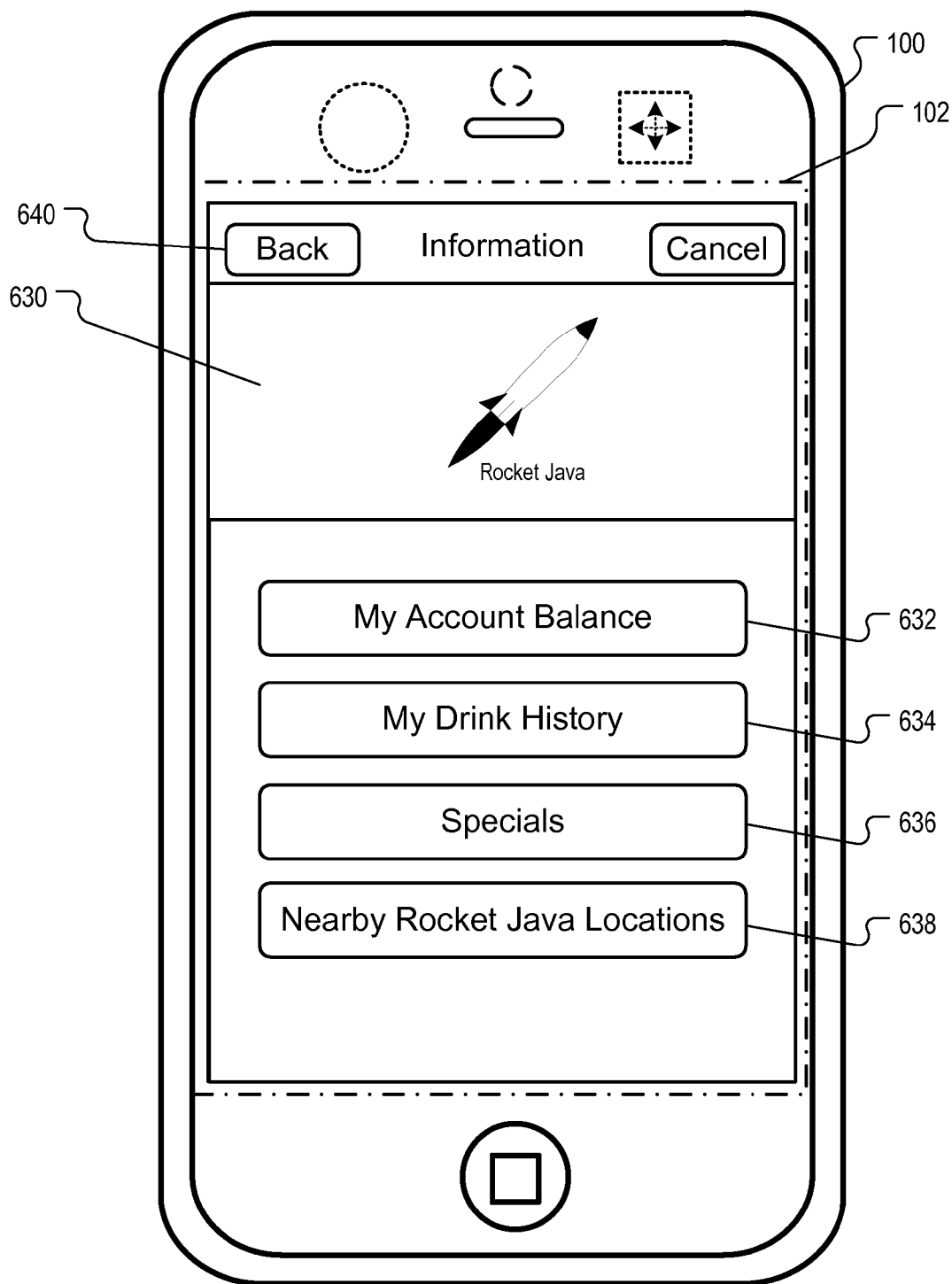


FIG. 6B

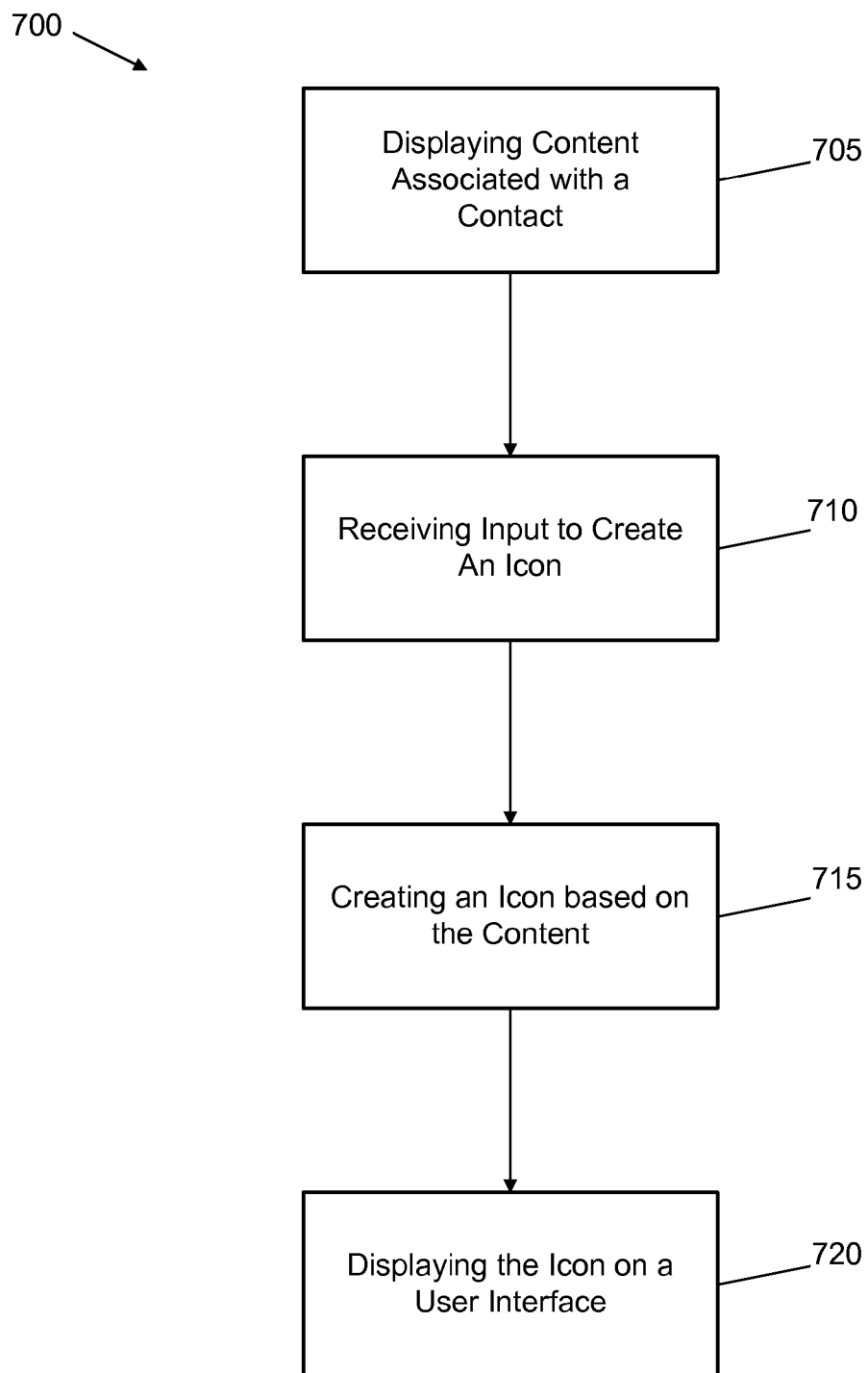


FIG. 7

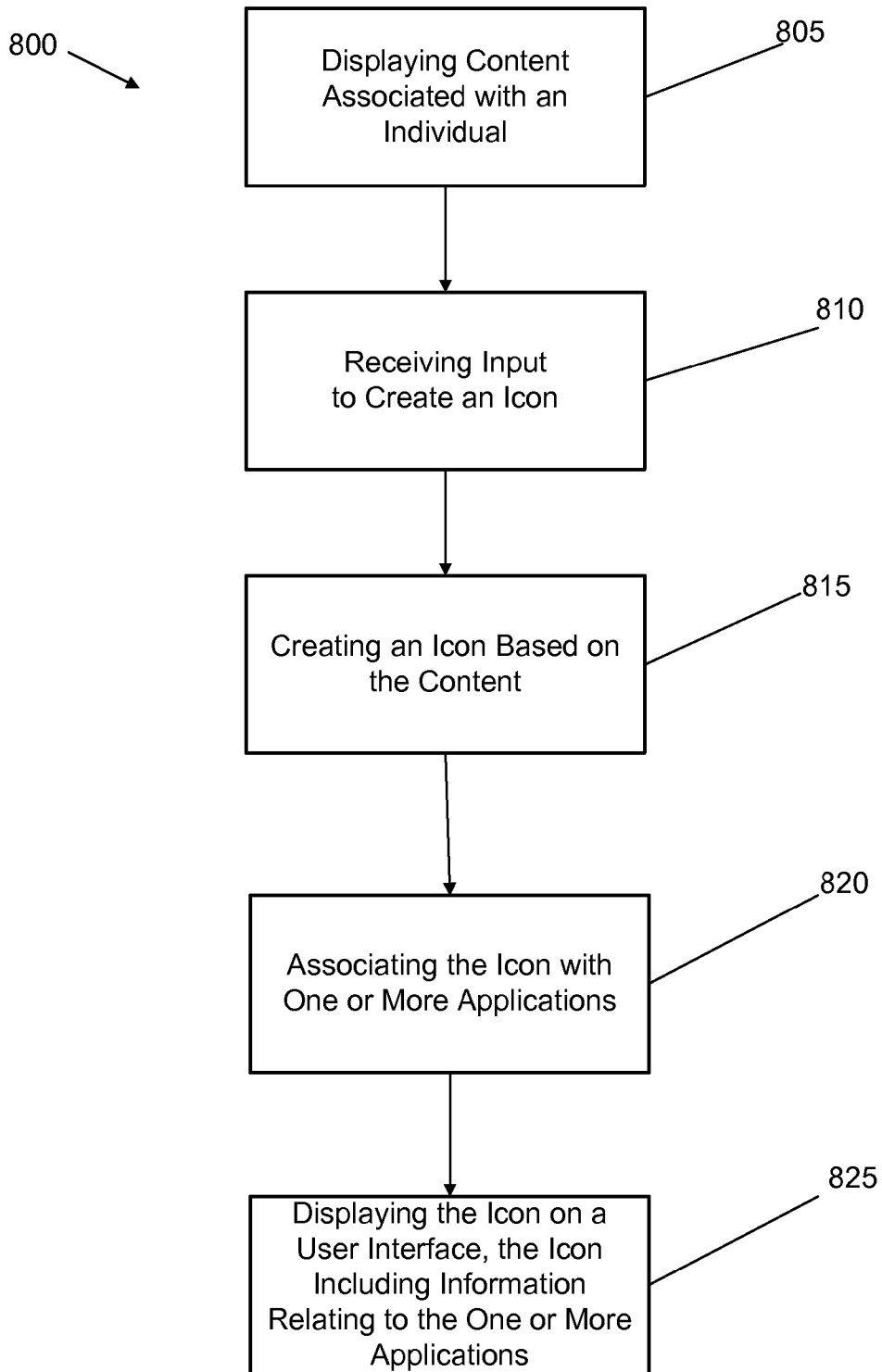


FIG. 8

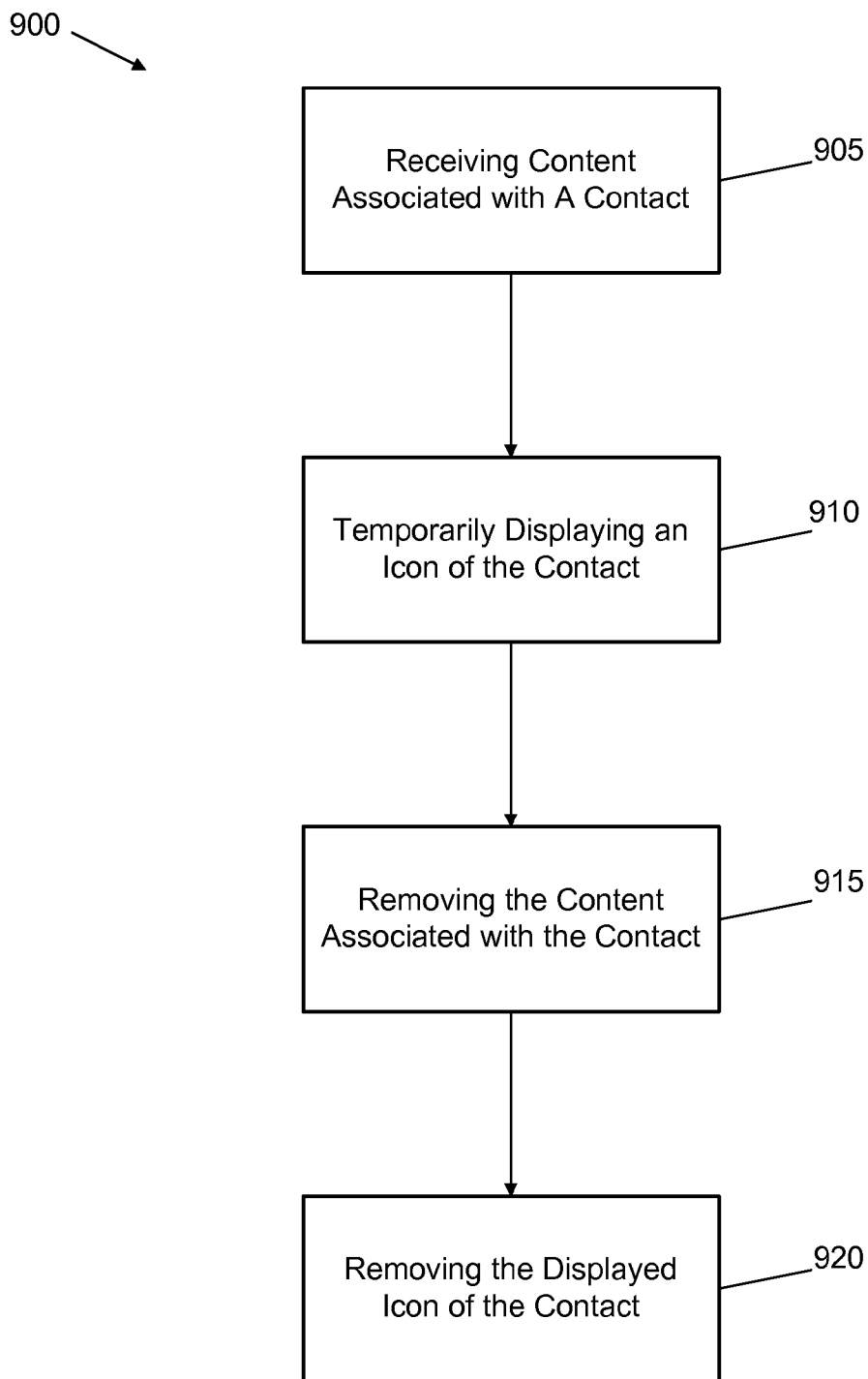


FIG. 9

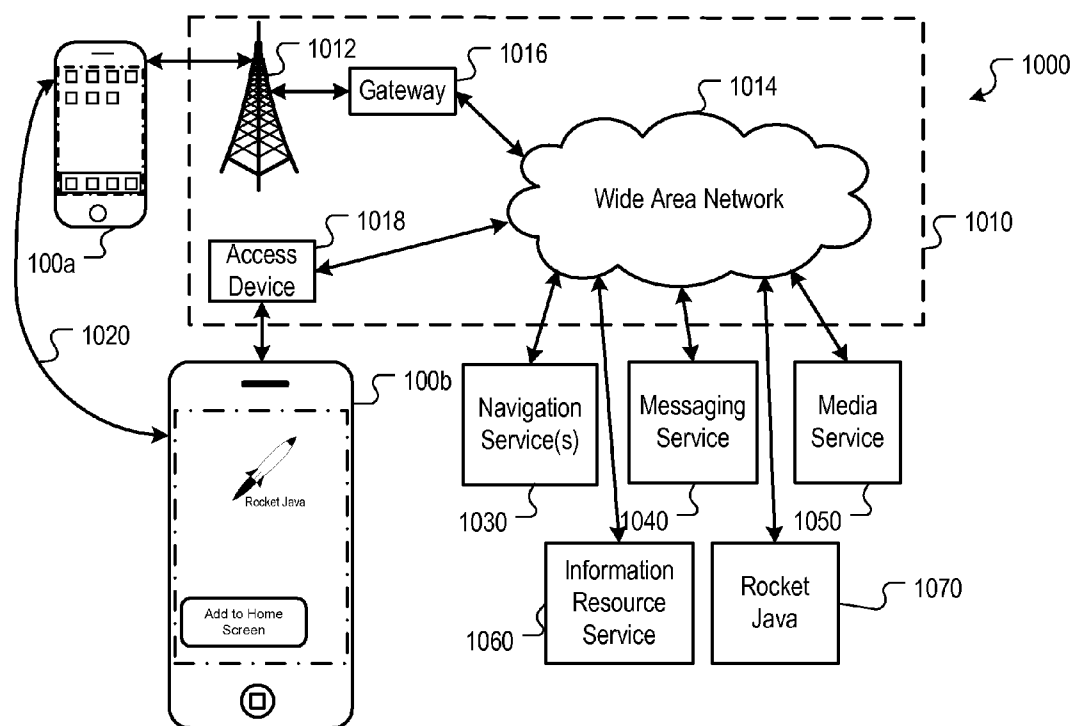


FIG. 10

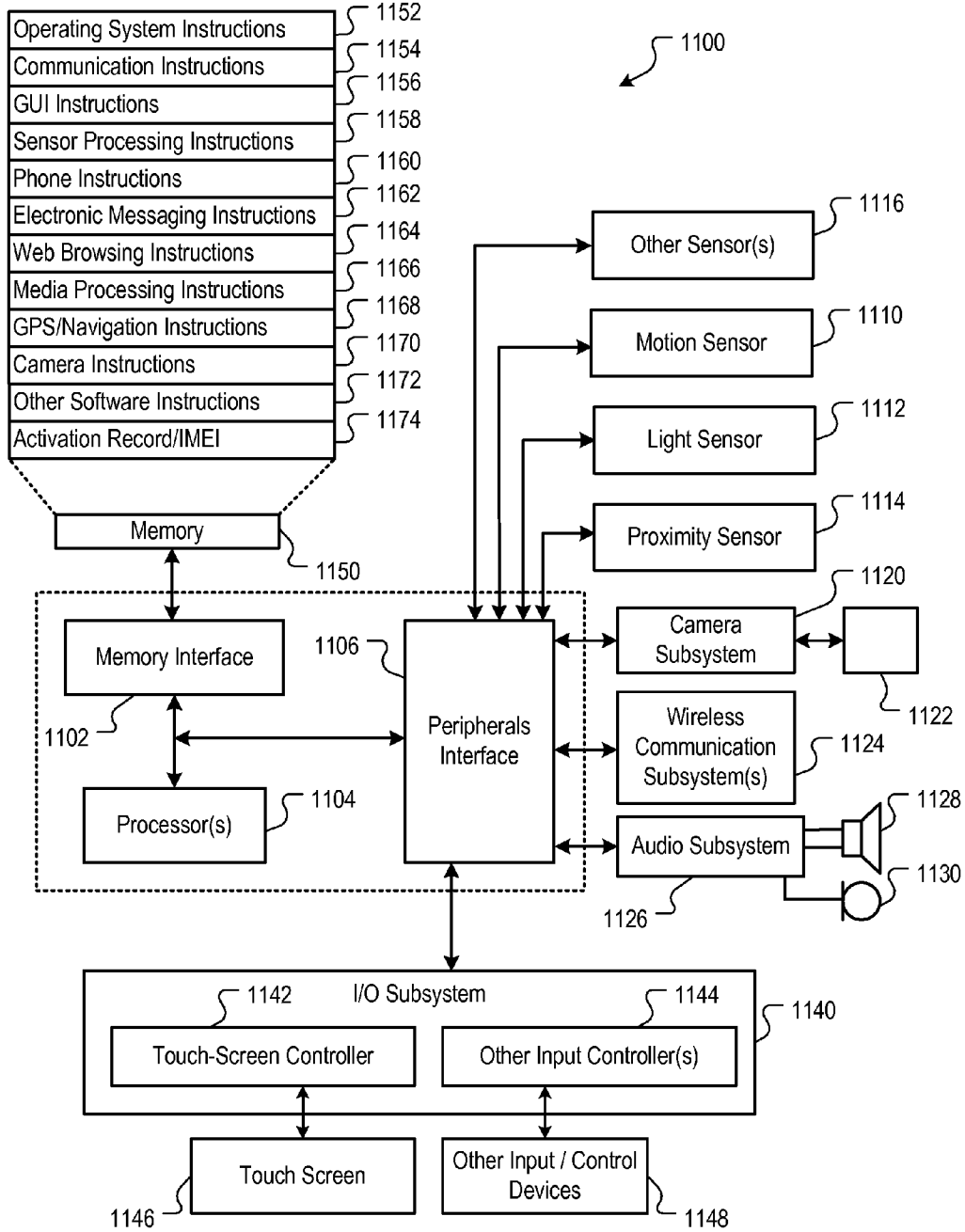


FIG. 11

ADDING A CONTACT TO A HOME SCREEN

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] This subject matter is generally related to user interfaces for mobile devices.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Conventional mobile devices are often dedicated to performing a specific application. For example, a mobile phone provides telephony services, a personal digital assistant (PDA) provides a way to organize addresses, contacts and notes, a media player plays content, email devices provide email communication, a browser to surf the Internet, etc. Modern mobile devices can include two or more of these applications. The applications can be represented on a user interface of the mobile device by icons.

[0003] Mobile devices often include databases (e.g., an address book) of contacts associated with the user. Entries in an address book can include digital objects (e.g., photos), and other information (e.g., text), corresponding to a particular contact. While having all contact information in one place can be convenient, quickly finding an often needed contact can sometimes be difficult and inconvenient.

SUMMARY

[0004] An icon can be created for a contact (e.g., an individual(s) or an entity) and presented on a user interface of a mobile device, such as a "home screen." The icon can be used to retrieve and display contact information. The icon can also be used to invoke one or more applications that are personalized to the contact. The icon can be modified to display information related to the contact. In one aspect, an icon associated with an entity can be temporarily displayed on the mobile device based on the proximity of the mobile device to the entity. The icon can be used to retrieve and display information related to the entity. Additionally, the icon can be removed from the display on the mobile device when the mobile device is no longer within a certain proximity of the entity.

[0005] Other implementations are disclosed which are directed to systems, methods and computer-readable mediums.

[0006] Particular embodiments of the subject matter described in this specification can be implemented to realize one or more of the following advantages. Users can create icons for a mobile device, where the icons can represent often accessed user contacts. User created icons can allow convenient access to all information and applications related to a contact. Thus, consecutive access to applications related to a contact can be greatly diminished. Additionally, temporary user access to applications relative to a location allows a user to minimize the amount of application data stored on a user mobile device.

[0007] The details of one or more embodiments of the subject matter described in this specification are set forth in the accompanying drawings and the description below. Other features, aspects, and advantages of the subject matter will become apparent from the description, the drawings, and the claims.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0008] FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an example mobile device.

[0009] FIG. 2 is a block diagram of an example of a mobile device capable of creating an icon for a contact.

[0010] FIG. 3 is a block diagram of an example mobile device depicting a virtual keyboard used in creating an icon.

[0011] FIG. 4 is a block diagram of an example mobile device including newly created icons.

[0012] FIG. 5A is a block diagram of an example mobile device including a page associated with a newly created icon in FIG. 4.

[0013] FIG. 5B is a block diagram of an example mobile device including a page associated with the "SMS" icon in FIG. 5A.

[0014] FIG. 5C is a block diagram of an example mobile device including a page associated with the "more" icon in FIG. 5A.

[0015] FIG. 6A is a block diagram of an example mobile device including a process for creating an icon.

[0016] FIG. 6B is a block diagram of an example mobile device including a page associated with a newly created icon in FIG. 4.

[0017] FIG. 7 is a flow diagram of a process for creating icons for content.

[0018] FIG. 8 is another flow diagram of a process for creating icons for content.

[0019] FIG. 9 is a flow diagram of a process for interacting with temporary icons for content.

[0020] FIG. 10 is a block diagram of an example of a mobile device operating environment.

[0021] FIG. 11 is a block diagram of an example implementation of the mobile device of FIG. 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Mobile Device Overview

[0022] FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an example mobile device 100. For example, the mobile device 100 can be a cellular phone, a personal digital assistant (PDA), or a portable media device (e.g., a portable MPEG-1 Audio Layer 3 (MP3) player, a portable DVD player, etc.). Some examples of the mobile device 100 may be an iPhone™ or an iPod touch™ of Apple Inc. in Cupertino, Calif.

[0023] In some implementations, the mobile device 100 includes a touch-sensitive display or device 102. The touch-sensitive display 102 can implement liquid crystal display (LCD) technology, light emitting polymer display (LPD) technology, or some other display technology. The touch-sensitive display 102 can be sensitive to haptic and/or tactile contact with a user.

[0024] In some implementations, the touch-sensitive display 102 can comprise a multi-touch-sensitive display. A multi-touch-sensitive display can, for example, process multiple simultaneous touch points, including processing data related to the pressure, degree and/or position of each touch point. Such processing facilitates gestures and interactions with multiple fingers, chording, and other interactions. Other touch-sensitive display technologies can also be used, e.g., a display in which contact is made using a stylus or other pointing device. Some examples of multi-touch-sensitive display technology are described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,323,846, 6,570,557, 6,677,932, and U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0015024A1, each of which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

[0025] In some implementations, the mobile device 100 can display one or more graphical user interfaces on the

touch-sensitive display **102** for providing the user access to various system objects and for conveying information to the user. In some implementations, the graphical user interface can include one or more display objects **104**, **106**. In the example shown, the display objects **104**, **106**, are graphic representations of system objects. Some examples of system objects include device functions, applications, windows, files, alerts, events, or other identifiable system objects.

Example Mobile Device Functionality

[0026] In some implementations, the mobile device **100** can include multiple device functionalities, such as a telephony device, as indicated by a phone object **110**; an e-mail device, as indicated by the e-mail object **112**; a network data communication device, as indicated by the Web object **114**; and an address book object, as indicated by the contacts object **116**. In some implementations, particular display objects **104** (e.g., the phone object **110**, the e-mail object **112**, the Web object **114**, and the contacts object **116**), can be displayed in a menu bar **118**. In some implementations, device functionalities can be accessed from a top-level graphical user interface, such as the graphical user interface illustrated in FIG. 1. Touching one of the objects **110**, **112**, **114** or **116** can, for example, invoke corresponding functionality.

[0027] In some implementations, upon invocation of a device functionality, the graphical user interface of the mobile device **100** changes, or is augmented or replaced with another user interface or user interface elements, to facilitate user access to particular functions associated with the corresponding device functionality. For example, in response to a user touching the phone object **110**, the graphical user interface of the touch-sensitive display **102** may present display objects related to various phone functions; likewise, touching of the email object **112** may cause the graphical user interface to present display objects related to various e-mail functions; touching the Web object **114** may cause the graphical user interface to present display objects related to various Web-surfing functions; and touching the contacts object **116** may cause the graphical user interface to present display objects related to various address book functions.

[0028] In some implementations, a top-level graphical user interface environment or “home screen” of FIG. 1 can be restored by pressing a button **120** located near the bottom of the mobile device **100**. In some implementations, each device functionality may have a corresponding “home” display object displayed on the touch-sensitive display **102**. In these implementations, pressing the “home” display object can restore the graphical user interface environment of FIG. 1.

[0029] As noted above, various software applications can be executed by the mobile device **100**. For example, a user can use an address book application to access one or more contacts in the address book. A contact can be an individual, a group of individuals (e.g., a club), or an entity (e.g., a business or a location for a business).

Example Contact and Related Options

[0030] FIG. 2 is a block diagram of an example of a mobile device **100** capable of creating an icon for a contact. In some implementations, an icon can be a sign or likeness that stands for, signifies, or represents objects such as a person, place or thing. An icon can be an image (e.g., a thumbnail photo), or representation readily recognized as having some well-

known significance or embodying certain qualities with respect to the object the icon represents. An icon can include text. An icon can be an active link (e.g., to a related contact).

[0031] As shown, a contact page **202** is displayed for the user on the touch sensitive display **102** of the mobile device **100**. The contact page **202** can include content. For example, the contact page **202** can include an image **204** of a person, place, or thing representing the contact. The contact page **202** can display a name **206** of the contact. The contact page **202** can include other information associated with the contact, such as any combination of one or more phone numbers **208**, one or more email addresses **210**, one or more website (e.g., Internet homepage) addresses **214**, or one or more concrete (e.g., mailing) addresses **216**. The name **206** and other information associated with the contact can be edited by the user using a virtual keyboard, as will be described in reference to FIG. 3.

[0032] In one implementation, the user can interact with the contact **202**. For example, the user can create an icon associated with the contact **202** and have the icon accessible on a user interface associated with the mobile device **100**, such as a home screen. The icon can, for example, include an image and text that functions as a link to the contact page **202**. When the icon is touched or otherwise interacted with by the user, the contact page **202** is displayed on the touch sensitive display **102**. In some implementations, the contact page **202** is stored in an address book application on the mobile device **100**.

[0033] In one implementation, the contact page **202** can present one or more options to the user. For example, selecting an “Add to Home Screen” button **218** in the contact page **202** can result in the creation of an icon for the contact. The icon created for the contact can then be displayed on a user interface, such as the home screen. The user can tap or gesture on the touch sensitive display **102** to select the option “Add to Home Screen” **218**.

[0034] In one implementation, upon receiving input selecting the “Add to the Home Screen” button **218**, a portion of content associated with the contact page **202** can be converted into an icon. For example, as a default, the image **202** (e.g., a photo of the contact) can be copied, reduced in size, and converted into an icon, as described in reference to FIG. 3. If a photo is not available, a default graphic can be displayed or the user can be presented with a number of contact icons for selection by the user. In some implementations, other content can be converted into the icon. In some implementations, icons can be edited by the user (e.g., to change the name of the icon).

Example Interface for Naming Icons

[0035] FIG. 3 is a block diagram of an example mobile device **100** depicting a virtual keyboard **302** used in creating an icon associated with the contact **202**. The virtual keyboard **302** includes buttons or keys **304**. In one example, the user can select a character by tapping a key on the virtual keyboard **302** that corresponds to the character. The user can also select a cancel button **312** if the user decides not to create an icon.

[0036] In one implementation, the user can be presented with a preview of the icon **314** that will be displayed on a user interface (e.g., home screen) of the mobile device **100**. In this example, the image **204** was selected from the contact page **202** and rendered into the preview icon **314**. Suitable processes for rendering icons from content are available through application programming interfaces (APIs) of known image

processing tools, such as Icon Composer distributed as part of Apple Inc.'s Mac OS® X operating system.

[0037] In some implementations, an icon can have a default name. In other implementations, a user can create a name to be associated with a newly created or existing icon. In some implementations, a name created by the user can be presented along with the preview icon **314**. In these implementations, the user can use the virtual keyboard **302** to input text for a name of the icon to add to a user interface of the mobile device **100**. As shown, the mobile device **100** includes a text input box **308** for composing text. For example, the user can input text for an icon name by selecting characters from the virtual keyboard **302**. After inputting the name, the user can select an add button **310** to add the icon to a user interface (e.g., home screen) of the mobile device **100**.

[0038] A user touching an icon on the home screen can cause various actions on the mobile device **100**. The icon can act as a “shortcut” to the contact in an address book application on the mobile device **100**. The user can use the icon to navigate directly to the address book application residing on the mobile device **100**. A contact screen presented by the address book application can show status on SMS messages, phone calls, emails, etc., received from the contact. In some implementations, touching the contacts icon will open a user interface that bundles appropriate services or applications related to the contact. In this case, a dedicated menu bar can be shown with a dedicated button for each service or application. Each button can include a badge to indicate status associated with the service or application, including the number of unread SMS messages for an SMS button, a number of unread emails for a mail button, etc.

Example Contact Functionalities

[0039] FIG. 4 is a block diagram of an example mobile device **100** including newly created icons **405** and **410**. Newly created icon **405** is an icon associated with the contact page **202** depicted in FIG. 2. The icon **405** includes the name input “Mike J.” created using the virtual keyboard **302** depicted in FIG. 3. Newly created icon **410** will be discussed in detail below.

[0040] In some implementations, the newly created icon **405** can be a “shortcut” to a single application (e.g., a phone application). In some implementations, the icon **405** can be a shortcut to one or more additional applications that can be associated or personalized to a contact. For example, a user can communicate or interact with a contact in a variety of ways using different applications including, but not limited to, a short messaging service (SMS) application, a phone application, an email application, a calendar application, or an application capable of determining location information (e.g., GPS). Interacting with such applications can provide information or services to the user that are associated with a specific contact (e.g., an individual or entity). For example, by interacting with an SMS application, a user can determine the number of “short text messages” the user has received from a particular contact. In another example, by interacting with a phone application, a user can determine the number of voicemails the user has received from a particular contact.

[0041] In some implementations where one or more applications can be associated with a contact, a newly created icon **405** can include a content specific graphic indication **415** (e.g., a “badge”) for conveying status. For example, a number of missed calls, voicemails, emails or SMS messages, etc., can be enumerated with status badges which can be attached

to corresponding icons on the Home Screen. In some implementations, a newly created icon **405** can include a separate graphic indication **415** for each associated application. For example, an envelope graphic can be used to represent unread email messages, or a telephone graphic can be used to represent unheard voicemail messages.

[0042] In some implementations, a badge or a graphic indication **415** can be animated. Examples of animations include but are not limited to pulses, color changes, swirling, swirling colors, pulsing swirling colors, starbursts, or other graphical indicators. In some implementations, the animations can be updated or replaced to reflect a change in status with respect to the corresponding application. In other implementations, the graphic indication **415** is removed once the content has been consumed or reviewed. For example, a pulsing envelope graphic can indicate unread email. Once the user has viewed the unread email, the pulsing envelope graphic can be replaced with a non-pulsing envelope graphic. In some implementations, the graphic indication **415** can be accompanied by an audio file or sound effect for informing the user. For example, an audio file accompanying an envelope graphic can inform the user that they have unread emails. In some implementations, animated and audible elements can be enabled or disabled by a user or application as needed. In some implementations, the icon **405** can be or include a link to a contact page or application specific to the contact.

[0043] FIG. 5A is a block diagram of an example mobile device **100** including a page **502** associated with a newly created icon **405** depicted in FIG. 4. In some implementations, selecting the icon **405** can cause the contact page **502** to be displayed on the mobile device **100**. The contact page **502** can include an image **504** of a person, place, or thing representing the contact. The contact page **502** can include a name **506** of the contact. The contact page **502** can include other information associated with the contact, such as any combination of one or more phone numbers **508**, one or more email addresses **510**, one or more website (e.g., Internet homepage) addresses **514**, or one or more concrete (e.g., mailing) addresses **516**. The name and other information associated with the contact page **502** can be edited by the user, as described with respect to FIG. 3.

[0044] In some implementations, an icon representing each application associated with the contact can be displayed on the contact page **502**. For example, contact page **502** includes a menu bar **540**. Included in the menu bar **540** is an SMS icon **522**, a voicemail icon **524**, an email icon **526**, and a calendar icon **528**. Additionally, the menu bar **540** includes a “more” icon **530** which will be described in detail below. In some implementations, the menu bar **540** can facilitate switching between applications as needed. Each of the icons can have a status “badge” for indicating content that has not yet been consumed or viewed (e.g., a number of unread email or SMS messages).

[0045] In some implementations, an icon representing an application can include an additional graphic indication **550**. For example, the SMS icon **522** includes a badge **550** that displays the number 4. This number can indicate that four new or unread “short text messages” are associated with the contact “Mike J.” Likewise, voicemail icon **524** includes a badge **550** that displays the number 2. This number can indicate that two new or unheard “voicemails” are associated with the contact “Mike J.” Some applications will not have current data available for the user and thus no graphic indication will be displayed (e.g., calendar icon **528**). Alternatively, a graphic

indication with a zero can be used when no current data is available. In some implementations, selection of an application icon in the menu bar **540** can facilitate access to functions associated with the corresponding application. For example, selection of the SMS icon **522** can facilitate access to and interaction with an in-box of an SMS application, allowing a user to read “short text messages.” In some implementations, selection of an icon representing an application can cause a graphical user interface for the application to present a page on the touch sensitive display **102** on the mobile device **100**. FIG. **5B** is a block diagram of an example mobile device including a page **558** associated with the “SMS” icon in FIG. **5A**. User interfaces for other services or applications listed in the menu bar **540** can be similarly displayed in response to selection of the corresponding button.

[0046] FIG. **5C** is a block diagram of an example mobile device **100** including a page associated with the “more” icon **530** in FIG. **5A**. In some implementations, selection of the “more” icon **530** can result in a “more” page **560** being presented on a user interface of the mobile device **100**. In some implementations, the “more” page **560** can include a list of one or more options for editing settings of the various applications displayed in menu bar **540**. In some implementations, the menu bar **540** configuration can be customized (e.g., automatically or by user-indicated preferences). For example, in implementations where the “more” page **560** does not require an additional “more” button **530**, the “more” button **530** can be replaced with one or more additional buttons (e.g., a location button) as space permits.

Example Temporary Object

[0047] In some implementations, the mobile device **100** can indicate to other devices and systems an ability to temporarily receive an icon associated with an object by advertising through a Bluetooth or Wi-Fi connection that the mobile device is “contact capable.” A preference can be set in a preference pane or menu displayed on the mobile device **100** to engage a “contact capable” mode. Alternatively, a “contact capable” mode can be triggered by the location of the device using positioning technology (e.g., Wi-Fi, GPS). FIG. **6A** is a block diagram of an example mobile device **100** including a process for creating a temporary or permanent icon. In some implementations, a contact **610** can temporarily appear on a mobile device **100** when the mobile device **100** is within a determined proximity of a contact host. The contact host can be a server or device operated by an individual, entity or service capable of providing the icon and related application information. In the present example, the contact host is a server operated by a coffee house called “Rocket Java”. An alert can be presented on the mobile device **100** to indicate that a temporary contact or application is available to the mobile device **100**. In one example, the alert can have two options: “dismiss” and “view contact.” After the contact has been viewed, other options can be presented, including options like “add to local contacts” or “save to the home screen.” The selection of these options by the user results in the contact being added to an address book application or the home screen, respectively. In other implementations, the contact is automatically added to the home screen when available. In some implementations, a user can a preference for automatically adding a contact to a home screen without alerting the user or otherwise requiring user interaction.

Another option can be to have a dedicated area for temporary contact icons on the home screen and/or in an address book application.

[0048] In one implementation, the contact **610** can present one or more options to the user (e.g., an “Add to Home Screen” button **620**). The user can tap the touch sensitive display **102** to select the “Add to Home Screen” button **620**. In this implementation, selecting the “Add to Home Screen” button **620** in the contact **610** can result in the creation of an icon associated with the contact **610**. Additionally, selecting the “Add to Home Screen” button **620** can cause the icon to be added to a user interface of the mobile device **100** (e.g., a home screen).

[0049] In some implementations, an icon (e.g., the “Rocket Java” icon **410** depicted in FIG. **4**) can temporarily appear on a mobile device **100**. The icon can represent an object (e.g., an individual, entity, or service) that is within a certain proximity of the mobile device **100**. In some implementations, the icon **410** can include a graphic indication (e.g., a “badge” **415**), signifying a status, as previously described. For example, the badge can indicate new messages from Rocket Java, or new offers (e.g., “For you, today, a free croissant with your latte . . .”).

[0050] In some implementations, a contact screen representing Rocket Java can be presented on the mobile device **100** without any unique or special features. In other implementations, a Rocket Java application with unique or special features can be presented on the mobile device **100**. The Rocket Java application can have unique or special features not shared by other applications (e.g., features associated with coffee consumption). The Rocket Java application can be downloaded automatically to the mobile device **100**, or users can be directed to an online store to initiate a download of the Rocket Java application.

[0051] FIG. **6B** is a block diagram of an example mobile device **100** including a page **630** associated with the newly created icon **410** shown in FIG. **4**. In some implementations, selection of the icon **410** representing an application can cause a page specific to that application to be displayed on the mobile device **100**. In some implementations, selection of the icon **410** can invoke a corresponding object environment and functionality.

[0052] For example, page **630** can include options for checking an account balance (e.g., by selecting the “My Account Balance” button **632**), viewing a purchased drink history (e.g., by selecting the “My Drink History” button **634**), viewing specials (e.g., by selecting the “Specials” button **636**), and viewing nearby locations (e.g., by selecting the “Nearby Rocket Java Locations” button **638**). In this example, the “My Account Balance” option and the “My Drink History” option can be user specific, while the “Specials” option and the “Nearby Rocket Java Locations” option can be contact specific. In some implementation, the page **630** can also include a “back” button **640** for returning to the previous page.

[0053] In some implementations, the icon **410** and the related application information are visible and available only when the mobile device **100** is within a certain proximity of the individual, entity or service hosting the icon and related application. For example, when mobile device **100** is outside a determined proximity, the icon **410** can be removed from mobile device **100** and the related application information can become unavailable. In some implementations, a return to a location within a determined proximity can reinstate the tem-

porary icon **410** and the related application information. In some implementations, while mobile device **100** is within a determined proximity, mobile device **100** can statically store and update information specific to a user and with respect to a particular contact host. In some implementations, a user can pass an icon and associated contact page from their device to another user's device using a wireless communication link (e.g., Wi-Fi). For example, several users in a meeting can exchange contacts and personal icons.

Example Icon Creation Process

[0054] FIG. 7 is a flow diagram of a process **700** for creating icons for content. The process **700** begins when content associated with a contact is displayed on the mobile device (**705**). The content can be included in a contact stored in an address book, for example.

[0055] An input to create an icon associated with the contact is received through a user interface (**710**). The input can be the user selecting a user interface element (e.g., a button) that is presented proximate to the contact content. The input can cause an option pane to be presented to the user for allowing the user to select an option to create an icon associated with the contact. An icon can be created based on the content (**715**). In one implementation, the content can be captured as an image (e.g., a bitmap) and scaled to fit the dimensions of the icon. The icon can be displayed on a user interface of the mobile device (**720**), such as a home screen.

Example Application Association Process

[0056] FIG. 8 is another flow diagram of a process for creating icons for content. The process **800** begins when content associated with an individual is displayed on the mobile device (**805**). The content can be included in a contact that is stored in an address book, for example. The individual can be associated with one or more applications (e.g., an SMS application).

[0057] An input to create an icon associated with the contact is received (**810**). The input can be the user selecting a user interface element that is presented proximate to the contact content. The input can cause an option pane to be presented to the user for allowing the user to select an option to create an icon associated with the contact. The icon can be created based on the content (**815**). In one implementation, the content to be rendered into the icon can be captured as an image (e.g., such as a bitmap) and then scaled to fit the dimensions of the icon.

[0058] The icon can be associated with the one or more applications (**820**). The applications can be personalized to the user. For example, selecting the icon can cause applications or specific functions of the applications associated with the individual, to be available to the user, such that the user can interact with them. The icon can be displayed on a user interface of the mobile device (**825**). The display can also include information relating to the one or more applications associated with the user.

[0059] In some implementations, applications associated with an icon can utilize an Application Programming Interface (API). Applications can use the API to hook into third party services, including but not limited to: MySpace™, Facebook™, etc., so that users can indicate that they have the contact's information for these services or applications. Once entered, users would have the option to add these services to their contacts (e.g., add to a button bar) for quick navigation

and status updates. In another implementation, a shortcut (e.g., an icon or link) can be provided to third party services. The advantages to the API and shortcut is individual contact status and a navigation shortcut, respectively.

Example Temporary Icon Creation Process

[0060] FIG. 9 is a flow diagram of a process **900** for creating icons for content. The process **900** begins when content of a contact is received on the mobile device (**905**). In some implementations, this content can be received when the mobile device is within the proximity of a particular location associated with the contact. An input to create an icon associated with the contact can be received. The input can be the user selecting a user interface element that is presented proximate to the contact content. The input can cause an option pane to be presented to the user, allowing the user to select an option to create an icon associated with the contact. A portion of the content can be rendered into the icon. In one implementation, the content to be rendered into the icon may be captured as an image and scaled to fit the dimensions of the icon.

[0061] The icon can be temporarily displayed on a user interface of the mobile device (**910**). The user can interact with the contact when the icon is displayed upon the mobile device. The content associated with the contact can be removed from the mobile device (**915**) when the mobile device is not within the proximity of a particular location associated with the contact. Additionally, the icon associated with the contact can be removed from the mobile device (**920**).

Example Network Operating Environment

[0062] FIG. 10 is a block diagram **1000** of an example of a mobile device operating environment. The mobile device **100** of FIG. 1 can, for example, communicate over one or more wired and/or wireless networks **1010** in data communication. For example, a wireless network **1012** (e.g., a cellular network), can communicate with a wide area network (WAN) **1014**, such as the Internet, by use of a gateway **1016**. Likewise, an access point **1018**, such as an 802.11g wireless access point, can provide communication access to the wide area network **1014**. In some implementations, both voice and data communications can be established over the wireless network **1012** and the access point **1018**. For example, the mobile device **100a** can place and receive phone calls (e.g., using VoIP protocols), send and receive e-mail messages (e.g., using POP3 protocol), and retrieve electronic documents and/or streams, such as web pages, photographs, and videos, over the wireless network **1012**, gateway **1016**, and wide area network **1014** (e.g., using TCP/IP or UDP protocols). Likewise, the mobile device **100b** can place and receive phone calls, send and receive e-mail messages, and retrieve electronic documents over the access point **1018** and the wide area network **1014**. In some implementations, the mobile device **100** can be physically connected to the access point **1018** using one or more cables and the access point **1018** can be a personal computer. In this configuration, the mobile device **100** can be referred to as a "tethered" device.

[0063] The mobile devices **100a** and **100b** can also establish communications by other means (e.g., wireless communications). For example, the mobile device **100a** can communicate with other mobile devices (e.g., other wireless devices, cell phones, etc.), over the wireless network **1012**. Likewise, the mobile devices **100a** and **100b** can establish peer-to-peer

communications **1020** (e.g., a personal area network), by use of one or more communication subsystems (e.g., a Bluetooth™ communication device). Other communication protocols and topologies can also be implemented.

[0064] The mobile device **100** can, for example, communicate with one or more services **1030**, **1040**, **1050**, **1060**, and **1070** over the one or more wired and/or wireless networks **1010**. For example, a navigation service **1030** can provide navigation information (e.g., map information, location information, route information, and other information), to the mobile device **100**.

[0065] A messaging service **1040** can, for example, provide e-mail and/or other messaging services. A media service **1050** can, for example, provide access to media files, such as song files, movie files, video clips, and other media data. A syncing service **1060** can, for example, perform syncing services (e.g., sync files). An activation service **1070** can, for example, perform an activation process for activating the mobile device **100**. Other services can also be provided, including a software update service that automatically determines whether software updates exist for software on the mobile device **100**, then downloads the software updates to the mobile device **100** where it can be manually or automatically unpacked and/or installed.

[0066] The mobile device **100** can also access other data and content over the one or more wired and/or wireless networks **1010**. For example, content publishers **1070**, such as news sites, RSS feeds, web sites, blogs, social networking sites, developer networks, etc., can be accessed by the mobile device **100**. Such access can be provided by invocation of a web browsing function or application (e.g., a browser) in response to a user touching the Web object **114** depicted in FIG. 1. In the example shown, a user of the mobile device **100b** has invoked an icon functionality (e.g., by pressing the icon object **116** on the top-level graphical user interface shown in FIG. 1), and has requested and received the contact associated with the “Mike J.” icon.

Example Mobile Device Architecture

[0067] FIG. 11 is a block diagram **1100** of an example implementation of the mobile device **100** of FIG. 1. The mobile device **100** can include a memory interface **1102**, one or more data processors, image processors and/or central processing units **1104**, and a peripherals interface **1106**. The memory interface **1102**, the one or more processors **1104** and/or the peripherals interface **1106** can be separate components or can be integrated in one or more integrated circuits. The various components in the mobile device **100** can be coupled by one or more communication buses or signal lines.

[0068] Sensors, devices and subsystems can be coupled to the peripherals interface **1106** to facilitate multiple functionalities. For example, a motion sensor **1110**, a light sensor **1112**, and a proximity sensor **1114** can be coupled to the peripherals interface **1106** to facilitate orientation, lighting and proximity functions. Other sensors **1116** can also be connected to the peripherals interface **1106**, such as a positioning system (e.g., GPS receiver), a temperature sensor, a biometric sensor, or other sensing device, to facilitate related functionalities.

[0069] A camera subsystem **1120** and an optical sensor **1122** (e.g., a charged coupled device (CCD) or a complementary metal-oxide semiconductor (CMOS) optical sensor), can be utilized to facilitate camera functions, such as recording photographs and video clips.

[0070] Communication functions can be facilitated through one or more wireless communication subsystems **1124**, which can include radio frequency receivers and transmitters and/or optical (e.g., infrared) receivers and transmitters. The specific design and implementation of the communication subsystem **1124** can depend on the communication network(s) over which the mobile device **100** is intended to operate. For example, a mobile device **100** may include communication subsystems **1124** designed to operate over a GSM network, a GPRS network, an EDGE network, a Wi-Fi or WiMax network, and a Bluetooth™ network. In particular, the wireless communication subsystems **1124** may include hosting protocols such that the device **100** may be configured as a base station for other wireless devices.

[0071] An audio subsystem **1126** can be coupled to a speaker **1128** and a microphone **1130** to facilitate voice-enabled functions, such as voice recognition, voice replication, digital recording, and telephony functions.

[0072] The I/O subsystem **1140** can include a touch screen controller **1142** and/or other input controller(s) **1144**. The touch-screen controller **1142** can be coupled to a touch screen **1146**. The touch screen **1146** and touch screen controller **1142** can, for example, detect contact and movement or break thereof using any of a plurality of touch sensitivity technologies, including but not limited to capacitive, resistive, infrared, and surface acoustic wave technologies, as well as other proximity sensor arrays or other elements for determining one or more points of contact with the touch screen **1146**.

[0073] The other input controller(s) **1144** can be coupled to other input/control devices **1148**, such as one or more buttons, rocker switches, thumb-wheel, infrared port, USB port, and/or a pointer device such as a stylus. The one or more buttons (not shown) can include an up/down button for volume control of the speaker **1128** and/or the microphone **1130**.

[0074] In one implementation, a pressing of the button for a first duration may disengage a lock of the touch screen **1146**; and a pressing of the button for a second duration that is longer than the first duration may turn power to the mobile device **100** on or off. The user may be able to customize a functionality of one or more of the buttons. The touch screen **1146** can, for example, also be used to implement virtual or soft buttons and/or a keypad or keyboard.

[0075] In some implementations, the mobile device **100** can present recorded audio and/or video files, such as MP3, AAC, and MPEG files. In some implementations, the mobile device **100** can include the functionality of an MP3 player, such as an iPod™. The mobile device **100** may, therefore, include a 30-pin dock connector that is compatible with the iPod. Other input/output and control devices can also be used.

[0076] The memory interface **1102** can be coupled to memory **1150**. The memory **1150** can include high-speed random access memory and/or non-volatile memory, such as one or more magnetic disk storage devices, one or more optical storage devices, and/or flash memory (e.g., NAND, NOR). The memory **1150** can store an operating system **1152**, such as Darwin, RTXC, LINUX, UNIX, OS X, WINDOWS, or an embedded operating system such as VxWorks. The operating system **1152** may include instructions for handling basic system services and for performing hardware dependent tasks.

[0077] The memory **1150** may also store communication instructions **1154** to facilitate communicating with one or more additional devices, one or more computers and/or one or more servers. The memory **1150** may include graphical user

interface instructions **1156** to facilitate graphic user interface processing. For example, the graphical user interfaces described with respect to FIGS. 1-6B can be implemented with graphic user interface instructions **1156**. The memory **1150** may also include sensor processing instructions **1158** to facilitate sensor-related processing and functions; phone instructions **1160** to facilitate phone-related processes and functions; electronic messaging instructions **1162** to facilitate electronic-messaging related processes and functions; web browsing instructions **1164** to facilitate web browsing-related processes and functions; media processing instructions **1166** to facilitate media processing-related processes and functions; GPS/Navigation instructions **1168** to facilitate GPS and navigation-related processes and instructions; camera instructions **1170** to facilitate camera-related processes and functions; and/or other icon process instructions **1172** to facilitate processes and functions, as described in reference to FIGS. 1-6B.

[0078] Each of the above identified instructions and applications can correspond to a set of instructions for performing one or more functions described above. These instructions need not be implemented as separate software programs, procedures or modules. The memory **1150** can include additional instructions or fewer instructions. Furthermore, various functions of the mobile device **100** may be implemented in hardware and/or in software, including in one or more signal processing and/or application specific integrated circuits.

[0079] The features described can be implemented in digital electronic circuitry, or in computer hardware, firmware, software, or in combinations of them. The features can be implemented in a computer program product tangibly embodied in an information carrier, e.g., in a machine-readable storage device or in a propagated signal, for execution by a programmable processor; and method steps can be performed by a programmable processor executing a program of instructions to perform functions of the described implementations by operating on input data and generating output.

[0080] The described features can be implemented advantageously in one or more computer programs that are executable on a programmable system including at least one programmable processor coupled to receive data and instructions from, and to transmit data and instructions to, a data storage system, at least one input device, and at least one output device. A computer program is a set of instructions that can be used, directly or indirectly, in a computer to perform a certain activity or bring about a certain result. A computer program can be written in any form of programming language (e.g., Objective-C, Java), including compiled or interpreted languages, and it can be deployed in any form, including as a stand-alone program or as a module, component, subroutine, or other unit suitable for use in a computing environment.

[0081] Suitable processors for the execution of a program of instructions include, by way of example, both general and special purpose microprocessors, and the sole processor or one of multiple processors or cores, of any kind of computer. Generally, a processor will receive instructions and data from a read-only memory or a random access memory or both. The essential elements of a computer are a processor for executing instructions and one or more memories for storing instructions and data. Generally, a computer will also include, or be operatively coupled to communicate with, one or more mass storage devices for storing data files; such devices include magnetic disks, such as internal hard disks and removable

disks; magneto-optical disks; and optical disks. Storage devices suitable for tangibly embodying computer program instructions and data include all forms of non-volatile memory, including by way of example semiconductor memory devices, such as EPROM, EEPROM, and flash memory devices; magnetic disks such as internal hard disks and removable disks; magneto-optical disks; and CD-ROM and DVD-ROM disks. The processor and the memory can be supplemented by, or incorporated in, ASICs (application-specific integrated circuits).

[0082] To provide for interaction with a user, the features can be implemented on a computer having a display device such as a CRT (cathode ray tube) or LCD (liquid crystal display) monitor for displaying information to the user and a keyboard and a pointing device such as a mouse or a trackball by which the user can provide input to the computer.

[0083] The features can be implemented in a computer system that includes a back-end component, such as a data server, or that includes a middleware component, such as an application server or an Internet server, or that includes a front-end component, such as a client computer having a graphical user interface or an Internet browser, or any combination of them. The components of the system can be connected by any form or medium of digital data communication such as a communication network. Examples of communication networks include, e.g., a LAN, a WAN, and the computers and networks forming the Internet.

[0084] The computer system can include clients and servers. A client and server are generally remote from each other and typically interact through a network. The relationship of client and server arises by virtue of computer programs running on the respective computers and having a client-server relationship to each other.

[0085] A number of implementations have been described. Nevertheless, it will be understood that various modifications may be made. For example, elements of one or more implementations may be combined, deleted, modified, or supplemented to form further implementations. As yet another example, the logic flows depicted in the figures do not require the particular order shown, or sequential order, to achieve desirable results. In addition, other steps may be provided, or steps may be eliminated, from the described flows, and other components may be added to, or removed from, the described systems. Accordingly, other implementations are within the scope of the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:
 - displaying on a mobile device, content associated with a contact;
 - receiving input to create an icon associated with the content;
 - creating an icon based on the content; and
 - displaying the icon on a user interface of the mobile device.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the content includes an image and information corresponding to the contact.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein creating an icon based on the content includes creating an icon based on a portion of the content.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - upon receiving the input to create the icon from the content,
 - displaying a keyboard on the mobile device.
5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:
 - receiving input through the keyboard specifying a name associated with the icon.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein displaying the icon on a user interface of the mobile devices comprises:

displaying the name in association with the icon on the user interface.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the icon is a link to the contact.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein creating an icon based on the content comprises:

converting an image into an icon.

9. A method, comprising:

displaying on a mobile device, content associated with an individual;

receiving input to create an icon associated with the content;

creating an icon based on the content;

associating the icon with the one or more applications; and displaying the icon on a user interface of the mobile device, where the displayed icon includes information relating to the one or more applications.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the information is a displayed indication signifying a number of items associated with the individual.

11. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

receiving input specifying the icon; and

displaying an additional icon for each application of the one or more applications, where the additional icon for each application includes additional information specific to that application and with respect to the individual.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the additional information is a displayed indication signifying a number of items associated with a specific application and with respect to the individual.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein the one or more applications include an SMS application, a voicemail application, an email application, a calendar application, or a location application.

14. The method of claim 9, wherein the content includes an image and information corresponding to the individual.

15. The method of claim 9, wherein creating an icon based on the content includes creating an icon based on a portion of the content.

16. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

upon receiving the input to create the icon from the content, displaying a keyboard on the mobile device.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

receiving input through the keyboard specifying a name associated with the icon.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein displaying the icon on a user interface of the mobile devices comprises:

displaying the name in association with the icon on the user interface.

19. The method of claim 9, wherein the icon is a link to a page corresponding to the individual.

20. The method of claim 9, wherein creating an icon based on the content comprises:

converting an image into an icon.

21. A method, comprising:

receiving on a mobile device, content associated with a contact;

temporarily displaying an icon of the contact on the mobile device, the icon being created with at least a portion of the content associated with the contact;

removing the content associated with the contact from the mobile device; and

removing the displayed icon from the mobile device.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the content includes an image and information corresponding to the contact.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein the icon is a link to the corresponding information.

24. The method of claim 21, wherein the icon is temporarily displayed when the mobile device is within a specified proximity of the contact.

25. A computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon, which, when executed by at least one processor, cause the processor to perform operations comprising:

displaying on a mobile device, content associated with a contact;

receiving input to create an icon associated with the content;

creating an icon based on the content; and

displaying the icon on a user interface of the mobile device.

26. A computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon, which, when executed by at least one processor, cause the processor to perform operations comprising:

displaying on a mobile device, content associated with an individual;

receiving input to create an icon associated with the content;

creating an icon based on the content;

associating the icon with the one or more applications; and displaying the icon on a user interface of the mobile device, where the displayed icon includes information relating to the one or more applications.

27. A computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon, which, when executed by at least one processor, cause the processor to perform operations comprising:

receiving on a mobile device, content associated with a contact;

temporarily displaying an icon of the contact on the mobile device, the icon being created with at least a portion of the content associated with the contact;

removing the content associated with the contact from the mobile device; and

removing the displayed icon from the mobile device.

28. A system comprising:

one or more processors;

memory coupled to the one or more processors and operable for storing instructions, which, when executed by the one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform operations, comprising:

displaying on a mobile device, content associated with a contact;

receiving input to create an icon associated with the content;

creating an icon based on the content; and

displaying the icon on a user interface of the mobile device.

29. A system comprising:

one or more processors;

memory coupled to the one or more processors and operable for storing instructions, which, when executed by the one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform operations, comprising:

displaying on a mobile device, content associated with an individual;

receiving input to create an icon associated with the content;

creating an icon based on the content;
associating the icon with the one or more applications; and
displaying the icon on a user interface of the mobile device,
where the displayed icon includes information relating
to the one or more applications.

30. A system comprising:

one or more processors;

memory coupled to the one or more processors and operable for storing instructions, which, when executed by the one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform operations, comprising:

receiving on a mobile device, content associated with a contact;

temporarily displaying an icon of the contact on the mobile device, the icon being created with at least a portion of the content associated with the contact;

removing the content associated with the contact from the mobile device; and

removing the displayed icon from the mobile device.

* * * * *