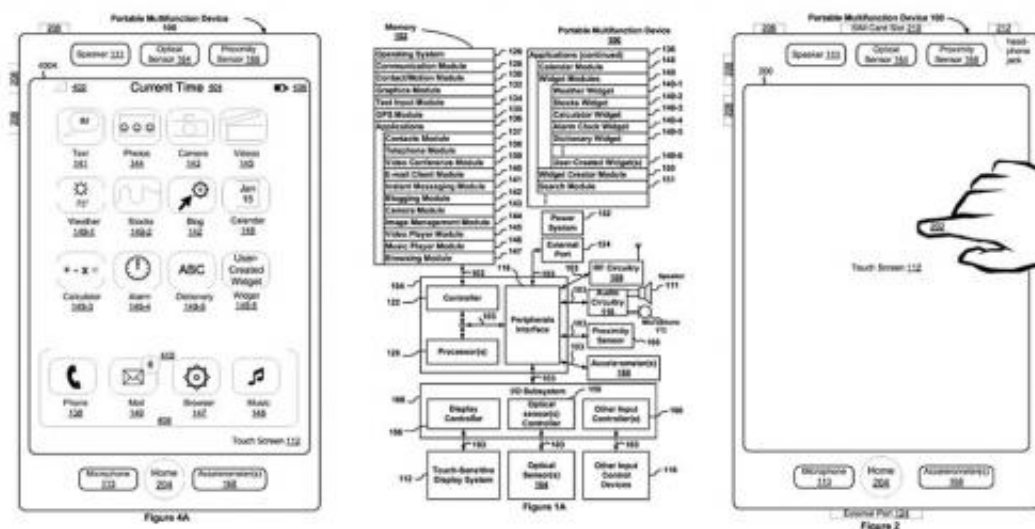


Apple granted smartphone touchscreen patent

June 22 2011, by Katie Gatto



(PhysOrg.com) -- Apple was recently awarded a patent that has the potential to have repercussions across the world of smart phones and tablet PCs.

[The patent](#), which was filed over three years ago, is specific to capacitive touchscreen technology. The [patent](#) is worded like this: "[a] computer-implemented method, for use in conjunction with a portable multifunction device with a touch screen display, [that] comprises

displaying a portion of page content, including a frame displaying a portion of frame content and also including other content of the page, on the touch screen display." This means that the patent could literally refer to any screen with a multi-touch interface.

The current generation of capacitive touchscreen displays work with a sheet of glass, which uses the human finger as a conductor. This input, a.k.a. your touch, then creates a response from your device. The way that this patent has been worded it could refer to any screen that has a multi-touch interface.

This could allow Apple to either squeeze competitors out of the market or to make them pay hefty fees in order to keep making their [smart phones](#) or tablet PCs that use the extremely popular multi-touch technology. Of course, it could go in a different direction, with Apple only using the patent as a means to defend their own technology, but only time will tell how it will be used.

[Apple](#) does, like most major technology companies and hardware makers indulge in the occasional lawsuit over the infringement of patents as a way of thinning the competition and making some fast cash.

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Citation: Apple granted smartphone touchscreen patent (2011, June 22) retrieved 10 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-06-apple-granted-smartphone-touchscreen-patent.html>

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