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Inventor(s)	Perelli; Thomas et al.

Computing device and dock assembly

Abstract

An assembly can include a clamshell computing device that includes a display, a keyboard and a side connector; and a clamshell dock that includes an auxiliary display and a side connector that mates with the side connector of the clamshell computing device.

Inventors:	Perelli; Thomas (Morrisville, NC), Ent; Ali (Morrisville, NC)
Applicant:	LENOVO (SINGAPORE) PTE. LTD (Singapore, SG)
Family ID:	1000008751166
Assignee:	Lenovo (Singapore) Pte. Ltd. (Singapore, SG)
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Background/Summary

TECHNICAL FIELD

(1) Subject matter disclosed herein generally relates to technology for computing systems or other systems.

BACKGROUND

(2) A computing system can be a clamshell system that can fold and open and can include, for example, a base housing and a display housing.

SUMMARY

(3) An assembly can include a clamshell computing device that includes a display, a keyboard and a side connector; and a clamshell dock that includes an auxiliary display and a side connector that mates with the side connector of the clamshell computing device. Various other apparatuses, systems, methods, etc., are also disclosed.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

(1) Features and advantages of the described implementations can be more readily understood by reference to the following description taken in conjunction with examples of the accompanying drawings.

(2) FIG. 1 is a diagram of an example of a computing device;

(3) FIG. 2 is a diagram of an example of a computing device or computing system;

(4) FIG. 3 is a diagram of an example of a display assembly of the computing device or computing system of FIG. 2;

(5) FIG. 4 is a diagram of an example of a computing device;

(6) FIG. 5 is a diagram of an example of an assembly that includes a computing device docked to another device;

(7) FIG. 6 is a diagram of an example of a device;

(8) FIG. 7 is a series of diagrams of examples of device connectors;

(9) FIG. 8 is a series of diagrams of examples of device connectors;

(10) FIG. 9 is a diagram of an example of a method; and

(11) FIG. 10 is a diagram of an example of a system that includes one or more processors.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

(12) The following description includes the best mode presently contemplated for practicing the described implementations. This description is not to be taken in a limiting sense, but rather is made merely for the purpose of describing general principles of various implementations. The scope of invention should be ascertained with reference to issued claims.

(13) FIG. 1 shows an example of a computing device **100** (e.g., a computing system) that includes a keyboard housing **120** and a display housing **140** that are pivotable with respect to each other via movement about one or more hinges **132-1** and **132-2** (e.g., hinge assemblies). The computing device **100** may be a system such as, for example, a computing system (e.g., an information handling device, etc.).

(14) As an example, the computing device **100** may include one or more processors **112**, memory **114** (e.g., one or more memory devices), one or more network interfaces (NIs) **116**, and one or more power cells **118**. Such components may be, for example, housed within the keyboard housing

120, the display housing **140**, or the keyboard housing **120** and the display housing **140**.

(15) As shown in the example of FIG. 1, the keyboard housing **120** includes a keyboard **124** with keys **125** and the display housing **140** includes a display **144** and can include a camera **141** mounted in a bezel region of a bezel that surrounds the display **144**. In such an example, the keyboard **124** is defined in a first Cartesian coordinate system as having a width along an x-axis (x.sub.1), a depth along a y-axis (y.sub.1) and a height or thickness along a z-axis (z.sub.1) that extends in a direction outwardly away from touch surfaces of keys **125** of the keyboard **124** and the display **144** is defined in a second Cartesian coordinate system as having a width along an x-axis (x.sub.2), a depth along a y-axis (y.sub.2) and a height or thickness along a z-axis (z.sub.2) that extends in a direction outwardly away from a viewing surface of the display **144**. As an example, a coordinate system may be right-handed or left-handed.

(16) As shown in the example of FIG. 1, the one or more hinges **132-1** and **132-2** pivotably connect the keyboard housing **120** and the display housing **140** for orienting the display housing **140** with respect to the keyboard housing **120**. For example, orientations may include orientations definable with respect to an axis (e.g., or axes) such as the axis ζ and an angle Φ about that axis.

(17) As an example, a hinge assembly may be a swivel hinge assembly that can be centrally located such that a display housing can be swiveled (e.g., rotated) with respect to a keyboard housing while also being able to be rotated between a closed clamshell orientation and various open clamshell orientations. As to an example of a swivel hinge assembly, consider the LENOVO THINKPAD TWIST computing device swivel hinge assembly, which includes axles and a turntable where the turntable allows for swiveling of housings (e.g., twisting) while the axles allow for closing and opening of the housings.

(18) FIG. 1 shows some examples of orientations **101**, **103**, **105**, **107** and **109**. The orientations **101**, **103**, **105**, **107** and **109** may correspond to orientations of a clamshell computing system. The orientation **101** may be a notebook orientation where the angle Φ is about 90 degrees or more (e.g., or optionally somewhat less than about 90 degrees depending on position of a user, etc.). As shown, for the orientation **101**, a user may use a finger or fingers of one or both hands to depress keys **125** of the keyboard **124** (e.g., touch typing), for example, while viewing information being rendered to the display **144** of the display housing **140** (e.g., using the one or more processors **112**, the memory **114**, etc. that may be included in the keyboard housing **120**, the display housing **140** or both).

(19) As an example, the keyboard housing **120** may include a frontal surface **122** and may include a touch input surface **123** (e.g., of a touch input device such as a touchpad). As an example, the keyboard **124** may include one or more other input devices (e.g., a control stick, etc.). As an example, the frontal surface **122** may be a surface suitable for resting a palm or palms of a hand or hands. For example, as shown in FIG. 1, the touch input surface **123** can be defined by x and y dimensions where a left palm rest surface is to the left of the touch input surface **123** and where a right palm rest surface is to the right of the touch input surface **123**. In such an example, the left and right palm rest surfaces may be defined by respective x and y dimensions as well as a spacing therebetween. Where a system does not include a touch input surface such as the touch input surface **123**, the frontal surface **122** may extend in the y direction approximately from a left side of the keyboard housing **120** to a right side of the keyboard housing. Such a surface can be a left and right palm rest surface.

(20) A palm rest surface can allow a user to rest a palm or palms while the user may type (e.g., touch type) using keys of a keyboard that is part of a keyboard housing. For example, a user can rest a palm on a palm rest surface while using one or more finger tips (e.g., or finger pads) to touch keys to thereby instruct a computing device to receive input instructions. In such an example, the keys of the keyboard may be depressible keys. A depressible key may include a spring mechanism that allows the key to be, responsive to finger applied force, depressed a distance in the z direction of the Cartesian coordinate system of a keyboard housing to a level that may be a maximum depression level where, upon release of the force, the key may then return to an undepressed level.

(21) As to the orientation **103**, it may correspond to a display orientation for viewing the display **144** where the keyboard **124** faces downward and the computing device **100** is supported by the keyboard housing **120** (e.g., by a rim about the keyboard **124**, the frontal surface **122**, etc.). As to the orientation **105**, it may correspond to a “tent” orientation where the display **144** faces outwardly for viewing on one side of the tent and the keyboard **124** of the keyboard housing **120** faces outwardly on the other side of the tent.

(22) The orientation **107** may be a tablet orientation where the angle Φ is about 360 degrees such that a normal outward vector $N_{sub.1}$ of the keyboard **124** of the keyboard housing **120** and a normal outward vector $N_{sub.2}$ of the display **144** of the display housing **140** are oriented in oppositely pointing directions, pointing away from each other; whereas, in contrast, for a closed orientation of the computing device **100** (e.g., where the angle Φ is about 0 degrees), the vectors $N_{sub.1}$ and $N_{sub.2}$ would be pointing toward each other.

(23) In the orientation **107**, the keyboard **124** has its keys **125** pointing outwardly in the direction of the vector $N_{sub.1}$. Where the keys **125** are depressible keys, when a user grasps the computing device **100**, the keys **125** may be contacted by the users hand or hands. A user may perceive the springiness of the keys **125** as being somewhat undesirable. For example, springy keys may interfere with a user's ability to comprehend or sense force that is sufficient to grasp the computing device **100**, which may cause the user to grasp too lightly or to grasp too strongly, which may possibly impact integrity of the keys (e.g., springs, spring-mechanisms, contacts, etc.). Further, if the user repositions her hand or hands, the user may experience the springiness again. In contrast, a surface without such depressible keys may have a more even feel to a user and may be less distracting. An arrangement that allows for such a surface may include a single hinge that allows for pivoting a keyboard housing with respect to a display housing such that keys of the keyboard housing can be oriented to face a back side of a display housing (a side opposite the display). In such an approach, a user may spin the keyboard housing by 180 degrees about a central axis of the single hinge (e.g., an axis orthogonal to the axis ζ) and then rotate the keyboard housing such that the keys face the back side of the display in a folded orientation. In such an example, a single centrally located hinge provides symmetry such that a computing system can be aligned in a clamshell closed orientation and a tablet orientation, optionally with the keys of the keyboard housing facing the back side of a display of a display housing.

(24) The orientation **109** may be a planar orientation where the angle Φ is about 180 degrees such that a normal outward vector $N_{sub.1}$ of the keyboard **124** of the keyboard housing **120** and a normal outward vector $N_{sub.2}$ of the display **144** of the display housing **140** are oriented in approximately the same pointing directions.

(25) Various computing systems such as laptop or notebook computing devices can be characterized at least in part by a footprint. For example, the computing device **100** of FIG. **1** may be characterized at least in part by dimensions in x and y as to the keyboard housing **120** and/or as to the display housing **140**. As an example, a footprint can be an area that can be defined by a plane in the x and y directions of the Cartesian coordinate systems shown in FIG. **1**.

(26) FIG. **1** also shows an example of a hinge assembly **190**, which may be utilized as the hinge **132-1** and/or the hinge **132-2**. As shown in FIG. **1**, the hinge assembly **190** includes a housing **191** with opposing sides, axles **193** and **195** with corresponding axes, saddles **194** and **196**, gears **197**, **198** and **199** and a tensioning mechanism **192** (e.g., a stack of coned washers, etc.). In the hinge assembly **190**, the gear **198** is an intermediate gear that is disposed between the gears **197** and **199**. As shown, the intermediate gear **198** has a rotational axis that is orthogonal to the rotational axes of the gears **197** and **199**. In such an example, the intermediate gear **198** can allow for spacing of axles **193** and **195**.

(27) In the example of FIG. **1**, the saddles **194** and **196** can be operatively coupled to respective housings of a device such that the housings can be oriented from an approximately 0 degree closed orientation (e.g., a closed clamshell) to an approximately 360 degree open orientation (e.g., a tablet

orientation).

(28) As an example, a computing device that includes housing coupled by one or more hinge assemblies can include one or more sensors that can sense orientation, directly and/or indirectly. For example, housings can include accelerometers, gravimeters, gyroscopes, etc., where signals can be utilized to determine an orientation of the housings with respect to one another. As an example, a computing device can include one or more magnetic field sensors, light sensors, etc., which may be able to sense presence of one housing with respect to another, for example, when a computing device is in a tablet orientation. As an example, a hinge assembly may be provided with a magnet, a sensor, circuitry, etc., which can provide for orientation sensing to determine an orientation of one housing with respect to another.

(29) FIG. 2 shows an exploded perspective view of a computing device **200** as including various components, which can include, for example, a display assembly **300**, a housing **304** (e.g., a display housing), a keyboard bezel assembly with a keyboard **214**, a touchpad assembly **215**, a speaker kit **216**, a built-in battery **217**, a coin-cell battery **218**, a solid-state drive **219**, a thermal pad **220**, NFC module foam **221**, a NFC module **222**, a wireless-WAN card **223**, a wireless-WAN antenna assembly **224**, a base cover assembly **225**, a USB and power board **226**, a system board **270**, a fingerprint reader module **228**, a fingerprint reader bracket **229**, a thermal fan assembly **230**, a trackpad and fingerprint reader cable **231** or **232**, a wireless-LAN antenna assembly **233**, a SIM-card tray **234**, a recovery USB **235**, a power cord **236**, an AC power adapter **237**, an orientation sensor **238** (e.g., an accelerometer, gyroscope, magnetic field sensor, etc.). The computing device **200** may be referred to as a computing system that can include various components, circuitry, etc.

(30) In the example of FIG. 2, various components can form a housing **202**, which may be referred to as a base housing and/or a keyboard housing, where the housing **202** may be coupled to the housing **304** via one or more hinge assemblies, etc. For example, the computing device **200** can include a first housing **202** coupled to a second housing **304** via one or more hinge assemblies (see, e.g., one or more hinge assemblies **190** of FIG. 1, **326** of FIG. 3, etc.). As an example, a hinge assembly may be a single axle and/or axis hinge assembly or may be a multi-axle and/or multi-axis hinge assembly.

(31) FIG. 3 shows an exploded perspective view of the display assembly **300** of FIG. 2 as including various components, which can include, for example, a bezel **310**, a foam component for an IR LED camera **321**, a camera assembly **330**, a stopper **323**, a shutter **340**, a display panel **350**, an orientation sensor **357** (e.g., an accelerometer, gyroscope, magnetic field sensor, etc.), a support plate **324**, one or more microphones **360**, wiring **370**, one or more wiring connectors **375**, a back side (rear) cover assembly **380**, a display cable **325**, one or more hinge assemblies **326**, and a display bezel frame component **327**.

(32) In the example of FIG. 2 and FIG. 3, the computing device **200** can include various media capture components. For example, a camera can be a media capture component, a microphone can be a media capture component, etc. A media capture component may be an audio media capture component, a video media capture component, a still image media capture component, etc.

(33) As shown, the bezel **310** includes a front surface **312** and an opposing rear surface **314** where various openings extend between the front surface **312** and the rear surface **314**. For example, as shown, the bezel **310** includes a display opening **313**, a camera opening **315**, a shutter control opening **317**, and an IR camera opening (e.g., where an IR camera is included, noting that a camera may be a combined visible and IR camera).

(34) As shown, the camera assembly **330** couples to the back side cover assembly **380** where the wiring **370** operatively couples to the camera assembly **330** and to the one or more microphones **360**. The display assembly **300** can be operatively coupled to other circuitry of the computing device **200**, for example, via the one or more wiring connectors **375**.

(35) FIG. 4 shows an example of the computing device **200** in an open position with an open angle ϕ , which is slightly greater than 90 degrees. As explained, such a computing device may be opened

beyond 90 degrees, for example, to 180 degrees (see, e.g., the orientation **109** of FIG. **1**) or to a 360 degree position (see, e.g., the orientation **107** of FIG. **1**). As an example, a notebook computing device that includes a 360 degree hinge assembly may be referred to as a convertible as it can “convert” into a tablet form factor when opened 360 degrees (see, e.g., the orientation **107** of FIG. **1**).

(36) As shown in the example of FIG. **4**, the computing device **200** can include the housing **202** with a front end **203**, a back end **205** and opposing sides **207** and **209** (e.g., a left side and a right side, respectively). As shown, the keyboard **214** includes keys where between the keyboard **214** and the front end **203**, the housing **202** can include a touchpad. In the example of FIG. **4**, the computing device **200** includes one or more hinge assemblies **326-1** and **326-2**, which may include single and/or dual axle hinge assemblies.

(37) In the example of FIG. **4**, the computing device **200** includes various connectors **290** along the side **209**, noting that one or more connectors may be disposed on the side **207**, additionally or alternatively.

(38) FIG. **5** shows an example of an assembly **500** that can include the computing device **200** and another device **400** that can physically and electrically connect to the computing device **200**. As an example, an assembly can include a clamshell computing device that includes a display, a keyboard and a side connector; and a clamshell dock that includes an auxiliary display and a side connector that mates with the side connector of the clamshell computing device. In the example of FIG. **5**, the device **400** can be a clamshell dock that can connect to the computing device **200**.

(39) As shown in the example of FIG. **5**, the device **400** can be a clamshell device with a housing **402** coupled to a housing **504** via a hinge assembly **426**, which may be a single centrally positioned hinge assembly **426** that allows for rotation of the housing **504** with respect to the housing **402** such that a display panel **550** of the housing **504** can face forward or backward while also being able to transition the device **400** between a closed and one or more open positions, which may include, for example, a 180 degree orientation and optionally a 360 degree orientation (see, e.g., the orientations **109** and **107** of FIG. **1**).

(40) As an example, the housing **504** may be closed and opened in unison with the housing **304** while the housing **402** is connected to the housing **202**. In such an example, the display panel **550** may be facing the same direction as the display panel **350** or the display panel **550** may be facing a direction that is opposite to the display panel **350**. As an example, when the devices **200** and **400** are in a closed position, the display panel **550** may be facing outwardly such that it is viewable by a user or users. As mentioned, the device **200** can include a centrally located hinge assembly that allows for rotation of the housing **304** with respect to the housing **202**. In such an example, the display panel **350** may face forward or may face backward. Where both of the devices **200** and **400** include swivel hinge assemblies for the housings **304** and **504**, the display panels **350** and **550** may face forward, face backward or be mixed facing, one facing forward and one facing backward. In a closed position of the assembly **500**, the display panel **350** may be facing the keyboard **214** or it may be facing outwardly, similarly, the display panel **550** may be facing a surface **450** or it may be facing outwardly. Hence, with one or more swivel hinge assemblies, a user can orient one or more of the display panels **350** and **550** as may be desired.

(41) In the example of FIG. **5**, the device **400** has dimensions Δx_d and Δy_d where Δy_d can be approximately equal to Δy of the device **200**. In a closed position, the device **200** can provide for substantial alignment of the front ends **203** and **303** and the device can provide for substantial alignment of the front ends **403** and **503**. Where the devices **200** and **400** are coupled together as the assembly **500**, in a closed position, the front ends **203**, **303**, **403** and **503** can be aligned. In an open position, the front ends **203** and **403** and the front ends **303** and **503** can be aligned. As an example, the hinge assemblies **326-1**, **326-2** and **426** can have a common axis or common axes such that the housings **202**, **304**, **402** and **504** can be closed and opened in a smooth and coordinated manner where various alignments between housings **202**, **304**, **402** and **504** are

maintained. As shown in FIG. 5, the housings **402** and **504** have respective back ends **405** and **505**, which may be referred to as hinge ends.

(42) As mentioned, in the example of FIG. 5, the device **400** can be referred to as a clamshell dock. In such an example, the device **400** can dock to the device **200** or, in other words, the device **200** can dock to the device **400**. As shown, the left sides **407** and **507** of the device **400** are connected to the right sides **209** and **309** of the housings **202** and **304**. In such an example, the device **400** can be referred to as a right side or right hand dock; noting that the device **400** may be configured as a left side or left hand dock. As an example, the devices **200** and **400** can include features for left side and/or right side docking.

(43) As an example, the device **400** may be asymmetric. For example, the display panel **550** may provide a display area that extends further to a mating side than a non-mating side. As an example, the display panel **350** of the housing **304** may be bezel-less and may extend to the side **309** and the display panel **550** may be bezel-less and may extend to the side **507** such that, when mated, the display panels **350** and **550** form a relatively continuous display area. In such an example, the level of display surfaces may be equivalent such that a user can move a finger, a stylus, etc., across a boundary between the display panels **350** and **550** with no or minimal interruption.

(44) As to the surface **450** of the housing **402**, it may be a display surface, a keyboard surface, a number pad surface, a touchpad surface, a digitizer surface, a mouse pad surface or another type of surface. As an example, the surface **450** may be part of a unit that is selected from a plurality of different units. As an example, the housing **402** may be a battery housing that can carry an auxiliary battery that can be used to power the device **400** and another device. As an example, the surface **450** may be a surface of a wireless charger that may be, for example, a wireless charger that comports with the Qi standard. In such an example, a user may place a device on the surface **450** for wireless charging of a battery of the device. In such an example, the power to be transferred may be from a battery of the device **400** and/or via a power connection that connects the device **400** to a power source. As an example, the surface **450** may be a solar panel that can convert solar energy to electrical energy, which may provide for charging a battery, powering a device or devices, etc.

(45) As an example, the surface **450** may be a surface of a smartphone. For example, consider the housing **402** as being a smartphone case that can receive a smartphone. In such an example, a display surface of the smartphone may be exposed directly for touch input and/or may be covered by a surface that may allow for touch input. For example, consider a transparent touch-sensitive surface that can substitute for a touch-sensitive surface of a smartphone. As an example, a touch-sensitive surface can include or be a capacitive touchscreen that can include substantially transparent indium tin oxide to form a capacitive electrode grid in a digitizer layer.

(46) As an example, the housing **504** may be a smartphone housing and/or a smartphone case. As an example, the hinge assembly **426** may provide a connector for coupling of a smartphone, for example, optionally via a socket (e.g., a power and/or data socket). In such an example, the smartphone may make the device **400** a clamshell device that can open and close.

(47) As an example, the device **400** may include a stylus recess for holding a stylus, which may be operable with a display panel and/or a digitizer surface.

(48) As an example, the device **400** may be a smartphone with a flip format. For example, the device **400** may be a flip phone that can be physically connected to and physically disconnected from the computing device **200**. In such an example, the dimension Δy_d of the device **400** may be less than approximately 18 cm while the dimension Δx_d of the device **400** may be less than approximately 15 cm. In such an example, the dimension Δy_d can be greater than the dimension Δx_d such that a footprint of the device **400** in a closed clamshell position is rectangular, with a long side and a short side. Where the device **400** is a smartphone, it may be physically connected to the computing device **200** for using or carrying the assembly **500** as a unit or it may be physically disconnected from the computing device **200** such that the computing device **200** and/or the device

400 can be used or carried separately.

(49) As to an example of a use scenario, consider a person at a coffee shop where space may be limited and where the person desires more viewing area than that offered by the computing device **200** by itself. Rather than having to carry an auxiliary display device, the person may carry a flip phone (e.g., as the device **400**) that is configured to physically connect to the computing device **200** to form an assembly with expanded viewing area. In such an example, the display panel **350** may be extended to the display panel **550**. For example, the flip phone and the computing device **200** can operate in an extending viewing mode, which may be controlled via an app, an operating system, operating systems, an API, etc.

(50) The example assembly **500** of FIG. 5 provides for various use scenarios, which may facilitate workflows, tasks, etc., for example, while using one or more applications executable by the computing device **200** and/or the device **400**. As an example, a user may dedicate the display panel **550** to a menu for an application where a main window of the application is rendered to the display panel **350**. As an example, a user may dedicate the display panel **550** to an email application while the display panel **350** is utilized for another application. As an example, the display panel **550** may be dedicated to rendering of particular information that may be germane to a video conference where the display panel **350** is utilized as a main display.

(51) As shown in the example of FIG. 5, the computing device **200** can include the camera opening **315** for a camera and the device **400** can include a camera opening **515** for a camera (see, e.g., the camera assembly **330** of FIG. 3). As mentioned, the device **400** can include a swivel hinge assembly such that the housing **504** can be swiveled. In such an example, the assembly **500** may be utilized by two people at one location, for example, in a video conference where one of the two people can use the camera opening **515** and the display panel **550** adjusted to a suitable angle and where the other one of the two people can use the camera opening **315** and the display panel **350** adjusted to a suitable angle. In such an example, a common network connection or multiple network connections may be utilized. As explained, the device **400** may be a flip phone with cellular network circuitry such that it can establish a network connection, which, for example, may be shared or not with the computing device **200**. As an example, the computing device **200** and the device **400** may be in communication with one another via a wired connection and/or a wireless connection.

(52) FIG. 6 shows an example of the device **400**, which may be utilized by itself, without being physically connected to a computing device such as the computing device **200**. As an example, the device **400** can include a processor, memory, one or more interfaces, etc. As an example, the device **400** can be utilized as an auxiliary processing device, an auxiliary memory device, an auxiliary display device, an auxiliary input device, etc. As an example, the device **400** can include a drive such as a SSD, which may be utilized to store information. In such an example, the device **400** can be utilized for purposes of secure data storage and/or file transfers.

(53) As an example, the device **400** may be referred to as a modular clamshell dock that has a footprint smaller than that of a 12 inch clamshell computing device such that it has greater mobility than a 12 inch clamshell computing device. As an example, the device **400** can include a variety of connectors **490**, which may extend and/or replicate features of a computing device such as, for example, the computing device **200**.

(54) As mentioned, the device **400** can include one or more display panels. In such an example, a display panel may be utilized for writing digital sticky notes, taking notes, viewing emails and text messages (e.g., from phone or another source), moving menus over from a primary display, viewing two applications side by side, etc. As an example, the assembly **500** of FIG. 5 can include more than two display panels. For example, consider the display panels **350** and **550** where the surface **450** can be a surface of another display panel.

(55) FIG. 6 also shows an example of the hinge assembly **600**, which may be utilized by the device **400** and/or the computing device **200**. As shown, the hinge assembly **600** includes an axle **681**

received at least in part by a barrel **682** where a leaf **683** is coupled to the axle **681**. In such an example, various components such as washers, nuts, etc., may be fit to the axle **681** for purposes such as tensioning (e.g., friction), holding components in place, etc. As shown, the hinge assembly **600** also includes a turntable assembly **684** with a passage **685** for one or more wires **687**. In such an example, the hinge assembly **680** includes two axes, one associated with the axle **681** and one associated with the turntable assembly **684**. As explained, a swivel hinge assembly such as the hinge assembly **600** may be utilized to orient one housing with respect to another housing, for example, to orient a display as may be desired.

(56) In the example of FIG. **6**, the surface **450** can be part of a component or an assembly. As shown, the housing **402** can include a component space **409** that can receive a component or an assembly. As an example, a system may include a variety of components or assemblies that can be received in the component space **409**. As an example, a smartphone may be received in the component space **409** such that the surface **450** is a display surface of the smartphone. In such an example, the housing **504** can include the display panel **550** as an auxiliary display, which may be operatively coupled to the smartphone and/or operatively coupled to a computing device such as the computing device **200**. In such an example, a user may utilize the smartphone as held in the component space **409** to make phone calls, to connect to a network, etc. For example, consider tethering the computing device **200** to a network via a smartphone disposed in the housing **402**.

(57) As explained, the device **400** may itself be a smartphone with a flip phone form factor. In such an example, a user may utilize the device **400** to make phone calls, to connect to a network, etc. For example, consider tethering the computing device **200** to a network via cellular network and/or other network circuitry of the device **400**.

(58) FIG. **7** shows examples of connectors of the computing device **200** and the device **400**. As shown, the housing **402** can include ferromagnetic material **472**, **474** and **476** as connectors at the side **407** and the housing **504** can include ferromagnetic material **572**, **574** and **576** as connectors at the side **507** while the housing **202** can include ferromagnetic material **272**, **274** and **276** as connectors at the side **209** and the housing **304** can include ferromagnetic material **372**, **374** and **376** as connectors at the side **309**. As shown, magnets may be utilized, optionally in combination with other ferromagnetic material (e.g., material that includes iron in a state that can provide for magnetic attraction). In FIG. **7**, the various ferromagnetic materials can mate to provide for secure attachment of the device **400** to the computing device **200**, for example, such that the two devices **200** and **400** can be carried as the assembly **500** with reduced risk of separation.

(59) As an example, where the housing **402** and the housing **504** include ferromagnetic materials, these materials may be configured to provide for securing the housing **402** to the housing **504** in a closed position of the device **400**. In such an example, the ferromagnetic materials can help maintain the device **400** in a closed position such that a risk of it inadvertently opening is reduced. In such an approach, ferromagnetic material may provide multiple functions (e.g., keeping the device **400** closed and connecting the device **400** to another device).

(60) As an example, connectors for the housing **202** and the housing **402** may provide a greater strength (e.g., connection force) than connectors for the housing **304** and the housing **504**. As explained, the housings **304** and **504** may be moved in unison or separately. Where separate movement is desired, a magnetic force may be provide for movement in unison but be of a magnitude where a fast movement of one of the housings **304** and **504** with respect to the other separates the housings **304** and **504**. In such an example, a user may separate one of the housings **304** and **504** using a single hand rather than using two hands where the two hands provide for separating (e.g., holding one still or moving the housings in opposite directions); noting that a single hand may be utilized where a thumb may push on one housing while a finger or fingers pull on the other housing (e.g., or vice versa). As an example, a connection force or connection forces may be tailored for ergonomic and/or use case considerations.

(61) In FIG. **7**, the side **407** is also shown as including one or more connectors **495** and **497**. Such

connectors may be spring loaded or otherwise configured to be received by one or more of the connectors **290** of the housing **202**. In such an approach, connectors can provide for operatively coupling circuitry of the devices **200** and **400** and optionally for further securing the device **400** to the computing device **200**.

(62) FIG. **8** shows examples of connectors of the computing device **200** and the device **400**. As shown, the housing **402** can include extensions and/or recesses **473**, **475** and **477** as connectors at the side **407** and the housing **504** can include extensions and/or recesses **573**, **575** and **577** as connectors at the side **507** while the housing **202** can include extensions and/or recesses **273**, **275** and **277** as connectors at the side **209** and the housing **304** can include extensions and/or recesses **373**, **375** and **377** as connectors at the side **309**. As shown, an extension **378** can be received in a recess **379**. In such an example, magnets may also be utilized, optionally in combination with other ferromagnetic material (e.g., material that includes iron in a state that can provide for magnetic attraction). In FIG. **8**, the various extensions and recesses can mate to provide for secure attachment of the device **400** to the computing device **200**, for example, such that the two devices **200** and **400** can be carried as the assembly **500** with reduced risk of separation.

(63) As an example, a number of magnets can be utilized to register devices, for example, to register electrical contacts, extensions with recesses, etc. As an example, a device or devices can include spring-biased electrical contacts, which may include pogo-pins and/or bent metal that can act as a spring. In such an example, a number of magnets may be utilized to provide for alignment of electrical contacts and/or physical components such as extensions and recesses. As an example, magnetic registration can help to assure that an extension aligns with a recess, which can help to avoid forcible contact that may be detrimental to the integrity of an extension (e.g., to help reduce risk of breaking an extension).

(64) As an example, a connector can be an electrical contact connector, an optical connector, etc. As an example, a spring-biased connector may be utilized such as, for example, a pogo-pin connector. As an example, magnets may be utilized in combination with a spring-biased connector where spring-bias is in one direction and a magnetic attraction force is in an opposite direction to help maintain robust electrical connection.

(65) As explained, a notebook computing device can be physically coupled with clamshell dock that can streamline an assembly for a travel friendly and clean desk experience. As explained, a dock can include ports, battery, phone integration features, a digital pad, etc., where the dock can be physically connected to a computing device to form a sleek yet elegant unified assembly. As an example, a connection can be cable-less or, for example, a cable or cables may be utilized for connection.

(66) As an example, a device can include one or more magnets such as, for example, one or more POLYMAGNET magnets (Correlated Magnetics Research, LLC, Huntsville, Alabama). As an example, a device may include an arrangement of magnets that aims to provide attraction between components without generating an excessively strong field that may extend well beyond the magnets. As an example, coding of small magnetics arranged in series, in parallel, in one or more arrays, etc. may be utilized for magnetically coupling components of a computing device, optionally without using a mechanical coupling.

(67) A magnet such as a POLYMAGNET magnet can be formed from rare earth magnetic material with desired patterns of north and south poles on a single piece of magnetic material. In such an approach, fields coming off of these patterns of north and south poles in turn define the feel and function of a POLYMAGNET magnet with respect to another magnet or magnets, which may also be or include one or more POLYMAGNET magnets.

(68) FIG. **9** shows an example of a method **900** that includes a detection block **910** for detecting a connection between devices; a configure block **920** for, responsive to the detection, configuring at least one of the devices; and a render block **930** for rendering information to displays of the devices. As explained, one device can be a clamshell computing device while another device can be

a smaller clamshell device that can dock to the clamshell computing device. In such an example, one or more techniques may be utilized to detect a connection. For example, consider one or more magnets optionally with one or more magnetic field sensors, one or more electrical contacts, one or more proximity sensors, etc.

(69) As an example, one device may be configured to utilize the other device for one or more purposes. For example, as mentioned, a display of one device may be extended to a display area of another device. Or, for example, consider utilizing cellular network circuitry of one device for establishing a network connection for the other device. As explained, an assembly may be suitable for use by multiple users, which may be, for example, sitting opposite one another where one user views one display of one device and another user views another display of another device where the devices are physically connected along a side of one housing or along sides of two housings.

(70) As an example, an assembly can include a clamshell computing device that includes a display, a keyboard and a side connector; and a clamshell dock that includes an auxiliary display and a side connector that mates with the side connector of the clamshell computing device. In such an example, the clamshell computing device can include a display housing for the display and a keyboard housing for the keyboard coupled via a hinge assembly that defines a folding axis. In such an example, the clamshell dock can include a display housing for the auxiliary display and a base housing coupled via a hinge assembly that defines a folding axis that aligns with the folding axis of the clamshell computing device.

(71) As an example, a clamshell dock can include a human input device. In such an example, the human input device can include a digitizer pad (e.g., operable with a stylus, etc.), a keyboard, a touchpad, etc.

(72) As an example, a clamshell dock can include a network interface. As an example, such a clamshell dock be or can include a flip phone where the network interface may be a cellular network interface.

(73) As an example, a bottom to top dimension of a display and a bottom to top dimension of an auxiliary display can be approximately equal where a side to side dimension of the display is greater than a side to side dimension of the auxiliary display. As to approximately equal, consider, for example, within plus or minus 10 percent of a dimension and/or, for example, within 10 mm.

(74) As an example, a clamshell dock can include a rectangular folded footprint, where a front to back dimension exceeds a side to side dimension.

(75) As an example, a clamshell dock can include a processor, memory and processor-executable instructions stored in the memory that are executable to establish an operating system environment. As explained, a clamshell dock may be a smartphone and/or may include a component space that can receive a smartphone. In such examples, a processor and memory may be a smartphone processor and smartphone memory. As an example, a clamshell dock can include a SIM card and associated cellular network circuitry.

(76) As an example, a clamshell dock can include a battery. In such an example, the battery may be utilized to supply power to a computing device and/or it may be chargeable via a connection to a computing device (e.g., wired and/or wireless). As an example, a clamshell dock may be utilized in an independent mode where it is not physically attached to a computing device.

(77) As an example, a clamshell dock can include at least one serial port. In such an example, the at least one serial port can be a side serial port or a back serial port or can include a side serial port and a back serial port. As an example, a serial port may be a USB type of port. As an example, at least one serial port of a clamshell dock can be or can include one or more of a left side serial port and a right side serial port.

(78) As an example, a clamshell computing device can include opposing sides where a clamshell dock is attachable to either of the opposing sides of the clamshell computing device.

(79) As an example, a clamshell dock can include a display housing for an auxiliary display and a base housing coupled by a 360 degree hinge assembly. In such an example, a clamshell computing

device can include a display housing for a display and a keyboard housing for a keyboard coupled by a 360 degree hinge assembly. In such an example, the clamshell dock and the clamshell computing device can be physically coupled side to side where they can be oriented in unison and where their respective display housings may be oriented individually.

(80) As an example, a clamshell dock can include a display housing for an auxiliary display and a base housing coupled by a central pivot hinge for at least 180 degree rotation of the display housing between a front facing position and a back facing position. In such an example, the clamshell dock and the clamshell computing device can be physically coupled side to side where they can be oriented in unison and where their respective display housings may be oriented individually. In such an example, one or both of the display housings may be twisted to face forward or to face backwards. For example, consider a closed clamshell orientation where the auxiliary display is facing outwardly such that a user may read messages, notification, etc. In such an example, circuitry of the clamshell dock and/or the clamshell computing device may be in a low power mode such that power is conserved while being able to receive messages, render notifications (e.g., calendar, etc.), etc. As an example, a clamshell dock can be mated to a clamshell computing device, where a display of the clamshell dock can be angularly adjustable independent of an angle of a display of the clamshell computing device.

(81) As an example, a clamshell dock can include a camera. In such an example, the camera may be utilized for one or more purposes, which can include, for example, video calls, videoconferencing, etc.

(82) As an example, a computer program product can include instructions to instruct a computing device, a computing system, etc., to perform one or more methods.

(83) The term “circuit” or “circuitry” is used in the summary, description, and/or claims. As is well known in the art, the term “circuitry” includes all levels of available integration (e.g., from discrete logic circuits to the highest level of circuit integration such as VLSI, and includes programmable logic components programmed to perform the functions of an embodiment as well as general-purpose or special-purpose processors programmed with instructions to perform those functions) that includes at least one physical component such as at least one piece of hardware. A processor can be circuitry. Memory can be circuitry. Circuitry may be processor-based, processor accessible, operatively coupled to a processor, etc. Circuitry may optionally rely on one or more computer-readable media that includes computer-executable instructions. As described herein, a computer-readable medium may be a storage device (e.g., a memory chip, a memory card, a storage disk, etc.) and referred to as a computer-readable storage medium, which is non-transitory and not a signal or a carrier wave.

(84) While various examples of circuits or circuitry have been discussed, FIG. 10 depicts a block diagram of an illustrative computer system **1000**. The system **1000** may be a computer system, such as one of the ThinkCentre® or ThinkPad® series of personal computers sold by Lenovo (US) Inc. of Morrisville, NC, or a workstation computer system, such as the ThinkStation®, which are sold by Lenovo (US) Inc. of Morrisville, NC; however, as apparent from the description herein, a system or other machine may include other features or only some of the features of the system **1000**.

(85) As shown in FIG. 10, the system **1000** includes a so-called chipset **1010**. A chipset refers to a group of integrated circuits, or chips, that are designed (e.g., configured) to work together. Chipsets are usually marketed as a single product (e.g., consider chipsets marketed under the brands INTEL®, AMD®, etc.).

(86) In the example of FIG. 10, the chipset **1010** has a particular architecture, which may vary to some extent depending on brand or manufacturer. The architecture of the chipset **1010** includes a core and memory control group **1020** and an I/O controller hub **1050** that exchange information (e.g., data, signals, commands, etc.) via, for example, a direct management interface or direct media interface (DMI) **1042** or a link controller **1044**. In the example of FIG. 10, the DMI **1042** is

a chip-to-chip interface (sometimes referred to as being a link between a “northbridge” and a “southbridge”).

(87) The core and memory control group **1020** include one or more processors **1022** (e.g., single core or multi-core) and a memory controller hub **1026** that exchange information via a front side bus (FSB) **1024**. As described herein, various components of the core and memory control group **1020** may be integrated onto a single processor die, for example, to make a chip that supplants the conventional “northbridge” style architecture.

(88) The memory controller hub **1026** interfaces with memory **1040**. For example, the memory controller hub **1026** may provide support for DDR SDRAM memory (e.g., DDR, DDR2, DDR3, etc.). In general, the memory **1040** is a type of random-access memory (RAM). It is often referred to as “system memory”.

(89) The memory controller hub **1026** further includes a low-voltage differential signaling interface (LVDS) **1032**. The LVDS **1032** may be a so-called LVDS Display Interface (LDI) for support of a display device **1092** (e.g., a CRT, a flat panel, a projector, etc.). A block **1038** includes some examples of technologies that may be supported via the LVDS interface **1032** (e.g., serial digital video, HDMI/DVI, display port). The memory controller hub **1026** also includes one or more PCI-express interfaces (PCI-E) **1034**, for example, for support of discrete graphics **1036**. Discrete graphics using a PCI-E interface has become an alternative approach to an accelerated graphics port (AGP). For example, the memory controller hub **1026** may include a 16-lane (x16) PCI-E port for an external PCI-E-based graphics card. A system may include AGP or PCI-E for support of graphics. As described herein, a display may be a sensor display (e.g., configured for receipt of input using a stylus, a finger, etc.). As described herein, a sensor display may rely on resistive sensing, optical sensing, or other type of sensing.

(90) The I/O hub controller **1050** includes a variety of interfaces. The example of FIG. **10** includes a SATA interface **1051**, one or more PCI-E interfaces **1052** (optionally one or more legacy PCI interfaces), one or more USB interfaces **1053**, a LAN interface **1054** (more generally a network interface), a general purpose I/O interface (GPIO) **1055**, a low-pin count (LPC) interface **1070**, a power management interface **1061**, a clock generator interface **1062**, an audio interface **1063** (e.g., for speakers **1094**), a total cost of operation (TCO) interface **1064**, a system management bus interface (e.g., a multi-master serial computer bus interface) **1065**, and a serial peripheral flash memory/controller interface (SPI Flash) **1066**, which, in the example of FIG. **10**, includes BIOS **1068** and boot code **1090**. With respect to network connections, the I/O hub controller **1050** may include integrated gigabit Ethernet controller lines multiplexed with a PCI-E interface port. Other network features may operate independent of a PCI-E interface.

(91) The interfaces of the I/O hub controller **1050** provide for communication with various devices, networks, etc. For example, the SATA interface **1051** provides for reading, writing or reading and writing information on one or more drives **1080** such as HDDs, SSDs or a combination thereof. The I/O hub controller **1050** may also include an advanced host controller interface (AHCI) to support one or more drives **1080**. The PCI-E interface **1052** allows for wireless connections **1082** to devices, networks, etc. The USB interface **1053** provides for input devices **1084** such as keyboards (KB), one or more optical sensors, mice and various other devices (e.g., microphones, cameras, phones, storage, media players, etc.). One or more other types of sensors may optionally rely on the USB interface **1053** or another interface (e.g., I.sup.2C, etc.). As to microphones, the system **1000** of FIG. **10** may include hardware (e.g., audio card) appropriately configured for receipt of sound (e.g., user voice, ambient sound, etc.).

(92) In the example of FIG. **10**, the LPC interface **1070** provides for use of one or more ASICs **1071**, a trusted platform module (TPM) **1072**, a super I/O **1073**, a firmware hub **1074**, BIOS support **1075** as well as various types of memory **1076** such as ROM **1077**, Flash **1078**, and non-volatile RAM (NVRAM) **1079**. With respect to the TPM **1072**, this module may be in the form of a chip that can be used to authenticate software and hardware devices. For example, a TPM may be

capable of performing platform authentication and may be used to verify that a system seeking access is the expected system.

(93) The system **1000**, upon power on, may be configured to execute boot code **1090** for the BIOS **1068**, as stored within the SPI Flash **1066**, and thereafter processes data under the control of one or more operating systems and application software (e.g., stored in system memory **1040**). An operating system may be stored in any of a variety of locations and accessed, for example, according to instructions of the BIOS **1068**. Again, as described herein, a satellite, a base, a server or other machine may include fewer or more features than shown in the system **1000** of FIG. **10**. Further, the system **1000** of FIG. **10** is shown as optionally include cell phone circuitry **1095**, which may include GSM, CDMA, etc., types of circuitry configured for coordinated operation with one or more of the other features of the system **1000**. Also shown in FIG. **10** is battery circuitry **1097**, which may provide one or more battery, power, etc., associated features (e.g., optionally to instruct one or more other components of the system **1000**). As an example, a SMBus may be operable via a LPC (see, e.g., the LPC interface **1070**), via an I.sup.2C interface (see, e.g., the SM/I.sup.2C interface **1065**), etc.

(94) Although examples of methods, devices, systems, etc., have been described in language specific to structural features and/or methodological acts, it is to be understood that the subject matter defined in the appended claims is not necessarily limited to the specific features or acts described. Rather, the specific features and acts are disclosed as examples of forms of implementing the claimed methods, devices, systems, etc.

Claims

1. An assembly comprising: a clamshell computing device that comprises a display, a keyboard and a side connector, wherein the clamshell computing device comprises a display housing for the display and a keyboard housing for the keyboard coupled via a hinge assembly that defines a folding axis; and a clamshell dock that physically couples, side to side, to the clamshell computing device and that comprises an auxiliary display and a side connector that mates with the side connector of the clamshell computing device, wherein the clamshell dock comprises a display housing for the auxiliary display and a base housing coupled via a hinge assembly that defines a folding axis that aligns with the folding axis of the clamshell computing device, and wherein the base housing of the clamshell dock is physically coupled, side to side, to the clamshell computing device, the auxiliary display is angularly adjustable in unison with the display via a magnetic connection force and, upon overcoming the magnetic connection force, is angularly adjustable independent of an angle of the display.
2. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the clamshell dock comprises a human input device.
3. The assembly of claim 2, wherein the human input device comprises a digitizer pad.
4. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the clamshell dock comprises a network interface.
5. The assembly of claim 4, wherein the clamshell dock comprises a flip phone.
6. The assembly of claim 1, wherein a bottom to top dimension of the display and a bottom to top dimension of the auxiliary display are within 10 mm of each other and wherein a side to side dimension of the display is greater than a side to side dimension of the auxiliary display.
7. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the clamshell dock comprises a rectangular folded footprint, wherein a front to back dimension exceeds a side to side dimension.
8. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the clamshell dock comprises a processor, memory and processor-executable instructions stored in the memory that are executable to establish an operating system environment.
9. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the clamshell dock comprises a battery.
10. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the clamshell dock comprises at least one serial port.
11. The assembly of claim 10, wherein the at least one serial port comprises a side serial port and a

back serial port.

12. The assembly of claim 10, wherein the at least one serial port comprises a left side serial port and a right side serial port.

13. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the clamshell computing device comprises opposing sides and wherein the clamshell dock is attachable to either of the opposing sides of the clamshell computing device.

14. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the hinge assembly of the clamshell dock comprises a 360 degree hinge assembly.

15. The assembly of claim 14, wherein the hinge assembly of the clamshell computing device comprises a 360 degree hinge assembly.

16. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the display housing and the base housing of the clamshell dock are coupled by a central pivot hinge for at least 180 degree rotation of the display housing between a front facing position and a back facing position.

17. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the clamshell dock comprises a camera.

18. An assembly comprising: a clamshell computing device that comprises a display, a keyboard and a side connector; and a clamshell dock that comprises an auxiliary display and a side connector that mates with the side connector of the clamshell computing device, wherein the clamshell computing device comprises opposing sides and wherein the clamshell dock is attachable to either of the opposing sides of the clamshell computing device, and, wherein the clamshell dock comprises opposing sides that comprise magnets, wherein the clamshell dock is attachable to either of the opposing sides of the clamshell computing device via a magnetic connection force, and wherein the auxiliary display is angularly adjustable in unison with the display via the magnetic connection force and, upon overcoming the magnetic connection force, is angularly adjustable independent of an angle of the display.
