**Multitouch Interfaces**

I don’t have an iphone and I’ve never bothered to play with one. But I do have a 2 year old mp3 player that has a touch screen. The multitouch interfaces are catching on and growing in popularity. It seems like the top phone companies are pushing for the latest-greatest-newest touch screen cell phones. Now that there are touchpads and touch screens that can detect more than one finger and distinguish between certain motions, there exists a great potential for programs utilizing such functions. The simple use-ability multitouch has to offer will help it grow and become more commonplace in future computers. Now it’s already at the point where you “…use your fingers to manipulate virtual objects on a screen as if they were real.” Once the technology is perfected and uses one finger to all ten in an instant, just think of the programs that can be designed with such actions in mind.

It could be a wave of change in digital media; how 3D and 2D digital graphics are manipulated and created, how video and sound is edited, even how web pages are designed. I believe the multitouch technology will change future computers; mainly in that it will eliminate the primary input devices we use today (mouse and keyboard). I can see a large multitouch surface in place of the keyboard, with LED characters lighting where keys would be, and the ability to turn off the LEDs when you’re drawing and/or designing something using the multitouch pad. Even cooler would be a computer with the combination of multitouch pad and screen, and the ability to use them simultaneously. With this in mind, it also seems likely future operating systems would be designed to improve and emphasize the multitouch interface.