

CeBIT 2007: Wacom Presents the Signature LCD Tablet Prototype

Authentic handwritten signatures need no paper



Wacom's Signature LCD Tablet is a prototype of an intuitive and easy to use interface to capture high quality biometrical profiles of handwritten digital signatures. Users sign directly on the display with a cordless, battery-free pen - exactly as they would on paper.

Sydney, Australia, 27 April, 2007 – With the Wacom Signature LCD Tablet, Wacom Co. Ltd. presents an intuitive and easy to use interface to capture high quality biometrical profiles of handwritten digital signatures. The pen tablet prototype digitizes handwritten signatures directly when writing on a LCD display. The new device is specifically optimised to fulfil the needs of trustworthy signature verification. Wacom presented the prototype for the first time at CeBIT Germany and will be displaying the prototype at CeBIT Australia (1 – 3 May, 2007) at booth W1, in the Mobile Computing section.

The Wacom Signature LCD Tablet has been developed primarily for business processes where today hardcopies are still printed and personally signed. The new tablet enables the capture of

authentic signatures for internal documents as well as for customer transactions, for example at cashier's desks, points of sale, checkouts or self-service terminals. By eliminating the necessity of hardcopies, substantial cost savings can be gained. At the same time, processes become faster and more secure.

Paperlike surface

The heart of this robust tablet is a compact reflective 5" TFT LCD display. Users sign directly on the display with a cordless, battery-free pen - exactly as they would on paper. The display comes with a VGA resolution (640x480 pixels, Width x Height). This enables corporate customers to post additional content (contract, payment amounts etc.) on the displays while their end customer signs. The 5" screen is wide (10 cm wide) enough for even long signatures. Signing on Wacom signature LCD tablet is convenient like on paper. This is enabled by a real-time visualisation of the signature screen and a paper like surface of the screen. The reflective display has a high contrast like normal paper.

High resolution biometric profiles

Wacom's patented pen technology provides the basis for the digitizer, which is already established as a standard among Tablet PCs. "Digital ink" ensures a perfect image of the signature on the screen. While writing on the display the digitizer also captures a biometric signature profile based on the individual writing speed and the pressure applied on the pen. The integrated digitizer is capable of documenting up to 512 different levels of pressure. XY coordinates are captured with 2540 lpi reading resolution. Writing rhythm and speed also help retain the individual character of the signature. The signatures captured are unique to the person signing, making forgery nearly impossible.

Underlying ingredient: trustworthy signature verification

Due to the tablet features described above, the tablet delivers highest quality biometric signature data for secure dynamic signature verification applications. When processed with software from Wacom's partners Softpro (also exhibiting at CeBit Australia, booth V35) or WonderNet, the captured signature data can be used for reliable signature authentication. The data transmission rate of 200 pps makes sure that the biometric profile is accurate enough for later verification.

Future Plans

Today, Wacom Signature LCD Tablet is a prototype. Wacom is planning to add additional security features like timestamp and data encryption so that companies using this signature tablet at a public POS can implement highest security standards and prevent fraud.



Wacom pen tablets and Interactive Pen Displays

Wacom offers an extensive range of pen-based products, which can also be used for the authentication of handwritten digital signatures. Pen tablets include the Intuos3 pen tablet system and the Graphire4 tablets which come in a variety of sizes. Wacom also manufactures Interactive Pen Displays in 15, 17 and 21-inch sizes allowing users to display and directly edit complete documents or forms on the screen with a pen. Ideally suited for use in terminals such as those found in financial institutions, medical institutions, call centres and other situations, the Interactive Pen Displays improve security and business efficiency.

CeBIT Australia 2007

CeBIT Australia is Australasia's leading Information & Communications Technology (ICT) event for the business marketplace and covers the entire spectrum of technology and the key elements that make up the ICT products and services marketplace. Wacom Australia has been participating at CeBIT for a number of years now, and once again the 2007 show promises to provide a fantastic environment for Wacom to showcase our latest releases and technology to a wide and varied audience.

About Wacom

Founded in 1983, Wacom® is the world's leading manufacturer of pen tablets and interactive pen displays with customers worldwide using its cordless, battery-free, pressure-sensitive pen technology for digital content creation. Wacom's patented electromagnetic resonance technology, called Penabled®, is also offered as an OEM solution to manufacturers of PC and Macintosh computers. Many of today's Tablet PCs count on the advanced features and reliability of Penabled technology for pen input. In the future, Penabled technology will play a leading role in the development of such mobile devices as smart phones and PDAs.

Wacom is a global company with its parent company, Wacom Company Ltd, based in Japan and subsidiaries in North America (Wacom Technology Corporation), Germany (Wacom Europe GmbH), United Kingdom (Wacom Components Europe Ltd.), China (Wacom China Corporation), Korea (Wacom Digital Solutions), Australia (Wacom Australia Pty, Ltd), Singapore (Wacom Singapore Pte, Ltd) and other local offices across Asia Pacific.

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