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Information technology — Gesture-based interfaces across devices and methods —

Part 62: Multi-point gestures for screen readers

Technologies de l'information — Interface fondée sur les gestes sur divers appareils et utilisant différentes méthodes —

Partie 62: Gestes multipoints pour les lecteurs d'écran

Reference number
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ISO copyright office
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11
Email: copyright@iso.org
Website: www.iso.org

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Foreword

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Introduction

Screen readers are regarded as a default method of accessing ICT devices for people with visual impairments who are unable to see and understand the screens of these devices. The content on the screens, such as letters, words, numbers, punctuation, elements and so on, are spoken out loud by screen readers. Speakers or headphones connected to the ICT device become the main output components.

Multi-point gestures are used for screen readers of several commercially available ICT devices including smart phones, personal computers and so on. Potential variety and inconsistency among the multi-point gestures can cause serious accessibility problems for people with visually impairments. There is a strong need for international standards to define the multi-point gestures so that users with visual impairments do not get confused while they use ICT devices.

When gesture controls are used, the functions of screen readers include reading the item under the user's finger, pausing or resuming speech output, and announcing the location of the user's fingers on the screen, such as page numbers or rows. This document presents descriptions of multi-point gestures and the corresponding functions of the screen readers.

The document's multi-point gestures can harmonize with single-point gestures for the screen readers. It is expected that users can use the screen readers easily and without confusion by executing the multi-point gestures. The gestures are performed by the users regardless of a specific recognition technique, a certain interaction method or a device.

In Annex A, specific instances of multi-point gestures used in various screen readers are provided for comparison.

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Information technology — Gesture-based interfaces across devices and methods —

Part 62:
Multi-point gestures for screen readers

1 Scope

This document defines multi-point gestures for screen readers.

It specifies movements for clear and classified multi-point gestures recognized by the screen readers.

It describes multi-point gestures performed by multiple point of interest (POI) for the screen readers.

NOTE Multiple POI can be manipulated by using multiple objects such as fingertips, etc.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC 30113-12:2019, *Information technology — User interfaces — Gesture-based interfaces across devices and methods — Part 12: Multi-point gestures for common system actions*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

3.1
screen reader
function that reads characters and other information on a screen aloud to a user in order to allow access to the information on the screen without viewing the screen

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 24786:2009[1)], 4.11]

3.2
tap
touch a real (or virtual) surface briefly, typically less than one second, with point(s) of interest (POI) and then lift-off in approximately the same position

Note 1 to entry: Example points of interest are a fingertip, pen point, hand, etc.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 14754:1999, 4.13, modified — changed from digitizer to "real (or virtual) surface" and from pen to "point(s) of interest" and Note 1 to entry added.]

1) Withdrawn.

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3.3
double-tap
touch twice rapidly a surface with point(s) of interest (POI)

Note 1 to entry: The split-tap gesture can be used as a substitute for the double-tap gesture. In this gesture, a user touches and holds an element on the screen with one finger, then taps anywhere on the screen with a second finger. The action is interpreted as a double-tap on the element under the first finger. This gesture is commonly used in screen reader environments to assist users with visual impairments.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 30113-12:2019, 3.15]

3.4
triple-tap
touch three times rapidly a surface with point(s) of interest

3.5
touch and hold
tap and hold
touch surface for extended period of time

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 30113-12:2019, 3.16]

3.6
pinch
touch surface with two or more point(s) of interest (POI) to bring the POIs closer together

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 30113-12:2019, 3.19]

3.7
context menu
contextual menu
menu in graphical user interface that appears upon user interaction offering a limited set of choices that are available in the current state

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 30113-12:2019, 3.1]

3.8
movement metaphor
metaphor for expressing relationship between gesture direction and moving object when moving content in a scrollable window to desired position

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 30113-12:2019, 3.5]

3.9
content-mover metaphor
movement metaphor (3.8) for describing the movement of content by a user in a viewing window along a gesture direction

EXAMPLE If a “2-point down” gesture is assigned for page scroll with the metaphor of “movement of content”, users see the upper part of the page by using the gesture. The function of the gesture is similar to “page up”.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 30113-12:2019, 3.6]

3.10
window-mover metaphor
movement metaphor (3.8) for describing the movement of content by a user in a viewing window in the opposite direction of a gesture

EXAMPLE If a “2-point down” gesture is assigned for page scroll with the metaphor of “movement of viewing window”, users see the lower part of the page by using the gesture. The function of the gesture is similar to “page down”.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 30113-12:2019, 3.7]

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4 Description of multi-point gestures for screen readers

To describe multi-point gestures for screen readers, this document conforms to the form in ISO/IEC 30113-1:2015, A.3, ISO/IEC 30113-11:2017, 5.4, and ISO/IEC 30113-12:2019, Clause 4.

5 General requirements and recommendations

An ICT system utilizing multi-point gestures for screen readers shall conform to ISO/IEC 30113-12:2019, Clause 5 and Clause 6.

ISO/IEC 30113-12:2019, Clause 5 deals with general principles in embedding multi-point gestures for system common actions such as alternatives for multi-point gestures, simple movements, priority in assigning multi-point gestures, choice of movement metaphor, description of multi-point gestures and so on.

ISO/IEC 30113-12:2019, Clause 6 deals with alternative methods for utilizing multi-point gestures.

For screen readers, the window-mover metaphor should be used rather than the content-mover metaphor as a movement metaphor.

NOTE It is important for users who cannot use visual information that gesture direction directly corresponds to the direction of information flow. The window-mover metaphor provides this intuitive mapping (e.g. a leftward gesture moves the view to the left), whereas the content-mover metaphor reverses this relationship and can cause confusion.

6 Descriptions of multi-point gestures

6.1 “2-point left” gesture

6.1.1 General

The “2-point left” gesture in screen readers is as specified in ISO/IEC 30113-12:2019, 7.1.1.

6.1.2 Specific instance

The “2-point left” gesture in screen readers can be used to navigate to the previous page in an application such as document readers.

Alternatively, it can also be used to cut selected characters in text selection mode or to scroll the page to the left.

6.2 “2-point right” gesture

6.2.1 General

The “2-point right” gesture in screen readers is as specified in ISO/IEC 30113-12:2019, 7.2.1.

6.2.2 Specific instances

The “2-point right” gesture in screen readers can be used to navigate to the next page in an application such as document readers.

Alternatively, it can also be used to paste the copied characters in text selection mode or to scroll the page to the right.

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