REMOTE CONTROL WITH USER PROFILE CAPABILITY

Abstract: A control unit (101), such as a remote control device, includes a profile selector (104). The profile selector (104), which may be a single profile selector button integrated into the side or top of a remote control, allows quick and simple selection of an operating mode or user profile. The control unit (101) includes an indicator (107) that provides indicia of the currently selected mode or profile. Examples of indicators include multicolored lights and display devices. Where multicolored lights are used as the indicator (107), actuation of the profile selector (104) causes the indicator (107) to change from a first color to a second color.
1. A control unit for a device having at least one user profile associated therewith, the control unit comprising:
   a. a single profile selector button;
   b. a transmitter responsive to the single profile selection button configured to transmit a user change signal upon actuation of the single profile selection button; and
   c. an indicator configured to change a profile indication indicia upon actuation of the single profile selection button whereby the single profile selector button is used to change the profile and select the profile.

2. The control unit of claim 1, wherein the control unit comprises a wireless remote control unit.

3. The control unit of claim 2, wherein the indicator comprises a light source capable of emitting a light in one of a plurality of colors.

4. The control unit of claim 3, wherein the light changes color upon actuation of the single profile selection button.

5. The control unit of claim 3, wherein the indicator further comprises a light pipe disposed along the control unit through which the light passes.

6. The control unit of claim 3, wherein the indicator further comprises one or more translucent keys disposed along the control unit through which the light passes.

7. The control unit of claim 2, wherein the indicator comprises a display configured to display one of a plurality of profile indicator messages.

8. The control unit of claim 1, wherein the profile selector comprises a biometric sensor.
9. The control unit of claim 1, wherein the profile selector comprises a voice activated switch.

10. A method of selecting a user profile, comprising the steps of:
   a. providing a remote control unit comprising a single profile selector button for selecting one of a plurality of profiles, a transmitter configured to at least transmit a profile change signal, and an indicator having a plurality of indicia states;
   b. detecting actuation of the single profile selector button;
   c. transmitting a profile change signal; and
   d. changing an indicia state of the indicator from a first indicia state to a second indicia state.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of detecting actuation of the selector comprises a step selected from the group consisting of detecting actuation of a profile selection button, receiving biometric information, and detecting voice.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of changing the indicia state comprises the step of changing a light source from a first color to a second color.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of changing the indicia state comprises the step of changing characters presented upon a display.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of detecting actuation of the selector comprises detecting actuation of the single profile selection button, wherein the step of detecting actuation of the single profile selection button comprises detecting actuation of the one button for at least a predetermined duration, further comprising the step of transmitting a profile creation signal.
15. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of detecting actuation of the selector comprises detecting actuation of the single profile selection button, wherein the step of detecting actuation of the single profile selection button comprises detecting at least a predetermined number of button actuations, further wherein the step of changing the indicia state of the indicator comprises changing the indicia state from a present indicia state to a default indicia state.

16. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of receiving a profile change acknowledgement, wherein the step of changing the indicia state of the indicator occurs after the step of receiving the profile change acknowledgement.

17. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of entering a power saving mode, and upon entry of the power saving mode, exiting the power saving mode upon the step of detecting the actuation of the one button.

18. A system having a plurality of selectable user profiles, the system comprising:
   a. an electronic device having a plurality of modes of operation, wherein at least some of the plurality of modes of operation correspond to a plurality of user profiles; and
   b. a control unit configured to communicate with the electronic device, the control unit comprising a single user profile selection button, a transmitter responsive to the single user profile selection button capable of changing and selecting at least one mode from the plurality of modes of operation, and a visual indicator configured to change appearance upon selection of at least one mode from the plurality of modes of operation.
19. The system of claim 18, wherein the electronic device comprises a mode selection module configured to indicate a mode selection status to a user.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein the electronic device comprises a receiver for television signals, further comprising a video display coupled to the electronic device, wherein the mode selection status comprises visual indicia presented on the video display.

11. The system of claim 20, wherein the visual indicia comprises at least a mode name and one or more mode characteristic information indicia.

22. The system of claim 18, wherein the control unit further comprises a receiver, further wherein the electronic device comprises a transceiver configured to communicate wirelessly with the receiver, wherein upon selection of a mode, the transceiver is configured to transmit a mode change signal to the receiver, thereby causing the visual indicator to change appearance.

23. The system of claim 18, wherein the electronic device comprises a mode creation module, wherein upon receipt of a mode creation signal from the transmitter, the mode creation module is actuated.

24. The system of claim 18, wherein the electronic device comprises a mode request module and a timer configured to actuation upon a mode selection, wherein upon expiration of the timer, the mode request module is configured to deliver a mode selection request.

25. The system of claim 18, wherein the electronic device further comprises a security module configured to prompt for a security input upon selection of the mode from the plurality of modes.