The unified system for bimanual interactions provides a lightweight and integrated interface that allows the user to efficiently interact with and manipulate content in the user interface. The system is configured to detect a multi-finger interaction on the touchscreen and to differentiate whether the user intends to pan, zoom or frame a portion of the user interface. Generally, the framing interaction is identified by detection of the user’s thumb and forefinger on the touchscreen, which cooperate to define a focus area between vectors extending outwards from the user’s thumb and forefinger. Upon a determination that the user intends to interact with or manipulate content within the focus area, the unified system for bimanual interactions provides an indication of the objects that are located within the focus area and contextual menus for interacting with the objects.