

[0031] FIG. 16 is a block diagram illustrating elements of a mobile commerce system for handling payment transactions according to one embodiment of the present invention.

[0032] FIG. 17 is a flowchart illustrating a process for handling payment transactions according to one embodiment of the present invention.

[0033] FIG. 18 is a block diagram illustrating elements of a mobile commerce system for handling payments or transfers between mobile devices according to one embodiment of the present invention.

[0034] FIG. 19 is a flowchart illustrating a process for handling payments or transfers between mobile devices according to one embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0035] In the following description, for the purposes of explanation, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the present invention. It will be apparent, however, to one skilled in the art that the present invention may be practiced without some of these specific details. In other instances, well-known structures and devices are shown in block diagram form.

[0036] Embodiments of the invention provide methods and systems for processing various financial transactions initiated by or otherwise involving use of a contactless or mobile device. In some such embodiments, the processes are executed by an entity on behalf of one or more client organizations. The description below sometimes provides illustrations that use an example where a client organization is a financial institution, but there is no such requirement for the invention and the methods are intended also to be applicable to other types of organizations that make use of large collections of data. For example, embodiments of the invention may also be used for managing health-care documents or information.

[0037] The description herein sometimes refers to “clients” and to “customers.” Reference to “clients” is intended to refer to persons, i.e. individuals, entities, or their agents, on whose behalf a set of information is managed. Reference to “customers” or “consumer” is intended to refer to persons, i.e. individuals, entities, or their agents, who are the subject of or related to that information. Thus, merely for purposes of illustration, in the case where the information comprises credit-card account records for a credit card issued to Mr. Jones by Bank A, Bank A corresponds to a client and Mr. Jones corresponds to a customer or consumer.

[0038] In describing embodiments of the invention, reference is sometimes made to other terms having specific intended meanings. For example, as used herein, the term “acquirer” is used to refer to a business entity that has a business relationship with a merchant, one or more financial institutions, and other entities and handles credit card and/or other financial transactions for and/or involving those entities. In such a context, an “acquirer system” is a system operated by an acquirer that processes and authorizes credit card and/or other transactions. Acquirer systems can include those operated by credit card processing entities, such as First Data Corporation, Greenwood Village, Colo. However, embodiments of the present invention are not limited to such financial services or payment processing. Thus, an acquirer system can be considered to be any system capable of receiving a communication from another system or entity and processing information on behalf of that entity.

[0039] The term “carrier” refers to a provider of a network and/or service for use by a mobile device. For example, a carrier can include, but is not limited to, a provider of a cellular or other wireless communications service for use by a mobile device. The terms “carrier” and “service provider” are used interchangeably herein and are intended to be synonymous. Similarly, the terms carrier network and service provider network are used interchangeably herein and are intended to be synonymous.

[0040] An “electronic receipt” refers to a receipt for payment of goods or services that can be created for and relate to one or more transactions. An electronic receipt can include information related to the transaction(s) and may be electronically transferred to the user’s mobile device. According to one embodiment, electronic receipts can be stored in a mobile wallet of the mobile device.

[0041] The term “mobile device” is used herein to refer to any small, likely handheld, electronic device that can be used to initiate or otherwise participate in a financial transaction. For example, a mobile device can include, but is not limited to, a cellular telephone, a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA), a smart card or other contactless device, etc. Exemplary devices that may be adapted for use as mobile devices in various embodiments of the present invention are described in co-pending and commonly assigned U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/672,417 entitled “Contactless Electronic Wallet Payment Device” filed on Feb. 7, 2007; U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/551,063 entitled “Presentation Instrument with Non-Financial Functionality” filed on Oct. 19, 2006; and U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/833,022 entitled “Mobile Payment Device with Magnetic Stripe” filed on Jul. 24, 2006, each of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety for all purposes. As used herein, the terms mobile device and contactless device are intended to be synonymous.

[0042] A “mobile wallet” or “mobile wallet application” refers to a client software application that can reside on and/or be executed by a mobile device. According to one embodiment, the mobile wallet application can be adapted to store payment vehicle information. In some cases, the mobile wallet can allow storage of multiple payment vehicles and can provide a user interface that can be used to select a specific payment vehicle. Additionally, the mobile wallet can be adapted to provide security to deter fraudulent and unauthorized use of the payment vehicles. The terms mobile wallet and mobile wallet application are used interchangeably herein and are intended to be synonymous.

[0043] A “mobile wallet server” is a server and/or server-side process communicating with and supporting functions of a mobile wallet application. For example, functions that can be performed by the mobile wallet server can include but are not limited to downloading and installing the mobile wallet application, updating balance information for the accounts stored therein, performing or facilitating various transfers between those accounts, viewing transaction histories for the accounts, providing marketing messages, e.g., coupons and advertisements, redeeming coupons, etc.

[0044] “Near Field Communication” (NFC) refers to short range (20 cm or less) wireless technology used to facilitate communication between electronic devices in close proximity. For example, embodiments of the present invention provide for the use of NFC and/or other relatively short range communications between a mobile device and a POS device