

tion, no system has been made that addresses all of these features, goals, and desires of a mobile communication based financial transaction system in a satisfactory manner.

[0026] Therefore, there is a need for a comprehensive solution that allows consumers using mobile devices to consolidate their bills and other payment obligations, pay such bills and other obligations at anytime and anywhere, using any selectable available funds, to merchants for goods or services, or to anyone or any other designated entity, with knowledge of the amounts to be paid and the funds available balances. And of course, all of this must be convenient, secure, and rapid.

[0027] As will be described and explained in detail below, the present inventors have constructed various systems and methods for completing financial transactions in a mobile environment that meet these and other requirements for an efficient, effective, robust, secure and convenient solution.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0028] Briefly described, the present invention relates to methods and systems for making a payment by way of a paper check in a mobile environment utilizing a mobile device such as a mobile telephone or wireless connected personal digital assistant (PDA) that communicates with a mobile financial transaction system that stores user information and transaction information.

[0029] Aspects of the invention are embodied in mobile devices, in software for mobile devices (e.g. in the form of computer-implemented methods), in a mobile financial transaction system (MFTS), in software for mobile financial transaction systems (e.g. in the form of computer-implemented methods), in systems that combine aspects of mobile devices and mobile financial transaction systems, and in software for such systems (e.g. in the form of software for mobile devices and related systems that effect computer-implemented methods).

[0030] In one aspect, the present invention relates to methods and systems for making a financial payment to a payee via a paper check utilizing a mobile device connected for communications via a wireless network. From the mobile device perspective, such aspects of the invention involve: (i) receiving user input at the mobile device of information identifying a payee for a payment to be made by a paper check issued by a payment instruction recipient, (ii) at the user mobile device in response to the user input, generating a mobile payment instruction comprising information corresponding to the identified payee and indicating a paper check payment method, and (iii) wirelessly communicating the mobile payment instruction from the user mobile device to a mobile financial transaction system (MFTS). From the MFTS perspective, such aspects further involve: (iv) at the MFTS and in response to receipt of the mobile payment instruction, determining information corresponding to a payment instruction recipient, (v) at the MFTS, generating an MFTS payment instruction to the payment instruction recipient, the MFTS payment instruction including information identifying an account at a financial service provider, an amount, information corresponding to the identified payee, and information indicating payment by the paper check payment method, and (vi) communicating the MFTS payment instruction from the MFTS to the payment instruction recipient. Further aspects involve, at the payment instruction recipient, in response to receipt of the

MFTS payment instruction, arranging for payment to the identified payee by printing and mailing of a paper check to the payee.

[0031] Another aspect of the invention involves displaying information corresponding to at least one selectable payment source for the payment at the user mobile device, receiving user input corresponding selection of a payment source for making a payment, and including information indicating the selected payment source in the mobile payment instruction, at the user mobile device. A related aspect involves determining information corresponding to a selected account at a selected financial service provider for making the payment by retrieving such information from information prestored in the MFTS database.

[0032] In one embodiment, the mobile financial transaction system (MFTS) includes a mobile financial transaction system (MFTS) database for storing user information and payment source information associated with at least one account associated with at least one financial service provider. The MFTS database further stores transaction information corresponding to a user's financial transactions, the transaction information including the payment to make information in addition to other information utilized to track status of the payment to make. The transaction information includes one or more of the following items of information: a user ID number, a transaction identifier, an amount, a financial service provider identifier, an account identifier, a payee identifier, a pending/complete flag, and other data items.

[0033] In one embodiment, the payee information is provided by the user by input at the mobile device, or via an Internet-accessible web site accessible by the user for input of payee information, and is thereafter communicated to the mobile device for display to the user.

[0034] Another aspect of the invention involves providing a Mobile Wallet application on the user mobile device. A Mobile Wallet application is a mobile device application that provides functionality for viewing and selecting bills to be paid or other payments to make, viewing and selecting payment sources for making such payments, viewing balances, etc. In one aspect, the Mobile Wallet application provides a display on the mobile device of selectable commands including a Pay Anyone command, a Payment Source selection command, and a Payment Method selection command. User activation of the Payment Source selection command causes the MFTS to retrieve current account information from a selected financial service provider and communicate current account information to the mobile device upon receipt of such information from the selected financial service provider.

[0035] Another aspect of the invention involves receiving user input corresponding to selection of a payment source for making a payment in response to display of a Payment Source selection command. Yet another aspect involves receiving user input of a payment source for making the payment comprising selection of a financial service provider and selection of a particular account associated with the selected financial service provider for making the payment.

[0036] According to another aspect of the invention, the identified payee corresponds to a billing entity that communicated bill information to the MFTS. According to yet another aspect, a payment confirmation message is communicated from the selected financial service provider to the MFTS in response to completion of a predetermined stage in