

[0196] Here, CVT **1452** provides cashless and cashout gaming services to the gaming machines in gaming establishment **1401**. Broadly speaking, CVT **1452** authorizes and validates cashless gaming machine instruments (also referred to herein as “tickets” or “vouchers”), including but not limited to tickets for causing a gaming machine to display a game result and cash-out tickets. Moreover, CVT **1452** authorizes the exchange of a cashout ticket for cash. These processes will be described in detail below. In one example, when a player attempts to redeem a cash-out ticket for cash at cashout kiosk **1444**, cash out kiosk **1444** reads validation data from the cashout ticket and transmits the validation data to CVT **1452** for validation. The tickets may be printed by gaming machines, by cashout kiosk **1444**, by a stand-alone printer, by CVT **1452**, etc. Some gaming establishments will not have a cashout kiosk **1444**. Instead, a cashout ticket could be redeemed for cash by a cashier (e.g. of a convenience store), by a gaming machine or by a specially configured CVT.

[0197] FIG. **15** illustrates an example of a network device that may be configured for implementing some methods of the present invention. Network device **1560** includes a master central processing unit (CPU) **1562**, interfaces **1568**, and a bus **1567** (e.g., a PCI bus). Generally, interfaces **1568** include ports **1569** appropriate for communication with the appropriate media. In some embodiments, one or more of interfaces **1568** includes at least one independent processor and, in some instances, volatile RAM. The independent processors may be, for example, ASICs or any other appropriate processors. According to some such embodiments, these independent processors perform at least some of the functions of the logic described herein. In some embodiments, one or more of interfaces **1568** control such communications-intensive tasks as encryption, decryption, compression, decompression, packetization, media control and management. By providing separate processors for the communications-intensive tasks, interfaces **1568** allow the master microprocessor **1562** efficiently to perform other functions such as routing computations, network diagnostics, security functions, etc.

[0198] The interfaces **1568** are typically provided as interface cards (sometimes referred to as “linecards”). Generally, interfaces **1568** control the sending and receiving of data packets over the network and sometimes support other peripherals used with the network device **1560**. Among the interfaces that may be provided are FC interfaces, Ethernet interfaces, frame relay interfaces, cable interfaces, DSL interfaces, token ring interfaces, and the like. In addition, various very high-speed interfaces may be provided, such as fast Ethernet interfaces, Gigabit Ethernet interfaces, ATM interfaces, HSSI interfaces, POS interfaces, FDDI interfaces, ASI interfaces, DHEI interfaces and the like.

[0199] When acting under the control of appropriate software or firmware, in some implementations of the invention CPU **1562** may be responsible for implementing specific functions associated with the functions of a desired network device. According to some embodiments, CPU **1562** accomplishes all these functions under the control of software including an operating system and any appropriate applications software.

[0200] CPU **1562** may include one or more processors **1563** such as a processor from the Motorola family of

microprocessors or the MIPS family of microprocessors. In an alternative embodiment, processor **1563** is specially designed hardware for controlling the operations of network device **1560**. In a specific embodiment, a memory **1561** (such as non-volatile RAM and/or ROM) also forms part of CPU **1562**. However, there are many different ways in which memory could be coupled to the system. Memory block **1561** may be used for a variety of purposes such as, for example, caching and/or storing data, programming instructions, etc.

[0201] Regardless of the network device’s configuration, it may employ one or more memories or memory modules (such as, for example, memory block **1565**) configured to store data, program instructions for the general-purpose network operations and/or other information relating to the functionality of the techniques described herein. The program instructions may control the operation of an operating system and/or one or more applications, for example.

[0202] Because such information and program instructions may be employed to implement the systems/methods described herein, the present invention relates to machine-readable media that include program instructions, state information, etc. for performing various operations described herein. Examples of machine-readable media include, but are not limited to, magnetic media such as hard disks, floppy disks, and magnetic tape; optical media such as CD-ROM disks; magneto-optical media; and hardware devices that are specially configured to store and perform program instructions, such as read-only memory devices (ROM) and random access memory (RAM). The invention may also be embodied in a carrier wave traveling over an appropriate medium such as airwaves, optical lines, electric lines, etc. Examples of program instructions include both machine code, such as produced by a compiler, and files containing higher-level code that may be executed by the computer using an interpreter.

[0203] Although the system shown in FIG. **15** illustrates one specific network device of the present invention, it is by no means the only network device architecture on which the present invention can be implemented. For example, an architecture having a single processor that handles communications as well as routing computations, etc. is often used. Further, other types of interfaces and media could also be used with the network device. The communication path between interfaces may be bus based (as shown in FIG. **15**) or switch fabric based (such as a cross-bar).

[0204] The above-described devices and materials will be familiar to those of skill in the computer hardware and software arts. Although many of the components and processes are described above in the singular for convenience, it will be appreciated by one of skill in the art that multiple components and repeated processes can also be used to practice the techniques of the present invention.

[0205] Although illustrative embodiments and applications of this invention are shown and described herein, many variations and modifications are possible which remain within the concept, scope, and spirit of the invention, and these variations would become clear to those of ordinary skill in the art after perusal of this application. Accordingly, the present embodiments are to be considered as illustrative and not restrictive, and the invention is not to be limited to the details given herein, but may be modified within the scope and equivalents of the appended claims.