

on a mobile phone, on server **15**, or both, may include a driver's license number, a social security number, a passport number, visa information, security clearance information, credentials, a birth certificate, a green card, a work permit, a military ID, access cards, membership cards, elevator cards, copy cards, etc. In some embodiments, if cards or the phone are lost, destroyed, or stolen, a user may replace some or all access cards with a mobile phone. In various embodiments, a user may use a mobile phone to access a parking garage, an office building, secure labs, or other areas, for example. Further, in some embodiments, a user may use SMIM platform **500**, module **505** (e.g., Secure Mobile Services), or first software module **61** to locate employees, for example, immediately or within a certain time period. User **22** may be located, for example, by determining the location of the cell that phone **42** is within, by using GPS information from phone **42**, or a combination thereof.

[0211] In a number of embodiments, SMIM platform **500** or system **100** may be used in a retail sales environment. For example, in some embodiments, user **22** may use mobile phone **42** to retrieve product information about a product using a local signal such as Near Field Communication or Bluetooth, for example. In some embodiments, a user may use a phone to look up a location of a product, receive a coupon as the user enters a store, receive daily specials, store product information and price for price comparisons, or a combination thereof. In some embodiments, a user may send friends or family, for example, gift cards from a mobile phone, and a recipient may be able to redeem the gift certificate using their mobile phone. In certain embodiments, SMIM platform **500** or system **100** may also allow users to purchase products in stores by payment with a phone, for example, charging a credit card, debit card, or the like. In particular embodiments, SMIM platform **500** or system **100** also allows for secure communication between module **501** or second software module **72** and the website (e.g., **65**) as well as secure SMS communication, for example, for transmitting sensitive information rather than text messaging using clear text.

[0212] Yet another embodiment of the invention includes or combines a phone with key card. An example is an apparatus for communicating a code, that includes a component for a mobile phone (or a mobile phone that includes the component) wherein the component includes a passive code configured to be read by a reader when the phone is passed in close proximity to the reader. In many of these embodiments, the reader is an apparatus, for example, as opposed to a person. The reader of this embodiment may be similar to communications device **88** shown in FIG. **1** and described herein, and may be a card reader configured to read passive codes from cards, for example, or similar thereto.

[0213] In certain embodiments, for example, the passive code is (or includes) a magnetic code and the reader is configured to read magnetic codes or the passive code is (or includes) a bar code and the reader is (or includes) a bar code reader. In some embodiments, the passive code is substantially unchangeable. As used herein, "substantially unchangeable" means that a typical user cannot change the passive code in a manner that is more convenient than replacing the component or the phone. Thus, a user cannot change their code on a whim, which a person reading the code may rely on, for example, to identify the user. Although

not necessarily fool proof, in some of these embodiments, changing the passive code of a specific phone or component to copy the passive code of a different phone would be at least as difficult as making a duplicate of someone else's credit card, as a further example.

[0214] As used herein, "passive" or "passively" means to not be powered by the battery or electrical system of the phone or electrically connected to the phone (or another battery or electrical system). Further, as used herein, in this context, the "component" of the phone excludes disposable packaging for the phone (that may contain a bar code for product sales or tracking purposes, for example). Further, in some embodiments, for example, the component is (or includes) a back of the mobile phone, a battery cover of the mobile phone, a battery for the mobile phone or a case for the mobile phone, as examples.

[0215] Further, in some embodiments, for instance, the mobile phone has a phone number and the passive code includes (or is) the phone number of the mobile phone. Further, in some embodiments, for another example, the passive code includes (or is) a number that is unique to the component from all other components for mobile phones and all other mobile phones. In other embodiments, the passive code may be or include the name of the user, an indicia for the user, an indicia for an account, a portion thereof, or a combination thereof, as examples.

[0216] Various embodiments of the invention also (or instead) include a method to replace a back of a phone with key card. Another example of the invention is (or includes) a method of eliminating a need to carry a card. This method includes providing or obtaining a mobile phone having a component (or at least providing or obtaining a component for a mobile phone), wherein the component is configured to passively produce a code configured to be read by a reader (e.g., device **88**) when the mobile phone, that includes the component, is passed in close proximity to the reader. (Some embodiments may require only proximity instead of close proximity, for example, using Bluetooth.) Such a method may include obtaining or providing components having one or more aspects described above for the example of the apparatus for communicating a code. Particular embodiments include providing the component as a replacement part for a preexisting mobile phone that previously did not have an ability to passively produce such a code.

[0217] Other embodiments include (or are) various methods to use a phone with a key card. An example of such an embodiment is (or includes) a method of identifying people, that includes, in the order indicated, or in another order, (at least) the acts of providing or obtaining at least one reader (e.g., device **88**) configured to read a passive code from an apparatus containing the code that is passed within (e.g., close) proximity to the reader, permitting people who wish to be identified to pass their mobile phones (e.g., **42**) within close proximity to the reader (e.g., device **88**), for example, wherein the people (e.g., **22**) who wish to be identified have the passive code located on their mobile phones (e.g., **42**). Such methods may also include an act of using the passive code, as read by the reader (e.g., device **88**), to identify the people (e.g., **22**).

[0218] Such a method may be employed by a merchant, a service provider, an employer, a land lord, a manufacturer, a company, a school, or a government agency, for example.