

account and any number of linked transaction accounts, and associated same with the at least one transaction account, the method including the steps of:

- [0020] (a) the user establishing account operating rules for the at least one transaction account and/or any linked transaction accounts; and
- [0021] (b) arranging at least one transfer of value to at least one account; and
- [0022] (c) causing at least one transaction to occur in accordance with at least one account operating rule.

#### System of the Invention

[0023] In another aspect, the present invention provides a user operable account transaction enabling a user to access at least one transaction account with a user device, the at least one transaction account including links to any number of linked transaction accounts, the system including:

[0024] a user communication network gateway operable to provide network access to user devices;

[0025] a data storage means operably connected to the communication network for storing the user's account details, the links therebetween and operating rules for each account; and

[0026] at least one computer instruction processing device that receives a user account transaction request and executes same in accordance with at least one account operating rule.

[0027] The system will usually require administration by a system operator and accordingly, the system may include a system operator communication gateway providing network access to a system operator for the purpose of administering the user accounts and effecting usual account procedures such as establishment, closure and resolving any queries regarding transactions. Any component of the system could reside in any country where a global communication network is employed

[0028] In an exemplary embodiment, a system operator pools all of the available funds of the accounts that are managed by the system into a single operating account whilst retaining an accurate balance of the individual user accounts. This arrangement enables the system operator to effectively manage all of the funds that are credited to the individual accounts.

#### Computer Software Program Code for Implementing the Method of the Invention

[0029] According to a further aspect, the present invention provides a computer program enabling a user to access a transaction account with a user device when the device is operably connected to a communications network, the transaction account including links to any number of linked transaction accounts, the computer program including:

[0030] computer instruction code providing access to a communications network for the user's device;

[0031] computer instruction code for authenticating the user accessing the network and upon successful authentication, providing the user with access to their transaction accounts;

[0032] computer instruction code enabling the user to establish or amend any account operating rules associated with any one or more of their transaction accounts; and

[0033] computer instruction code enabling the user to effect account transactions and applying the relevant account operating rules with respect to any accounts involved in the transactions.

[0034] The computer instruction code may result in computer instructions that are implemented integrally to a computer or of a network of computers using separate software components. The code may also include components of existing software that effect functions in cooperation with dedicated code developed specifically for the present invention.

#### Apparatus of the Invention

[0035] In another aspect, the present invention provides a user communication network gateway operable to provide access between user devices and at least one data storage means that includes details pertaining to a user's at least one transaction account, any number of linked transaction accounts and operating rules pertaining thereto, wherein the communication network gateway provides access for users to effect transactions with respect to their at least one transaction account and/or any number of linked transaction accounts in accordance with any applicable account operating rules.

[0036] In another aspect, the present invention provides an operations server for effecting transactions in respect of a user's at least one transaction account and any number of linked transaction accounts, the operations server being connected to a communications network that is operable to receive user instructions in respect of their transaction account and/or any linked transaction accounts, said user instructions being effected in accordance with account operating rules that are associated with their transaction accounts.

#### A Mobile Communications Device

[0037] In another aspect, the present invention provides a mobile communications device when used to access a transaction account the mobile communications device being operably connected to a communications network, the transaction account including links to any number of linked transaction accounts establishable by the user, the mobile communications device operable by the user to effect any one or more of the following:

[0038] (a) establishing linked transaction accounts and associating same with the at least one transaction account;

[0039] (b) establishing account operating rules for the at least one transaction account and/or any linked transaction accounts; or

[0040] (c) accessing and effecting a transaction involving the at least one transaction account and/or any linked transaction accounts.

[0041] In an exemplary embodiment, the mobile communications device is a mobile phone and the step of accessing a transaction account is effected by use of the SMS data messaging system. In other embodiments, the mobile communications device is a notebook computer or a personal digital assistant that is operated by a user to transmit data to access and operate their accounts.