changes the way an inactive item appears in menu section **62**. For example, menu modification application **42** may cause an image of a food item, such as food item **70**, to no longer be displayed, leaving only a text label identifying the item.

[0047] The make temporarily unavailable button marks a selected menu item or group of menu items as temporarily unavailable. In response, menu modification application **42** changes the way a temporarily unavailable item appears in menu section **62**. For example, menu modification application **42** may cause a banner with text "currently unavailable" to be displayed over an image of a food item, such as food item **72**. Menu modification application **42** may also change an image of food item **72** to appear unavailable for selection, such as by making the image appear less distinctive than that of an available item or "grayed out".

[0048] The make available button marks a selected menu item or group of menu items as being available. This tool is used to change an inactive or temporarily unavailable item to available. In response, menu modification application **42** changes the way an inactive item or a temporarily unavailable item appears in menu section **62**. For example, menu modification application **42** may restore an image of a previously inactive item and remove a banner from an image of a temporarily unavailable item.

[0049] Food items not marked as inactive or temporarily unavailable, such as food items **74-82**, are available.

[0050] Changes to menu items are saved in modified menu data **48**. Changes to a menu item in one menu screen are applied to all menu screens.

[0051] If self-service kiosks **34** store modified menu data **48** locally as in FIG. **2**, menu control **68** may further include an update button identified as "send update to kiosks". Selection of the update button sends modified menu data **48** including recent modifications to menu section **62** to self-service kiosks **34**. Self-service kiosks **34** display the same modified menu data **48** in corresponding menu sections on their displays.

[0052] Advantageously, self-service application **52** uses modified menu data **48** instantly, without any reboot, reconfiguration, or restart of self-service application **52**. Thus, customers see no interruption in their use of self-service kiosk **34**. For example, self-service application **52** would recognize in real time a change to a menu item that makes the menu item temporarily unavailable

[0053] Menu control **68** also includes a "cancel and exit" button to undo recent changes and exit menu modification application **42**.

[0054] Although particular reference has been made to certain embodiments, variations and modifications are also envisioned within the spirit and scope of the following claims.

1. A menu modification system comprising:
a host computer adapted to provide menu data;
self-service computers at a location; and
a computer at the location adapted to: receive the menu data from the host computer, automatically create modified menu data from the received menu data by excluding items unavailable for sale at the location, and make the modified menu data available for display by the self-service computers.

2. The system of claim **1**, wherein the computer comprises an in-store server coupled to the self-service computers via a network.

3. The system of claim **1**, wherein the computer automatically creates the modified menu data based on rules included in the received menu data.

4. The system of claim **1**, wherein the unavailable items comprise temporarily unavailable items.

5. The system of claim **1**, wherein the unavailable items comprise permanently unavailable items.

6. A transaction system comprising:
an in-store computer adapted to receive menu data from a host computer and to automatically create modified menu data from the received menu data by excluding items unavailable for sale at a location; and
a self-service computer at the location adapted to display transaction screens including the modified menu data from the in-store computer.

7. The system of **6**, wherein the transaction screens include available items and unavailable items.

8. The system of **7**, wherein the transaction screens display the unavailable items differently than the available items.

9. The system of claim **7**, wherein a first content associated with the unavailable items is graphically different than a second content associated with the unavailable items.

10. The system of claim **9**, wherein the first content includes only a name of the unavailable item.

11. The system of claim **9**, wherein the first content includes an image of the unavailable item which is grayed out.

12. The system of claim **9**, wherein the first content includes a banner across an image of the unavailable item marking the unavailable item as unavailable.

13. A computer implemented method of modifying menu data implemented by a first computer, the method comprising:
receiving menu data from a host computer;
creating modified menu data by automatically modifying the received menu data to exclude items unavailable for sale at a location; and
making the modified menu data available for use by self-service computers at the location.

14. The method of claim **13**, further comprising:
storing details of modifications made to the menu data by the first computer;
comparing subsequent menu data received from the host computer to the details to identify any of the subsequent menu data that are equal to previously received menu data by the first computer; and
ignoring the subsequent received menu data that are equal to the previously received menu data by the first computer.

15. The method of claim **13**, wherein the creating step comprises:
removing an image of a permanently unavailable item.

16. The method of claim **13**, wherein the creating step comprises:
replacing a first image of a temporarily unavailable item with a second image which is less distinctive than the first image.

17. The method of claim **13**, wherein the creating step further comprises:
replacing a first image of a temporarily unavailable item with a second image which includes a banner marking the temporarily unavailable item as temporarily unavailable.

18. The method of claim **13**, wherein the making step further comprises: