a means for making a payment to any person, irrespective of a prior bill or other information provided to the MFTS, for example by inputting a payee's name and/or a payee's mobile number.

[0036] According to yet another aspect of the invention, payment to make information is provided to the MFTS by an external source. The external source can be one or more of a bill presentment system that provides bill information from a plurality of billing entities, or an individual billing entity. The information may be input by the user via an Internet-accessible web site accessible by the user or via the mobile device for input of payment to make information and payee information.

[0037] According to still another aspect, the payment to make information comprises information corresponding to one or more of the following: a recurring bill, a bill from a billing aggregator, a bill from an individual billing company, and/or a "pay anyone" payment. According to an aspect of the invention, information corresponding to one or more payments to make displayed at the user mobile device is provided in response to user activation of a "View Bills" function. Such information display is in response to a text message from the MFTS received at the mobile device. Such information display includes summarized bill information provided from the MFTS. The summarized payment to make information includes a predetermined selected subset of the payment to make information.

[0038] According to another aspect, the MFTS payment instruction includes information identifying a selected account at a selected financial service provider, an amount, and information corresponding to an identified payee. The identified payee may be a billing entity that communicated bill information to the MFTS, or another entity to whom a payment may be made. In one embodiment, the summarized payment to make information communicated to the mobile device consists of a payee identifier, an amount, and a due date, so that only minimal information is transmitted from the MFTS to the mobile device. In this aspect, the mobile device utilizes the payee identifier in the summarized payment to make information and retrieves payee name information from a mobile device local memory corresponding to an identified payee and displays the payee name information to the user.

[0039] In one embodiment, the MFTS database also stores transaction information corresponding to a user's financial transactions. The transaction information includes the payment to make information in addition to other information utilized to track status of the payment to make, together with one or more of the following items of information: a user ID number, a transaction identifier, a bill received date, a bill due date, an amount, a financial service provider identifier, an account identifier, a payee identifier, and/or a pending/complete flag.

[0040] Another aspect of the invention involves communicating a payment confirmation message from a payment instruction recipient to the MFTS in response to completion of a predetermined stage in making the payment. A related aspect involves communicating a payment confirmation message to the mobile device in response to receipt of the payment confirmation message from the payment instruction recipient.

[0041] Another aspect of the invention relates to selection of a payment method for effecting a payment. According to this aspect, user input corresponding to selection of a payment method for making a payment is provided at the user mobile device, and includes information in the mobile payment instruction corresponding to the selected method for making the payment at the user mobile device in response to the user input. The selectable payment methods include a recipient-defined method wherein the recipient determines the manner of receiving the payment, an ACH funds transfer, a paper check, and a stored value (SV) card.

[0042] According to another aspect, the MFTS is further coupled for electronic communications with a user's computer via a data communications network such as the Internet. This aspect involves: (i) providing a web application in association with the MFTS, (ii) receiving user information via the web application corresponding to financial service providers, accounts at financial service providers, and payees, and (iii) storing the user information input via the web application in the MFTS database for use in connection with payments initiated via the user mobile device. A related aspect involves retrieving and displaying transaction information corresponding to transactions conducted via the user mobile device, via the web application, to a user via user's computer.

[0043] In another aspect of the invention, a mobile financial payment can include a balance transfer from one account associated with a user to another account associated with the same user.

[0044] Another aspect of the invention relates to real time updating of account information to a user's mobile device. A method according to this aspect comprises the steps of: (i) storing a cached account balance in the mobile device representative of the balance at least one account of the user as of a particular date, (ii) communicating with the financial service provider to obtain updated account balance information for the account, (iii) wirelessly communicating updated account balance information from the MFTS to the user mobile device, and (iv) in response to receipt of updated account balance information from the MFTS, displaying updated account balance information corresponding to the account to the user via the mobile device.

[0045] In a yet another aspect, the present invention relates to a mobile device for making a mobile financial payment via a wireless network. In still another aspect, the present invention relates to a computer-implemented method for a mobile financial transaction system (MFTS) to facilitate a mobile financial payment initiated by a mobile device connected for communications with a wireless network. In a further still aspect, the present invention relates to a mobile financial transaction system (MFTS) for facilitating a mobile financial payment initiated by a user mobile device connected for communications with a wireless network. In another aspect, the present invention relates to a method for making a financial payment to a payee via a paper check utilizing a mobile device connected for communications via a wireless network.

[0046] From the foregoing, those skilled in the art will understand and appreciate that with its various aspects for a mobile device, a mobile financial transaction system, a web interface, and combinations of functionality, a system constructed in accordance with aspects of the inventions provides mobile device users with unprecedented convenience and flexibility in monitoring bills to pay and other payments to make, information about current account balances provided in real time, and other improved functionality for