

account holder's option, certain transactions are designated as requiring a real time confirmation by the primary account holder. For example, transactions that exceed a predetermined threshold amount (e.g., \$500.00), or purchases of certain predetermined types of goods (e.g., casino chips or liquor), or transactions outside a pre-approved geographic area (e.g., across the state line).

[0066] The real time authorization aspect of the present invention is implemented through any of a number of high tech or low tech options. One method is to request approval of the transaction from the primary account holder by sending a message to his or her wireless communication device with integrated BID. Another method is to request approval of the transaction via telephone (wireless or POTS) and then simply authenticate any approval by querying the putative primary account holder for the password.

[0067] A biological identification authorization system for financial transactions has been illustrated. It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the system and methods of the present invention can be used to authorized and prevent fraud in such areas as telecommunications services, access to bank accounts, and financial and information transactions of many different kinds. Thus, the present invention is not limited in its utility only to access to value accounts. Specifically, the present invention has utility in preventing unauthorized access to information stored on various types of information servers.

[0068] The present invention has been described in terms of preferred embodiments, however, it will be appreciated that various modifications and improvements may be made to the described embodiments without departing from the scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing approval for a third party to access a value account controlled by a primary account holder, the process comprising:

receiving a biological sample proffered by the third party via a biological identification device;

comparing the proffered biological sample to biological identification data stored in a database;

making a determination of whether the third party has been authorized by the primary account holder to access the value account; and

in the event that the third party is determined to be authorized to access the account, transmitting an approval signal indicating that the third party may have access to the value account.

2. The method for providing approval as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising:

receiving an identification code proffered by the third party,

wherein making the determination is performed based on both the identification code and comparing the proffered biological sample.

3. The method for providing approval as claimed in claim 2, wherein the identification code corresponds to a credit card number.

4. The method for providing approval as claimed in claim 2, wherein the identification code corresponds to a signal from an RF transponder device.

5. The method for providing approval as claimed in claim 2, wherein the identification code corresponds to a magnetic ink character recognition code read from a negotiable instrument.

6. The method for providing approval as claimed in claim 2, wherein the identification code corresponds to a public encryption key.

7. The method for providing approval as claimed in claim 2, wherein the identification code corresponds to a DL swipe.

8. The method for providing approval as claimed in claim 2, wherein the identification code corresponds to a wireless device selected from the group consisting of: a bluetooth-enabled telephone, a bluetooth-enabled personal digital assistant, an infrared-enabled phone, and an infrared-enabled personal digital assistant.

9. The method for providing approval as claimed in claim 2, wherein the identification code is absolutely unique.

10. The method for providing approval as claimed in claim 2, wherein the identification code is reasonably unique.

11. The method for providing approval as claimed in claim 1, wherein the biological sample corresponds to a fingerprint of the third party.

12. The method for providing approval as claimed in claim 1, wherein the biological sample corresponds to an iris scan of the third party.

13. The method for providing approval as claimed in claim 1, wherein the biological sample corresponds to a facial scan of the third party.

14. The method for providing approval as claimed in claim 1, wherein the biological sample corresponds to a voice scan of the third party.

15. The method for providing approval as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

in the event that the approval signal is transmitted, transmitting a notification signal to the primary account holder indicating that the third party has accessed the value account.

16. The method for providing approval as claimed in claim 15, wherein the notification signal is transmitted to a wireless device.

17. The method for providing approval as claimed in claim 15, wherein the notification signal is transmitted as an email message.

18. A method for providing approval for a third party to access a value account controlled by a primary account holder, the process comprising:

receiving a biological sample proffered by the third party via a biological identification device;

comparing the proffered biological sample to biological identification data stored in a database;

making a first determination, based on comparing the proffered biological sample, of whether the third party is registered in the database;

in the event that the third party is determined to be registered in the database, making a second determi-