

CLIENT	Theodore P. Cummings, Esq. The Law Offices of Theodore P. Cummings, LLC 1600 Scripps Center 312 Walnut Street Cincinnati, OH 45202
CASE	2010-00377 Automatic Coupon Machine
REQUEST DATE	April 7, 2010
REQUEST	Patent Search
POINTS OF FOCUS	<p>Publications or communications that describe, disclose or teach, in general, as stated in client's search request of April 7, 2010 the following...</p> <p>A system and method for automatic collection and identification of coupons in a retail establishment. A cash management machine is adapted to read coupons, such that the coupons are inserted into the machine and are recorded and sorted without the participation of a store associate. In some embodiments, the automatic coupon machine (ACM) is associated with a handheld wireless device used by a shopper in the store or a Point of Sale server through an in-store communication network. In some embodiments, the ACM communicates with a logic engine (store server) through a communications multi-network. In these embodiments the ACM accesses through the communications multi-network a shopper's profile saved on a database, and is able to offer real-time coupon upgrades" based on the shopper's profile and supplier discount programs when a shopper uses a particular coupon...</p>
RESULTS	<p>This search located seven (7) Tier One patent references, four (4) Tier Two patent references and two (2) Non-patent references that either speak directly or indirectly to the points of focus of which the following may be of interest...</p> <p>US20040140361A1 Universal club card and real-time coupon validation</p> <p>US5192854A System for electronically recording and redeeming coupons</p> <p>US20030204442A1 Scanning and voiding method and apparatus for processing coupons</p>
NOTES	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Tier One references teach or speak to many of the elements listed in the points of focus and may touch on novelty.</i>2. <i>Tier Two references teach or speak to a few of the elements listed in the points of focus and, when combined, may touch on obviousness.</i>3. <i>Legal Status is bold and italicized if other than pending or active.</i>
DISCLAIMER	<p><i>This search represents a thorough and continuous effort to locate the most appropriate references given the information provided by the client and the budget placed on this project. This is not a guarantee that every potential reference has been located. Furthermore, the information contained herein has been obtained from data sources believed to be reliable. Gilman Research Services, LLC disclaims all warranties as to the accuracy, completeness or adequacy of such information. No opinion, unless clearly stated, regarding freedom to operate, patentability or otherwise of the invention is expressed or implied other than the comments stated herein.</i></p>

RESOURCES

PATENT LITERATURE	
<i>USPTO</i>	US Full Text, US Published Patent Applications
<i>Class/Subclass</i>	235/375, 376, 381, 382, 383, 385, 472; 364/402, 404, 405
<i>Lexis-Nexis</i>	US Full Text, US Published Patent Applications, PCT Applications, Abstracts of Japan
<i>Delphion</i>	US Full Text, US Published Patent Applications, PCT Applications, Abstracts of Japan
NONPATENT LITERATURE	
<i>Lexis-Nexis</i>	General News, Industry News, Encyclopedia of Associations, Company News, Information Week
<i>Dialog</i>	Dissertation Abstracts (35), Conference Paper Index (77), Inside Conferences (65), New Product Announcements (621)
<i>Internet Search Engines</i>	Google, Google Scholar, Google Books, Taus, All The Web, Open Directory Project
<i>e-Resources</i>	IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, IP.com, Research Disclosure, Social Science Research Network Electronic Library, IEEE Xplore, Internet Archive's – Wayback Machine, ACM Digital Library, Cite Seer, IST Scientific Literature Digital Library, MIT Technology Review, Geek.com, HalfBakery.com, Shouldexist.com, SlashDot, IE-Compendex Plus, Technology Review, Advanced Imaging, Chain Store Age
<i>Usenet Newsgroups, Forums, BLOGS</i>	Google Newsgroups, Yahoo Groups, Eng-Tips Forum
<i>Company Sites</i>	Catalina Marketing, IBM, NCR
<i>Inventors, Individuals of Interest</i>	Not Applicable
<i>Trade Groups, Assoc. & Conferences (Online)</i>	Self-Service, a Kiosk Association, Journal of Marketing, British Food Journal
<i>Academia, Journals (Online)</i>	Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science
<i>Hand Library Search, Hardcopy Text</i>	Not Applicable

SEARCH STRATEGY

SEARCH TERMS	Coupon	Redemption	Collection
	Kiosk	Vending machine	Device
	Self-serve	Automated	Network
	Upgrade	Upsell	Identify
	Register	Promotion	Voucher
	SEARCH STRINGS	((automatic coupon) w/5 (machine or vending or kiosk))	coupon w/5 (machine or vending or kiosk or devic!) and coupon w/5 (collect! or redeem!)
coupon w/5 ((machine or vending or kiosk) w/5 (collect! or redeem! or process! or receiv!)) and coupon w/5 (scan! or identif!) 116			

Patent References - Tier One

[US20030167203A1](#) 2003-09-04 Retail purchase coupon processing apparatus and methods (en)

Inventors: Gale H. Thorne, Bountiful, United States of America; James V. Yardley, Centerville, United States of America; Kay L. Ruggles, Salt Lake City, United States of America; Bruce W. Thorne, Payson, United States of America
Applicants/Assignees: Gale H. Thorne Trust , Bountiful, UTAH, United States of America
Application/Filing Date:
2002-02-19

English Abstract:

Novel methods and apparatus for processing product sales coupons in a self-service environment comprising a coupon processing station which reads indicia from printed coupons and which provides opportunity for selection of electronically stored coupons from memory. Further, the station has multiple booths which may be used separately and which may be used to display advertising when not processing coupons. The coupon processing station dispenses a coupon shopping list having a list of selected coupons and a single machine-readable indicia, such as a bar code, from which all coupons on the list are referenced at the time of purchase. A list insertion hub affixed to an establishment cash register/computer communication system in which the station and hub are used verifies purchases against coupon use rules and validates each coupon which has been redeemed properly. Files of validated coupons are sorted and sent to a central controller for efficacious billing. The central controller receives new and modified coupon data from coupon originators for transmission and subsequent use at the station and hub. The controller also sorts and bills each coupon originator for subsequent re-muneration to the store or establishment. Also, coupon purchasing lists may be generated on a home computer via interaction with the controller over the Internet.

[US20040140361A1](#) 2004-07-22 Universal club card and real-time coupon validation (en)

Inventors: Charles Frederic Paul, Incline Village, United States of America; Vijay R. Chetty, Santa Monica, United States of America
Applicants/Assignees: PAUL CHARLES FREDERIC ; CHETTY VIJAY R.
Application/Filing Date:
2003-07-02

English Abstract:

Embodiments of the invention relate to a system and method for real-time validation and redemption of paper and electronic coupons; electronic coupon distribution; electronic clearing and reporting of paper and electronic coupon redemptions; and an "Universal Club Card" that combines coupon scanning, coupon redemption, coupon distribution, loyalty cards, club cards, gift cards, frequent shopper programs, store credits and many other retail store promotions into one efficient and convenient portable scanning device.

[US20060074756A1](#) 2006-04-06 Method and system for managing coupon distribution (en)

Inventors: C. Clay Boykin, Austin, TEXAS, United States of America
Applicants/Assignees: BetaCorp Management, Inc.
Application/Filing Date:
2005-09-30

English Abstract:

A method and system are disclosed for processing coupons through networked computers or kiosks. More particularly, the system has the capability of utilizing data received from one or more networked computers or kiosk to modify coupons subsequently delivered to that kiosk or to other computers or kiosks on the network. The system includes a central server, a series of computers or kiosks net-worked to the central server, and a software program for collecting the information input by users of the system and modifying the coupons subsequently dispensed through the network based on the information collected.

[US5192854A](#) 1993-03-09 System for electronically recording and redeeming coupons (en)

Inventors: Reginald D. Counts, 1714 Legend La., St. Louis, United States of America
Applicants/Assignees: COUNTS; REGINALD D. COUNTS REGINALD D COUNTS; REGINALD D. , United States of AmericaUnited States of AmericaUnited States of America
Application/Filing Date:
1992-02-05

Legal Status:

2001-05-15 FP EXPIRED DUE TO FAILURE TO PAY MAINTENANCE FEE Effective Date:2001-03-09

English Abstract:

An electronic coupon system handles coupons selected by a customer. The coupons have a product code of the product covered by the coupon and have a corresponding coupon code representing information relating to the value of the coupon. A coupon scanner used by the customer scans the coupons and has a memory for storing data representing the scanned product codes and their corresponding coupon codes. A product scanner at a retail store scans product codes of products to be purchased and provides data representing the scanned codes. A processor credits to the customer the value of the coupon when the data representing the scanned codes corresponds to the data in the coupon scanner memory. The system may also include a kiosk having a processor interfacing with the coupon scanner for providing to the scanner additional data and for providing to the kiosk information stored in the coupon scanner.

[US20030204442A1](#) 2003-10-30 Scanning and voiding method and apparatus for processing coupons (en)

Inventors: Robert Marshall, Las Cruces, United States of America
Applicants/Assignees: MARSHALL ROBERT
Application/Filing Date:
2002-04-25

English Abstract:

The present invention relates to a coupon processing system and method that includes a scanner and a voider, where the system enables a user to process coupons at or near a coupon redemption location. The system scans codes on coupons using one or more scanners. The codes on the coupons are transferred to a processor and the processor determines if each coupon was scanned prop-erly. If the coupon is not scanned properly, the coupon is separated into a non-scan coupon group. If the coupon is successfully scanned, the coupon is transferred to a voider which voids the coupon to prevent mal-redemption and re-circulation of the coupons. The non-scan coupons are sent to another location for further processing. The scanned coupons are stored in a secure area at the coupon redemption location or at a secure off-site storage area.

[US6076068A](#) 2000-06-13 Coupon delivery system (en)

Inventors: James P. DeLapa, Grand Rapids, United States of America;
James W. Willman, Grand Rapids, United States of America
Applicants/Assignees: Ad Response MicroMarketing Corporation , Grand Rapids, MICHIGAN, United States of America
Application/Filing Date:
1996-09-12

English Abstract:

A computer-implemented method and apparatus for generating coupons to provide discounts for purchases includes providing a computer-based kiosk at a retail establishment such as a grocery store. A user identification of a household is received at the kiosk. The kiosk outputs a series of targeted coupons which have been assigned to the individual household on the basis of at least one attribute of that household. Images of coupons may be formatted "on the fly" from parameters set forth in a coupon record. The system may further include an enhancement system which provides tools for enhancing the coupon offer data by designating particular offers as either a targeted coupon offer assigned to individual households as a function of purchases by that household or a mandatory coupon which is assigned to substantially all households. The kiosk may additionally print personalized messages by substituting for a keyword a value derived from an attribute of the identified household and outputting the graphic image of the personalized message.

[US20010051894A1](#) 2001-12-13 INTERNET COUPON SELECTION SYSTEM (en)

Inventors: JAMES P. DELAPA, GRAND RAPIDS, United States of America
Applicants/Assignees: AD RESPONSE MICROMARKETING , GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, United States of America
Application/Filing Date:
1998-08-06

English Abstract:

A merchandising system for generating product discount coupons preselected by each participating consumer. The process allows the consumer to select the coupons at home through a remote communication site, such as an Internet site. The selections are then electronically transferred to a specified store also chosen by the consumer. Upon arrival at the designated store location, the consumer receives the selected coupons, which are printed at the store by a kiosk or other form of printer. These coupons are immediately re-deemable by the consumer during the current shopping trip upon purchase of the corresponding items.

Patent References - Tier Two

[US20080262928A1](#) 2008-10-23 METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DISTRIBUTION AND PERSONALIZATION OF E-COUPONS (en)

Inventors: Oliver MICHAELIS, San Diego, CALIFORNIA , United States of America
Applicants/Assignees: MICHAELIS OLIVER
Application/Filing Date:
2008-04-17

English Abstract:

A method and system for distributing and personalizing E-Coupons include sending a ge-neric E-Coupon identifier to a mobile device and requesting a redeemable personalized E-Coupon based on the generic E-Coupon identifier. User location, time, purchase history and preference may be provided and used to personalize the E-Coupon. The personalized E-Coupon may then be distributed to the mobile device. The generic E-Coupon identifier may be distrib-uted through different media, such as audio, video, multimedia or wireless data networks. For high security devices, the personalized E-Coupon may be sent digitally signed. For low security devices, the E-Coupon Manager may store the personalized E-Coupon and send to the mobile device a unique E-Coupon ID. The distributed personalized E-Coupons may be used to receive discounts at a merchant physical location or Internet site.

[US6691915B1](#) 2004-02-17 Electronic coupon system and method of processing elec-tronic coupon card for storage and redemption (en)

Inventors: Daniel David Thaxton, New Lebanon, United States of America;
Loren C. Schafer, Dayton, United States of America;
Martin H. Hileman, Dayton, United States of America
Applicants/Assignees: The Standard Register Company , Dayton, OHIO, United States of America
Application/Filing Date:
1998-11-16

Legal Status:

2008-04-08 FP EXPIRED DUE TO FAILURE TO PAY MAINTENANCE FEE Effective Date:2008-02-17

English Abstract:

An electronic coupon system and a method of processing electronic coupons are provided utilizing a coupon card on which data representing selected coupons may be stored for subsequent redemption at a point-of-sale terminal. In accordance with one embodiment of the pre-sent invention, an electronic coupon system is provided including, a coupon card, an in-store kiosk, a point-of-sale terminal, a host computer, and a coupon data processor. The host com-puter is in communication with the in-store kiosk and the point-of-sale terminal. The in-store kiosk includes a user interface and a coupon card interface. The point-of-sale terminal includes a transaction data interface and a point-of-sale coupon card interface. The coupon data proc-essor is programmed to correlate the transaction data with the coupon data read from the coupon card by the coupon card interface

and to reduce the product sale price by an amount indicated in the coupon data.

[US20030130889A1](#) 2003-07-10 System and method for electronically generating, clipping and redeeming coupons (en)

Inventors: Kevin D. Fravel, Bristol, United States of America
Applicants/Assignees: FRAVEL KEVIN D.
Application/Filing Date:
2002-01-10

English Abstract:

A system and method of posting, clipping and redeeming electronic coupons is claimed. Electronic coupons are posted on a website by registered manufacturers. The coupons are selected by consumers who have coupon account cards. Once a product is selected at a retailer, the retailer links with a remote database to determine if a coupon is on the consumer's account for the product being purchased. If the appropriate electronic coupon is present, the coupon is honored by the retailer. The retailer then uses the same system to be reimbursed by the system using money from the accounts of the manufacturers that posted the coupon.

[US6536663B1](#) 2003-03-25 Self service kiosk which dispenses vouchers (en)

Inventors: Bradley L. Lozier, Centerville, United States of America;
Morrison Reyner, Clackmannanshire, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
James D. Sampier, Springboro, United States of America
Applicants/Assignees: NCR Corporation , Dayton, OHIO, United States of America
Application/Filing Date:
2000-01-11

English Abstract:

A coupon-dispensing kiosk for use at retail locations. The kiosk may, or may not, contain an Automated Teller Machine, ATM. The kiosk performs financial services, such as cashing checks. However, to avoid dispensing coins to customers, the kiosk prints coupons and dis-penses them. The coupons will be redeemed by merchants associated with, or in close prox-imity to, the kiosk. The kiosk can be located, for example, at a shopping mall or local conven-ience store.

Non-patent References

Document imaging for the storefront: the coupon transaction machine

Spencer, H.
Advanced Imaging
volume={15},
number={9},
pages={49--50},
year={2000}

<http://md1.csa.com/partners/viewrecord.php?requester=gs&collection=TRD&recid=512380CI&q=&uid=789106278&setcookie=yes>

Let'sgoShopping teamed up with VisionShape to develop the scanning hardware and software, referred to as Coupon Transaction Machine (CTM). This solution consist of an automatic feeder, two scanning heads, four sorting pockets and a shredder that will automatically destroy the correctly-scanned coupons issued from those manufacturers who have agreed to electronic settlement.

En passant Coupon Collection

author = {A. Ferscha and W. Swoboda and Ch. Wimberger},
year = {2009}
http://www.soft.unilinz.ac.at/Research/Publications/_Documents/Coupon%20Collector%202009.pdf

Abstract: Spontaneous interaction in public places has evolved as crucial concern in interaction design, particularly in the domain of public advertising. Implicit interaction is a mode of spontaneous interaction in which the user is not attentively or explicitly expressing input to a system, but the system from observing the user, and considering all the available information that describes the user situation, is used to generate input- and behaves accordingly. We have investigated implicit interaction as a potentially effective means to design for spontaneous interaction in the public. An en passant coupon collection system, CCS, has been developed to implement an implicit interaction based pervasive advertisement process. CCS is based on scanning and identifying Wi-Fi hotspots by their BSSID, and has been implemented for internet enabled smart phones. Scenarios demonstrate how the system collects bonus points, rewards, sales coupons, reward coins, etc. by users just walking by points of interest like stores, bus stops, schools or offices. CCS neither not being reliant to a preconfiguration of the Wi-Fi infrastructure, nor its use for wireless data communication, encourages for a parasitic use of existing Wi-Fi networks (already available in public places like shopping malls, airports, train stops, stations or city centers) as a pervasive advertisement.