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Patterson

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(45) **Date of Patent: *Jan. 24, 2012**

(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ACCOUNT LEVEL BLOCKING**

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(73) Assignee: **Visa International Service Association**, San Francisco, CA (US)

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This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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(51) **Int. Cl.**
G06Q 40/00 (2006.01)
G06Q 20/00 (2006.01)
G06F 15/16 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **705/44**; 705/16; 705/17; 705/39; 705/42; 705/43; 705/64; 705/65; 705/67; 705/70; 705/75; 705/76; 709/203; 709/219

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 705/44, 705/16, 17, 39, 42, 43, 64, 65, 67, 70, 75, 705/76; 709/203, 219
See application file for complete search history.

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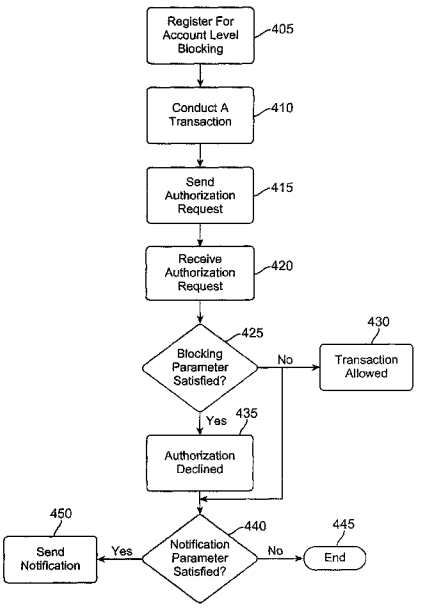
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system and method are disclosed. The method includes receiving, at a server computer, a transaction clearing request for a transaction, and then determining, using the server computer, if the transaction satisfies a stored blocking parameter. The method further includes allowing, using the server computer, the transaction clearing request if the transaction does not satisfy the stored blocking parameter, and denying, using the server computer, the transaction clearing request if the transaction satisfies the stored blocking parameter.

29 Claims, 13 Drawing Sheets



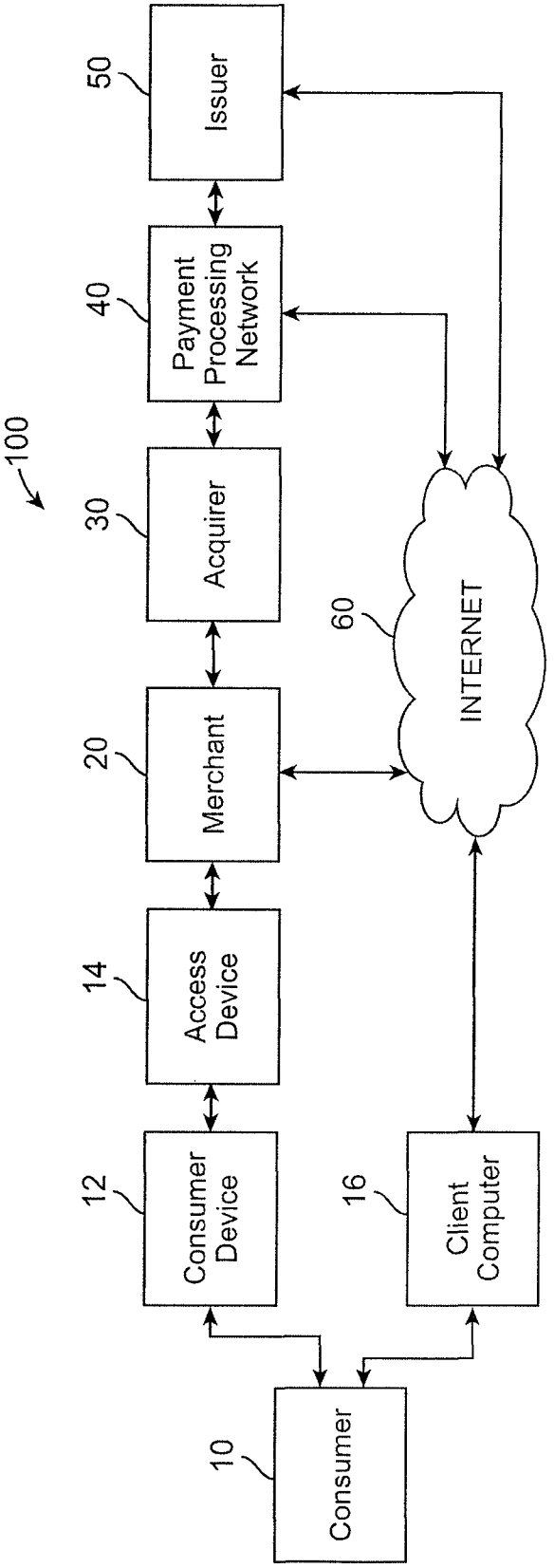

100
50
Issuer
40
Payment Processing Network
30
Acquirer
20
Merchant
14
Access Device
12
Consumer Device
10
Consumer
60
INTERNET
16
Client Computer

FIG. 1

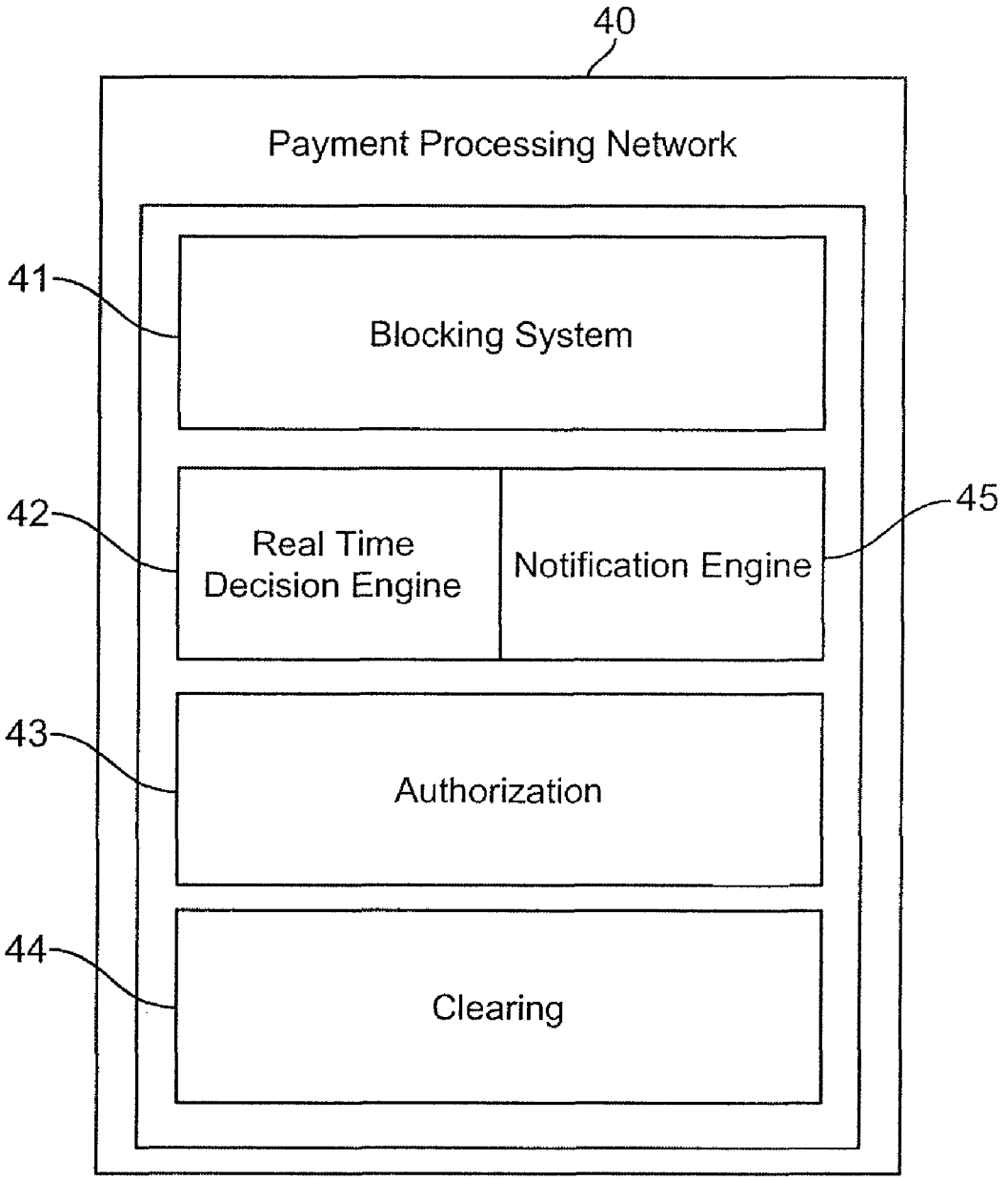

40
Payment Processing Network
41
Blocking System
42
Real Time Decision Engine
Notification Engine
45
43
Authorization
44
Clearing

FIG. 2

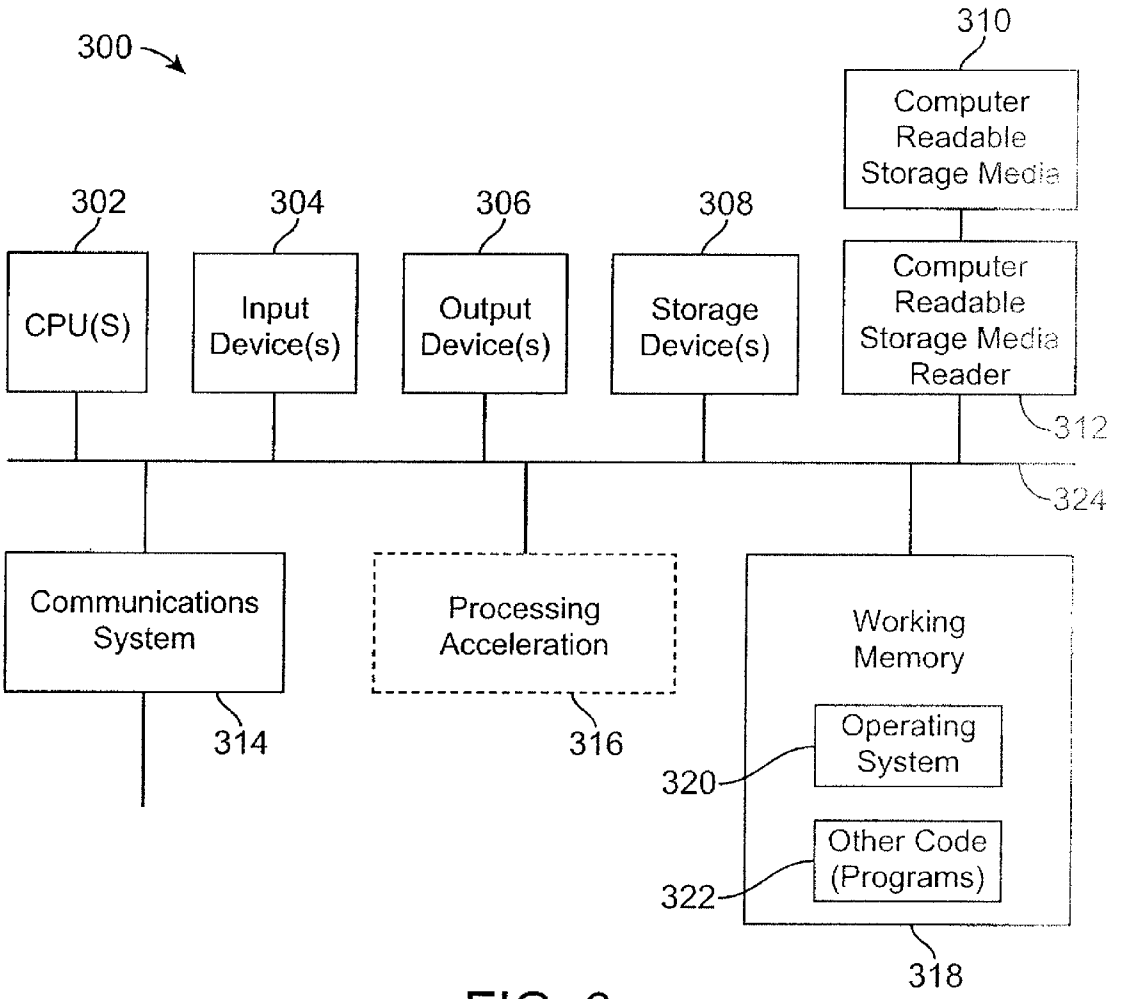

300
310
Computer Readable Storage Media
302
304
306
308
CPU(S)
Input Device(s)
Output Device(s)
Storage Device(s)
Computer Readable Storage Media Reader
312
324
Communications System
Processing Acceleration
Working Memory
Operating System
Other Code (Programs)
314
316
320
322
318

FIG. 3

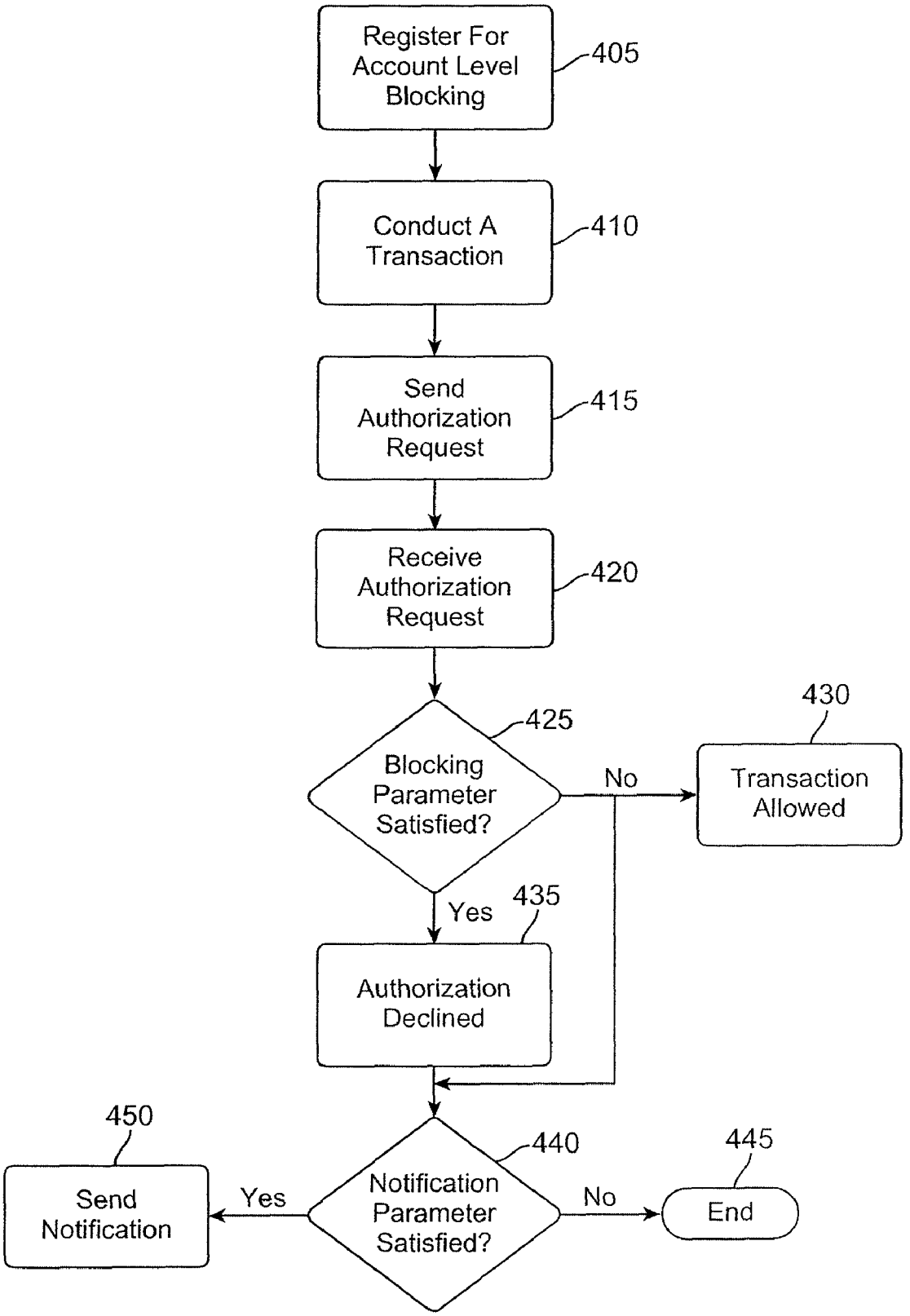

Register For Account Level Blocking
405
Conduct A Transaction
410
Send Authorization Request
415
Receive Authorization Request
420
Blocking Parameter Satisfied?
425
No
Transaction Allowed
430
Yes
435
Authorization Declined
Notification Parameter Satisfied?
440
Yes
Send Notification
450
No
End
445

FIG. 4

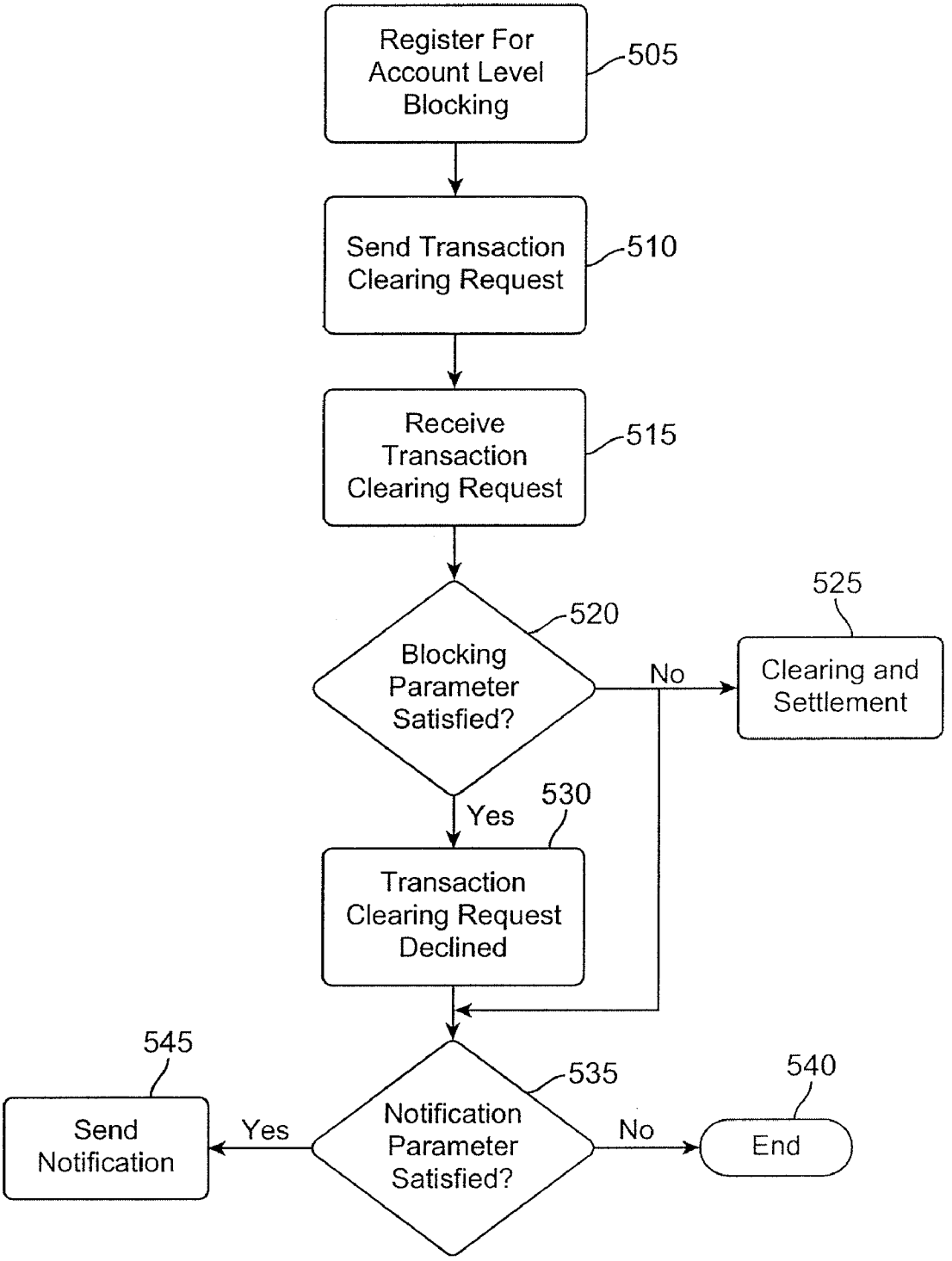

Register For Account Level Blocking
505
Send Transaction Clearing Request
510
Receive Transaction Clearing Request
515
Blocking Parameter Satisfied?
520
No
Clearing and Settlement
525
Yes
530
Transaction Clearing Request Declined
Notification Parameter Satisfied?
535
Yes
Send Notification
545
No
End
540

FIG. 5

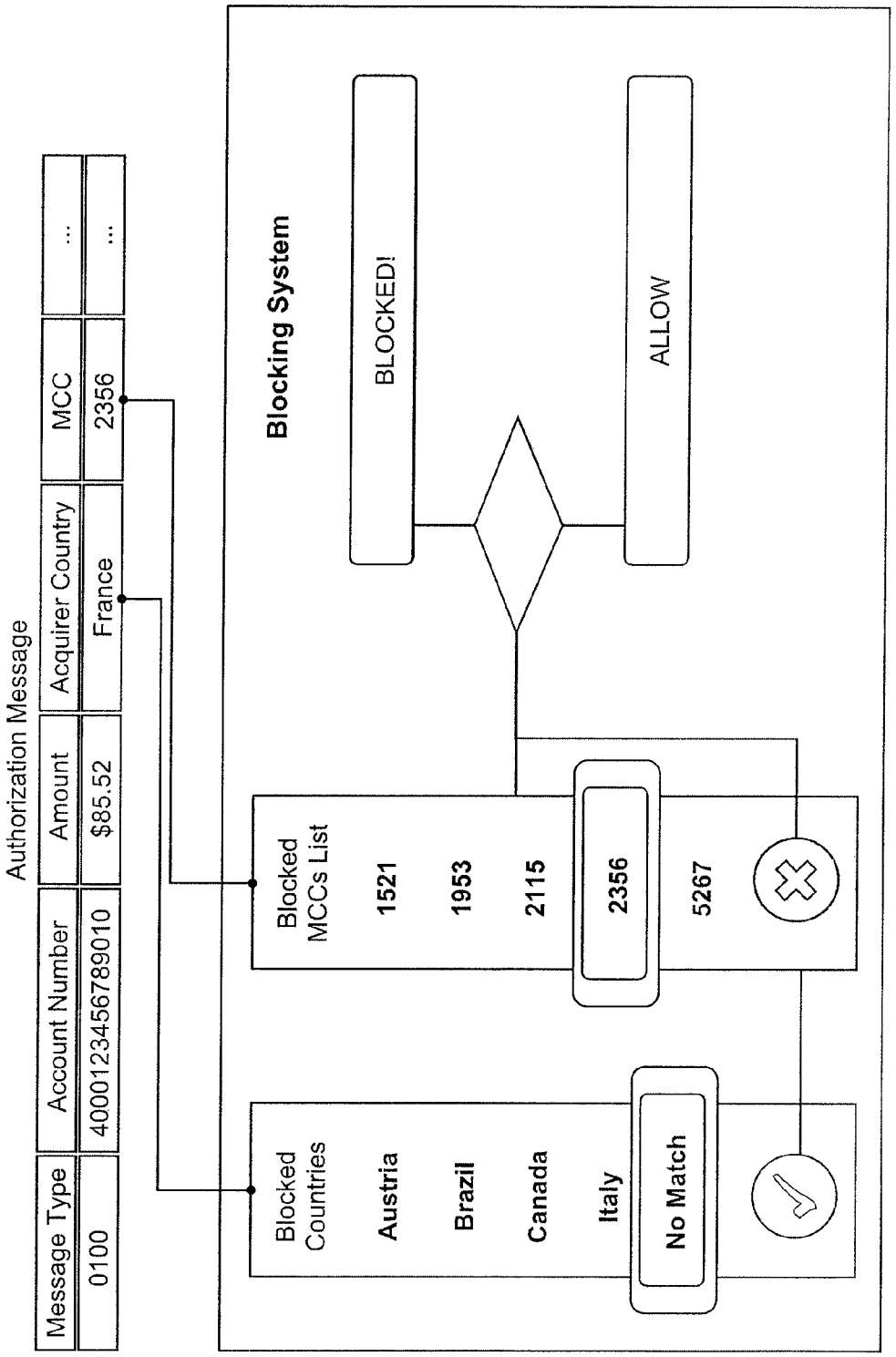
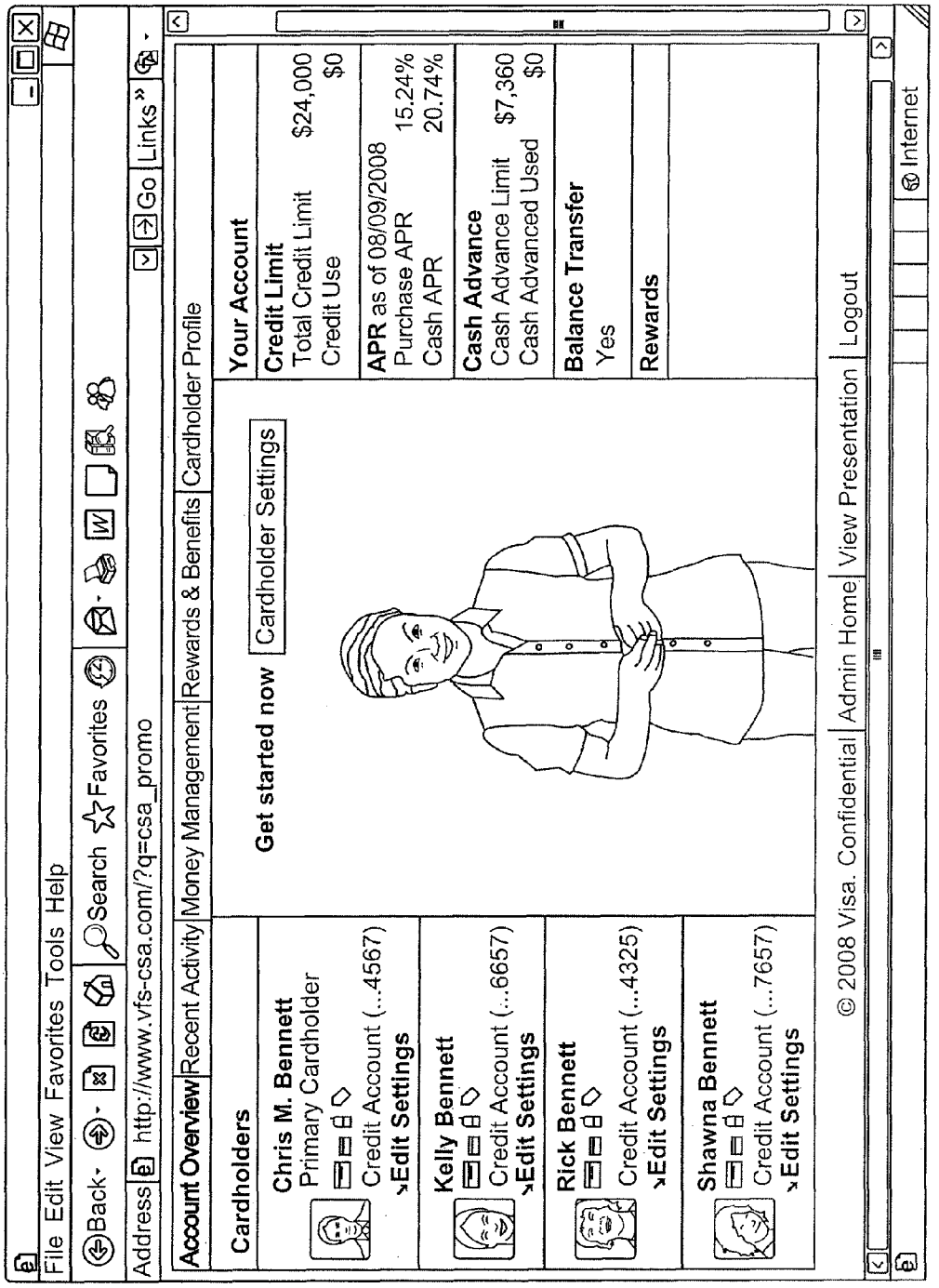

Authorization Message
Message Type
0100
Account Number
4000123456789010
Amount
$85.52
Acquirer Country
France
MCC
2356
...
...
Blocking System
Blocked Countries
Austria
Brazil
Canada
Italy
No Match
Blocked MCCs List
1521
1953
2115
2356
5267
BLOCKED!
ALLOW

FIG. 6


File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back
Search
Favorites
Address http://www.vfs-csa.com/?q=csa_promo
Go
Links
Account Overview
Recent Activity
Money Management
Rewards & Benefits
Cardholder Profile
Cardholders
Chris M. Bennett
Primary Cardholder
Credit Account (...4567)
Edit Settings
Kelly Bennett
Credit Account (...6657)
Edit Settings
Rick Bennett
Credit Account (...4325)
Edit Settings
Shawna Bennett
Credit Account (...7657)
Edit Settings
Get started now
Cardholder Settings
Your Account
Credit Limit
Total Credit Limit $24,000
Credit Use $0
APR as of 08/09/2008
Purchase APR 15.24%
Cash APR 20.74%
Cash Advance
Cash Advance Limit $7,360
Cash Advanced Used $0
Balance Transfer
Yes
Rewards
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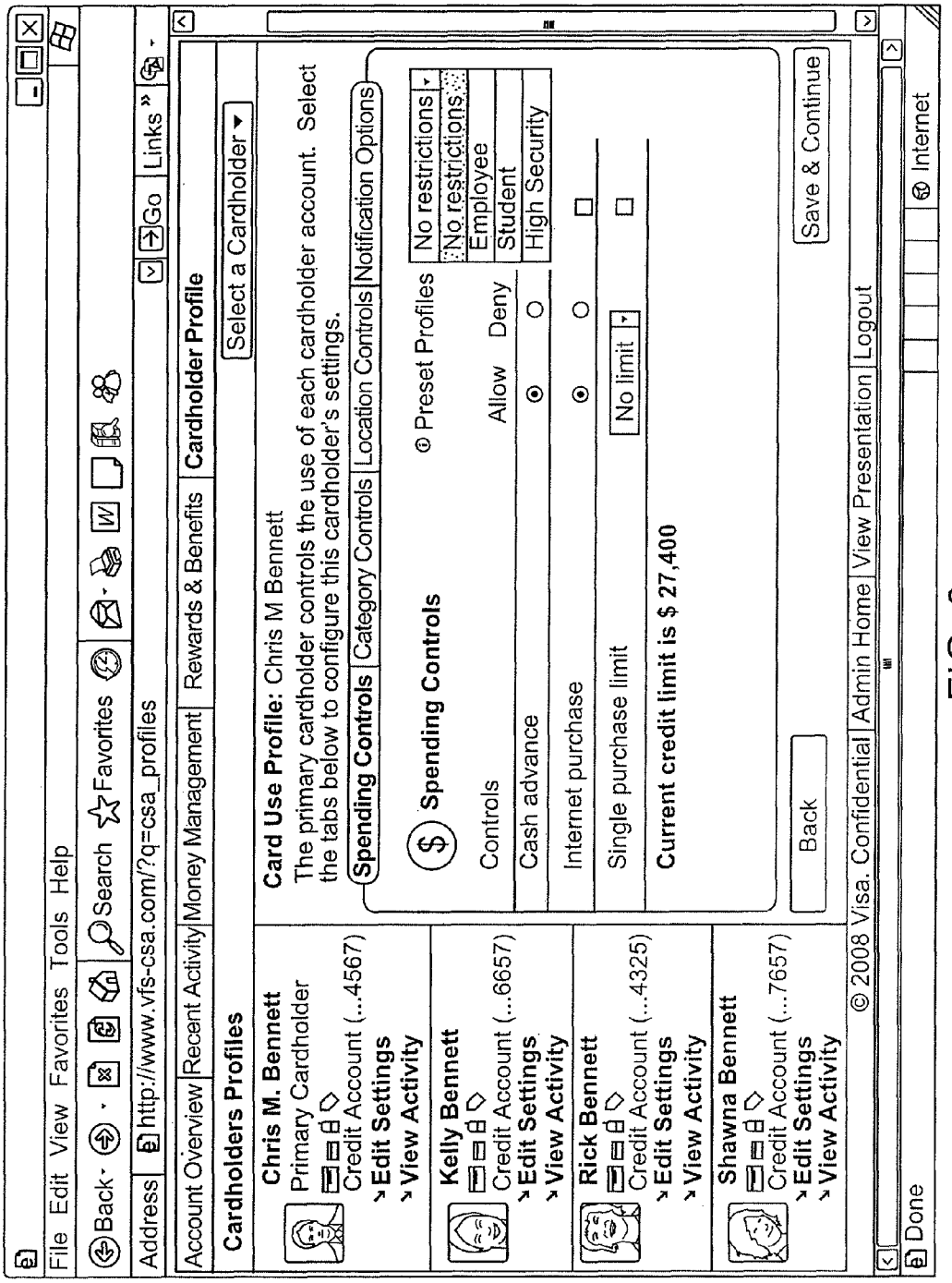
Admin Home
View Presentation
Logout
Internet

FIG. 7


File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back
Search
Favorites
Address
http://www.vfs-csa.com/?q=csa_profiles
Go
Links
Account Overview
Recent Activity
Money Management
Rewards & Benefits
Cardholder Profile
Cardholders Profiles
Select a Cardholder
Chris M. Bennett
Primary Cardholder
Credit Account (...4567)
Edit Settings
View Activity
Kelly Bennett
Credit Account (...6657)
Edit Settings
View Activity
Rick Bennett
Credit Account (...4325)
Edit Settings
View Activity
Shawna Bennett
Credit Account (...7657)
Edit Settings
View Activity
Card Use Profile: Chris M Bennett
The primary cardholder controls the use of each cardholder account. Select the tabs below to configure this cardholder's settings.
Spending Controls
Category Controls
Location Controls
Notification Options
Spending Controls
Preset Profiles
No restrictions
No restrictions
Employee
Student
High Security
Controls
Allow
Deny
Cash advance
Internet purchase
Single purchase limit
No limit
Current credit limit is $ 27,400
Back
Save & Continue
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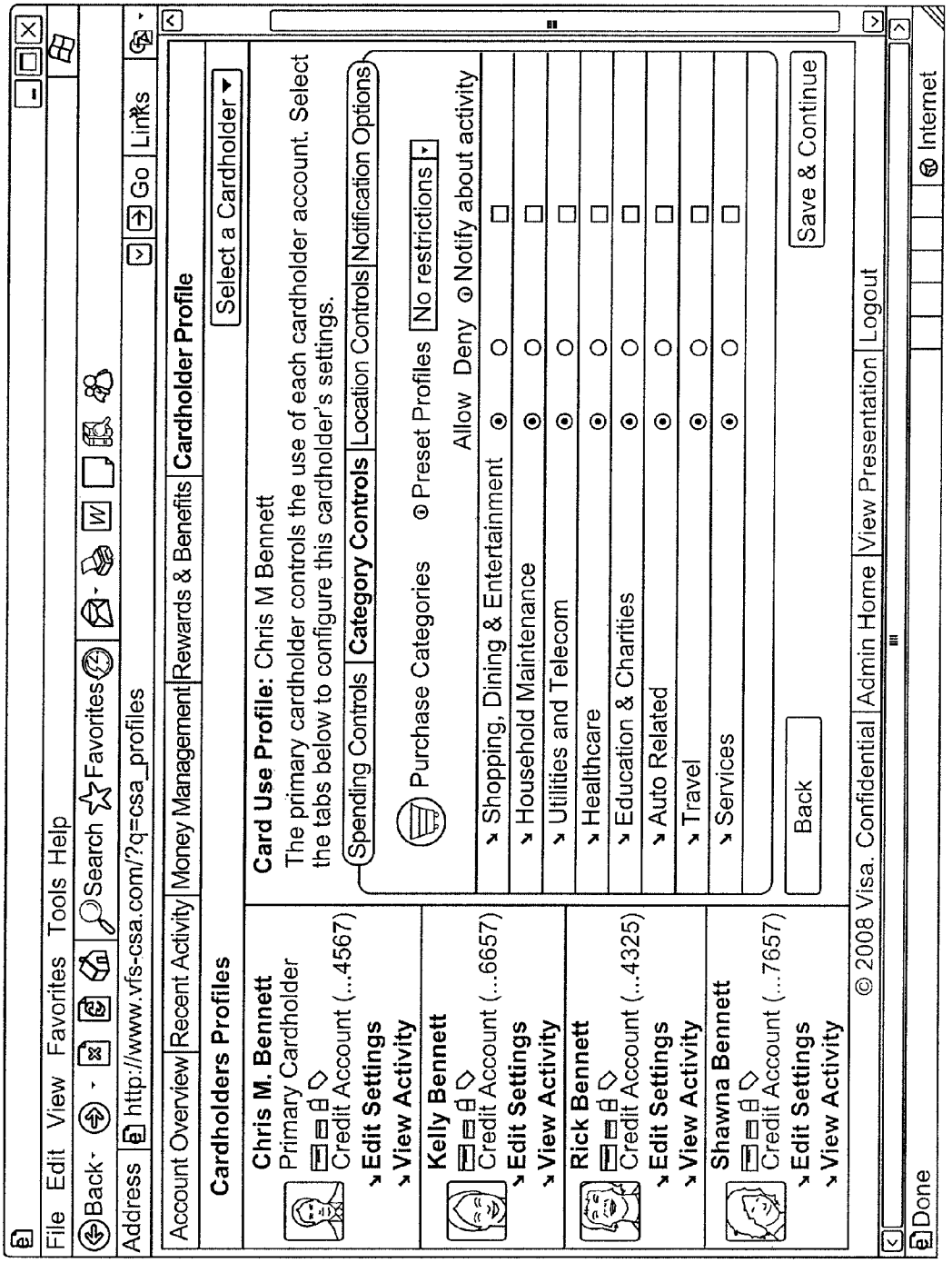
Admin Home
View Presentation
Logout
Done
Internet

FIG. 8


File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back
Search
Favorites
Address http://www.vfs-csa.com/?q=csa_profiles
Go
Links
Account Overview
Recent Activity
Money Management
Rewards & Benefits
Cardholder Profile
Cardholders Profiles
Select a Cardholder
Chris M. Bennett
Primary Cardholder
Credit Account (...4567)
Edit Settings
View Activity
Kelly Bennett
Credit Account (...6657)
Edit Settings
View Activity
Rick Bennett
Credit Account (...4325)
Edit Settings
View Activity
Shawna Bennett
Credit Account (...7657)
Edit Settings
View Activity
Card Use Profile: Chris M Bennett
The primary cardholder controls the use of each cardholder account. Select the tabs below to configure this cardholder's settings.
Spending Controls
Category Controls
Location Controls
Notification Options
Purchase Categories
Preset Profiles
No restrictions
Allow Deny Notify about activity
Shopping, Dining & Entertainment
Household Maintenance
Utilities and Telecom
Healthcare
Education & Charities
Auto Related
Travel
Services
Back
Save & Continue
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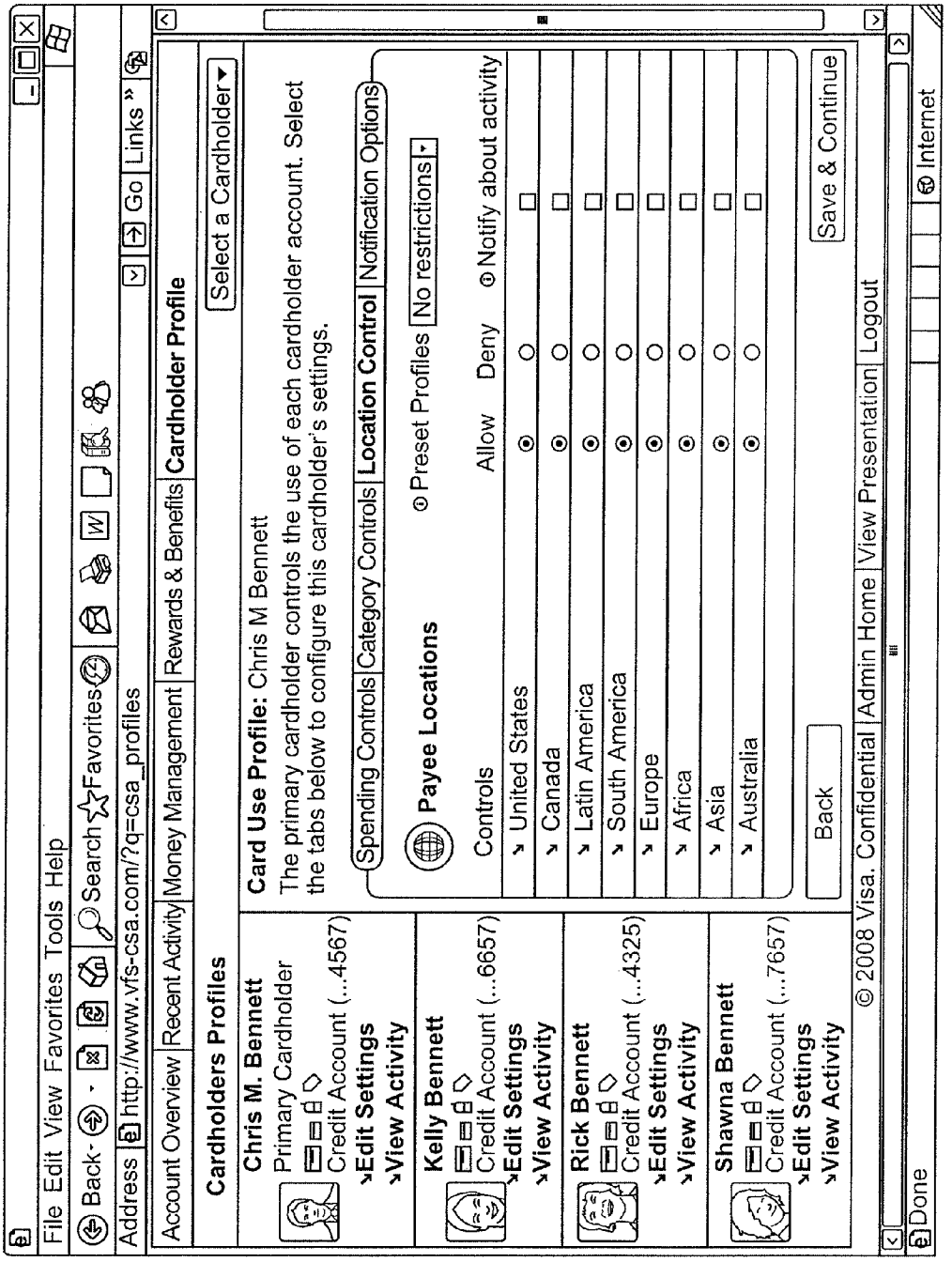
Logout
Done
Internet

FIG. 9


File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back
Search
Favorites
Address http://www.vfs-csa.com/?q=csa_profiles
Go
Links
Account Overview
Recent Activity
Money Management
Rewards & Benefits
Cardholder Profile
Cardholders Profiles
Select a Cardholder
Chris M. Bennett
Primary Cardholder
Credit Account (...4567)
Edit Settings
View Activity
Card Use Profile: Chris M Bennett
The primary cardholder controls the use of each cardholder account. Select the tabs below to configure this cardholder's settings.
Spending Controls
Category Controls
Location Control
Notification Options
Payee Locations
Preset Profiles
No restrictions
Controls
Allow
Deny
Notify about activity
United States
Canada
Latin America
South America
Europe
Africa
Asia
Australia
Back
Save & Continue
Kelly Bennett
Credit Account (...6657)
Edit Settings
View Activity
Rick Bennett
Credit Account (...4325)
Edit Settings
View Activity
Shawna Bennett
Credit Account (...7657)
Edit Settings
View Activity
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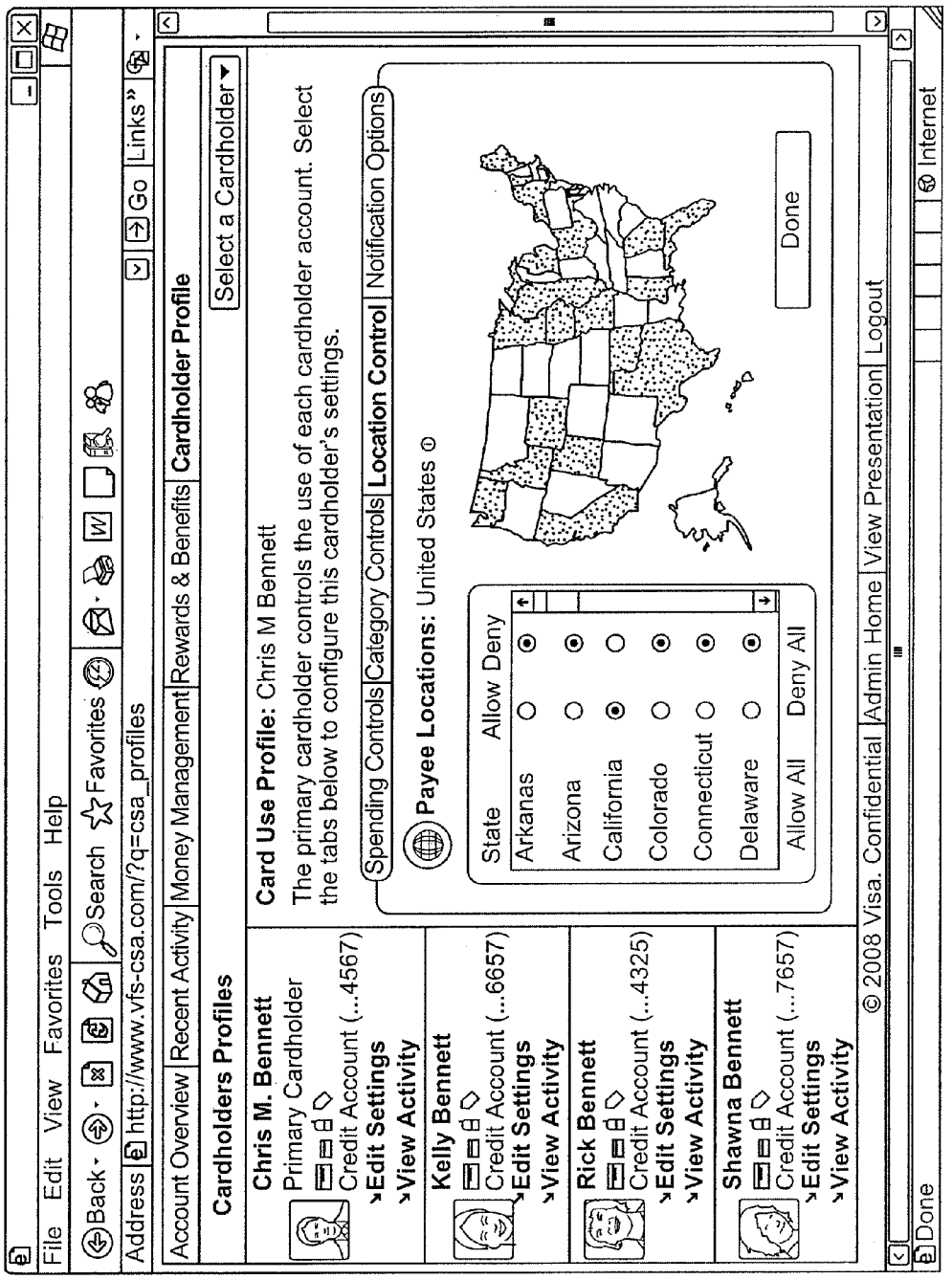
View Presentation
Logout
Done
Internet

FIG. 10


File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back Search Favorites
Address http://www.vfs-csa.com/?q=csa_profiles
Go Links
Account Overview
Recent Activity
Money Management
Rewards & Benefits
Cardholder Profile
Cardholders Profiles
Select a Cardholder
Chris M. Bennett
Primary Cardholder
Credit Account (...4567)
Edit Settings
View Activity
Kelly Bennett
Credit Account (...6657)
Edit Settings
View Activity
Rick Bennett
Credit Account (...4325)
Edit Settings
View Activity
Shawna Bennett
Credit Account (...7657)
Edit Settings
View Activity
Card Use Profile: Chris M Bennett
The primary cardholder controls the use of each cardholder account. Select the tabs below to configure this cardholder's settings.
Spending Controls
Category Controls
Location Control
Notification Options
Payee Locations: United States
State
Allow
Deny
Arkanas
Arizona
California
Colorado
Connecticut
Delaware
Allow All
Deny All
Done
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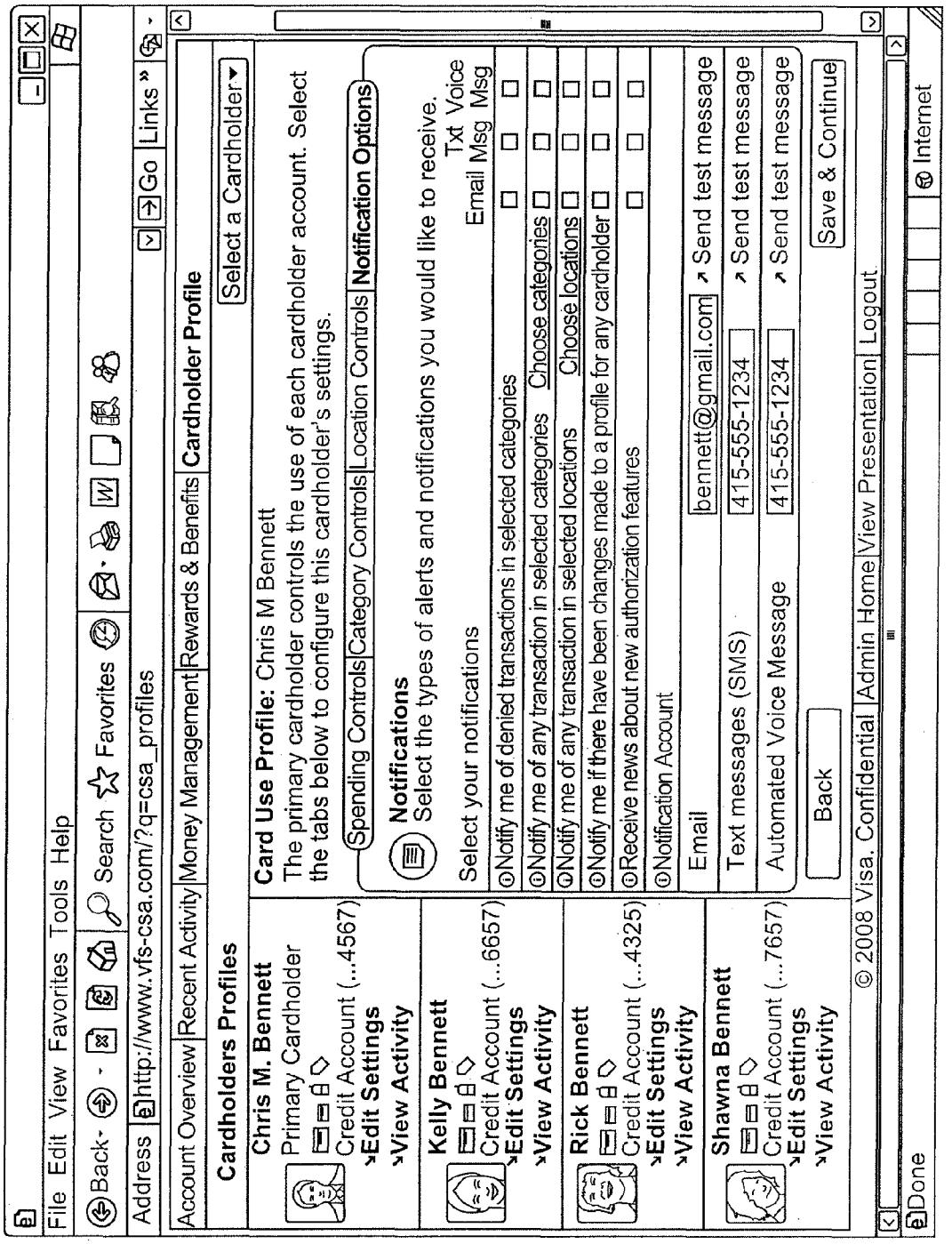
Admin Home
View Presentation
Logout
Done
Internet

FIG. 11


File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back Search Favorites
Address http://www.vfs-csa.com/?q=csa_profiles
Go Links
Account Overview Recent Activity Money Management Rewards & Benefits Cardholder Profile
Cardholders Profiles
Select a Cardholder
Chris M. Bennett
Primary Cardholder
Credit Account (...4567)
Edit Settings
View Activity
Card Use Profile: Chris M Bennett
The primary cardholder controls the use of each cardholder account. Select the tabs below to configure this cardholder's settings.
Spending Controls Category Controls Location Controls Notification Options
Notifications
Select the types of alerts and notifications you would like to receive.
Select your notifications
Txt Voice
Email Msg Msg
Notify me of denied transactions in selected categories
Notify me of any transaction in selected categories Choose categories
Notify me of any transaction in selected locations Choose locations
Notify me if there have been changes made to a profile for any cardholder
Receive news about new authorization features
Notification Account
Email bennett@gmail.com Send test message
Text messages (SMS) 415-555-1234 Send test message
Automated Voice Message 415-555-1234 Send test message
Back
Save & Continue
Kelly Bennett
Credit Account (...6657)
Edit Settings
View Activity
Rick Bennett
Credit Account (...4325)
Edit Settings
View Activity
Shawna Bennett
Credit Account (...7657)
Edit Settings
View Activity
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Done
Internet

FIG. 12

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back · Search Favorites

Address http://www.vfs-csa.com/?q=csa_profiles Go Links

Account Overview | **Recent Activity** | Money Management | Rewards & Benefits | Cardholder Profile

Cardholders Profiles Select a Cardholder

Chris M. Bennett
Primary Cardholder
Credit Account (...4567)
Edit Settings
View Activity

Recent Activity: Chris M Bennett

Trans Date	Description	Payee Location	Category	Amount
10/13/2008	AMC Van Ness	San Francisco, CA	Dining & Entertainment	$21.00
10/13/2008	Jeremy's	London, England	Clothing	$53.17
10/12/2008	SF MUNI Court	San Francisco, CA	Other	$410.85
10/12/2008	Stacks	San Francisco, CA	Dining & Entertainment	$29.93
10/12/2008	Patxi's Chicago Pizza	San Francisco, CA	Dining & Entertainment	$33.58
10/11/2008	Payment	San Francisco, CA		+300.00
10/11/2008	Wallgreens # 4543	San Francisco, CA	Other	$84.96
Post Date: 10/10/2008	Transaction Number: 24164078288931410391301	Location Options	Category Options	Spend Options
10/11/2008	San Francisco Toyota Van	San Francisco, CA	Vehicle Expenses	$669.58
10/10/2008	Sushi Hana	San Francisco, CA	Dining & Entertainment	$16.01
10/09/2008	Wild Card	Cupertino, CA	Other	$30.12
10/09/2008	USPS 0568743345	Las Vegas, NV	Services & Merchandise	$14.04
10/09/2008	Esperpento	Las Vegas, NV	Dining & Entertainment	$41.81

Kelly Bennett
Credit Account (...6657)
Edit Settings
View Activity

Rick Bennett
Credit Account (...4325)
Edit Settings
View Activity

Shawna Bennett
Credit Account (...7657)
Edit Settings
View Activity

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Done Internet

FIG. 13

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ACCOUNT LEVEL BLOCKING

CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a non-provisional application of and claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/156,938, filed on Mar. 3, 2009, and U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/157,530, filed on Mar. 4, 2009. These applications are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety for all purposes.

BACKGROUND

In some cases, a consumer may want to restrict his usage of his account so that certain transactions are authorized and some are not. A typical example may be where a parent provides a credit card to a minor child. Another example may be where an employer provides a credit card to an employee for use in conducting transactions related to his employment. In such situations, the party responsible for payment may wish to limit the authorized user to a subset of transactions that is much more granular than just a credit limit as imposed by the card issuer. The user may set authorization controls whereby payment card transactions are blocked at the authorization stage of a transaction if certain blocking criteria are met. For example, the user may inform a central server that authorization requests for transactions associated with a payment card should be denied if the transactions are conducted out of the country.

Although such authorization controls are effective, there are many situations where a transaction may be cleared even though the payment transaction was not supposed to be. Clearing of a transaction is the process where a merchant or an acquirer (e.g., a bank with a merchant account) provides the appropriate issuer with information on the sale. This may include providing data required to identify the cardholder's account and providing the dollar amount of the sale. When the issuer gets this data, the issuer posts the amount of the sale as a draw against the cardholder's available credit and prepares to send payment to the acquirer. The next step after clearing is settlement which is the actual exchange of funds.

As an illustration of how an effort to control transaction authorizations through authorization request messages may not be fully effective to prevent transactions from proceeding, a merchant may have a "floor limit" of $100. This means that if a consumer makes a purchase transaction at the merchant for less than $100, the merchant can authorize the transaction without having to go to the issuer to determine whether or not the current transaction should be authorized (e.g., whether the consumer has sufficient funds to cover the transaction or has other restrictions on his account) according to controls that are set for authorization request messages. Thus, even though the user may want to prohibit the transaction at the merchant, an authorization request message is not sent to the issuer and the authorization controls that may reside between the merchant and the issuer may not be invoked. As a result, a transaction that should not have occurred may inadvertently occur.

Embodiments of the invention address these and other problems individually and collectively.

BRIEF SUMMARY

Embodiments of the invention are directed to methods, systems, and computer readable media for authorization and notification.

One embodiment of the invention is directed to a method that includes receiving, at a server computer, a transaction clearing request for a transaction, and then determining, using the server computer, if the transaction satisfies a stored blocking parameter. The method further includes allowing, using the server computer, the transaction clearing request if the transaction does not satisfy the stored blocking parameter, and denying, using the server computer, the transaction clearing request if the transaction satisfies the stored blocking parameter.

Another embodiment of the invention is directed to a method that includes receiving, at a server computer, a transaction clearing request for a transaction, and then determining, using the server computer, if the transaction satisfies a stored blocking notification parameter. The method further includes sending, using the server computer, a notification message if the transaction satisfies the stored blocking notification parameter.

Another embodiment of the invention is directed to a method that includes specifying, using a server computer, at least one blocking parameter wherein the blocking parameter is subsequently used to block a transaction that satisfies the blocking parameter. The method further includes receiving, at the server computer, a notification message when a transaction satisfies the blocking parameter.

Another embodiment of the invention is directed to a method that includes sending, using a computer apparatus, a transaction clearing request wherein a determination is made as to whether the transaction clearing request satisfies a stored blocking parameter. The method further includes receiving using the computer apparatus, a clearing return code if the transaction clearing request satisfies the stored blocking parameter.

Other embodiments of the invention are directed to computer readable media comprising code for performing the above-described methods as well as systems, apparatuses and devices that perform the methods and/or that use the computer readable media.

These and other embodiments of the invention are described in further detail below.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** shows a block diagram of a system according to an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. **2** shows a block diagram of a payment processing network according to an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. **3** illustrates an exemplary computer system in which various embodiments may be implemented.

FIG. **4** shows a flowchart illustrating steps in a method according to an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. **5** shows a flowchart illustrating steps in a method according to an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. **6** shows a flowchart illustrating steps in a method according to an embodiment of the invention.

FIGS. **7-13** show exemplary user interface screens according to an embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Embodiments of the present invention are directed to systems, apparatuses and methods for account level blocking of transactions at the clearing authorization stage (i.e., to prevent the transactions from being cleared when the sales drafts are being processed at the payment processing network) and optionally at the transaction authorization stage (i.e., to prevent the transaction from being approved).

Embodiments of the invention allow a consumer or other entity to set parameters to specify the types of payment transactions that should not be allowed to conclude. For example, the consumer may want to block all transactions made with his credit card outside the United States, at a particular type of merchant (e.g., liquor store) or via a certain payment channel (e.g., Internet purchases). After registration in a blocking system to specify his blocking parameters, any transactions made with his credit card outside the United States, in a liquor store, or on the Internet will be denied. These parameters can be changed at any time by the consumer. The consumer can also specify that he would like to receive notification when these types of transactions occur or when these types of transactions are blocked.

Embodiments of the invention also allow entities such as issuers of credit cards, debit cards, prepaid cards, and the like to specify blocking parameters for clearing level authorization and notification. When a transaction clearing request from a merchant meets one or more of the parameters specified by the issuer, an action specified by the issuer may occur. For example, an issuer may want to restrict transactions from clearing that relate to a specific card or set of cards that have been lost or stolen or block all recurring transactions from specified merchants. The issuer may also specify that upon the occurrence of a transaction clearing request for such a transaction, notification should be sent to the issuer's transaction system. If a merchant subsequently sends a transaction clearing request for a transaction that was not previously authorized by the card issuer, the transaction clearing request would be denied (i.e., the transaction is not allowed). Furthermore, a text or email message would be sent to the issuer indicating that a prohibited transaction had attempted to clear.

Additional details regarding embodiments of the invention are described below.

FIG. **1** shows a system that can be used for conducting a payment transaction. For simplicity of illustration, one consumer, one consumer device, one client computer, one access device, one merchant, one acquirer, and one issuer are shown. It is understood, however, that embodiments of the invention may include multiple consumers, consumer devices, client computers, access devices, merchants, acquirers, and issuers. In additional, some embodiments of the invention may include fewer than all of the components shown in FIG. **1**. Also, the components in FIG. **1** may communicate via any suitable communication medium (including the Internet), using any suitable communication protocol.

The system **100** includes a consumer **10** which may be an individual, or an organization such as a business that is capable of purchasing goods or services. The consumer **10** may operate a client computer **16**. The client computer **16** can be a desktop computer, a laptop computer, a wireless phone, a personal digital assistant (PDA), etc. It may operate using any suitable operating system including a Windowsill based operating system. The client computer may be used to interact with a merchant **20** (e.g., via a merchant website).

The consumer device **12** may be in any suitable form. For example, suitable consumer devices can be hand-held and compact so that they fit into a consumer's wallet and/or pocket (e.g., pocket-sized). They may include smart cards, ordinary credit or debit cards (with a magnetic strip and without a microprocessor), keychain devices (such as the Speedpass™ commercially available form Exxon-Mobil Corp.), etc. Other examples of portable consumer devices include cellular phones, PDAs, pagers, payment cards, security cards, access cards, smart media, transponders, and the like. The consumer devices can also be debit services (e.g., a debit card), credit devices (e.g., a credit card), or stored value devices (e.g., a stored value card).

The merchant **20** may be an individual or an organization such as a business that is capable of providing goods and services. The merchant **20** may have a computer apparatus (not shown). The computer apparatus may comprise a processor and a computer readable medium. The computer readable medium may comprise code or instructions for sending a transaction clearing request and receiving a clearing return code.

The merchant **20** may have one or more access devices **14**. Suitable access devices include interfaces and may include point of sale (POS) devices, cellular phones, PDAs, personal computers (PCs), tablet PCs, handheld specialized readers, set-top boxes, electronic cash registers (ECR), automated teller machines (ATM), virtual cash registers (VCR), kiosks, security systems, access systems, and the like. They can interact with consumer devices. For example, a consumer **10** using a credit card to purchase a good or service can swipe it through an appropriate slot in the POS terminal. Alternatively the POS terminal may be a contactless reader, and the consumer device **12** may be a contactless device such as a contactless card. As another alternative, a consumer **10** may purchase a good or service via a merchant's website where the consumer enters the credit card information into the client computer **16** and clicks on a button to complete the purchase. The client computer **16** may be considered an access device.

The system **100** also includes an acquirer **30** associated with the merchant **20**. The acquirer **30** may be in operative communication with an issuer **50** of the consumer device **12** via a payment processing network **40**. The acquirer **30** is typically a bank that has a merchant account. The issuer **50** may also be a bank, but could also be a business entity such as a retail store. Some entities are both acquirers and issuers, and embodiments of the invention include such entities. The acquirer **30** and the issuer **50** may each have a server computer and a database associated with the server computer (not shown).

The payment processing network **40** is located between (in an operational sense) the acquirer **30** and the issuer **50**. It may include data processing subsystems, networks, and operations used to support and deliver authorization services, exception file services, and clearing and settlement services. An exemplary payment processing network is shown in FIG. **2**. The payment processing network **40** may include a blocking system **41** which allows for customizable level of control to restrict authorization and clearing of transactions. The blocking system **41** utilizes services from the real time decision engine **42** and the notification engine **45**. The authorization system **43** processes authorization requests and the clearing system **44** performs clearing and settlement services.

For example, a payment processing network may include VisaNet™. Payment processing networks such as VisaNet™ are able to process credit card transactions, debit card transactions, and other types of commercial transactions. VisaNet™, in particular, includes a VIP system (Visa Integrated Payments system) which processes authorization requests and a Base II system which performs clearing and settlement services.

The payment processing network **40** may use any suitable wired or wireless network, including the Internet. The payment processing network **40** may have a server computer and a database associated with the server computer (not shown). The server computer may comprise a processor and a computer readable medium. The computer readable medium may comprise code or instructions for receiving a transaction clearing request, determining if the transaction satisfies a

stored blocking parameter, allowing or denying the transaction clearing request based on the blocking parameter, determining if the transaction satisfies a stored blocking notification parameter, and sending a notification if the transaction satisfies the stored blocking notification parameter.

FIG. **3** illustrates an exemplary computer system **300**, in which various embodiments may be implemented. The system **300** may be used to implement any of the computer systems described above (e.g., client computer **16**, a server computer at the payment processing network **40**, a server computer at the issuer **50**, a computer apparatus at the merchant **20**, etc.). The computer system **300** is shown comprising hardware elements that may be electrically coupled via a bus **324**. The hardware elements may include one or more central processing units (CPUs) **302**, one or more input devices **304** (e.g., a mouse, a keyboard, etc.), and one or more output devices **306** (e.g., a display device, a printer, etc.). The computer system **300** may also include one or more storage devices **308**. By way of example, the storage device(s) **308** can include devices such as disk drives, optical storage devices, solid-state storage device such as a random access memory ("RAM") and/or a read-only memory ("ROM"), which can be programmable, flash-updateable and/or the like.

The computer system **300** may additionally include a computer-readable storage media reader **312**, a communications system **314** (e.g., a modem, a network card (wireless or wired), an infra-red communication device, etc.), and working memory **318**, which may include RAM and ROM devices as described above. In some embodiments, the computer system **300** may also include a processing acceleration unit **316**, which can include a digital signal processor DSP, a special-purpose processor, and/or the like.

The computer-readable storage media reader **312** can further be connected to a computer-readable storage medium **310**, together (and, optionally, in combination with storage device(s) **308**) comprehensively representing remote, local, fixed, and/or removable storage devices plus storage media for temporarily and/or more permanently containing, storing, transmitting, and retrieving computer-readable information. The communications system **314** may permit data to be exchanged with the network and/or any other computer described above with respect to the system **300**.

The computer system **300** may also comprise software elements, shown as being currently located within a working memory **318**, including an operating system **320** and/or other code **322**, such as an application program (which may be a client application, Web browser, mid-tier application, relational database management system (RDBMS), etc.). It should be appreciated that alternate embodiments of a computer system **300** may have numerous variations from that described above. For example, customized hardware might also be used and/or particular elements might be implemented in hardware, software (including portable software, such as applets), or both. Further, connection to other computing devices such as network input/output devices may be employed.

Storage media and computer readable media for containing code, or portions of code, can include any appropriate media known or used in the art, including storage media and communication media, such as but not limited to volatile and non-volatile, removable and non-removable media implemented in any method or technology for storage and/or transmission of information such as computer readable instructions, data structures, program modules, or other data, including RAM, ROM, EEPROM, flash memory or other memory technology, CD-ROM, digital versatile disk (DVD) or other optical storage, magnetic cassettes, magnetic tape, magnetic disk storage or other magnetic storage devices, data signals, data transmissions, or any other medium which can be used to store or transmit the desired information and which can be accessed by the computer. Based on the disclosure and teachings provided herein, a person of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate other ways and/or methods to implement the various embodiments.

FIG. **4** shows a flowchart including a general method according to an embodiment of the invention. The method can be described with reference to the block diagrams in FIGS. **1** and **2** and the screen shots in FIGS. **6-13**.

First, a consumer **10** may be presented with a webpage via a client computer **16** to register for account level blocking, as shown in FIG. **7** and in step **405** of FIG. **4**. This webpage or web application may be hosted at the payment processing network **40** or the issuer **50**. A consumer may also register in other manners such as by phone, email, SMS, etc. As part of the registration, the consumer may be asked to provide identifying information to the registration web server, in order to authenticate to the server that the consumer is in fact who he claims to be. Once the consumer has been authenticated, he may then specify blocking criteria to be associated with one or more accounts. The use of such blocking criteria may allow the consumer **10** to place restrictions on his account that are more specific than restrictions that may be placed by the issuer **50** of the account. It is useful for a consumer to be able to impose specific restrictions on his account.

Blocking criteria may include jurisdiction (e.g., countries or regions in which the transactions will not be allowed), merchant category code or merchant category group (e.g., type of business a merchant operates), merchant verification value (e.g., transactions that originate from a particular merchant, category of merchants, or list of merchants will not be allowed), payment channel (e.g., face-to-face, card not present, e-commerce), terminal ID (e.g., deny transactions that originate from specific terminals), transaction type (e.g., cash, POS purchase, quasi-cash, account funding transaction (AFT), original credit, payment), lost or stolen card (e.g., a "hotcard" list which will block all transactions from that card from being authorized), service code (e.g., a list of service codes from a card's magnetic stripe that should be blocked), recurring payment (e.g., stop all recurring transactions from specified merchants), single transaction limit, daily limit, or monthly limit. FIGS. **8-12** show exemplary user interface screens that may be provided to a consumer **10** to specify blocking parameters.

FIG. **8** shows an exemplary screen for setting spending control parameters. The consumer **10** may have the option to select preset profiles (e.g., employee, student, high security, etc.) which would automatically set authorization parameters to the most common setting for the type of profile selected. The use of a predetermined profile is advantageous, as it can save an account holder time and can provide suggestions on what types of transactions to block. For example, a "student" profile may preclude transactions conducted at merchants that sell liquor. The account holder may not think of this transaction blocking scenario and an exemplary profile may suggest this for him.

Additionally or alternatively, the consumer **10** has the ability to create a custom profile and designate authorization parameters for that profile. Any account subsequently designated with this profile would take on the same authorization parameters. The consumer **10** can designate as many cards to the same profile as appropriate. For example, a small business owner can set all of his employee cards as "employee."

A consumer **10** can choose to deny or allow cash advances for the account and Internet purchases. The consumer **10**

could also set a single purchase limit which may provide for the maximum amount that may be spent in a single transaction (e.g., $5000). Another blocking criteria may be a daily limit, which limits that maximum that may be spent in a single day. Similarly, a monthly limit may also be provided.

FIG. **9** shows an exemplary screen for setting category controls. A consumer **10** can choose to allow or deny a transaction relating to shopping, dining and entertainment, household maintenance, utilities and telecom, healthcare, education and charities, auto related, travel, services, etc. For example, a parent who has given a card to a minor child may wish to block purchases at merchants who sell adult oriented goods (e.g. liquor stores).

Another potential blocking criteria may be the channel used in a transaction. Some examples of channels can include merchant's brick and mortar stores, online purchases, Automated Teller Machine (ATM) transactions, and others. A consumer **10** may wish to block transactions from certain channels, while allowing them from other channels. Similarly to channel blocking, a consumer **10** may also wish to specify blocks based on transaction type. For example, purchase transactions may be allowed, while cash advance transactions may be denied.

FIGS. **10** and **11** show exemplary screens for setting location controls so that a consumer **10** may block transaction based on geographic location. A consumer **10** can specify blocking parameters by broad categories (e.g., United States, Europe) or by specific states within a country (e.g., Arizona, Colorado). For example, the consumer **10** may wish to block transactions that occur outside of a specified list of states, or outside of a specified list of countries, or outside of the present country.

The above list of blocking criteria is not intended to be exhaustive. Embodiments of the present disclosure may make use of any blocking criteria as may be made available. Additionally, the blocking criteria as presented above may be used in any combination. For example, the consumer **10** may specify a monthly transaction limit along with a list of unacceptable merchant codes, while restricting purchases to the United States. If a transaction is attempted that violates any of the blocking criteria, the transaction may be disallowed.

The criteria presented above for blocking transactions may also be used to provide the consumer responsible for the account with notifications. An exemplary webpage that may be presented to a consumer to set notification parameters is shown in FIG. **12**. For example, a consumer **10** can specify a parameter to be notified when transactions are denied based on his blocking parameters. Notifications can include a text message to a mobile phone, an e-mail message, a phone call, a voice message or any other suitable form of notification. In some embodiments, instead of blocking a transaction, a notification message will be sent to the consumer **10**. Such a notification can be useful in situations where the responsible party may not wish for the transaction to be denied, but wishes to be notified of the occurrence. For example, an employer may wish to control the maximum amount an employee may spend on a single transaction. If a blocking criteria based on a single transaction limit is set, transactions above that limit will always be denied. However, situations may arise where the employee must spend an amount that is outside of normal (e.g., the employee must pay a large vehicle repair bill for a company owned vehicle). By using notifications, instead of blocking, the employee will be on notice that his transactions are being monitored by the employer, while at the same time not restricting the employee's use of the card under exceptional circumstances.

In some embodiments, transaction blocking and notifications may be used together. For example, the cardholder may wish to set a monthly spending limit, and specify an account level block which will deny transactions that would cause the monthly limit to be exceeded. At the same time, the account holder may wish to only be notified of any single transaction that exceeds a set limit, while not denying the transaction. Any combination of blocking and notifications using criteria such as has been described above are contemplated.

Once the consumer **10** has finished registration for account level blocking related to one or more accounts, the blocking parameters will be used by the payment processing network **40** via the blocking system **41** to determine whether or not a payment transaction using the account should be blocked (e.g., authorization for the payment transaction declined). A consumer **10** may return to the blocking system webpage to make any updates or modifications to blocking and notification parameters. A consumer can also view all of the recent activity for his account as shown in FIG. **13**.

Returning to FIG. **4**, in a typical purchase transaction, the consumer **10** purchases a good or service at the merchant **20** using a consumer device **12** such as a credit card (step **410**). The consumer's consumer device **12** can interact with an access device **14** such as a POS (point of sale) terminal at the merchant **20**. For example, the consumer **10** may take a credit card and may swipe it through an appropriate slot in the POS terminal. Alternatively, the POS terminal may be a contactless reader, and the consumer device **12** may be a contactless device such as a contactless card or a mobile phone with a contactless element.

An authorization request message is then forwarded to the acquirer **30**. After receiving the authorization request message, the acquirer **30** sends the authorization request message to the payment processing network **40** (step **415**). The authorization request messaged is then received by a server computer at the payment processing network (step **420**). The payment processing network **40** via the blocking system **41** then determines whether the transaction satisfies a stored blocking parameter (step **425**) by comparing the data elements available in the authorization request message against the blocking parameters specified by the consumer for types of transactions to be blocked.

For example, a consumer **10** may provide a credit card to his minor son. Using the example shown in FIG. **6**, the consumer **10** may have specified a blocking parameter associated with a certain merchant category code (MCC) for liquor stores (e.g., 2356) indicating that he wants all transactions at liquor stores blocked for that account. He may also specify parameters indicating that all transactions that occur in Austria, Brazil, Canada, and Italy be blocked for that account. The minor son may then attempt to use the credit card to make a purchase a liquor store in France. Once the authorization request message is received at the server computer at the payment processing network **40**, the payment processing network **40** via the blocking system **41** compares the information in the authorization request message to the blocking parameters selected by the consumer **10**. For example, the blocking system **41** compares the acquirer country "France" with the blocked countries and determines that no blocking parameter applies. It then compares the MCC to the blocked MCCs and notes that the code 2356 for liquor stores matches the code on the blocked MCCs list. Thus, the transaction would not be allowed.

Returning to FIG. **4**, If the blocking system **41** determines that a blocking parameter is satisfied (e.g., the transaction is occurring at a liquor store as in the example above), then an authorization is declined (step **435**) and the payment process-

ing network **40** forwards the authorization response message back to the acquirer **30**. The acquirer **30** then sends the response message back to the merchant **20**.

After the merchant **20** receives the authorization response message, the access device **14** at the merchant **20** may then provide the authorization response message for the consumer **10**. The response message may be displayed by the POS terminal, the consumer device **12**, or may be printed out on a receipt.

If the blocking system **41** determines that a blocking parameter is not satisfied, the transaction is allowed (step **430**) and the payment processing network **40** then forwards the authorization request message to the issuer **50** of the consumer device **12**.

After the issuer **50** receives the authorization request message, the issuer **50** sends an authorization response message back to the payment processing network **40** to indicate whether or not the current transaction is authorized (e.g., whether the account has sufficient credit or funds to cover the transaction). The payment processing network **40** then forwards the authorization response message back to the acquirer **30**. The acquirer **30** then sends the response message back to the merchant **20**.

After the merchant **20** receives the authorization response message, the access device **14** at the merchant **20** may then provide the authorization response message for the consumer **10**. The response message may be displayed by the POS terminal, the consumer device **12**, or may be printed out on a receipt.

Regardless of whether authorization is granted or declined, the blocking system **41** determines whether or not a notification parameter is met (step **440**) by comparing the data elements available in the authorization request message against the notification parameters specified by the consumer for types of transactions he should be notified about. As described earlier, a consumer **10** may want to be notified about a particular type of transaction, whether or not the transaction was actually blocked.

If the blocking system **41** determines that a notification parameter is not satisfied, the process ends (step **445**). If the blocking system **41** determines that a notification parameter is satisfied, then notification is sent to the consumer **10** (step **450**) by means previously specified by the consumer **10** (e.g., though registration or in later updates made via a webpage). For example, a consumer **10** may receive notification via an SMS message on his mobile phone.

FIG. **5** shows a flowchart including a general method according to an embodiment of the invention. The method can be described with reference to the block diagrams in FIGS. **1** and **2**.

First an issuer **50** registers for account level blocking (step **505**). An issuer **50** may register via a website (similar to what was described above for a consumer registration), by email, phone, other means to specify blocking parameters to the payment processing network **40**. An issuer **50** may also specify such parameters in a batch upload periodically (e.g., hourly, daily, weekly, monthly). For example, the issuer **50** may want to provide an updated list of lost or stolen cards at the end of the day directly to the blocking system **41** at the payment processing network **40**.

Similar to the example described earlier in reference to FIG. **8**, an issuer **50** may have the option to select preset profiles (e.g., high security) which would automatically set authorization parameters to the most common setting for the type of profile selected. The use of a predetermined profile is advantageous, as it can save an issuer time and can provide suggestions on what types of transactions to block. The issuer may not think of this transaction blocking scenario and an exemplary profile may suggest this for the issuer.

Additionally or alternatively, the issuer **50** has the ability to create a custom profile and designate authorization parameters for that profile. Any account subsequently designated with this profile would take on the same authorization parameters. The issuer **50** can designate as many accounts to the same profile as appropriate. For example, an issuer **50** can specify a different profile for each merchant category, for specific payment channels, or for a specific merchant.

As described above and in reference to FIGS. **8-12**, blocking criteria may include jurisdiction (e.g., countries or regions in which the transactions will not be allowed), merchant category code or merchant category group (e.g., type of merchant from which transactions will not be allowed), merchant verification value (e.g., transactions that originate from a particular merchant, category of merchants, or list of merchants will not be allowed), payment channel (e.g., face-to-face, card not present, e-commerce), terminal ID (e.g., deny transactions that originate from specific terminals), transaction type (e.g., cash, POS purchase, quasi-cash, account funding transaction (AFT), original credit, payment), lost or stolen card (e.g., a "hotcard" list which will block all transactions from that card from being authorized), service code (e.g., a list of service codes from a card's magnetic stripe that should be blocked), recurring payment (e.g., stop all recurring transactions from specified merchants), single transaction limit, daily limit, or monthly limit.

The above list of blocking criteria is not intended to be exhaustive. Embodiments of the present disclosure may make use of any blocking criteria as may be made available. Additionally, the blocking criteria as presented above may be used in any combination. For example, the issuer **50** may specify a list of unacceptable merchant codes and restrict purchases to the United States. If a transaction is attempted that violates any of the blocking criteria, the transaction may be disallowed.

Any number of transactions may be conducted over the course of an hour, day, week, etc. at a particular merchant **20** or by a particular consumer **10** account. At the end of the day, a clearing and settlement process may be conducted by the payment processing network **40**. After the issuer **50** has registered for account level blocking related to one or more accounts, the blocking parameters will be used by the payment processing network **40** via the blocking system **41** to determine whether or not a clearing transaction related to the account should be blocked (e.g., transaction clearing request declined).

First, a merchant **20** sends a transaction clearing request via a computer apparatus located at the merchant to the payment processing network **40** via an acquirer **30** (step **510**). A server computer at the payment processing network **40** receives the transaction clearing request (step **515**). The payment processing network **40** via the blocking system **41** determines whether or not a blocking parameter is satisfied (step **520**) by comparing the data elements available in the transaction clearing request message (e.g., clearing record) against the blocking parameters specified by the issuer **50** for types of transactions to be blocked.

As described above, FIG. **6** shows an authorization message and how the payment processing network **40** via the blocking system **41** compares the data elements available in the authorization message with the blocking parameters specified by the consumer **10**. In this embodiment, instead of an authorization message, the payment processing network **40** via the blocking system **41** is comparing a transaction clearing request with the blocking parameters. For example,

an issuer **50** may have specified parameters to block transactions from clearing that originate in Austria, Brazil, Canada, and Italy. The issuer **50** may also specify that transactions should be blocked from clearing that have the merchant category codes 1521, 1953, 2115, 2356, and 5267. Finally, the issuer **50** may specify that transactions should be blocked from clearing that are in a list of lost or stolen cards (not shown).

In this example, a merchant **20** may send a transaction clearing request via a computer apparatus located at the merchant to the payment processing network **40** for clearing. A merchant **20** may send one request at a time or may send a batch of many requests. Once the transaction clearing request is received at the server computer at the payment processing network **40**, the blocking system **41** compares the information in the transaction clearing request to the parameters specified by the issuer **50**. For example, the blocking system **41** compares the acquirer country "France" with the blocked countries and determines that no blocking parameter applies. It then compares the MCC to the blocked MCCs and notes that the code 2356 matches the code on the blocked MCCs list. Thus, the transaction would not be allowed. The blocking system **41** would also compare the list of lost or stolen cards (not shown) and determine whether or not the account number matched a lost or stolen card.

If the blocking system **41** determines that a blocking parameter is satisfied (e.g., the MCC matches a code on the blocked MCC list as in the example above), then the transaction clearing request is declined (step **530**) and the payment processing network **40** sends a transaction clearing response to the acquirer **30**. The response may include an appropriate decline code indicating the reason the request was declined. The acquirer **30** then sends the response message back to the merchant **20**.

If the blocking system **41** determines that a blocking parameter is not satisfied, the transaction clearing request is allowed and the payment processing network **40** facilitates settlement (step **525**). Thus, the payment processing network **40** pays the merchant **20** (via the acquirer **30**), debits the issuer account and sends the transaction to the issuer **50**. The issuer **50** posts the transaction to the consumer account and sends a monthly statement to the consumer **10**. The consumer **10** receives the statement from the issuer **50**.

Regardless of whether the transaction clearing request is allowed or declined, the blocking system **41** next determines whether or not a blocking notification parameter is met (step **535**). An issuer **50** may want to be notified about a particular type of transaction, whether or not the transaction was actually blocked.

If the blocking system **41** determines that a blocking parameter is not satisfied, the process ends (step **540**). If the blocking system **41** determines that a blocking parameter is satisfied, then notification is sent to the issuer **50** (step **545**) by means previously specified by the issuer **50** (e.g., though registration or in later updates made via a webpage or by bulk processing). For example, an issuer **50** may receive notification by email or directly to a system at the issuer **50** designed to receive such notifications.

Embodiments of the invention have a number of advantages. As described above there are many situations where a transaction may be cleared even though the payment transaction was not initially authorized by the issuer of the credit card, debit card, or the like (e.g., the merchant has a floor limit, the network is down, etc.). By allowing the issuer **50** to restrict the clearing of certain transactions, the problem of clearing transaction that were not initially authorized may be avoided.

Another advantage is the ability for the issuer, consumer or other entity to select preset or predetermined profiles or set customized profiles to set parameters common to specific types of use (e.g., transactions to block for a student's use versus an employee's use). The use of a predetermined profile is advantageous, as it can save an entity time and can provide suggestions on what types of transactions to block. For example, a "student" profile may preclude transactions conducted at merchants that sell liquor. The entity may not think of this transaction blocking scenario and an exemplary profile may suggest this for him. A custom or predetermined profile also makes it much easier for the issuers, consumer or other entities to specify parameters common to more than one account without having to specify the same parameters for each account individually which could be quite time consuming if, for example, an entity has 100 employees with accounts.

Embodiments of the invention are additionally advantageous to a consumer by allowing a consumer to restrict usage of his account so that certain transactions are authorized and some are not authorized. A consumer may have a large credit limit (e.g., $10,000) set by the issuer but may want to specify a lower spending limit to more accurately reflect his financial situation. Further, the consumer responsible for paying the account may not necessarily be the same as the person who is using the account (e.g., a parent providing a credit card to a minor child, and employer providing a credit card to an employee to used for business-related transactions). Embodiments of the invention allow the consumer who is responsible for paying for the account to put restrictions on the use by others for transactions using the account.

Yet another advantage is the ability for a consumer or issuer to specify parameters to be notified about a particular type of transaction, whether or not the transaction was actually blocked. As mentioned above, an employer may wish to control the maximum amount an employee may spend on a single transaction. If a blocking criteria based on a single transaction limit is set, transactions above that limit will always be denied. However, situations may arise where the employee must spend an amount that is outside of normal (e.g., the employee must pay a large vehicle repair bill for a company owned vehicle). By using notifications, instead of blocking, the employee will be on notice that his transactions are being monitored by the employer, while at the same time not restricting the employee's use of the card under exceptional circumstances. Similarly, an issuer may want to monitor transactions by certain merchants, payment channels, etc. for fraud or marketing purposes, but not necessarily block the transactions.

It should be understood that the present invention as described above can be implemented in the form of control logic using computer software in a modular or integrated manner. Based on the disclosure and teachings provided herein, a person of ordinary skill in the art will know and appreciate other ways and/or methods to implement the present invention using hardware and a combination of hardware and software

Any of the software components or functions described in this application, may be implemented as software code to be executed by a processor using any suitable computer language such as, for example, Java, C++ or Perl using, for example, conventional or object-oriented techniques. The software code may be stored as a series of instructions, or commands on a computer readable medium, such as a random access memory (RAM), a read only memory (ROM), a magnetic medium such as a hard-drive or a floppy disk, or an optical medium such as a CD-ROM. Any such computer

readable medium may reside on or within a single computational apparatus, and may be present on or within different computational apparatuses within a system or network.

The above description is illustrative and is not restrictive. Many variations of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art upon review of the disclosure. The scope of the invention should, therefore, be determined not with reference to the above description, but instead should be determined with reference to the pending claims along with their full scope or equivalents.

One or more features from any embodiment may be combined with one or more features of any other embodiment without departing from the scope of the invention.

A recitation of "a", "an" or "the" is intended to mean "one or more" unless specifically indicated to the contrary.

All patents, patent applications, publications, and descriptions mentioned above are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety for all purposes. None is admitted to be prior art.

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

receiving, at a server computer, a transaction clearing request for a transaction, wherein the transaction clearing request was sent by a merchant;

determining, using the server computer, if the transaction satisfies a stored blocking parameter;

allowing, using the server computer, the transaction clearing request if the transaction does not satisfy the stored blocking parameter; and

denying, using the server computer, the transaction clearing request if the transaction satisfies the stored blocking parameter.

2. The method of claim **1** wherein the blocking parameter includes a jurisdiction, merchant category code, merchant category group, merchant verification value, payment channel, terminal ID, transaction type, lost card, stolen card, service code, recurring payment, single transaction limit, daily limit, or monthly limit.

3. The method of claim **1** wherein the blocking parameter is specified in a predetermined profile.

4. The method of claim **1** further comprising initially receiving, at the server computer, at least one blocking parameter.

5. The method of claim **1** further comprising sending, using the server computer, a clearing return code if the transaction satisfies the stored blocking parameter.

6. The method of claim **1** wherein the transaction was authorized during a transaction authorization process at the time the transaction was occurring.

7. The method of claim **1** wherein the transaction clearing request is received at the server computer within a batch of other transaction clearing requests.

8. The method of claim **1** wherein the blocking parameter is specified in a batch upload.

9. A non-transitory computer readable medium comprising computer readable program code embodied therein, said computer readable program code adapted to be executed by a processor for:

receiving, at a server computer, a transaction clearing request for a transaction, wherein the transaction clearing request was sent by a merchant;

determining, using the server computer, if the transaction satisfies a stored blocking parameter;

allowing, using the server computer, the transaction clearing request if the transaction does not satisfy the stored blocking parameter; and

denying, using the server computer, the transaction clearing request if the transaction satisfies the stored blocking parameter.

10. A server computer comprising a processor; and a non-transitory computer readable medium coupled to the processor, the non-transitory computer readable medium comprising computer readable program code embodied therein, said computer readable program code adapted to be executed by the processor for:

receiving, at a server computer, a transaction clearing request for a transaction, wherein the transaction clearing request was sent by a merchant;

determining, using the server computer, if the transaction satisfies a stored blocking parameter;

allowing, using the server computer, the transaction clearing request if the transaction does not satisfy the stored blocking parameter; and

denying, using the server computer, the transaction clearing request if the transaction satisfies the stored blocking parameter.

11. A method comprising:

receiving, at a server computer, a transaction clearing request for a transaction, wherein the transaction clearing request was sent by a merchant;

determining, using the server computer, if the transaction satisfies a stored blocking notification parameter; and

sending, using the server computer, a notification message if the transaction satisfies the stored blocking notification parameter.

12. The method of claim **11** wherein the blocking notification parameter includes a jurisdiction, merchant category code, merchant category group, merchant verification value, payment channel, terminal ID, transaction type, lost card, stolen card, service code, recurring payment, single transaction limit, daily limit, or monthly limit.

13. The method of claim **11** wherein the blocking parameter is specified in a predetermined profile.

14. The method of claim **11** further comprising initially receiving at the server computer at least one blocking notification parameter.

15. The method of claim **11** wherein sending the notification message includes providing an email, SMS message, or a voice message.

16. The method of claim **11** wherein notification is sent to an issuer by email or directly to a system at the issuer.

17. A non-transitory computer readable medium comprising computer readable program code embodied therein, said computer readable program code adapted to be executed by a processor for:

receiving, at a server computer, a transaction clearing request for a transaction, wherein the transaction clearing request was sent by a merchant;

determining, using the server computer, if the transaction satisfies a stored blocking notification parameter; and

sending, using the server computer, a notification message if the transaction satisfies the stored blocking notification parameter.

18. A server computer comprising a processor, and a non-transitory computer readable medium coupled to the processor, the non-transitory computer readable medium comprising computer readable program code embodied therein, said computer readable program code adapted to be executed by the processor for:

receiving, at a server computer, a transaction clearing request for a transaction, wherein the transaction clearing request was sent by a merchant;

determining, using the server computer, if the transaction satisfies a stored blocking notification parameter; and

sending, using the server computer, a notification message if the transaction satisfies the stored blocking notification parameter.

19. A method comprising;

specifying, using a server computer, at least one blocking parameter wherein the blocking parameter is subsequently used to block a transaction clearing request that satisfies the blocking parameter, wherein the transaction clearing request was sent by a merchant; and

receiving, at the server computer, a notification message when a transaction satisfies the blocking parameter.

20. The method of claim **19** wherein the blocking parameter includes a jurisdiction, merchant category code, merchant category group, merchant verification value, payment channel, terminal ID, transaction type, lost card, stolen card, service code, recurring payment, single transaction limit, daily limit, or monthly limit.

21. The method of claim **19** further comprising creating a profile that specifies at least one blocking parameter.

22. The method of claim **19** wherein selecting at least one blocking parameter includes selecting a predetermined profile that specifies at least one blocking parameter.

23. A non-transitory computer readable medium comprising computer readable program code embodied therein, said computer readable program code adapted to be executed by a processor for:

specifying, using a server computer, at least one blocking parameter wherein the blocking parameter is subsequently used to block a transaction clearing request that satisfies the blocking parameter, wherein the transaction clearing request was sent by a merchant; and

receiving, at the server computer, a notification message when a transaction satisfies the blocking parameter.

24. A server computer comprising a processor and a non-transitory computer readable medium coupled to the processor, the non-transitory computer readable medium comprising computer readable program code embodied therein, said computer readable program code adapted to be executed by the processor for:

specifying, using a server computer, at least one blocking parameter wherein the blocking parameter is subsequently used to block a transaction clearing request that satisfies the blocking parameter, wherein the transaction clearing request was sent by a merchant; and

receiving, at the server computer, a notification message when a transaction satisfies the blocking parameter.

25. A method comprising:

sending, using a computer apparatus, a transaction clearing request wherein a determination is made as to whether the transaction clearing request satisfies a stored blocking parameter, wherein the transaction clearing request was sent by a merchant; and

receiving, at the computer apparatus, a clearing return code if the transaction clearing request satisfies the stored blocking parameter.

26. The method of claim **25** further comprising initially authorizing a payment transaction.

27. The method of claim **25** wherein the blocking parameter includes a jurisdiction, merchant category code, merchant category group, merchant verification value, payment channel, terminal ID, transaction type, lost card, stolen card, service code, recurring payment, single transaction limit, daily limit, or monthly limit.

28. The method of claim **25** wherein the blocking parameter is specified in a predetermined profile.

29. The method of claim **1** wherein the stored blocking parameter is specified by an issuer.

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