

CLAIMS

1. A gaming funds transaction device, comprising:
 - a first section that includes:
 - a credit/debit card reader;
 - a printer component operable to print and eject a gaming ticket; and
 - a processor operably linked with the credit/debit card reader and the printer component, and operable to exchange messages over a communication link with a validation service;
 - a keypad section that includes:
 - a numeric keypad;
 - operational keys; and
 - a display;
 - and
 - a connection arm linking the first section and the keypad section;wherein:
 - the connection arm contains an electronic link between the keypad section and the first section; and
 - the processor is operable to:
 - receive entries from the keypad section through the electronic link;
 - transmit instructions to the keypad section through the electronic link that cause the display to show respective responses to the entries;
 - obtain a validation response from the validation service of a charge request received from the credit/debit card reader to apply as a first cash value to the gaming ticket; and
 - cause the printer component to print and eject the gaming ticket having a second cash value correlated to the charge request.
2. The gaming funds transaction device of claim 1, further comprising a view shield extending from the keypad section.

3. The gaming funds transaction device of claim 1, further comprising a directional viewing screen on the keypad section.
4. The gaming funds transaction device of claim 1, wherein the connection arm includes a flexible section that extends through a housing of the gaming funds transaction device.
5. The gaming funds transaction device of claim 1, wherein:
 - the first section further comprises a cash acceptor operably linked with the processor; and
 - the processor is further operable to apply to the first cash value of the gaming ticket an amount related to monies received in the cash acceptor.
6. The gaming funds transaction device of claim 1, wherein:
 - the first section further comprises a gaming ticket acceptor operably linked with the processor and configured to accept a used gaming ticket; and
 - the processor is further operable to apply to the gaming ticket an amount related to a residual cash value of the used gaming ticket.
7. The gaming funds transaction device of claim 1, wherein the processor is further operable to:
 - receive an invalidation response from the validation service of the charge request; and
 - transmit to the keypad section a corresponding instruction for the display to show a message related to the invalidation response.
8. The gaming funds transaction device of claim 1, wherein the processor is further operable to exchange information regarding the second cash value of the gaming ticket with an accounting service separate from the validation service.
9. A system for dispensing electronic gaming tickets, comprising:
 - a credit/debit card reader;
 - a user interface device;
 - a gaming ticket printing device; and
 - a processing component;

wherein:

- the user interface device includes a keypad and a display;
- the gaming ticket printing device is configured to print a gaming ticket usable in gaming machines;
- the processing component is operably linked with the credit/debit card reader, the user interface device, and the gaming ticket printing device;
- the processing component includes a communication link with a validation service; and
- the processing component includes:
 - a processor; and
 - a non-transitory memory containing instructions, which when executed by the processor, cause the processor to:
 - receive a charge request from the credit/debit card reader;
 - produce a prompt message on the display for a user input to be entered using the keypad;
 - transmit the user input and the charge request to the validation service;
 - obtain one of a validation response and an invalidation response from the validation service;
 - print the gaming ticket having a cash value based on the charge request in a case that the validation response was obtained; and
 - produce an invalidity message on the display in a case that the invalidation response was obtained.

10. The system for dispensing electronic gaming tickets of claim 9, wherein the communication link of the processing component with the validation service is an internet connection.

11. The system for dispensing electronic gaming tickets of claim 9, wherein the credit/debit card reader and the user interface device are contained in a common housing.

12. The system for dispensing electronic gaming tickets of claim 9, wherein the credit/debit card reader includes a card/chip/RFID reader configured to read user information from at least

one of a magnetic strip, a radio frequency identification component, and an integrated circuit chip contained in a credit/debit card.

13. The system for dispensing electronic gaming tickets of claim 9, wherein the user interface device includes a QR code reader.

14. The system for dispensing electronic gaming tickets of claim 9, further comprising a casino chip intake device operably linked with the processing component, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to apply an additional cash value to the gaming ticket based on a casino chip received in the casino chip intake device.

15. The system for dispensing electronic gaming tickets of claim 9, further comprising a cash acceptor operably linked with the processing component, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to apply an additional cash value to the gaming ticket in an amount related to monies received in the cash acceptor.

16. The system for dispensing electronic gaming tickets of claim 9, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to exchange information regarding the cash value of the gaming ticket with an accounting service separate from the validation service.

17. The system for dispensing electronic gaming tickets of claim 9, wherein the system is configured to be attached to a mobile device.

18. An electronic credit/debit card reader comprising:
a card insert reader comprising an exterior opening on a side of the electronic credit/debit card reader and configured to read information from at least one of a credit card or a debit card inserted into the exterior opening;
a display;
a keypad;
a gaming machine link;
an internet link separate from the gaming machine link;

a processor operably connected to the card insert reader, the keypad, the display, the gaming machine link, and the internet link; and

a non-transitory memory that includes instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to:

receive a charge request from the card insert reader;

produce a prompt message on the display for a user input to be entered using the keypad;

transmit the user input and the charge request to a validation service using the internet link;

obtain one of a validation response and an invalidation response from the validation service; and

transmit a message to a computing unit of a gaming machine using the gaming machine link.

19. The electronic credit/debit card reader of claim 18, further comprising a wireless receiver configured to receive the charge request wirelessly transmitted from a mobile communication device of a user.

20. The electronic credit/debit card reader of claim 18, wherein the instructions further cause the processor to send an alert message to the computing unit of the gaming machine when the invalidation response is received from the validation service.