DESCRIPTION

Title of Invention

A physical/network/cloud-based system and method for electronic business/name card design, management, storage and exchange by means of mobile devices and computer systems, named ZappCards.

The Prior Art

The current state of the art in electronic business/name card design, management, storage, and exchange by means of mobile and computer devices is that when a card is designed, stored, and shared by the application user, the contact information in the card will remain unchanged in the receiver's device.

Technical Problem and Solution

Though the current state of art allows an enhanced design, management, storage, and exchange of electronic business/name cards as compared to the manual method, the problem occurs when contact information is edited/updated. Existing systems and methods do not support updating of contact information once the electronic business/name cards are stored in receivers' devices.

The invention, ZappCards, allows for the perpetual updating of one's contact details in his device as well as on all the other devices he has exchanged/shared his card with. This is achieved because the contact details, in the form of a text file, and the business/name card design, in the form a low-resolution image file, are saved on a server instead of in one's local device. Therefore, when devices are synchronized with the server, information, whether it be the contact details or the business/name card design, are updated with the most recent changes. It would eventually replace the "Contacts" functions of PCs, mobile phones and other mobile devices.

The invention, ZappCards, allows users to communicate with other ZappCards contacts through functions such as call, SMS, email, etc. based on the available information on the name/business card. The invention also serves as a directory of businesses and individuals through the name/business cards set to public for every ZappCards user to view and contact.

The ZappCards System (see **Figure 1)**

The ZappCards System comprises the following components:

- ZappCards Client – this is a mobile application (both Android and IOS) to facilitate access to services made available by the server.

- ZappCards Server System – this system handles request/s and responds to Clients and consists of:
    - ZappCards Central Server
    - ZappCards HTTP Server. This is a web server that runs different applications where communication between client and server takes place using HTTP.
- ZappCards Database Server – stores all information, such as:
    - Name
    - Personal Mobile No
    - Work Mobile No
    - Personal Phone No
    - Work Phone No
    - Personal Fax
    - Work Fax
    - Personal Email
    - Work Email
    - Personal Address
    - Work Address
    - Company Name
    - Work Title
    - Date of Birth
    - Anniversary Date
    - Notes

Functioning of the ZappCards System (see **Figure 2**)

- User creates a business/name card through any ZappCards Client Application (iOS, Android, Windows Mobile or Mac, Windows Desktop or ZappCards Web Application)
    - Business/name cards can be created in the following ways:
    - Choose templates within the ZappCards Application
        - Free
        - Paid

- ~~Scan an existing physical business/name card using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software~~
- Browse and use an existing business/name card file

(See **Figures 3, 4, 5 and 6)**

- After creating a business/name card, a user can save/store the card in the server. The user may then manage~~s~~ the particular card's settings, share/exchange it, and edit/update the contact information

  (See **Figure 10)**

- User manages a business/name card through the following:
  - Set the card to be Public/Private
  - Set which contact information fields (i.e. personal email, business email, home phone number, etc.) are available for a particular business/name card
  - Update contact information
  - Set the card to perpetually update (or not) to a particular contact

  (See **Figure 11**)

- User shares/exchanges business/name card via the following:
  - NFC (i.e. shake, bump, slide, etc.)
  - Bluetooth and other wireless protocols
  - Internet Protocol (IP)
  - Email
  - SMS

  (See Figures **6, 7, 8 and 9**)

CLAIMS

Claim 1: A physical/ network/ cloud-based system and method for electronic business/ name card design, management, storage and exchange by means of computer systems, mobile phones and other mobile devices comprising the steps of:

- creating an individual's personal or business' name/ business card using the different templates available;
- sending an individual's personal or business' e-name/ business card;
- receiving an individual's personal or business' e-name/ business card;
- sending a request to an individual or business to exchange e-name/ business cards
- receiving a request from an individual or business to exchange e-name/ business cards
- searching and viewing an individual's personal or business card that was set to public
- communicating with an individual or business by means of the live and active communication functions found in the name/ business card (i.e. phone/ mobile/ fax number, email address, instant messaging ID, etc.)

Claim 2: The invention of Claim 1 further comprising the step of: storing contact information of an individual or a business on the server or centralized database and synchronising the information with the server; implication of which is that ZappCards users will be perpetually contactable.

Claim 3: The invention of Claim ~~1~~2 further comprising the step of: enabling or disabling perpetual updating of contact information of an individual or business on the server or centralized database and synchronising the information with the server.

Claim 4: The invention of Claim 1 further comprising the step of uploading and saving name/ business card templates for users to download either as free or paid in the server.

Claim 5: The invention of Claim 1 further comprising the feature of the system to auto-detect the SIM card to allow auto-update of the mobile number on a user's e-name/ business card and simultaneously updating the information on all shared e-name/ business cards.

Claim 6: The invention of Claim 1, further comprising the feature of live and active links on the e-name/ business card either for communication, navigation or information, for example:

- once the Company Name is clicked, redirection will be to the "About Us" page of the website

- once the Company URL is clicked, redirection will be to the landing page of the website
- once the Address is clicked, navigation to the location will be activated
- once the Phone Number is clicked, calling function will be enabled
- once the Mobile Number is clicked, calling and/ or messaging function/s will be enabled
- once the Social Media Button is clicked, redirection will be to the specific Social Media page (FaceBook, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc.)

Claim 7: The invention of Claim 1, further comprising the setp of: allowing users to create their (a) Personal of (b) Business cards, with the following distinction:

- personal cards can be made either: public (searchable) or private (non-searchable)
- business cards are made public and therefore, searchable

Claim 8: The invention of Claim 1 further comprising the step of ZappCards users having access to directories of businesses through business cards created and of individuals via their cards that were set to public.

Claim 9: The invention of Claim 4 further comprising the step of ZappCards users uploading and purchasing name/business card templates on the "ZappCards Store"

Claim 10: The invention of Claim 4 further comprising the step of allowing companies/organisations to save their card templates on the server using their company's/organisation's domain; implication of which is that their saved templates will be pushed to ZappCards users that key in email addresses with the same domain name.

Claim 11: The invention of Claim 4 further comprising the sept of: allowing individuals/companies/organisations to set their saved templates to (a) Private or (b) Public, with the following distinction:

- private card templates can be made available only if the ZappCards user's email ID has the same domain name, or by invitation/private sharing
- public card templates are made available to all

Claim 12: The invention of Claim 7 further allowing the step of personal card users to set their cards to "public" which allows their cards to be searchable in ZappCards.

Claim 13: The invention of Claim 7 further comprising the step of allowing business card users to hash tag products and/or services for search purposes.