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BLOCKCHAIN-POWERED REAL ESTATE SALES AND RENTAL SYSTEM

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 The present application claims priority to Provisional Patent Application 62/605,943, filed September 5, 2017. All disclosure of the parent application is incorporated in the application at least by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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1. Field of the Invention

 The present invention is in the technology of real estate transactions, and pertains more particularly to a system for integrating existing real-estate businesses, professionals, buyers, sellers, renters, landlords, real estate related service providers,
15 clients and individuals into a cooperative, secure system.

2. Description of Related Art

 The real estate model, considering both rental, leasing, and sales, at the time of the application is rife with inefficiencies. Among these are:

- 20 • a requirement for a great deal of paperwork
- a need for face-to-face interaction among the parties to the majority of transactions, and
- a lack of technological capability to accomplish legally-binding property purchase, lease or rental rapidly, and with full documentation and security

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 The antiquated system of preparing, reading, signing and filing hard-copy documents is time-consuming and wasteful.

 In addition to the above, the current real estate process of offers and counter offers lacks transparency and auditability. This system relies on agents to do the right
30 and necessary things, and not all agents are experienced and trained, and many vary the process. Buyers and sellers do not have an overview of the process. For example, a potential buyer in a proposed real estate transaction does not have a tool to track

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status of an offer; a seller cannot track how many offers have been received on a property, and how the agent is handling those offers without speaking to the agent. The same problems are endemic in the rental property application process at the time of this application. A crisis in confidence is an inevitable result.

5 Further to the above, there are a great number of real estate websites active on the Internet. Each one of these sites executes a different process and has a different user interface for searching for properties for sale. A property search on one website does not provide any insight for another website, such as, for example, Zillow™, Realtor.com™, Re/Max™, Sotheby's™, and MLS™ organizations are all running
10 websites independently without any shared insights.

Still further, the existing real estate operating model incurs high running cost and overhead. Typically, real estate selling or renting services are bundled, that is, a buyer, seller, renter, or landlord cannot specify which services he/she wants to procure and from whom. The model is not flexible enough to tailor for consumers'
15 budget and needs. Typically, it is necessary in any transaction to independently search for and deal with service providers completely independently.

What is clearly needed is a transaction system that connects any, and potentially all, existing real estate platforms in a way that standardizes the processes, brings individuals into the process as equal players, and provides tools not before
20 available for maximizing the goals of buyers, sellers, renters, landlords and service businesses as well, in a completely secure manner, while affording participants ready access to all information regarding their own transactions, but only their own.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

25 In an embodiment of the invention a transaction system is provided, comprising a plurality of Internet-connected, computerized partner platforms hosted by real-estate sale or rental enterprises, providing to persons connected to the partner platforms by computerized devices, displays including information regarding specific
30 properties offered for sale or rent, the displays including images, description and offer details, an Offer-Now button in the displays regarding the specific properties for sale or rent, coded instructions executable on a processor of the internet-connected

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platform, digitally associated with the Offer Now button, an electronic form having check boxes and input fields, and a Submit button, the form enabling the person connected to configure a complete offer on one of the specific properties for sale or rent, the form displayed as a result of the person activating the Offer-Now button, and
5 an Internet-connected service enterprise to which the plurality of partner platforms are registered, the service enterprise providing configurable coded instructions to the partners for displaying the Offer Now button, and for displaying the forms as a result of activating the Offer Now button. Upon a person activating the Offer Now button from a mobile device, a verification code is sent to the device, to be returned to verify
10 the device, and offer input provided through the device and the electronic form is tracked to be saved as an offer for sale or rent of the specific property.

In one embodiment of the system, upon the person activating the Submit button, indicating the offer is configured and the person desires the offer to be considered, the person is solicited through the mobile device to download an
15 executable participation application adapted for enabling the person to participate in negotiation with others in consideration of the submitted offer, and in downloading the participation application, the person is provided with a highly secure private key, stored only on the mobile device, enabling the participation and accessing a Blockchain wallet, to enable the person to fully participate in Blockchain processes in
20 participation. Also in one embodiment the highly secure private key is associated on just the mobile device with a local password, usable for asserting the private key in signing in to participation in the system.

In one embodiment of the system, once an offer is submitted, and the offering person is enabled to participate, a listing agent of the partner enterprise is notified, and
25 a consideration process is initiated, wherein service professionals deemed necessary to completion of a transaction are invited to participate, and the listing agent, the offering person, and the invited professionals, having accepted the invitations, are enabled to communicate through dashboards provided to every authorized participant to accomplish all necessary tasks to reach a conclusion for the offer, either acceptance
30 or rejection. And in one embodiment invited participants, if not fully enabled to participate, are enabled with private keys and participation application executable on mobile devices and specific to their own mobile devices.

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In one embodiment the dashboards provide communication channels to enabled participants, including at least a Chat service through a Chat server. Also in one embodiment the consideration process leads to an acceptance of the offer and completion of a sale or rent transaction on the property offered for sale or rent. Also

5 in one embodiment professionals invited and enabled to participate include one or more of attorneys, inspection professionals, principals of a lending institution, and principals of a title insurance enterprise. In one embodiment, through the dashboards, participants are enabled to follow events as events occur, to track and aggregate, and to accept, reject or counter offers in real time, and wherein all participants receive

10 push or text notifications throughout the process and can instantly chat with one another according to established protocols, and wherein all events are time stamped and are viewable in real time. And in one embodiment all events and document versions, including but not limited to purchase agreements, rental agreements, agency relationship disclosure agreements, mortgage pre-qualification documents, property

15 condition reports, building/engineering inspection reports, pest inspection reports and all legal documents become Blockchain events stored in distributed locations by Blockchain functions, and are viewable and retrievable by authorized participants through their Blockchain wallets, and wherein payments are also managed by Blockchain technology.

20 In another aspect of the invention a transaction method is provided, comprising displaying to a person connected by a mobile device to one of a plurality of Internet-connected, computerized partner platforms hosted by real-estate sale or rental enterprises, information regarding specific properties offered for sale or rent, the displays including images, description and offer details, displaying proximate the

25 display of information regarding property for sale or rent, an Offer Now button, associating coded instructions executable on a processor of the internet-connected platform, digitally associated with the Offer Now button, the coded instructions provided by an Internet-connected service enterprise to which the plurality of partner platforms are registered, displaying, in response to activation of the Offer Now

30 button, an electronic form having check boxes and input fields, and a Submit button, the form enabling the person connected to configure a complete offer on one of the specific properties for sale or rent, and

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sending a verification code to the mobile device to be returned to authorize configuring an offer.

In one embodiment of the method, upon the person activating the Submit button, indicating the offer is configured and the person desires the offer to be
5 considered, comprises soliciting the person through the mobile device to download an executable participation application adapted for enabling the person to participate in negotiation with others in consideration of the submitted offer, and in downloading the participation application, providing the person with a highly secure private key, stored only on the mobile device, enabling the participation and accessing a
10 Blockchain wallet, to enable the person to fully participate in Blockchain processes in participation. Also in one embodiment the method comprises associating the highly secure private key is on just the mobile device with a local password, usable for asserting the private key in signing in to participation in the system.

In one embodiment the method comprises, once an offer is submitted, and the
15 offering person is enabled to participate, notifying a listing agent of the partner enterprise, and initiating a consideration process, wherein service professionals deemed necessary to completion of a transaction are invited to participate, and the listing agent, the offering person, and the invited professionals, having accepted the invitations, are enabled to communicate through dashboards provided to every
20 authorized participant to accomplish all necessary tasks to reach a conclusion for the offer, either acceptance or rejection. And in one embodiment the method comprises enabling invited participants, if not fully enabled to participate, with private keys and participation application executable on mobile devices and specific to their own mobile devices.

25 In one embodiment the method comprises providing the dashboards with communication channels to enabled participants, including at least a Chat service through a Chat server. Also, in one embodiment the method comprises terminating the consideration process with acceptance of the offer and completion of a sale or rent transaction on the property offered for sale or rent. In one embodiment the method
30 comprises inviting professionals, including one or more of attorneys, inspection professionals, principals of a lending institution, and principals of a title insurance enterprise to participate. In one embodiment the method comprises enabling, through

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the dashboards, participants to follow events as events occur, to track and aggregate, and to accept, reject or counter offers in real time, and pushing notifications to all participants throughout the process, enabling participants to instantly chat with one another according to established protocols, and time stamping all events in real time.

- 5 And in one embodiment the method comprises making all events and document versions, including but not limited to purchase agreements, rental agreements, agency relationship disclosure agreements, mortgage pre-qualification documents, property condition reports, building/engineering inspection reports, pest inspection reports and all legal documents become Blockchain events stored in distributed locations by
- 10 Blockchain functions and are viewable and retrievable by authorized participants through their Blockchain wallets, and wherein payments are also managed by Blockchain technology.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

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Fig. 1 is an architectural diagram of a system in one embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 2 illustrates a display for selecting affiliates in an embodiment of the invention.

- 20 Fig. 3 shows a display of a property for sale by a listing site in an embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 4 illustrates a scrollable form for creating an offer in an embodiment of the invention.

- 25 Fig. 5 is a flow diagram depicting a process for negotiating a sale or rental transaction after an offer in an embodiment of the invention.

Figs. 6A and 6B show dashboard displays in an embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 7 shows a home page of a sale enterprise with a button according to an embodiment of the invention.

- 30 Figs. 8A and 8B illustrate dashboard displays on a mobile device for all property offers in an aggregated view.

Figs. 9A and 9B illustrate dashboard displays on a mobile device for the document flow of events and event history of one offer.

Fig. 10 illustrates Blockchain interaction in an embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

5 The inventors in the present application offer a comprehensive system providing cooperative links between innovative processes and tools executing at enterprise-controlled platforms, and transaction platforms and inventory at any number of other platforms controlled by other businesses and individuals.

10 The invention in various embodiments and aspects provides an unprecedented speedy, simple and standardized real estate purchase offer process. The entire offer process in embodiments of the invention empowers the potential buyer to make an offer at any participating real estate website, to track, negotiate, and manage an offer, deal with counters, to update offers, to engage and collaborate various parties involved in a deal, to manage acceptance, to generate an offer agreement and other
15 documentation required for a deal transaction, to facilitate payments, and to acquire real estate related service from available professionals. A speedy, rapid and simple real estate rental application process is provided in embodiments as well, enabling a potential renter to make rental offers, and to manage the process, on properties essentially anywhere, through any number of enterprises, and with individuals
20 offering rental properties. Manual work and the turnaround time associated with a real estate offer or rental application process is reduced to a minimum.

 In different aspects of the invention effective and transparent collaboration is accomplished between parties involved in any real estate purchase or rental offer and acceptance process and the marketplace, such as between buyers, agents, sellers,
25 mortgage lenders, attorneys and more.

 In addition to the above, in aspects of the invention valuable insights of regarding offers/applications received are provided to agents and homeowners, and others involved in a transaction. Offer and rental application information across the United States and even around the world is accessed and integrated in the innovative
30 system. Better and standardized real estate practice, increased trust, integrity and auditability is provided to all parties involved through process and information transparency. Real estate offer and rental application processes are transformed into

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self-service. The system provides even more, which will be apparent to the skilled person by following the figures and descriptions of aspects and embodiments of the invention provided in enabling detail below.

Fig. 1 is an architectural diagram of a system in one embodiment of the present invention. In Fig. 1 a plurality of enterprises hosting digitized platforms are interconnected in a wide area network represented by backbone 120. The network in many embodiments of the invention is the well-known Internet network, and backbone 120 may be considered the Internet backbone, representing all of the interconnected networks and subnetworks that make up the Internet. An enterprise 101, labeled ShelterZoom Enterprise is shown connected to the network, with a server 102 executing software (SW) 104 coupled to a data repository 103. ShelterZoom is a name adopted by the inventors to represent the controlling enterprise in many embodiments of the present invention.

A first enterprise labeled Enterprise 1 is shown, having a server 106 connected to the Internet and coupled to a data repository 107. Server 106 executes SW 108, and also presents on the network a web site (WS) 109. A second enterprise labeled Enterprise 2 is shown, having a server 111 connected to the Internet and coupled to a data repository 112. Server 111 executes SW 113, and also presents on the network a web site (WS) 114. A third enterprise labeled Enterprise n is shown, having a server 111 connected to the Internet and coupled to a data repository 117. Server 116 executes SW 118, and also presents on the network a web site (WS) 119.

The ShelterZoom enterprise is a singular platform providing transaction integration, digital tools and controls in many embodiments of the invention. Enterprises 2 through n represent any number of enterprises that may be interacting with ShelterZoom and other enterprises in various aspects and circumstances in embodiments of the invention. In some specific cases these enterprises may be real estate sites where a potential home buyer may examine characteristics of properties offered for sale and may interact with the specific enterprise to at least negotiate and initiate a transaction for purchase of a property that may be offered for sale through that particular enterprise.

In other embodiments of the invention individual ones of enterprises 2 through n may be enterprises listing or offering properties for rent or lease, where an

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individual may interact with the specific enterprise to study details of properties offered for rent or lease, including terms, and may at least initiate a transaction to rent or lease a particular property.

In Fig. 1 a laptop computer 122 (1-n) executing SW 123 is shown connected
5 to the Internet network through an Internet Service Provider (ISP) 121. Similarly, a desktop computer 124 (1-n) is shown also connected to the Internet through ISP 121. These computer platforms represent many such platforms that may be utilized by individuals, such as potential renters or buyers, to access enterprises 2-n to investigate opportunities for purchasing property offered for sale by individual ones of the
10 enterprises, or to investigate opportunities to rent property offered for rent or lease by individual ones of the enterprises. A smartphone 126 (1-n) is also shown in Fig. 1 connecting to the internet through a gateway 128, representing any number of smartphones that may be used by individuals to interact with individual ones of enterprises 2-n.

15 It is well known that in negotiating a property sale or rental that it is often desirable and often necessary to enlist services of various sorts of tradespersons and professionals to enable the transaction. In the overall process of negotiating and completing a sale of a property between a seller or agent of the seller, and a buyer or agent of the buyer, there may be need for appraisal, various inspections, such as for
20 termites, for example, application for a mortgage, and for a great many other services to forward and eventually complete a transaction. Various ones of the enterprises 2-n may be enterprises providing these sorts of services, and individual ones of the platforms connected through ISP 121 and gateway 128 may be used by professionals or tradespersons who become involved in negotiation and furthering transactions for
25 sale or rent of properties.

System-Level

In the architecture of Fig. 1 at least one of the enterprises 2-n, which, in many embodiments may span thousands of enterprises, represents a Blockchain provider,
30 such as for example Ethereum, which may provide services in document creation, storage, and security. Others, in various embodiments, may be platforms hosted by real estate enterprises, Brokers, Broker-affiliated Real Estate Agents, Rental Agents

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or by rental enterprises, among others, representing persons and enterprises offering properties for sale or rent.

In embodiments of the invention Enterprise 1 is a central hub of all services and interactions in the system. Also, in embodiments, Enterprise 1, through SW 104,
5 provides a web site with a Domain name and a URL, through which a potential buyer or renter, that is, essentially any person seeking to purchase or rent a property, may connect via a web browser, using a browser-enhanced platform such as shown in Fig. 1 as elements 122, 124 and 126. Further below, the potential buyer or renter is depicted by the acronym PBR (for Potential Buyer/Renter).

10 A Sign-In link 201 is presented on this page of the site, and also on a home page, not shown, and other pages. A Sign-Up link 202 is also shown. An affiliate or registered person may sign in, with a mobile phone number and verification code, as is known. A new person, as a buyer or renter, or as an enterprise desiring to affiliate, may do so through the Sign-Up link. The detailed procedures are rather well-known
15 for such registration and are not shown here.

A person, having accessed the resources page, may see a scrollable affiliates list 204, which may list hundreds of affiliated agents and enterprises, each listing comprising a link that may redirect the person to a site hosted by the affiliate. In another embodiment this display of affiliated enterprises is presented as company
20 logos. In another embodiment the geographic location of affiliates is listed so a person reviewing will know where the affiliate is located.

Fig. 3 is a representative page of a site to which a PBR may connect, that happens to be an affiliate of Enterprise 1, which may be ShelterZoom. Fig. 3 depicts details of a particular property currently offered for sale by the Affiliate. Outside
25 pictures of the home (region 302), and also inside features as in regions 303 and 304 are shown. In some cases, there may be many more pictures, and perhaps videos, organized in a manner that the PBR may scroll through and get a very rich idea of the property and its characteristics.

Region 305 of the page provides text descriptions and details of the home for
30 sale, such as bedrooms, baths, square footage, actual address, offering price, estimated mortgage details, and other information.

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An Offer Now button 306 is shown to the right in this embodiment but is configurable to be placed in any other convenient location defined by an affiliate. This button is functional according to executable code provided by ShelterZoom via ShelterZoom's widget installation and configuration, integrated with and executable
5 by the website of the offering entity. The "Offer NOW" button opens a container with all the embedded functionality of the widget right on an affiliate website, providing a great user experience. ShelterZoom is the first platform to generate offer agreements by using Ethereum Blockchain smart contracts technology.

In some embodiments of the invention, in the registration process for an
10 enterprise to become an affiliate, for example a Real Estate firm offering homes for sale, there is a help process to guide the new affiliate in integrating the Offer Now, and in other cases a Rent Now button into the platform of the new affiliate.

There are three options in configuring the Offer button for use on an affiliate's website. As a first step a representative of the affiliate must determine which option
15 will be preferable. The options are:

- (a) The functionality when the button is selected, as a dialog window that integrates the site database with ShelterZoom (Enterprise 1). This is the most commonly used method to install the button and functionality, as all integrated property data will be auto-populated into the widgets after a user engages the Offer NOW™ and Rent
20 NOW™ buttons.
- (b) The functionality when the button is selected presenting a dialog window without database integration. In this case, all relevant property data is imported into the form presented after selection from an external feed. This method is generally recommended for websites that do not maintain a self-hosted listings database. This
25 option is recommended for sites pulling data through an IDX vendor.
- (c) The functionality when the button is selected presenting pop-up window, without database integration. The form is opened in a mini-window within the current browser window and all relevant property data will need to be manually inputted into the form. This method is generally reserved for sites created from subscription-based real estate
30 website kits. Recommended for hosted sites such as Agent Image, WebsiteBox, etc.

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Typically, a PBR will connect to a website either after viewing a property in person, or simply by browsing without specific direction, or may choose an affiliate from display at the ShelterZoom site.

5 The PBR, connecting to an affiliated site, discovering a property for sale, and deciding that an offer is desirable, activates the Offer Now button 306. Also in many circumstances it may be an agent of a PBR who connects to the affiliate site and makes an offer.

10 At the time of installing and activating the SZ_App the PBR is enabled to participate in the innovative processes by being granted a Security key, that in one embodiment is a key comprising twelve consecutive words. This key is used for this new user to access Blockchain wallet, and to fully participate in the Blockchain processes that ensue, and to access and in many cases edit documents that may be prepared as a part of the process of making an offer and negotiating purchase or rental of a property through an enterprise or agent affiliated with Enterprise 1. In some
15 embodiments of the invention, recognizing that remembering a key of twelve words, and entering same each time access is required, is a challenge, the twelve-word key may be associated with a less complicated key, i.e., a local password, usable only on the particular mobile device that the PBR is using to participate. The same method is used for all other participants' key-chain management.

20 The PBR is now enabled to fully participate, and to enjoy all of the advantages of the systems of the invention.

The Offer Process

25 In this description of the offer process the person configuring an offer may be an individual that may become the buyer, or may be an agent of the individual. For convenience, this person will be termed an Offering Author. The Author may be the potential buyer or Renter, or an agent of that person.

30 The skilled person will understand, that in the conventional art, if there is an offer button on the depiction of a property for sale, and Offering Author activates the button, a communication may go to an email destination at the selling site, or some other communication, resulting in an agent of the seller contacting the Author to begin a manual process of entering an offer on the property. In embodiments of the present

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invention, however, an automated process is initiated, whereby an offer is generated under the control of the Offering Author.

Fig. 4 illustrates an automated offer form initiated by the Offering Author activating the Offer Now button 306 in Fig. 3. In many embodiments this scrollable offer form 401 is imposed on the display of the property offered for sale (Fig. 3), but this is not a limitation in the invention. The scrollable, fillable form may be displayed in any convenient location, or in isolation. It is noted here that in the circumstance of rental property, the button is a Rent Now button, and details of the offer process will vary.

In Fig. 4 Offer Form 401 is shown in a first part, headed by the caption "Submit an Offer". The property address is indicated in the form, in this case as 3532 Alexandria Pike, Indianapolis, Indiana 95024, and will actually be the address of the property for sale in the affiliated website shown in Fig. 3 in this example. The address is different in this example, to be sure that the address is not for an actual property offered for sale by an actual real estate agency.

In this example an agent's name is associated with the property, and the agent's mobile phone is shown as well. Next comes information regarding the purchaser, to be entered in fields 402 in form 401, who, in this example is the Author who has initiated the Offer Now button. That information is shown blank in Fig. 4, assuming that it has not yet been entered. Next the Author may check as the Buyer or the Buyer's agent.

This is a scrollable form, and the user may scroll down to further sections, to enter and configure the offer. Some details in the form may vary depending on state, city or other jurisdiction requirements. The fields included on the form are configurable via a ShelterZoom Affiliate Console provided to the affiliate. Typically, the Author may enter terms, such as offer price, earnest money, down payment, and loan amount. Or in the case of rental property, the fields may be different, and offers may be configured to offer a rental amount per month, security deposit, or another term, perhaps a lease term, employment information, and reference check. There may be a section to specify that the offer is subject to certain conditions, such as a termite inspection, a property inspection or attorney approval. Another section may enable the Author to specify items to be included or excluded in the sale or rental, such as

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major appliances. There may be a section to specify a mortgage lender, and to upload pre-qualifying documents. Attorney contact info and other information may be entered elsewhere. The form may also allow multiple buyers to be included in the process.

5 Near the end of the Offer Form there may be a checkbox to accept terms and conditions, and a means to review the terms and conditions before acceptance. At the end, as shown in the portion labeled 403, there may be a SUBMIT button, which enables the PBR to submit the offer for the property.

10 When an Offering Author first selects the Offer Now button, it is necessary for the system to at least identify the Author. This is accomplished by interaction with the mobile device in use by the Author to connect to the affiliate site. The system texts an authorization code to the mobile device, and requests that the Author enter the code for verification. After verification that form appears.

15 At the end of the form there is a Submit button. When the Author activates the submit button, the system sends a verification message to the PBR's mobile device for offer confirmation. Once the PBR confirms the offer, the offer becomes, in a sense, official. At this point the Author is requested to download an application termed here the SZ_App. If the application has not been loaded before, which enables the author, through the App executing on the mobile device, to generate Ethereum
20 Blockchain smart contract, to fully participate in a following process, described below, in managing the offer that has been submitted. Among other functionality the Author is enabled with a Dashboard function that opens rich detail of the process to the Author, and enables the Author to fully participate in the process, including Chat and other negotiation, described more fully below.

25 Fig. 5 is a simplified flow diagram depicting various steps in the process of evolving and implementing a sale or rental transaction in an embodiment of the invention. At step 501 the Offering Author presses the Offer Now button on a property for sale at an affiliated enterprise site. The form is presented, and filled out. At the end of the offer the Author may or may not submit the offer.

30 Once the offer is submitted, the system may notify and invite a listing agent and other principles as needed and required by the offer, at step 504. The agent and others may accept the invitations at step 505.

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Upon the necessary parties accepting the invites to participate, if one or more of these persons at step 507 is not registered to the service, that is Enterprise 1, the persons are registered and otherwise enabled as participants at step 508. This may involve generating a private key for each and downloading the SZ_APP, as well as
5 generating smart contract for participants so that they can be included in a deal. With appropriate participants enabled, control goes to step 509, where the offer is managed. Now a new participant has joined a deal flow. He will immediately appear on the dashboard of other participants who are in the same deal.

Step 509 is a cover for a variety of activity that is potentially so variable that it
10 is not practical to break out all possibilities and variables in this flow chart. There are many possibilities. One possibility is that the offer will simply be rejected by the seller or the seller's agent, in which case everyone is notified, and the process ends. The seller may have questions back to the Offering Author which may result in revisions to the offer. Revisions may be made and passed back through to the
15 Manage Offer step at 509. In some cases a counteroffer may be made, which goes back to the buyer, to be accepted or rejected.

At some point, assuming outright rejection is not the result, the seller's agent will accept the offer in its final form. With acceptance, the process enters a closing phase at step 511, wherein all necessary papers are prepared as softcopy, and are
20 distributed and signed electronically via Blockchain account encryption key, and become a part of the overall transaction.

Access

Referring to Fig. 3, considerable functionality within the system is described,
25 and even more implied, by the steps in the overall process, and all of this activity is accomplished by individuals who are registered to the system and using devices typically executing the SZ_APP. The platform of Enterprise 1, which is ShelterZoom in this example, (Fig. 1) is the central controlling hub, and this platform provides interactive interfaces to individual ones of the participants in transactions. One way
30 this is accomplished is by providing dashboards to participants, depending on the role of each participant.

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Fig. 6A illustrates a simplified example of a dashboard as an interactive interface provided to a participant in an embodiment of the invention. Dashboards are provided both for desktop and mobile platforms to cover all devices that may be used by participants. A variety of roles of participants is displayed in box 602, and each of these, and others not named, may be provided access to information in the system, and in many cases ability to edit and perform other functions. A variety of functions that may be performed is shown in dashboard 601, as appropriate to individual ones of the participants.

Fig. 6B illustrates an example of a dashboard that might be made available at the platform of Enterprise 1 for, in one instance, affiliates, these being partners that may incorporate the Offer Now and Rent Now widgets in their own sites. Administrators authorized at the site of Enterprise 1 may also operate through a dashboard to perform a variety of administrative functions. All of the participants must be fully affiliated to participate in the functionality of the system through various dashboards.

Dashboards

A dashboard available to essentially every user is a very important part of the present invention. The User Dashboard is a real-time, multi-party interactive and real estate offer management dashboard that uses Blockchain technology to make buying, selling and renting property more transparent, efficient, secure and profitable.

Within the user dashboard:

1. Users can set up profile and backup Blockchain twelve-word phrase (private key)
2. Users can view an Affiliate page and discover the participating websites where the Offer NOW and Rent NOW buttons are available to initiate an offer
3. Users can track and aggregate – as well as accept, reject or counter – offers in real time, while consumers and agents can track offer statuses through their own user dashboards.
4. Users can manage a set of events at any point of the offer and acceptance process
5. All parties receive push or text notifications throughout the offer process and can instantly chat with one another according to established protocols

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6. All events are time stamped and are viewable in real time
7. Users can also sign offer agreements in Blockchain and generate documents.

This inventive user dashboard manages the end-to-end offer and acceptance process,
5 and encompasses the following major features:

A. Property offer aggregation

- 10 a. A user can view all property offers on one page. Any property that has been initiated through the offer process appears on the property offer aggregation page, so does any property that has been clicked on an offer button at a participating website by a PBR or his agent ("Offer Requester").
- 15 b. For each property, the aggregated information includes number of offers received, buyer name, property source website from which the offer was made, and offer status with a corresponding color, e.g., offer signed (green), rejected (red), pending (blue), not submitted (orange). This one place - one page - gives a user a quick, yet comprehensive, view where all his/her property offers stand. This view replaces a large amount of paperwork from the existing practice. Currently, for a real
20 estate professional or a regular property buyer/seller, it requires going through a few suitcases full of paper to find such details without such clarity in one glance.
- c. The page lists all the events across all widgets on all participating websites that are connected with the user that accesses the dashboard.
- 25 d. Whenever appropriate, a source website page link to a necessary information page will be provided so that the user can access the information from the page.
- e. The user will be able to perform the following functionality in this section in embodiments of the invention:
30
 - FILTER EVENTS (by offer status, time, country, state, property or user)

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- SORT EVENTS (by offer status, time, country, state, property or user)
- SEARCH FOR EVENT (by keyword)
- SEARCH FOR OFFER STATUS
- 5 • DRILL DOWN TO VIEW DOCUMENT FLOW AND
ACCESS THE NEXT LEVEL INFORMATION as discussed
in the next section

B. View Document Flow

- 10 a. Upon clicking on the property box in the Property Offer Aggregation
page above, a Document Flow screen will appear. This page gives a
clear view of the entire history and events of an offer.
- 15 b. The page includes each version of events happened for an offer, the
party's name, the party's role in an event such as buyer, seller or agent,
the event time, as well as a "View" button to allow a user to decrypt a
smart contract and drill down to view the details of an offer version.
- As mentioned earlier that a twelve-word key or local passcode
associated to a user's Blockchain wallet is stored only on the
user's mobile device. It is not stored on a PC or laptop for the
20 security reason. To enable the decryption of a smart contract
and view an offer version online from the user's PC or laptop,
the user must unlock the Blockchain wallet using the particular
mobile device where the key is stored. In order to do so, a QR
scan function is provided in the dashboard for the user to open
25 the Blockchain wallet on his mobile device, scan the QR code
and synchronize the wallet on mobile with the wallet in the
browser session on his PC or laptop. The key is only stored in
the current PC browser key chain until the session is closed.
- 30 c. Events may include different User actions, and may be used for both
action and analytic functions, for instance:
- A user joined the document flow - now having a private key
assigned for this particular transaction

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- A user viewed an offer
- An Offer Requester amends an offer
- An Offer Requester accepts or rejects a counter-offer
- An Offer Requester completed an e-signature to a document
- 5 • An agent reviewed the submission
- An agent revised the offer
- An agent accepted/rejected the submission
- An agent invited a party, e.g., a second buyer or seller, a co-
10 worker, a broker, a team manager, a co-listing agent, a lender,
 an attorney
- An agent sent an offer to his client, e.g., buyer, seller, renter,
 landlord, to sign
- A client signs an offer
- A seller/landlord performs similar functions as an agent if no
15 agent is engaged in the transaction
- d. Furthermore, for better user experience, each offer status is assigned a
corresponding color, e.g., green for offer signed, and red for offer
rejected. The “View” button color also changes as the flow progresses
to provide a visually intuitive experience.
- 20 e. In addition to the above, the page dynamically displays any new
 participant who joins a deal flow in real time, thus making user
 experience highly intuitive.

C. Manage Events and Actions

- 25 At any point of the offer and acceptance process, a user can manage a set of
events and take appropriate actions against an offer (see the 1st screenshot
below) throughout the process until the offer is either accepted or rejected (see
the 2nd screenshot below).

- 20 -

For example, an agent can send an offer to seller/buyer to sign, invite a party (refer to the next section), revise an offer, reject an offer, or make a counter-offer on behalf of his client.

- 5 To assist easy understanding of what has been changed from the previous revision of an offer, the amended fields are highlighted in a different color.

In addition, a user can view an offer agreement document on the go. If an offer has been accepted, the document generated will reflect the acceptance status.

- 10 Similarly, if an offer has been rejected or is still in progress, the document generated will reflect the status accordingly.

D. Invite Parties

- 15 a. A user can invite a required party during the process when appropriate, as part of events management mentioned above. For example, an agent can invite more buyer(s), seller(s), tenant(s) or landlord(s), invite his managing broker, co-worker, transaction manager, co-lister, and further invite a service provider such as an attorney, a lender, and a title insurer.
- 20 b. This function is designed in a general way that any party can be invited into the deal flow. Once invited, Ethereum smart contract will be generated and a private key will be assigned to the participant.

E. Chat

- 25 a. The skilled person will realize that a good deal of communication may be necessary between various participants, to accomplish the purposes of the system, property sales and property rentals. In one embodiment a Chat server is provided at the central hub, and chat communication is enabled between participants who use the available dashboards. In Chat embodiments a chat window is provided on the dashboards used
- 30 by participants to initiate and accomplish chat. In other embodiments text, private email, private voice communication and video communication may also be made available.

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- b. The Chat functionality described briefly above may be used by various parties involved in a real estate transaction or service for purpose of collaboration. In essence, the chat component further comprises:
- a Chat List which includes a list of all conversations
 - individual Chat windows with history or events, documents and property information attached
 - A configuration of user chat privilege, i.e., who can chat with whom. For example, a buyer cannot directly chat with a seller if a seller's agent is appointed.
- c. The Chat section will at least include the following functionalities:
- A list of active Chat sessions
 - User name
 - User online status
 - Time of the Last Message
 - Snippet of the Last Message
 - Notifications about incoming messages
 - Chat Window with ability to send and receive text messages, attach documents and photos
 - Link to properties
 - Collection of all attached documents
 - Record voice messages
 - Record video messages
 - Events history

F. Manage Documents and Electronic Signature

- a. Users can manage all documents that are relevant to a deal and services via the dashboard. Parties require signing a document can digitally sign it by using Blockchain account encryption key. The detailed explanation how documents are managed and signed can be found in the "Blockchain for +Document Generation and Payments" section
- b. The design is done in such a way that a user, e.g., an agent, can send any document to a required party in the deal to sign on Blockchain.

Administration Console

Affiliates, or sometimes referred as Partners, will have their own section of the Enterprise 1 website dedicated to partners, with an ability to perform the following

5 actions:

1. Configure Offer NOW and Rent NOW widget parameters
2. Access widget code
3. Access widget integration documentation
 - The integration design is fully compliant with data standards defined by RESO
- 10 (Real Estate Standard Organization), thus, further standardizes the offer process across the real estate industry.
4. Message ShelterZoom Technical support
5. Notifications about incoming messages
6. Review widget statistics on their Listings
 - 15 • Partners can analyze detailed statistics and gain data insights on offers and rentals. The statistics include how many people have clicked the Offer NOW or Rent NOW button; number of users joined; how many offers submitted, created, revised, confirmed, signed or rejected; how many counter-offers made; how many parties invited; and so on so forth.
- 20 7. Customize form via form builder
 - The configurable Form Builder allows partners from any country, region or site to customize widget layouts and PDF agreement forms to support partners' legal requirements.
 - A partner can either leverage an available template, or customize based on an
 - 25 existing template, or build a new offer form which becomes the Offer NOW and Rent NOW widget screen layout.
 - Furthermore, the fields captured during the offer and acceptance process can be mapped to a final agreement output form either provided by a partner or systematically generated by ShelterZoom at the absence of a supplied
 - 30 agreement output form.
 - This is the first real estate form builder that is configurable and has the ability to support any regulatory environment both domestic and abroad.

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8. Set up buyer agent premium service

- Buyer Agent Premium Service enables a partner to become a default buyer agent if an unrepresented buyer makes an offer via the partner's website. This enables the partner to generate more sales.

5

In order to configure and administrate a partner in the system, a separate Admin website is provided in various embodiments, with the ability to perform following functions:

1. Manage partner registration
- 10 2. Edit offer agreement, and widget forms and content for different localities and partners, as well as define and/or enable global templates
3. Configure widget parameters
4. Allow/disallow partner access
5. Review partner basic usage statistics
- 15 6. Chat with partners and agents through Support Chat
7. Notifications about incoming messages

Blockchain for Document Generation and Payments

- The invention in many embodiments involves a system wherein participants
- 20 are exchanging information without a need to establish trust. We can create such a system based on Blockchain technology because each of the participants has a set of public/private keys, so we can create an electronic signature for instance where the transaction is signed with a private key of the creator's account. The qualified electronic signature is a simple electronic signature with a private key and a ledger
- 25 with public key. Private key is signing document hash.

Documents that are handled by Blockchain technology include, but are not limited to:

1. Binder Agreement (Purchase Agreement)
2. Rental Agreement
- 30 3. Agency Relationship Disclosure Agreement
4. Other Disclosure Agreement
5. Mortgage Pre-qualification

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6. Property Condition Report
7. Building/Engineering Inspection Report
8. Pest Inspection Report
9. Legal documents

5

In addition, payments such as service fees, earnest money, down payments, and rental deposits will also be managed by this technology.

In the Blockchain technology components a transaction can be created with hash of the data signed by the participant's private key, so the transaction may be
10 verified as in fact created by the participant. So the authorization mechanism, and the technology makes it possible to implement a particular deal algorithm (or flow), without a need for a trusted third party (such as a bank, notary public etc.) since the logic which is implemented in the smart-contract on Blockchain does not change when it is created and is always open to anybody in such a way that it is guaranteed
15 by all network participants (miners) who are verifying transactions.

All documents that authorized parties in the platform create, submit, exchange and sign as a part of the process are stored in a special secure storage, but their hashes are stored in a public Blockchain as smart contracts. Every transaction then can be publicly verified using public key. All other steps of the process will also be verifiable
20 using the same mechanism, so the trusted independent document exchange system is created.

All the verification criteria is created as separate smart contracts. This creates a global system for real estate deals where all the deal operations are signed, and deal flow is persistent.

25 Fig. 10 is a simplified block diagram illustrating creation and revision of offer forms, using the widgets called Offer Now. Once the Widget form is filled it is assigned with a Blockchain wallet and submitted to the Blockchain. A smart contract is created for that form and invitations are sent to the contract form participants. All users join using their Blockchain wallets (i.e. Private Keys) and all their interactions
30 regarding this contract form are stored in this smart contracts as transactions which are verified and included in the block.

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Marketplace - Real Estate Service Model

An important feature of the present invention in one aspect is a competitive and transparent real estate marketplace, supported by a real estate service model with a spider-web-like service provider network and collaboration, all coordinated and harmonized on one platform. This new marketplace will enable real estate consumers to conveniently acquire comprehensive and competitive real estate-related service including legal, mortgage, building and pest inspection, insurance, moving, storage, renovation and more.

In this model a real estate consumer can procure one or more services through an online service catalogue, leveraging a single and secure service provider network. The consumer can define a service provider criteria and/or lead time for a service. Alternatively, the system can recommend a service provider selection criteria. The appropriate service provider is then matched to serve the consumer. One way of rewarding the job to the right service provider is via job bidding. Once the service provider(s) join the workflow, the system will work out an appropriate timeframe for a required service or a sequence for multiple services, and execute services one after another to meet a consumer's timeframe.

The Chat function and Blockchain technology described in enabling detail elsewhere plays a major role in matching the right service provider to a consumer, collaborating between a consumer and a service provider, and amongst multiple service providers whose services are time dependent. This model differs from the existing real estate industry model in which real estate selling or renting services are bundled, whereas external services such as mortgage, legal or engineering are un-coordinated.

A service catalogue may include, without limitation:

- Home staging
- Photography
- Floor plan
- Property listing
- Property viewing
- Property negotiation

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- Marketing
- Mortgage Finance
- Legal
- Insurance
- 5 • Building inspection
- Pest inspection
- Engineering
- Repair and Maintenance
- Cleaning
- 10 • Moving
- Utility connect and disconnect
- Telephone connect and disconnect
- Emergency accommodation

15 **Offers on Unlisted Property**

In another aspect of the invention a potential buyer or renter, which is still represented by the acronym PBR, may create a smart contract offer to buy or rent a property in much the manner described above with reference to Figs. 3, 4 and 5, without necessity of the particular property having been listed by a partner of

20 Enterprise 1.

As a first example, a PBR may browse web sites hosted by any real estate enterprise not affiliated with Enterprise 1, and select a property for an offer, in which case there will be no Offer Now button associated with the particular property. The PBR in this case may note or copy the address of the property, and in this example the

25 name and phone number of the listing agent, and then connect to an affiliate of Enterprise 1.

Fig. 7 illustrates a Home Page of such an affiliate. On the Home Page of the affiliate there will be, in most embodiments of the system, an Offer Now button 704, which is different in some functional respects than button 306 of Fig. 3, which is

30 associated with the specific property illustrated and described in Fig. 3. Button 704 may be identical in appearance to button 306 and may be differentiated just by its

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position in display on the affiliate site, or it may be differentiated visually by color, size, design, or in some other way.

Button 704 is not associated with a specific property, so when selected, will not list a specific property, as seen in Fig. 4, under the heading “Submitting an offer on:” Instead, when link 704 is selected, an offer creation form similar to that of form 401 will be displayed, in which the property address is an entry field where the PBR may enter the address of the property which he or she copied above, from a not-affiliated site. The agents name will be entered as an agent of the affiliated site.

The process of creating the smart contract offer and binding same will be parallel to that described above with reference to Figs. 4 and 5. After the offer is completed and is ready to submit, submission will be to an agent at the either affiliated or not-affiliated site where the property in question is offered for sale. This may be responsibility of the agent of the affiliated site entered in the offer document.

In some cases, a PBR might identify a property that is not listed for sale or rent, and still desire to make an offer on the property. This example includes both properties that may be offered “for sale by owner”, and properties not for sale at all. Link 704 can be used in this respect as well, as long as the PBR gets an address for the property, hopefully some further details about the property, and at least a telephone number for the owner of the property or an agent who can represent the PBR. The PBR may initiate and create the offer through link 704, and the agent of the affiliated site can deliver the offer to the property owner.

In the case of a property owner that might be contacted with an offer, the property owner may have the option of becoming affiliated with enterprise 1, and downloading the SZ_APP, as well as acquiring a private key, which will enhance the process for the property owner.

Embodiments of the invention have been depicted and described above by example, and details in many cases may vary from specific detail described in examples. The skilled person will be aware that many such variations are properly within the scope of the present invention, which is limited only by the scope of the claims below.

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We claim:

1. A transaction system, comprising:

a plurality of Internet-connected, computerized partner platforms hosted by
5 real-estate sale or rental enterprises, providing to persons connected to the partner
platforms by computerized devices, displays including information regarding specific
properties offered for sale or rent, the displays including images, description and offer
details;

10 an Offer-Now button in the displays regarding the specific properties for sale
or rent;

coded instructions executable on a processor of the internet-connected
platform, digitally associated with the Offer Now button;

15 an electronic form having check boxes and input fields, and a Submit button,
the form enabling the person connected to configure a complete offer on one of the
specific properties for sale or rent, the form displayed as a result of the person
activating the Offer-Now button; and

20 an Internet-connected service enterprise to which the plurality of partner
platforms are registered, the service enterprise providing configurable coded
instructions to the partners for displaying the Offer Now button, and for displaying the
forms as a result of activating the Offer Now button;

25 wherein, upon a person activating the Offer Now button from a mobile device,
a verification code is sent to the device, to be returned to verify the device, and offer
input provided through the device and the electronic form is tracked to be saved as an
offer for sale or rent of the specific property.

2. The transaction system of claim 1 wherein, upon the person activating the Submit
button, indicating the offer is configured and the person desires the offer to be
considered, the person is solicited through the mobile device to download an
executable participation application adapted for enabling the person to participate in
30 negotiation with others in consideration of the submitted offer, and in downloading
the participation application, the person is provided with a highly secure private key,
stored only on the mobile device, enabling the participation and accessing a

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Blockchain wallet, to enable the person to fully participate in Blockchain processes in participation.

3. The transaction system of claim 2 wherein the highly secure private key is
5 associated on just the mobile device with a local password, usable for asserting the private key in signing in to participation in the system.
4. The transaction system of claim 2 wherein, once an offer is submitted, and the offering person is enabled to participate, a listing agent of the partner enterprise is
10 notified, and a consideration process is initiated, wherein service professionals deemed necessary to completion of a transaction are invited to participate, and the listing agent, the offering person, and the invited professionals, having accepted the invitations, are enabled to communicate through dashboards provided to every authorized participant to accomplish all necessary tasks to reach a conclusion for the
15 offer, either acceptance or rejection.
5. The transaction system of claim 4 wherein invited participants, if not fully enabled to participate, are enabled with private keys and participation application executable on mobile devices and specific to their own mobile devices.
20
6. The transaction system of claim 4 wherein the dashboards provide communication channels to enabled participants, including at least a Chat service through a Chat server.
- 25 7. The transaction system of claim 4 wherein the consideration process leads to an acceptance of the offer and completion of a sale or rent transaction on the property offered for sale or rent.
8. The transaction system of claim 4 wherein professionals invited and enabled to
30 participate include one or more of attorneys, inspection professionals, principals of a lending institution, and principals of a title insurance enterprise.

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9. The transaction system of claim 4 wherein, through the dashboards, participants are enabled to follow events as events occur, to track and aggregate, and to accept, reject or counter offers in real time, and wherein all participants receive push or text notifications throughout the process and can instantly chat with one another according to established protocols, and wherein all events are time stamped and are viewable in real time.

10. The transaction process of claim 9 wherein all events and document versions, including but not limited to purchase agreements, rental agreements, agency relationship disclosure agreements, mortgage pre-qualification documents, property condition reports, building/engineering inspection reports, pest inspection reports and all legal documents become Blockchain events stored in distributed locations by Blockchain functions, and are viewable and retrievable by authorized participants through their Blockchain wallets, and wherein payments are also managed by Blockchain technology.

11. A transaction method, comprising:

- displaying to a person connected by a mobile device to one of a plurality of Internet-connected, computerized partner platforms hosted by real-estate sale or rental enterprises, information regarding specific properties offered for sale or rent, the displays including images, description and offer details;
- displaying proximate the display of information regarding property for sale or rent, an Offer Now button;
- associating coded instructions executable on a processor of the internet-connected platform, digitally associated with the Offer Now button, the coded instructions provided by an Internet-connected service enterprise to which the plurality of partner platforms are registered;
- displaying, in response to activation of the Offer Now button, an electronic form having check boxes and input fields, and a Submit button, the form enabling the person connected to configure a complete offer on one of the specific properties for sale or rent; and

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sending a verification code to the mobile device to be returned to authorize configuring an offer.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising, upon the person activating the
5 Submit button, indicating the offer is configured and the person desires the offer to be considered, soliciting the person through the mobile device to download an executable participation application adapted for enabling the person to participate in negotiation with others in consideration of the submitted offer, and in downloading the participation application, providing the person with a highly secure private key, stored
10 only on the mobile device, enabling the participation and accessing a Blockchain wallet, to enable the person to fully participate in Blockchain processes in participation.

13. The transaction method of claim 12 comprising associating the highly secure
15 private key is on just the mobile device with a local password, usable for asserting the private key in signing in to participation in the system.

14. The transaction method of claim 12 comprising, once an offer is submitted, and the offering person is enabled to participate, notifying a listing agent of the partner
20 enterprise, and initiating a consideration process, wherein service professionals deemed necessary to completion of a transaction are invited to participate, and the listing agent, the offering person, and the invited professionals, having accepted the invitations, are enabled to communicate through dashboards provided to every authorized participant to accomplish all necessary tasks to reach a conclusion for the
25 offer, either acceptance or rejection.

15. The transaction method of claim 14 comprising enabling invited participants, if not fully enabled to participate, with private keys and participation application executable on mobile devices and specific to their own mobile devices.

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16. The transaction method of claim 14 comprising providing the dashboards with communication channels to enabled participants, including at least a Chat service through a Chat server.
- 5 17. The transaction method of claim 14 comprising terminating the consideration process with acceptance of the offer and completion of a sale or rent transaction on the property offered for sale or rent.
- 10 18. The transaction method of claim 14 comprising inviting professionals, including one or more of attorneys, inspection professionals, principals of a lending institution, and principals of a title insurance enterprise to participate.
- 15 19. The transaction method of claim 14 comprising enabling, through the dashboards, participants to follow events as events occur, to track and aggregate, and to accept, reject or counter offers in real time, and pushing notifications to all participants throughout the process, enabling participants to instantly chat with one another according to established protocols, and time stamping all events in real time.
- 20 20. The transaction method of claim 19 comprising making all events and document versions, including but not limited to purchase agreements, rental agreements, agency relationship disclosure agreements, mortgage pre-qualification documents, property condition reports, building/engineering inspection reports, pest inspection reports and all legal documents Blockchain events stored in distributed locations by Blockchain functions, viewable and retrievable by authorized participants through their
- 25 Blockchain wallets, and comprising managing payments by Blockchain technology.