

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.

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 manages 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
 - Internet Protocol (IP)
 - Email
 - SMS

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