CLAIMS

1. A portable communication device for retrieving a token for providing a product or service to a user, the portable communication device comprising:

storage means configured to store a plurality of tokens;

means configured to detect a tag associated with the product or service using a short-range wireless protocol;

receiving means configured to receive data from the tag, including an identification of a provider of the product, in response to the portable communication device detecting the tag;

processing means configured to determine a provider code of the product or service based on the received data and to determine a location code associated with a region in which the portable communication device is located; and

means configured to launch an application in response to detecting the tag and retrieve a token of the plurality of tokens stored in the storage means associated with the determined provider code and location code.

2. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim further comprising a display means configured to display the token associated with the determined provider code and location code.

3. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim further comprising transmission means configured to send the retrieved token to a reader.

4. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim wherein the processing means is further configured to identify a token stored on a storage means associated with the portable communication device and preferably wherein the processing means is further configured to identify the token stored on the or a storage means based on the determined provider code and location code.

5. A portable communication device according any preceding claim wherein the processing means is further configured to determine current temporal information associated with the portable communication device preferably to identify the or a further stored token using the determined temporal information and corresponding temporal information associated with the or a further token.

6. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim wherein the processing means is further configured to:

a. identify a plurality of tokens associated with the determined provider and location code;

b. determine the current temporal information associated with the portable communication device; and

c. uniquely identify a single token from the plurality of tokens based on a comparison of the determined current temporal information and temporal information encoded within the plurality of tokens.

7. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim further comprising communication means configured to send a request, to a remote server, for a token associated with the determined provider and location code and preferably wherein the request further comprises a user identifier.

8. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim in which the processing means is further configured to determine the time at which the tag is detected, and preferably in which the identification of the token is further based on the time when the tag is detected.

9. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim wherein the location code is uniquely associated with a transportation hub.

10. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim wherein the processing means is further configured to determine the provider code of the product or service from data encoded on or within the tag.

11. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim wherein the processing means is further configured to retrieve the token from the or a storage means using the determined location code and provider code and preferably to display the retrieved token on a display.

12. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim, wherein in response to detecting the tag, the processing means is further configured to launch a mobile boarding pass application.

13. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim further comprising means configured to receive location data defining the location of the portable communication device in response to detecting the tag.

14. A portable communication device according to claim 13 wherein the processing means is further configured to use the received location data to search a database of airport codes associated with the location data.

15. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim wherein the or a storage means is configured to store a boarding pass comprising data associated with a flight number, departure city and a scheduled boarding time.

16. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim wherein the processing means is further configured to compare the determined provider code and location code with corresponding data stored in the storage means.

17. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim wherein the processing means is further configured to compare the scheduled boarding time with a time determined by the portable communication device.

18. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim wherein the processing means is further configured to distinguish between the plurality of tokens based on the provider code, location code and the current date and time where the portable communication device is located.

19. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim in which the token comprises a ticket or boarding pass for air or other transportation means.

20. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim in which the token is a Near Field Communication, NFC, boarding pass.

21. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim further comprising a near field communication, NFC, integrated circuit chip encoded with a mime type code configured to launch a mobile boarding pass application on the portable communication device and preferably wherein the NFC chip is configured to communicate with the detected tag.

22. A method for retrieving a token for providing a product or service to a user, the method comprising:

detecting, at a portable communication device, a tag associated with the product or service;

receiving data from the tag, including an identification of a provider of the product, in response to the portable communication device detecting the tag;

determining, preferably using processing means, a provider code of the product or service based on the received data;

determining, preferably using processing means, a location code associated with a region in which the portable communication device is located;

launching an application in response to detecting the tag; and

retrieving a token associated with the determined provider code and location code.

23. A method according to claim 22 wherein the portable communication device identifies the token based on a date determined by the portable communication device.

24. A method according to claim 22 further comprising determining the time and preferably to identifying the or a further stored token using the determined time.

25. A method according to any one of claims 22 to 24 further comprising the step of determining the time at which the tag is detected, and preferably in which the identification of the token is further based on the time when the tag is detected.

26. A method according to any one of claims 22 to 25 wherein the location code uniquely identifies a transportation hub.

27. A method according to any one of claims 22 to 26 further comprising the step of determining the provider code of the product or service from data encoded on or within the tag.

28. A method according to any one of claims 22 to 27 further comprising the step of retrieving the token from a storage means using the determined location code and provider code and preferably displaying the retrieved token on a display.

29. A method according to any one of claims 22 to 28, wherein in response to detecting the tag, a mobile boarding pass application is executed.

30. A method according to any one of claims 22 to 29 further comprising the step of receiving location data defining the location of the portable communication device in response to detecting the tag.

31. A method according to claim 30 further comprising the step of using the received location data to search a database of airport location codes associated with the location data.

32. A method according to any one of claims 22 to 31 further comprising the step of storing a plurality of tokens.

33. A method according to any one of claims 22 to 32 further comprising the step of storing a boarding pass comprising data associated with a flight number, departure city and a scheduled boarding time.

34. A method according to any one of claims 22 to 33 further comprising the step comparing the determined provider code and location code with corresponding data stored in a storage means.

35. A method according to any one of claims 22 to 34 further comprising the step of comparing the scheduled boarding time with a time determined by the portable communication device.

36. A method according to claim 32 further comprising the step of distinguishing between the plurality of tokens based on the provider code, location code and the current date and time where the portable communication device is located.

37. A method according to any one of claims 22 to 36 in which the token comprises a ticket or boarding pass for air or other transportation means.

38. A method according to any one of claims 22 to 37 in which the token is a Near Field Communication, NFC, boarding pass.

39. A method according to any one of claims 22 to 38 further comprising a near field communication, NFC, integrated circuit chip encoded with a mime type code configured to launch a mobile boarding pass application on the portable communication device.

40. A server for retrieving a token for providing a product or service to a user, the server comprising:

receiving means configured to receive data from a portable communication device in response to the portable communication device detecting a tag wherein the data comprises a provider code of the product or service and a location code associated with a region in which the portable communication device is located; and

means configured to retrieve a token associated with the determined provider code and location code.

41. A server according to claim 40 wherein the server further comprises transmission means configured to send the retrieved token to the portable communication device, and preferably in which the token is retrieved from a storage means.

42. A computer program product which when executed undertakes the method of any one of claims 22 to 39.

CLAIMS

1. A portable communication device for retrieving a token for providing a product or service to a user, the device comprising:

means for detecting a tag associated with the product or service;

receiving means for receiving data from the tag in response to the device detecting the tag;

processing means for determining a provider code of the product or service based on the received data and for determining a location code associated with a region in which the device is located; and

means for retrieving a token associated with the determined provider code and location code.

2. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim further comprising a display means for displaying the token associated with the determined provider code and location code.

3. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim further comprising transmission means for sending the retrieved token to a reader.

4. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim further comprising a storage means configured to store a plurality of tokens.

5. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim wherein the processing means is further configured to identify a token stored on a storage means associated with the portable communication device and preferably wherein the processing means is further configured to identify the token stored on the or a storage means based on the determined provider code and location code.

6. A portable communication device according any preceding claim wherein the processing means is further configured to determine current temporal information associated with the communication device preferably to identify the or a further stored token using the determined temporal information and corresponding temporal information associated with the or a further token.

7. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim wherein the processing means is further configured to:

a. identify a plurality of tokens associated with the determined provider and location code;

b. determine the current temporal information associated with the communication device; and

c. uniquely identify a single token from the plurality of tokens based on a comparison of the determined current temporal information and temporal information encoded within the plurality of tokens.

8. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim further comprising communication means for sending a request, to a remote server, for a token associated with the determined provider and location code and preferably wherein the request further comprises a user identifier.

9. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim in which the processing means is further configured to determine the time at which the tag is detected, and preferably in which the identification of the token is further based on the time when the tag is detected.

10. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim wherein the location code is uniquely associated with a transportation hub.

11. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim wherein the processing means is further configured to determine the provider code of the product or service from data encoded on or within the tag.

12. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim wherein the processing means is further configured to retrieve the token from the or a storage means using the determined location code and provider code and preferably to display the retrieved token on a display.

13. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim, wherein in response to detecting the tag, the processing means is further configured to launch a mobile boarding pass application.

14. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim further comprising means for receiving location data defining the location of the device in response to detecting the tag.

15. A portable communication device according to claim 14 wherein the processing means is further configured to use the received location data to search a database of airport codes associated with the location data.

16. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim wherein the or a storage means is configured to store a boarding pass comprising data associated with a flight number, departure city and a scheduled boarding time.

17. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim wherein the processing means is further configured to compare the determined provider code and location code with corresponding data stored in the storage means.

18. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim wherein the processing means is further configured to compare the scheduled boarding time with a time determined by the communication device.

19. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim wherein the processing means is further configured to distinguish between the plurality of tokens based on the provider code, location code and the current date and time where the device is located.

20. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim in which the token comprises a ticket or boarding pass for air or other transportation means.

21. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim in which the token is a Near Field Communication, NFC, boarding pass.

22. A portable communication device according to any preceding claim further comprising a near field communication, NFC, integrated circuit chip encoded with a mime type code for launching a mobile boarding pass application on the portable communication device and preferably wherein the NFC chip is configured to communicate with the detected tag.

23. A method for retrieving a token for providing a product or service to a user, the method comprising:

detecting a tag associated with the product or service;

receiving data from the tag in response to the device detecting the tag;

determining, preferably using processing means, a provider code of the product or service based on the received data;

determining, preferably using processing means, a location code associated with a region in which the device is located; and

retrieving a token associated with the determined provider code and location code.

24. A method according to claim 23 wherein the device identifies the token based on a date determined by the device.

25. A method according to claim 23 further comprising determining the time and preferably to identifying the or a further stored token using the determined time.

26. A method according to any one of claims 23 to 25 further comprising the step of determining the time at which the tag is detected, and preferably in which the identification of the token is further based on the time when the tag is detected.

27. A method according to any one of claims 23 to 26 wherein the location code uniquely identifies a transportation hub.

28. A method according to any one of claims 23 to 27 further comprising the step of determining the provider code of the product or service from data encoded on or within the tag.

29. A method according to any one of claims 23 to 28 further comprising the step of retrieving the token from a storage means using the determined location code and provider code and preferably displaying the retrieved token on a display.

30. A method according to any one of claims 23 to 29, wherein in response to detecting the tag, a mobile boarding pass application is executed.

31. A method according to any one of claims 23 to 30 further comprising the step of receiving location data defining the location of the device in response to detecting the tag.

32. A method according to claim 31 further comprising the step of using the received location data to search a database of airport location codes associated with the location data.

33. A method according to any one of claims 23 to 32 further comprising the step of storing a plurality of tokens.

34. A method according to any one of claims 23 to 33 further comprising the step of storing a boarding pass comprising data associated with a flight number, departure city and a scheduled boarding time.

35. A method according to any one of claims 23 to 34 further comprising the step comparing the determined provider code and location code with corresponding data stored in a storage means.

36. A method according to any one of claims 23 to 35 further comprising the step of comparing the scheduled boarding time with a time determined by the communication device.

37. A method according to claim 33 further comprising the step of distinguishing between the plurality of tokens based on the provider code, location code and the current date and time where the device is located.

38. A method according to any one of claims 23 to 37 in which the token comprises a ticket or boarding pass for air or other transportation means.

39. A method according to any one of claims 23 to 38 in which the token is a Near Field Communication, NFC, boarding pass.

40. A method according to any one of claims 23 to 39 further comprising a near field communication, NFC, integrated circuit chip encoded with a mime type code for launching a mobile boarding pass application on the portable communication device.

41. A server for retrieving a token for providing a product or service to a user, the server comprising:

receiving means for receiving data from a portable communication device in response to the device detecting a tag wherein the data comprises a provider code of the product or service and a location code associated with a region in which the device is located; and

means for retrieving a token associated with the determined provider code and location code.

42. A server according to claim 41 wherein the server further comprises transmission means for sending the retrieved token to the portable communication device, and preferably in which the token is retrieved from a storage means.

43. A computer program product which when executed undertakes the method of any one of claims 23 to 40, 41 or 42.