CLAIMS

1. A network-enabled apparatus, comprising:

an apparatus data processing system;

a memory storing apparatus identification information,

wherein the network-enabled apparatus:

transmits, to a user device via a near field communication (NFC)-enabled web page, an instruction to tap a transaction card to the user device;

reads, via the NFC-enabled web page, NFC information transmitted to the user device by the transaction card;

transmits, to a service administration server, the NFC information and apparatus identification information; and

receives, from the service administration server, a service activation command.

2. The network-enabled apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a first network communication interface configured for establishing communication over a wide area network; and

a second network communication interface configured for establishing communication over a local network.

3. The network-enabled apparatus of claim 2, wherein, prior to transmitting the instruction to tap the transaction card, the network-enabled apparatus:

establishes an internet connection via the first network communication interface, creates the NFC-enabled web page, and

transmits, to the user device, an instruction to navigate to the NFC-enabled web page.

4. The network-enabled apparatus of claim 2, wherein the network-enabled apparatus transmits the instruction to tap a transaction card to the user device via the second network communication interface.

5. The network-enabled apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

the network-enabled apparatus comprises a router configured to connect one or more devices to the internet, and

the service administrator comprises an internet service provider.

6. The network-enabled apparatus of claim 1, wherein the network-enabled apparatus comprises a household appliance.

7. The network-enabled apparatus of claim 1, wherein the network-enabled apparatus comprises an electrical distribution system.

8. The network-enabled apparatus of claim 1, wherein the network-enabled apparatus comprises a household environmental control system.

9. A method for activating a network-enabled apparatus, the method comprising:

transmitting, by the network-enabled apparatus to a user device via a near field communication (NFC)-enabled web page, an instruction to tap a transaction card to the user device;

reading, by the network-enabled apparatus via the NFC-enabled web page, NFC information transmitted to the user device by the transaction card;

transmitting, by the network-enabled apparatus to a service administration server, the NFC information and apparatus identification information; and

receiving, by the network-enabled apparatus from the service administration server, a service activation command.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the NFC information comprises card identification information unique to the transaction card.

11. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

establishing a connection between the network-enabled apparatus and a wide area network; and

activating, by the network-enabled apparatus, a wireless local area network node for communication with the user device.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein:

a service initiation communication is received from the user device via the wireless local area network node, and

the internet connection is established via the wide area network.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein at least a portion of the NFC information is encrypted information.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the encrypted information was encrypted by the transaction card and includes information unique to the NFC transmission by the transaction card to the user device.

15. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

authenticating the transaction card by the card administration server;

wherein authenticating the transaction card includes decrypting the encrypted information.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the service activation command is received only after the authentication of the transaction card by the card administration server.

17. The method of claim 9, wherein:

the service administration server is associated with a service administrator, and

the service administrator comprises at least one selected from the group of a service provider and a utility provider.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the service provider comprises at least one selected from the group of a telecommunications service, a data delivery service, and a power company.

19. A non-transitory, computer-accessible medium containing instructions for execution by a network-enabled computer system, wherein, when executed by the network-enabled computer system, the instructions cause the network-enabled computer system to perform procedures comprising:

transmitting, to the user device via a near field communication (NFC)-enabled web page, an instruction to tap a transaction card to the user device;

reading, via the NFC-enabled web page, NFC information transmitted to the user device by the transaction card;

transmitting, to a service administration server, the NFC information and apparatus identification information; and

receiving, from the service administration server, a service activation command.

20. The non-transitory, computer-accessible medium of claim 19, the procedures further comprising, prior to transmitting the instruction to tap the transaction card:

creating the NFC-enabled web page;

establishing an internet connection via a first network communication interface, the first network communication interface configured for establishing communication over a wide area network; and

transmitting, to the user device, an instruction to navigate to the NFC-enabled web page.