[0019] The step of printing the receipt includes printing the name of at least one item and its price, printing a subtotal, tax, total, and change. In one embodiment of the invention the words: "you won!" are printed on the receipt.

[0020] The step of using the change due includes displaying a menu to a user to enable the user to pre-approve the use of the portion of the change amount as a lottery stake. In one embodiment the portion of the change amount used as a lottery stake is 100% of the change amount.

[0021] In an alternate embodiment of the invention, the change given exceeds one dollar, in order to speed the point of sale transaction and to minimize customer decision-making time, the step of using the change amount uses only the cent value of the change amount and the whole dollar values of the change amount are returned to the customer. The cent value is a decimal having a value of between 0.01 to 0.99 and, thus, the cent value always being less than one dollar.

[0021a] In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a point of sale system including a lottery, comprising: a cash register for receiving a payment and a printer for printing a receipt for a point of sale transaction; a computer adapted to communicate with the cash register to enable calculating change money information for the point of sale transaction including: enabling the point of sale system to determine a total; receiving a payment via the cash register; calculating a change amount by subtracting the total from the payment received; the computer being further adapted to: receive an indication to use at least a portion of the change amount as a lottery stake; communicate with a remote game server to request a win result from the remote game server based on the lottery stake; and print a receipt with the printer including a list of items purchased and an indication of whether the win result is a winner or not.

[0021b] In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method, comprising the method steps of: providing a point of sale terminal including a cash register, and a printer, the point of sale terminal being in communication with a remote game server; enabling the point of sale terminal to determine a total; receiving a payment via the cash register; calculating a change amount by subtracting the total from the payment received; receiving an indication to use at least a portion of the change amount as a lottery stake; requesting a win result from the remote game server based on the lottery stake; and printing a receipt with the printer including a list of items purchased and indication of whether the win result is a winner or not.

[0022] Accordingly, the preferred embodiments of the present invention may reduce average throughput times of customers at point of sale terminals by minimizing the number of transactions where coin change is given to a customer. The present invention also entertains customers at point of sale terminals, such as seen at grocery store check-out locations. The present invention also interests point of sale customers by offering the possibility of winning a lottery prize.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0023] FIG. 1 shows a point of sale system including a cash register and a computer.
[0024] FIG. 2 shows a system diagram in accordance with the present invention.
[0025] FIG. 3 shows a flowchart in accordance with the present invention.
[0026] FIG. 4 shows a winning point of sale receipt in accordance with the present invention.
[0027] FIG. 5 shows a losing point of sale receipt in accordance with the present invention.

CLAIMS

1. A point of sale system including a lottery, comprising:

a cash register for receiving a payment and a printer for printing a receipt for a point of sale transaction;

a computer adapted to communicate with the cash register to enable calculating change money information for the point of sale transaction including:

enabling the point of sale system to determine a total;
receiving a payment via the cash register;
calculating a change amount by subtracting the total from the payment received;

the computer being further adapted to:

receive an indication to use at least a portion of the change amount as a lottery stake;

communicate with a remote game server to request a win result from the remote game server based on the lottery stake; and

print a receipt with the printer including a list of items purchased and an indication of whether the win result is a winner or not.

2. A point of sale system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the probability of the sales receipt being a winner increases with the value of the lottery stake.

3. A point of sale system in accordance with claim 1 or claim 2, the system further comprising:

a games server including a database for storing customer information including customer electronic addresses, the game server being adapted to:

electronically communicate at least a portion of the point of sale transaction, including the lottery result, to the customer electronic address.

4. A point of sale system in accordance with claim 3, the system further comprising:

a scanner for receiving a customer identifier identifying a particular customer; and

means for associating the customer identifier information with customer information about the particular customer stored in the database.

5. A point of sale system in accordance with any of the preceding claim, wherein the receipt includes a subtotal, a tax line item, a total, and a change line amount, wherein the change line amount represents a lottery stake.

6. A point of sale system in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, wherein the lottery is a slot machine game.

7. A method, comprising the method steps of:

providing a point of sale terminal including a cash register, and a printer, the point of sale terminal being in communication with a remote game server;

enabling the point of sale terminal to determine a total;

receiving a payment via the cash register;

calculating a change amount by subtracting the total from the payment received;

receiving an indication to use at least a portion of the change amount as a lottery stake;

requesting a win result from the remote game server based on the lottery stake; and

printing a receipt with the printer including a list of items purchased and indication of whether the win result is a winner or not.

8. A method in accordance with claim 7, wherein the step of printing the receipt includes printing the name of at least one item and its price, printing a subtotal, tax, total, and change amount.

9. A method in accordance with claim 7 or claim 8, wherein the step of receiving an indication to use at least a portion of the change amount includes displaying a menu to a user to enable the user to pre-approve the use of the portion of the change amount as a lottery stake.

10. A method in accordance with any one of claims 7 to 9, wherein the remote game server includes a database for storing customer information including customer electronic addresses, the method further comprising:

electronically communicating at least a portion of the point of sale transaction, including the lottery result, to the customer electronic address.

11. A method in accordance with claim 10, the method further comprising:

receiving a customer identifier identifying a particular customer;

associating the customer identifier with customer information about the customer stored in the database.

12. A method in accordance with any one of claims 7 to 11, wherein the portion of the change amount used as a lottery stake is 100% of the change amount

13. A method in accordance with any one of claims 7 to 12, wherein the step of using the change amount uses the cent value of the change amount, the cent value being a decimal having a value of between 0.01 to 0.99.

14. A method in accordance with any one of claims 7 to 13, wherein the step of receiving payment includes receiving a debit card or credit card payment and the step of calculating the change amount includes adding a lottery stake charge into the debit card or credit card payment.

15. A method in accordance with any one of claims 7 to 14, wherein the lottery is a slot machine game.