CLAIMS

1. A method for providing information when conducting distributed transactions, comprising collecting and transmitting information; opening a USSD session with the user of a mobile device; and using secure communication channels and a structure provided with a gateway unit connected to a transaction system, wherein the method comprising:

recognizing at the interface unit a request received from the transaction system as one that must be delivered to the mobile device or not,

when the request contains a demand for information that cannot be delivered without involving the user or a demand for information to be transmitted to the mobile device, sending the received request through the SS7 network using a USSD session with the mobile device or an SMS message to the mobile device, and

when the request contains a demand for information about the mobile device, collecting further information by the interface unit without involving the user ~~is collected~~ from information-containing components of one or more of the following sources connected to the interface unit: GSM/UMTS mobile cellular communication networks, ~~or~~ LBS systems of GSM/UMTS mobile cellular communication operators, ~~or the~~ GPS, ~~or~~ and positioning systems over Wi-Fi networks~~, or combinations thereof; information is transmitted by sending an SMS message in the transaction mode to a user's mobile device through components of the SS7 network; the structure is provided with an information unit connected to the gateway unit and capable of collecting information; an SMS unit connected to the gateway unit and components of the SS7 network; and a USSD unit connected to the gateway unit and components of the SS7 network, the USSD session being opened through the SS7 network components with the user of the mobile device registered on either the home or visiting GSM/UMTS mobile cellular communication network, wherein USSD is a standardized, 3GPP TS 22.090, ETSI TS 123 090, ETSI TS 124 090, method for requesting extra services in the GSM/UMTS mobile cellular communication networks, permitting a GSM/UMTS session to be opened; GSM is the Global System for Mobile Communications; UMTS is a Universal Mobile Telecommunications System, a cellular communication technology developed by ETSI for introducing 3G (third generation) GSM networks; LBS is Location-Based Service; GPS is the Global Positioning System; Wi-Fi is wireless fidelity, a system of IEEE 802.11 wireless local networks; SMS is a Short Message Service, a technology permitting short text messages to be received on, or sent from, a mobile telephone; and SS7 is a standardized ITU (International Telecommunication Union) signaling system connecting elements of digital telecommunications networks~~.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein information includes, but is not limited to, data about the accessibility of the mobile device, its roaming status, and other data required for conducting distributed transactions.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein information is collected from information-containing components of GSM/UMTS mobile cellular communication networks through components of the SS7 network.
4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein information is transmitted to the user's mobile device by sending an SMS message in the transaction mode through components of the SS7 networks regardless of its registration on the home or visiting GSM/UMTS mobile cellular communication network.
5. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information unit comprises a module communicating with components of the GSM/UMTS mobile cellular communication networks through components of the SS7 network.

6. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information unit comprises a module communicating with components of the GPS.
7. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information unit comprises a module communicating with components of LBS systems of GSM/UMTS mobile cellular communication operators using protocols developed for these systems.
8. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information unit comprises a module communicating with components of the positioning systems over Wi-Fi networks using protocols developed for these systems.
9. A structure for performing the method of claim 1, comprising a gateway unit connected to a transaction system, said structure further comprising an information unit connected to

the gateway unit ~~and~~ capable of collecting information from information-containing components of one or more sources selected from the group consisting of: GSM/UMTS mobile cellular communication networks through components of the SS7 network, ~~or~~ LBS systems of GSM/UMTS mobile cellular communication operators, ~~or the~~ GPS, ~~or the~~and positioning systems over Wi-Fi networks, a USSD unit connected to the gateway unit and to the SS7 network, and capable of opening and maintaining a USSD session with the user's ~~of a~~ mobile device registered on ~~the~~ a home or visiting GSM/UMTS mobile cellular communication network; an SMS unit connected to the gateway unit and the SS7 network and permitting SMS messages to be sent in the transaction mode to the mobile device registered on the home or visiting GSM/UMTS mobile cellular communication network.

10. A structure as claimed in claim 9, wherein the information unit comprises a module communicating with components of the GSM/UMTS mobile cellular communication networks through components of the SS7 network to collect information.
11. A structure as claimed in claim 9, wherein the information unit comprises a module communicating with components of the GPS to collect information.
12. A structure as claimed in claim 9, wherein the information unit comprises a module communicating with components of the LBS systems of GSM/UMTS mobile cellular communication operators using protocols developed for these systems to collect information.
13. A structure as claimed in claim 9, wherein the information unit comprises a module communicating with components of the positioning systems over Wi-Fi networks using protocols developed for these systems to collect information.