CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer system comprising:

at least one processor, wherein the computer system is configured for:

(A) receiving an indication of an area in which to establish at least one attended delivery/pickup location, wherein the at least one attended delivery/pickup location comprises a location for receiving and storing one or more parcels;

(B) receiving data associated with each of a plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates, wherein:

i) each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates has indicated a desire to be established as the at least one attended delivery/pickup location;

ii) each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates is associated with a primary form of business other than receiving and storing one or more parcels;

iii) the data associated with each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates comprises a plurality of characteristics associated with each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates;

(C) determining, based at least in part on the received data, a value for each of the plurality of characteristics for each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates;

(D) ranking each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates based at least in part on the determined value for each of the plurality of characteristics for each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates; and

(E) displaying, on a client device, the ranking of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates.

2. The computer system of Claim 1, wherein:

(A) the computer system is further configured for assigning a weight to each of the plurality of characteristics; and

(B) ranking each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates is based at least in part on:

i) the determined value for each of the plurality of characteristics associated with each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates; and

ii) an assigned weight of each of the plurality of characteristics.

3. The computer system of Claim 2, wherein the computer system is further configured for determining a first attended delivery/pickup location candidate value for a first attended delivery/pickup location candidate of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates based at least in part on:

(A) the determined value for each of the plurality of characteristics associated with the first attended delivery/pickup location candidate; and

(B) the weight assigned to each of the plurality of characteristics.

4. The computer system of Claim 3, wherein the computer system is further configured for determining a second attended delivery/pickup location candidate value for a second attended delivery/pickup location candidate of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates based at least in part on:

(A) the determined value for each of the plurality of characteristics associated with the second attended delivery/pickup location candidate; and

(B) the weight assigned to each of the plurality of characteristics.

5. The computer system of Claim 4, wherein:

(A) the first attended delivery/pickup location candidate value is greater than the second attended delivery/pickup location candidate value; and

(B) the first attended delivery/pickup location candidate is ranked higher than the second attended delivery/pickup location candidate.

6. The computer system of Claim 2, wherein:

(A) each of a particular subset of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates is associated with selling goods as a primary form of business;

(B) the plurality of characteristics associated with each of the particular subset of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates comprises a number of returned goods characteristic; and

(C) ranking each of the particular subset of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates comprises determining an attended delivery/pickup location candidate value for each of the particular subset of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates, wherein the attended delivery/pickup location candidate value for each of the particular subset of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates is based at least in part on:

i) the weight of each of the plurality of characteristics; and

ii) the determined value of the number of returned goods characteristic for each of the particular subset of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates.

7. The computer system of Claim 6, wherein:

(A) the plurality of characteristics associated with each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates comprises a customer reviews characteristic; and

(B) ranking each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates comprises determining the attended delivery/pickup location candidate value for each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates, wherein the attended delivery/pickup location candidate value for each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates is based at least in part on:

i) the weight of each of the plurality of characteristics; and

ii) the determined value of the customer reviews characteristic for each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup locations candidates.

8. The computer system of Claim 1, wherein the primary form of business associated with a particular attended delivery/pickup location candidate of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates is selected from the group consisting of:

(A) a gas station;

(B) a convenience store;

(C) a flower shop;

(D) a magazine stand;

(E) a retail location associated with a common carrier;

(F) a kiosk at a mall; and

(G) a retail department store.

9. The computer system of Claim 8, wherein each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates are located within the identified area.

10. A computer-implemented method comprising:

(A) receiving, by at least one processor, an indication of an area in which to establish at least one attended delivery/pickup location, wherein the at least one attended delivery/pickup location comprises a location for receiving and storing one or more parcels;

(B) receiving, by at least one processor, data associated with each of a plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates, wherein:

i) each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates has indicated a desire to be established as the at least one attended delivery/pickup location;

ii) each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates is associated with a primary form of business other than receiving and storing one or more parcels;

iii) the data associated with each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates comprises a plurality of characteristics associated with each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates;

(C) receiving, by at least one processor, a weight for each of the plurality of characteristics, wherein the weight for a particular characteristic of the plurality of characteristics is an indicator of the importance of the particular characteristic for establishing the at least one attended delivery/pickup location;

(D) determining, based at least in part on the received data, a value for each of the plurality of characteristics for each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates;

(E) ranking each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates based at least in part on:

i) the weight of each of the plurality of characteristics; and

ii) the determined value of each of the plurality of characteristics for each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates; and

(F) displaying, on a client device, the ranking of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates.

11. The computer-implemented method of Claim 10, wherein ranking each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates comprises determining an attended delivery/pickup location candidate value for each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates, wherein the attended delivery/pickup location candidate value is based at least in part on:

(A) the weight of each of the plurality of characteristics; and

(B) the determined value of each of the plurality of characteristics for each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates.

12. The computer-implemented method of Claim 11, wherein:

(A) the plurality of characteristics for each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates comprises a primary characteristic and a secondary characteristic;

(B) the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates comprises a first attended delivery/pickup location candidate and a second attended delivery/pickup location candidate;

(C) the weight of the primary characteristic is higher than the weight of the secondary characteristic;

(D) the value of the primary characteristic for the first attended delivery/pickup location candidate is higher than the value of the primary characteristic for the second attended delivery/pickup location candidate; and

(E) the value of the secondary characteristic for the first attended delivery/pickup location candidate is higher than the value of the secondary characteristic for the second attended delivery/pickup location candidate.

13. The computer-implemented method of Claim 12, wherein:

(A) the attended delivery/pickup location candidate value for the first attended delivery/pickup location candidate comprises:

i) multiplying the weight of the primary characteristic by the value of the first characteristic for the first attended delivery/pickup location candidate to get a primary characteristic weighted value for the first user;

ii) multiplying the weight of the secondary characteristic by the value of the secondary characteristic for the first attended delivery/pickup location candidate to obtain a secondary characteristic weighted value for the first user; and

iii) summing the primary characteristic weighted value for the first attended delivery/pickup location candidate and the secondary characteristic weighted value for the first attended delivery/pickup location candidate; and

(B) the attended delivery/pickup location candidate value for the second attended delivery/pickup location candidate comprises:

i) multiplying the weight of the primary characteristic by the value of the first characteristic for the second attended delivery/pickup location candidate to get a primary characteristic weighted value for the first user;

ii) multiplying the weight of the secondary characteristic by the value of the secondary characteristic for the second attended delivery/pickup location candidate to get a secondary characteristic weighted value for the first user; and

iii) summing the primary characteristic weighted value for the second attended delivery/pickup location candidate and the secondary characteristic weighted value for the second attended delivery/pickup location candidate.

14. The computer-implemented method of Claim 13, wherein the attended delivery/pickup location candidate value for the first attended delivery/pickup location candidate is higher than the attended delivery/pickup location candidate value for the second attended delivery/pickup location candidate.

15. The computer-implemented method of Claim 14, wherein ranking the first attended delivery/pickup location candidate and the second attended delivery/pickup location candidate comprises ranking the first attended delivery/pickup location candidate higher than the second attended delivery/pickup location candidate.

16. The computer-implemented method of Claim 12, wherein the primary characteristic is a geographic location characteristic.

17. The computer-implemented method of Claim 16, wherein:

(A) the area comprises at least one transit station;

(B) the first attended delivery/pickup location candidate is located near the at least one transit station; and

(C) the second attended delivery/pickup location candidate is not located near the at least one transit station.

18. A non-transitory computer-readable medium storing computer executable instructions for:

(A) identifying an area to establish at least one attended delivery/pickup location, wherein the at least one attended delivery/pickup location comprises a location for receiving and storing one or more parcels;

(B) receiving data associated with each of a plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates, wherein:

i) each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates has indicated a desire to be established as the at least one attended delivery/pickup location;

ii) each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates is associated with a primary form of business other than receiving and storing one or more parcels;

iii) the data associated with each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates comprises a plurality of characteristics associated with each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates;

(C) receiving a weight for each of the plurality of characteristics, wherein the weight for a particular characteristic of the plurality of characteristics is an indicator of the importance of the particular characteristic for establishing the at least one attended delivery/pickup location;

(D) determining, based at least in part on the received data, a value for each of the plurality of characteristics for each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates;

(E) determining an attended delivery/pickup location candidate value for each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates based at least in part on:

i) the weight of each of the plurality of characteristics; and

ii) the determined value of each of the plurality of characteristics for each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates;

(F) ranking each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates based at least in part on the determined value for each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates; and

(G) displaying, on a client device, the ranking of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer system comprising:

a logistics server,

a respective computing device associated with each of a plurality of attended delivery/pickup locations, wherein each respective computing device is adapted to communicate with the logistics server via a logistics network; and

at least one processor, wherein the computer system is configured for:

(A) storing logistics network data in memory, the logistics network data comprising logistics data associated with each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup locations, wherein:

each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup locations comprise a potential delivery point for one or more parcels by a common carrier associated with the logistics network;

(B) receiving, at the logistics server, an indication of an area in which to establish at least one attended delivery/pickup location as a new attended delivery/pickup location in the logistics network, wherein the at least one attended delivery/pickup location comprises a location for receiving and storing one or more parcels;

(C) receiving, at the logistics server, data associated with each of a plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates, wherein:

i) each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates has indicated a desire to be established as the at least one attended delivery/pickup location;

ii) each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates is associated with a primary form of business other than receiving and storing one or more parcels; and

iii) the data associated with each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates comprises a plurality of characteristics associated with each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates;

(D) determining, based at least in part on the received data, a value for each of the plurality of characteristics for each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates;

(E) ranking each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates based at least in part on the determined value for each of the plurality of characteristics for each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates;

(F) displaying, on a client device, the ranking of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates;

(G) substantially automatically determining the new attended delivery/pickup location from the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates based at least in part on the ranking; and

(H) adding the new attended delivery/pickup location to the logistics network by modifying the logistics network data in memory to include logistics data associated with the new attended delivery/pickup location.

2. The computer system of Claim 1, wherein:

(A) the computer system is further configured for assigning a weight to each of the plurality of characteristics; and

(B) ranking each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates is based at least in part on:

i) the determined value for each of the plurality of characteristics associated with each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates; and

ii) an assigned weight of each of the plurality of characteristics.

3. The computer system of Claim 2, wherein the computer system is further configured for determining a first attended delivery/pickup location candidate value for a first attended

delivery/pickup location candidate of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates based at least in part on:

(A) the determined value for each of the plurality of characteristics associated with the first attended delivery/pickup location candidate; and

(B) the weight assigned to each of the plurality of characteristics.

4. The computer system of Claim 3, wherein the computer system is further configured for determining a second attended delivery/pickup location candidate value for a second attended delivery/pickup location candidate of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates based at least in part on:

(A) the determined value for each of the plurality of characteristics associated with the second attended delivery/pickup location candidate; and

(B) the weight assigned to each of the plurality of characteristics.

5. The computer system of Claim 4, wherein:

(A) the first attended delivery/pickup location candidate value is greater than the second attended delivery/pickup location candidate value; and

(B) the first attended delivery/pickup location candidate is ranked higher than the second attended delivery/pickup location candidate.

6. The computer system of Claim 2, wherein:

(A) each of a particular subset of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates is associated with selling goods as a primary form of business;

(B) the plurality of characteristics associated with each of the particular subset of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates comprises a number of returned goods characteristic; and

(C) ranking each of the particular subset of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates comprises determining an attended delivery/pickup location candidate value for each of the particular subset of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates, wherein the attended delivery/pickup location candidate value for each of the

particular subset of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates is based at least in part on:

i) the weight of each of the plurality of characteristics; and

ii) the determined value of the number of returned goods characteristic for each of the particular subset of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates.

7. The computer system of Claim 6, wherein:

(A) the plurality of characteristics associated with each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates comprises a customer reviews characteristic; and

(B) ranking each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates comprises determining the attended delivery/pickup location candidate value for each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates, wherein the attended delivery/pickup location candidate value for each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates is based at least in part on:

i) the weight of each of the plurality of characteristics; and

ii) the determined value of the customer reviews characteristic for each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup locations candidates.

8. The computer system of Claim 1, wherein the primary form of business associated with a particular attended delivery/pickup location candidate of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates is selected from the group consisting of:

(A) a gas station;

(B) a convenience store;

(C) a flower shop;

(D) a magazine stand;

(E) a retail location associated with a common carrier;

(F) a kiosk at a mall; and

(G) a retail department store.

9. The computer system of Claim 8, wherein each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates are located within the identified area.

10. A computer-implemented method comprising:

(A) storing, by at least one processor, logistics data associated with a plurality of attended delivery/pickup locations in a network of attended delivery/pickup locations;

(B) receiving, by at least one processor, an indication of an area in which to establish at least one attended delivery/pickup location as an attended delivery/pickup location within the network of attended delivery/pickup locations, wherein the at least one attended delivery/pickup location comprises a location for receiving and storing one or more parcels;

(C) receiving, by at least one processor, data associated with each of a plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates, wherein:

i) each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates has indicated a desire to be established as the at least one attended delivery/pickup location;

ii) each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates is associated with a primary form of business other than receiving and storing one or more parcels;

iii) the data associated with each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates comprises a plurality of characteristics associated with each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates;

(D) receiving, by at least one processor, a weight for each of the plurality of characteristics, wherein the weight for a particular characteristic of the plurality of characteristics is an indicator of the importance of the particular characteristic for establishing the at least one attended delivery/pickup location;

(E) determining, based at least in part on the received data, a value for each of the plurality of characteristics for each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates;

(F) ranking each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates based at least in part on:

i) the weight of each of the plurality of characteristics; and

ii) the determined value of each of the plurality of characteristics for each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates;

(G) displaying, on a client device, the ranking of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates;

(H) receiving, from a user via the client device, a selection of a particular one of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates as the new attended delivery/pickup location within the network of attended delivery/pickup locations; and

(I) in response to receiving the selection of the particular one of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates, adding the new attended delivery/pickup location to the logistics network by modifying the logistics data to include logistics data associated with the new attended delivery/pickup location.

11. The computer-implemented method of Claim 10, wherein ranking each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates comprises determining an attended delivery/pickup location candidate value for each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates, wherein the attended delivery/pickup location candidate value is based at least in part on:

(A) the weight of each of the plurality of characteristics; and

(B) the determined value of each of the plurality of characteristics for each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates.

12. The computer-implemented method of Claim 11, wherein:

(A) the plurality of characteristics for each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates comprises a primary characteristic and a secondary characteristic;

(B) the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates comprises a first attended delivery/pickup location candidate and a second attended delivery/pickup location candidate;

(C) the weight of the primary characteristic is higher than the weight of the secondary characteristic;

(D) the value of the primary characteristic for the first attended delivery/pickup location candidate is higher than the value of the primary characteristic for the second attended delivery/pickup location candidate; and

(E) the value of the secondary characteristic for the first attended delivery/pickup location candidate is higher than the value of the secondary characteristic for the second attended delivery/pickup location candidate.

13. The computer-implemented method of Claim 12, wherein:

(A) the attended delivery/pickup location candidate value for the first attended delivery/pickup location candidate comprises:

i) multiplying the weight of the primary characteristic by the value of the first characteristic for the first attended delivery/pickup location candidate to get a primary characteristic weighted value for the first user;

ii) multiplying the weight of the secondary characteristic by the value of the secondary characteristic for the first attended delivery/pickup location candidate to obtain a secondary characteristic weighted value for the first user; and

iii) summing the primary characteristic weighted value for the first attended delivery/pickup location candidate and the secondary characteristic weighted value for the first attended delivery/pickup location candidate; and

(B) the attended delivery/pickup location candidate value for the second attended delivery/pickup location candidate comprises:

i) multiplying the weight of the primary characteristic by the value of the first characteristic for the second attended delivery/pickup location candidate to get a primary characteristic weighted value for the first user;

ii) multiplying the weight of the secondary characteristic by the value of the secondary characteristic for the second attended delivery/pickup location candidate to get a secondary characteristic weighted value for the first user; and

iii) summing the primary characteristic weighted value for the second attended delivery/pickup location candidate and the secondary characteristic weighted value for the second attended delivery/pickup location candidate.

14. The computer-implemented method of Claim 13, wherein the attended delivery/pickup location candidate value for the first attended delivery/pickup location candidate is higher than the attended delivery/pickup location candidate value for the second attended delivery/pickup location candidate.

15. The computer-implemented method of Claim 14, wherein ranking the first attended delivery/pickup location candidate and the second attended delivery/pickup location candidate comprises ranking the first attended delivery/pickup location candidate higher than the second attended delivery/pickup location candidate.

16. The computer-implemented method of Claim 12, wherein the primary characteristic is a geographic location characteristic.

17. The computer-implemented method of Claim 16, wherein:

(A) the area comprises at least one transit station;

(B) the first attended delivery/pickup location candidate is located near the at least one transit station; and

(C) the second attended delivery/pickup location candidate is not located near the at least one transit station.

18. A non-transitory computer-readable medium storing computer executable instructions for:

(A) identifying an area to establish at least one attended delivery/pickup location as a new attended delivery/pickup location in a logistic network comprising a plurality of attended delivery/pickup locations, wherein the at least one attended delivery/pickup location comprises a location for receiving and storing one or more parcels;

(B) receiving data associated with each of a plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates, wherein:

i) each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates has indicated a desire to be established as the at least one attended delivery/pickup location;

ii) each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates is associated with a primary form of business other than receiving and storing one or more parcels;

iii) the data associated with each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates comprises a plurality of characteristics associated with each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates;

(C) receiving a weight for each of the plurality of characteristics, wherein the weight for a particular characteristic of the plurality of characteristics is an indicator of the importance of the particular characteristic for establishing the at least one attended delivery/pickup location;

(D) determining, based at least in part on the received data, a value for each of the plurality of characteristics for each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates;

(E) determining an attended delivery/pickup location candidate value for each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates based at least in part on:

i) the weight of each of the plurality of characteristics; and

ii) the determined value of each of the plurality of characteristics for each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates;

(F) ranking each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates based at least in part on the determined value for each of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates; and

(G) displaying, on a client device, the ranking of the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates for use by a user in selecting a most suitable new attended delivery/pickup location.

19. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of Claim 18, further storing computer-executable instructions for substantially automatically determining the new attended

delivery/pickup location from the plurality of attended delivery/pickup location candidates based at least in part on the ranking.

20. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of Claim 19, further storing computer-executable instructions for: establishing the new attended delivery/pickup location; and enabling the user to request delivery of one or more items to the new attended delivery/pickup location.