

SPECIFICATION

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

DEVICE FOR ASKING FOR PAYMENT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

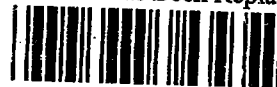
This invention relates to a device for asking for a payment or a system for asking for a payment in the case that a ticket is sold through a credit card or in the case that a service such as a telephone and the like are provided.

In general, it was actually carried out to make a telephone call with cash or a pre-paid card and similarly it was generally performed to purchase a ticket at a station with cash or a pre-paid card.

However, in recent years, there has been strongly requested to construct such an apparatus as one for enabling a person to purchase a ticket with a credit card and to accept various kinds of services as the credit card has been widely distributed.

The present invention has been invented in view of the aforesaid facts, and it is an object of the present invention to provide a new apparatus for asking for payment in which it becomes possible to purchase a ticket or accept various kinds of services in the same

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manner as that of using a cash by applying a credit card or an IC card.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig.1 is a block diagram for showing a first preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Fig.2 is a block diagram for illustrating the first preferred embodiment.

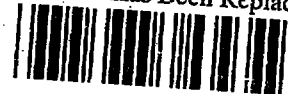
Fig.3 is a block diagram for showing another preferred embodiment of the first preferred embodiment.

Fig.4 is a block diagram for showing a second preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Fig.5 is a block diagram for showing a third preferred embodiment of the present invention.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In order to attain the aforesaid object, the apparatus for asking for payment of the present invention is characterized in that the same is comprised of a first computer installed at a first company for providing a selling of a ticket such as a coupon or the like or providing a service through a credit card or an IC card, a second computer arranged in a second company controlling the credit card, a connecting line path for connecting the first computer with the second computer, an input device for inputting card data of a card user



and price amount data to the first computer, and means for making request data arranged in the second computer for processing a predetermined price charging against the card user on the basis of data inputted by the inputting device.

In addition, the first computer is characterized in that the same is installed at a telephone company acting the first company.

In addition, a third computer is arranged between the first computer and the second computer and characterized in that data transmitted by the first computer is sent to the second computer after a predetermined processing is applied by the third computer.

In addition, the present invention is characterized in that there are provided a selling machine for selling a ticket such as a coupon or an item and a device for providing services or entertainment or the like, the input device for the selling machine or the device is provided with a card reader for reading out data of a prepaid card and when the card reader reads out a predetermined data on the prepaid card, the selling machine performs a selling of a ticket or an

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item and the device for providing the service and entertainment.

In addition, the present invention is characterized in that the first computer is a computer for monitoring the selling machine for a ticket or the like installed at an electric railway company acting as a first company.

In addition, the present invention is characterized in that the first computer is a computer for use in monitoring a ticket selling machine for selling a ticket or the like installed in a game center or a play ground which acts as a first company.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring now to Figs.1 to 5, the preferred embodiments of the present invention will be described as follows.

(Embodiment No.1)

Figs.1 to 3 are block diagrams for showing a first preferred embodiment of the present invention.

In the figures, reference numeral 1 denotes a first computer installed at an international telephone company 2 acting as a first company, reference numeral 3 denotes a data inputting device installed at the first computer for which an operator in the international



telephone company 1 inputs predetermined data such as a card number or a pass word, or a card data such as an effective due date or a date of use of the card and a partner-related data or the like when a user 4 (hereinafter called as a credit holder) using either a credit card or an IC card (hereinafter called as a card), reference numeral 5 denotes a credit card company acting as a second company holding a contract with the international telephone company 2, reference numeral 6 denotes a second computer installed in the credit card company 5, reference numeral 7 denotes data making means for making payment requesting data having predetermined processing applied on the basis of data (such as card data or price amount data) inputted by the input device 3 of the first computer 1 and outputting it, and reference numeral 8 denotes a connecting line for connecting the first computer 1 with the second computer 6.

In the case that the credit holder 4 makes an international phone call through the charge payment requesting device of the telephone company, at first, the person informs own card number, pass word and a calling telephone number to a telephone operator and asks for an international telephone call.

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In this case, the telephone operator inputs the card number, pass word and calling telephone number to the input device 3 of the first computer 1 and at this time, the first computer 1 performs to check it from the card number whether or not the card is available. Then, if the card is available, the telephone operator may perform a circuit connecting operation.

Then, upon completion of the telephone communication (service), the telephone operator inputs a telephone charge (a price data) to the input device 3 of the first computer 1 and waits for a next subscription of telephone call. Then, a telephone communication charge processing will be described.

The first computer 1 transmits, under a batch processing once a day, telephone utilization data including the telephone communication charge inputted through the input device 3 to the second computer 6 in the credit card company 5 through the connecting line 8.

Then, the second computer 6 makes a specification of demand for payment which is a charge data for every card number once a month and asks for the charge to the credit holder 4.

Accordingly, the international telephone company 2 makes a desired request for payment to the credit card



company 5 on the basis of the utilization data outputted through the first computer 1 and in turn the credit card company 5 makes a charge against the credit holder 4 on the basis of the specification of request for payment, resulting in that a collection of charge is positively carried out.

At a receiving station 2a of the international telephone company 2, a ring-back tone is transmitted for a predetermined period of time to a calling party 11 from a calling sound transmitting circuit 13 through a transmitting station 2b while the calling party 11 who is the credit holder is calling up a called-up party 12 connected to the receiving station 2a, although it is connected to the talkie trunk 15 until the called party 12 responds after the ring-back tone is transmitted and then an advertisement broadcasting is transmitted.

Due to this fact, the calling party 11 can wait until the line is connected to the called party 12 without sense of any boredom and the international telephone company 2 may also assure a substantial advertisement income.

In this case, it is of course apparent that no charge is given to the credit holder 4.



Fig.3 is a block diagram for showing another preferred embodiment based on the first preferred embodiment.

Fig.3 indicates the case in which the international telephone company 2 has a free-call circuit 10 for a remote distance telephone communication, wherein in this case, a third company 15 is arranged between the international telephone company 2 and the credit card company 5, a third computer 16 is installed in the company 15, the first computer 1 and the third computer 16 are connected by a connecting line 8 and the third computer 16 and the second computer 6 are connected by a connecting line 8, respectively, to construct a new device for collecting payment charge. With this device, the international telephone company 2 may get only a charge for connecting a telephone, the third company 15 shares its operation to collect charge committed by the international telephone company 2, thereby the third company 15 may get a profit.

In addition, since the credit holder 4 and the international telephone company 2 are connected by the free-call circuit 10 even in case of a long distance call, for example, a long distance between Tokyo and Los Angeles, a cost of telephone communication charge can be



set quite less-expensive and due to this fact, even if the third company 15 takes a suitable profit, the credit holder 4 can utilize the international telephone call in a quite less-expensive telephone communication charge (a service charge) than that of the prior art.

(Embodiment No.2)

Fig.4 is a view for showing a second preferred embodiment of the present invention.

The same component elements as those shown in Fig.1 are affixed with the same reference numerals and their explanation will be eliminated.

In Fig.4, reference numeral 20 denotes an electrical railway company acting as a first company, wherein the first computer 1 is a monitoring computer for controlling a ticket issuing process of a plurality of automatic ticket vending machines 21 provided with an inputting device for inputting card data, when a desired card is inserted into an insertion port of the automatic ticket vending machine 21, a card reader constituting the input device of the automatic ticket vending machine 21 reads card data such as card number and the like.

Then, as the desired data, for example, data of destination and the like, i.e. a charge data is inputted to the input part of the automatic ticket vending



machine 21, issuing of a ticket such as a desired ticket or a selling of item such as a prepaid card and the like is carried out and at the same time, a card number or date of use or charge price and the like are transmitted to the first computer 1.

It is of course apparent that when the card is utilized in the same manner as that of the first preferred embodiment, the first computer 1 confirms whether or not the utilized card is an available card on the basis of a result of reading of the card reader.

The charge collecting order is the same as that described in reference to the first preferred embodiment.

In the figure, reference numeral 22 denotes a portable type ticket vending machine, wherein a ticket such as a coupon or the like can be issued by inputting desired data such as a card number and a destination or the like to this portable ticket vending machine 22, the vending machine is connected to the first computer 1 in a wireless form and a desired ticket issuing is carried out in the same manner as that of utilizing the automatic ticket vending machine 21.

In addition, the input device of the aforesaid automatic ticket vending machine 21 is provided with a



card reader for reading out data in the prepaid card and as the card reader reads out the desired data on the prepaid card, the automatic ticket vending machine 21 performs a selling of ticket or a selling of an item and the like.

(Embodiment No.3)

Fig.5 is a view for showing a third preferred embodiment of the present invention.

In Fig.5, reference numeral 40 denotes a game center or a play ground acting as a first company, wherein to the first computer 1 is connected a ticket vending machine 41 in the same manner as that of the third preferred embodiment, and as a card is inserted into the input device for inputting card data of the ticket vending machine 41, the card reader of the input device of the ticket vending machine 41 reads the card number.

Then, as the first computer 1 confirms that this card is available, a desired ticket is issued or a prepaid card is issued and at the same time data such as card data or date of use or charge amount and the like are transmitted to the first computer 1 and a desired charge collecting process is carried out.



In addition, the aforesaid ticket vending machine 41 may be constructed such that it may be applied as a game machine, the input device of this game machine is provided with a card reader for reading out data of the card and as the card reader reads out data on the card, the game machine starts to operate and a game can be carried out in this game machine, i.e. an entertainment can be provided.

It is of course apparent that the device can be constructed such that the aforesaid game machine may operate through the prepaid card.

In addition, although the ticket vending machine 41 is constructed to read out the card data in the aforesaid preferred embodiment, it may also be applicable that the credit holder 4 informs in oral the card data to the telephone operator, the telephone operator inputs this card data to the first computer to perform a desired processing of collecting telephone charge.

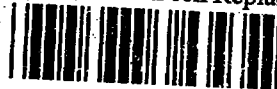
In addition, as the credit card of the present invention, a card having a card number embossed on its surface or a magnetic card, a bar-coded card or an IC card having a memory in it may also be applicable.



Since the charge payment demanding device of the present invention is constructed as described above, a ticket can be purchased without utilizing any cash or an item can be rented or various kinds of services such as telephone calls or entertainment of games or the like can be provided.

In addition, since all the processes are processed by a computer, the present invention has some superior features that a charge payment demanding processing can be carried out rapidly without any error.

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What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for asking for payment comprised of:

a first computer installed at a first company for providing a selling of a ticket such as a coupon or the like or an item or providing a service through a credit card or an IC card;

a second computer arranged in a second company monitoring said credit card;

a connecting line path for connecting said first computer with said second computer;

an input device for inputting card data of a card user and price amount data to said first computer; and

means for making request data arranged in the second computer for processing a predetermined price charging against the card user on the basis of data inputted by said inputting device.

2. An apparatus for asking for payment as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said first computer is installed in a telephone company acting as a first company.

3. An apparatus for asking for payment as set forth in Claim 2 wherein a third computer is installed between the first computer and the second computer, data transmitted by the first computer is processed as



desired by the third computer, thereafter the processed data is transmitted to the second computer.

4. An apparatus for asking for payment as set forth in Claim 1 wherein there is provided a selling machine for selling a ticket such as a coupon or an item or a device for providing a service or an entertainment, an input device of said selling machine or selling device is provided with a card reader for reading out data of a prepaid card, as said card reader starts to read out a predetermined data on said prepaid card, said selling machine performs a selling of a ticket or an item and the device for providing said service or entertainment provides either a service or an entertainment.

5. An apparatus for asking for payment as set forth in Claim 1 or Claim 4 wherein said first computer is a computer for monitoring a ticket vending machine for a ticket installed at an electric railway company acting as a first company.

6. An apparatus for asking for payment as set forth in Claim 1 or Claim 4 wherein said first computer is a computer for monitoring a ticket vending machine for a ticket installed at a game center or a play ground acting as a first company.

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