INFORMATION PROVIDING SYSTEM AND METHOD AND STORAGE MEDIUM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to an information providing system and method and a storage medium which provide information services to an client apparatus on which a content browser and at least one object operate. More particularly, the present invention relates to an information providing system and method and a storage medium which provide information services to a client apparatus on which an object such as an IC card operates.

Still more particularly, the present invention relates to an information providing system and method and a storage medium which write information content provided in an information space to an object such as an IC card via an information processing terminal and read the information content from the object. Yet more particularly, the present invention relates to an information providing system and method and a storage medium which associate read/write operations on a browser and an object on an information processing apparatus.

A variety of devices which use identification

numbers and passwords for personal identification and authentication processing have been designed and put into practical use. For example, when users use their cash cards and credit cards at financial institutions such as banks, pay-in and pay-out operations are performed by financial terminals such as cash dispensers by prompting users to enter their identification numbers and passwords and confirming the entry of correct identification numbers and passwords as a means of verifying the identity of the users.

In a storage medium such as a magnetic stripe disposed on one piece of cash card, there is a storage area which is available to the bank only. Therefore, since the entry of the above-mentioned identification number or password is merely the access to this single storage area, the security against forgery and theft is hardly adequate.

For this reason, from the viewpoint of forgery prevention for example, contact-type IC cards having electrical contacts and non-contact-type IC cards on which data read/write operations are performed via wireless data have recently come to be widely used as cash cards and credit cards. For example, IC card reader/writer apparatuses installed inside cash

dispensers and at the entrance of concert halls and the ticket barrier of railway stations can access the IC cards presented by their users in a non-contact manner.

Identification confirmation or authentication processing between the IC card and the IC card reader/writer is performed by matching the identification number entered by user into the IC card reader with the identification number stored on the IC card. When the identification confirmation or authentication processing is successful, an application for example stored in the IC card becomes available. This application includes the value information about electronic money or electronic tickets for example. (The identification number for use in IC card accessing is referred to as a PIN (Personal Identification Number).

Recently, with the rapid enhancement in microfabrication technologies, IC cards which have a comparatively large storage space have come into a wide use. Since conventional cash cards hold only a single storage area or a single application, a user must own a plurality of cards corresponding to various uses or purposes. On the other hand, the IC cards having a large memory such as above can store a plurality of applications at the same time, so that one IC card can be

used for a plurality of uses. For example, two or more applications such as electronic money for electronic account settlement, an electronic ticket for a particular concert may be stored on a single IC card to apply it to various uses.

Moreover, the IC card may be connected to information processing terminals such as mobile phones, PDAs (Personal Digital Assistants), and personal computers via a reader/writer or via an external interface other than non-contact interface or an IC card chip may be incorporated in information processing terminals.

In this case, various application services based on the IC card may be executed on information processing terminals. For example, the user interaction to the IC card may be performed on information processing terminals by use of the user interface such as keyboard and display monitor of each terminal.

For example, if the IC card is connected to an information processing terminal connected to an information retrieval space such as the Internet, the user can search a WWW information space via a Web browser which operates on the information processing terminal and download (or write) retrieved content to the connected IC

card or upload (or read) content from the IC card to a location retrieved in the WWW information space.

Meanwhile, a general-purpose Web browser can display, as a page screen, content such as HTML provided on a WWW server. Especially, recently, the server side can create dynamic pages by means of a scheme such as JSP (Java Server Pages). Handling designed HTML documents as JSP files allows the reflection of database values for example. For example, pages may be worked out as JSP files by designer and their servelet is described by developer for use of databases.

The Web browser can search the WWW information space for the locations of desired content. Therefore, the user can find the content necessary for peripheral devices such as IC cards connected to information processing terminals from the WWW information space by use of the Web browser.

However, the Web browser itself cannot directly operate the peripheral devices such as IC cards connected to information processing terminals. This consequently requires to have a device communication program for allowing peripheral devices such as IC cards to communicate with desired servers, in general.

The device communication program is activated by

the Web browser for example, however, since the Web browser has no mechanism for operating cooperatively with the device communication program, no cooperative operation or synchronization is performed between them.

As described above, while Web servers can perform a dynamic page creating operation by use of a scheme such as JSP, this page creation cannot be linked with the communication program for devices such as IC cards.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Embodiments of the present invention seek to provide an information providing system and method and a storage medium for preferably moving information content provided in an information space to devices such as IC cards via an information processing terminal.

Embodiments of the present invention seek to provide an information providing system and method and a storage medium for moving information content provided in an information space to devices such as IC cards via an information processing terminal while operating, in a cooperative manner, servers and clients in the information space and the devices connected to the clients.

Embodiments of the present invention

seek to provide, via a browser for browsing content, an information providing system and method and a storage medium for providing information services to client apparatuses on which the browser and at least one object operate while providing a cooperation between the provision of content to the browser and the communication with the object.

According to the first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a system for providing information to a client apparatus on which a browser for browsing content and at least one object operate, including: a view server for providing content to the browser; a communication server for making communication with the object; and an application server for making the view server and the communication server cooperate with each other.

Term "system" as used herein denotes a logical collection of a plurality of apparatuses (or functional modules for implementing particular functions) and has no implication whether each of the apparatuses or modules is accommodated in a single housing.

According to the second aspect of the present invention, there is provided an information providing method for providing information services to a client

apparatus on which a browser for browsing content and at least one object operate, including the steps of: providing content to the browser; making communication with the object; and making the view server and the communication server cooperate with each other.

The above-mentioned view server can dynamically generate content by use of JSP (Java Server Pages). Therefore, the cooperation with the communication server via the application server can allow to dynamically generate content synchronized with the communication with the object on the client apparatus side and provide the generated content to the browser.

For example, when connection is made with the object of the client apparatus, the communication server notifies the application server of the establishment of the connection, thereby can provide synchronization between the communication server and the view server.

When mutual authentication is performed with the object of the client apparatus, the communication server notifies the application server of a result of the mutual authentication, thereby can provide synchronization between the communication server and the view server.

When a read operation is performed on the object of the client apparatus, the communication server notifies

the application server of a result of the read operation, thereby can provide synchronization between the communication server and the view server. In this case, in response to the read result notice from the communication server, the application server notifies the view server of the contents of the read result, thereby can synchronize display contents on the browser with the result of the read operation done on the object.

When a write operation is performed on the object of the client apparatus, the communication server notifies the application server of a result of the write operation, thereby can provide synchronization between the communication server and the view server. In this case, in response to the write result notice from the communication server, the application server notifies the view server of the contents of the write result, thereby can synchronize display contents on the browser with the result of the write operation done on the object.

When the communication with the object of the client apparatus is closed, the communication server notifies the application server of a result of the close operation, thereby can provide synchronization between the communication server and the view server.

According to the third aspect of the present

invention, there is provided a storage medium storing a computer-readable software coded to execute, on a computer system, processing for providing information services to a client apparatus on which a browser for browsing content and at least one object operate, the computer-readable software including the steps of: providing content to the browser; making communication with the object; and making provision of content to the browser and communication with the object cooperate with each other.

The storage medium associated with the above-mentioned aspect provide, in a computer-readable form, computer software to a general-purpose computer system on which various program codes are executable, for example. This storage medium includes detachable and portable storage medium such as DVD (Digital Versatile Disc), CD (Compact Disc), FD (Floppy Disc), or MO (Magneto-Optical disc) for example. Alternatively, it is technologically possible to provide computer software to a particular computer system via a transmission medium such as a network (regardless of wired or wireless).

The storage medium associated with the above-mentioned aspect defines the cooperative relationship between computer software and storage medium in order to

realize the functionality of particular computer software on a computer system. In other words, installation of predetermined computer software on a computer system via the storage medium associated with the above-mentioned aspect allows to provide a cooperative action on the computer system, thereby can provide generally the same functional effects as the system and the method associated with the above-mentioned respective aspects.

According to a fourth aspect of the present invention there is provided a computer software program coded to execute, on a computer system, processing for providing information services to a client apparatus on which a browser for browsing content and at least one object operate, said computer software program comprising the steps of:

providing content to said browser;

making communication with said object; and

making provision of content to said browser and communication with said object cooperate with each other.

Embodiments of the information providing system, method, and storage medium as described above are capable of moving information content provided in an information space to IC cards for example via an information processing terminal.

Embodiments of the information providing system, method, and a storage medium as described above are capable of moving information content provided in an information space to IC cards via an information processing terminal by making servers and clients in the information space and devices connected to the clients cooperate with each other.

Embodiments of the information providing

system, method, and a storage medium are capable of providing information services via a browser for browsing content to each client apparatus on which the browser and at least one object operate, through the cooperation with the operation of the object.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These and other objects of the invention will be seen by reference to the description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing:

FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram illustrating a configuration of a network system associated with one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram illustrating the connection of an IC card 30 to a client apparatus 10 via an IC card reader/writer;

FIG. 3 is a sequence diagram illustrating a processing procedure for initializing the connection between an application and the IC card 30;

FIG. 4 is a sequence diagram illustrating another processing procedure for initializing the connection between an application and the IC card 30;

FIG. 5 is a sequence diagram illustrating a processing procedure for mutual authentication of the IC

card 30;

FIG. 6 is a sequence diagram illustrating a processing procedure for a server apparatus 50 to access the IC card 30 for a read operation via a client apparatus 10;

FIG. 7 is a sequence diagram illustrating a processing procedure for the server apparatus 50 to display a result of reading from the IC card 30 onto a Web browser 11 of the client apparatus 10;

FIG. 8 is a sequence diagram illustrating a processing procedure for the server apparatus 50 to access the IC card 30 for a write operation via the client apparatus 10;

FIG. 9 is a sequence diagram illustrating a processing procedure for the server apparatus 50 to display a result of writing to the IC card 30 onto the Web browser 11 of the client apparatus 10; and

FIG. 10 is a sequence diagram illustrating a processing procedure for the server apparatus 50 to close the communication with the client apparatus 10.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

This invention will be described in further detail by way of example with reference to the accompanying

drawings.

Now, referring to FIG. 1, there is schematically shown a configuration of a network system 1 practiced as one embodiment of the invention. On the network system 1, a client apparatus 10 which requests content and other network services and a server apparatus 50 which provides content and other services are interconnected via a network 70 and their firewalls 71 and 72. On the network 70, many clients and servers exist; however, for the brevity of description and prevention of complexity of drawings, only one client and one server are shown.

The client apparatus 10 is constituted by an information processing terminal such as a personal computer (PC), a mobile phone, or a PDA (Personal Digital Assistant) for example.

An IC card 30 having memory capability is connected to the client apparatus 10. There is not any special restriction to the connection form between the client apparatus 10 and the IC card 30. For example, the IC card 30 may be connected to the client apparatus 10 via an IC card reader/writer locally connected to the client apparatus 10 (refer to FIG. 2). For the client apparatus such as a mobile phone or a PDA, the IC card 30 may be connected to the client apparatus 10 via a card slot

disposed thereon or via a wired interface or an IC card chip may be installed on the client apparatus 10. It should be noted that the IC card chip and the IC card are generically referred to an IC card herein.

Operating on the client apparatus 10 are a Web browser 11 for searching an information space such as WWW (World Wide Web) built on the network 70 and a client for object or an object client 13 for such an object operating on the client apparatus 10 as a peripheral device like the IC card 30 and an application to communicate with the server apparatus 50. In the example shown in FIG. 1, the client apparatus 10 has only the IC card 30 as an object which communicates with the server apparatus 50, so that only the single object client 13 is active; if a plurality of objects are operating, a plurality of object clients corresponding to these objects may operate.

The Web browser 11 and the object client 13 can send HTTP requests to the server apparatus 50 on the network 70 and receive HTTP responses from the server apparatus 50. However, because of the conditions such as the existence of firewalls and the network configuration, the Web browser 11 and object client 13 do not basically receive HTTP requests from the server apparatus 50.

On the other hand, the server apparatus 50 is constituted by such a computer system having a comparatively powerful computing power and a mass storage device as a workstation (WS) or a personal computer (PC). Generally, the server apparatus 50 is managed by a service providing business entity.

The server apparatus 50 provides information services to the client apparatus 10 on which the Web browser 11 and at least one object (for example, a peripheral device such as the IC card 30 and an application). On this server apparatus 50, a view server 51, an application server 53, and a communication server 55 are operating. Also, the server apparatus 50 has a temper-proof hardware module SAM (Secure Application Module) 57.

The view server 51 provides Web content described in HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) to the Web browser. The present embodiment is adapted to provide dynamic HTML content to the view server 51 by use of JSP (Java Server Pages).

The communication server 55 controls the communication with such objects operating on the client apparatus 10 as a peripheral device like the IC card 30 connected to the client apparatus 10 and an application.

Generally, no cooperative operation is performed between the view server 51 and the communication server 55. On the client apparatus 10, there is no cooperative operation between the Web browser 11 and the object client 13 (the Web browser 11 may activate the object client 13, but, once the activation has been performed, the Web browser 11 and object client 13 operate independently of each other). Hence, the displaying of content supplied from the view server 51 to the Web browser 11 cannot be synchronized with the communication between the object such as the IC card 30 and the communication server 55. Namely, if the view server 51 can dynamically create content for the Web browser 11 on the basis of JSP for example, the displaying of the content is performed independently of the communication between the object such as the IC card 30 and the communication server 55.

On the contrary, in the present embodiment, the application server 53 performs a cooperative operation between the view server 51 and the communication server 55. Consequently, the view server 51 can dynamically generate Web content corresponding to the communication with such an object on the client apparatus 10 as the IC card 30 and, at the same time, the client apparatus 10

can display the page corresponding to the communication between the object on the client apparatus 10 and the server apparatus 50 onto the Web browser 11 (to be described later in more detail).

The SAM 57 hides all such access technologies associated with the IC card 30 as the key and logic for accessing the information of high security like the value information stored in the IC card 30. The communication server 55 uses the SAM 57 in order to access the IC card 30 in read/write operations and authenticate the IC card 30.

FIGS. 3 and 4 shows the processing procedures for initializing the connection between an application and the IC card 30.

When a user operating the client apparatus 10 selects a desired service on the screen of the Web browser 11 and then enters a predetermined parameter, the view server 51 gets the client type at this point of time and returns a corresponding message to the Web browser 11.

At this point of time, the view server 51 or the application server 53 holds all necessary information in Bean (this Bean becomes an argument to library; the information necessary for this Bean is such information necessary for writing to the IC card 30 as service name

and user input information). Hence, the sessions already established are also maintained in the following sequences.

The user performs a final confirmation for service acceptance (by clicking the OK button, for example). In response, the Web browser 11 requests the view server 51 for starting service provision.

The view server 51 calls an expansion tag for initialization for server to generate an application instance for the IC card 30 (specifies name Bean as an argument). After generating the instance, the view server 51 disconnects the thread. At this point of time, the view server 51 switches to the status check mode. In this mode, the view server 51 waits until a connection request comes from the card connection (the threads branches into a thread for communicating with the Web browser 11 and a thread for processing a card application). The view server 51 specifies both the expansion tag and Bean.

In response to the generation of the application thread, the application server 53 gets the client type from the user agent and start an open operation, attempting to initialize the client.

Upon calling of an expansion tag for initializing for client, the view server 51 specifies MINE type to the

user and sends content so that the object client 13 is activated for the object such as IC card 30 to communicate with the server apparatus 50. At the same time, view server 51 displays a message for prompting a wait onto the screen of the Web browser 11. Then, the view server 51 waits until connection is established between the application server 53 and the communication server 55.

In response to the message from the view server 51, the Web browser 11 requests to start the object client 13. At the same time, the Web browser 11 requests the view server 51 to wait until the connection, namely the card connection is established between the communication server 55 and the object client 13 (this is in the case in which the client apparatus 10 operates in a multi-thread mode as with a PC).

Subsequently, the object client 13 performs a handshake operation for establishing connection with the communication server 55.

The communication server 55 reports the activation of the client to the application server 53. The application server 53 connects to the application object.

The application server 53 requests the communication server 55 for the establishment of

connection of the SAM 57. In response the communication server 55 issues a connection establishment request to the SAM 57.

Upon completion of the connection establishment, the SAM 57 sends information thereof to the communication server 55. Then, the communication server 55 reports the establishment of the card connection and the application connection to the application server 53. The application server 53 connects to the application object. As a result, synchronization is provided between the communication server 55 and the view server 51.

FIG. 5 shows a processing procedure for performing mutual authentication of the IC card 30.

The application server 53 requests the communication server 55 for mutual authentication. In response, the communication server 55 issues a mutual authentication request to the SAM 57.

The SAM 57 sends a mutual authentication command for the IC card 30 to the communication server 55. The communication server 55 sends the received mutual authentication command for the IC card 30 to the object client 13.

The object client 13 performs a mutual authentication procedure for the IC card 30 which

responded to the mutual authentication command and returns a mutual authentication response to the communication server 55. The communication server 55 sends the received mutual authentication response to the SAM 57.

The transmission of the mutual authentication command and the returning of the mutual authentication response are repeated by the necessary number of times. Then, lastly, the object client 13 sends a finished message to the communication server 55 and the communication server 55 sends a mutual authentication result to the application server 53, thereby providing synchronization between the communication server 55 and the view server 51, upon which this processing procedure comes to an end.

FIG. 6 shows a processing procedure for the server apparatus 50 to access the IC card 30 for a read operation via the client apparatus 10.

The application server 53 requests the communication server 55 for reading the IC card 30. In response, the communication server 55 issues a read request to the SAM 57.

The SAM 57 sends a read command for the IC card 30 to the communication server 55. The communication server

55 sends the received read command for the IC card 30 to the object client 13.

The object client 13 performs a read procedure on the IC card 30 which responded to the read command and returns a read response to the communication server 55. The communication server 55 transfers the read response to the SAM 57.

The transmission of the read command and the returning of the read response are repeated by the necessary number of times. Then, lastly, the object client 13 sends a finished message to the communication server 55 and the communication server 55 sends a read result to the application server 53, thereby providing synchronization between the communication server 55 and the view server 51, upon which this processing procedure comes to an end.

FIG. 7 shows a processing procedure for the server apparatus 50 to display a read result from the IC card 30 onto the Web browser 11 of the client apparatus 10.

In response to the result report (refer to FIG. 6), the application server 53 sends the contents of the read result and issues a user information get request to the view server 51.

If the client apparatus 10 is not a PC but a device

which operates on a single thread like a mobile phone, the Web browser 11 is in a stopped state while the 13 is operating. Hence, application server 53 activates the Web browser 11 via the communication server 55 and object client 13 to transfer a read result display request with URL. The Web browser 11 performs the read result display request on the view server 51 on the basis of the received URL.

In response to the read result display request, the view server 51 sends a read result display information input form to the Web browser 11. In response, the Web browser 11 sends the information to the view server 51 and view server 51 sends the status to the Web browser 11. The view server 51 dynamically generates contents corresponding to the state of communication with the IC card 30 by use of a scheme such as JSP. As a result, by the cooperation between the view server 51 and the communication server 55 on the side of the server apparatus 50, the Web browser 11 can present to the user the page which is synchronized with the communication state of the object, namely the IC card 30.

If the client apparatus 10 is a device which operates on multiple threads such as a PC, the Web browser 11 requests the view server 51 for information

update re-connection.

If the client apparatus 10 is a device which operates on a single thread like a mobile phone, the object client 13 is in a stopped state while the Web browser 11 is operating, so that the Web browser 11 requests the object client 13 for connection or activation and sends a read result display input information get completion notice to the application server 53 via the communication server 55. The application server 53 issues an information get request to the view server 51.

In response to the information update re-connect request from the Web browser 11 or the information get request from the application server 53, the view server 51 sends an input result notice to the application server 53.

Receiving the read result display information input form, the Web browser 11 can enter the information to be written to the object, namely the IC card 30 or the information which affects the information to be written to the IC card 30. At the same time, the Web browser 11 can sends the entered information from the view server 51 to the application server 53. Receiving this information, the application server 53 can manipulate the received

information and send a notice to the object, namely the IC card 30 via the communication server 55 to specify an operation such as read or write which corresponds to the object and user request.

FIG. 8 shows a processing procedure for the server apparatus 50 to access the IC card 30 for a write operation via the client apparatus 10.

The application server 53 requests the communication server 55 to write to the IC card 30. In response, the communication server 55 issues a write request to the SAM 57.

The SAM 57 sends the write command for the IC card 30 to the communication server 55. The communication server 55 sends the received write command for the IC card 30 to the object client 13.

The object client 13 performs a read procedure on the IC card 30 which responded to the write command and returns a write response to the communication server 55. The communication server 55 sends the received write response to the SAM 57.

The transmission of the write command and the returning of the corresponding write response are repeated by the necessary number of times. Lastly, the object client 13 sends a finished message to the

communication server 55. At the same time, when the communication server 55 reports a write result to the application server 53, synchronization is provided between the communication server 55 and the view server 51, upon which this processing procedure comes to an end.

FIG. 9 shows a processing procedure for the server apparatus 50 to display a result of writing to the IC card 30 onto the Web browser 11 of the client apparatus 10.

In response to a write result notice (refer to FIG. 8), the application server 53 issues a write result contents notice to the view server 51.

If the client apparatus 10 operates not on a PC but on a single thread such as a mobile phone, the Web browser 11 is in the stopped state while the object client 13 is operating. Hence, the application server 53 activates the Web browser 11 via the communication server 55 and the object client 13 to send the write result contents notice to the Web browser 11 as in a form of write result display with URL. Then, on the basis of the received URL, the Web browser 11 requests the view server 51 for displaying the write result.

In response to the write result display request, the view server 51 displays the write result onto the Web

browser 11. The view server 51 dynamically generates the content corresponding to the state of communication with the IC card 30 by use of a scheme such as JSP. As a result, by the cooperation between the view server 51 and the communication server 55 on the side of the server apparatus 50, the Web browser 11 can present to the user the page which is synchronized with the communication state of the object, namely the IC card 30.

If the client apparatus 10 is a device which operates on multiple threads such as a PC, the Web browser 11 requests the view server 51 for information update re-connection.

If the client apparatus 10 operates on a single thread such as a mobile phone, the object client 13 is in the stopped state while the Web browser 11 is operating, so that the Web browser 11 requests the object client 13 for connection or activation and sends a close notice to the application server 53 via the communication server 55.

FIG. 10 shows a processing procedure for the server apparatus 50 to end the communication with the client apparatus 10.

the application server 53 issues a close request to the communication server 55.

In response to the close request, the communication

server 55 sends a close notice to the SAM 57 and, at the same time, performs a handshake operation with the object client 13 for close processing.

If the client apparatus 10 is a device which is built-in device such as a mobile phone, the object client 13 issues a connection request to the Web browser 11 for connection to the close URL. In response, the Web browser 11 accesses the view server 51 to get the content specified by the URL.

When the close processing has been completed, the SAM 57 returns the information thereof to the communication server 55. The communication server 55 notifies the application server 53 of the completion of close operation.

The application server 53 notifies the view server 51 of the completion of close processing. As a result, synchronization is provided between the communication server 55 and the view server 51.

The view server 51 notifies the Web browser 11 of the end of service. The user operating the client apparatus 10 can know the end of service on the screen of the Web browser 11.

While the preferred embodiments of the present invention have been described using specific terms, such

description is for illustrative purposes only, and it is to be understood that changes and variations may be made without departing from the spirit or scope of the appended claims. It is therefore necessary for the understanding of the present invention to take the scope of claims herein into account.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

FIG. 1

10: CLIENT APPARATUS

11: WEB BROWSER

13: OBJECT CLIENT

30: OBJECT (IC CARD)

71: FIREWALL

70: NETWORK

72: FIREWALL

50: SERVER APPARATUS

51: VIEW SERVER

53: APPLICATION SERVER

55: COMMUNICATION SERVER

57: SAM

1-A: START-UP

1-B: WEB CONTENT

FIG. 2

10: CLIENT APPARATUS

30: IC CARD

2-A: READER/WRITER

FIG. 3

51: VIEW SERVER

11: WEB BROWSER

13: OBJECT CLIENT

55: COMMUNICATION SERVER

53: APPLICATION SERVER

57: SAM

3-A: CLIENT TYPE AT THIS POINT OF TIME AND RETURN MESSAGE ACCORDINGLY.

3-B: VIEW SERVER CALLS SERVER INITIALIZING EXTENSION TAG TO GENERATE APPLICATION INSTANCE (BY SPECIFYING NAME BEAN AS ARGUMENT). DISCONNECT THREAD UPON GENERATION OF THE INSTANCE. AT THIS POINT OF TIME, VIEW SERVER SWITCHES TO STATUS CHECK MODE. IN THIS MODE, VIEW SERVER WAITS UNTIL CONNECTION REQUEST COMES FROM CARD CONNECTION (BRANCHING INTO THREAD FOR COMMUNICATION WITH BROWSER AND THREAD FOR PROCESSING CARD APPLICATION). VIEW SERVER SPECIFIES BOTH EXTENSION TAG AND BEAN.

3-C: VIEW SERVER CALLS CLIENT INITIALIZING EXTENSION TAG. FOR USER, VIEW SERVER SPECIFIES MIME TYPE TO SEND CONTENT WHICH STARTS UP CLIENT APPLICATION. AT THE SAME TIME, VIEW SERVER DISPLAY STANDBY PROMPTING MESSAGE ONTO BROWSER.

3-D: COMMON

3-E: PC

3-F: MOBILE PHONE

3-G: COMMUNICATE WITH APPLICATION

3-H: COMMUNICATES WITH APPLICATION

3-I: REQUEST TO START SERVICE

3-J: GENERATE APPLICATION THREAD

3-K: INITIALIZE CLIENT

3-L: INITIALIZE CLIENT

3-M: STARTS UP CLIENT FOR DEVICE (IN THE CASE OF DYNAMIC START-UP MODE)

PARAMETER:

DESTINATION URL

SESSION ID

SERVICE NAME

3-N: WAIT UNTIL ESTABLISHMENT OF CARD CONNECTION

3-O: SELECT SERVICE CONCERNED ON BROWSER

PARAMETER:

INPUT INFORMATION, ETC.

3-P: AT THIS POINT OF TIME, ALL NECESSARY INFORMATION IS HELD INTO BEAN (THIS BEAN BECOMES ARGUMENT TO LIBRARY). HENCE, ALREADY ESTABLISHED SESSIONS ARE ALSO MAINTAINED AFTER THIS SEQUENCE.

3-Q: FINAL CONFIRMATION FOR SERVICE ACCEPTANCE. SELECT OK.

3-R: START UP CLIENT

3-S: INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR THIS BEAN INCLUDES SUCH

INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR CARD WRITING AS:

1. SERVICE NAME

2. USER INPUT INFORMATION

3-T: AT THIS POINT OF TIME, GET CLIENT TYPE FROM USER-AGENT.

3-U: START OPEN().

FIG. 4

51: VIEW SERVER

11: WEB BROWSER

13: OBJECT CLIENT

55: COMMUNICATION SERVER

53: APPLICATION SERVER

57: SAM

4-A: COMMON

4-B: PC

4-C: MOBILE PHONE

4-D: REPORT CLIENT START-UP

4-E: TRANSMIT SERVER INFORMATION:

1. RETURN TO URL

2.

4-F: INITIALIZE R/W (CAN CLIENT DO THIS ON HIS OWN?)

4-G: REQUEST TO ESTABLISH SAM CONNECTION

4-H: SAM CONNECTION ESTABLISHMENT COMPLETED

4-I: REQUEST TO ESTABLISH SAM CONNECTION

4-J: REPORT ESTABLISHMENT OF CARD CONNECTION AND APPLICATION CONNECTION

4-K: CONNECT TO APPLICATION OBJ

4-L: STARTS OPEN() PROCESS

PARAMETER:

SERVICE NAME, ETC.

4-M: CONNECT TO APPLICATION OBJ

FIG. 5

51: VIEW SERVER

11: WEB BROWSER

13: OBJECT CLIENT

55: COMMUNICATION SERVER

53: APPLICATION SERVER

57: SAM

5-A: COMMON

5-B: PC

5-C: MOBILE PHONE

5-D: MUTUAL AUTHENTICATION COMMAND FOR IC CARD

5-E: MUTUAL AUTHENTICATION RESPONSE

5-F: MUTUAL AUTHENTICATION COMMAND FOR IC CARD

5-G: MUTUAL AUTHENTICATION RESPONSE

5-H: MUTUAL AUTHENTICATION

5-I: MUTUAL AUTHENTICATION REQUEST

5-J: MUTUAL AUTHENTICATION COMMAND FOR IC CARD

5-K: MUTUAL AUTHENTICATION RESPONSE

5-L: MUTUAL AUTHENTICATION COMMAND FOR IC CARD

5-M: NOTIFY MUTUAL AUTHENTICATION RESULT

FIG. 6

51: VIEW SERVER

11: WEB BROWSER

13: OBJECT CLIENT

55: COMMUNICATION SERVER

53: APPLICATION SERVER

57: SAM

6-A: COMMON

6-B: PC

6-C: MOBILE PHONE

6-D: IC CARD READ COMMAND

6-E: READ RESPONSE

6-F: IC CARD READ COMMAND

6-G: READ RESPONSE

6-H: IC CARD READ COMMAND

6-I: REQUEST TO READ

6-J: IC CARD READ COMMAND

6-K: READ RESPONSE

6-L: NOTIFY READ RESULT

6-M: NOTIFY READ RESULT

FIG. 7

51: VIEW SERVER

11: WEB BROWSER

13: OBJECT CLIENT

55: COMMUNICATION SERVER

53: APPLICATION SERVER

57: SAM

7-A: COMMON

7-B: PC

7-C: MOBILE PHONE

7-D: NOTIFY READ RESULT CONTENTS AND REQUEST TO GET USER INFORMATION

7-E: REQUEST TO DISPLAY READ RESULT

7-F: READ RESULT DISPLAY INFORMATION INPUT FORM

7-G: NOTIFY INFORMATION

7-H: NOTIFY STATUS

7-I: RE-CONNECT FOR INFORMATION UPDATE

7-J: REQUEST TO GET INFORMATION

7-K: NOTIFY INPUT RESULT

7-L: START UP BROWSER OR NOTIFY DISPLAY READ RESULT WITH URL

7-M: CONNECT TO CLIENT OR START UP

7-N: DISPLAY READ RESULT WITH URL

7-O: DISPLAY READ RESULT, GET INPUT INFORMATION AND NOTIFY COMPLETION

7-P: READ RESULT DISPLAY

7-Q: DISPLAY READ RESULT, GET INPUT INFORMATION AND NOTIFY COMPLETION

7-R: CALLS ONLY GETTER()

FIG. 8

51: VIEW SERVER

11: WEB BROWSER

13: OBJECT CLIENT

55: COMMUNICATION SERVER

53: APPLICATION SERVER

57: SAM

8-A: COMMON

8-B: PC

8-C: MOBILE PHONE

8-D: IC CARD WRITE COMMAND

8-E: WRITE RESPONSE

8-F: REQUEST TO WRITE

8-G: REQUEST TO WRITE

8-H: IC CARD WRITE COMMAND

8-I: NOTIFY WRITE RESULT

FIG. 9

51: VIEW SERVER

11: WEB BROWSER

13: OBJECT CLIENT

55: COMMUNICATION SERVER

53: APPLICATION SERVER

57: SAM

9-A: COMMON

9-B: PC

9-C: MOBILE PHONE

9-D: NOTIFY WRITE RESULT DISPLAY CONTENTS

9-E: REQUEST TO DISPLAY WRITE RESULT

9-F: DISPLAY WRITE RESULT

9-G: RE-CONNECT FOR INFORMATION UPDATE

9-H: DISPLAY WRITE RESULT WITH URL

9-I: CONNECT TO CLIENT OR STARTS UP

9-J: DISPLAY WRITE RESULT WITH URL

9-K: NOTIFY END

9-L: DISPLAY WRITE RESULT WITH URL

9-M: NOTIFY END

9-N: MS BASIC + PC STANDBY TYPE VER 1.0

9-O: WRITE RESULT DISPLAY

FIG. 10

51: VIEW SERVER

11: WEB BROWSER

13: OBJECT CLIENT

55: COMMUNICATION SERVER

53: APPLICATION SERVER

57: SAM

10-A: COMMON

10-B: PC

10-C: MOBILE PHONE

10-D: GET SPECIFIED CONTENTS

10-E: END PROCESSING COMPLETED

10-F: NOTIFY END OF SERVICE

10-G: REQUEST TO END URL CONNECTION

10-H: REQUEST TO CLOSE

10-I: NOTIFY END

10-J: END PROCESSING COMPLETED

10-K: CLOSE COMPLETED

10-L: MS BASIC + PC STANDBY TYPE VER 1.0

10-M: END PROCESSING

CLAIMS:

1. A system for providing information to a client apparatus on which a browser for browsing content and at least one object operate, comprising:

a view server for providing content to said browser;

a communication server for making communication with said object; and

an application server for making said view server and said communication server cooperate with each other.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein said view server dynamically generates contents.

3. The system according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said view server dynamically generates contents by use of JSP (Java Server Pages).

4. The system according to claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein, when connection is made with said object on said client apparatus, said communication server notifies said application server of the establishment of connection, thereby providing synchronization between said communication server and said view server.

5. The system according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein, when mutual authentication is performed with said object of said client apparatus, said

communication server notifies said application server of a result of said mutual authentication, thereby providing synchronization between said communication server and said view server.

6. The system according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein, when a read operation is performed on said object of said client apparatus, said communication server notifies said application server of a result of said read operation, thereby providing synchronization between said communication server and said view server.

7. The system according to claim 6, wherein said application server notifies said view server of the contents of the read operation result in response to the read result notice from said communication server, thereby synchronizing display contents on said browser with said read result.

8. The system according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein, when a write operation is performed on said object of said client apparatus, thereby providing synchronization between said communication server and said view server.

9. The system according to claim 7, wherein, in response to a write result notice from said communication

server, said application server notifies said view server of a result of said write operation, thereby synchronizing display contents on said browser with the write result from said object.

10. The system according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein, when the communication with said object of said client apparatus is closed, said communication server notifies said application server of a result of the close operation, thereby providing synchronization between said communication server and said view server.

11. A method for providing information services to a client apparatus on which a browser for browsing content and at least one object operate, comprising the steps of:

providing content to said browser;

making communication with said object; and

making provision of content to said browser and communication with said object cooperate with each other.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the step of providing content to said browser dynamically generates content by use of JSP.

13. The method according to claim 11 or 12, wherein, when connection is made with said object of said

client apparatus, the provision of content to said browser is made cooperate with the communication with said object.

14. The method according to claim 11, 12 or 13, wherein, when mutual authentication is performed with said object of said client apparatus, the provision of content to said browser is made cooperate with the communication with said object.

15. The method according to any one of the claims 11 to 14, wherein, when a read operation is performed on said object of said client apparatus, the provision of content to said browser is made cooperate with the communication with said object.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein a cooperation is provided between a result of said read operation from said object and content to be provided to said browser, thereby synchronizing display contents on said browser with the result of said read operation on said object.

17. The method according to any one of the claims 11 to 16, wherein, when a write operation is performed on said object of said client apparatus, the provision of content to said browser is made cooperate with the communication with object.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein, a

cooperation is provided between a result of said write operation on said object and content to be provided to said browser, thereby synchronizing display contents on said browser with the result of said write operation on said object.

19. The method according to claim any one of the claims 11 to 17, wherein communication with said object of said client apparatus is closed, a cooperation is provided between the provision of content to said browser and the communication with said object.

20. A storage medium storing a computer-readable software coded to execute, on a computer system, processing for providing information services to a client apparatus on which a browser for browsing content and at least one object operate, said computer-readable software comprising the steps of:

providing content to said browser;

making communication with said object; and

making provision of content to said browser and communication with said object cooperate with each other.

21. A computer software program coded to execute, on a computer system, processing for providing information services to a client apparatus on which a browser for browsing content and at least one object operate, said

computer software program comprising the steps of:

providing content to said browser;

making communication with said object; and

making provision of content to said browser and communication with said object cooperate with each other.

22.A system for providing information to a client apparatus operable in accordance with the method of any one of claims 11 to 19.

23.A system for providing information to a client apparatus of claims 1 to 10 operable in accordance with the method of any one of claims 11 to 19.

INFORMATION PROVIDING SYSTEM AND METHOD AND STORAGE MEDIUM

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An information providing system and method and a storage medium which provide information services to each client apparatus on which a browser for browsing content and at least one object operate, through the cooperation with the operation of the object. A server apparatus has a view server for providing content to the browser, a communication server for making communication with the object, and an application sever for making the view server and the application server cooperate with each other. When a read operation from the object is performed, the communication server notifies the application server of a result of the read operation, thereby providing synchronization between the communication server and the view server.

FIG. 1