Claims

1. A vehicle booking system comprising:

a server configured to communicate with a plurality of vehicles, wherein the server is configured to receive and store a plurality of vehicle booking requests in a vehicle booking requests database;

wherein the server is configured to identify and filter a plurality of undesirable vehicle booking requests from the plurality of vehicle booking requests to obtain a plurality of desirable vehicle booking requests,

wherein the server is further configured to transmit the plurality of desirable vehicle booking requests to the plurality of vehicles and not transmit the undesirable vehicle booking requests to the plurality of vehicles, and

wherein the undesirable vehicle booking requests that are not transmitted to the plurality of vehicles include a received vehicle booking request that is identified, by the server, as a duplicate of another received vehicle booking request.

2. The vehicle booking system of claim 1, wherein one or more of the following apply:

the plurality of undesirable vehicle booking requests are identified based on booking request data of the plurality of vehicle booking requests;

the booking request data comprises journey data, and the plurality of undesirable vehicle booking requests are identified based on the journey data of the plurality of vehicle booking requests; and/or

the journey data comprises pick-up location and/or drop-off location of a user.

3. The vehicle booking system of claim 2, wherein the booking request data comprises user data, wherein the plurality of undesirable vehicle booking requests are identified based on user data of the plurality of vehicle booking requests.

4. The vehicle booking system of claim 1, wherein one or more of the following apply:

the duplicate vehicle booking request comprises the same pick-up location and/or drop-off location as the original vehicle booking request;

the duplicate vehicle booking request comprises a same user identification key as the original vehicle booking request; and/or

the duplicate vehicle booking request and the original vehicle booking request are made within a specified time period.

5. The vehicle booking system of claim 1, wherein the server is configured to identify a plurality of excluded vehicles from the plurality of vehicles to obtain a plurality of selected vehicles, wherein the plurality of desirable vehicle booking requests are transmitted to the plurality of selected vehicles but not the plurality of excluded vehicles.

6. The vehicle booking system of claim 5, wherein one or more of the following apply:

the plurality of excluded vehicles comprises a rejecting vehicle, wherein the rejecting vehicle rejects at least one of the plurality of desirable vehicle booking requests, wherein the rejecting vehicle is excluded from receiving the at least one of the plurality of desirable vehicle booking requests; and/or

the plurality of excluded vehicles comprise an ignoring vehicle, wherein the ignoring vehicle ignores at least one of the plurality of desirable vehicle booking requests, wherein the ignoring vehicle is excluded from receiving the at least one of the plurality of desirable vehicle booking requests.

7. The vehicle booking system of claim 6, wherein one or more of the following apply:

the ignoring vehicle is considered to ignore the at least one of the plurality of desirable booking requests when the ignoring vehicle ignores the at least one of the plurality of desirable booking requests beyond a specified time period from the time when the at least one of the plurality of desirable booking requests are transmitted to the ignoring vehicle;

the transmission of the at least one of the plurality of desirable booking requests to the ignoring vehicle is terminated when the ignoring vehicle ignores the plurality of desirable booking requests beyond a specified number of times; and/or

the server transmits the at least one of the plurality of desirable vehicle booking requests to the ignoring vehicle after a specified period of block out time.

8. The vehicle booking system of claim 5, wherein the plurality of excluded vehicles comprises an occupied vehicle, wherein the occupied vehicle comprises a vehicle having a passenger on board.

9. The vehicle booking system of claim 8, wherein one or more of the following apply:

the occupied vehicle is occupied when a distance travelled by the occupied vehicle from a pick-up location of the passenger is shorter than a specified proportion of the calculated distance between the pick-up location and a drop-off location; and/or

the occupied vehicle is occupied when a time period that the passenger is on board the occupied vehicle is shorter than a specified proportion of estimated travel time to travel from the pick-up location to the drop-off location.

10. The vehicle booking system of claim 5, wherein the server is configured to maintain a specified number of the plurality of selected vehicles, wherein the server is configured to transmit the plurality of desirable vehicle booking requests to the plurality of excluded vehicles when the plurality of selected vehicles are less than the specified number.

11. A method for booking a vehicle, the method comprising:

receiving and storing a plurality of vehicle booking requests in a vehicle booking requests database;

identifying and filtering a plurality of undesirable vehicle booking requests from the plurality of vehicle booking requests to obtain a plurality of desirable vehicle booking requests; and

transmitting the plurality of desirable vehicle booking requests to a plurality of vehicles and not transmitting the plurality of undesirable vehicle booking requests to the plurality of vehicles;

wherein the undesirable vehicle booking requests that are not transmitted to the plurality of vehicles include a received vehicle booking request that is identified, by the server, as a duplicate of another received vehicle booking request.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein one or more of the following apply:

the plurality of undesirable vehicle booking requests are identified based on booking request data of the plurality of vehicle booking requests;

the booking request data comprises journey data, and the plurality of undesirable vehicle booking requests are identified based on the journey data of the plurality of vehicle booking requests; and/or

the journey data comprises pick-up location and/or drop-off location.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the booking request data comprises user data, wherein the plurality of undesirable vehicle booking requests are identified based on user data of the plurality of vehicle booking requests.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein one or more of the following apply:

the duplicate vehicle booking request comprises the same pick-up location and/or drop-off location as the original vehicle booking request;

the duplicate vehicle booking request comprises the same user identification key as the original vehicle booking request; and/or

the duplicate vehicle booking request and the original vehicle booking request are made within a specified time period.

15. The method of claim 11, further comprising identifying a plurality of excluded vehicles from the plurality of vehicles to obtain a plurality of selected vehicles, wherein the plurality of desirable vehicle booking requests are transmitted to the plurality of selected vehicles but not the plurality of excluded vehicles.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein one or more of the following apply:

the plurality of excluded vehicles comprises a rejecting vehicle, wherein the rejecting vehicle rejects at least one of the plurality of desirable vehicle booking requests, wherein the rejecting vehicle is excluded from receiving the at least one of the plurality of desirable vehicle booking requests; and/or

the plurality of excluded vehicles comprise an ignoring vehicle, wherein the ignoring vehicle ignores the plurality of desirable booking requests, wherein the ignoring vehicle is excluded from receiving the at least one of the plurality of desirable vehicle booking requests.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein one or more of the following apply:

the ignoring vehicle is considered to ignore the at least one of the plurality of desirable booking requests when the ignoring vehicle ignores the at least one of the plurality of desirable booking requests beyond a specified time period the time from when the at least one of the plurality of desirable booking requests are transmitted to the ignoring vehicle;

the transmission of the at least one of the plurality of desirable booking requests to the ignoring vehicle is terminated when the ignoring vehicle ignores the plurality of desirable booking requests beyond a specified number of times; and/or

the method further comprises transmitting the at least one of the plurality of desirable vehicle booking requests to the ignoring vehicle after a specified period of block out time.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein the plurality of excluded vehicles comprises an occupied vehicle, wherein the occupied vehicle comprises a vehicle having a passenger on board.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein one or more of the following apply:

the occupied vehicle is occupied when a distance travelled by the occupied vehicle from a pick-up location of the passenger is shorter than a specified proportion of the calculated distance between the pick-up location and a drop-off location of the passenger; and/or

the occupied vehicle is occupied when a time period that the passenger is on board the occupied vehicle is shorter than a specified proportion of estimated travel time to travel from the pick-up location to the drop-off location of the passenger.

20. The method of claim 15, further comprising maintaining a specified number of the plurality of selected vehicles, wherein the plurality of desirable vehicle booking requests are transmitted to the plurality of excluded vehicles when the plurality of selected vehicles are less than the specified number.