What is claimed is:

1. A social networking service payment method comprising:

receiving a payment instruction from a user via a network interface;

prompting, via a social network application accessing a social network, the user to designate a friend to receive a payment based on an association of the user with the friend in a user database of the social network;

prompting, via the social network application, the user to designate a funding source for the payment;

prompting, via the social network application, the user for an amount of the payment;

generating a redemption code for the payment with a processor; and

notifying the friend of the payment and the redemption code via the network interface.

2. The social networking service payment method of claim 1, further comprising:

prompting the user to share the user's payment experience.

3. The social networking service payment method of claim 2, further comprising:

determining a currency conversion for the payment when the payment is an international financial transaction.

4. A social networking apparatus comprising:

a network interface configured to receive a payment instruction from a user of a social network;

a user database encoded on a non-transitory computer readable medium, the database containing a user profile record, the user profile record configured to be associated with a plurality of friends' user profiles of the social network and configured to be associated with a plurality of funding sources; and

a processor, coupled to the network interface, configured to instruct a social network application accessing the social network to prompt the user to

designate a friend to receive a payment based on an association of the user's profile record with a profile record of the friend in the user database, prompt the user to designate a funding source for the payment, prompt the user for an amount of the payment, and generate a redemption code for the payment,

wherein the network interface is further configured to notify, via the social network application, the friend of the payment and the redemption code.

5. The social networking apparatus of claim 4, wherein the processor is further configured to prompt the user to share the user's payment experience.

6. The social networking apparatus of claim 5, wherein the processor is further configured to determine a currency conversion for the payment when the payment is an international financial transaction.

7. A non-transitory computer readable medium encoded with data and instructions, that when executed by a computer causes the computer to:

receive a payment instruction from a user via a network interface;

prompt, via a social network application accessing a social network, the user to designate a friend to receive a payment based on an association of the user with the friend in a user database of the social network;

prompt, via the social network application, the user to designate a funding source for the payment;

prompt, via the social network application, the user for an amount of the payment;

generate a redemption code for the payment with a processor; and

notify the friend of the payment and the redemption code via the network interface.

8. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 7, further causing the computer to:

prompt the user to share the user's payment experience.

9. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 8, further causing the computer to:

determine a currency conversion for the payment when the payment is an international financial transaction.

10. A social networking service payment request method comprising:

receiving a payment request instruction from a user of a social network via a network interface;

prompting, via a social network application accessing the social network, the user to designate a plurality of friends to receive the payment request, wherein the plurality of friends are associated with the user in the user database of the social network;

prompting, via the social network application, the user for an aggregate total target amount of the payment request;

notifying the plurality of friends of the payment request via the network interface; and

alerting the user when the aggregate total target amount is received or exceeded from the plurality of friends.

11. The social networking service payment method of claim 10, further comprising:

prompting the user to share the user's payment experience.

12. A social networking apparatus comprising:

a network interface configured to receive a payment request instruction from a user;

a user database encoded on a non-transitory computer readable medium, the database containing a user profile record, the user profile record configured to be associated with a plurality of friends' user profiles of a social network; and

a processor, coupled to the network interface, configured to instruct a social network application accessing the social network to prompt the user to designate a plurality of friends from the associated plurality of friends user

profiles to receive the payment request, to prompt the user for an aggregate total target amount of the payment request,

wherein the network interface is further configured to notify the plurality of friends of the payment request via the network interface, and to alert the user when the aggregate total target amount is received or exceeded from the plurality of friends.

13. The social networking apparatus of claim 12, wherein the processor is further configured to prompt the user to share the user's payment experience.

14. A non-transitory computer readable medium encoded with data and instructions, that when executed by a computer causes the computer to:

receive a payment request instruction from a user via a network interface;

prompt, via a social networking application accessing a social network, the user to designate a plurality of friends to receive the payment request, wherein the plurality of friends are associated with the user in the user database of the social network;

prompt, via the social network application, the user for an aggregate total target amount of the payment request;

notify the plurality of friends of the payment request via the network interface; and

alert the user when the aggregate total target amount is received or exceeded from the plurality of friends.

15. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 14, further causing the computer to:

prompt the user to share the user's payment experience.

16. A social networking service payment method comprising:

notifying a user of a social network of a payment and a redemption code via a network interface communicatively coupled to the social network, wherein the payment is initiated via the social network by a friend associated with the user in a user database of the social network;

prompting, via a social network application accessing the social network, the user for the redemption code;

prompting, via the social network application, the user for receiver options for the payment; and

depositing the payment according to the receiver options chosen by the user.

17. The social networking service payment method of claim 16, further comprising:

prompting the user to share the user's payment experience.

18. A social networking apparatus comprising:

a network interface configured to notify a user of a social network of a payment and a redemption code, wherein the payment is initiated via the social network by a friend associated with the user in a user database of the social network;

a user database encoded on a non-transitory computer readable medium, the database containing a user profile record, the user profile record configured to be associated with a plurality of financial accounts; and

a processor, coupled to the network interface, configured to instruct a social network application accessing the social network to prompt the user for the redemption code, prompt the user for receiver options for the payment from the plurality of financial accounts, and depositing the payment according to the receiver options chosen by the user.

19. The social networking apparatus of claim 18, further comprising:

prompting the user to share the user's payment experience.

20. A non-transitory computer readable medium encoded with data and instructions, that when executed by a computer causes the computer to:

notify a user of a social network of a payment and a redemption code via a network interface communicatively coupled to the social network, wherein the

payment is initiated via the social network by a friend associated with the user in a user database of the social network;

prompt, via a social network application accessing the social network, the user for the redemption code;

prompt, via the social network application, the user for receiver options for the payment; and

deposit the payment according to the receiver options chosen by the user.

21. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 20, further causing the computer to:

prompt the user to share the user's payment experience.

CLAIMS

1. A social networking service payment method comprising:

receiving a payment instruction from a user via a network interface;

prompting, via a social network application accessing a social network, the user to designate a friend to receive a payment based on an association of the user with the friend in a user database of the social network;

prompting, via the social network application, the user to designate a funding source for the payment;

prompting, via the social network application, the user for an amount of the payment;

receiving the payment from the user;

generating a redemption code for the payment with a processor;

notifying the friend of the payment and the redemption code via the network interface;

prompting the friend for the redemption code;

receiving input from the friend in response to the prompting of the friend for the redemption code;

determining that the input does not match the redemption code; and

sending the payment back to the user in response to determining that the input does not match the redemption code.

2. The social networking service payment method of claim 1, further comprising:

prompting the user to share the user's payment experience.

3. The social networking service payment method of claim 2, further comprising:

determining a currency conversion for the payment when the payment is an international financial transaction.

4. A social networking apparatus comprising:

a network interface configured to receive a payment instruction from a user of a social network;

a user database encoded on a non-transitory computer readable medium, the database containing a user profile record, the user profile record configured to be associated with a plurality of friends' user profiles of the social network and configured to be associated with a plurality of funding sources; and

a processor, coupled to the network interface, configured to instruct a social network application accessing the social network to prompt the user to designate a friend to receive a payment based on an association of the user's profile record with a profile record of the friend in the user database, prompt the user to designate a funding source for the payment, prompt the user for an amount of the payment, determine that the payment has been received from the user, generate a redemption code for the payment, prompt the friend for the redemption code, receive input from the friend in response to the prompting of the friend for the redemption code, and determine that the input does not match the redemption code,

wherein the network interface is further configured to notify, via the social network application, the friend of the payment and the redemption code, wherein the network interface is further configured to cause payment to be sent back to the user in response to determining that the input does not match the redemption code.

5. The social networking apparatus of claim 4, wherein the processor is further configured to prompt the user to share the user's payment experience.

6. The social networking apparatus of claim 5, wherein the processor is further configured to determine a currency conversion for the payment when the payment is an international financial transaction.

7. A non-transitory computer readable medium encoded with data and instructions, that when executed by a computer causes the computer to:

receive a payment instruction from a user via a network interface;

prompt, via a social network application accessing a social network, the user to designate a friend to receive a payment based on an association of the user with the friend in a user database of the social network;

prompt, via the social network application, the user to designate a funding source for the payment;

prompt, via the social network application, the user for an amount of the payment;

determine that the payment has been received;

generate a redemption code for the payment with a processor;

notify the friend of the payment and the redemption code via the network interface

prompt the friend for the redemption code;

receive input from the friend in response to the prompting of the friend for the redemption code;

determine that the input does not match the redemption code; and

send the payment back to the user in response to determining that the input does not match the redemption code.

8. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 7, further causing the computer to:

prompt the user to share the user's payment experience.

9. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 8, further causing the computer to:

determine a currency conversion for the payment when the payment is an international financial transaction.

10. A social networking service payment request method comprising:

receiving a payment request instruction from a user of a social network via a network interface;

prompting, via a social network application accessing the social network, the user to designate a plurality of friends to receive the payment request,

wherein the plurality of friends are associated with the user in the user database of the social network;

prompting, via the social network application, the user for an aggregate total target amount of the payment request;

notifying the plurality of friends of the payment request via the network interface;

receiving notification of payment contributions towards the target amount from one or more of the plurality of friends;

tracking the payment contributions towards the target amount; and

alerting the user when the aggregate total target amount is received or exceeded from the plurality of friends.

11. The social networking service payment method of claim 10, further comprising:

prompting the user to share the user's payment experience.

12. A social networking apparatus comprising:

a network interface configured to receive a payment request instruction from a user;

a user database encoded on a non-transitory computer readable medium, the database containing a user profile record, the user profile record configured to be associated with a plurality of friends' user profiles of a social network; and

a processor, coupled to the network interface, configured to instruct a social network application accessing the social network to prompt the user to designate a plurality of friends from the associated plurality of friends user profiles to receive the payment request, to prompt the user for an aggregate total target amount of the payment request, receive notification of payment contributions towards the target amount from one or more of the plurality of friends, and track the payment contributions towards the target amount.

wherein the network interface is further configured to notify the plurality of friends of the payment request via the network interface, and to alert the user when the aggregate total target amount is received or exceeded from the plurality of friends.

13. The social networking apparatus of claim 12, wherein the processor is further configured to prompt the user to share the user's payment experience.

14. A non-transitory computer readable medium encoded with data and instructions, that when executed by a computer causes the computer to:

receive a payment request instruction from a user via a network interface;

prompt, via a social networking application accessing a social network, the user to designate a plurality of friends to receive the payment request, wherein the plurality of friends are associated with the user in the user database of the social network;

prompt, via the social network application, the user for an aggregate total target amount of the payment request;

notify the plurality of friends of the payment request via the network interface;

receive notification of payment contributions towards the target amount from one or more of the plurality of friends;

track the payment contributions towards the target amount; and

alert the user when the aggregate total target amount is received or exceeded from the plurality of friends.

15. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 14, further causing the computer to:

prompt the user to share the user's payment experience.

16. A social networking service payment method comprising:

notifying a user of a social network of a payment and a redemption code via a network interface communicatively coupled to the social network, wherein the payment is initiated via the social network by a friend associated with the user in a user database of the social network;

prompting, via a social network application accessing the social network, the user for the redemption code;

prompting, via the social network application, the user for receiver options for the payment;

determining that processing the payment comprises processing an international transaction;

determining a transaction fee for the international transaction, wherein the friend specifies a payment option indicating whether to pay the transaction fee separately or deduct at least a portion of the transaction fee from the payment; and

depositing the payment according to the receiver options chosen by the user and the payment option.

17. The social networking service payment method of claim 16, further comprising:

prompting the user to share the user's payment experience.

18. A social networking apparatus comprising:

a network interface configured to notify a user of a social network of a payment and a redemption code, wherein the payment is initiated via the social network by a friend associated with the user in a user database of the social network;

a user database encoded on a non-transitory computer readable medium, the database containing a user profile record, the user profile record configured to be associated with a plurality of financial accounts; and

a processor, coupled to the network interface, configured to instruct a social network application accessing the social network to prompt the user for the redemption code, prompt the user for receiver options for the payment from the plurality of financial accounts, determine that processing the payment comprises processing an international transaction, determine a transaction fee for the international transaction, and deposit the payment according to the receiver options chosen by the user and a payment option, wherein the friend specifies the payment option indicating whether to pay the transaction fee separately or deduct at least a portion of the transaction fee from the payment.

19. The social networking apparatus of claim 18, further comprising: prompting the user to share the user's payment experience.

20. A non-transitory computer readable medium encoded with data and instructions, that when executed by a computer causes the computer to:

notify a user of a social network of a payment and a redemption code via a network interface communicatively coupled to the social network, wherein the payment is initiated via the social network by a friend associated with the user in a user database of the social network;

prompt, via a social network application accessing the social network, the user for the redemption code;

prompt, via the social network application, the user for receiver options for the payment;

determine that processing the payment comprises processing an international transaction;

determine a transaction fee for the international transaction, wherein the friend specifies a payment option indicating whether to pay the transaction fee separately or deduct at least a portion of the transaction fee from the payment; and

deposit the payment according to the receiver options chosen by the user and the payment option.

21. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim 20, further causing the computer to:

prompt the user to share the user's payment experience.

22. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving input from the friend in response to the prompting of the friend for the redemption code comprises receiving input multiple times, and wherein determining that the input dies not match the redemption code comprises invalidating the redemption code if the input does not match the redemption code more than a predetermined number of times.