CLAIMS

1. A network-enabled apparatus, comprising:

a memory storing apparatus identification information,

wherein the network-enabled apparatus:

creates a near field communication (NFC)-enabled web page;

transmits, to a user device via a local network, an instruction to navigate to the NFC-enabled web page;

transmits, to the user device via the NFC-enabled web page, an instruction to tap a transaction card to the user device;

reads, via the NFC-enabled web page, NFC information transmitted to the user device by the transaction card, the NFC information including card identification information unique to the transaction card;

transmits, to a service administration server, the NFC information and apparatus identification information via a network connection established over a wide area network; and

receives, from the service administration server, a service activation command.

2. The network-enabled apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a first network communication interface configured for establishing communication over the wide area network; and

a second network communication interface configured for establishing communication over the local network.

3. The network-enabled apparatus of claim 2, wherein the network-enabled apparatus transmits the instruction to tap the transaction card to the user device via the second network communication interface.

4. The network-enabled apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

the network-enabled apparatus comprises a router configured to connect one or more devices to the internet, and

the service administration server comprises an internet service provider server.

5. The network-enabled apparatus of claim 1, wherein the network-enabled apparatus comprises a household appliance.

6. The network-enabled apparatus of claim 1, wherein the network-enabled apparatus comprises an electrical distribution system.

7. The network-enabled apparatus of claim 1, wherein the network-enabled apparatus comprises a household environmental control system.

8. A method for activating a network-enabled apparatus, the method comprising:

creating a near field communication (NFC)-enabled webpage;

transmitting, to a user device via a local network, an instruction to navigate to the NFC-enabled web page;

transmitting, by the network-enabled apparatus to the user device via the NFC-enabled web page, an instruction to tap a transaction card to the user device;

reading, by the network-enabled apparatus via the NFC-enabled web page, NFC information transmitted to the user device by the transaction card, the NFC information including card identification information unique to the transaction card;

transmitting, by the network-enabled apparatus to a service administration server, the NFC information and apparatus identification information, via a network connection established over a wide area network; and

receiving, by the network-enabled apparatus from the service administration server, a service activation command.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

establishing a connection between the network-enabled apparatus and the wide area network; and

activating, by the network-enabled apparatus, a wireless local area network node for communication with the user device.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein:

a service initiation communication is received from the user device via the wireless local area network node, and

the wide area network is used for establishing an internet connection.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein at least a portion of the NFC information is encrypted information.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the encrypted information was encrypted by the transaction card and includes information unique to the transaction card.

13. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

authenticating the transaction card by the service administration server,

wherein authenticating the transaction card includes decrypting the encrypted information.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the service activation command is received only after the authentication of the transaction card by the service administration server.

15. The method of claim 8, wherein:

the service administration server is associated with a service administrator, and

the service administrator comprises at least one selected from the group of a service provider and a utility provider.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the service provider comprises at least one selected from the group of a telecommunications service, a data delivery service, and a power company.

17. A non-transitory, computer-accessible medium containing instructions for execution by a network-enabled computer system, wherein, when executed by the network-enabled computer system, the instructions cause the network-enabled computer system to perform procedures comprising:

creating a near field communication (NFC)-enabled webpage;

transmitting, to a user device via a local network, an instruction to navigate to the NFC-enabled web page;

transmitting, to the user device via the NFC-enabled web page, an instruction to tap a transaction card to the user device;

reading, via the NFC-enabled web page, NFC information transmitted to the user device by the transaction card, the NFC information including card identification information unique to the transaction card;

transmitting, to a service administration server, the NFC information and apparatus identification information, via a network connection established over a wide area network; and

receiving, from the service administration server, a service activation command.

18. The non-transitory, computer accessible medium of claim 17, wherein at least a portion of the NFC information is encrypted information.

19. The non-transitory, computer accessible medium of claim 18, wherein:

the encrypted information was encrypted by the transaction card, and

the encrypted information includes information unique to the transaction card.

20. The non-transitory, computer-accessible medium of claim 18, the procedures further comprising:

authenticating the transaction card by the service administration server,

wherein authenticating the transaction card includes decrypting the encrypted information.