are discarded, it is not possible to receive and process billable and non-billable emails with the same email address.

[0006]

Embodiments of the present disclosure provide a billing server, server control method, and server control program with which emails, regardless of whether they are billable or not, can be received at the same address and treated separately.

[0007]

According to a first aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a billing server, including: a sender acquisition unit which detects that a mail server has received an email and acquires a sender of the email; a compensation determination unit which calculates and determines compensation to be requested from the sender, based on an SNS follower count of the recipient of the email or a number of prior emails received by the recipient of the email; an information requisition unit which requests that the sender input information necessary for settlement of the compensation to a settlement server; a results reception unit which receives result of the request for information; a display changing unit which controls the mail server to change a display prior to opening of the email to a predetermined display format when the results reception unit receives result indicating that the information has been supplied; an operation detection unit which detects, via the mail server, opening of the email or an operation executed on the email after opening; and a settlement requisition unit which requests that the settlement server execute the settlement when the results reception unit receives result indicating that the information has been supplied and the operation detection unit detects that a predetermined operation has been executed.

[0007a]

According to a second aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a billing server, including: a sender acquisition unit which detects that a mail server has received an email and acquires a sender of the email; a compensation determination unit which determines compensation to be requested from the sender; an information requisition unit which requests that the sender input information necessary for settlement of the compensation to a settlement server; a results reception unit which receives result of the request for information; a display changing unit which controls the mail server to change a display prior to opening of the email to a predetermined display format when the results reception unit receives result indicating that the information has been supplied; an operation detection unit which detects, via the mail server, opening of the email or an operation executed on the email after opening; and a settlement requisition unit which requests that the settlement server execute the settlement when the results reception unit receives result indicating that the information has been supplied and the operation

detection unit detects that a predetermined operation has been executed and which receives a settlement response indicating execution of the settlement from the settlement server; a judgment unit which judges whether a reply mail to the email has been transmitted by the recipient of the email by a predetermined time; and a follow-up unit which transmits a follow-up mail which prompts a reply to the email, to the recipient when the settlement response has been received, the predetermined operation is opening of the email and the reply mail has not been transmitted by the recipient by the predetermined time; and which determines at least one of a frequency and interval of transmission of the follow-up mail based on an SNS follower count of the recipient.
[0007b]

According to a third aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a billing server, including: a sender acquisition unit which detects that a mail server has received an email and acquires a sender of the email; a compensation determination unit which determines compensation to be requested from the sender; an information requisition unit which requests that the sender input information necessary for settlement of the compensation to a settlement server; a results reception unit which receives result of the request for information; a display changing unit which controls the mail server to change a display prior to opening of the email to a predetermined display format when the results reception unit receives result indicating that the information has been supplied; an operation detection unit which detects, via the mail server, opening of the email or an operation executed on the email after opening; and a settlement requisition unit which requests that the settlement server execute the settlement when the results reception unit receives result indicating that the information has been supplied and the operation detection unit detects that a predetermined operation has been executed and which receives a settlement response indicating execution of the settlement from the settlement server; a judgment unit which judges whether a reply mail to the email has been transmitted by the recipient of the email by a predetermined time; a follow-up unit which transmits a follow-up mail which prompts a reply to the email, to the recipient when the settlement response has been received, the predetermined operation is opening of the email and the reply mail has not been transmitted by the recipient by the predetermined time; and an additional cost information acquisition unit which acquires additional cost information representing a cost paid by the sender of the email for the transmission of the follow-up email, wherein the compensation determination unit determines the compensation to be requested from the sender based on at least one of a compensation amount set by the recipient of the email and a compensation amount calculated by the compensation determination unit, and a cost corresponding to the additional cost information.
[0008]

In an embodiment, the billing server further includes a billing exclusion individuals

registration unit which registers, based on a request by a recipient of the email, the sender and the recipient as a pair, wherein the information requisition unit excludes emails having a sender and recipient pair identical to the pair registered by the billing exclusion individuals registration unit from the request for information necessary for the settlement of the compensation.

[0009]

In an embodiment of the billing server, the results reception unit receives, via the settlement server, requests of the request for information necessary for the settlement of the compensation.

[0010]

In an embodiment of the billing server, the compensation determination unit calculates the compensation based on an SNS follower count of the recipient of the email or a number of prior emails received by the recipient of the email.

[0011]

In an embodiment of the billing server, the settlement requisition unit further receives a settlement response indicating execution of the settlement from the settlement server, the billing server further including: a judgment unit which judges whether a reply mail to the email has been transmitted by the recipient of the email by a predetermined time, and a follow-up unit which transmits a follow-up mail which prompts a reply to the email, to the recipient when the settlement response has been received, the predetermined operation is opening of the email and the reply mail has not been transmitted by the recipient by the predetermined time.

[0012]

In an embodiment of the billing server, the follow-up unit determines at least one of a frequency and interval of transmission of the follow-up mail based on an SNS follower count of the recipient.

[0013]

In an embodiment, the billing server further includes an additional cost information acquisition unit which acquires additional cost information representing a cost paid by the sender of the email for the transmission of the follow-up email, wherein the compensation determination unit determines the compensation to be requested from the sender based on at least one of a compensation amount set by the recipient of the email and a compensation amount calculated by the compensation determination unit, and a cost corresponding to the additional cost information.

[0014]

According to a fourth aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a server control method, including: detecting that a mail server has received an email and acquiring a sender of

the email; calculating and determining compensation to be requested from the sender, based on an SNS follower count of the recipient of the email or a number of prior emails received by the recipient of the email; requesting that the sender input information necessary for settlement of the compensation to a settlement server; receiving result of the request for information; controlling the mail server to change a display prior to opening of the email to a predetermined display format when result indicating that the information has been supplied is received; detecting, via the mail server, opening of the email or an operation executed on the email after opening; and requesting that the settlement server execute the settlement when result indicating that the information has been supplied is received and it is detected that a predetermined operation has been executed.

[0014a]

According to a fifth aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a server control method, including: detecting that a mail server has received an email and acquiring a sender of the email; determining compensation to be requested from the sender; requesting that the sender input information necessary for settlement of the compensation to a settlement server; receiving result of the request for information; controlling the mail server to change a display prior to opening of the email to a predetermined display format when result indicating that the information has been supplied is received; detecting, via the mail server, opening of the email or an operation executed on the email after opening; and requesting that the settlement server execute the settlement when result indicating that the information has been supplied is received and it is detected that a predetermined operation has been executed; receiving a settlement response indicating execution of the settlement from the settlement server; judging whether a reply mail to the email has been transmitted by the recipient of the email by a predetermined time; transmitting a follow-up mail which prompts a reply to the email, to the recipient when the settlement response has been received, the predetermined operation is opening of the email and the reply mail has not been transmitted by the recipient by the predetermined time; and determining at least one of a frequency and interval of transmission of the follow-up mail based on an SNS follower count of the recipient.

[0014b]

According to a sixth aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a server control method, including: detecting that a mail server has received an email and acquiring a sender of the email; determining compensation to be requested from the sender; requesting that the sender input information necessary for settlement of the compensation to a settlement server; receiving result of the request for information; controlling the mail server to change a display prior to opening of the email to a predetermined display format when result indicating that the

information has been supplied is received; detecting, via the mail server, opening of the email or an operation executed on the email after opening; requesting that the settlement server execute the settlement when result indicating that the information has been supplied is received and it is detected that a predetermined operation has been executed; receiving a settlement response indicating execution of the settlement from the settlement server; judging whether a reply mail to the email has been transmitted by the recipient of the email by a predetermined time; transmitting a follow-up mail which prompts a reply to the email, to the recipient when the settlement response has been received, the predetermined operation is opening of the email and the reply mail has not been transmitted by the recipient by the predetermined time; and acquiring additional cost information representing a cost paid by the sender of the email for the transmission of the follow-up email, wherein the compensation to be requested from the sender is determined based on at least one of a compensation amount set by the recipient of the email and a compensation amount calculated by the compensation determination unit, and a cost corresponding to the additional cost information.

[0015]

According to a seventh aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a server control program, wherein the server control program causes the server to: detect that a mail server has received an email and acquires a sender of the email; calculate and determines compensation to be requested from the sender, based on an SNS follower count of the recipient of the email or a number of prior emails received by the recipient of the email; request that the sender input information necessary for settlement of the compensation to a settlement server; receive result of the request for information; control the mail server to change a display prior to opening of the email to a predetermined display format when result indicating that the information has been supplied is received; detect, via the mail server, opening of the email or an operation executed on the email after opening; and request that the settlement server execute the settlement when result indicating that the information has been supplied is received and it is detected that a predetermined operation has been executed.

[0015a]

According to an eighth aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a server control program, wherein the server control program causes the server to: detect that a mail server has received an email and acquires a sender of the email; determine compensation to be requested from the sender; request that the sender input information necessary for settlement of the compensation to a settlement server; receive result of the request for information; control the mail server to change a display prior to opening of the email to a predetermined display format when result indicating that the information has been supplied is received; detect, via the mail

server, opening of the email or an operation executed on the email after opening; and request that the settlement server execute the settlement when result indicating that the information has been supplied is received and it is detected that a predetermined operation has been executed; receive a settlement response indicating execution of the settlement from the settlement server; judge whether a reply mail to the email has been transmitted by the recipient of the email by a predetermined time; transmit a follow-up mail which prompts a reply to the email, to the recipient when the settlement response has been received, the predetermined operation is opening of the email and the reply mail has not been transmitted by the recipient by the predetermined time; and determine at least one of a frequency and interval of transmission of the follow-up mail based on an SNS follower count of the recipient.

[0015b]

According to a ninth aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a server control program, wherein the server control program causes the server to: detect that a mail server has received an email and acquires a sender of the email; determine compensation to be requested from the sender; request that the sender input information necessary for settlement of the compensation to a settlement server; receive result of the request for information; control the mail server to change a display prior to opening of the email to a predetermined display format when result indicating that the information has been supplied is received; detect, via the mail server, opening of the email or an operation executed on the email after opening; and request that the settlement server execute the settlement when result indicating that the information has been supplied is received and it is detected that a predetermined operation has been executed; receive a settlement response indicating execution of the settlement from the settlement server; judge whether a reply mail to the email has been transmitted by the recipient of the email by a predetermined time; transmit a follow-up mail which prompts a reply to the email, to the recipient when the settlement response has been received, the predetermined operation is opening of the email and the reply mail has not been transmitted by the recipient by the predetermined time; and acquire additional cost information representing a cost paid by the sender of the email for the transmission of the follow-up email, wherein the compensation to be requested from the sender is determined based on at least one of a compensation amount set by the recipient of the email and a compensation amount calculated by the compensation determination unit, and a cost corresponding to the additional cost information.

[0016]

According to embodiments of the present disclosure, email recipients can receive emails, regardless of whether they are billable or not, at the same address and treat them separately.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0017]

FIG. 1 is a view showing an example of an overview of processing of a billing system 1.

FIG. 2 is a view showing an example of the schematic structure of the billing system 1.

FIG. 3 is a view showing an example of the schematic structure of a billing server 4.

FIG. 4 is a view showing an example of a sender table stored in a storage unit 44.

FIG. 5 is a view showing an example of a recipient table stored in the storage unit 44.

FIG. 6 is a view showing an example of a billing exclusion table stored in the storage unit 44.

FIG. 7 is a view showing an example of a message table stored in the storage unit 44.

FIG. 8 is a view showing an example of the schematic structure of a mail server 6.

FIG. 9 is a view showing an example of the schematic structure of a terminal 7.

FIG. 10 is a view showing an example of an initial registration operation sequence carried out by the billing system 1.

FIG. 11 is a view showing an example of a processing operation sequence when an email arrives at the mail server 6.

FIG. 12 is a flowchart illustrating an example of compensation determination processing by the billing server 4.

FIG. 13 is a view showing an example of a compensation determination method by the billing server 4.

FIG. 14 is a view showing an example of a processing operation sequence after email acquisition by the billing system 1.

FIG. 15 is a view showing an example of an email list screen displayed on the terminal 7.

FIG. 16 is a view showing an example of the schematic structure of a billing server 104