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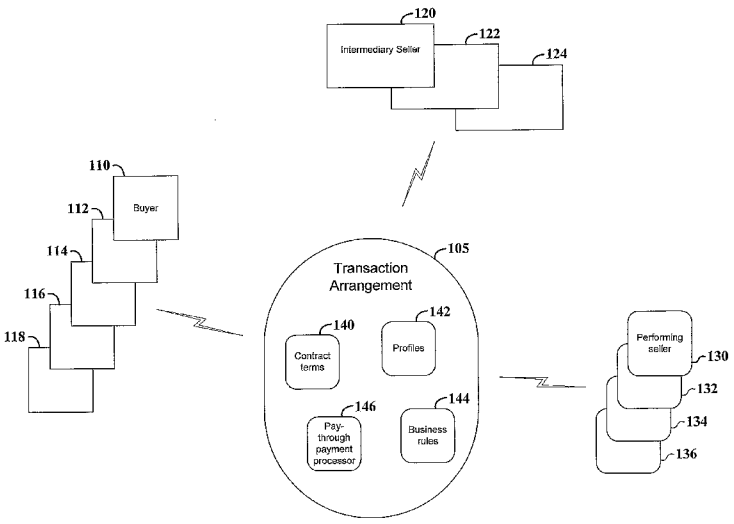
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(54) Title: MULTI-PARTY TRANSACTION PROCESSING SYSTEM AND APPROACH



(57) Abstract: Transaction management for processing payment-related aspects of transactions is facilitated. According to an example embodiment of the present invention, a transaction management approach involves the automatic processing of payments to multiple parties with payment chains extending through intermediary sellers. In some instances, an intermediary seller contracts with a buyer for goods and/or services, and further contracts with one or more performing sellers (*e.g.*, suppliers) for the provision of the goods and/or services. In these instances, funds designated to the buyer (*e.g.*, from a buyer's account or credit line) are transferred to the performing seller or parties in a manner commensurate with the contract between the intermediary seller and the performing seller or sellers. Additional funds are transferred from the buyer to the intermediary seller commensurate with the contract between the buyer and the intermediary seller, less any amount paid to the performing seller or sellers for a particular transaction.

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