

[0058] The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A method for facilitating payments via electronic signature documents, comprising:
in an electronic signature service that is configured to securely store electronic signature documents and indications of corresponding signatures to those documents,
associating a payment form with an electronic signature document, wherein the payment form has an associated payment processor and is configured to obtain payment data from a user;
presenting the electronic signature document including the payment form to a user for signature;
receiving payment data from the user via the payment form; and
causing the associated payment processor to process a payment based on the payment data received via the payment form.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising: associating a formula field with the payment form, the formula field including a mathematical expression to be evaluated when the electronic signature document is presented to the user for signature.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the mathematical expression includes at least one operator and one or more references to other fields of the electronic signature document.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein the mathematical expression is evaluated by a client device of the user, based on at least one data item entered into a field of the electronic signature document during the signing of the electronic signature document.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein causing the associated payment processor to process the payment includes: transmitting the payment data to a third-party payment system.
6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:
receiving payment confirmation data from the third-party payment system;
storing the received payment confirmation along with signature data received from the user.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the payment data includes at least one of a payment method, an account number, a name, an address, and/or a security code.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the payment processor is configured to process at least one of a credit card payment, a debit card payment, an electronic funds transfer, and/or a reward points payment.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein presenting the electronic signature document includes: transmitting an invitation email to the user, the email including a link that identifies the electronic signature document;
in response to activation of the link by the user, transmitting an image of a portion of the electronic signature document along with a module that represents the payment form and that is configured to receive payment data from the user and to transmit the received payment data to the electronic signature service.
10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving the electronic signature document from a sender; and
presenting to the sender a user interface that includes a payment form control that can be interactively dragged by the sender onto a representation of the electronic signature document, thereby associating the payment form with the electronic signature document.
11. A computer-readable medium including contents that, when executed by a computing system, facilitate payments via electronic signature documents, by performing a method comprising:
in an electronic signature service that is configured to securely store electronic signature documents and indications of corresponding signatures to those documents,
associating a payment form with an electronic signature document, wherein the payment form has an associated payment processor and is configured to obtain payment data from a user;
presenting the electronic signature document including the payment form to a user for signature;
receiving payment data from the user via the payment form; and
causing the associated payment processor to process a payment based on the payment data received via the payment form.
12. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the contents are instructions that when executed cause the computing system to perform the method.

13. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the method further comprises:
forwarding the electronic signature documents to one or more other users for signature;
and
causing the associated payment processor to process the payment only after signatures have been obtained from the one or more additional users.
14. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the electronic signature document includes a formula field that is configured to evaluate a mathematical expression to determine an amount of money for the payment based on one or more data items specified in other fields of the electronic signature document.
15. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the mathematical expression further determines the amount of money based on one or more data items specified in fields in another electronic signature document.
16. A computing system configured to facilitate payments via electronic signature documents, comprising:
a processor;
a memory;
a module that is stored on the memory and that is configured, when executed by the processor, to:
provide an electronic signature service that is configured to securely store electronic signature documents and indications of corresponding signatures to those documents;
associate a payment form with an electronic signature document, wherein the payment form has an associated payment processor and is configured to obtain payment data from a user;
present the electronic signature document including the payment form to a user for signature;
receive payment data from the user via the payment form; and
cause the associated payment processor to process a payment based on the payment data received via the payment form.
17. The computing system of claim 16, wherein the module includes software instructions for execution in the memory of the computing system.

18. The computing system of claim 16, wherein the electronic signature service is further configured to:

receive the electronic signature document from a sender; and
present a Web-based interface that includes interactive controls for associating payment forms and formula fields with the electronic signature document.

19. The computing system of claim 16, wherein a sender transmits an email to the user, the email including the electronic signature document as an attachment, wherein the user interacts with the electronic signature document and the payment form upon opening the attachment, and wherein the payment is processed by transmission of the payment data from a client computer of the user to the associated payment processor without passing through the computing system.

20. The computing system of claim 16, wherein the module is further configured to: associate a formula field with the payment form, the formula field including a mathematical expression to be evaluated when the electronic signature document is presented to the user for signature.

CLAIMS

1. A method for facilitating payments via electronic signature documents, comprising:
executing within an electronic signature service (ESS) computing device configured to securely store electronic signature documents and indications of corresponding signatures to those documents, operations including,
associating, in response to input from a first user, a payment form with an electronic signature document, wherein the payment form is associated with a payment processor operating separate from the ESS computing device and the payment form includes fields to obtain payment data from a user, the payment processor selected from a plurality of available payment processors;
transmitting a electronic signature request to a client device associated with a second user, the electronic signature request including a presentation of the electronic signature document including the payment form, and an electronic signature field to the second user for signature, the payment form including a payment amount determined dynamically in response to data associated with the second user;
receiving indication of an electronic signature in the electronic signature field from the client device associated with the second user;
receiving payment data from the client device associated with the second user via the payment form; and
transmitting at least a portion of the payment data and the received indication of the electronic signature to the payment processor associated with the payment form as authorization to process a payment based on the payment data received via the payment form.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising: associating a formula field with the payment form, the formula field including a mathematical expression to be evaluated when the electronic signature document is presented to the second user for signature.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the mathematical expression includes at least one operator and one or more references to other fields of the electronic signature document.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the mathematical expression is evaluated by a client device of the second user, based on at least one data item entered into a field of the electronic signature document during the signing of the electronic signature document.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the electric signature document includes a plurality of electronic signature fields; and
wherein transmitting the at least a portion of the payment data occurs only if the plurality of electronic signature fields are completed within a pre-determined time period.
6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving payment confirmation data from the payment processor;
storing the received payment confirmation along with signature data received from the second user.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the payment data includes at least one of a payment method, an account number, a name, an address, and/or a security code.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the payment processor is configured to process at least one of a credit card payment, a debit card payment, an electronic funds transfer, and/or a reward points payment.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting the electronic signature request includes:
transmitting an invitation email to the second user, the email including a link that identifies the electronic signature document;
in response to activation of the link by the second user, transmitting an image of a portion of the electronic signature document along with a module that represents the payment form and that is configured to receive payment data from the second user and to transmit the received payment data to the electronic signature service.
10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving the electronic signature document from the first user; and

presenting to the first user a user interface that includes a payment form control that can be interactively dragged by the first user onto a representation of the electronic signature document, thereby associating the payment form with the electronic signature document.

11. A computer-readable medium including contents that, when executed by a computing system, facilitate payments via electronic signature documents, by performing a method comprising:

executing within an electronic signature service (ESS) computing device configured to securely store electronic signature documents and indications of corresponding signatures to those documents, operations including,

associating, in response to input from a first user, a payment form with an electronic signature document, wherein the payment form is associated with a payment processor operating separate from the ESS computing device and the payment form includes fields to obtain payment data from a user, the payment processor selected from a plurality of available payment processors;

transmitting a electronic signature request to a client device associated with a second user, the electronic signature request including a presentation of the electronic signature document including the payment form, and an electronic signature field to the second user for signature, the payment form including a payment amount determined dynamically in response to data associated with the second user;

receiving indication of an electronic signature in the electronic signature field from the client device associated with the second user;

receiving payment data from the client device associated with the second user via the payment form; and

causing the associated payment processor to process a payment based on the payment data received via the payment form.

12. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the contents are instructions that when executed cause the computing system to perform the method.

13. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the method further comprises:

forwarding the electronic signature documents to one or more other users for signature;
and

causing the associated payment processor to process the payment only after signatures have been obtained from the one or more additional users.

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the electronic signature document includes a formula field that is configured to evaluate a mathematical expression to determine an amount of money for the payment based on one or more data items specified in other fields of the electronic signature document.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the mathematical expression further determines the amount of money based on one or more data items specified in fields in another electronic signature document.

16. A computing system configured to facilitate payments via electronic signature documents, comprising:

a processor;

a memory;

a module that is stored on the memory and that is configured, when executed by the processor, to:

provide an electronic signature service that is configured to securely store electronic signature documents and indications of corresponding signatures to those documents;

associate, in response to input from a first user, a payment form with an electronic signature document, wherein the payment form is associated with a payment processor operating separate from the ESS computing device and the payment form includes fields to obtain payment data from a user, the payment processor selected from a plurality of available payment processors;

transmit a electronic signature request to a client device associated with a second user, the electronic signature request including a presentation of the electronic signature document including the payment form, and an electronic signature field to the second user for signature, the

payment form including a payment amount determined dynamically in response to data associated with the second user;

receive indication of an electronic signature in the electronic signature field from the client device associated with the second user;

receive payment data from the client device associated with the second user via the payment form; and

transmit at least a portion of the payment data and the received indication of the electronic signature to the payment processor associated with the payment form as authorization to process a payment based on the payment data received via the payment form.

17. The computing system of claim 16, wherein the module includes software instructions for execution in the memory of the computing system.

18. The computing system of claim 16, wherein the electronic signature service is further configured to:

receive the electronic signature document from the first user; and

present a Web-based interface that includes interactive controls for associating payment forms and formula fields with the electronic signature document.

19. The computing system of claim 16, wherein the first user transmits an email to the second user, the email including the electronic signature document as an attachment, wherein the second user interacts with the electronic signature document and the payment form upon opening the attachment, and wherein the payment is processed by transmission of the payment data from the client device of the second user to the associated payment processor without passing through the computing system.

20. The computing system of claim 16, wherein the module is further configured to: associate a formula field with the payment form, the formula field including a mathematical expression to be evaluated when the electronic signature document is presented to the second user for signature.