

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for person-to-person reward points gifting, comprising:
 - in an information processing apparatus comprising at least one computer processor:
 - receiving, from a bank customer, a request to issue a reward points gift to a gift recipient, the request identifying gift recipient contact information for the gift recipient and a reward points amount;
 - sending a notification to the gift recipient contact information for the gift recipient to log in a gift recipient account to redeem the reward points gift; and
 - transferring the reward points amount to a gift recipient reward points account.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the request further comprises a time for issuing the reward points gift to the gift recipient.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the contact information for the gift recipient comprises at least one of a gift recipient email address and a gift recipient phone number.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - searching a plurality of customer profiles to identify a gift recipient customer profile using the gift recipient contact information; and
 - creating the gift recipient reward points account in response to the gift recipient not having a customer profile.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the reward points amount is transferred to the gift recipient reward points account when the gift recipient logs on to the gift recipient reward points account.

6. A method for person-to-person gifting of a cash-equivalent gift using reward points, comprising:

in an information processing apparatus comprising at least one computer processor:

receiving, from a bank customer, a request to issue cash-equivalent gift to a gift recipient based on reward points, the request identifying gift recipient contact information for the gift recipient and a reward points amount;

converting the reward points amount to the cash-equivalent gift;

sending a notification to the gift recipient contact information for the gift recipient to log in a gift recipient account to redeem the cash-equivalent gift;

transferring the cash-equivalent gift to a gift recipient account;
and

debiting a reward point account for the bank customer for the reward points amount.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein request comprises a form of the cash-equivalent gift comprising at least one of a digital deposit and an automated clearing house (ACH) transfer.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the request comprises a form of the cash-equivalent gift comprising at least one of a paper check, an electronic or physical prepaid card, and a merchant stored value card, and the

step of transferring the cash-equivalent gift to a gift recipient account comprises causing the cash-equivalent gift to be sent to the gift recipient.

9. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
receiving, from the gift recipient, a form of the cash-equivalent gift comprising at least one a digital deposit and an ACH transfer.

10. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
receiving, from the gift recipient, a form of the cash-equivalent gift comprising at least one a paper check, an electronic or physical prepaid card, and a merchant stored value card;
wherein the step of transferring the cash-equivalent gift to a gift recipient account comprises causing the cash-equivalent gift to be sent to the gift recipient.

11. The method of claim 6, wherein the request further comprises a time for issuing the cash-equivalent gift to the gift recipient.

12. The method of claim 6, wherein the contact information for the gift recipient comprises at least one of a gift recipient email address and a gift recipient phone number.

13. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
searching a plurality of customer profiles to identify a gift recipient customer profile using the gift recipient contact information; and
creating the gift recipient account in response to the gift recipient not having a customer profile.

14. A method for person-to-person gifting of a cash-equivalent gift using reward points, comprising:

in an information processing apparatus comprising at least one computer processor:

receiving, from a bank customer, a request to issue cash-equivalent gift to a gift recipient based on reward points, the request identifying gift recipient contact information for the gift recipient and a reward points amount;

converting the reward points amount to the cash-equivalent gift;

creating a redemption code for the gift recipient to receive the cash-equivalent gift at a device in a network;

associating the redemption code with the cash-equivalent gift;

sending the redemption code to the gift recipient contact information to redeem the cash-equivalent gift;

receiving, from a device in the network, the redemption code;

authorizing the device to issue the cash-equivalent gift; and

debiting a reward point account for the bank customer for the reward points amount.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the network comprises automated teller machines and point of sale devices.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the redemption code comprises at least one of a machine readable code, a personal identification number, and a one-time code.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein the request further comprises a time for issuing the cash-equivalent gift to the gift recipient.

18. The method of claim 14, wherein the contact information for the gift recipient comprises at least one of a gift recipient email address and a gift recipient phone number.

19. The method of claim 14, further comprising:
searching a plurality of customer profiles to identify a gift recipient customer profile using the gift recipient contact information; and
creating the gift recipient account in response to the gift recipient not having a customer profile.