Claims

1. A method, implemented using an issuer server, for authorizing an automated teller machine transaction, the method comprising:

receiving, at the issuer server, a transaction authorization request, wherein the transaction authorization request includes an indication of an account identifier, an indication of a unique personal identifier of a customer, and an indication of biometric data for the customer;

generating a customer verification request based on the unique personal identifier of the customer and the biometric data of the customer;

sending the customer verification request to a biometric data authentication server;

receiving a customer verification response from the biometric data authentication server, wherein the customer verification response indicates whether the biometric data for the customer corresponds to the biometric data stored against unique identifier for the customer; and

generating a transaction authorization response based on the customer verification response.

2. A method according to claim 1, further comprising looking up customer contact information in a database and sending a transaction notification to the customer using the customer contact information.

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the customer contact information includes a mobile telephone number associated with the customer and wherein the transaction notification is sent as a text message.

4. A computer readable medium carrying computer executable instructions which when executed on a processor cause the processor to carry out the method according to claim 1.

5. An apparatus for authorizing an automated teller machine transaction, the apparatus comprising:

a computer processor and a data storage device, wherein the data storage device comprises a customer verification module and a transaction authorization module comprising non-transitory instructions executable by the processor to:

receive a transaction authorization request, wherein the transaction authorization request includes an indication of an account identifier, an indication of a unique personal identifier of a customer, and an indication of biometric data for the customer;

generate a customer verification request based on the unique personal identifier of the customer and the biometric data of the customer;

send the customer verification request to a biometric data authentication server;

receive a customer verification response from the biometric data authentication server, wherein the customer verification response indicates whether the biometric data for the customer corresponds to the biometric data stored against unique identifier for the customer; and

generate a transaction authorization response based on the customer verification response.

6. An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the data storage device further comprises a customer look up module and a notification generation module comprising non-transitory instructions executable by the computer processor to look up customer contact information in a database and send a transaction notification to the customer using the customer contact information.

7. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the customer contact information includes a mobile telephone number associated with the customer, and wherein the transaction notification is sent as a text message.