PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER AT ACCOUNT LEVEL

Background of the Invention

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to the field of financial accounts and more specifically to personal identification numbers at the account level for financial accounts.

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Personal identification numbers (PINs) have been increasingly used for financial transactions as safety and privacy mechanisms. PINs are typically used to authenticate users to a system. For instance, a user provides a PIN to obtain access to the system. Upon the user providing the PIN, the system will compare the provided PIN to the matching PIN for the user stored on the system. The user will obtain access to the system upon confirmation of the PIN by the system.

PINs have been conventionally used with debit cards, pre-paid cards, and credit cards. Typically, the PIN may be issued at a card level and assigned to a particular card. For instance, each card that is issued has a PIN. Each card may be linked to one or more accounts, with the PIN providing access via the card to each of the accounts. Drawbacks include access by a user of the card to each of the linked accounts. Further drawbacks include a user of the account having access to account totals in all linked accounts.

Consequently, there is a need for an improved PIN system for financial accounts.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF SOME OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

These and other needs in the art are addressed in one embodiment by a PIN at account level system that includes a PIN assigned to a financial account. The PIN is different from a PIN of another financial account. The PIN at account level system further includes allowing access to the financial account by confirmation of the PIN assigned to the financial account when the PIN is provided. The PIN further includes a master PIN. The master PIN allows access to add or remove a plurality of restrictions on the financial account; and wherein the master PIN allows for the PIN or the master PIN to be changed in real-time.

The foregoing has outlined rather broadly the features and technical advantages of the present invention in order that the detailed description of the invention that follows may be better understood. Additional features and advantages of the invention will be described hereinafter that form the subject of the claims of the invention. It should be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the conception and the specific embodiments disclosed may be readily utilized as a basis for modifying or designing other embodiments for carrying out the same purposes of the present invention. It should also be realized by those skilled in the art that such equivalent embodiments do not depart from the spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For a detailed description of the preferred embodiments of the invention, reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings in which:

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A PIN at account level system, comprising:

a PIN assigned to a financial account, wherein the PIN is different from a PIN of another financial account;

wherein the system allows access to the financial account by confirmation of the PIN assigned to the financial account when the PIN is provided;

a master PIN; and

wherein the master PIN allows access to add or remove a plurality of restrictions on the financial account; and wherein the master PIN allows for the PIN or the master PIN to be changed in real-time.

2. The PIN at account level system of claim 1, wherein the PIN comprises a number, a letter, a punctuation mark, a symbol, or any combinations thereof.

3. The PIN at account level system of claim 1 or 2, further comprising a card linked to the financial account, wherein the PIN allows access to the financial account by the card.

4. The PIN at account level system of claim 3, wherein the card comprises a physical card or a virtual card.

5. The PIN at account level system of claim 3, wherein the card comprises a combi-card linked to at least one additional financial account.

6. The PIN at account level system of claim 5, wherein each financial account has a PIN that is different from the PIN of another financial account.

7. The PIN at account level system of any one of claims 3 to 5, wherein the card has more than one PIN associated with the card and that which is associated with the financial account.

8. The PIN at account level system of claim 7, wherein the financial account comprises a true balance, and wherein a first PIN provides access to the true balance for the financial account.

9. The PIN at account level system of claim 8, wherein another PIN provides access to a different balance for the financial account from that of the true balance.

10. The PIN at account level system of claim 8, wherein another PIN provides a duress signal.

11. The PIN at account level system of any one of claims 3 to 10, further comprising multiple copies of the card.