[0004] In view of the above, it would be desirable to provide a method for carrying out a post-dated electronic transaction which overcomes one or more of the above disadvantages, or which at least provides a useful alternative.

[0005] Furthermore, other desirable features and characteristics will become apparent from the subsequent detailed description and the appended claims, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings and this background of the disclosure.

SUMMARY

[0006] In the first aspect of the invention, a computer-implemented method, using a server, for completing a limited-time delayed electronic transaction between a payer account and a payee account is provided, the method comprising:

receiving, at the server, a transaction request relating to the limited-time delayed electronic transaction, the transaction request comprising payer data identifying the payer account, payee data identifying the payee account, a transaction amount, and an indication of a time period during which the limited-time delayed electronic transaction should be completed;

determining, at the server, if the payer account and the payee account are authorised to be used for the limited-time delayed electronic transaction based on the payer data and the payee data;

generating, by the server, a limited-time delayed transaction token for the limited-time delayed electronic transaction when it is determined that the payer account and the payee account are authorised to be used for the limited-time delayed electronic transaction, wherein the limited-time delayed transaction token identifies a status of the limited-time delayed electronic transaction during the time period; and

subsequent to the generation of the limited-time delayed transaction token:

sending, by the server, the limited-time delayed transaction token to a payer device and a payee device;

determining, at the server, if the payer account includes at least the transaction amount towards the end of the time period;

updating, by the server, the status of the limited-time delayed electronic transaction to an approved status when it is determined that the payer account includes at least the transaction amount towards the end of the time period, wherein the approved status indicates that the limited-time delayed electronic transaction is to be completed; and

completing, by the server, the limited-time delayed electronic transaction at the end of the time period when the status is updated.

[0007] In the embodiment, the step of determining if the transaction amount is comprised in the payer account towards the end of the time period further comprises deleting, by the server, the limited-time delayed transaction token at the end of the time period when it is determined that the transaction amount is not included in the payer account towards the end of the time period.

[0008] In an embodiment, the method further comprises:

cancelling, by the server, the limited-time delayed electronic transaction when the limited-time delayed transaction token is deleted by the server at the end of the time period.

[0009] In the embodiment, the step of determining if the payer account and the payee account are authorised to be used for the limited-time delayed electronic transaction further comprises determining, by the server, if the payer account is included in a list of authorised accounts for the limited-time delayed electronic transaction, the list of authorised accounts including accounts identified by the server to be authorised to be used for the limited-time delayed electronic transaction.

[0010] In the embodiment, the method further comprises verifying, at the server, the status of the limited-time delayed electronic transaction using the limited-time delayed transaction token by at least one of the payer device and the payee device within the time period.

the at least one memory and the computer program code configured to, with at least one processor, cause the apparatus at least to:

receive a transaction request relating to the limited-time delayed electronic transaction, the transaction request comprising payer data identifying the payer account, payee data identifying the payee account, a transaction amount, and an indication of the time period during which the limited-time delayed electronic transaction should be completed;

determine if the payer account and the payee account are authorised to be used for the limited-time delayed electronic transaction based on the payer data and the payee data;

generate a limited-time delayed transaction token for the limited-time delayed electronic transaction when it is determined that the payer account and the payee account are authorised to be used for the limited-time delayed electronic transaction, wherein the limited-time delayed transaction token identifies a status of the limited-time delayed electronic transaction during the time period; and

subsequent to the generation of the limited-time delayed transaction token:

send the limited-time delayed transaction token to a payer device and a payee device;

determine if the payer account includes at least the transaction amount towards the end of the time period;

update the status of the limited-time delayed electronic transaction to an approved status when it is determined that the payer account includes at least the transaction amount towards the end of the time period, wherein the approved status indicates that the limited-time delayed electronic transaction is to be completed; and

complete the limited-time delayed electronic transaction at the end of the time period when the status is updated.

[0017] In an embodiment, the at least one memory and the computer program code is further configured with the at least one processor to delete the limited-time delayed transaction token at the end of the time period when it is determined that the transaction amount is not included in the payer account towards the end of the time period.

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A computer-implemented method, using a server, for completing a limited-time delayed electronic transaction between a payer account and a payee account, the method comprising:

receiving, at the server, a transaction request relating to the limited-time delayed electronic transaction, the transaction request comprising payer data identifying the payer account, payee data identifying the payee account, a transaction amount, and an indication of a time period during which the limited-time delayed electronic transaction should be completed;

determining, at the server, if the payer account and the payee account are authorised to be used for the limited-time delayed electronic transaction based on the payer data and the payee data;

generating, by the server, a limited-time delayed transaction token for the limited-time delayed electronic transaction when it is determined that the payer account and the payee account are authorised to be used for the limited-time delayed electronic transaction, wherein the limited-time delayed transaction token identifies a status of the limited-time delayed electronic transaction during the time period; and

subsequent to the generation of the limited-time delayed transaction token:

sending, by the server, the limited-time delayed transaction token to a payer device and a payee device;

determining, at the server, if the payer account includes at least the transaction amount towards the end of the time period;

updating, by the server, the status of the limited-time delayed electronic transaction to an approved status when it is determined that the payer account includes at least the transaction amount towards the end of the time period, wherein the approved status indicates that the limited-time delayed electronic transaction is to be completed; and

completing, by the server, the limited-time delayed electronic transaction at the end of the time period when the status is updated.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of determining if the transaction amount is comprised in the payer account towards the end of the time period further comprises deleting, by the server, the limited-time delayed transaction token at the end of the time period when it is determined that the transaction amount is not included in the payer account towards the end of the time period.

3. The method according to claim 2, further comprising:

cancelling, by the server, the limited-time delayed electronic transaction when the limited-time delayed transaction token is deleted by the server at the end of the time period.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of determining if the payer account and the payee account are authorised to be used for the limited-time delayed electronic transaction further comprises determining, by the server, if the payer account is included in a list of authorised accounts for the limited-time delayed electronic transaction, the list of authorised accounts including accounts identified by the server to be authorised to be used for the limited-time delayed electronic transaction.

5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

verifying, at the server, the status of the limited-time delayed electronic transaction using the limited-time delayed transaction token by at least one of the payer device and the payee device within the time period.

6. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising:

receiving, at the server, a notification request from the payer device, the notification request relating to a cancellation of the limited-time delayed electronic transaction;

forwarding, by the server, the notification request to the payee device in response to receiving the notification request; and

receiving, at the server, a notification response from the payee device in response to receiving the notification request, the notification response indicating whether or not the payee approves the notification request.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the limited-time delayed electronic transaction is completed when the notification response indicates that the payee does not approve the notification request.

8. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising:

notifying, by the server, the payer device and the payee device of the status of the limited-time delayed electronic transaction at the end of the time period.

9. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the time period of the limited-time delayed electronic transaction is determined by the payer.

10. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the limited-time delayed transaction token of the limited-time delayed electronic transaction comprises the transaction request.

11. An apparatus for completing a limited-time delayed electronic transaction between a payer account identifying a payer and a payee account identifying a payee, the apparatus comprising:

at least one processor; and

at least one memory including computer program code;

the at least one memory and the computer program code configured to, with at least one processor, cause the apparatus at least to:

receive a transaction request relating to the limited-time delayed electronic transaction, the transaction request comprising payer data identifying the payer account, payee data

identifying the payee account, a transaction amount, and an indication of the time period during which the limited-time delayed electronic transaction should be completed;

determine if the payer account and the payee account are authorised to be used for the limited-time delayed electronic transaction based on the payer data and the payee data;

generate a limited-time delayed transaction token for the limited-time delayed electronic transaction when it is determined that the payer account and the payee account are authorised to be used for the limited-time delayed electronic transaction, wherein the limited-time delayed transaction token identifies a status of the limited-time delayed electronic transaction during the time period; and

subsequent to the generation of the limited-time delayed transaction token:

send the limited-time delayed transaction token to a payer device and a payee device;

determine if the payer account includes at least the transaction amount towards the end of the time period;

update the status of the limited-time delayed electronic transaction to an approved status when it is determined that the payer account includes at least the transaction amount towards the end of the time period, wherein the approved status indicates that the limited-time delayed electronic transaction is to be completed; and

complete the limited-time delayed electronic transaction at the end of the time period when the status is updated.

12. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code is further configured with the at least one processor to:

delete the limited-time delayed transaction token at the end of the time period when it is determined that the transaction amount is not included in the payer account towards the end of the time period.

13. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code is further configured with the at least one processor to:

cancel the limited-time delayed electronic transaction when the limited-time delayed transaction token is deleted by the server at the end of the time period.

14. The apparatus according to any one of claims 11, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code is further configured with the at least one processor to:

determine if the payer account is included in a list of authorised accounts for the limited-time delayed electronic transaction, the list of authorised accounts including accounts identified by the server to be authorised to be used for the limited-time delayed electronic transaction.

15. The apparatus according to any one of claims 11, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code is further configured with the at least one processor to:

verify the status of the limited-time delayed electronic transaction using the limited-time delayed transaction token by at least one of the payer device and the payee device within the time period.

16. The apparatus according to any one of claims 11-15, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code is further configured with the at least one processor to:

receive a notification request from the payer device, the notification request relating to a cancellation of the limited-time delayed electronic transaction;

forward the notification request to the payee device in response to receiving the notification request; and

receive a notification response from the payee device in response to receiving the notification request, the notification response indicating whether or not the payee approves the notification request.

17. The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the limited-time delayed electronic transaction is completed when the notification response indicates that the payee does not approve the notification request.

18. The apparatus according to any one of claims 11-17, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code is further configured with the at least one processor to:

notify the payer device and the payee device of the status of the limited-time delayed electronic transaction at the end of the time period.

19. The apparatus according to any one of claims 11-18, wherein the time period of the limited-time delayed electronic transaction is determined by the payer.

20. The apparatus according to any one of claims 11-19, wherein the limited-time delayed transaction token of the limited-time delayed electronic transaction comprises the transaction request.

21. A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon computer program code which when executed by a computer causes the computer to execute a method in accordance with any of claims 1 to 10.