CLAIMS

1. A billing server, comprising:

a sender acquisition unit which detects that a mail server has received an email and acquires a sender of the email;

a compensation determination unit which calculates and determines compensation to be requested from the sender, based on an SNS follower count of the recipient of the email or a number of prior emails received by the recipient of the email;

an information requisition unit which requests that the sender input information necessary for settlement of the compensation to a settlement server;

a results reception unit which receives result of the request for information;

a display changing unit which controls the mail server to change a display prior to opening of the email to a predetermined display format when the results reception unit receives result indicating that the information has been supplied;

an operation detection unit which detects, via the mail server, opening of the email or an operation executed on the email after opening; and

a settlement requisition unit which requests that the settlement server execute the settlement when the results reception unit receives result indicating that the information has been supplied and the operation detection unit detects that a predetermined operation has been executed.

2. The billing server according to claim 1, further comprising a billing exclusion individuals registration unit which registers, based on a request by a recipient of the email, the sender and the recipient as a pair, wherein

the information requisition unit excludes emails having a sender and recipient pair identical to the pair registered by the billing exclusion individuals registration unit from the request for information necessary for the settlement of the compensation.

3. The billing server according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the results reception unit receives, via the settlement server, result of the request for information necessary for the settlement of the compensation.

4. A billing server, comprising:

a sender acquisition unit which detects that a mail server has received an email and

acquires a sender of the email;

a compensation determination unit which determines compensation to be requested from the sender;

an information requisition unit which requests that the sender input information necessary for settlement of the compensation to a settlement server;

a results reception unit which receives result of the request for information;

a display changing unit which controls the mail server to change a display prior to opening of the email to a predetermined display format when the results reception unit receives result indicating that the information has been supplied;

an operation detection unit which detects, via the mail server, opening of the email or an operation executed on the email after opening; and

a settlement requisition unit

which requests that the settlement server execute the settlement when the results reception unit receives result indicating that the information has been supplied and the operation detection unit detects that a predetermined operation has been executed and

which receives a settlement response indicating execution of the settlement from the settlement server;

a judgment unit which judges whether a reply mail to the email has been transmitted by the recipient of the email by a predetermined time; and

a follow-up unit which transmits a follow-up mail which prompts a reply to the email, to the recipient when the settlement response has been received, the predetermined operation is opening of the email and the reply mail has not been transmitted by the recipient by the predetermined time; and which determines at least one of a frequency and interval of transmission of the follow-up mail based on an SNS follower count of the recipient.

5. A billing server, comprising:

a sender acquisition unit which detects that a mail server has received an email and acquires a sender of the email;

a compensation determination unit which determines compensation to be requested from the sender;

an information requisition unit which requests that the sender input information necessary for settlement of the compensation to a settlement server;

a results reception unit which receives result of the request for information;

a display changing unit which controls the mail server to change a display prior to

opening of the email to a predetermined display format when the results reception unit receives result indicating that the information has been supplied;

an operation detection unit which detects, via the mail server, opening of the email or an operation executed on the email after opening; and

a settlement requisition unit

which requests that the settlement server execute the settlement when the results reception unit receives result indicating that the information has been supplied and the operation detection unit detects that a predetermined operation has been executed and

which receives a settlement response indicating execution of the settlement from the settlement server;

a judgment unit which judges whether a reply mail to the email has been transmitted by the recipient of the email by a predetermined time;

a follow-up unit which transmits a follow-up mail which prompts a reply to the email, to the recipient when the settlement response has been received, the predetermined operation is opening of the email and the reply mail has not been transmitted by the recipient by the predetermined time; and

an additional cost information acquisition unit which acquires additional cost information representing a cost paid by the sender of the email for the transmission of the follow-up email,

wherein the compensation determination unit determines the compensation to be requested from the sender based on at least one of a compensation amount set by the recipient of the email and a compensation amount calculated by the compensation determination unit, and a cost corresponding to the additional cost information.

6. A server control method, comprising:

detecting that a mail server has received an email and acquiring a sender of the email;

calculating and determining compensation to be requested from the sender, based on an SNS follower count of the recipient of the email or a number of prior emails received by the recipient of the email;

requesting that the sender input information necessary for settlement of the compensation to a settlement server;

receiving result of the request for information;

controlling the mail server to change a display prior to opening of the email to a predetermined display format when result indicating that the information has been supplied is

received;

detecting, via the mail server, opening of the email or an operation executed on the email after opening; and

requesting that the settlement server execute the settlement when result indicating that the information has been supplied is received and it is detected that a predetermined operation has been executed.

7. A server control program, wherein the server control program causes the server to:

detect that a mail server has received an email and acquires a sender of the email;

calculate and determines compensation to be requested from the sender, based on an SNS follower count of the recipient of the email or a number of prior emails received by the recipient of the email;

request that the sender input information necessary for settlement of the compensation to a settlement server;

receive result of the request for information;

control the mail server to change a display prior to opening of the email to a predetermined display format when result indicating that the information has been supplied is received;

detect, via the mail server, opening of the email or an operation executed on the email after opening; and

request that the settlement server execute the settlement when result indicating that the information has been supplied is received and it is detected that a predetermined operation has been executed.

8. A server control method, comprising:

detecting that a mail server has received an email and acquiring a sender of the email;

determining compensation to be requested from the sender;

requesting that the sender input information necessary for settlement of the compensation to a settlement server;

receiving result of the request for information;

controlling the mail server to change a display prior to opening of the email to a predetermined display format when result indicating that the information has been supplied is received;

detecting, via the mail server, opening of the email or an operation executed on the

email after opening; and

requesting that the settlement server execute the settlement when result indicating that the information has been supplied is received and it is detected that a predetermined operation has been executed;

receiving a settlement response indicating execution of the settlement from the settlement server;

judging whether a reply mail to the email has been transmitted by the recipient of the email by a predetermined time;

transmitting a follow-up mail which prompts a reply to the email, to the recipient when the settlement response has been received, the predetermined operation is opening of the email and the reply mail has not been transmitted by the recipient by the predetermined time; and

determining at least one of a frequency and interval of transmission of the follow-up mail based on an SNS follower count of the recipient.

9. A server control method, comprising:

detecting that a mail server has received an email and acquiring a sender of the email;

determining compensation to be requested from the sender;

requesting that the sender input information necessary for settlement of the compensation to a settlement server;

receiving result of the request for information;

controlling the mail server to change a display prior to opening of the email to a predetermined display format when result indicating that the information has been supplied is received;

detecting, via the mail server, opening of the email or an operation executed on the email after opening;

requesting that the settlement server execute the settlement when result indicating that the information has been supplied is received and it is detected that a predetermined operation has been executed;

receiving a settlement response indicating execution of the settlement from the settlement server;

judging whether a reply mail to the email has been transmitted by the recipient of the email by a predetermined time;

transmitting a follow-up mail which prompts a reply to the email, to the recipient

when the settlement response has been received, the predetermined operation is opening of the email and the reply mail has not been transmitted by the recipient by the predetermined time; and

acquiring additional cost information representing a cost paid by the sender of the email for the transmission of the follow-up email, wherein

the compensation to be requested from the sender is determined based on at least one of a compensation amount set by the recipient of the email and a compensation amount calculated by the compensation determination unit, and a cost corresponding to the additional cost information.

10. A server control program, wherein the server control program causes the server to:

detect that a mail server has received an email and acquires a sender of the email;

determine compensation to be requested from the sender;

request that the sender input information necessary for settlement of the compensation to a settlement server;

receive result of the request for information;

control the mail server to change a display prior to opening of the email to a predetermined display format when result indicating that the information has been supplied is received;

detect, via the mail server, opening of the email or an operation executed on the email after opening; and

request that the settlement server execute the settlement when result indicating that the information has been supplied is received and it is detected that a predetermined operation has been executed;

receive a settlement response indicating execution of the settlement from the settlement server;

judge whether a reply mail to the email has been transmitted by the recipient of the email by a predetermined time;

transmit a follow-up mail which prompts a reply to the email, to the recipient when the settlement response has been received, the predetermined operation is opening of the email and the reply mail has not been transmitted by the recipient by the predetermined time; and

determine at least one of a frequency and interval of transmission of the follow-up mail based on an SNS follower count of the recipient.

11. A server control program, wherein the server control program causes the server to:

detect that a mail server has received an email and acquires a sender of the email;

determine compensation to be requested from the sender;

request that the sender input information necessary for settlement of the compensation to a settlement server;

receive result of the request for information;

control the mail server to change a display prior to opening of the email to a predetermined display format when result indicating that the information has been supplied is received;

detect, via the mail server, opening of the email or an operation executed on the email after opening; and

request that the settlement server execute the settlement when result indicating that the information has been supplied is received and it is detected that a predetermined operation has been executed;

receive a settlement response indicating execution of the settlement from the settlement server;

judge whether a reply mail to the email has been transmitted by the recipient of the email by a predetermined time;

transmit a follow-up mail which prompts a reply to the email, to the recipient when the settlement response has been received, the predetermined operation is opening of the email and the reply mail has not been transmitted by the recipient by the predetermined time; and

acquire additional cost information representing a cost paid by the sender of the email for the transmission of the follow-up email, wherein

the compensation to be requested from the sender is determined based on at least one of a compensation amount set by the recipient of the email and a compensation amount calculated by the compensation determination unit, and a cost corresponding to the additional cost information.