

CLAIMS

1. A method comprising:

receiving, via at least one server connected to a communication network, a rule set, wherein said rule set comprises at least one explicit permission to transfer customer information to at least one community of interest, said customer information comprising one or more customer identity attributes and/or one or more customer authentication factors for use in authenticating instructions associated with at least one transaction,

said customer identity attributes and/or customer authentication factors including business and/or transactional rules, one or more referral flags for performing one or more identity attribute checks and/or one or more transaction addresses associated with the at least one transaction;

associating said rule set with a unique identifier, wherein said unique identifier is associated with an identifiable customer;

receiving, via said at least one server, from a requestor, a request for the customer information associated with said unique identifier;

determining, via said at least one server, based on said rule set associated with said unique identifier, whether requestor is included in the at least one explicit permission to receive said requested customer information;

transferring said requested customer information to said requestor, if said requestor is determined to be included in the at least one explicit permission to receive said requested customer information; and

determining, by the requestor, whether to authorize the at least one transaction based on the transferred customer information.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein determining whether requestor is included in the at least one explicit permission is based at least in part on which community of interest the requestor belongs to.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one explicit permission comprises the level of information that may be released and/or categories of information that may be released.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of notifying said identifiable customer when said request from requestor is received.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said determination is based at least in part on response from said identifiable customer to said notification.

6. A computer system for use in facilitating and authenticating instructions relating to electronic transfers and/or transactions, comprising:

a communication link to permit the reception and transmission of communications over a network, wherein said communications relate to instructions for electronic transactions comprising one or more of commercial transactions and the transfer of funds and/or assets, and to the proper identification of entities involved in said transfers and/or transactions;

a database organized to permit access to select account information wherein said account information includes one or more identity attributes and/or one or more authentication factors of at least one entity to support a reduced risk identification of the at least one entity involved in at least one of said transfers and/or transactions, wherein said identity attributes and/or authentication factors include transaction specific information and at least one of business and/or transactional rules, one or more referral flags for performing one or more identity attribute checks and/or one or more transaction addresses associated with at least one electronic transaction; and

a data transmission processor for receiving a request for the select account information associated with the at least one entity, for retrieving the select account information from said database corresponding to said request and for transferring the select account information to a requestor,

where upon receiving the select account information, the requestor determines whether to authorize the at least one transfer and/or transaction based on said transferred select account information.

7. The system of claim 6 wherein said authentication factors permit system determination of identity with a reduction of risk of misidentification.