

# **PAYMENT ASSISTANCE METHODS, APPARATUSES, AND DEVICES**

## **CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

[0001] The present patent application claims priority to Chinese Patent Application  
5 No. 201810182099.X filed with the Chinese Patent Office on March 6, 2018 and  
entitled "PAYMENT ASSISTANCE METHOD, APPARATUS, AND DEVICE",  
which is incorporated here by reference in its entirety.

## **TECHNICAL FIELD**

[0002] The present specification relates to the field of computer software  
10 technologies, and in particular, to payment assistance methods, apparatuses, and  
devices.

## **BACKGROUND**

[0003] Popularization of smartphones brings convenience to people's lives. Various  
services can be correspondingly performed by using various applications on the  
15 smartphones, and many services relate to payment.

[0004] In a current real-world mobile payment scenario, a user often needs to find a  
collection quick response (QR) code of a merchant, and then scan the collection QR  
code by using a smartphone, to obtain a collection account of the merchant, and then  
perform a payment.

20 [0005] Based on the existing technology, a more convenient payment solution is  
needed.

## **SUMMARY**

[0006] Implementations of the present specification provide payment assistance  
methods, apparatuses, and devices, to alleviate the following technical problem: A  
25 more convenient payment solution is needed.

[0007] To alleviate the previous technical problem, the implementations of the

present specification are implemented as follows:

**[0008]** An implementation of the present specification provides a payment assistance method, including: obtaining, by a user end, a merchant account identifier sent by a merchant end through short-range wireless communication; generating  
5 verification information, and sending the verification information and the merchant account identifier to a server; receiving the verification information that is obtained from the server and that is sent by the merchant end through short-range wireless communication; and after verification on the received verification information succeeds, determining that a merchant account corresponding to the merchant account  
10 identifier is a payment receiving object, so as to perform a payment.

**[0009]** An implementation of the present specification provides another payment assistance method, including: sending, by a merchant end, a merchant account identifier through short-range wireless communication, so that a user end receives the merchant account identifier; receiving verification information delivered by a server  
15 based on the merchant account identifier sent by the user end, where the verification information is generated by the user end; and sending the verification information through short-range wireless communication, so that the user end receives the verification information and determines, after verification on the verification information succeeds, that a merchant account corresponding to the merchant account  
20 identifier is a payment receiving object.

**[0010]** An implementation of the present specification provides still another payment assistance method, including: allocating, by a server, a merchant account identifier to a merchant end, so that the merchant end sends the merchant account identifier through short-range wireless communication; receiving verification  
25 information and the merchant account identifier that are sent by a user end, where the merchant account identifier is obtained from the merchant end; and after verification on the received merchant account identifier succeeds, correspondingly delivering the verification information to the merchant end based on the merchant account identifier, so that the user end performs verification on the merchant end.

**[0011]** An implementation of the present specification provides a payment assistance apparatus, where the apparatus is used as a user end, and includes: an acquisition module, configured to obtain a merchant account identifier sent by a merchant end through short-range wireless communication; a sending module, configured to generate verification information, and send the verification information

and the merchant account identifier to a server; a receiving module, configured to receive the verification information that is obtained from the server and that is sent by the merchant end through short-range wireless communication; and a determining module, configured to: after verification on the received verification information  
5 succeeds, determine that a merchant account corresponding to the merchant account identifier is a payment receiving object, so as to perform a payment.

**[0012]** An implementation of the present specification provides another payment assistance apparatus, where the apparatus is used as a merchant end, and includes: a first sending module, configured to send a merchant account identifier through  
10 short-range wireless communication, so that a user end receives the merchant account identifier; a receiving module, configured to receive verification information delivered by a server based on the merchant account identifier sent by the user end, where the verification information is generated by the user end; and a second sending module, configured to send the verification information through short-range wireless  
15 communication, so that the user end receives the verification information and determines, after verification on the verification information succeeds, that a merchant account corresponding to the merchant account identifier is a payment receiving object.

**[0013]** An implementation of the present specification provides yet another  
20 payment assistance apparatus, where the apparatus is used as a server, and includes: an allocation module, configured to allocate a merchant account identifier to a merchant end, so that the merchant end sends the merchant account identifier through short-range wireless communication; a receiving module, configured to receive verification information and the merchant account identifier that are sent by a user end,  
25 where the merchant account identifier is obtained from the merchant end; and a sending module, configured to: after verification on the received merchant account identifier succeeds, correspondingly deliver the verification information to the merchant end based on the merchant account identifier, so that the user end performs verification on the merchant end.

**[0014]** An implementation of the present specification provides a payment  
30 assistance device, where the device is used as a user end, and includes: at least one processor; and at least one memory coupled with the at least one processor, where the memory stores an instruction that can be executed by the at least one processor, and the instruction is executed by the at least one processor to enable the at least one

processor to: obtain a merchant account identifier sent by a merchant end through short-range wireless communication; generate verification information, and send the verification information and the merchant account identifier to a server; receive the verification information that is obtained from the server and that is sent by the merchant end through short-range wireless communication; and after verification on the received verification information succeeds, determine that a merchant account corresponding to the merchant account identifier is a payment receiving object, so as to perform a payment.

**[0015]** An implementation of the present specification provides a payment assistance device, where the device is used as a merchant end, and includes: at least one processor; and at least one memory coupled with the at least one processor, where the memory stores an instruction that can be executed by the at least one processor, and the instruction is executed by the at least one processor to enable the at least one processor to: send a merchant account identifier through short-range wireless communication, so that a user end receives the merchant account identifier; receive verification information delivered by a server based on the merchant account identifier sent by the user end, where the verification information is generated by the user end; and send the verification information through short-range wireless communication, so that the user end receives the verification information and determines, after verification on the verification information succeeds, that a merchant account corresponding to the merchant account identifier is a payment receiving object.

**[0016]** An implementation of the present specification provides a payment assistance device, where the device is used as a server, and includes: at least one processor; and at least one memory coupled with the at least one processor, where the memory stores an instruction that can be executed by the at least one processor, and the instruction is executed by the at least one processor to enable the at least one processor to: allocate a merchant account identifier to a merchant end, so that the merchant end sends the merchant account identifier through short-range wireless communication; receive verification information and the merchant account identifier that are sent by a user end, where the merchant account identifier is obtained from the merchant end; and after verification on the received merchant account identifier succeeds, correspondingly deliver the verification information to the merchant end based on the merchant account identifier, so that the user end performs verification on

the merchant end.

[0017] The previous at least one technical solution used in the implementations of the present specification can achieve the following beneficial effects: When a user needs to perform real-world payment after consuming at a merchant, the user does not  
5 need to determine a payment receiving object through code scanning. Instead, a user end can automatically determine the payment receiving object through short-range wireless communication and multi-end interactive identity verification, so that the user can conveniently perform a payment. This payment method can simplify user operations and has better convenience.

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## **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS**

[0018] To describe the technical solutions in the implementations of the present specification or in the existing technology more clearly, the following briefly describes the accompanying drawings needed for describing the implementations or the existing technology. Clearly, the accompanying drawings in the following  
15 descriptions merely show some implementations of the present specification, and a person of ordinary skill in the art can still derive other drawings from these accompanying drawings without creative efforts.

[0019] FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram illustrating an overall architecture of the solutions in the present specification in an actual application scenario;

20 [0020] FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram illustrating a process of a payment assistance method from a perspective of a user end, according to an implementation of the present specification;

[0021] FIG. 3 is a schematic diagram illustrating a process of a payment assistance method from a perspective of a merchant end, according to an implementation of the  
25 present specification;

[0022] FIG. 4 is a schematic diagram illustrating a process of a payment assistance method from a perspective of a server, according to an implementation of the present specification;

[0023] FIG. 5 is a schematic diagram illustrating a multi-end interaction process of a payment assistance method in an actual application scenario, according to an  
30 implementation of the present specification;

[0024] FIG. 6 is a schematic structural diagram illustrating a payment assistance

apparatus corresponding to FIG. 2, according to an implementation of the present specification;

[0025] FIG. 7 is a schematic structural diagram illustrating a payment assistance apparatus corresponding to FIG. 3, according to an implementation of the present specification;

[0026] FIG. 8 is a schematic structural diagram illustrating a payment assistance apparatus corresponding to FIG. 4, according to an implementation of the present specification.

## DESCRIPTION OF IMPLEMENTATIONS

[0027] Implementations of the present specification provide payment assistance methods, apparatuses, and devices.

[0028] To make a person skilled in the art better understand the technical solutions in the present specification, the following clearly and comprehensively describes the technical solutions in the implementations of the present specification with reference to the accompanying drawings in the implementations of the present specification. Clearly, the described implementations are merely some rather than all of the implementations of the present application. All other implementations obtained by a person of ordinary skill in the art based on the implementations of the present specification without creative efforts shall fall within the protection scope of the present application.

[0029] In the implementations of the present specification, a user end can automatically determine a payment receiving object through short-range wireless communication and multi-end interactive identity verification. Therefore, a user does not need to perform complex operations such as searching for and scanning a QR code for payment, so that the user can have better experience.

[0030] FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram illustrating an overall architecture of the solutions in the present specification in an actual application scenario. The overall architecture mainly relates to three ends: a user end, a merchant end, and a server. From a perspective of device, the three ends are respectively, for example, a mobile device (such as a smartphone), a merchant device, a cloud server of a payment platform, etc. From a perspective of program, the three ends are respectively, for example, a mobile phone application, a cash register program, a server program, etc.

**[0031]** When a user needs to perform real-world payment after consuming at a merchant, the user does not need to determine a payment receiving object through code scanning. The merchant end can obtain a merchant account identifier allocated by the server, and send the merchant account identifier through short-range wireless communication such as a Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) broadcast. The user end can receive the merchant account identifier and generate verification information, and send the merchant account identifier and the verification information to the server. The server delivers the verification information to the corresponding merchant end based on the merchant account identifier. Then, the merchant end sends the verification information through short-range wireless communication. The user end receives the verification information, and verifies the verification information to determine whether the verification information is pre-generated by the user end. If the verification information is pre-generated by the user end, the user end can determine that a merchant account corresponding to the merchant account identifier is a payment receiving object, so as to perform a payment. In addition, to improve security, information exchanged in the process can have a timeout timestamp, and the process is normally performed only within a time validity range; otherwise, the process fails to be performed.

**[0032]** The following separately describes the solutions in the present specification from perspectives of three ends.

**[0033]** FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram illustrating a process of a payment assistance method from a perspective of a user end, according to an implementation of the present specification. The process can be executed automatically in a timely way, or can be executed based on simple operation trigger (such as one-click trigger or fingerprint scanning trigger) of a user. If needed, the user can be allowed to intervene in the execution process to improve fault tolerance. The process shown in FIG. 2 can include the following steps.

**[0034]** S202. The user end obtains a merchant account identifier sent by a merchant end through short-range wireless communication.

**[0035]** In this implementation of the present specification, a corresponding merchant account can be determined based on the merchant account identifier. The merchant account identifier can be information with a smaller data volume that is generated based on the merchant account, or can be the merchant account. The merchant account is a collection account used by a current merchant to receive money

from a user, and can be a third-party payment account, a bank account, etc.

[0036] In this implementation of the present specification, the merchant account identifier can be generated by a server and allocated by the server to the merchant end for use, or can be generated by the merchant end and used after the merchant account identifier is recorded in the server.

[0037] In this implementation of the present specification, performing sending through short-range wireless communication can be specifically performing sending through a BLE broadcast. The BLE technology is a low-cost, short-range, interoperable, and robust wireless technology that operates in the unlicensed 2.4 GHz Industrial Scientific Medical (ISM) radio frequency band. The BLE technology is initially designed as an ultra-low power consumption wireless technology in which many intelligent methods are used to maximally reduce power consumption. For a real-world mobile payment scenario, the BLE technology can improve operation convenience and reliability, has lower energy consumption needs for a user end and a merchant end, and has better applicability.

[0038] When the merchant end sends the merchant account identifier through a BLE broadcast, because a receiver is not specified, the user end needs to actively listen on the BLE broadcast, and obtain the merchant account identifier of the merchant end from a BLE broadcast packet obtained from the listening. In addition, in some places where merchants are dense, a user end may simultaneously listen on multiple BLE broadcasts of different merchant ends. In this case, a BLE broadcast with the strongest signal strength can be preferably selected for further processing; or information about the multiple BLE broadcasts can be displayed to the user end, so that a user can confirm information with a current merchant to alleviate misoperation.

[0039] In this implementation of the present specification, the short-range wireless communication is not limited to only the BLE broadcast. For example, the short-range wireless communication can be acoustic communication, infrared communication, or near field communication (NFC). During implementation, a suitable short-range wireless communication method can be selected based on actual conditions.

[0040] S204. Generate verification information, and send the verification information and the merchant account identifier to the server.

[0041] In this implementation of the present specification, after generating the verification information, the user end can determine, through three-end interaction, whether the merchant account corresponding to the merchant account identifier

obtained in step S202 indeed belongs to the merchant end in step S202. The verification information is used in a similar way to a short message verification code, and is used to verify the identity of the merchant end.

**[0042]** There can be multiple forms of verification information, and the verification information is not specifically limited here. The verification information is, for example, a sequence number, a digest, or a verification code. In the following implementations, the sequence number is mainly used as an example for description.

**[0043]** S206. Receive the verification information that is obtained from the server and that is sent by the merchant end through short-range wireless communication.

**[0044]** In this implementation of the present specification, after receiving the verification information and the merchant account identifier that are sent by the user end, the server determines the corresponding merchant end based on the merchant account identifier, and delivers the verification information to the merchant end. In this process, if the merchant end does not send the merchant account identifier of the merchant end in step S202, the merchant end subsequently cannot receive the verification information, and therefore the merchant end cannot verify the identity of the merchant end to the user end. On the contrary, if the merchant end normally sends the merchant account identifier of the merchant end in step S202, the merchant end subsequently can receive the verification information delivered by the server, and therefore the merchant end can verify the identity of the merchant end to the user end, and a payment process can be normally performed.

**[0045]** S208. After verification on the received verification information succeeds, determine that the merchant account corresponding to the merchant account identifier is a payment receiving object, so as to perform a payment.

**[0046]** In this implementation of the present specification, the verification process in step S208 is similar to a verification process of a short message verification code. A difference is that the short message verification code is usually verified by a server and is used by the server to verify the identity of a user end, and the verification information here is verified by the user end and is used by the user end to verify the identity of the merchant end.

**[0047]** In this implementation of the present specification, the payment receiving object can be displayed to the user after the payment receiving object is determined, and the payment process is continued after the user confirms the payment receiving object. How to perform the subsequent payment process is not limited in the present

application, and the objective of the solutions of the present specification has been achieved provided that the payment receiving object is conveniently determined.

**[0048]** According to the method in FIG. 2, when a user needs to perform real-world payment after consuming at a merchant, the user does not need to determine a payment receiving object through code scanning. Instead, a user end can automatically determine the payment receiving object through short-range wireless communication and multi-end interactive identity verification, so that the user can conveniently perform a payment. This payment method can simplify user operations and has better convenience.

**[0049]** Based on the method in FIG. 2, this implementation of the present specification further provides some specific implementation solutions of the method and an extension solution, which are described below.

**[0050]** In this implementation of the present specification, as mentioned above, the verification information can be a sequence number for verification. In this case, for step S204, the generating verification information can include generating the sequence number for verification based on a user account of the user end. The user account is a user payment account. Certainly, generating the verification information based on the user account is an example. Alternatively, the verification information can be generated based on other appropriate information (such as a current time and other personal information of the user), provided that the verification information can be successfully verified by the user end.

**[0051]** In this implementation of the present specification, some information exchanged in the previous process can have time validity, that is, the information is valid only within a time validity range, and the information is invalid beyond the time validity range, and then may cause a process execution failure. As such, information security can be improved, and risks brought by possible information disclosure can be alleviated.

**[0052]** For example, the information includes the merchant account identifier sent by the merchant end and the verification information sent by the user end. The merchant account identifier and the verification information can each have a timeout timestamp. The timeout timestamp is usually correspondingly generated when information corresponding to the timeout timestamp is generated, and can indicate that a time range within which the information corresponding to the timeout timestamp is valid or a time range beyond which the information corresponding to the

timeout timestamp is invalid. If needed, each end that subsequently handles the information can perform time validity verification based on the timeout timestamp to determine whether to continue to normally perform the process. The timeout timestamp can be included in the information corresponding to the timeout timestamp for transmission, or the timeout timestamp and the information corresponding to the timeout timestamp can be jointly or separately transmitted as two independent parts. In the following some implementations, joint transmission in the latter case is used as an example.

**[0053]** In this implementation of the present specification, for step S208, that the verification on the received verification information succeeds can include: determining that the received verification information is consistent with the locally pre-generated verification information, and determining, based on a timeout timestamp, that the received verification information has not expired.

**[0054]** The above describes the payment assistance method from the perspective of the user end. The following continues to provide description from other perspectives. For some content, no repeated description is provided, and references can be made to the previous content for understanding.

**[0055]** Based on the same idea, an implementation of the present specification further provides a schematic diagram illustrating a process of a payment assistance method from a perspective of a merchant end, as shown in FIG. 3. The process shown in FIG. 3 can include the following steps.

**[0056]** S302. The merchant end sends a merchant account identifier through short-range wireless communication, so that a user end receives the merchant account identifier.

**[0057]** S304. Receive verification information delivered by a server based on the merchant account identifier sent by the user end, where the verification information is generated by the user end.

**[0058]** S306. Send the verification information through short-range wireless communication, so that the user end receives the verification information and determines, after verification on the verification information succeeds, that a merchant account corresponding to the merchant account identifier is a payment receiving object.

**[0059]** In this implementation of the present specification, as mentioned above, the merchant account identifier can be generated by the server. In this case, for step S302,

before sending the merchant account identifier through short-range wireless communication, the merchant end can further receive the merchant account identifier allocated by the server to the merchant end. The merchant account identifier sent by the merchant end in step S302 is generated and allocated by the server. Further, when  
5 generating the merchant account identifier, the server can further correspondingly generate a timeout timestamp of the merchant account identifier, and allocate the timeout timestamp to the merchant end. Then, the timeout timestamp can be transmitted together with the merchant account identifier.

**[0060]** Based on the same idea, an implementation of the present specification  
10 further provides a schematic diagram illustrating a process of a payment assistance method from a perspective of a server, as shown in FIG. 4. The process shown in FIG. 4 can include the following steps.

**[0061]** S402. The server allocates a merchant account identifier to a merchant end, so that the merchant end sends the merchant account identifier through short-range  
15 wireless communication.

**[0062]** S404. Receive verification information and the merchant account identifier that are sent by a user end, where the merchant account identifier is obtained from the merchant end.

**[0063]** S406. After verification on the received merchant account identifier  
20 succeeds, correspondingly deliver the verification information to the merchant end based on the merchant account identifier, so that the user end performs verification on the merchant end.

**[0064]** In this implementation of the present specification, for step S406, that the verification on the received merchant account identifier succeeds can include:  
25 determining that validity verification on the received merchant account identifier succeeds, and determining, based on a timeout timestamp, that the received merchant account identifier has not expired. Here, validity means that the received merchant account identifier is indeed pre-generated by the server and allocated by the server to the merchant end, so that the server can correctly identify and determine the merchant  
30 end corresponding to the merchant account identifier, to facilitate delivery of the verification information.

**[0065]** More intuitively, an implementation of the present specification further provides a schematic diagram illustrating a multi-end interaction process of the previous payment assistance method in an actual application scenario. As shown in

FIG. 5, in the actual application scenario, the previous user end is specifically a mobile device used by a user, the previous merchant end is specifically a merchant device, and the previous server is specifically a cloud server. The multi-end interaction process is also an example, and the previous payment assistance method is not limited to the multi-end interaction process.

[0066] The process shown in FIG. 5 can include the following steps.

[0067] 1. The cloud server allocates a corresponding merchant account identifier and a timeout timestamp of the merchant account identifier to the merchant device.

[0068] 2. The merchant device starts a BLE broadcast, and stores the merchant account identifier and the timeout timestamp of the merchant account identifier in a BLE broadcast packet.

[0069] 3. The mobile device listens on the BLE broadcast, and obtains the merchant account identifier and the timeout timestamp of the merchant account identifier from the BLE broadcast packet.

[0070] 4. The mobile device generates a sequence code and a timeout timestamp of the sequence code based on a user account corresponding to the mobile device, and sends the sequence code and the timeout timestamp of the sequence code to the cloud server together with the merchant account identifier and the timeout timestamp of the merchant account identifier.

[0071] 5. The cloud server performs verification, and after determining that the merchant account identifier is valid and has not expired, the cloud server delivers the sequence code and the timeout timestamp of the sequence code to the corresponding merchant device based on the merchant account identifier.

[0072] 6. The merchant device sends the sequence code and the timeout timestamp of the sequence code through a BLE broadcast.

[0073] 7. The mobile device listens on the BLE broadcast, and obtains the sequence code and the timeout timestamp of the sequence code from a BLE broadcast packet.

[0074] 8. The mobile device performs verification, and after determining that the obtained sequence code is consistent with the locally pre-generated sequence code and has not expired, the mobile device determines a merchant account corresponding to the merchant account identifier as a payment receiving object and displays the merchant account.

[0075] Based on the same idea, the implementations of the present specification

further provide apparatuses corresponding to the previous methods, as shown in FIG. 6, FIG. 7, and FIG. 8.

**[0076]** FIG. 6 is a schematic structural diagram illustrating a payment assistance apparatus corresponding to FIG. 2, according to an implementation of the present specification. The apparatus is used as a user end, and the apparatus includes: an acquisition module 601, configured to obtain a merchant account identifier sent by a merchant end through short-range wireless communication; a sending module 602, configured to generate verification information, and send the verification information and the merchant account identifier to a server; a receiving module 603, configured to receive the verification information that is obtained from the server and that is sent by the merchant end through short-range wireless communication; and a determining module 604, configured to: after verification on the received verification information succeeds, determine that a merchant account corresponding to the merchant account identifier is a payment receiving object, so as to perform a payment.

**[0077]** Optionally, performing sending through short-range wireless communication includes: performing sending through a Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) broadcast.

**[0078]** Optionally, the verification information is a sequence number for verification, and that the sending module 602 generates the verification information includes: generating, by the sending module 602, the sequence number for verification based on a user account of the user end.

**[0079]** Optionally, the merchant account identifier sent by the merchant end and the verification information sent by the user end each have a timeout timestamp for time validity verification.

**[0080]** Optionally, that the determining module 604 determines that the verification on the received verification information succeeds includes: determining, by the determining module 604, that the received verification information is consistent with the locally pre-generated verification information, and determining, based on a timeout timestamp, that the received verification information has not expired.

**[0081]** FIG. 7 is a schematic structural diagram illustrating a payment assistance apparatus corresponding to FIG. 3, according to an implementation of the present specification. The apparatus is used as a merchant end, and the apparatus includes: a first sending module 701, configured to send a merchant account identifier through short-range wireless communication, so that a user end receives the merchant account

identifier; a receiving module 702, configured to receive verification information delivered by a server based on the merchant account identifier sent by the user end, where the verification information is generated by the user end; and a second sending module 703, configured to send the verification information through short-range  
5 wireless communication, so that the user end receives the verification information and determines, after verification on the verification information succeeds, that a merchant account corresponding to the merchant account identifier is a payment receiving object.

[0082] Optionally, performing sending through short-range wireless  
10 communication includes: performing sending through a Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) broadcast.

[0083] Optionally, before the first sending module 701 sends the merchant account identifier through short-range wireless communication, the receiving module 702 is further configured to: receive the merchant account identifier allocated by the server  
15 to the merchant end.

[0084] Optionally, the merchant account identifier sent by the merchant end and the verification information sent by the user end each have a timeout timestamp for time validity verification, and a timeout timestamp of the merchant account identifier sent by the merchant end is pre-generated by the server

[0085] FIG. 8 is a schematic structural diagram illustrating a payment assistance apparatus corresponding to FIG. 4, according to an implementation of the present specification. The apparatus is used as a server, and the apparatus includes: an allocation module 801, configured to allocate a merchant account identifier to a merchant end, so that the merchant end sends the merchant account identifier through  
20 short-range wireless communication; a receiving module 802, configured to receive verification information and the merchant account identifier that are sent by a user end, where the merchant account identifier is obtained from the merchant end; and a sending module 803, configured to: after verification on the received merchant account identifier succeeds, correspondingly deliver the verification information to  
25 the merchant end based on the merchant account identifier, so that the user end performs verification on the merchant end.

[0086] Optionally, performing sending through short-range wireless communication includes: performing sending through a Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) broadcast.

[0087] Optionally, the merchant account identifier allocated by the server and the verification information sent by the user end each have a timeout timestamp for time validity verification.

[0088] Optionally, that the sending module 803 determines that the verification on  
5 the received merchant account identifier succeeds includes: determining, by the sending module 803, that validity verification on the received merchant account identifier succeeds, and determining, based on a timeout timestamp, that the received merchant account identifier has not expired.

[0089] Based on the same idea, an implementation of the present specification  
10 further provides a payment assistance device corresponding to FIG. 2, and the device is used as a user end, and includes: at least one processor; and at least one memory coupled with the at least one processor, where the memory stores an instruction that can be executed by the at least one processor, and the instruction is executed by the at least one processor to enable the at least one processor to: obtain a merchant account  
15 identifier sent by a merchant end through short-range wireless communication; generate verification information, and send the verification information and the merchant account identifier to a server; receive the verification information that is obtained from the server and that is sent by the merchant end through short-range wireless communication; and after verification on the received verification  
20 information succeeds, determine that a merchant account corresponding to the merchant account identifier is a payment receiving object, so as to perform a payment.

[0090] Based on the same idea, an implementation of the present specification further provides a payment assistance device corresponding to FIG. 3, and the device is used as a merchant end, and includes: at least one processor; and at least one  
25 memory coupled with the at least one processor, where the memory stores an instruction that can be executed by the at least one processor, and the instruction is executed by the at least one processor to enable the at least one processor to: send a merchant account identifier through short-range wireless communication, so that a user end receives the merchant account identifier; receive verification information  
30 delivered by a server based on the merchant account identifier sent by the user end, where the verification information is generated by the user end; and send the verification information through short-range wireless communication, so that the user end receives the verification information and determines, after verification on the verification information succeeds, that a merchant account corresponding to the

merchant account identifier is a payment receiving object.

[0091] Based on the same idea, an implementation of the present specification further provides a payment assistance device corresponding to FIG. 4, and the device is used as a server, and includes: at least one processor; and at least one memory  
5 coupled with the at least one processor, where the memory stores an instruction that can be executed by the at least one processor, and the instruction is executed by the at least one processor to enable the at least one processor to: allocate a merchant account identifier to a merchant end, so that the merchant end sends the merchant account identifier through short-range wireless communication; receive verification  
10 information and the merchant account identifier that are sent by a user end, where the merchant account identifier is obtained from the merchant end; and after verification on the received merchant account identifier succeeds, correspondingly deliver the verification information to the merchant end based on the merchant account identifier, so that the user end performs verification on the merchant end.

[0092] Based on the same idea, an implementation of the present specification further provides a nonvolatile computer storage medium corresponding to FIG. 2, where the nonvolatile computer storage medium stores a computer executable instruction, and the computer executable instruction is set to: obtain a merchant account identifier sent by a merchant end through short-range wireless  
20 communication; generate verification information, and send the verification information and the merchant account identifier to a server; receive the verification information that is obtained from the server and that is sent by the merchant end through short-range wireless communication; and after verification on the received verification information succeeds, determine that a merchant account corresponding  
25 to the merchant account identifier is a payment receiving object, so as to perform a payment.

[0093] Based on the same idea, an implementation of the present specification further provides a nonvolatile computer storage medium corresponding to FIG. 3, where the nonvolatile computer storage medium stores a computer executable  
30 instruction, and the computer executable instruction is set to: send a merchant account identifier through short-range wireless communication, so that a user end receives the merchant account identifier; receive verification information delivered by a server based on the merchant account identifier sent by the user end, where the verification information is generated by the user end; and send the verification information

through short-range wireless communication, so that the user end receives the verification information and determines, after verification on the verification information succeeds, that a merchant account corresponding to the merchant account identifier is a payment receiving object.

5   **[0094]**   Based on the same idea, an implementation of the present specification further provides a nonvolatile computer storage medium corresponding to FIG. 4, where the nonvolatile computer storage medium stores a computer executable instruction, and the computer executable instruction is set to: allocate a merchant account identifier to a merchant end, so that the merchant end sends the merchant  
10   account identifier through short-range wireless communication; receive verification information and the merchant account identifier that are sent by a user end, where the merchant account identifier is obtained from the merchant end; and after verification on the received merchant account identifier succeeds, correspondingly deliver the verification information to the merchant end based on the merchant account identifier,  
15   so that the user end performs verification on the merchant end.

**[0095]**   Specific implementations of the present specification are described above. Other implementations fall within the scope of the appended claims. In some cases, the actions or steps described in the claims can be performed in an order different from the order in the implementations and the desired results can still be achieved. In  
20   addition, the process depicted in the accompanying drawings does not necessarily need the shown particular order to achieve the desired results. In some implementations, multi-tasking and parallel processing can be or may be advantageous.

**[0096]**   The implementations of the present specification are described in a  
25   progressive way. For same or similar parts of the implementations, mutual references can be made to the implementations. Each implementation focuses on a difference from other implementations. Especially, an apparatus implementation, a device implementation, and a nonvolatile computer storage medium implementation are basically similar to a method implementation, and therefore are described briefly. For  
30   a related part, references can be made to some descriptions in the method implementation.

**[0097]**   The apparatus, the device, and the nonvolatile computer storage medium provided in the implementations of the present specification correspond to the method. Therefore, the apparatus, the device, and the nonvolatile computer storage medium

also have similar beneficial technical effects to the corresponding method. The beneficial technical effects of the method has been described above in detail, and therefore the beneficial technical effects of the corresponding apparatus, device, and nonvolatile computer storage medium are omitted here for simplicity.

5   **[0098]**   In the 1990s, whether a technical improvement is a hardware improvement (for example, an improvement to circuit structures, such as a diode, a transistor, or a switch) or a software improvement (an improvement to a method process) can be clearly distinguished. However, as technologies develop, current improvements to many method processes can be considered as direct improvements to hardware circuit  
10 structures. Almost all designers program an improved method process into a hardware circuit, to obtain a corresponding hardware circuit structure. Therefore, a method process can be improved by using a hardware entity module. For example, a programmable logic device (PLD) (for example, a field programmable gate array (FPGA)) is such an integrated circuit, and a logical function of the PLD is determined  
15 by a user through device programming. A designer performs programming to "integrate" a digital system into a single PLD, without requiring a chip manufacturer to design and manufacture a dedicated integrated circuit chip. In addition, at present, instead of manually manufacturing an integrated circuit chip, this type of programming is mostly implemented by using "logic compiler" software. The "logic  
20 compiler" software is similar to a software compiler used to develop and write a program. Original code needs to be written in a particular programming language before compilation. The language is referred to as a hardware description language (HDL). There are many HDLs, such as the Advanced Boolean Expression Language (ABEL), the Altera Hardware Description Language (AHDL), Confluence, the  
25 Cornell University Programming Language (CUPL), HDCal, the Java Hardware Description Language (JHDL), Lava, Lola, MyHDL, PALASM, and the Ruby Hardware Description Language (RHDL). The Very-High-Speed Integrated Circuit Hardware Description Language (VHDL) and Verilog are most commonly used at present. A person skilled in the art should also understand that a hardware circuit that  
30 implements a logical method process can be readily obtained provided that the method process is logically programmed by using several of the previous hardware description languages and is programmed into an integrated circuit.

**[0099]**   A controller can be implemented by using any appropriate method. For example, the controller can be in a form of a microprocessor or a processor, or a

computer readable medium that stores computer readable program code (such as software or firmware) that can be executed by the microprocessor or the processor, a logic gate, a switch, an application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC), a programmable logic controller, or a built-in microprocessor. Examples of the controller include but  
5 are not limited to the following microprocessors: ARC 625D, Atmel AT91SAM, Microchip PIC18F26K20, and Silicone Labs C8051F320. The memory controller can also be implemented as a part of control logic of the memory. A person skilled in the art also knows that, in addition to implementing the controller by using only the computer readable program code, method steps can be logically programmed to allow  
10 the controller to implement the same function in a form of a logic gate, a switch, an ASIC, a programmable logic controller, or a built-in microcontroller. Therefore, the controller can be considered as a hardware component, and an apparatus that is included in the controller and configured to implement various functions can also be considered as a structure in the hardware component. Alternatively, the apparatus  
15 configured to implement various functions can even be considered as both a software module implementing the method and a structure in the hardware component.

**[0100]** The system, apparatus, module, or unit illustrated in the previous implementations can be specifically implemented by using a computer chip or an entity, or can be implemented by using a product having a certain function. A typical  
20 implementation device is a computer. Specifically, the computer can be, for example, a personal computer, a laptop computer, a cellular phone, a camera phone, a smartphone, a personal digital assistant, a media player, a navigation device, an email device, a game console, a tablet computer, a wearable device, or a combination of any of these devices.

**[0101]** For ease of description, when the previous apparatus is described, the previous apparatus is divided into various units based on functions for separate description. Certainly, when the present specification is implemented, functions of the units can be implemented in one or more pieces of software and/or hardware.

**[0102]** A person skilled in the art should understand that an implementation of the  
30 present specification can be provided as a method, a system, or a computer program product. Therefore, the implementations of the present specification can use a form of hardware only implementations, software only implementations, or implementations with a combination of software and hardware. In addition, the implementations of the present specification can use a form of a computer program product that is

implemented on one or more computer-usable storage media (including but not limited to a magnetic disk memory, a CD-ROM, an optical memory, etc.) that include computer-usable program code.

5 [0103] The present specification is described with reference to the flowcharts and/or block diagrams of the method, the device (system), and the computer program product according to the implementations of the present specification. It is worthwhile to note that computer program instructions can be used to implement each process and/or each block in the flowcharts and/or the block diagrams and a combination of a process and/or a block in the flowcharts and/or the block diagrams. These computer  
10 program instructions can be provided for a general-purpose computer, a dedicated computer, an embedded processor, or a processor of another programmable data processing device to generate a machine, so that the instructions executed by a computer or a processor of another programmable data processing device generate an apparatus for implementing a specific function in one or more processes in the  
15 flowcharts and/or in one or more blocks in the block diagrams.

[0104] Alternatively, these computer program instructions can be stored in a computer readable memory that can instruct a computer or another programmable data processing device to work in a specific way, so that the instructions stored in the computer readable memory generate an artifact that includes an instruction apparatus.  
20 The instruction apparatus implements a specific function in one or more processes in the flowcharts and/or in one or more blocks in the block diagrams.

[0105] Alternatively, these computer program instructions can be loaded onto a computer or another programmable data processing device, so that a series of operations and steps are performed on the computer or another programmable device,  
25 thereby generating computer-implemented processing. Therefore, the instructions executed on the computer or another programmable device provide steps for implementing a specific function in one or more processes in the flowcharts and/or in one or more blocks in the block diagrams.

[0106] In a typical configuration, a computing device includes one or more  
30 processors (CPUs), input/output interfaces, network interfaces, and memories.

[0107] The memory may include a non-persistent memory, a random access memory (RAM), a nonvolatile memory, and/or another form in a computer readable medium, for example, a read-only memory (ROM) or a flash memory (flash RAM). The memory is an example of the computer readable medium.

**[0108]** The computer readable medium includes persistent, non-persistent, movable, and unmovable media that can store information by using any method or technology. The information can be a computer readable instruction, a data structure, a program module, or other data. Examples of a computer storage medium include but are not  
5 limited to a phase-change random access memory (PRAM), a static random access memory (SRAM), a dynamic random access memory (DRAM), another type of random access memory (RAM), a read-only memory (ROM), an electrically erasable programmable read-only memory (EEPROM), a flash memory or another memory technology, a compact disc read-only memory (CD-ROM), a digital versatile disc  
10 (DVD) or another optical storage, a cassette magnetic tape, or a magnetic tape/magnetic disk storage or another magnetic storage device, or any other non-transmission medium. The computer storage medium can be configured to store information accessible to a computing device. Based on the definition in the present specification, the computer readable medium does not include computer readable  
15 transitory media such as a modulated data signal and carrier.

**[0109]** It is worthwhile to further note that, the terms "include" and "comprise" or their any other variants are intended to cover a non-exclusive inclusion, so that a process, method, product, or device that includes a list of elements not only includes those elements but also includes other elements that are not expressly listed, or further  
20 includes elements inherent to such process, method, product, or device. Without more constraints, an element preceded by "includes a ..." does not preclude the existence of additional identical elements in the process, method, product, or device that includes the element.

**[0110]** A person skilled in the art should understand that an implementation of the  
25 present specification can be provided as a method, a system, or a computer program product. Therefore, the present specification can use a form of hardware only implementations, software only implementations, or implementations with a combination of software and hardware. In addition, the present specification can use a form of a computer program product that is implemented on one or more  
30 computer-usable storage media (including but not limited to a magnetic disk memory, a CD-ROM, an optical memory, etc.) that include computer-usable program code.

**[0111]** The present specification can be described in the general context of computer executable instructions, for example, a program module. Generally, the program module includes a routine, a program, an object, a component, a data

structure, etc. executing a specific task or implementing a specific abstract data type. The present specification can alternatively be practiced in distributed computing environments in which tasks are performed by remote processing devices that are connected through a communications network. In a distributed computing  
5 environment, the program module can be located in both local and remote computer storage media including storage devices.

**[0112]** The implementations of the present specification are described in a progressive way. For same or similar parts of the implementations, mutual references can be made to the implementations. Each implementation focuses on a difference  
10 from other implementations. Especially, a system implementation is basically similar to a method implementation, and therefore is described briefly. For a related part, references can be made to some descriptions in the method implementation.

**[0113]** The previous descriptions are merely implementations of the present specification, and are not intended to limit the present application. A person skilled in  
15 the art can make various modifications and changes to the present application. Any modification, equivalent replacement, or improvement made without departing from the spirit and principle of the present application shall fall within the scope of the claims in the present application.

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A payment assistance method, comprising:  
obtaining, by a user end, a merchant account identifier sent by a merchant end  
5 through short-range wireless communication;  
generating verification information, and sending the verification information and  
the merchant account identifier to a server;  
receiving the verification information that is obtained from the server and that is  
sent by the merchant end through short-range wireless communication; and  
10 after verification on the received verification information succeeds, determining  
that a merchant account corresponding to the merchant account identifier is a payment  
receiving object, so as to perform a payment.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein performing sending through  
short-range wireless communication comprises:  
15 performing sending through a Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) broadcast.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the verification information is a  
sequence number for verification, and the generating verification information  
comprises:  
generating the sequence number for verification based on a user account of  
20 the user end.
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the merchant account identifier sent  
by the merchant end and the verification information sent by the user end each have a  
timeout timestamp for time validity verification.
5. The method according to claim 4, wherein that the verification on the received  
25 verification information succeeds comprises:  
determining that the received verification information is consistent with the  
locally pre-generated verification information, and determining, based on a timeout  
timestamp, that the received verification information has not expired.
6. A payment assistance method, comprising:  
30 sending, by a merchant end, a merchant account identifier through short-range  
wireless communication, so that a user end receives the merchant account identifier;  
receiving verification information delivered by a server based on the merchant  
account identifier sent by the user end, wherein the verification information is

generated by the user end; and

sending the verification information through short-range wireless communication, so that the user end receives the verification information and determines, after verification on the verification information succeeds, that a merchant account  
5 corresponding to the merchant account identifier is a payment receiving object.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein performing sending through short-range wireless communication comprises:

performing sending through a Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) broadcast.

8. The method according to claim 6, wherein before the sending a merchant  
10 account identifier through short-range wireless communication, the method further comprises:

receiving the merchant account identifier allocated by the server to the merchant end.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the merchant account identifier sent  
15 by the merchant end and the verification information sent by the user end each have a timeout timestamp for time validity verification, and a timeout timestamp of the merchant account identifier sent by the merchant end is pre-generated by the server.

10. A payment assistance method, comprising:

allocating, by a server, a merchant account identifier to a merchant end, so that  
20 the merchant end sends the merchant account identifier through short-range wireless communication;

receiving verification information and the merchant account identifier that are sent by a user end, wherein the merchant account identifier is obtained from the merchant end; and

25 after verification on the received merchant account identifier succeeds, correspondingly delivering the verification information to the merchant end based on the merchant account identifier, so that the user end performs verification on the merchant end.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein performing sending through  
30 short-range wireless communication comprises:

performing sending through a Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) broadcast.

12. The method according to claim 10, wherein the merchant account identifier allocated by the server and the verification information sent by the user end each have a timeout timestamp for time validity verification.

13. The method according to claim 10, wherein that the verification on the received merchant account identifier succeeds comprises:

determining that validity verification on the received merchant account identifier succeeds, and determining, based on a timeout timestamp, that the received merchant account identifier has not expired.

14. A payment assistance apparatus, wherein the apparatus is used as a user end, and comprises:

an acquisition module, configured to obtain a merchant account identifier sent by a merchant end through short-range wireless communication;

10 a sending module, configured to generate verification information, and send the verification information and the merchant account identifier to a server;

a receiving module, configured to receive the verification information that is obtained from the server and that is sent by the merchant end through short-range wireless communication; and

15 a determining module, configured to: after verification on the received verification information succeeds, determine that a merchant account corresponding to the merchant account identifier is a payment receiving object, so as to perform a payment.

15. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein performing sending through short-range wireless communication comprises:

performing sending through a Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) broadcast.

16. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the verification information is a sequence number for verification, and that the sending module generates the verification information comprises:

25 generating, by the sending module, the sequence number for verification based on a user account of the user end.

17. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the merchant account identifier sent by the merchant end and the verification information sent by the user end each have a timeout timestamp for time validity verification.

30 18. The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein that the determining module determines that the verification on the received verification information succeeds comprises:

determining, by the determining module, that the received verification information is consistent with the locally pre-generated verification information, and

determining, based on a timeout timestamp, that the received verification information has not expired.

19. A payment assistance apparatus, wherein the apparatus is used as a merchant end, and comprises:

5       a first sending module, configured to send a merchant account identifier through short-range wireless communication, so that a user end receives the merchant account identifier;

          a receiving module, configured to receive verification information delivered by a server based on the merchant account identifier sent by the user end, wherein the  
10       verification information is generated by the user end; and

          a second sending module, configured to send the verification information through short-range wireless communication, so that the user end receives the verification information and determines, after verification on the verification information succeeds, that a merchant account corresponding to the merchant account  
15       identifier is a payment receiving object.

20. The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein performing sending through short-range wireless communication comprises:

          performing sending through a Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) broadcast.

21. The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein before the first sending module  
20       sends the merchant account identifier through short-range wireless communication, the receiving module is further configured to:

          receive the merchant account identifier allocated by the server to the merchant end.

22. The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the merchant account identifier  
25       sent by the merchant end and the verification information sent by the user end each have a timeout timestamp for time validity verification, and a timeout timestamp of the merchant account identifier sent by the merchant end is pre-generated by the server.

23. A payment assistance apparatus, wherein the apparatus is used as a server,  
30       and comprises:

          an allocation module, configured to allocate a merchant account identifier to a merchant end, so that the merchant end sends the merchant account identifier through short-range wireless communication;

          a receiving module, configured to receive verification information and the

merchant account identifier that are sent by a user end, wherein the merchant account identifier is obtained from the merchant end; and

a sending module, configured to: after verification on the received merchant account identifier succeeds, correspondingly deliver the verification information to the merchant end based on the merchant account identifier, so that the user end performs verification on the merchant end.

24. The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein performing sending through short-range wireless communication comprises:

performing sending through a Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) broadcast.

25. The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the merchant account identifier allocated by the server and the verification information sent by the user end each have a timeout timestamp for time validity verification.

26. The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein that the sending module determines that the verification on the received merchant account identifier succeeds comprises:

determining, by the sending module, that validity verification on the received merchant account identifier succeeds, and determining, based on a timeout timestamp, that the received merchant account identifier has not expired.

27. A payment assistance device, wherein the device is used as a user end, and comprises:

at least one processor; and

at least one memory coupled with the at least one processor, wherein

the memory stores an instruction that can be executed by the at least one processor, and the instruction is executed by the at least one processor to enable the at

least one processor to:

obtain a merchant account identifier sent by a merchant end through short-range wireless communication;

generate verification information, and send the verification information and the merchant account identifier to a server;

receive the verification information that is obtained from the server and that is sent by the merchant end through short-range wireless communication; and

after verification on the received verification information succeeds, determine that a merchant account corresponding to the merchant account identifier is a payment receiving object, so as to perform a payment.

28. A payment assistance device, wherein the device is used as a merchant end, and comprises:

at least one processor; and

at least one memory coupled with the at least one processor, wherein

5 the memory stores an instruction that can be executed by the at least one processor, and the instruction is executed by the at least one processor to enable the at least one processor to:

send a merchant account identifier through short-range wireless communication, so that a user end receives the merchant account identifier;

10 receive verification information delivered by a server based on the merchant account identifier sent by the user end, wherein the verification information is generated by the user end; and

send the verification information through short-range wireless communication, so that the user end receives the verification information and  
15 determines, after verification on the verification information succeeds, that a merchant account corresponding to the merchant account identifier is a payment receiving object.

29. A payment assistance device, wherein the device is used as a server, and comprises:

20 at least one processor; and

at least one memory coupled with the at least one processor, wherein

the memory stores an instruction that can be executed by the at least one processor, and the instruction is executed by the at least one processor to enable the at least one processor to:

25 allocate a merchant account identifier to a merchant end, so that the merchant end sends the merchant account identifier through short-range wireless communication;

receive verification information and the merchant account identifier that are sent by a user end, wherein the merchant account identifier is obtained from the  
30 merchant end; and

after verification on the received merchant account identifier succeeds, correspondingly deliver the verification information to the merchant end based on the merchant account identifier, so that the user end performs verification on the merchant end.