Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method of delivering a parcel to an attended delivery/pickup location, said method comprising:

providing, by at least one processor, a selection of one or more attended delivery/pickup locations to a user;

receiving, by at least one processor, a request from said user to deliver a parcel to a particular one of said one or more attended delivery/pickup locations;

in response to receiving said request, substantially automatically reserving space, by at least one processor, for said parcel at said particular one of said one or more attended delivery/pickup locations; and

facilitating, by at least one processor, delivery of said parcel from an origin location to said particular one of said one or more attended delivery/pickup locations.

2. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises:

determining, by at least one processor, based at least in part on information associated with said parcel, a capacity of said particular one of said one or more attended delivery/pickup locations to accept delivery of said parcel.

3. The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein:

said information associated with said parcel comprises a size of said parcel; and

determining a capacity of said particular one of said one or more attended delivery locations to accept delivery of said parcel comprises determining, by at least one processor, a capacity of said particular one of said one or more attended delivery/pickup locations to at least temporarily store a parcel of said size.

4. The computer-implemented method of Claim 3, wherein said method further comprises:

at least partially in response to determining that said attended delivery/pickup location does not have said capacity to accept said delivery of said parcel, providing, by at least one processer, said user with a selection of one or more additional attended delivery/pickup locations to which said user may request said parcel to be delivered.

5. The computer-implemented method of Claim 4, wherein said method further comprises:

receiving, by at least one processor, a selection of one of said one or more additional attended delivery/pickup locations;

at least partially in response to receiving said selection, substantially automatically reserving space, by at least one processor, for said parcel at said one of said one or more additional attended delivery/pickup locations; and

facilitating delivery, by at least one processor, of said parcel from said origin location to said one of said one or more additional attended delivery/pickup locations.

6. The computer-implemented method of Claim 1, wherein:

said method further comprises determining, by at least one processor, an estimated delivery time for said parcel at particular one of said one or more attended delivery/pickup locations based at least in part on said request; and

said substantially automatically reserving said space comprises reserving said space based at least in part on estimated delivery time.

7. A computer system comprising at least one processor, wherein said computer system is configured for:

receiving a first request from a user to deliver one or more parcels to an attended delivery/pickup location;

at least partially in response to receiving said first request, enabling said user to reserve space for said one or more parcels at said attended delivery/pickup location;

receiving, from said user, a second request to reserve said space for said one or more parcels;

at least partially in response to receiving said second request, reserving said space; and

at least partially in response to receiving said first request and said second request, facilitating delivery of said one or more parcels to said attended delivery pickup/location.

8. The computer system of Claim 7, wherein:

said computer system is further configured for determining, based at least in part on said first request, an estimated delivery time of said one or more parcels to said attended delivery/pickup location; and

said reserving said space comprises reserving said space beginning substantially on a date that comprises said estimated delivery time.

9. The computer system of Claim 8, wherein said reserving said space comprises reserving said space beginning substantially at said estimated delivery time.

10. The computer system of Claim 7, wherein:

said first request comprises information associated with a size of said one or more parcels; and

said reserved space is a space sufficient to at least temporarily store said one or more parcels.

11. The computer system of Claim 7, wherein:

said second request comprises a length of time associated with said reservation; and

said reserving said space comprises reserving said space for said length of time.

12. The computer system of Claim 11, wherein said length of time is one day.

13. The computer system of Claim 7, wherein:

said second request comprises a first time and a second time; and

said reserving said space comprises reserving said space from about said first time to about said second time.

14. The computer system of Claim 7, wherein:

said user is a first user; and

said computer system is further configured:

for receiving a third request from a second user to reserve space at said attended delivery pickup/location; and

at least partially in response to receiving said third request, reserving said space.

15. The computer system of Claim 14, wherein:

said computer system is further configured for:

receiving a fourth request from said second user to deliver one or more parcels to said attended delivery pickup/location; and

at least partially in response to receiving said fourth request, facilitating delivery of said one or more parcels to said attended delivery/pickup location; and

said fourth request is received after said third request.

16. A non-transitory computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions for:

(a) receiving, from a first user, a first request to deliver one or more parcels to an attended delivery/pickup location;

(b) determining, based at least in part on said request, an availability of said attended delivery/pickup location to take delivery of said one or more parcels;

(c) at least partially in response to determining that said attended delivery/pickup location has availability to take delivery of said one or more parcels, enabling a second user to reserve space at said attended delivery/pickup location for said one or more parcels;

(d) receiving, from said second user, a second request to reserve said space;

(e) at least partially in response to receiving said second request, reserving said space at said attended delivery/pickup location; and

(f) facilitating delivery of said one or more parcels to said attended delivery/pickup location.

17. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of Claim 16, wherein said first user is said second user.

18. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of Claim 16, wherein said second user is an intended recipient of said one or more parcels.

19. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of Claim 16, wherein said determining an availability of said attended delivery/pickup location is based at least in part on an estimated delivery time of said one or more parcels.

20. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of Claim 19, wherein:

said non-transitory computer-readable medium further contains instructions for determining an amount of space available at said attended delivery/pickup location; and

said determining an availability of said attended delivery/pickup location is based at least in part on said amount of space available and a size of said one or more parcels.

Claims:

1. A computer-implemented method of delivering a parcel to an attended delivery/pickup location, comprising:

providing, by at least one processor, a selection of one or more attended delivery/pickup locations to a user;

receiving, by at least one processor, a request from said user to deliver a parcel to a particular one of said one or more attended delivery/pickup locations;

estimating an available capacity of the particular one of said one or more attended delivery/pickup locations to receive and store parcels based on a total volume of storage space within the particular one of said one or more attended delivery/pickup locations and dimensions of parcels stored in the particular one of said one or more attended delivery/pickup locations;

in response to the available capacity being below a pre-determined threshold, automatically reserving space, by at least one processor, for said parcel at said particular one of said one or more attended delivery/pickup locations; and

facilitating, by at least one processor, delivery of said parcel from an origin location to said particular one of said one or more attended delivery/pickup locations.

2. The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises:

determining, by at least one processor, based at least in part on information associated with said parcel, a capacity of said particular one of said one or more attended delivery/pickup locations to accept delivery of said parcel.

determining, by at least one processor, based at least in part on information associated with said parcel, a capacity of said particular one of said one or more attended delivery/pickup locations to accept delivery of said parcel.

3. The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein:

said information associated with said parcel comprises a size of said parcel; and determining a capacity of said particular one of said one or more attended delivery locations to accept delivery of said parcel comprises determining, by at least one processor, a capacity of said particular one of said one or more attended delivery/pickup locations to at least temporarily store a parcel of said size.

4. The computer-implemented method of Claim 3, wherein said method further comprises:

at least partially in response to determining that said attended delivery/pickup location does not have said capacity to accept said delivery of said parcel, providing, by at least one processer, said user with a selection of one or more additional attended delivery/pickup locations to which said user may request said parcel to be delivered.

5. The computer-implemented method of Claim 4, wherein said method further comprises:

receiving, by at least one processor, a selection of one of said one or more additional attended delivery/pickup locations;

at least partially in response to receiving said selection, automatically reserving space, by at least one processor, for said parcel at said one of said one or more additional attended delivery/pickup locations; and

facilitating delivery, by at least one processor, of said parcel from said origin location to said one of said one or more additional attended delivery/pickup locations.

6. The computer-implemented method of Claim 1, wherein:

said method further comprises determining, by at least one processor, an estimated delivery time for said parcel at particular one of said one or more attended delivery/pickup locations based at least in part on said request;

said estimating is further based on dimensions of estimated parcels stored in the particular one of said one or more attended delivery/pickup locations at the estimated delivery time; and

said automatically reserving said space comprises reserving said space based at least in part on the estimated delivery time.

7. A computer system comprising at least one processor, wherein said computer system is configured for:

receiving a first request from a user to deliver one or more parcels to an attended delivery/pickup location;

at least partially in response to receiving said first request, enabling said user to reserve space for said one or more parcels at said attended delivery/pickup location;

receiving, from said user, a second request to reserve said space for said one or more parcels;

estimating an available capacity at said attended delivery/pickup location to receive and store parcels based on a total volume of storage space within said attended delivery/pickup location and dimensions of parcels stored in said attended delivery/pickup location;

at least partially in response to the available capacity is below a pre-determined threshold, reserving said space; and

at least partially in response to receiving said first request and said second request, facilitating delivery of said one or more parcels to said attended delivery pickup/location.

8. The computer system of Claim 7, wherein:

said computer system is further configured for determining, based at least in part on said first request, an estimated delivery time of said one or more parcels to said attended delivery/pickup location; and

said reserving said space comprises reserving said space beginning on a date that comprises said estimated delivery time.

9. The computer system of Claim 8, wherein said reserving said space comprises reserving said space beginning at said estimated delivery time.

10. The computer system of Claim 7, wherein:

said first request comprises information associated with a size of said one or more parcels; and

said reserved space is a space sufficient to at least temporarily store said one or more parcels.

11. The computer system of Claim 7, wherein:

said second request comprises a length of time associated with said reservation; and

said reserving said space comprises reserving said space for said length of time.

12. The computer system of Claim 11, wherein said length of time is one day.

13. The computer system of Claim 7, wherein:

said second request comprises a first time and a second time; and

said reserving said space comprises reserving said space from about said first time to about said second time.

14. The computer system of Claim 7, wherein:

said user is a first user; and

said computer system is further configured:

for receiving a third request from a second user to reserve space at said attended delivery pickup/location; and

at least partially in response to receiving said third request, reserving said space.

15. The computer system of Claim 14, wherein:

said computer system is further configured for:

receiving a fourth request from said second user to deliver one or more parcels to said attended delivery pickup/location; and

at least partially in response to receiving said fourth request, facilitating delivery of said one or more parcels to said attended delivery/pickup location; and

said fourth request is received after said third request.

16. A non-transitory computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions for:

(a) receiving, from a first user, a first request to deliver one or more parcels to an attended delivery/pickup location;

(b) determining an available capacity of said attended delivery/pickup location to take delivery of said one or more parcels based on a total volume of storage space within said attended delivery/pickup location and dimensions of parcels stored in said attended delivery/pickup location;

(c) at least partially in response to determining that the available capacity is below a pre-determined threshold, enabling a second user to reserve space at said attended delivery/pickup location for said one or more parcels;

(d) receiving, from said second user, a second request to reserve said space;

(e) at least partially in response to receiving said second request, reserving said space at said attended delivery/pickup location; and

(f) facilitating delivery of said one or more parcels to said attended delivery/pickup location.

17. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of Claim 16, wherein said first user is said second user.

18. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of Claim 16, wherein said second user is an intended recipient of said one or more parcels.

19. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of Claim 16, wherein said determining the available capacity of said attended delivery/pickup location is further based at least in part on a plurality of parcels stored in the particular one of said one or more attended delivery/pickup locations at an estimated delivery time of said one or more parcels.

20. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of Claim 19, wherein:

said non-transitory computer-readable medium further contains instructions for estimating the plurality of parcels stored at said attended delivery/pickup location; and

said determining the available capacity of said attended delivery/pickup location is further based at least in part on a size of said one or more parcels.