

What is claimed is:

1. A method for reporting data concerning a business, comprising:
providing, on a device, a map of the geographic location of the business,
wherein the business is represented by a marker on the map;
selecting the marker to display the name of the business;
receiving an instruction to open a toolbar to provide options for inputting
information concerning the business;
providing information concerning the business to the device via at least
one of the options; and
transmitting the information to a central database by using the device.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the toolbar includes icons for
inputting data as to whether the business is being run out of a residence, a camera
for providing an image of the location of the business, a map of the location of
the business, and a notebook for entering information concerning the business.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein selecting an icon on the toolbar
causes the device to display screens for inputting the information concerning the
business.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein selecting the icon for inputting data
as to whether the business is being run out of a residence causes the device to
display a screen with a yes button, a no button and a submit button.
5. The method of claim 2, wherein selecting the icon of a camera causes
the device to display an image generated by a camera associated with the device,
and a button for selecting the image for reporting.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the image is acquired by using the camera to capture an image of the business.

7. The method of claim 3, wherein selecting the map icon causes the device to display a screen for entering information for each of whether the business is at a location, whether it appears that business is being conducted at that location, whether the location is vacant, whether a different business is present at the location, and whether the different business appears to be doing business at the location.

8. The method of claim 3, wherein selecting the notebook icon causes the device to display screens for entering information for each of the telephone number of the business, who is in charge of the business, the title of who is in charge of the business, and a uniform resource locator of a website of the business.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining a current position of the device.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the current position of the device is determined by one of a GPS receiver associated with the device and entering a location of the device.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the reporting of data concerning a business earns points of a game for users of the device as data is reported.

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising a user of the device chattering with other users of other devices who are acquiring information concerning businesses.

13. A system for reporting data concerning a business, comprising:
a device providing a map of the geographic location of the business,
wherein the business is represented by a marker on the map;
an input apparatus for:
allowing a user of the device to select the marker to display the
name of the business;
receiving an instruction to open a toolbar to provide options for
inputting information concerning the business; and
receiving information concerning the business via at least one of the
options; and
a connection for transmitting the information to a central database.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the toolbar includes icons for
inputting data as to whether the business is being run out of a residence, a camera
for providing an image of the location of the business, a map of the location of
the business, and a notebook for entering information concerning the business.

15. The system of claim 15, wherein selecting an icon on the toolbar
causes the device to display screens for inputting the information concerning the
business.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein selecting the icon for inputting data
as to whether the business is being run out of a residence causes the device to
display a screen with a yes button, a no button and a submit button.

17. The system of claim 14, wherein selecting the icon of a camera causes the device to display an image generated by a camera of the device, and a button for selecting the image for reporting.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the image is acquired by using the camera to capture an image of the business.

19. The system of claim 15, wherein selecting the map icon causes the device to display a screen for entering information for each of whether the business is at a location, whether it appears that business is being conducted at that location, whether the location is vacant, whether a different business is present at the location, and whether the different business appears to be doing business at the location.

20. The system of claim 15, wherein selecting the notebook icon causes the device to display screens for entering information for each of the telephone number of the business, who is in charge of the business, the title of who is in charge of the business, and a uniform resource locator of a website of the business.

21. The system of claim 13, further comprising apparatus for determining a current position of the device.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the apparatus for determining the current position of the device is one of a GPS receiver associated with the device and a screen for entering a location of the device.

23. The system of claim 13, wherein the reporting of data concerning a business earns points of a game for users of the device as data is reported.

24. The system of claim 13, configured to allow a user of the device to chatter with other users of other devices who are acquiring information concerning businesses.

25. A computer readable non-transitory storage medium storing instructions of a computer program which when executed by a computer system results in performance of steps of a method for reporting data concerning a business, comprising:

providing, on a device having the computer system, wherein the computer system has a processor, a memory and a display, a map of the geographic location of the business on the display, wherein the business is represented by a marker on the map;

displaying the name of the business if the marker is selected;

receiving an instruction to open a toolbar to provide options for inputting information concerning the business;

providing information concerning the business to the device via at least one of the options; and

transmitting the information to a central database by using the device.

Claims

1. A method for reporting data concerning a business, comprising:
providing, on a device, a map of the geographic location of the business, wherein the business is represented by a marker on the map;
selecting the marker to display the name of the business;
receiving an instruction to open a toolbar to provide options for inputting information concerning the business;
providing information concerning the business to the device via at least one of the options, wherein one of the options is displaying on the device a screen for entering information for each of whether the business is at a location, whether it appears that business is being conducted at that location, whether the location is vacant, whether a different business is present at the location, and whether the different business appears to be doing business at the location;
and
transmitting the information to a central database by using the device.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the toolbar includes icons for inputting data as to whether the business is being run out of a residence, a camera for providing an image of the location of the business, a map of the location of the business, and a notebook for entering information concerning the business.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein selecting an icon on the toolbar causes the device to display screens for inputting the information concerning the business.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein selecting the icon for inputting data as to whether the business is being run out of a residence causes the device to display a screen with a yes button, a no button and a submit button.
5. The method of claim 2, wherein selecting the icon of a camera causes the device to display an image generated by a camera associated with the device, and a button for selecting the image for reporting.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the image is acquired by using the camera to capture an image of the business.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein a device is supplied to employees and those who are not employees of another business.
8. The method of claim 3, wherein selecting the notebook icon causes the device to display screens for entering information for each of the telephone number of the business, who is in charge of the business, the title of who is in charge of the business, and a uniform resource locator of a website of the business.
9. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining a current position of the device.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the current position of the device is determined by one of a GPS receiver associated with the device and entering a location of the device.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the reporting of data concerning a business earns points of a game for users of the device as data is reported.
12. The method of claim 1, further comprising a user of the device chattering with other users of other devices who are acquiring information concerning businesses.
13. A system for reporting data concerning a business, comprising:
 - a device providing a map of the geographic location of the business, wherein the business is represented by a marker on the map;
 - an input apparatus for:

allowing a user of the device to select the marker to display the name of the business;

receiving an instruction to open a toolbar to provide options for inputting information concerning the business; wherein one of the options is displaying on the device a screen for entering information for each of whether the business is at a location, whether it appears that business is being conducted at that location, whether the location is vacant, whether a different business is present at the location, and whether the different business appears to be doing business at the location; and

receiving information concerning the business via at least one of the options; and a connection for transmitting the information to a central database.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the toolbar includes icons for inputting data as to whether the business is being run out of a residence, a camera for providing an image of the location of the business, a map of the location of the business, and a notebook for entering information concerning the business.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein selecting an icon on the toolbar causes the device to display screens for inputting the information concerning the business.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein selecting the icon for inputting data as to whether the business is being run out of a residence causes the device to display a screen with a yes button, a no button and a submit button.

17. The system of claim 14, wherein selecting the icon of a camera causes the device to display an image generated by a camera of the device, and a button for selecting the image for reporting.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the image is acquired by using the camera to capture an image of the business.

19. The system of claim 13, wherein a device is supplied to employees and those who are not employees of another business.

20. The system of claim 15, wherein selecting the notebook icon causes the device to display screens for entering information for each of the telephone number of the business, who is in charge of the business, the title of who is in charge of the business, and a uniform resource locator of a website of the business.

21. The system of claim 13, further comprising apparatus for determining a current position of the device.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the apparatus for determining the current position of the device is one of a GPS receiver associated with the device and a screen for entering a location of the device.

23. The system of claim 13, wherein the reporting of data concerning a business earns points of a game for users of the device as data is reported.

24. The system of claim 13, configured to allow a user of the device to chatter with other users of other devices who are acquiring information concerning businesses.

25. A computer readable non-transitory storage medium storing instructions of a computer program which when executed by a computer system results in performance of steps of a method for reporting data concerning a business, comprising:

- providing, on a device having the computer system, wherein the computer system has a processor, a memory and a display, a map of the geographic location of the business on the display, wherein the business is represented by a marker on the map;
- displaying the name of the business if the marker is selected;
- receiving an instruction to open a toolbar to provide options for inputting information concerning the business;

providing information concerning the business to the device via at least one of the options; wherein one of the options is displaying on the device a screen for entering information for each of whether the business is at a location, whether it appears that business is being conducted at that location, whether the location is vacant, whether a different business is present at the location, and whether the different business appears to be doing business at the location; and
transmitting the information to a central database by using the device.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for reporting data concerning a business, comprising:
providing, on a mobile device having a processor and a memory for storing instructions to be executed by the processor, a map of the geographic location of the business, wherein the business is represented by a marker on the map;
selecting the marker to display the name of the business;
receiving an instruction to open a toolbar to provide options for inputting information concerning the business;
providing information concerning the business to the device via at least one of the options;
using a GPS receiver associated with the device for determining a current position of the device;
using a camera associated with the device for capturing an image of the business; and
transmitting the information to a central database by using the device; wherein:
the method is implemented as a multilevel game for users to earn points based on the information transmitted; and
options for inputting the information are unlocked based on a level achieved by the user.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the toolbar includes icons for inputting data as to whether the business is being run out of a residence, the camera for providing an image of the location of the business, a map of the location of the business, and a notebook for entering information concerning the business.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein selecting an icon on the toolbar causes the device to display screens for inputting the information concerning the business.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein selecting the icon for inputting data as to whether the business is being run out of a residence causes the device to display a screen with a yes button, a no button and a submit button.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein selecting the icon of the camera causes the device to display an image generated by the camera, and a button for selecting the image for reporting.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the image is acquired by using the camera to capture an image of the business.

7. The method of claim 2, wherein selecting the notebook icon causes the device to display screens for entering information for each of the telephone number of the business, who is in charge of the business, the title of who is in charge of the business, and a uniform resource locator of a website of the business.

8. The method of claim 2, wherein selecting the map icon causes the device to display a screen for entering information for each of whether the business is at a location, whether it appears that business is being conducted at that location, whether the location is vacant, whether a different business is present at the location, and whether the different business appears to be doing business at the location.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising a user of the device chattering with other users of other devices who are acquiring information concerning businesses.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the device is used by one of employees and those who are not employees of another business.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising entering into a user interface of the device a current location of the device.

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a tutorial on the device for the use of an option prior to the option being unlocked for use.

13. A system for reporting data concerning a business, comprising:
a mobile device providing a map of the geographic location of the business, wherein the business is represented by a marker on the map;
a processor associated with the system;
a memory for storing instructions to be processed, by the processor;
an input apparatus for:
allowing a user of the device to select the marker to display the name of the business;
receiving an instruction to open a toolbar to provide options for inputting information concerning the business; and
receiving information concerning the business via at least one of the options;
a GPS receiver associated with the device for determining a current position of the device;
a camera associated with the device for capturing an image of the business; and
a connection for transmitting the information to a central database; wherein:
the memory contains instructions for the processor to implement a multilevel game for users to earn points based on the information transmitted; and
options for inputting the information are unlocked based on a level achieved by the user.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the toolbar includes icons for inputting data as to whether the business is being run out of a residence, the camera for providing an image of the location of the business, a map of the location of the business, and a notebook for entering information concerning the business.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein selecting an icon on the toolbar causes the device to display screens for inputting the information concerning the business.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein selecting the icon for inputting data as to whether

the business is being run out of a residence causes the device to display a screen with a yes button, a no button and a submit button.

17. The system of claim 14, wherein selecting the icon of the camera causes the device to display an image generated by the camera, and a button for selecting the image for reporting.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the image is acquired by using the camera to capture an image of the business.

19. The system of claim 14, wherein selecting the notebook icon causes the device to display screens for entering information for each of the telephone number of the business, who is in charge of the business, the title of who is in charge of the business, and a uniform resource locator of a website of the business.

20. The system of claim 14, wherein selecting the map icon causes the device to display a screen for entering information for each of whether the business is at a location, whether it appears that business is being conducted at that location, whether the location is vacant, whether a different business is present at the location, and whether the different business appears to be doing business at the location.

21. The system of claim 13, configured to allow a user of the device to chatter with other users of other devices who are acquiring information concerning businesses.

22. The system of claim 13, further comprising a user interface for entering into the device a current position of the device.

23. The system of claim 20, wherein the user interface comprises a screen for entering a location of the device.

24. The system of claim 13, wherein the device is used by one of employees and those who are not employees of another business.

25. A computer readable non-transitory storage medium storing instructions of a computer program which when executed by a computer system results in performance of steps of a method for reporting data concerning a business, comprising:

- providing, on a device having the computer system, wherein the computer system has a processor, a memory and a display, a map of the geographic location of the business on the display, wherein the business is represented by a marker on the map;

- displaying the name of the business if the marker is selected;

- receiving an instruction to open a toolbar to provide options for inputting information concerning the business;

- providing information concerning the business to the device via at least one of the options;

- using a GPS receiver associated with the device for determining a current position of the device;

- using a camera associated with the device for capturing an image of the business; and

- transmitting the information to a central database by using the device; wherein:

- the method is implemented as a multilevel game for users to earn points based on the information transmitted; and

- options for inputting the information are unlocked based on a level achieved by the user.

26. A method for reporting data concerning a business, comprising:

- providing, on a mobile device having a processor and a memory for storing instructions to be executed by the processor, a map of the geographic location of the business, wherein the business is represented by a marker on the map;

- selecting the marker to display the name of the business;

- receiving an instruction to open a toolbar to provide options for inputting information concerning the business;

providing information concerning the business to the device via at least one of the options;

using a GPS receiver associated with the device for determining a current position of the device;

using a camera associated with the device for capturing an image of the business; and

transmitting the information to a central database by using the device; wherein:

the method is implemented as a multilevel game for users to earn points based on the information transmitted; and

a display is provided on the device to show a present level in the game of the user, points required to reach a next level, a list of unlocked options corresponding to the present level, a position of the user on a leader board of users, and an icon for badges earned by the user for points earned by the user.