

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of managing transactions between a plurality of users, the method comprising:
 - identifying a first seller;
 - selecting, by a processor, a previous first seller transaction, the previous first seller transaction being a transaction in which the first seller was selected, from among a plurality of available sellers, as a match to a buyer of the previous first seller transaction based on:
 - a search query received, by the processor, from the buyer of the previous first seller transaction; and
 - a predetermined matching criteria; and
 - identifying, by the processor, a relevant date of the previous first seller transaction;
 - identifying, by the processor, an original first seller rating for the previous first seller transaction, the original first seller rating being a rating provided by the buyer to the first seller for the previous first seller transaction;
 - identifying, by the processor, a relevant state of the predetermined matching criteria, the relevant state being a state of the predetermined matching criteria as of the relevant date of the previous first seller transaction;
 - obtaining, by the processor, a current state of the predetermined matching criteria, the current state being a most recent state of the predetermined matching criteria;
 - comparing, by the processor, the relevant state to the current state; and
 - responsive to a determination that the current state is different from the relevant state:
 - generating, by the processor, a rating adjustment factor for the predetermined matching criteria, the rating adjustment factor generated based on at least the comparison between the current state and the relevant state;
 - generating, by the processor, an updated first seller rating for the previous first seller transaction, the updated first seller rating generated by transforming the original first seller rating for the previous first seller transaction based on at least the rating adjustment factor, wherein the transforming of the original first seller rating results in the updated first seller rating having a different rating value from the original first seller rating; and
 - identifying a second transaction, the second transaction being a transaction between the buyer in the previous first seller transaction and a secondary seller, the second transaction being a transaction in which the secondary seller was matched, by the processor, to the buyer based on:
 - the matching of the first seller to the buyer in the previous first seller transaction; and

- a second predetermined matching criteria;
wherein the secondary seller is different from the first seller.
- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein one of the following apply:
 - the relevant date of the previous first seller transaction is a date on which the first seller was matched to the buyer of the previous first seller transaction; or
 - the relevant date of the previous first seller transaction is a date on which the previous first seller transaction was concluded.
- 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined matching criteria is a criteria selected based on the received search query, the first seller, and/or the buyer.
- 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined matching criteria includes one or more of the following:
 - a profile of the first seller on the relevant date;
 - a profile of the buyer on the relevant date;
 - a preference of the first seller on the relevant date;
 - a preference of the buyer on the relevant date;
 - a credit rating of the first seller on the relevant date;
 - a credit rating of the buyer on the relevant date; and/or
 - a price, price range, and/or unit price on the relevant date.
- 5. The method of claim 1, wherein one or more of the following apply:
 - when the predetermined matching criteria is a unit price:
 - the relevant state is a specific unit price or specific unit price range offered by the first seller as of the relevant date; and
 - the current state is a most recent current specific unit price or specific unit price range being offered by the first seller;
 - when the predetermined matching criteria is a unit price:
 - the relevant state is a specific unit price or specific unit price range the buyer was willing to pay as of the relevant date; and
 - the current state is a most recent specific unit price or specific unit price range the buyer is willing to pay;
 - when the predetermined matching criteria is a regulation or legislation:
 - the relevant state is an applicable regulation or legislation as of the relevant date; and
 - the current state is a most recent applicable regulation or legislation;
 - when the predetermined matching criteria is a credit rating:

the relevant state is a credit rating of the first seller as of the relevant date; and

the current state is a most recent credit rating of the first seller;

when the predetermined matching criteria is a credit rating:

the relevant state is a credit rating of the buyer as of the relevant date; and

the current state is a most recent credit rating of the buyer;

when the predetermined matching criteria is a performance reliability metric:

the relevant state is a performance reliability metric of the first seller as of the relevant date; and

the current state is a most recent performance reliability metric of the first seller;

when the predetermined matching criteria is a performance reliability metric:

the relevant state is a performance reliability metric of the buyer as of the relevant date; and

the current state is a most recent performance reliability metric of the buyer;

when the predetermined matching criteria is a financial reliability metric:

the relevant state is a financial reliability metric of the first seller as of the relevant date; and

the current state is a most recent financial reliability metric of the first seller;

when the predetermined matching criteria is a financial reliability metric:

the relevant state is a financial reliability metric of the buyer as of the relevant date; and

the current state is a most recent financial reliability metric of the buyer;

when the predetermined matching criteria is a completed transaction metric pertaining to completed and uncompleted previous transactions:

the relevant state is a completed transaction metric of the first seller as of the relevant date; and

the current state is a most recent completed transaction metric of the first seller;

and/or

when the predetermined matching criteria is a completed transaction metric pertaining to completed and uncompleted previous transactions:

the relevant state is a completed transaction metric of the buyer as of the relevant date; and

the current state is a most recent completed transaction metric of the buyer.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

identifying a relevant date of the second transaction;

identifying an original second rating for the second transaction, the original second rating being a rating provided by the buyer to the secondary seller for the second transaction;

identifying a second relevant state of the second predetermined matching criteria, the second relevant state being a state of the second predetermined matching criteria as of the relevant date of the second transaction;

obtaining a second current state of the second predetermined matching criteria, the second current state being a most recent state of the second predetermined matching criteria;

comparing the second relevant state to the second current state; and

responsive to a determination that the second current state is different from the second relevant state:

generating a second rating adjustment factor for the second predetermined matching criteria, the second rating adjustment factor generated based on at least the comparison between the second current state and the second relevant state;

generating an updated second rating for the second transaction, the updated second rating generated by transforming the original second rating for the second transaction based on at least the second rating adjustment factor, wherein the transforming of the original second rating results in the updated second rating having a different rating value from the original second rating.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

identifying a third transaction, the third transaction being a transaction between the first seller in the previous first seller transaction and a secondary seller, the third transaction being a transaction in which the secondary seller was matched, by the processor, to the first seller based on:

the matching of the first seller to the buyer in the previous first seller transaction; and

a third predetermined matching criteria;

wherein the secondary seller is different from the first seller.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

identifying a relevant date of the third transaction;

identifying an original third rating for the third transaction, the original third rating being a rating provided by the first seller to the secondary seller for the third transaction;

identifying a third relevant state of the third predetermined matching criteria, the third relevant state being a state of the third predetermined matching criteria as of the relevant date of the third transaction;

obtaining a third current state of the third predetermined matching criteria, the third current state being a most recent state of the third predetermined matching criteria;

comparing the third relevant state to the third current state; and

responsive to a determination that the third current state is different from the third relevant state:

generating a third rating adjustment factor for the third predetermined matching criteria, the third rating adjustment factor generated based on at least the comparison between the third current state and the third relevant state;

generating an updated third rating for the third transaction, the updated third rating generated by transforming the original third rating for the third transaction based on at least the third rating adjustment factor, wherein the transforming of the original third rating results in the updated third rating having a different rating value from the original third rating.

9. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

identifying a relevant date of the third transaction;

identifying an original fourth rating for the third transaction, the original fourth rating being a rating provided by the secondary seller to the first seller for the third transaction;

identifying a third relevant state of the third predetermined matching criteria, the third relevant state being a state of the third predetermined matching criteria as of the relevant date of the third transaction;

obtaining a third current state of the third predetermined matching criteria, the third current state being a most recent state of the third predetermined matching criteria;

comparing the third relevant state to the third current state; and

responsive to a determination that the third current state is different from the third relevant state:

generating a third rating adjustment factor for the third predetermined matching criteria, the third rating adjustment factor generated based on at least the comparison between the third current state and the third relevant state;

generating an updated fourth rating for the third transaction, the updated fourth rating generated by transforming the original fourth rating for the third transaction based on at least the third rating adjustment factor, wherein the transforming of the original fourth rating results in the updated fourth rating having a different rating value from the original fourth rating.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

generating an overall first seller rating for the previous first seller transaction, the overall first seller rating generated based on the updated first seller rating and the updated fourth rating.

11. A method of managing transactions between a plurality of users, the method comprising:
identifying a first buyer;

selecting, by a processor, a previous first buyer transaction, the previous first buyer transaction being a transaction in which a seller was selected, from among a plurality of available sellers, as a match to the first buyer based on:

a search query received, by the processor, from the first buyer; and

a predetermined matching criteria; and

identifying, by the processor, a relevant date of the previous first buyer transaction;

identifying, by the processor, an original first buyer rating for the previous first buyer transaction, the original first buyer rating being a rating provided by the seller to the first buyer for the previous first buyer transaction;

identifying, by the processor, a relevant state of the predetermined matching criteria, the relevant state being a state of the predetermined matching criteria as of the relevant date of the previous first buyer transaction;

obtaining, by the processor, a current state of the predetermined matching criteria, the current state being a most recent state of the predetermined matching criteria;

comparing, by the processor, the relevant state to the current state;

responsive to a determination that the current state is different from the relevant state:

generating, by the processor, a rating adjustment factor for the predetermined matching criteria, the rating adjustment factor generated based on at least the comparison between the current state and the relevant state;

generating, by the processor, an updated first buyer rating for the previous first buyer transaction, the updated first buyer rating generated by transforming the original first buyer rating for the previous first buyer transaction based on at least the rating adjustment factor, wherein the transforming of the original first buyer rating results in the updated first buyer rating having a different rating value from the original first buyer rating;

identifying a relevant date of the second transaction;

identifying an original second rating for the second transaction, the original second rating being a rating provided by the secondary seller to the first buyer for the second transaction;

identifying a second relevant state of the second predetermined matching criteria, the second relevant state being a state of the second predetermined matching criteria as of the relevant date of the second transaction;

obtaining a second current state of the second predetermined matching criteria, the second current state being a most recent state of the second predetermined matching criteria;

comparing the second relevant state to the second current state; and

responsive to a determination that the second current state is different from the second relevant state:

generating a second rating adjustment factor for the second predetermined matching criteria, the second rating adjustment factor generated based on at least the comparison between the second current state and the second relevant state;

generating an updated second rating for the second transaction, the updated second rating generated by transforming the original second rating for the second transaction based on at least the second rating adjustment factor, wherein the transforming of the original second rating results in the updated second rating having a different rating value from the original second rating.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein one of the following apply:

the relevant date of the previous first buyer transaction is a date on which the first buyer was matched to the seller of the previous first buyer transaction; or

the relevant date of the previous first buyer transaction is a date on which the previous first buyer transaction was concluded.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the predetermined matching criteria is a criteria selected based on the received search query, the first buyer, and/or the seller.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the predetermined matching criteria includes one or more of the following:

a profile of the first buyer on the relevant date;

a profile of the seller on the relevant date;

a preference of the first buyer on the relevant date;

a preference of the seller on the relevant date;

a credit rating of the first buyer on the relevant date;

a credit rating of the seller on the relevant date; and/or

a price, price range, and/or unit price on the relevant date.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein one or more of the following apply:
when the predetermined matching criteria is a unit price:

the relevant state is a specific unit price or specific unit price range offered by the seller as of the relevant date; and

the current state is a most recent specific unit price or specific unit price range being offered by the seller;

when the predetermined matching criteria is a unit price:

the relevant state is a specific unit price or specific unit price range the first buyer was willing to pay as of the relevant date; and

the current state is a most recent specific unit price or specific unit price range the first buyer is willing to pay;

when the predetermined matching criteria is a regulation or legislation:

the relevant state is an applicable regulation or legislation as of the relevant date; and

the current state is a most recent applicable regulation or legislation;

when the predetermined matching criteria is a credit rating:

the relevant state is a credit rating of the first buyer as of the relevant date; and

the current state is a most recent credit rating of the first buyer;

when the predetermined matching criteria is a credit rating:

the relevant state is a credit rating of the seller as of the relevant date; and

the current state is a most recent credit rating of the seller;

when the predetermined matching criteria is a performance reliability metric:

the relevant state is a performance reliability metric of the first buyer as of the relevant date; and

the current state is a most recent performance reliability metric of the first buyer;

when the predetermined matching criteria is a performance reliability metric:

the relevant state is a performance reliability metric of the seller as of the relevant date; and

the current state is a most recent performance reliability metric of the seller;

when the predetermined matching criteria is a financial reliability metric:

the relevant state is a financial reliability metric of the first buyer as of the relevant date; and

the current state is a most recent financial reliability metric of the first buyer;

when the predetermined matching criteria is a financial reliability metric:

the relevant state is a financial reliability metric of the seller as of the relevant date;

and

the current state is a most recent financial reliability metric of the seller;

when the predetermined matching criteria is a completed transaction metric pertaining to completed and uncompleted previous transactions:

the relevant state is a completed transaction metric of the first buyer as of the relevant date; and

the current state is a most recent completed transaction metric of the first buyer; and/or

when the predetermined matching criteria is a completed transaction metric pertaining to completed and uncompleted previous transactions:

the relevant state is a completed transaction metric of the seller as of the relevant date; and

the current state is a most recent completed transaction metric of the seller.

16. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

identifying a second transaction, the second transaction being a transaction between the first buyer in the previous first buyer transaction and a secondary seller, the second transaction being a transaction in which the secondary seller was matched, by the processor, to the first buyer based on:

the matching of the seller to the first buyer in the previous first buyer transaction; and
a second predetermined matching criteria;

wherein the secondary seller is different from the seller.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

identifying a relevant date of the second transaction;

identifying an original second rating for the second transaction, the original second rating being a rating provided by the secondary seller to the first buyer for the second transaction;

identifying a second relevant state of the second predetermined matching criteria, the second relevant state being a state of the second predetermined matching criteria as of the relevant date of the second transaction;

obtaining a second current state of the second predetermined matching criteria, the second current state being a most recent state of the second predetermined matching criteria;

comparing the second relevant state to the second current state; and

responsive to a determination that the second current state is different from the second relevant state:

generating a second rating adjustment factor for the second predetermined matching criteria, the second rating adjustment factor generated based on at least the comparison between the second current state and the second relevant state;

generating an updated second rating for the second transaction, the updated second rating generated by transforming the original second rating for the second transaction based on at least the second rating adjustment factor, wherein the transforming of the original second rating results in the updated second rating having a different rating value from the original second rating.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising:

generating an overall first buyer rating for the previous first buyer transaction, the overall first buyer rating generated based on the updated first buyer rating and the updated second rating.