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A SYSTEM FOR PERFORMING FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS USING A SMART CARD

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A financial information and transaction system comprising a host financial computer system for maintaining user account information, at least one terminal providing a user interface for accessing the host financial computer system, at least one terminal having means for transmitting and receiving data corresponding to the user account information, a smart card interface device, a smart card, and/or means for conducting a transaction based on the user account information; wherein access to the user account information and conducting transaction are organized in a hierarchy of at least three levels and achieved by passing through the hierarchical levels, with means provided for allowing automated access to the final level without passing through the one or more intervening levels. These transactions include deposit and withdrawal of funds, currency exchange, transfer of funds, and purchase and sale of stocks.

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