

Appeal decision

Appeal No. 2012-26122

Tokyo, Japan

Appellant

RAKUTEN INC.

Tokyo, Japan

Patent Attorney

NAKANO, Hitoshi

Tokyo, Japan

Patent Attorney

KAWAI, Takashi

The case of appeal against the examiner's decision of refusal Japanese Patent Application No. 2007-330214, entitled "deposit terminal, control method of deposit terminal and program of deposit terminal" (the application was published on July 9, 2009, Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2009-151639) has resulted in the following appeal decision:

Conclusion

The appeal of the case was groundless.

Reason

No. 1 History of the procedures

This is an application filed on December 21, 2007, a notice of reasons for refusal dated April 23, 2012 was received, and despite the fact that the written amendment was filed on June 26, 2012, a decision for refusal dated September 21, 2012 was issued. For this, a request for appeal and written amendment were filed on December 28, 2012, the body sent Inquiry on May 24, 2013, and a response letter was filed on July 17, 2013.

No. 2 Dismissal of amendment dated December 28, 2012

[Conclusion of decision to dismissal of amendment]

The amendment dated December 28, 2012 shall be dismissed.

[Reason]

By the amendment dated December 28, 2012 (hereinafter, referred to as "Amendment of the case"), claims were amended as follows (underlines in the Amendment were provided by the appellant):

<Claims after Amendment of the case>

"[Claim 1]

A deposit terminal placed in a retail store, comprising:

price changing information transmitting means for transmitting price changing information for increasing a price of a currency value stored in a currency terminal by a predetermined price to the currency terminal in response to a request of increasing a price of the currency value stored in the currency terminal; and

outputting means, in response to the request of increasing the price, for outputting any one of plural discount detail identifying information items obtained from a storage device that stores plural discount details in association with respective plural discount detail identifying information items in a form which is able to be inputted to a settlement terminal placed in the retail store and with which the settlement terminal is able to identify the discount detail, the settlement terminal determining whether or not discount detail obtained from the storage device based on the inputted discount detail identifying information can be applied.

[Claim 2]

The deposit terminal according to claim 1, wherein the storage device is placed in the retail store, and the form outputted by the outputting means is the discount detail identifying information associated with discount detail identified by the settlement terminal.

[Claim 3]

The deposit terminal according to one of claims 1 and 2, wherein whether or not any one of the plural discount detail identifying information items is obtained from the storage device is determined based on a price specified by the request of increasing the price.

[Claim 4]

The deposit terminal according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the deposit terminal is an identical terminal with the settlement terminal placed in the retail store.

[Claim 5]

The deposit terminal according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein a price specified by the request of increasing the price corresponds to cash paid to the deposit terminal.

[Claim 6]

A control method of a deposit terminal placed in a retail store, the control method comprising the steps of:

a price changing information transmitting step for transmitting price changing information for increasing a price of a currency value stored in a currency terminal by a predetermined price to the currency terminal in response to a request of increasing a price of the currency value stored in the currency terminal; and

an outputting step, in response to the request of increasing the price, for outputting any one of plural discount detail identifying information items obtained from a storage device that stores plural discount details in association with the respective plural discount detail identifying information items in a form which is able to be inputted to a settlement terminal placed in the retail store and with which the settlement terminal is able to identify the discount detail, the settlement terminal determining whether or not discount detail obtained from the storage device based on the inputted discount detail identifying information can be applied.

[Claim 7]

A program causing a computer used for a deposit terminal placed in a retail store to implement the functions of:

a price changing information transmitting function for transmitting price changing information for increasing a price of a currency value stored in a currency terminal by a predetermined price to the currency terminal in response to a request of increasing a price of the currency value stored in the currency terminal; and

an outputting function, in response to the request of increasing the price, for outputting any one of plural discount detail identifying information items obtained from a storage device that stores plural discount details in association with the

respective plural discount detail identifying information items in a form which is able to be inputted to a settlement terminal placed in the retail store and with which the settlement terminal is able to identify the discount detail, the settlement terminal determining whether or not discount detail obtained from the storage device based on the inputted discount detail identifying information can be applied."

Claims before Amendment of the case are as follows:

<Claims before Amendment of the case>

"[Claim 1]

A deposit terminal placed in a retail store, comprising:

price changing information transmitting means for transmitting price changing information for increasing a price of a currency value stored in a currency terminal by a predetermined price to the currency terminal in response to a request of increasing a price of the currency value stored in the currency terminal; and

outputting means, in response to the request of increasing the price, for outputting any one of plural discount detail identifying information items obtained from a storage device that stores plural discount details in association with respective plural discount detail identifying information items in a form which is able to be inputted to a settlement terminal placed in the retail store, the settlement terminal determining whether or not discount detail obtained from the storage device based on the inputted discount detail identifying information can be applied.

[Claim 2]

The deposit terminal according to claim 1, wherein whether or not any one of the plural discount detail identifying information items is obtained from the storage device is determined based on a price specified by the request of increasing the price.

[Claim 3]

The deposit terminal according to one of claims 1 and 2, wherein the deposit terminal is an identical terminal with the settlement terminal placed in the retail store.

[Claim 4]

The deposit terminal according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein a price specified by the request of increasing the price corresponds to cash paid to the deposit terminal.

[Claim 5]

A control method of a deposit terminal placed in a retail store, the control method comprising the steps of:

a price changing information transmitting step for transmitting price changing information for increasing a price of a currency value stored in a currency terminal by a predetermined price to the currency terminal in response to a request of increasing a price of the currency value stored in the currency terminal; and

an outputting step, in response to the request of increasing the price, for outputting any one of plural discount detail identifying information items obtained from a storage device that stores plural discount details in association with the respective plural discount detail identifying information items in a form which is able to be inputted to a settlement terminal placed in the retail store, the settlement terminal determining whether or not discount detail obtained from the storage device based on the inputted discount detail identifying information can be applied.

[Claim 6]

A program causing a computer used for a deposit terminal placed in a retail store to implement the functions of:

a price changing information transmitting function for transmitting price changing information for increasing a price of a currency value stored in a currency terminal by a predetermined price to the currency terminal in response to a request of increasing a price of the currency value stored in the currency terminal; and

an outputting function, in response to the request of increasing the price, for outputting any one of plural discount detail identifying information items obtained from a storage device that stores plural discount details in association with the respective plural discount detail identifying information items in a form which is able to be inputted to a settlement terminal placed in the retail store, the settlement terminal determining whether or not discount detail obtained from the storage device based on the inputted discount detail identifying information can be applied."

Amendment of the case makes the following amendments.

(1) Amendment to newly add claim 2, and with this, increment the numbers of claims 2-6 before Amendment of the case by one as claims 3-7, and further, add the new claim 2 as a claim recited by the claims 3-5 after Amendment of the case.

(2) Amendment to limit "a form which is able to be inputted" in claims 1, 5, 6 before Amendment of the case to "a form which is able to be inputted and with which the settlement terminal is able to identify the discount detail".

In Amendment of the case, the amendment of the above-described (1) to newly add claim 2 is not for any of the purposes of the deletion of a claim, restriction of the scope of claims, the correction of errors, and the clarification of an ambiguous statement provided in Article 17-2 (5) of the Patent Act. Accordingly, because of violation of Article 17-2 (5) of the Patent Act, Amendment of the case shall be dismissed under Article 53 (1) of the same Act to be applied mutatis mutandis upon reading the specified terms in accordance with Article 159 (1) of the same Act.

No. 3 The Invention

As the amendment dated December 28, 2012 was dismissed as above, the invention relating to Claim 1 of the present application (hereinafter referred to as "the Invention") is acknowledged as follows, as described in Claim 1 of the scope of claims for patent amended by the amendment dated June 26, 2012.

<The Invention>

"A deposit terminal placed in a retail store comprising:

price changing information transmitting means for transmitting price changing information for increasing a price of a currency value stored in a currency terminal by a predetermined price to the currency terminal in response to a request of increasing a price of the currency value stored in the currency terminal; and

outputting means, in response to the request of increasing the price, for outputting any one of plural discount detail identifying information items obtained from a storage device that stores plural discount details in association with respective plural discount detail identifying information items in a form which is able to be inputted to a settlement terminal placed in the retail store, the settlement terminal determining whether or not discount detail obtained from the storage device based on the inputted discount detail identifying information can be applied.

No. 4 Cited Document

(1) Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2007-233740

In Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2007-233740 (the application published on September 13, 2007. Hereinafter, referred to as "Cited Document".), cited in the reasons for refusal of the examiner's decision, the following matters are described.

A. "[0001]

The present invention relates to an electronic money management server, and an electronic money system."

B. "[0021]

Furthermore, the electronic money system 10 is a system for providing a content distribution service for distributing information for identifying contents related to announcements, coupons, etc., from a store that has partnered with an operating institution upon charging a value to a user's mobile phone 100 via an electronic money management server 200 managed by the operating institution."

C. "[0037]

The electronic money management server 200, the remote issuing server 400 and the financial institution server 500 are able to communicate with the mobile phone 100 via the mobile phone Internet network 910."

D. "[0046]

The POS terminal device 600b placed in the store 30b carries out settlement of the price by use of the value stored in the mobile phone as a specified transaction."

E. "[0064]

FIG. 3 is a block diagram showing an example of a configuration of the electronic money management server 200 according to the present invention. With reference to FIG. 3, the electronic money management server 200 includes a data processing unit 210, a storage unit 220, a data input unit 230, a display unit 240 and a communication unit 260.

...

[0066]

In the exemplary embodiment, the AP at initial registration time 211, the AP at value purchase time 212, the AP at value issuing time 213 and the balance

management AP 214 are stored in the storage unit 220. Moreover, the user information DB 221, the issuance information DB 222, the store identifying information DB 271 and the content identifying information DB 272 as described above are also stored in the storage unit 220."

F. "[0100]

FIG. 7 is a diagram for illustrating the content identifying information DB 272 used in providing the content distribution service by the electronic money management server 200 in the exemplary embodiment.

[0101]

The content identifying information DB in the exemplary embodiment is configured to be capable of identifying information related to each store that has acceded to the content distribution service. As the information related to each store, distribution information to be distributed to the user's mobile phone 100 by the electronic money management server 200 and server management information for management in the electronic money management server 200 are included. The distribution information includes the store ID, the expiration ID and the content data. ...

[0107]

The content data is data indicating details of the contents themselves. A content data item is uniquely identified by the store ID and the expiration ID. ... As the contents in the exemplary embodiment, as described above, the contents related to the announcement from the store and the contents related to coupons that can be used in the store are included.

G. "[0320]

FIG. 16 is a flowchart showing a flow of a process in value issuing, which is a subroutine of the electronic money application 111 executed by the mobile phone 100 in the exemplary embodiment. With reference to FIG. 16, first, in step S152, the data processing unit 110 transmits value issuance request information, which is information for requesting to charge the value and includes the member ID and the mobile phone information, to the electronic money management server 200.

[0321]

FIG. 17 is a flowchart showing a flow of a process of the AP at value issuing time 213 executed by the electronic money management server 200 in the exemplary embodiment.

[0322]

With reference to FIG. 17, first, in step S271, the data processing unit 210 determines whether or not there was a value issuing request based on reception of the value issuing request information from the mobile phone 100.

...

[0325]

... In step S273b, the data processing unit 210 extracts the store ID stored in the user information DB 221 in association with status information of the target contents indicating "1" and the content data stored in the content identifying information DB 272 in association with the expiration ID. Then, in step S273c, the data processing unit 210 transmits the store ID, the expiration ID and the content data for identifying the extracted contents to the mobile phone 100.

...

[0329]

Then, if a value purchase record that has not been set to a written status is stored (YES in step S276a), the value purchase record is set to a value written status. On the other hand, there is no value purchase record that has not been set to a written status (NO in step S276a), in step S277, the data processing unit 210 transmits the value issuing information to the mobile phone 100 for writing a value of a price, which is specified by the value purchase record that has been set to the written status in the mobile phone 100 by the remote issuing server 400 in step S276.

H. "[0333]

Returning to FIG. 16, in step S153, the data processing unit 110 determines whether or not the value issuing information has been received from the electronic money management server 200. If it is determined that the value issuing information has not been received (NO in step S153), in step S153a, the data processing unit 110 determines whether or not the store ID, the expiration ID and the content data have been received. ...

[0334]

On the other hand, if it is determined that the store ID, the expiration ID and the content data have been received (YES in step S153a), in step S153b, the data processing unit 110 stores the received store ID, expiration ID and the content data in the storage unit 120 of the mobile phone 100, and proceeds with the process to be executed to step S153.

[0335]

Returning to step S153, if it is determined that the value issuing information has been received (YES in step S153), in step S154, the data processing unit 110 transmits writing process starting request information, which is information to start the writing process of storing a value specified by the value issuing information into a storage region for receiving services in the storage unit 192 of the non-contact IC chip 190, and also includes value issuing price information indicating a price of the value specified by the value issuing information and mobile terminal information, to the remote issuing server 400.

I. "[0336]

Returning to FIG. 1, the remote issuing server 400 transmits the value writing execution information to the mobile phone 100 indicated by the mobile terminal information included in the writing process starting request information. The value writing execution information is information for storing a value of a price indicated by the value issuing price information included in the writing process starting request information in the storage region for receiving services in the storage unit 192 in the non-contact IC chip 190 of the mobile phone 100.

[0337]

Proceeding to FIG. 16, in step S155, the data processing unit 110 determines whether or not the value writing execution information has been received from the remote issuing server 400. If it is determined that the value writing execution information has been received (YES in step S155), in step S156, the data processing unit 110 executes the writing process indicated by the value writing execution information received from the remote issuing server 400. The writing process is a process for writing a value indicated by the value writing execution information into the storage region for receiving services in the storage unit 192 of the non-contact IC chip 190. If any value is stored in the storage region for receiving services in the storage unit 192 of the non-contact IC chip 190 before the writing process is started, a process for adding a value to be newly written onto the stored value is executed. In other words, by execution of the writing process, a value, which is the sum total of the price of value stored before writing and the price of value to be newly written, is written into the storage unit 192.

J. "[0393]

FIG. 34 is a flowchart showing a flow of a benefit granting process, which is a subroutine in settlement processing executed in a specified transaction device, such as

a ticket-vending machine, a card unit and a POS terminal device, in the exemplary embodiment. Note that, though description will be given as a benefit granting process executed in a ticket-vending machine in FIG. 34, a similar benefit granting process is executed in other specified transaction devices, such as a card unit and a POS terminal device.

[0394]

With reference to FIG. 34, in step S715, the data processing unit 310 controls the chip reader/writer 390 to transmit a request information, which makes a request of the mobile phone 100 for the store ID and the expiration ID to identify the contents, to the mobile phone 100.

[0395]

In response to the request information from step S715 in FIG. 34, the control unit 191 of the mobile phone 100 carries out a process of reading the store ID and the expiration ID stored in the storage region for receiving services constructed in the storage unit 192, and transmitting the IDs to the specified transaction device, which is a requester, via the non-contact communication unit 193.

[0396]

Returning to FIG. 34, in step S716, it is determined whether or not the contents, such as effective coupons of his/her own store are stored in the storage region for receiving services constructed in the storage unit 192 of the mobile phone 100 based on the store ID and the expiration ID received in response to the request made in step S715.

[0397]

If it is determined that the contents, such as the effective coupons of his/her own store are stored (YES in step S716), the data processing unit 310 executes the benefit granting process for granting benefits corresponding to the contents in step S717. As the benefit granting process, specifically, in the case of the contents offering price cutting or discount of the value used in the specified transaction, a process of updating to provide a state for identifying the intent of offering price cutting or discount (for example, a state in which information capable of identifying a value for price cutting or discount is stored) is carried out.

[0398]

Note that, in step S716 of the benefit granting process in the specified transaction device of the POS terminal device 600b, it may be determined whether or not the contents, such as the effective coupons of his/her own store, which are the contents, such as coupons corresponding to products read by a bar code/magnetic card reader

of the POS terminal device 600b (for example, in a convenience store, etc., if the product read by the bar code/magnetic card reader is tea, the contents such as a coupon of 50-yen price cutting corresponding to the tea) are stored.

According to the above-described A. to J., it can be said that the following matters are described in Cited Document.

- According to the description "The present invention relates to an electronic money management server, and an electronic money system." in the above-described A., and the description "the electronic money system 10 is a system for providing a content distribution service for distributing information for identifying contents related to announcements, coupons, etc., from a store that has partnered with an operating institution upon charging a value to a user's mobile phone 100 via an electronic money management server 200 managed by the operating institution." in the above-described B.,

it can be said that "the electronic money system 10 for distributing information for identifying contents related to coupons, etc., upon charging a value to a user's mobile phone 100 via an electronic money management server 200" is described in Cited Document.

- According to the descriptions "the electronic money management server 200 includes a data processing unit 210, a storage unit 220, a data input unit 230, a display unit 240 and a communication unit 260." and "the content identifying information DB 272 is also stored in the storage unit 220." in the above-described E., the description "The content identifying information DB is configured to be capable of identifying information related to each store that has acceded to the content distribution service. As the information related to each store, distribution information to be distributed to the user's mobile phone 100 by the electronic money management server 200 and server management information for management in the electronic money management server 200 are included. The distribution information includes the store ID, the expiration ID and the content data." in the above-described F., and

the description "The content data is data indicating details of the contents themselves. A content data item is uniquely identified by the store ID and the expiration ID. ... As the contents in the exemplary embodiment, as described above, the contents related to the announcement from the store and the contents related to a

coupon that can be used in the store are included." in the above-described F.,

it can be said that "the electronic money management server 200 includes the storage unit 220 that stores the content identifying information DB 272, and the content identifying information DB 272 stores the content data that indicates details of a coupon and the store ID and the expiration ID that uniquely identify a content data item," is described in Cited Document.

- According to the description "The electronic money management server 200, the remote issuing server 400 and the financial institution server 500 are able to communicate with the mobile phone 100 via the mobile phone Internet network 910." in the above-described C.,

it can be said that "the electronic money management server 200 and the remote issuing server 400 are able to communicate with the mobile phone 100 via the mobile phone Internet network 910" is described in Cited Document.

- According to the description "[0320]

FIG. 16 is a flowchart showing a flow of a process in value issuing, which is a subroutine of the electronic money application 111 executed by the mobile phone 100 in the exemplary embodiment. With reference to FIG. 16, first, in step S152, the data processing unit 110 transmits value issuing request information, which is information for requesting to charge the value and includes the member ID and the mobile phone information, to the electronic money management server 200." in the above-described G.,

it can be said that "the mobile phone 100 transmits value issuing request information for requesting to charge the value to the electronic money management server 200" is described in Cited Document.

- According to the description "the electronic money management server 200 includes a data processing unit 210, a storage unit 220, a data input unit 230, a display unit 240 and a communication unit 260." in the above-described E.,

the description "the content identifying information DB 272 is also stored in the storage unit 220." in the above-described E., and

the description "[0321]

FIG. 17 is a flowchart showing a flow of a process of the AP at value issuing time 213 executed by the electronic money management server 200 in the exemplary embodiment.

[0322]

With reference to FIG. 17, first, in step S271, the data processing unit 210 determines whether or not there was a value issuing request based on reception of the value issuing request information from the mobile phone 100.

...

[0325]

... In step S273b, the data processing unit 210 extracts the content data stored in the content identifying information DB 272 in association with the store ID and the expiration ID, which are stored in the user information DB 221 in association with status information of the target contents indicating "1". Then, in step S273c, the data processing unit 210 transmits the store ID and the expiration ID for identifying the extracted contents and the content data to the mobile phone 100.

...

[0329]

... in step S277, the data processing unit 210 transmits the value issuing information to the mobile phone 100 for writing a value of a price, which is specified by the value purchase record that has been set to the written status in the mobile phone 100 by the remote issuing server 400 in step S276." in the above-described G.,

it can be said that "upon receiving the value issuing request information, the electronic money management server 200 extracts the store ID, the expiration ID and the content data from the content identifying information DB 272 and transmits thereof to the mobile phone 100, and also transmits the value issuing information for writing a value to the mobile phone 100" is described in Cited Document.

• According to the description "FIG. 16 is a flowchart showing a flow of a process in value issuing, which is a subroutine of the electronic money application 111 executed by the mobile phone 100 in the exemplary embodiment." in the above-described G., and

the description "[0333]

Returning to FIG. 16, in step S153, the data processing unit 110 determines whether or not the value issuing information has been received from the electronic money management server 200. If it is determined that the value issuing information has not been received (NO in step S153), in step S153a, the data processing unit 110 determines whether or not the store ID, the expiration ID and the content data have been received. ...

[0334]

On the other hand, if it is determined that the store ID, the expiration ID and the content data have been received (YES in step S153a), in step S153b, the data processing unit 110 stores the received store ID, expiration ID and the content data in the storage unit 120 of the mobile phone 100, and proceeds with the process to be executed to step S153.

[0335]

Returning to step S153, if it is determined that the value issuing information has been received (YES in step S153), in step S154, the data processing unit 110 transmits writing process starting request information, which is information to start the writing process of storing a value specified by the value issuing information into a storage region for receiving services in the storage unit 192 of the non-contact IC chip 190, and also includes value issuing price information indicating a price of the value specified by the value issuing information and mobile terminal information, to the remote issuing server 400." in the above-described H.,

it can be said that "upon receiving the store ID, the expiration ID and the content data, the mobile phone 100 stores the store ID, the expiration ID and the content data in the storage unit 120 of the mobile phone 100, and upon receiving the value issuing information, the mobile phone 100 transmits the value issuing price information indicating the price of the value identified by the value issuing information and the writing process starting request information to the remote issuing server 400" is described in Cited Document.

- According to the description "[0336]

Returning to FIG. 1, the remote issuing server 400 transmits the value writing execution information to the mobile phone 100 indicated by the mobile terminal information included in the writing process starting request information. The value writing execution information is information for storing the value of the price indicated by the value issuing price information included in the writing process starting request information in the storage region for receiving services in the storage unit 192 in the non-contact IC chip 190 of the mobile phone 100." in the above-described I.,

it can be said that "upon receiving the writing process starting request information, the remote issuing server 400 transmits the value writing execution information for storing the value of the price indicated by the value issuing price information to the mobile phone 100" is described in Cited Document.

- According to the description "[0337]

Proceeding to FIG. 16, in step S155, the data processing unit 110 determines whether or not the value writing execution information has been received from the remote issuing server 400. If it is determined that the value writing execution information has been received (YES in step S155), in step S156, the data processing unit 110 executes the writing process indicated by the value writing execution information received from the remote issuing server 400. The writing process is a process for writing a value indicated by the value writing execution information into the storage region for receiving services in the storage unit 192 of the non-contact IC chip 190. If any value is stored in the storage region for receiving services in the storage unit 192 of the non-contact IC chip 190 before the writing process is started, a process for adding a value to be newly written onto the stored value is executed. In other words, by execution of the writing process, a value, which is the sum total of the price of value stored before writing and the price of value to be newly written, is written into the storage unit 192." in the above-described I.,

it can be said that "upon receiving the value writing execution information, the mobile phone 100 writes a value, which is the sum total of the price of value stored before writing and the price of value to be newly written, into the storage unit 192" is described in Cited Document.

- According to the description "The POS terminal device 600b placed in the store 30b carries out settlement of the price by use of the value stored in the mobile phone as a specified transaction." in the above-described D., and

the description "[0393]

FIG. 34 is a flowchart showing a flow of a benefit granting process, which is a subroutine in settlement processing executed in a specified transaction device, such as a ticket-vending machine, a card unit and a POS terminal device, in the exemplary embodiment. Note that, though description will be given as a benefit granting process executed in a ticket-vending machine in FIG. 34, a similar benefit granting process is executed in other specified transaction devices, such as a card unit and a POS terminal device.

[0394]

With reference to FIG. 34, in step S715, the data processing unit 310 controls the chip reader/writer 390 to transmit a request information, which makes a request of the mobile phone 100 for the store ID and the expiration ID to identify the contents, to the mobile phone 100.

[0395]

In response to the request information from step S715 in FIG. 34, the control unit 191 of the mobile phone 100 carries out a process of reading the store ID and the expiration ID stored in the storage region for receiving services constructed in the storage unit 192, and transmitting the IDs to the specified transaction device, which is a requester, via the non-contact communication unit 193.

[0396]

Returning to FIG. 34, in step S716, it is determined whether or not the contents, such as effective coupons of his/her own store are stored in the storage region for receiving services constructed in the storage unit 192 of the mobile phone 100 based on the store ID and the expiration ID received in response to the request made in step S715.

[0397]

If it is determined that the contents, such as the effective coupons of his/her own store are stored (YES in step S716), the data processing unit 310 executes the benefit granting process for granting benefits corresponding to the contents in step S717. As the benefit granting process, specifically, in the case of the contents offering price cutting or discount of the value used in the specified transaction, a process of updating to provide a state for identifying the intent of offering price cutting or discount (for example, a state in which information capable of identifying a value for price cutting or discount is stored) is carried out.

[0398]

Note that, in step S716 of the benefit granting process in the specified transaction device of the POS terminal device 600b, it may be determined whether or not the contents, such as the effective coupons of his/her own store, which are the contents, such as coupons corresponding to products read by a bar code/magnetic card reader of the POS terminal device 600b (for example, in a convenience store, etc., if the product read by the bar code/magnetic card reader is tea, the contents such as a coupon of 50-yen price cutting corresponding to the tea) are stored." in the above-described J.,

it can be said that " in settlement processing, the POS terminal device reads the store ID and the expiration ID stored in the mobile phone 100, and if coupons for carrying out price cutting or discounting for products read by the bar code/magnetic card reader of the POS terminal device 600b is stored, carries out price cutting or discounting of the value used in transaction" is described in Cited Document.

Accordingly, it can be said that the following invention (hereinafter, referred to as "Cited Invention") is described in Cited Document.

<Cited Invention>

"An electronic money system 10 that distributes, with a value being charged to a mobile phone 100 of a user via an electronic money management server 200, information for identifying contents related to a coupon or the like, wherein

the electronic money management server 200 and a remote issuing server 400 communicate with the mobile phone 100 via a mobile phone Internet network 910,

the electronic money management server 200 includes a storage unit 220 for storing a content identifying information DB 272, and the content identifying information DB 272 stores content data indicating a detail of the coupon, and a store ID and an expiration ID for uniquely identifying a content data item,

the mobile phone 100 transmits value issuing request information for requesting to charge a value to the electronic money management server 200,

upon receiving the value issuing request information, the electronic money management server 200 extracts the store ID, the expiration ID and the content data from the content identifying information DB 272 and transmits thereof to the mobile phone 100, and also transmits value issuing information for writing a value to the mobile phone 100,

upon receiving the store ID, the expiration ID and the content data, the mobile phone 100 stores the store ID, the expiration ID and the content data in a storage unit 120 of the mobile phone 100, and upon receiving the value issuing information, the mobile phone 100 transmits value issuing price information indicating a price of a value identified by the value issuing information and writing process starting request information to the remote issuing server 400,

upon receiving the writing process starting request information, the remote issuing server 400 transmits value writing execution information for storing the value of the price indicated by the value issuing price information to the mobile phone 100,

upon receiving the value writing execution information, the mobile phone 100 writes a value, which is a sum total of a price of a value stored before writing and a price of a value to be newly written, into a storage unit 192, and

a POS terminal device 600b placed in a store 30b, in settlement processing, reads the store ID and the expiration ID stored in the mobile phone 100, and if a coupon for executing price cutting or discounting for a product read by a bar code/magnetic card

reader of the POS terminal device 600b is stored, executes price cutting or discounting of a value used for transaction."

No. 5 Comparison

Next, the Invention and Cited Invention are compared.

- "Electronic money management server" and "remote issuing server" of Cited Invention in their entirety are a system for charging a value to a mobile phone, and therefore, it can be said that "electronic money management server" and "remote issuing server" of Cited Invention are a deposit system of a currency value.

Accordingly, "electronic money management server" and "remote issuing server" of Cited Invention and "deposit terminal" of the Invention are common in the point of "deposit system".

- "Mobile phone" of the Cited Invention corresponds to "currency terminal" of the Invention.

- "Value" of Cited Invention corresponds to "currency value" of the Invention.

- "Value issuing request information for requesting to charge a value" of Cited Invention corresponds to "request of increasing a price of a currency value stored in a currency terminal" of the Invention.

- "Value writing execution information for storing the value of the price indicated by the value issuing price information" of Cited Invention corresponds to "price changing information for increasing a price of a currency value stored in a currency terminal by a predetermined price" of the Invention.

- It can be said that "electronic money management server" and "remote issuing server" of Cited Invention includes means for transmitting value writing execution information in response to a value issuing request from the mobile phone. The means correspond to "price changing information transmitting means for transmitting price changing information for increasing a price of a currency value stored in a currency terminal by a predetermined price to the currency terminal in response to a request of increasing a price of the currency value stored in the currency terminal" of the Invention.

- "Content data indicating a detail of the coupon" of Cited Invention corresponds to "discount detail" of the Invention.

"A store ID and an expiration ID" of Cited Invention are identifying information for uniquely identifying a content data item and corresponds to "discount detail identifying information" of the Invention.

- "Storage unit 220" of the electronic money management server 200 in Cited Invention stores the content data indicating a detail of a coupon and a store ID and an expiration ID that uniquely identify a content data item; therefore, "storage unit 220" of Cited Invention corresponds to "a storage device that stores plural discount details in association with respective plural discount details identifying information items" of the Invention.

- It can be said that, since "POS terminal device 600b placed in a store 30b" of Cited Invention "in settlement processing, reads the store ID and the expiration ID stored in the mobile phone 100, and if a coupon for executing price cutting or discounting for a product read by a bar code/magnetic card reader of the POS terminal device 600b is stored, executes price cutting or discounting of a value used for transaction", "POS terminal device 600b placed in a store 30b" is a settlement terminal placed in the retail store, the settlement terminal determining whether or not a discount detail can be applied based on the inputted discount details identifying information.

However, it is uncertain how the discount detail has been obtained, and the store 30b is not the retail store where the deposit terminal is placed.

Accordingly, "POS terminal device 600b" of Cited Invention and "a settlement terminal placed in the retail store, the settlement terminal determining whether or not discount details obtained from the storage device can be applied based on the inputted discount details identifying information" of the Invention are common in the point of "a settlement terminal placed in the retail store, the settlement terminal determining whether or not a discount detail can be applied based on the inputted discount details identifying information".

Moreover, since "the store ID and the expiration ID" of Cited Invention are read by the POS terminal device and used for price cutting for a product or the like, the format of "the store ID and the expiration ID" corresponds to "a form which is able to be inputted to a settlement terminal" of the Invention.

- Means for, "upon receiving the value issuing request information, extracting the store ID, the expiration ID and the content data from the content identifying information DB 272 and transmitting thereof to the mobile phone 100" by the electronic money management server 200 of Cited Invention and "outputting means, in response to the request of increasing the price, for outputting any one of plural discount details identifying information items obtained from a storage device that stores plural discount details in association with the respective plural discount details identifying information items in a form which is able to be inputted to a settlement terminal placed in the retail store, the settlement terminal determining whether or not discount details obtained from the storage device can be applied based on the inputted discount details identifying information" of the Invention are common in the point of

"outputting means, in response to the request of increasing the price, for outputting any one of plural discount details identifying information items obtained from a storage device that stores plural discount details in association with the respective plural discount details identifying information items in a form which is able to be inputted to a settlement terminal placed in the retail store, the settlement terminal determining whether or not discount details can be applied based on the inputted discount details identifying information".

Accordingly, the Invention and Cited Invention are in correspondence in the following point.

<Corresponding feature>

"A deposit system comprising:

price changing information transmitting means for transmitting price changing information for increasing a price of a currency value stored in a currency terminal by a predetermined price to the currency terminal in response to a request of increasing a price of the currency value stored in the currency terminal; and

outputting means, in response to the request of increasing the price, for outputting any one of plural discount details identifying information items obtained from a storage device that stores plural discount details in association with the respective plural discount details identifying information items in a form which is able to be inputted to a settlement terminal placed in the retail store, the settlement terminal determining whether or not discount details can be applied based on the inputted discount details identifying information.

Then, the Invention and Cited Invention are different in the following points.

<The different feature 1>

A point that the deposit system is "a deposit terminal placed in a retail store" in the Invention, whereas, the deposit system is an electronic money management server and a remote issuing server in Cited Invention.

<The different feature 2>

A point that the settlement terminal of the Invention is placed in the same retail store where the deposit terminal is placed, whereas, though the POS terminal device of Cited Invention is placed in a retail store, the retail store is not the same retail store where the deposit terminal is placed.

<The different feature 3>

A point that, when the settlement terminal determines whether or not the discount detail can be applied, the discount detail is obtained from the storage device in the Invention, whereas, it is uncertain from where the discount detail is obtained in Cited Invention.

No. 6 Judgment

Regarding <the different feature 1> and <the different feature 2>

Cited Invention is a system that distributes, with charging of a value to a mobile phone, information for identifying a content related to a coupon or the like to the mobile phone. The charging is executed by communicating with the electronic money management server or the remote issuing server via the mobile phone Internet network 910 by the mobile phone, and this allows Cited Invention to execute charging without using conventional deposit terminals.

On the other hand, as is apparent from the description "[0509] ... The user uses charged electronic money to purchase a recording medium for games or to additionally deposit into the recording medium for games. However, according to such a technique, it is necessary to charge the electronic money by connecting to a prescribed deposit machine in the game center" in Cited Invention, and the description "[0004] In a store or the like where electronic settlement using such a non-contact IC card is executed, as shown in FIGS. 9A and 9B, it is necessary to place a dedicated non-contact card reader/writer 100 for reading/writing data from/to the non-contact IC card in connection with a product sales data processing device 101,

and further, it is necessary to place a card deposit device 102 for depositing electronic money to the non-contact IC card" in Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2004-005034, it is also well known to place the settlement terminal and the deposit terminal for electronic money in the same retail store, and to execute charging by use of the deposit terminal.

Even in a case in which charging is executed by use of such a deposit terminal, there is no difference in transmitting value writing execution information (price changing information) to a mobile phone or the like; therefore, on that occasion, by also transmitting the store ID and the expiration ID (discount detail identifying information) as in Cited Invention, coupons can be also distributed with charging. This situation can be commonly conceived.

Consequently, it is easily conceived that in Cited Invention, by placing a deposit terminal in the same store where a POS terminal device is placed, causing the deposit terminal to transmit value writing execution information (price changing information) to a mobile phone in response to a value issuing request (request of increasing a price of a currency value) and to output discount detail identifying information constituted by a store ID and an expiration ID, and extracting the deposit terminal from the configuration of the electronic money system, Cited Invention is implemented as "a deposit terminal placed in a retail store".

Regarding <the different feature 3>

The POS terminal device of Cited Invention executes price cutting or discounting by use of the store ID and expiration ID, and product information read by the bar code/magnetic card reader; however, to that end, it is apparent that identification of a discount detail of a coupon based on the store ID and the expiration ID read from the mobile phone is necessary.

Since these information items are stored in the content identifying information DB in the storage unit 220, it is possible to obtain the discount detail based on the store ID and the expiration ID from the storage unit as appropriate.

Consequently, in Cited Invention, it is easily conceived that the POS terminal device, namely, the settlement terminal obtains the discount detail from the storage device.

Then, an operation/working-effect of the Invention falls within a scope that can be predicted by a person skilled in the art based on Cited Invention and the well-known arts.

Accordingly, the Invention could be provided easily by a person skilled in the art according to Cited Invention and the well-known arts, thus, the Invention cannot obtain a patent in accordance with the provisions of Article 29 (2) of the Patent Act.

No. 7 Conclusion

As described above, since the Invention could be provided easily by a person skilled in the art according to Cited Invention and the well-known arts, thus, the Invention cannot obtain a patent in accordance with the provisions of Article 29 (2) of the Patent Act, there is no need to examine the other claims, and this application should be rejected.

Therefore, the appeal decision shall be made as described in the conclusion.

January 20, 2014

Chief administrative judge: TESHIMA, Seiji

Administrative judge: SUDA, Katsumi

Administrative judge: NISHIYAMA, Noboru