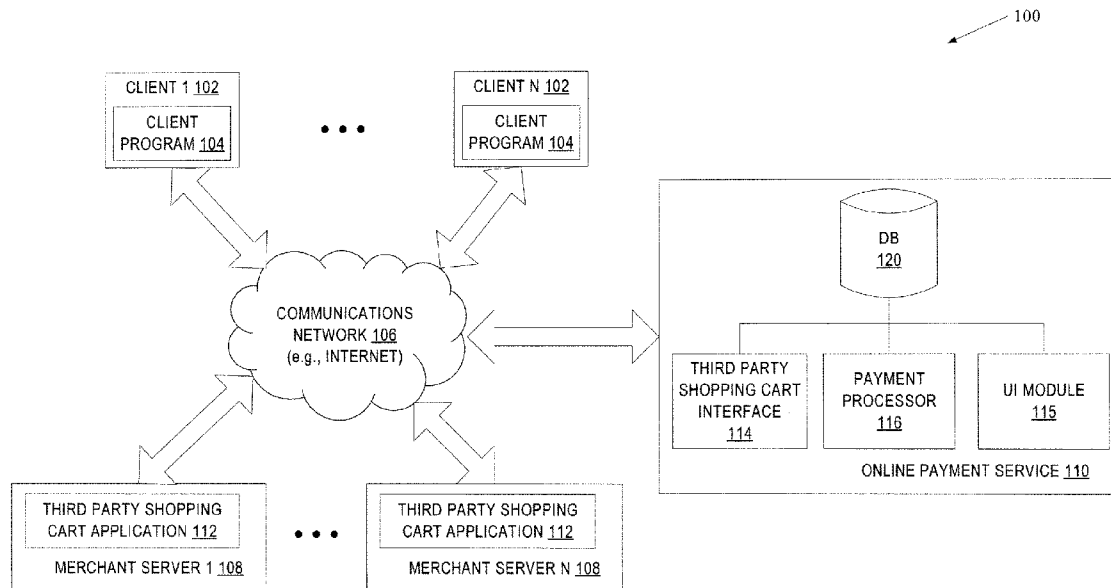




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(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication**
Woo(10) **Pub. No.: US 2012/0221427 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Aug. 30, 2012**(54) **INTEGRATING THIRD PARTY SHOPPING
CART APPLICATIONS WITH AN ONLINE
PAYMENT SERVICE**(75) Inventor: **Katherine Woo**, San Francisco, CA
(US)(73) Assignee: **eBay Inc.**, San Jose, CA (US)(21) Appl. No.: **13/470,032**(22) Filed: **May 11, 2012****Related U.S. Application Data**(63) Continuation of application No. 10/791,156, filed on
Mar. 1, 2004.(60) Provisional application No. 60/520,173, filed on Nov.
14, 2003.**Publication Classification**(51) **Int. Cl.**
G06Q 30/08 (2012.01)(52) **U.S. Cl.** **705/26.3**(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method may include receiving at an online payment service hosted on a first system, detailed information from an auction management (AM) system, the AM system hosted on a second system remote from the first system. The information may concern an item purchased by a user from a network-based commerce facility and placed in a virtual shopping cart on the AM system. The detailed information may be sent by the AM system in response to receiving an intent to proceed with payment for the item. A user interface may be communicated to the user that facilitates processing of the payment for the item. The processing may include marking the payment as being an AM payment. The interface may allow the user to view the detailed information and the detailed information describing contents of the virtual shopping cart on the AM system.



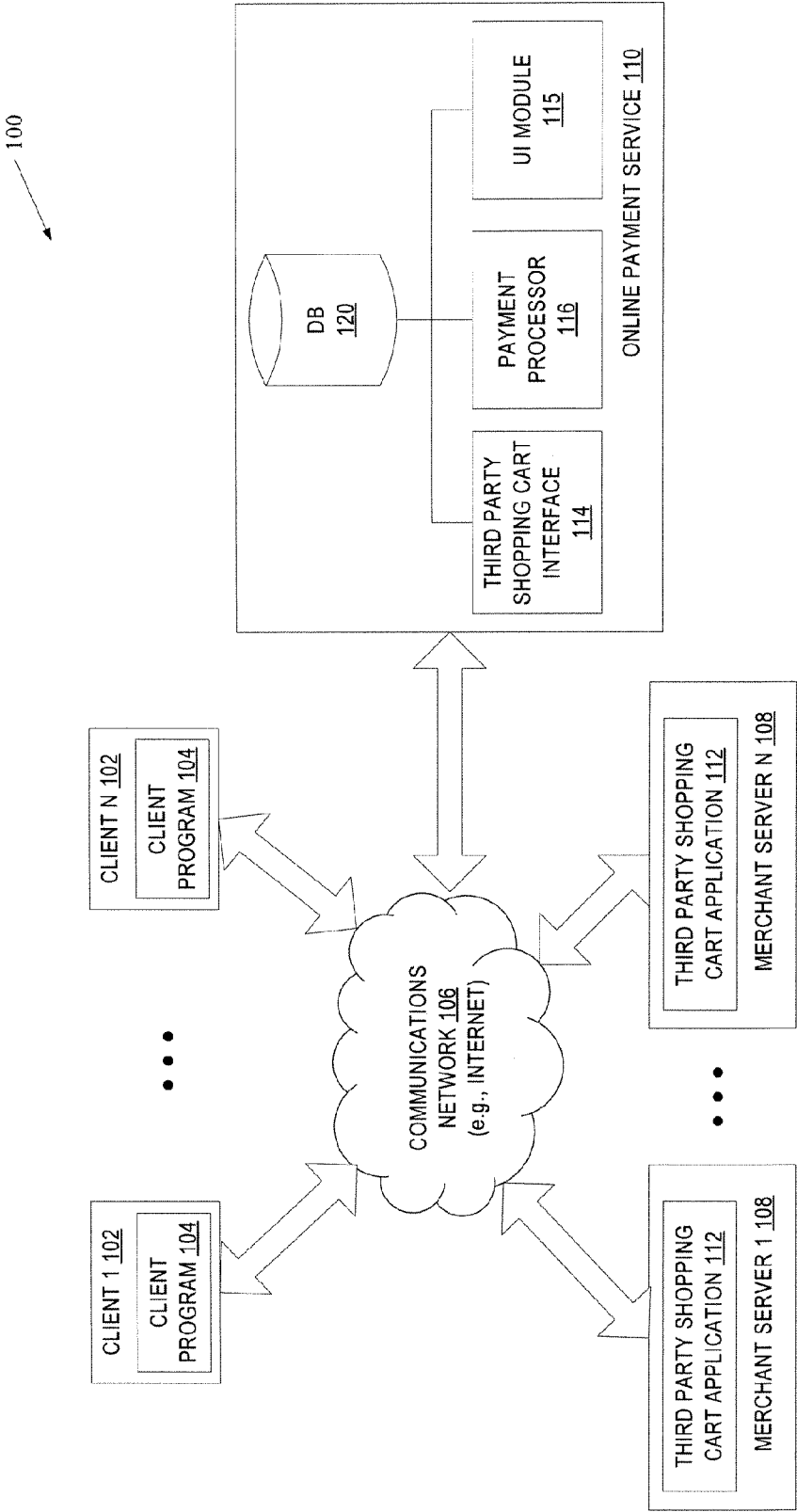


FIG. 1

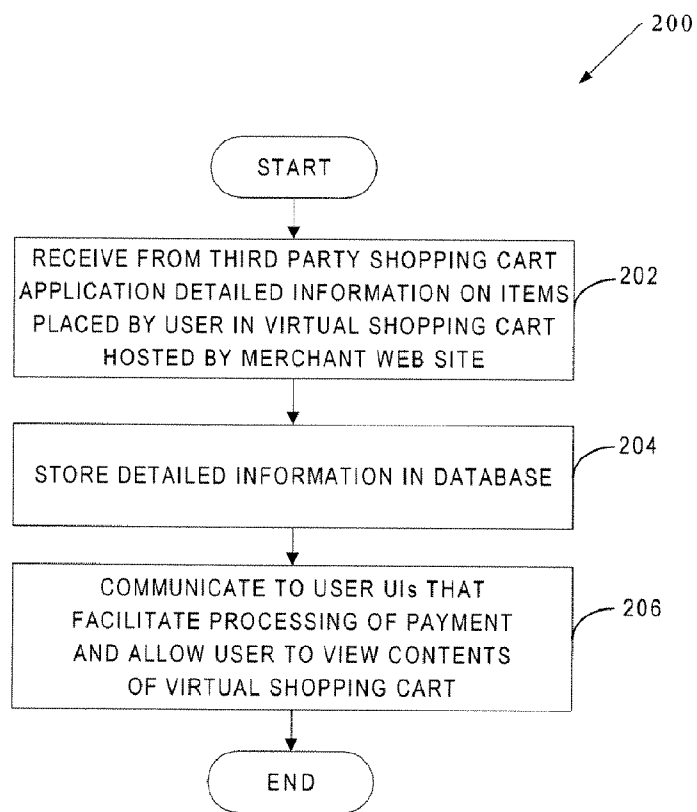


FIG. 2

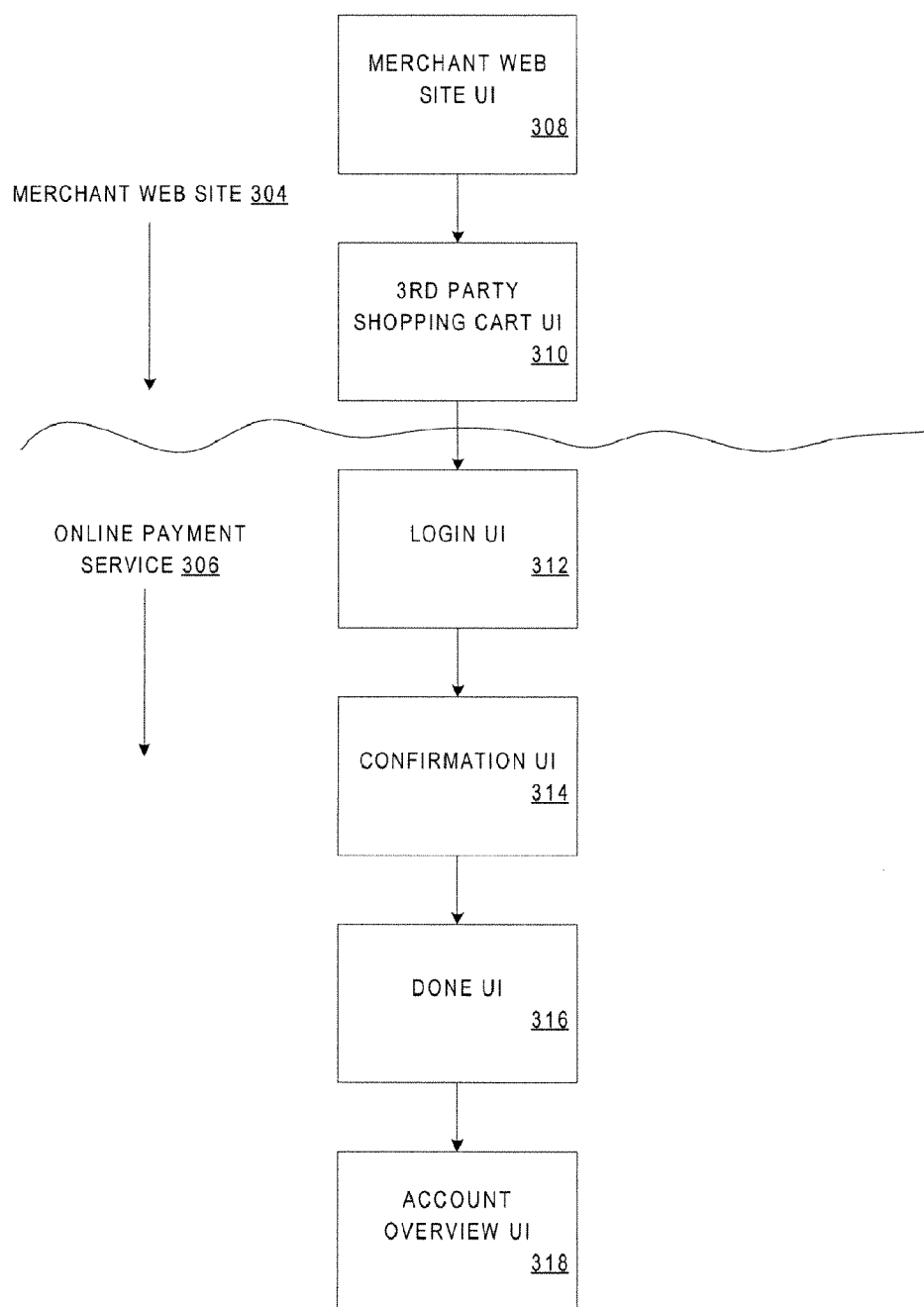


FIG. 3

Payment Details - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address: https://www.stage2...com/cgi-bin/webscr?_track=...cart/p/xd/pay/buy-index-blank_reg: Go Links

Nature's Keeper 3

Payment Details

is the authorized payment processor for **Nature's Keeper 3**. This credit card transaction will appear on your bill as "NATURESKEEP".

Pay To: Nature's Keeper 3
Payment For: Shopping Cart [View Contents](#)
Currency: Euros
Amount: EUR 9.00

Already have an account? [Login Now](#)

Enter Your Credit Card Information

This payment will be processed. Your information will be kept secure and private.

Location: Outside the U.S.?

First Name:
Last Name:
Card Type: Refresh
Credit Card Number:
Expiration Date: 01 2003

Billing Address (where you receive your credit card bills)

Street:
City:
State:
Zip: U.S.A. (5 or 9 digits)
Telephone: Kept Private

We will email you a receipt. You can use this email address and password to log in to view more details about your payment.

Telephone: Kept Private

We will email you a receipt. You can use this email address and password to log in and view more details about your payment.

Email Address:

Your password should be 8 characters minimum and is case sensitive. [Write it down](#)

Create Password
Confirm Password

Type the characters in the yellow box into the empty box. [Help?](#) **Security Test**
This help: prevent automated registrations.

For your protection, we verify credit card information.

By clicking "Continue", I acknowledge that I have read and agree to [User Agreement](#).

[Continue](#)

I protect your privacy and security.
For more information, see our [Privacy Policy](#) and [User Agreement](#).

Done Internet

FIG. 4

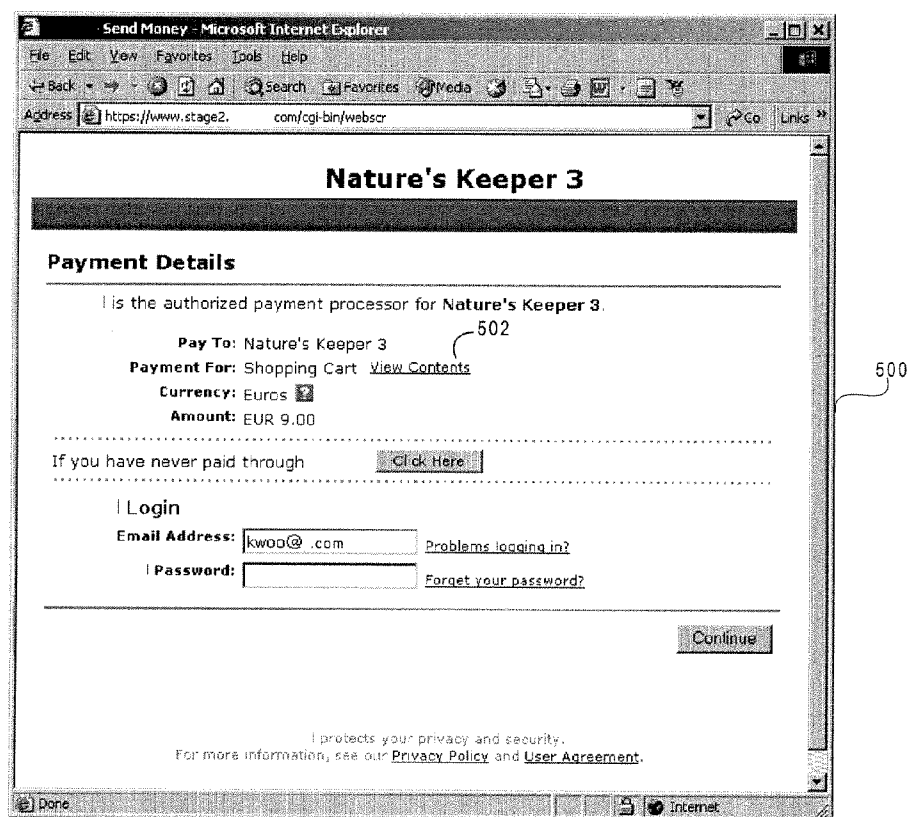


FIG. 5

Internet Explorer - I Website Payments - Confirm Your Payment

Address: https://www.stage2.com/cgi-bin/webcor?__track=xclick-flow:p/xcl/pay/buy-ncex...

Nature's Keeper 3

You're Almost Done!

Check these details and click the "Pay" button to complete your payment.

Pay To: Nature's Keeper 3
User Status: Verified Business Member (0)
Payment For: Shopping Cart
Currency: Euros ☒
Amount: EUR 9.00

☐ Click to buy Money Back Guarantee for EUR 0.75. Ensure satisfaction or your money back (physical goods only). [Learn more](#)

Shopping Cart Contents 602

Qty	Item	Options	Price
1	item4 Item #4		EUR 4.00
1	item2 Item #2		EUR 2.00
1	item3 Item #3		EUR 3.00
Amount			EUR 9.00

Source of Funds
U.S. Dollar Balance: \$9.56
[More Funding Options](#)
Exchange Rate as of Aug 5, 2003:
1 U.S. Dollar = 0.941900 Euros

Shipping Information
Ship to: 45862 Washington Street, Seattle, WA 98101, USA (Confirmed)
[Add Address](#)

U.S. Dollar Balance: \$9.56
[More Funding Options](#)
Exchange Rate as of Aug 5, 2003:
1 U.S. Dollar = 0.941900 Euros

Shipping Information
Ship to: 45862 Washington Street, Seattle, WA 98101, USA (Confirmed)
[Add Address](#)
☐ No shipping address required

Optional Instructions
Note: Information entered in this box may be sent to the recipient in an unencrypted email.

Pay **Cancel**

FIG. 6

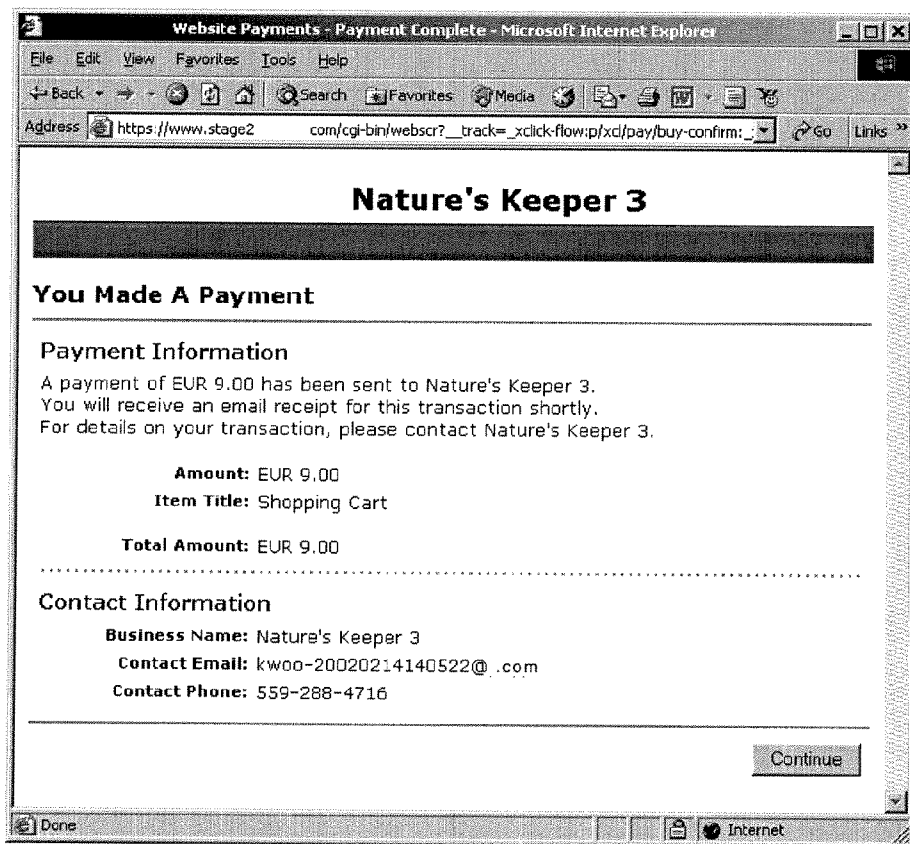


FIG. 7

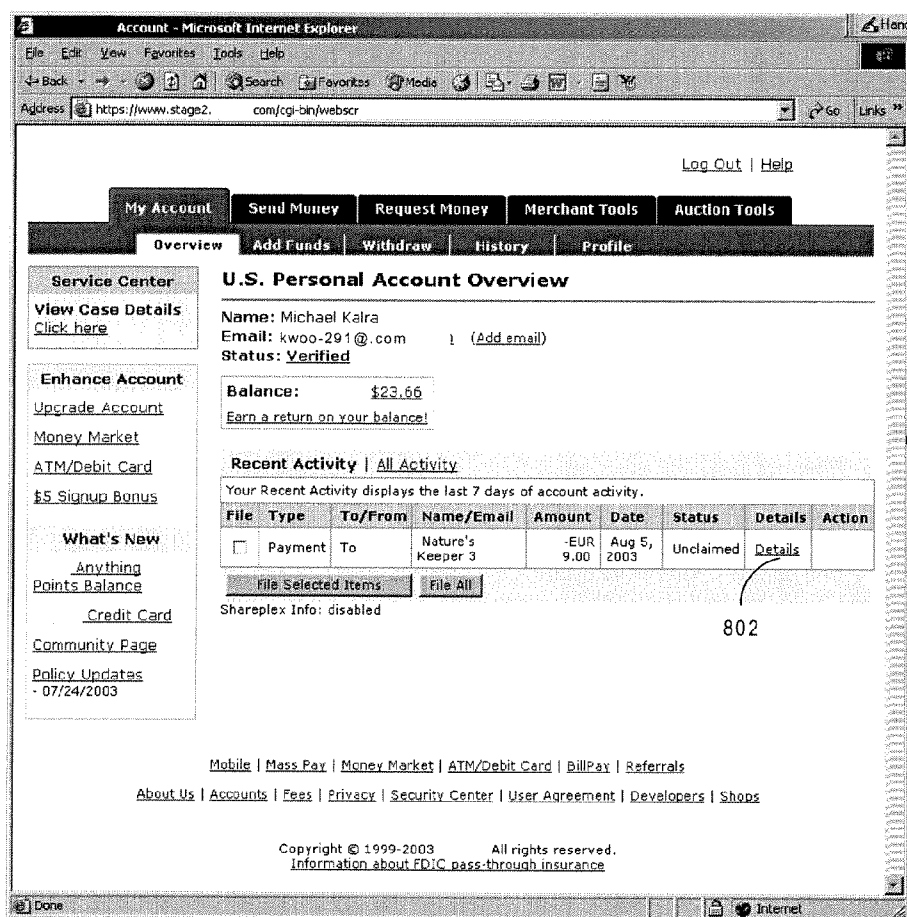


FIG. 8

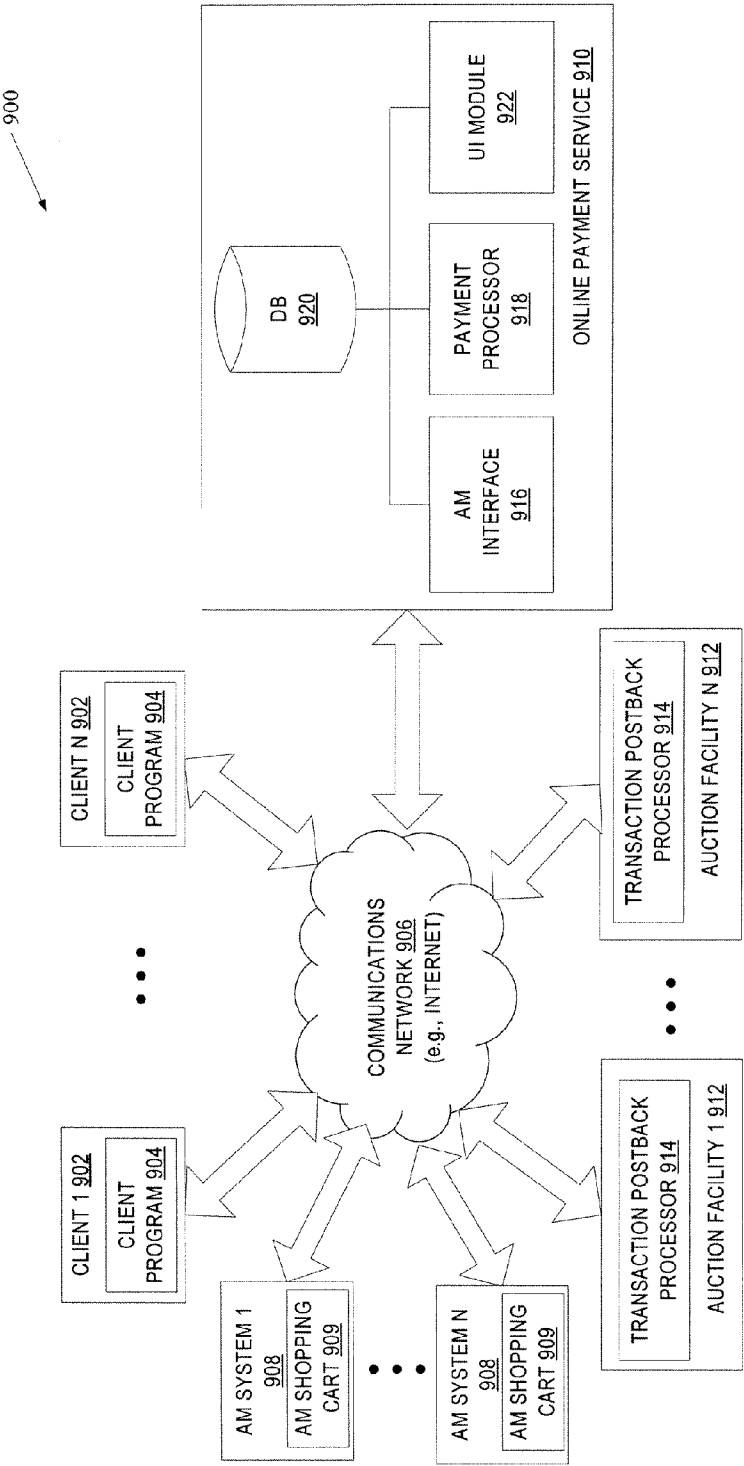


FIG. 9

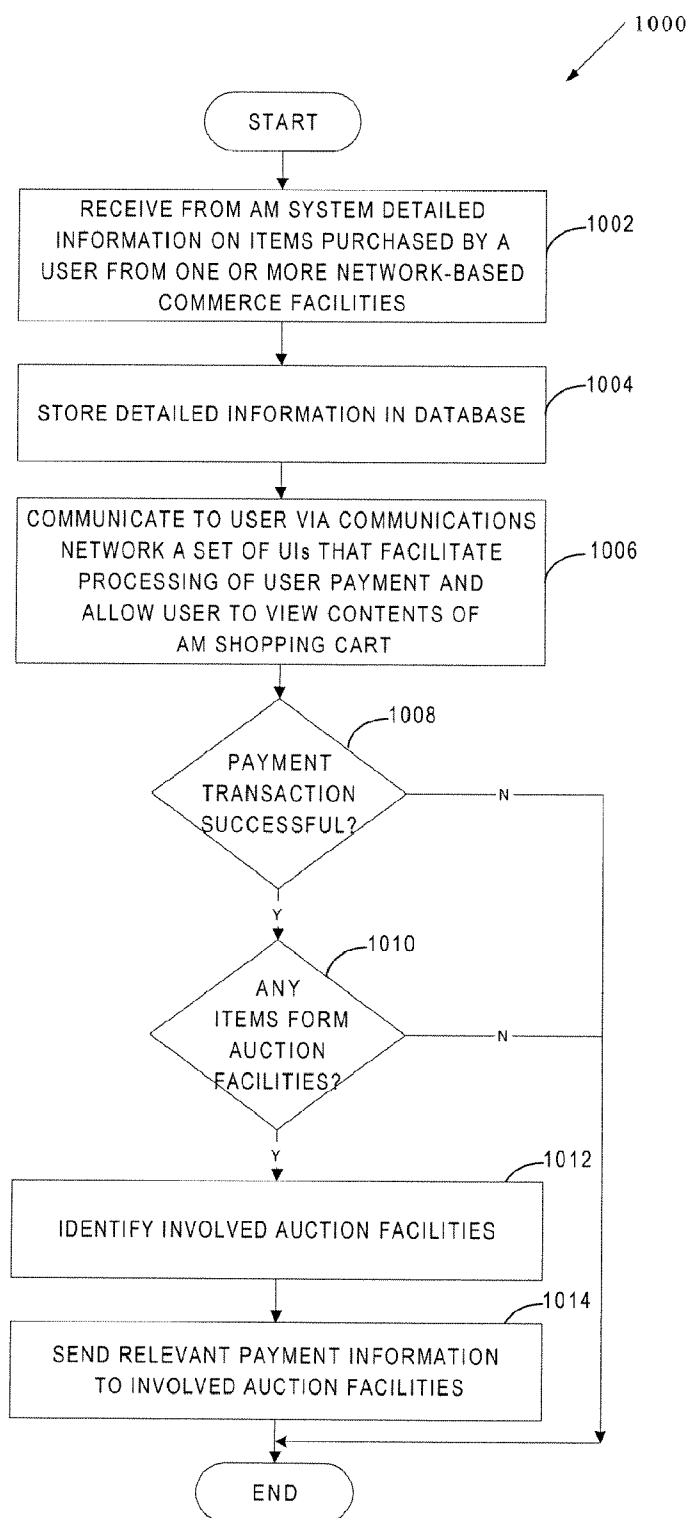


FIG. 10

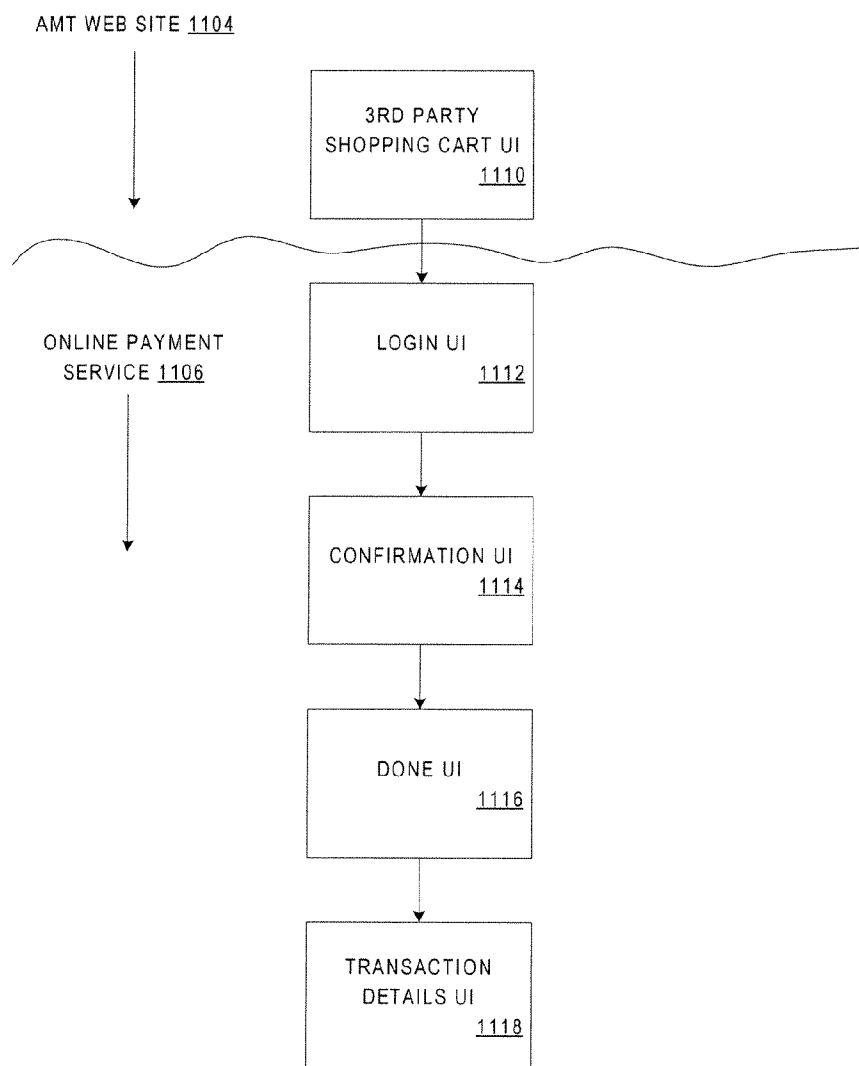


FIG. 11

dm-beamdaddy

Payment Details Secure Transaction

is the secure payment processor for your seller, **dm-beamdaddy**. To continue, please enter the required information below.

Pay To: dm-beamdaddy
Payment For: Shopping Cart [View Contents](#)
Currency: U.S. Dollars ☒
Amount: \$164.00 USD
Shipping & Handling: \$25.25 USD

.....

If you have never paid through [Click Here](#)

.....

Login

Email Address: [Problems logging in?](#)
PayPal Password: [Forget your password?](#)

[Continue](#)

protects your privacy and security
For more information, see our [Privacy Policy](#) and [User Agreement](#).

FIG. 12

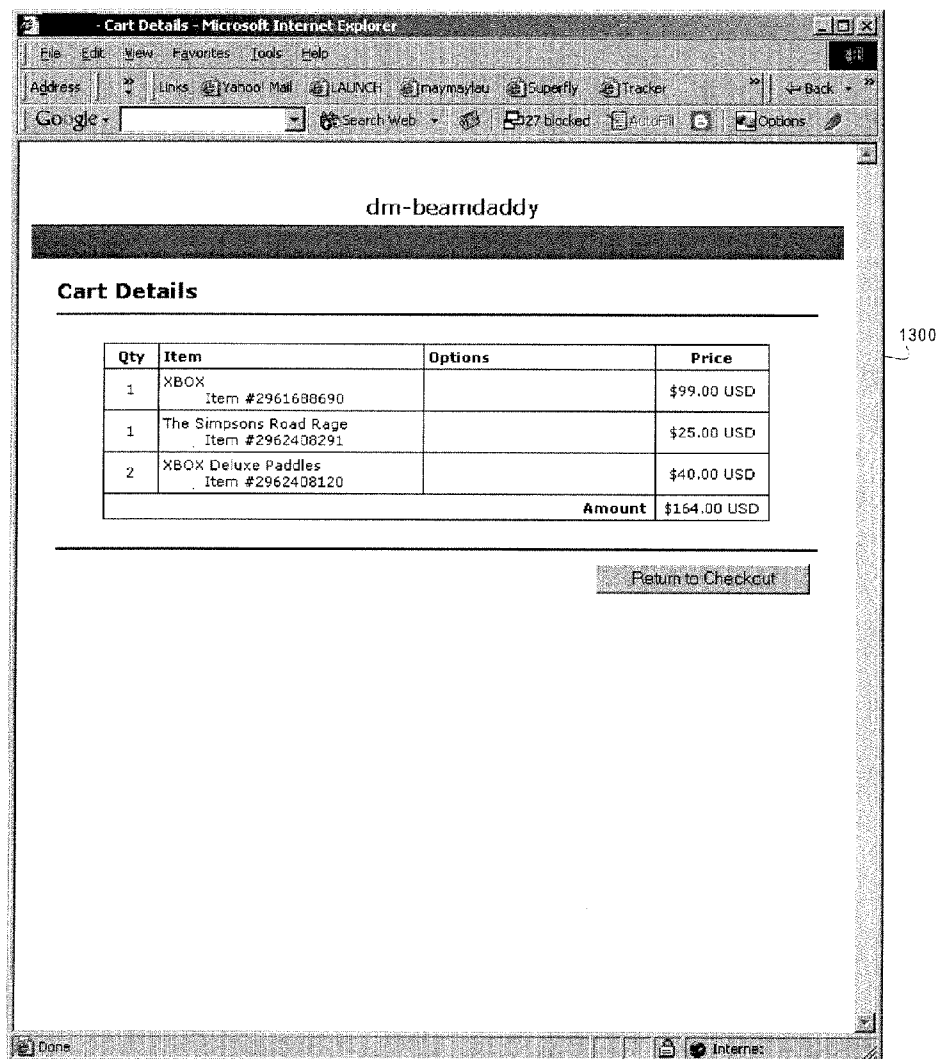


FIG. 13

dm-beamdaddy

Confirm Your Payment Secure Transaction

Review the payment details below and click **Pay** to complete your secure payment.

Pay To: dm-beamdaddy
User Status: Verified Premier Member (1)
Payment For: Shopping Cart
Currency: U.S. Dollars
Amount: \$164.00 USD
Shipping & Handling: \$25.25 USD
Total Amount: \$189.25 USD

Shopping Cart Contents

Qty	Item	Options	Price
1	XBOX Item #2961683690		\$99.00 USD
1	The Simpsons Road Rage Item #2962408291		\$25.00 USD
2	XBOX Deluxe Paddles Item #2962408120		\$40.00 USD
Amount			\$164.00 USD

Source of Funds
Balance: \$189.25 USD

Redemption Code (Optional)
To use your **Gift Certificate or Anything Points** for this purchase, click the 'Add / Select' button to add or select a redemption code. Add / Select

Shipping Information
☒ Ship to 8055032 Industrial Drive, The Woodlands, TX 77381, United States (Confirmed)
[Add Address](#)
☐ No shipping address required

FIG. 14

Shopping Cart Contents

1504	Qty	Item	Details	Unit Price	Price
1506	1	red tiles	2x2, vinyl	\$30.00	\$30.00
1508	2	auction item- Rare Elvis T-Shirt with special grip	Item #12254788856	\$10.00	\$20.00
1510	2	store items- rare books		\$10.00	\$20.00
	2	auction item- tennis racket	Yahoo Item #66552244	\$25.00	\$50.00
			Amount		\$240.00

FIG. 15

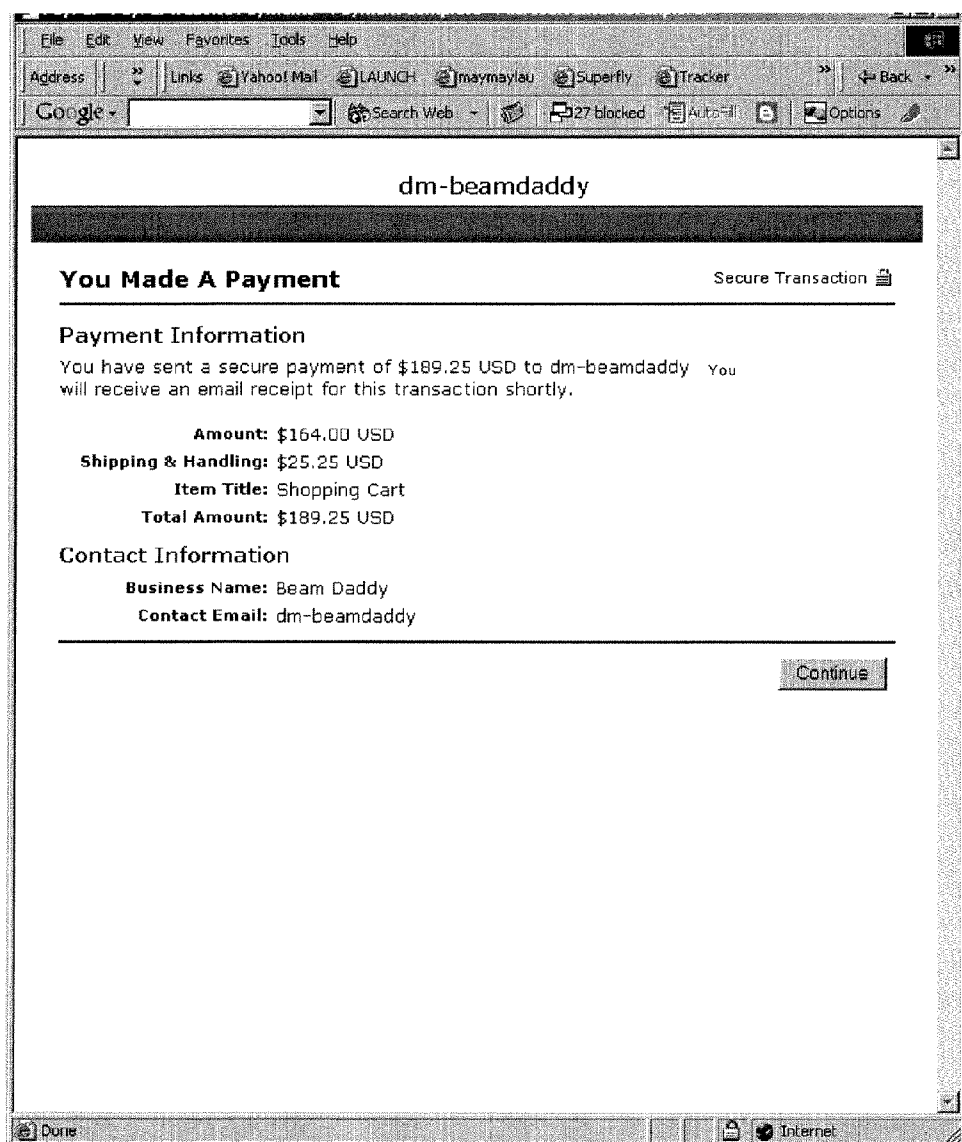


FIG. 16

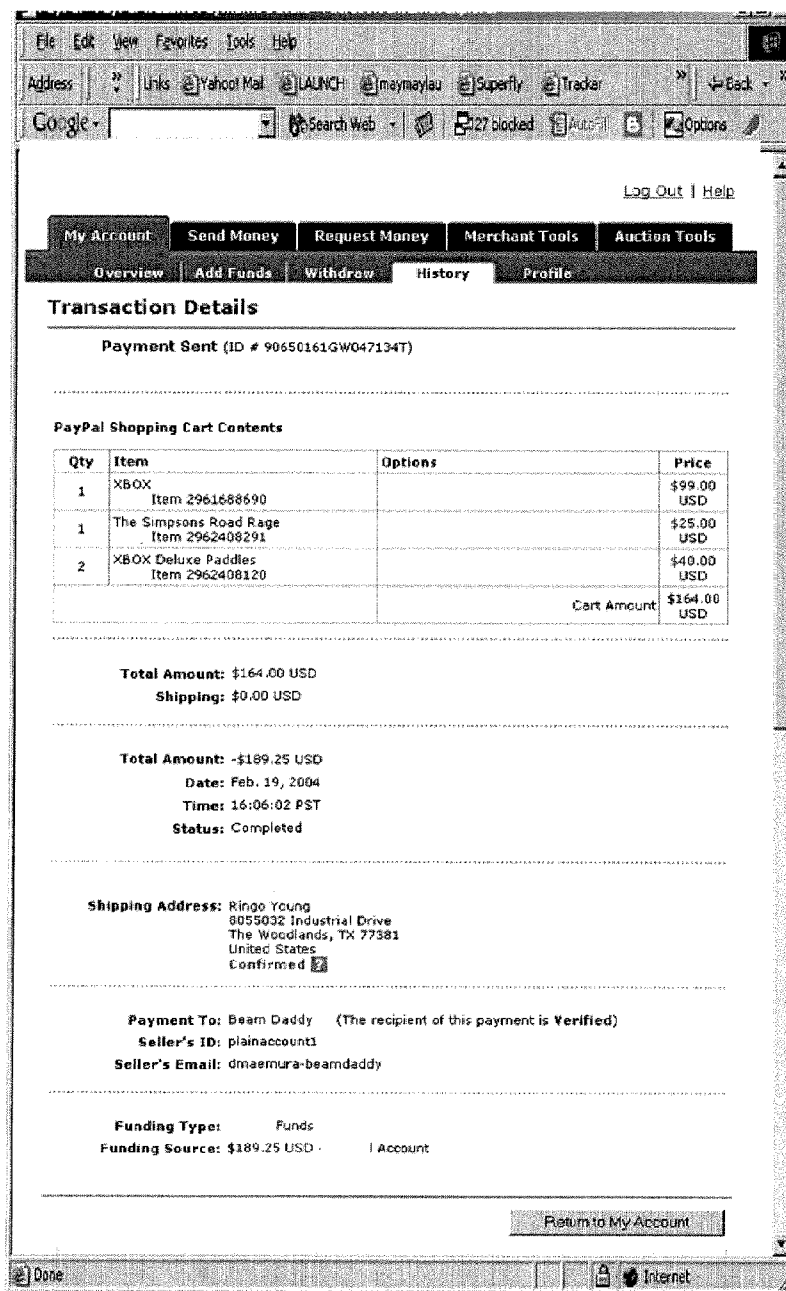


FIG. 17

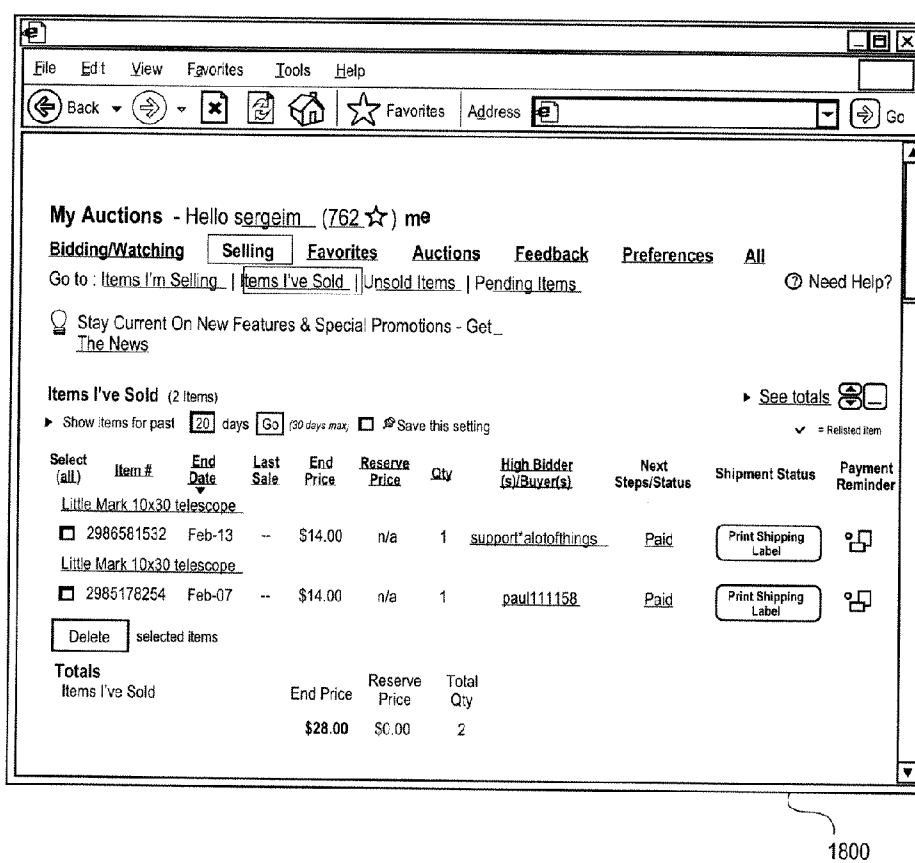


FIG. 18

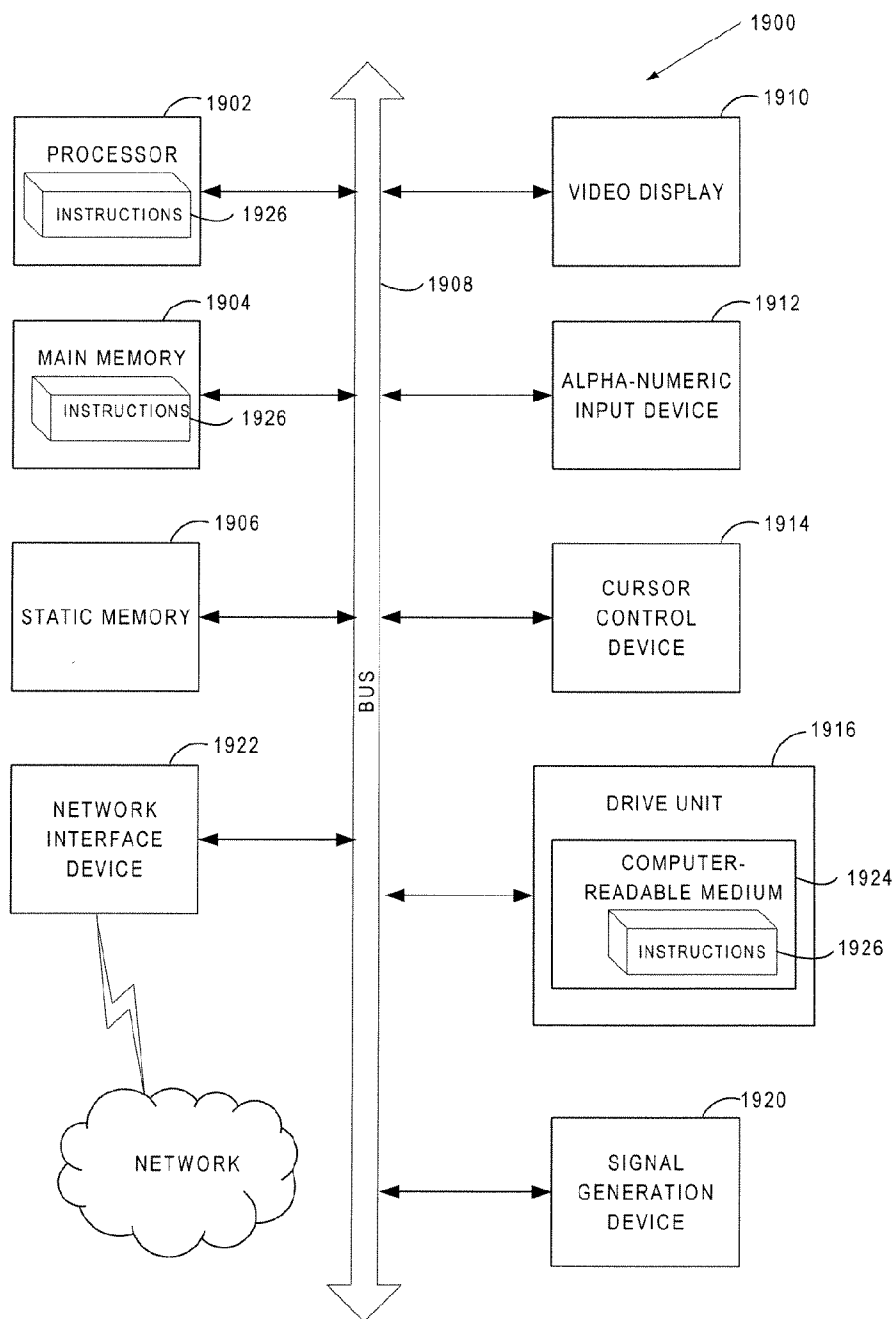


FIG. 19

INTEGRATING THIRD PARTY SHOPPING CART APPLICATIONS WITH AN ONLINE PAYMENT SERVICE

RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 10/791,156, filed Mar. 1, 2004, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/520,173, filed on Nov. 14, 2003, which applications are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates generally to the field of e-commerce and, more specifically, to integrating third party shopping cart applications with an online payment service.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] The Internet has become the world's market place. Merchants are increasingly selling products and services via various online commerce facilities such as merchant web sites, online auctions, etc. On merchant web sites, products are typically sold using the "shopping cart" model that allows a customer to select an item from an electronic catalog and then metaphorically adds the selected item to a shopping cart. When the customer is done selecting items, the customer requests that the items in the shopping cart be "checked out". At this point, a payment transaction is initiated, and the purchaser is asked to provide billing information such as a credit card number and other confidential information. Typically, merchants use customized shopping cart applications for providing a shopping cart flow and an independent online payment service (e.g., PayPal®) for handling payment transactions.

[0004] A large number of merchants offer their products via various online marketplaces, which often support a number of price-setting mechanisms (e.g., auctions). Different auction management tools (AMTs) have been developed to assist sellers in managing their items posted on various online auctions. AMTs usually send notifications to winning bidders. A winning bidder can then access the checkout flow using a link in the winning bidder notification and proceed with the payment. Typically, AMTs allow their users to make payments via an independent online payment service (e.g., PayPal®) that is trusted by the users for its secure, fast and easy-to-use operation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] According to one aspect of the present invention, detailed information concerning items placed by a user in a virtual shopping cart hosted by a merchant web site is received from a third party shopping cart application. The detailed information is sent by the third party shopping cart application in response to a user request to proceed with a payment for the items. Once the detailed information is received, the user is presented with one or more user interfaces facilitating processing of the payment. The user interfaces allow the user to view the content of the virtual shopping cart.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0006] The present invention is illustrated by way of example and not limitation in the figures of the accompanying drawings, in which like references indicate similar elements and in which:

[0007] FIG. 1 is a block diagram of one embodiment of a system for processing online payment transactions initiated via merchant web sites.

[0008] FIG. 2 is a flow diagram of one embodiment of a method for processing a payment transaction initiated by a third party shopping cart application.

[0009] FIG. 3 illustrates an exemplary flow of UIs presented to a user of an online payment service, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

[0010] FIGS. 4-8 illustrate exemplary user interfaces (UIs) presented to a user by an online payment service, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

[0011] FIG. 9 is a block diagram of one embodiment of a system for processing online payment transactions initiated via auction management tools (AMTs).

[0012] FIG. 10 is a flow diagram of one embodiment of a method for processing a payment transaction initiated by the AMT.

[0013] FIG. 11 illustrates an exemplary flow of UIs presented to a user of an online payment service, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

[0014] FIGS. 12-17 illustrate exemplary UIs presented to a user by an online payment service, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

[0015] FIG. 18 illustrates an exemplary My Auctions UI presented to a user by an auction facility, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

[0016] FIG. 19 is a diagrammatic representation of an exemplary computer system.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0017] A method and system for integrating third party shopping cart applications with an online payment service are described. In the following description, for purposes of explanation, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the present invention. It will be evident, however, to one skilled in the art that the present invention may be practiced without these specific details.

Third Party Shopping Carts

[0018] FIG. 1 is a block diagram of one embodiment of a system **100** for processing online payment transactions initiated via merchant web sites. The system **100** includes multiple client computers (clients **1** through **N**) **102** coupled to multiple merchant servers (servers **1** through **N**) **112** and an online payment service **110** via a communications network **106**, including a wide area network such as the Internet. Other examples of the communications network **106** may include a local area network (LAN), a wireless network (e.g., a cellular network), or the Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) network.

[0019] The client **102** includes a client program **104**, such as a browser (e.g., the Internet Explorer distributed by Microsoft Corp. of Redmond, Wash.) that executes on the client **102** and accesses the merchant server **108** and the online payment service **110**.

[0020] The merchant server **108** supports a merchant web site that can be a retailer or wholesaler web site visited by various buyers including the users of the clients **102**. The merchant web site uses a third party shopping cart application **112** that places items, selected by a buyer via the merchant web site, in a virtual shopping cart. A third shopping cart

application **112** is an application external to the online payment service **110** that is developed by an external developer/company to allow a merchant or another third party to host a shopping cart on its web site. The shopping cart hosted by a merchant or any other third party is referred to herein as a third party shopping cart.

[0021] The merchant servers **108** are coupled to the online payment service **110** via the communications network **106**. The online payment service **110** facilitates processing of online payment transactions between buyers of the merchant web sites **108** and the merchants. In one embodiment, the online payment service **110** includes interfaces to external processors to process payment transactions of corresponding types. In another embodiment, the online payment service **110** includes an internal payment processing system.

[0022] In one embodiment, the online payment service **110** is invoked by the third party shopping cart application **112** each time a buyer submits a request to proceed with the payment for items placed in a shopping cart hosted by a merchant web site. The buyer request may be submitted when the buyer clicks the checkout button on the merchant web site or performs some other predefined operation. Once the online payment service **110** is invoked, it presents to the buyer a set of user interfaces (UIs) that facilitate the processing of the payment while allowing the buyer to view the contents of the shopping cart for which the payment is being made.

[0023] In one embodiment, the online payment service **110** includes a third party shopping cart interface **114**, a payment processor **116**, a UI module **115**, and a database **120**. The third party shopping cart interface **114** is responsible for receiving, from the third party shopping cart application **112**, detailed information about the items placed by the buyer in the shopping cart hosted by the merchant web site and storing the detailed information in the database **120**. The detailed information may include, for each item in the shopping cart, the item name, the item number, the item price, the item quantity, and various other data.

[0024] The payment processor **116** is responsible for collecting the buyer's personal information via UIs generated by the UI module **115**, facilitating the processing of the buyer's payment for the items in the shopping cart, and informing the buyer that the payment has been sent to the merchant. The UIs presented to the buyer allow the buyer to view the contents of the shopping cart while the buyer's payment is being processed. Once the payment transaction is completed, it is reflected in the transaction history maintained by the online payment service **110** for each of the buyer and the merchant. When the buyer or the seller accesses his or her transaction history, this payment transaction appears as a standard payment transaction initiated via the online payment service **100**.

[0025] Thus, embodiments of the present invention enable complete integration of the third party shopping cart applications **112** with the online payment service **110**. As a result, merchants can seamlessly combine on their web sites customized shopping car applications, which provide additional means for promoting merchants' products, with an independent online payment service that is widely used and trusted by many users.

[0026] FIG. 2 is a flow diagram of one embodiment of a method **200** for processing a payment transaction initiated by the third party shopping cart application **112**. The method **200** may be performed by processing logic, which may comprise hardware, software, or a combination of both. Processing logic resides in the online payment service **110**.

[0027] Referring to FIG. 2, the method **200** begins with the third party shopping cart interface **114** receiving from the third party shopping cart application **112** detailed information on items placed by a user in a virtual shopping cart hosted by the merchant web site (processing block **202**). The third party shopping cart application **112** sends the detailed information in response to a user request to proceed with the payment for the items in the virtual shopping cart. The user request may be submitted when the user clicks the checkout button on the merchant web site or performs some other predefined operation.

[0028] At processing block **204**, the third party shopping cart interface **114** stores the detailed information in the database **120**. The detailed information may include, for each item, the item name, the item number, the item price, the item quantity, etc.

[0029] At processing block **206**, the payment processor **116** communicates to the user via the communications network **106** a set of UIs that facilitate processing of the user payment and allow the user to view the contents of the virtual shopping cart.

[0030] In one embodiment, all payment transactions initiated via merchant web sites are marked using a designated flag. The number of times the flag is passed through, and the dollar volume, are stored to monitor the usage of the integrated third party shopping carts. In one embodiment, a system administrator may request to view all payment transactions initiated via merchant web sites. Upon receiving a request from an administrator, the online payment service **110** presents to the administrator an administrator transaction details UI that lists all payment transactions initiated via merchant web sites as third party shopping cart payments and includes a table with third party shopping cart contents. The administrator can also request a report on the number and dollar volume of transactions that involve third party shopping carts.

[0031] FIG. 3 illustrates an exemplary flow of UIs presented to a user of a merchant web site, according to one embodiment of the present invention. Initially, a merchant web site **304** communicates to a user a merchant web site UI **308** that allows the user to view the items offered by the merchant. The user can order any of these items by clicking an associated "add to cart" button. Once the user is done with selecting the items, a third party shopping cart application running on the merchant web site **304** presents to the user a third party shopping cart UI **310** that display the contents of the shopping cart and allows the user to request a checkout of the selected items. When the user requests the checkout (e.g., by clicking the checkout button), a transition to the online payment service **306** is made.

[0032] During the transition, the online payment service **306** receives and stores information identifying the content of the virtual shopping cart. This information may include, for example, item names, item numbers, item prices, quantities, option data (option names and values) for each item, etc. In one embodiment, this information may result from user purchases via a single merchant web site. Alternatively, this information may result from user purchases via multiple merchant web sites associated with a single receiving account (e.g., a ticket company allowing a user to buy tickets via web sites of different ticket holders).

[0033] Upon the transition, the online payment service **306** enables the user to review the shopping cart contents on various screens generated by the online payment service **306**.

In particular, once the user requests the checkout, the online payment service **306** presents a login UI **312** that asks the user to sign-in (if the user is new to the online payment service **306**) or login (if the user is an existing user of the online payment service **306**), and allows the user to view the content of the shopping cart (e.g., by displaying the content of the shopping cart or including a link to a screen displaying the content of the shopping cart). Once the user provides the requested information, the online payment service **306** presents to the user a confirmation UI **314** that displays the details of the payment transaction and asks the user to confirm the payment. The confirmation UI **314** also allows the user to view the content of the shopping cart (e.g., by displaying the content of the shopping cart or including a link to a screen displaying the content of the shopping cart). If the user confirms the payment, the online payment service **306** presents to the user a done UI **316** informing the user that the payment has been sent to the merchant. After that, the user may either be returned to the merchant's website **304** or be presented with an account overview UI **318** that shows this payment transaction as part of the user's transaction history. The account overview UI **318** allows the user to view the content of the shopping cart to which the payment transaction belongs (e.g., by displaying the content of the shopping cart or including a link to a screen displaying the content of the shopping cart).

[0034] FIGS. 4-8 illustrate exemplary user interfaces (UIs) presented to a user by the online payment service **306**, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

[0035] FIG. 4 illustrates an exemplary login UI **400** for a new user. The login UI **500** includes a link **402** that allows the user to view the content of the virtual shopping cart.

[0036] FIG. 5 illustrates an exemplary login UI **500** for an existing user. The login UI **500** includes a link **502** that allows the user to view the content of the virtual shopping cart.

[0037] FIG. 6 illustrates an exemplary confirmation UI **600** that provides payment details and requests the user to confirm the payment. The confirmation UI **600** displays the shopping cart contents **602**.

[0038] FIG. 7 illustrates an exemplary done UI **700** that informs the user that the payment has been sent to the merchant.

[0039] FIG. 8 illustrates an exemplary account history UI **800** that displays recent transaction activity of the user, including the above payment transaction. The account history UI **800** includes a link **802** that allows the user to view the content of the virtual shopping cart.

AMT Shopping Carts

[0040] FIG. 9 is a block diagram of one embodiment of a system **900** for processing online payment transactions initiated via auction management tools (AMTs). The system **900** includes multiple client computers (clients **1** through **N**) **902**, multiple AMT systems (AMT systems **1** through **N**) **908**, multiple online auction facilities (auction facilities **1** through **N**) **112**, and an online payment service **110**.

[0041] The client **902** includes a client program **904**, such as a browser (e.g., the Internet Explorer distributed by Microsoft Corp. of Redmond, Wash.) that executes on the client **102** and accesses the AMT systems **908** via a communications network **906**, including a wide area network such as the Internet. Other examples of the communications network

106 may include a local area network (LAN), a wireless network (e.g., a cellular network), or the Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) network.

[0042] The AMT system **908** provides to vendors an online tool for managing their sales on various network-based commerce facilities (e.g., online auction facilities **912**, retailer or wholesaler facilities, etc.) represented by commerce web sites visited by various buyers including the users of the clients **902**. The AMT system **908** provides the shopping cart flow for items ordered from merchant web sites, auction facilities **912**, or any other commerce facilities on which merchants' sales are managed by the AMT system **908**. Once a buyer selects an item on a merchant web site or wins a bid at an auction facility **912**, the AMT system **908** places a relevant item in a virtual shopping cart (referred to herein as an AMT shopping cart **909**).

[0043] The AMT systems **908** are coupled to the online payment service **910** via the communications network **906**. The online payment service **910** facilitates online payment transactions between various users. In one embodiment, the online payment service **110** includes interfaces to external processors to process payment transactions of corresponding types. In another embodiment, the online payment service **110** includes an internal payment processing system.

[0044] In one embodiment, the online payment service **910** is invoked by the AMT system **908** each time the AMT system **908** receives an indication of the buyer's intent to proceed with the payment for the contents of the AMT shopping cart **909**. The buyer request may be submitted when the buyer clicks a designated link or button (e.g., the link identifying the online payment service, the checkout button, the add to cart button, etc.) or performs some other predefined operation. Once the online payment service **910** is invoked, it presents to the buyer a set of user interfaces (UIs) that facilitate the processing of the payment while allowing the buyer to view the contents of the AMT shopping cart **909** for which the payment is being made. If the payment transaction completes successfully, the online payment service **910** identifies shopping cart items from auction facilities **912** and communicates with the auction facilities **912** via the communications network **906** to inform the auction facilities **912** about the payment.

[0045] Each auction facility **912** includes a transaction postback processor **914** that marks auction transactions pertaining to the shopping cart items as paid.

[0046] In one embodiment, the online payment service **910** includes an AMT interface **916**, a payment processor **918**, a UI module **922**, and a database **920**. The AMT interface **916** is responsible for receiving, from the AMT **908**, detailed information about the items in the AMT shopping cart **909** and storing the detailed information in the database **920**. The detailed information may include, for each item in the shopping cart, the item name, the item number, the item price, the item quantity, and various other data. In addition, for each item from the auction facilities **912**, the detailed information may include, for example, the specifier of the auction facility **912**, the buyer ID within the auction facility **912**, the transaction number within the auction facility **912**, etc.

[0047] The payment processor **918** is responsible for collecting the buyer's personal information via UIs generated by the UI module **922**, facilitating the processing of the buyer's payment for the items in the shopping cart, and informing the buyer that the payment has been sent to the seller. The UIs presented to the buyer allow the buyer to view the contents of

the shopping cart while the buyer's payment is being handled. Once the payment transaction is completed, it is reflected in the transaction history maintained by the online payment service **910** for each of the buyer and the seller. When the buyer or the seller accesses his or her transaction history, this payment transaction appears as a standard payment transaction initiated via the online payment service **100**.

[0048] In one embodiment, the payment processor **918** is also responsible for identifying which auction facilities have items in the shopping cart and informing those auction facilities about the payment.

[0049] Thus, embodiments of the present invention enable complete integration of the AMTs **908** with the online payment service **910** and involved auction facilities **912**, transferring transaction information between these different systems in real time and allowing users to access the transaction information in each of those systems in real time.

[0050] FIG. **10** is a flow diagram of one embodiment of a method **1000** for processing a payment transaction initiated by the AMT **908**. The method **1000** may be performed by processing logic, which may comprise hardware, software, or a combination of both. Processing logic resides in the online payment service **910**.

[0051] Referring to FIG. **10**, the method **1000** begins with the AMT interface **916** receiving from the AMT system **908** detailed information on items purchased by a user from one or more network-based commerce facilities (processing block **1002**). The items purchased by the user are placed by the AMT system **908** in the AMT shopping cart **909**. AMT system **908** sends the detailed information on the items to the online payment service **910** in response to receiving an indication of the user intent to proceed with the payment for the items in the virtual shopping cart. The indication of the user intent may be received when the user clicks a designated button or link on the AMT web site (e.g., the link identifying the online payment service **910**, the checkout button, the add-to-cart button, etc.) or performs some other predefined operation.

[0052] At processing block **1004**, the AMT interface **916** stores the detailed information in the database **920**. For each item purchased from a merchant web site, the detailed information may include, for example, the item name, the item number, the item price, the item quantity, etc. For each item purchased from an auction facility **912**, the detailed information may include, for example, the specifier of the auction facility **912**, the buyer ID within the auction facility **912**, the transaction number within the auction facility **912**, the item number within the auction facility **912**, the item name, the item price, the item quantity, etc.

[0053] At processing block **1006**, the payment processor **918** communicates to the user via the communications network **906** a set of UIs that facilitate processing of the user payment and allow the user to view the contents of the AMT shopping cart.

[0054] At decision box **1008**, the payment processor **918** determines whether the payment transaction is successful. If not, the method **1000** ends. If so, the payment processor **918** determines whether any items in the AMT shopping cart are from an auction facility **912** (decision box **1010**). If not, the method **1000** ends. If so, the payment processor **918** identifies involved auction facilities (processing block **1012**) and sends relevant payment information to the involved auction facilities (processing block **1014**). This payment information may include the buyer ID within the auction facility, the transac-

tion number within the auction facility, the item number within the auction facility, the payment amount, the item price, the item quantity, etc. The auction facilities then use this payment information to mark the relevant auction transactions accordingly (e.g., as paid, payment pending, etc.).

[0055] In one embodiment, all payment transactions initiated via AMTs **908** are marked using a designated flag. The counter specifying the number of times the flag is passed through and the dollar volume are stored to monitor the usage of the integrated AMT shopping carts. In one embodiment, the counter and dollar volume are maintained for each auction facility **912** to allow the auction facility **912** to compare the dollar volume associated with transactions initiated via the AMTs with the dollar volume associated with transactions initiated directly via the auction facility **912**.

[0056] In one embodiment, the system administrator may request to view all payment transactions initiated via AMT shopping carts. Upon receiving a request from an administrator, the online payment service **110** presents to the administrator an administrator transaction details UI that lists all payment transactions initiated via AMT shopping carts as AMT shopping cart payments and includes a table with AMT shopping cart contents. The administrator can also request a report on the number and dollar volume of transactions that involve AMT shopping carts.

[0057] FIG. **11** illustrates an exemplary flow of UIs presented to a user, according to one embodiment of the present invention. Initially, an AMT web site **304** communicates to a user an AMT shopping cart UI **310** that displays information concerning the contents of an AMT shopping cart. A user may access the AMT shopping cart via, for example, a link in a winning bidder notification sent to the user, a designated link or button on the AMT web site **304**, a button or link next to an ordered item on a corresponding merchant web site or auction web site, etc.

[0058] When the user provides an indication of his or her intent to proceed with the payment for the contents of the AMT shopping cart (e.g., by clicking the checkout or add to cart button or a designated link), a transition to the online payment service **1106** is made. During the transition, the online payment service **1106** receives and stores information identifying the content of the AMT shopping cart. This information may include, for example, an auction specifier, an auction buyer ID, auction transaction IDs, auction item numbers, item names, item prices, quantities, etc. This information may result from user purchases from one or more merchant web sites and/or one or more auction facilities.

[0059] Upon the transition, the online payment service **1106** enables the user to review the shopping cart contents on various screens generated by the online payment service **1106**. In particular, once the user requests the checkout, the online payment service **1106** presents a login UI **1112** that asks the user to sign-in (if the user is new to the online payment service **1106**) or login (if the user is an existing user of the online payment service **1106**) and allows the user to view the content of the shopping cart (e.g., by displaying the content of the shopping cart or including a link to a screen displaying the content of the shopping cart). Once the user provides the requested information, the online payment service **1106** presents to the user a confirmation UI **1114** that displays the details of the payment transaction and asks the user to confirm the payment. The confirmation UI **1114** also allows the user to view the content of the shopping cart (e.g., by displaying the content of the shopping cart or including a

link to a screen displaying the content of the shopping cart). If the user confirms the payment, the online payment service **1106** presents to the user a done UI **1116** informing the user that the payment has been sent to the merchant. After that, the user is presented with a transaction details UI **1118** that shows the details of this payment transaction. The transaction details UI **1118** allows the user to view the content of the shopping cart to which the payment transaction belongs (e.g., by displaying the content of the shopping cart or including a link to a screen displaying the content of the shopping cart).

[0060] Further, the online payment service **1106** communicates payment information to the involved auction facilities. A seller can then see relevant auction transactions marked as paid on screens generated by corresponding auction facilities.

[0061] FIGS. 12-17 illustrate exemplary user interfaces (UIs) presented to a user by the online payment service **1106**, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

[0062] FIG. 12 illustrates an exemplary login UI **1200** for an existing user. The login UI **1200** includes a link **1202** that allows the user to view the content of the AMT shopping cart.

[0063] FIG. 13 illustrates an exemplary cart details UI **1300** that displays the contents of the AMT shopping cart.

[0064] FIG. 14 illustrates an exemplary confirmation UI **1400** that provides payment details and requests the user to confirm the payment. The confirmation UI **1400** displays the shopping cart contents **1402** that include items from a single auction facility. FIG. 15 illustrates a portion of the confirmation UI with shopping cart contents **1502** in which the items are from multiple auction facilities (items **1506** and **1510**) and merchant web sites (items **1504** and **1508**).

[0065] FIG. 16 illustrates an exemplary done UI **1600** which informs the user that the payment has been sent to the merchant.

[0066] FIG. 17 illustrates an exemplary transaction details UI **1700** that displays details about the above payment transaction, including the shopping cart contents **1702**.

[0067] FIG. 18 illustrates an exemplary My Auctions UI **1800** presented to a user by an auction facility, according to one embodiment of the present invention. My Auction UI **1800** displays transactions initiated via the AMT as paid based on the information provided by the online payment service **1104**.

[0068] FIG. 19 shows a diagrammatic representation of a machine in the exemplary form of a computer system **1900** within which a set of instructions, for causing the machine to perform any one of the methodologies discussed above, may be executed. In alternative embodiments, the machine may comprise a network router, a network switch, a network bridge, Personal Digital Assistant (PDA), a cellular telephone, a web appliance or any machine capable of executing a sequence of instructions that specify actions to be taken by that machine.

[0069] The computer system **1900** includes a processor **1902**, a main memory **1904** and a static memory **1906**, which communicate with each other via a bus **1908**. The computer system **1900** may further include a video display unit **1910** (e.g., a liquid crystal display (LCD) or a cathode ray tube (CRT)). The computer system **1900** also includes an alphanumeric input device **1912** (e.g. a keyboard), a cursor control device **1914** (e.g. a mouse), a disk drive unit **1916**, a signal generation device **1920** (e.g. a speaker) and a network interface device **1922**.

[0070] The disk drive unit **1916** includes a machine-readable medium **1924** on which is stored a set of instructions (i.e., software) **1926** embodying any one, or all, of the methodologies described above. The software **1926** is also shown to reside, completely or at least partially, within the main memory **1904** and/or within the processor **1902**. The software **1926** may further be transmitted or received via the network interface device **1922**. For the purposes of this specification, the term “machine-readable medium” shall be taken to include any medium that is capable of storing or encoding a sequence of instructions for execution by the machine and that cause the machine to perform any one of the methodologies of the present invention. The term “machine-readable medium” shall accordingly be taken to include, but not be limited to, solid-state memories, optical and magnetic disks, and carrier wave signals.

[0071] Thus, a method and system for integrating third party shopping cart applications with an online payment service have been described. Although the present invention has been described with reference to specific exemplary embodiments, it will be evident that various modifications and changes may be made to these embodiments without departing from the broader spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, the specification and drawings are to be regarded in an illustrative rather than a restrictive sense.

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

receiving via a communications network, at an online payment service hosted on a first system, detailed information from an auction management (AM) system, the AM system hosted on a second system remote from the first system, concerning one or more items placed in a virtual shopping cart on the AM system, the one or more items purchased by a user from one or more network-based commerce facilities, the detailed information being sent by the AM system in response to receiving an indication of a user intent to proceed with a payment for the one or more items; and

upon receiving the detailed information from the AM system, communicating to the user via the communications network one or more user interfaces that facilitate processing of the payment for the one or more items, the processing including marking the payment as being an AM payment, the one or more user interfaces allowing the user to view the detailed information, and the detailed information describing contents of the virtual shopping cart on the AM system.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more network-based commerce facilities comprise at least one online auction facility.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the detailed information is selected, for each of the one or more items purchased by the user from the at least one online auction, from the group consisting of an auction facility specifier, an auction buyer identifier, an auction item number, an item name, an item price, and an item quantity.

4. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

upon processing the payment for the one or more items, transferring information pertaining to the payment to the at least one online auction facility.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the at least one online auction facility displays paid status for the one or more items.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the indication of the user intent to proceed with the payment is received when the user clicks an add-to-cart button on an AM web site.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more user interfaces comprise a login user interface to facilitate user input of personal information and a payment confirmation user interface to facilitate user input confirming the payment.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the payment confirmation user interface displays the contents of the virtual shopping cart; and the login user interface includes a link to the contents of the virtual shopping cart.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

upon processing the payment for the one or more items, presenting to the user a transaction details user interface displaying information concerning the payment and the contents of the virtual shopping cart.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the virtual shopping cart is a third party shopping cart.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving, at the online payment service, a request from an administrator to view transaction details for payment transactions initiated using one or more virtual shopping carts; and

presenting to the administrator transaction details that list all payment transactions initiated using the one or more virtual shopping carts.

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

storing the detailed information in a database for the online payment service.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising:

updating usage information for the virtual shopping cart responsive to marking the payment as being an AM payment, the usage information stored in the database.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the usage information includes a dollar volume and a number of times a payment is marked as being an AM payment.

15. An apparatus comprising:

an AM interface to receive via a communications network, from an auction management (AM) system hosted on a first system, detailed information concerning one or more items placed in a virtual shopping cart on the AM system, the one or more items purchased by a user from one or more network-based commerce facilities, the detailed information being sent by the AM system in response to receiving an indication of a user intent to proceed with a payment for the one or more items; and a payment processor, hosted on a second system remote from the first system, to communicate, upon receiving the detailed information from the AM system, to the user via the communications network one or more user interfaces that facilitate processing of the payment for the one or more items, the processing including marking the payment as being an AM payment, and the one or more user interfaces allowing the user to view the detailed information.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the one or more network-based commerce facilities comprise at least one online auction facility.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the detailed information is selected, for each of the one or more items purchased by the user from the at least one online auction, from the group consisting of an auction facility specifier, an auction buyer identifier, an auction item number, an item name, an item price, and an item quantity.

18. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the payment processor is further to transfer information pertaining to the payment to the at least one online auction facility.

19. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the at least one online auction facility displays paid status for the one or more items.

20. A system comprising:

one or more network-based commerce facilities, each of the one or more network-based commerce facilities to implement a transaction system that facilitates business transactions pertaining to one or more items of a first user;

an auction management (AM) system hosted on a first system, coupled to the one or more network-based commerce facilities via a communications network, to assist the first user with activities on the one or more network-based commerce facilities and the AM system to provide a virtual shopping cart in which a second user places one or more items of the first user;

a client, coupled to the one or more network-based commerce facilities and the AM system via the communications network, to present user interface information that facilitates processing of a payment of the second user for the one or more items of the first user placed in the virtual shopping cart; and

a payment processing system, hosted on a second system remote from the first system, coupled to the one or more network-based commerce facilities, the AM system, and the client via the communications network, to receive detailed information concerning the one or more items of the first user placed in the virtual shopping cart from the AM system, and to communicate to the second user via the communications network one or more user interfaces that facilitate processing of the payment of the second user for the one or more items of the first user, the one or more user interfaces allowing the second user to view the detailed information.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein the one or more network-based commerce facilities comprise at least one online auction facility.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the detailed information is selected, for each of the one or more items purchased by the second user from the at least one online auction, from the group consisting of an auction facility specifier, an auction buyer identifier, an auction item number, an item name, an item price, and an item quantity.

23. A computer readable medium comprising instructions, which when executed on a processor, cause the processor to perform a method comprising:

receiving via a communications network, at an online payment service hosted on a first system, detailed information from an auction management (AM) system, the AM system hosted on a second system remote from the first system, concerning one or more items placed in a virtual shopping cart on the AM system, the one or more items purchased by a user from one or more network-based commerce facilities, the detailed information being sent by the AM system in response to receiving an indication of a user intent to proceed with a payment for the one or more items; and

upon receiving the detailed information from the AM system, communicating to the user via the communications network one or more user interfaces that facilitate processing of the payment for the one or more items, the processing including marking the payment as being an AM payment, and the one or more user interfaces allowing the user to view the detailed information.