

All users in the network are responsible for generating their respective ACs, and they are called the creators of their own ACs. The creator records his own identity (*Cid*) and a unique number (*Capt*) on his AC. When users exchange ACs, they modify *Aid* (the agent ID) and *Aapt* (the agent's appointment number) in the AC to enable the next agent to identify who is the predecessor. Entries of AC are shown in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2: Appointment Card

<i>entry</i>	<i>explanation</i>
<i>Cid</i>	The identity of the creator who generates the AC.
<i>Capt</i>	A unique number that distinguishes an AC from other ones generated by the same creator.
<i>Aid</i>	The identity of an agent who gives the AC to the recent holder. (The previous hop of the AC)
<i>Aapt</i>	A unique number that distinguishes an AC from other ones transmitted by the same agent.
TIME-OUT	The time when the AC expires.
EQ	A queue (Exchange Queue) which records users who exchange the AC in order. Its length is <i>EQL</i> .

4.4. AC Life Cycle

The life cycle of an AC starts when it is generated by its creator. The first k (see Table 4.3)

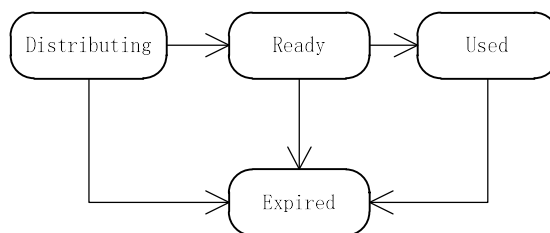


Figure 4.2: AC's Life Cycle