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METHODS AND SYSTEMS TO GENERATE CUSTOMIZED VIRTUAL TRY ON (VTO) COMPONENTS PROVIDING MODEL- BASED AND USER-BASED EXPERIENCES

Abstract

Methods and systems generate customized virtual try on (VTO) components providing augmented reality/VTO experiences. A VTO engine batch processes at least one before model image to pre-render after model images. Webpage components are customizable via a configuration portal to define different VTO experiences for different products/services and different product/service instances (e.g., hair, nail or makeup). Components can integrate with a webpage, as an advertisement. In an embodiment, customization information can include identification of brand, product/service and instances thereof, the VTO engine to render instances, display text and digital marketing information. In an embodiment, brand and product/service data is pre-stored to a data store for use to generate the components (e.g., from templates) responsive to the customization information. Webpage components, including after images and a user VTO engine for rendering instances to user images are provided for execution by a user device to present a model experience and a user experience.

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS [0001] This application is a divisional of and claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to U.S. application Ser. No. 18/071,969, filed on Nov. 30, 2022, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD

[0002] This disclosure relates to computer processes including image processing and Virtual Try On (VTO) of effects that provide an augmented reality experience and more particularly to methods and systems to generate customized VTO components providing model-based and user-based experiences.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Image processing techniques enable a VTO engine to receive an image and apply an effect thereto. The engine can simulate an effect of a product and/or an effect of a service, for example. When applied to the image of a user of such a product and/or service, particularly a video image, the VTO engine can provide an augmented reality effect. The user virtually tries on the product, for example.

[0004] VTO engines can be made available as a portion of a website (e.g. as webpage components) such as for download via a webpage for use while a user engages with the webpage. Executing a VTO engine on the user's device means that user supplied images, typically in the form of a selfie, are processed locally. Local processing can simulate the effect in nearer to real time than when user images and augmented images are communicated. When the engine is executed remotely relative to the user's device, such as in the cloud, the input and output images require communication between the user and the engine. Significant communication lag can reduce the real time simulation experience. Further, privacy is enhanced with local processing. However a disadvantage to local processing is the need to download and ready the engine to begin execution. Delays of a few seconds or more are common.

[0005] Generating model images illustrating products or services can be time consuming and expensive, particularly when a photograph session is used to photograph a number of products or product instances. Generating webpage components that incorporate VTO engines to provide VTO experiences can be time consuming and tedious for brands and/or retailers desiring to promote a particular product and instances thereof such as different colors, etc. Often a brand sells its products in many local markets using local languages or approaches to the local market.

SUMMARY

[0006] Methods and systems generate customized virtual try on (VTO) components providing augmented reality/VTO experiences. A VTO engine batch processes at least one before model image to pre-render after model images. Webpage components are customizable via a configuration portal to define different VTO experiences for different products/services and different product/service instances (e.g., hair, nail or makeup). Components can integrate with a webpage, as

an advertisement. In an embodiment, customization information can include identification of brand, product/service and instances thereof, the VTO engine to render instances, display text and digital marketing information. In an embodiment, brand and product/service data is pre-stored to a data store for use to generate the components (e.g., from templates) responsive to the customization information. Webpage components, including after images and a user VTO engine for rendering instances to user images are provided for execution by a user device to present a model experience and a user experience.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0007] FIG. **1** is an illustration of a computing environment **100** suitable for practicing the teaching(s) herein, in accordance with an embodiment.

[0008] FIGS. **2A**, **2B**, **2C**, **2D**, **2E**, **2F**, **2G** and **2H** are representations of a GUI showing aspects of a VTO experience in accordance with an embodiment.

[0009] FIGS. **3A** and **3B** are illustrations of a website GUI showing aspects of a VTO experience in accordance with an embodiment.

[0010] FIGS. **4A**, **4B**, **4C** and **4D** are illustrations of user interfaces of a configuration portal in accordance with an embodiment.

[0011] FIGS. **5A**, **5B** and **6** are flowcharts of operations in accordance with respective embodiments.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0012] FIG. **1** is an illustration of a computing environment **100** suitable for practicing the teaching(s) herein, in accordance with an embodiment. Computing environment **100** comprises a plurality of computing devices **102**, **104**, **106**, **108**, **110**, **112**, **114**, **116** and **118** coupled for communication to one or more of each other via a communications network **120**. The communications network is simplified and can comprise one or more communications networks, whether public, private, wired and/or wireless and can include the Internet. Computing devices **102**, **104**, **106** and **108** are illustrated as a form of server device for convenience only and may take other forms as understood to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Computing devices **110** and **112** are respectively illustrated as a form of desktop device and laptop device for convenience only and may take other forms as understood to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Computing devices **114**, **116** and **118** are respectively illustrated as a form of handheld mobile device (e.g. a smartphone) laptop device and desktop device for convenience only and may take other forms as understood to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

[0013] Computing device **102** is coupled to a data storage device **102A** providing a data store, such as a database. Computing device **102** comprises a memory **120** (shown expanded from device **102** for convenience). Memory **120** stores computer readable instructions, for example, as software components. Memory **120** also stores data. When executed by a processor (not shown) of the computing device **102**, the computer readable instructions cause the computing device to perform one or more (computer implemented) methods, as will be apparent. Any of the computing devices herein can be similarly structured and configured via computer readable instructions.

[0014] In an embodiment, memory **120** stores a plurality (e.g. 1 . . . N) of VTO engines such as VTO engine-1 **122** . . . VTO engine-N **124**, where each engine applies a respective effect to images it receives. Memory **120** further stores software components providing a configuration portal **126** and a webpage generator **128**. Memory **102** can store other software components (not shown) such as an operating system, communications components, database components, etc. At least some of the components in memory **120** can also be stored in data storage device **102A**. In an example, computing device **102** comprises a server device and can comprise input, output and our

input/output devices (not shown), such as a display device, a keyboard, a pointing device such as a mouse, etc. User oriented computing devices can comprise a camera to capture user images such as selfie images.

[0015] As described further herein below, computing device **102** provides a configuration portal **126** (e.g. configured as a Software as a Service (SaaS) portal) to receive information for automatically generating webpage components via generator **128**. The information received can be stored to data storage device **102A**. The information received can reference data previously stored to data storage device **102A** for example, brand information and associated product information. The generated webpage components provide a VTO experience in accordance with one of the VTO engines. VTO engines and effects are described further below.

[0016] In an embodiment, the webpage components define a document that can be integrated into a broader or current HTML (hyper text markup language) document. The document to be integrated can be integrated using an inline frame or iFrame in the current document. Other known techniques can also be used. In an embodiment, the webpage components define an advertisement, as further described. In an embodiment, the advertisement is used to define a Display Ad for use in the Google Ads advertising service from Google, Inc. Typically such an advertisement is integrated into a website of a third party—i.e. not from a website provided by the brand. In an embodiment, the webpage components are integrated into a store's or a brand's own website to provide a function of the website and not as an advertisement, per se. The configuration portal **126** is further described below with reference to FIGS. **4A**, **4B**, **4C** and **4D**.

[0017] The webpage components are generated by webpage generator **128** such as from templates or predefined code having placeholders for configuration information. The portal **126** is configured to define respective instances of webpage components such as for different brands and a particular brand's respective products and instances thereof (e.g. different colors or other product aspects). For example, in an embodiment, Brand A can have a plurality (M) of lipstick (LS) products (e.g. LS-1, LS-2 . . . LS-M). Brand A can define respective webpage components providing a VTO experience for one or more of the M lipstick products using the VTO engine for lip (or lipstick) effects. Each VTO experience can present chosen lipstick effects—e.g. chosen lipstick colors. Other brands (e.g. Brand B) can similarly define webpage components for their respective lipstick products. Any of Brand A, Brand B or another brand can define webpage components for other products using an applicable VTO engine provided by computing device **102**. Computing device **102** and data storage device **102A** can store brand information including product information such as to provide a content management system. Information for different brands can be segregate such as in different data storage devices (not shown), if desired.

[0018] In an embodiment, the webpage components define a banner advertisement for inclusion within a webpage, for example. When an instance of the webpage components are executed by a particular user computing device, the components provide a VTO experience for a particular effect that can comprise: 1) an effect applied to a preselected model; and 2) an effect applied to a user image such as to provide an augmented reality experience as further described.

[0019] Once completed and ready for use by users, the respective webpage components are stored to a data storage device **104A** (e.g. a data store such as a database) of computing device **104**. Computing device **104** comprises a memory **130** storing software components such as for providing a content distribution network (CDN) service **132**. CDN service **132** is configured to provide the webpage components for execution by a user's computing device (e.g. **114-118**). While only a single computing device **104** providing the CDN service **132** is shown, it is understood that multiple computing resources (e.g. additional instances of computing device **104**, etc.) that are geographically spaced in distributed data centers can be provided to facilitate high availability and performance relative to end users. In embodiments, webpage components are customizable to target local markets such as for a particular country or regions. Webpage components can be provided via a CDN service that is responsive to the target market associated with the components.

In an embodiment, customization information received includes country or region identification, for example.

[0020] An instance of webpage components for a particular VTO experience includes a user VTO engine (e.g. one of user VTO engine-1 **134** . . . user VTO engine-N **136**, stored in device **104A**) that corresponds to one of VTO engine-1 **122** to VTO engine-N **124** that was used to generate the instance of the webpage components. The user VTO engine is configured to execute on the user computing device to process a user provided images and render the effect.

[0021] In a banner ad embodiment, the website components can comprise code portions for the banner ads **130**, model images **140**, product images **142**, and ad border images **144**. These components can be stored in data storage device **104A**, for example. Model images can include a plurality of after images for each model that is part of the model image experience. The model images can include a before image. For example, the before image can comprise an image of the model without an effect applied or with a different effect than one that is part of the virtual try on. The after images comprise a pre-rendered effect applied to an image of the model, for example. In an embodiment, each of the after images for a model and for a particular try on experience differs only in the effect applied. The after images can include one pre-rendered image for each instance of the effect that is part of the particular model image experience. In an embodiment, a model image experience for a virtual lipstick try on provides 6 try on colors for a lipstick product. The model images for such a try on include, for each model that is part of the experience, a before image without lipstick or without one of the try on colors and 6 after images, one for each of the try on colors rendered from the before image. The same model can be used for other virtual try on experiences applying other effects.

[0022] The webpage components **134-144** are configured for integration into webpages served by, for example, an on-line retailer operating an e-commerce store website or a respective brand providing an on-line information website and/or e-commerce website, or for integration into a website, which may be a third party website, that has integrated advertisements such as Display Ads. Each of computing devices **106** and **108** represent webpage servers having respective data stores **106A** and **108A** storing respective webpages **106B** and **108B**. A webpage **106B** or **108B** can be provided to any of the user devices **114-118**, for example, upon appropriate request such as by browsing the associated website. Each of the webpages **106B** and **108B** include appropriate code calling or otherwise linking, via the CDN service **132**, to the respective webpage components in data store **104A**. Computer device **102**, for example, can provide the appropriate information (e.g., code or other references) for inclusion in the appropriate webpages **106B** and **108B** such as in response to the use of the configuration portal **126**. Computing devices **110** and **112** represent store-owned and/or brand-owned computing devices that communicate via configuration portal **126** to define the respective webpage components for the store and/or brand webpages **106B** and **108B**. In an example, device **110** is associated with Brand A that sells lipstick and device **112** is associated with brand B that sells hair dye.

[0023] In an embodiment, each of the N VTO engines (e.g. VTO engine-1 **122** . . . VTO engine-N **124**) provides a different VTO experience in which a different respective effect is applied to an image. For example, which is not to be limited, a VTO experience may relate to any of a hair, a (finger/toe) nail or a makeup try on. A makeup try on can relate to any one or more of the lips, eyes, eye brows, cheeks, or other portion(s) of a face. A VTO experience may apply more than one effect and relate to more than one portion of an image that is altered to produce the VTO experience. Different instances of a same effect can be provided by a respective VTO engine. For example, the different instances can simulate different colors of a same effect (e.g. a lipstick effect). Color is an example of how instances of an effect may differ and effects may differ on different scales (e.g. other than a color scale), for example. Instances of a particular effect (e.g. lipstick effect) may vary in more than one manner—e.g. by color, sheen (e.g. matte, glossy, glittery, etc.) and contour or shape of the effect applied to the lip region.

[0024] A VTO can relate to an effect produced by a product and/or a service. For example a product may comprise a hair dye and the associated effect may comprise a hair color change. A service may comprise a hair salon service and the associated effect may comprise a hair cut and/or hair style. A product may comprise a teeth whitener product and the associated effect may comprise whiter teeth. A service may comprise an orthodontics service and the effect may comprise straighter teeth or the effect may comprise teeth with an appliance applied thereto. Other facial or related effects can include shaping and/or contouring of any one or more of eyes, eye brows, nose, cheeks, chin, neck, ears, etc. which may simulate a cosmetic surgery or other altering effect.

[0025] In brief, in an embodiment, each of the N VTO engines comprises components to: analyze an image and/or a plurality of images such as a video; localize a region of each image where the try on effect is to be applied to simulate a product or service such as in an augmented reality manner; and overlay or otherwise apply the effect to the image for display. The VTO engine can include components to process the image using various techniques including deep learning techniques in the form of an artificial neural network. An example of a VTO engine is ModiFace's Makeup Virtual Try On from ModiFace Inc., which may track a face from an image or a frame in a video, identify the lip region within that face, and recolour that region to represent a physical makeup product.

[0026] In an embodiment, the N VTO engines **122 . . . 124** are configured to execute on computing device **102**. For each image that an engine receives as an input, that engine produces an image to which an effect is applied as output. The input and output images can be stored in the data storage device **102A**. The input and output images comprise before and after images.

[0027] Operations of server **102** thus enable a batch process for producing VTO after model images where effects are applied via a VTO engine. Via configuration portal **126**, a user thereof can upload a plurality (e.g. X) of model images and choose a plurality (e.g. Y) of products, such as from data store **102A**, and automatically have X×Y pre-rendered after model images created for use in VTO experiences. Rather than perform photo-shoots with models and products, the operations of server **102** makes VTO experience after model images automatically.

[0028] In an embodiment, the configuration portal **126** is configured to provide an interface, such as a web-based interface using SaaS techniques, to receive information (e.g. data) with which to define instances of the webpage components. Such webpage components, when executed on a user's computing device (for example, one of devices **114**, **116** or **118**), enable a user thereof to receive a VTO experience associated with the VTO engine used to define the web page components. In an embodiment, the user device also receives a user instance of the VTO engine for execution on the user device to generate an augmented reality experience for a user of the user device.

[0029] In an embodiment, the webpage components enable a VTO experience comprising a model image experience and a user image experience for augmented reality. In an embodiment, the model image experience is presented for at least a portion of the time while the user image experience is loaded and readied by the user's computing device **114**. In an embodiment, the model image experience is presented as an interactive graphical user interface (GUI) comprising a collection of interfaces, such as a landing page, a loading page and a collection of pop-up interfaces, defining a banner ad that is displayed over a same portion of the webpage in which the user image experience of the VTO is presented.

[0030] FIGS. **2A**, **2B**, **2C**, **2D**, **2E**, **2F**, **2G** and **2H** are illustrations of interfaces **200A**, **200B**, **200C**, **200D**, **200E**, **200F**, **200G** and **200H**, of the GUI in the form of a banner ad in accordance with an embodiment. The GUI can be presented such as by any one of computing devices **114**, **116** or **118**, for example, where the GUI is enabled by an instance of the webpage components configured using the computing device **102**. A number of the interfaces' components, including images, controls and text content are customizable via configuration platform **126** as further described herein. Some of the pop-up interfaces can be optional. Inclusion of an optional pop-up interface in the webpage

components can be configured using the configuration portal **126**.

[0031] Interface **200A** represents a landing page and presents an image **202** of a preselected model along with controls **204** to select between instances of an effect that are to be applied to the image of the model. Each of the controls **204** is associated with a respective image of the product such as a product swatch. Selecting a particular one of the controls **204** changes the image **202** of the preselected model to show the respective instance of the effect associated with the particular one of the controls **204**. The product swatch may be a color swatch. In the present example, the effect is a makeup effect, namely a lipstick effect as represented by an icon **206**. Product information (not shown) can be presented such as at region **208**. A “learn more” control **210** is provided to advance to a more information interface (e.g. interface **200H** of FIG. 2H) with region **212** available for text to display with the control.

[0032] Provided is a border element **214** about the model image **202**. The border element can present a border image or design to complement the interfaces. The various controls, text and images of interfaces **200A-200H** may appear atop the border element, for example.

[0033] In an embodiment, icons **216**, **218** and **220** are associated with respective controls to: a) invoke an interface (e.g. interface **200B** of FIG. 2B) to select between different preselected models for display as image **202**, b) invoke a compare function to compare between no effect applied and the selected effect applied to image **202** (not shown), for example using a slider control when the compare function is selected, and 3) present further information. It is understood that a compare function could compare between two effects, one applied to each of two of the same model images. Region **221**, for example, provides an area for a logo to be presented.

[0034] Icon **222** and message region **224** are associated with the user image experience. The icon and/or message region are associated with a control to “start my camera”, for example, to initiate the user image experience. In an embodiment, responsive to an invocation of the control, a computer process asynchronously starts loading the user image experience in the background, with a callback to update the main UI once the loading is done. The message region is configured to display such a message text, which can be customized.

[0035] FIG. 2B is an image, in grayscale, showing interface **200B**, representing an embodiment of interface **200A**. Lip region **290** presents a lip effect corresponding to control **204A** (one of controls **204**) pre-rendered by one of VTO engine-1 to VTO engine-N configured for a lip effect.

[0036] FIG. 2C shows interface **200C** that is invoked via icon **216** (i.e., via its associated control) for selecting between a plurality of images of preselected models. Interface **200B** shows a pop-up interface **230**. In an embodiment, the pop-up interface **230** is present atop the landing page of interface **200A** or a loading page of interface **200F** (described below). The background interface **200A** is shown in broken lines to represent a level of transparency behind pop-up interface **230**. Interface **230** includes pop-up box **232** comprising a plurality (4) of model selection controls **234** where each is associated with a thumbnail image of a preselected model. Selecting one of the models changes the image **202** in interface **200A**, for example, after the selection is confirmed. Regions **236** and **238** are associated with controls to confirm a model selection and return to interface **200A** or **200F** as applicable with the model image **202** changed, or to cancel the model selection pop-up interface to return without changing the image **202** of the model. The regions **236** and **238** can present customizable text for such controls.

[0037] With reference to FIG. 2D, the compare function (e.g. as invoked by control **218**) is illustrated in interface **200D**, similar to an embodiment of interface **200A**. In an embodiment, icon **218** invokes the compare function so that a slider control **240** is presented between a portion **242** of a first model image showing no pre-rendered effect applied to the model and a portion **244** of a second model image **242** showing a pre-rendered effect applied to the model. The slider control **240** divides the two portrait images **242** and **244** such that the two portions of such images present a whole image (other than a minor amount behind the slider control). In the embodiment, the effect applied corresponds to the effect selected via control **204A** (one of the controls **204**). The effect

could be any one as selected by other ones of the controls. Slider control **240** is responsive to a gestural input, for example, that slides the control left or right (horizontally) relative to the portrait images (**242** and **244**) of the model. As the slider control **240** is moved to the left, the portion of the first model image **242** is reduced while the portion of the second model image **244** is increased. The opposite is applied when the slider moves to the right. The slider control **240** and its operation allows a “before/after” side by side comparison of an effect and no effect on the same model to reveal more or less of the effect.

[0038] With reference to FIG. 2E, in an embodiment, interface **200E** is a pop-up interface **250** having pop-up box **252** presenting terms and conditions information. Interface **200E** can be invoked via the control associated with icon **222** and/or region **224** to “start my camera”. In an embodiment, the interface **200E** is optional for example, included to comply with a local requirement applicable to the brand using the webpage components. Privacy related terms and conditions can be presented. Pop-up interface **250** can be presented over screen **200A** similarly to pop-up interface **230**.

[0039] Pop-up box **252** comprises a terms and condition text region with associated control **254**, a consent checkbox control **256**, a consent text region **258**, an accept terms and conditions text region with associated control **260** and a cancel text region with an associated control **262**. Terms and condition text region with associated control **254** can present text advising that use of the try-on permits the brand to process the user's image. The region can provide a link (a form of control) to the terms and conditions. The consent text region **258** can indicate a statement of consent (e.g. “I confirm that I have read the terms and conditions”). The user indicates consent by checking the checkbox control **256**. The accept terms and conditions text region with associated control **260** confirms that the user has checked the checkbox control **256** and invokes the user's camera for the VTO engine to ready the device for the VTO experience. The GUI transitions to interface **200F**, a loading page, for presenting while the engine loads, etc. The cancel text region with associated control **262** returns to interface **200A** without invoking the camera or engine, etc. for the “live” user image VTO experience. It is understood that the control to invoke interface **200E** can be invoked again should a user change their mind.

[0040] FIG. 2F shows interface **200F** configured as a loading page. Interface **200F** is similar to the landing page of interface **200A**. It is understood that in an embodiment, interface **200A** can transition to interface **200F** without interface **200E** if terms and conditions are not employed. In such as case interface **200F** can be invoked via the control associated with icon **222** and/or region **224** to “start my camera”.

[0041] Interface **200F** permits a user to continue the model image experience while the device is readied for the user image experience. In an embodiment, message region **224** in interface **200F** is updated to indicate that device is “enabling camera . . .”. Thus the “live” VTO assets (e.g., as referenced in the webpage components) are started in the background while the user can continue to explore the model image experience. In an embodiment, once the loading is done, the interface switches to live try-on (e.g., the user image experience). In another, not shown, message region **224** is updated to indicate live try on is ready and such can be invoked via icon **222** or message region **224**. The loading will take some time because the experience needs to load the detection model, and live rendering data (e.g., the user image) into memory, in order to execute the live VTO as intended. Because the detection model is a large file and needs to download and load into memory, this can often take 3-10 seconds. Typically a transition to such a live interface can include presenting a timer type interface (e.g. comprising an animated icon) to signal to the user to wait and/or a blank screen while the computing device is fully readied for the live experience.

[0042] FIG. 2G shows interface **200G** presenting a pop-up interface **270** with pop-up box **272**. Pop-up interface **270** can be presented over interface **200A** or **200F** and is invoked by icon **220** and its associated control. Pop-up box **272** presents a text region **274** for information to understand the VTO experience and a close text region and control **276** to return to the interface from which the

pop-up interface **270** was invoked.

[0043] FIG. 2H shows interface **200H** presenting a brand page for information such as in image region **280** and text region **282**. Interface **200H** is invoked from learn more control **210** and its pop-up interface **270** can be presented over interface **200A** or **200F**. Interface **200H** can be a linked webpage provided by another website. In an example, where interfaces **200A-200G** are components of an advertisement integrated into a first webpage from a first website, the interface **200H** can be a different webpage from a different website (e.g. the brand's webpage and website). In the embodiment as illustrated, a search control **284** to search the website and menu control **286** for the website are included.

[0044] For the model image experience, the website components comprise (and the interfaces **200A** and **200F** present) a plurality of images **202** for each preselected model. The website components include an image for each instance of the effect as applied to the image of the model. That is, the effect is applied such as by computer **102** using one of the VTO engines **122 . . . 124**. The effect/image is pre-rendered, for example, relative to the time the control for the instance of the effect is selected by the user. The VTO engine on the user device does not apply the effect. There is no loading time required under this light-weight model image experience with pre-rendered model images.

[0045] FIGS. 3A and 3B are illustrations of a webpage **300**, in accordance with an embodiment, configured to present the interfaces of FIGS. 2A-2H as well as an interface **301** for the user image experience. FIG. 3A shows interface **200A** of FIG. 2A integrated within the webpage. Webpage **300** further comprises a region including controls **302A**, **302B** and **302C** for selecting among product categories for the VTO experience (for example to select product category lipstick, lip gloss or lip liner) while controls **304** permit selection of a specific product within a selected product category (e.g. a particular lipstick product) to try on virtually. Selection of one of the products configures (or updates) the product information at **206** and **214** and effect selection controls **204** in interface **200A**. Each one of the controls **304** can include or be associated with an image of the product and/or text description, including a price. Webpage **300** includes region **306** comprising controls (not shown) for facilitating an e-commerce transaction, for example, to add a quantity of a product instance to a shopping cart. Webpage **300** includes region **308** comprising a chat interface to chat with an agent.

[0046] FIG. 3B shows webpage **300** including interface **301**. Interface **201** can commence once the VTO assets are loaded and readied such as from the loading page interface **200F**, as described. Interface **301** presents the user image experience portion of the VTO, wherein the user image **310** is presented. The user image **310** is obtained from the camera of the computing device. In a live mode the camera provides a live series of images (e.g. a video). The user VTO engine processes the image(s) and applies an effect thereto as selected via interface **301**, for example. Image **310** can include a before image where no effect is applied or an after image where an instance of the effect is applied. Controls **204** select between the instances of the effect, in this case a lipstick effect. Thus a before image can comprise a live camera image with no processing by VTO engine or by processing by the VTO engine but with no effect applied. In an embodiment, interface **301** is identical to **200A**, except without the icon **222** and message region **224** (and the associated control), and where model image **202** is replaced with a rendered camera input instead (e.g. user image **310**). Icon **216** can be used here to navigate back to **200A**, if desired.

[0047] FIGS. 4A, 4B, 4C and 4D are illustrations of interfaces **400A**, **400B**, **400C** and **400D** of a configuration portal in accordance with an embodiment. The interfaces **400A-400D** comprise various input controls to enable a user to input configuration information for define the webpage components that when executed present the interfaces **200A-200F**. Interfaces **400A-400D** include input controls to either select among pre-defined options, upload images such as model images and a border image, and provide text for display, for example. Interfaces **400A-400D** enable interfaces **200A-200F** in multiple languages. In an embodiment, interfaces **400A-400D** show default English

text for the interfaces **200A-200F** and permit input of alternative text, which may be other than English. If no alternative text is entered, the default text is used to configure the webpage components.

[0048] Interface **400A** relates to: [0049] VTO dimensions to define the size of interface **200A-200F** within a webpage; [0050] VTO border image to surround the model image, providing a background. The user can upload an image; [0051] Top icons color selection for icons **216, 218** and **220**, for example to complement and be distinguished from the border image over which the icons are displayed; [0052] Various instances of text, which may also permit choice of display color information. Display text can relate to selecting a shade to try on, starting the camera (to invoke the VTO engine readiness) and loading text; and [0053] Generic popup information to apply to all popup interfaces (**200B, 200C**, and **200E**), which primarily comprises color information for text and buttons.

[0054] The interfaces **400A-400C** can present a thumbnail image for any color information (which is typically a color code from a color scale).

[0055] Interface **400B** relates to: [0056] Text input for respective popup interfaces, whether for controls labels or display information. The popup interfaces comprise consent popup interface **200C**, model select pop-up interface **200B** and information popup interface **200E**; [0057] Selection interface to include the consent popup interface **200C** in the webpage components; [0058] An optional external link such as a URL link to a privacy policy or other terms and conditions page; and [0059] Model image upload in respect of model images for the model select pop-up interface and for use in interfaces **200A** and **200F** with effects applied thereto.

[0060] Interface **400C** relates to: [0061] Logo information to appear at the top of interfaces **200A** and **200F**, for example, in region **221**; [0062] Optional enablement of a compare feature, via icon **218**; [0063] Data for interface **200F** providing learn more information, navigable via control **210**, for example; and [0064] Urchin Tracking Module (UTM) information to facilitate performance analysis of a digital marketing campaign.

[0065] Interface **400D** relates to: [0066] Product selection, which identifies the VTO engine such as hair color, lips, eyes, etc.; [0067] Brand name information (e.g. a Brand ID such as a code for a particular brand to identify it in a database search) and country code information indicate the product brand and country for the information to be presented in the experience; and [0068] Product section colours, for example, for controls **204** and region **208**. In an embodiment, the colours are represented as Universal Product Codes such as stored in a product database (e.g. **102A**). In an embodiment, between 3 and 6 colors can be selected.

[0069] Thus the portal interface enables receipt of configuration information that comprises any one or more of: [0070] a. text information for display in the collection of interfaces; [0071] b. font or font color information for text displayed in the collection of interfaces; [0072] c. a VTO engine selection; [0073] d. brand, product or service information for the VTO engine and collection of interfaces; [0074] e. model images for the VTO engine and collection of interfaces; [0075] f. a logo image to brand the collection of interfaces; [0076] g. a selection of an optional interface for the collection of interfaces; [0077] h. a selection of an optional feature for the collection of interfaces; and [0078] i. digital advertising information to facilitate performance analysis of a digital marketing campaign; and [0079] j. country or region information.

[0080] It is noted that more than one instance of a virtual try on experienced could be defined for a product in response to different information received, such as different colors.

[0081] In an embodiment, the configuration portal component **126**, via a web-based interface, for example, receives and stores the customization information such as to data store **102A**. Using scripting and other program code, templates for the various interface and other components for the webpage components are respectively retrieved and the respective components configured in accordance with the templates, the customization information and as may be applicable, product or service information pre-stored to data store **102A**. By way of example, customization information

may include a logo, display text information, font or font color information, and/or UTM information, etc. that is incorporated into the webpage components. Customization information may include data identifying a product and instances thereof which is used to obtain product data and instance data previously stored to the data store.

[0082] For batch processing of the model images as previously noted, the selected VTO engine can be provided to the webpage generator **128** via an application programming interface (API) or other mechanism such that the webpage generator can generate (e.g. pre-render) after model images for each model image received and each product instance. The after model images can be stored to data store **102A**, for example. While such after model images are useful for the VTO experiences described herein, the images may be used in other manners such as other advertising, for example.

[0083] In an embodiment, the VTO engine is provided to batch produce after model images such as from provided model images and identification of products in a standalone manner. For example, a portal can be provided (not shown) to receive model images and product selection identification but without configuration information for production of additional website components such as the interfaces of a VTO experience as described. In another embodiment, not shown, a portal can be provided to receive model images and product selection identification with configuration information for production of different website components. In an embodiment, the different website components are configured to provide a model-only VTO experience. In an example, the model-only VTO experience can include the features and functions described with reference to FIGS. 2A-2D, 2G-2H and 3A, and not include a user experience such as in FIGS. 2E-2F and 3B.

[0084] Other processing may define respective thumbnail images or smaller scale model images, for example for a model selection interface (e.g. interface **200B**). The webpage generator **128** (or another component, not shown) can bundle or otherwise collect the webpage components including images and a user VTO engine associated to the user image experience and provide same to computing device **104** such as for content distribution. In an embodiment, the user VTO engine is pre-stored relative to computing device **104** and is appropriately identified in the webpage components to enable a user device to obtain an instance thereof to execute. The distribution of the webpage components can be responsive to country or other market identification information such as to geographically distribute the webpage components to appropriate content distribution devices (not additionally shown).

[0085] FIG. 5A is a flowchart of operations **500** of a computing device in accordance with an embodiment herein. For example, the operations may define a method of computing device **102**. At **502**, operations provide a portal to receive customization information to customize webpage components defining a virtual try on (VTO) experience for inclusion in a webpage to be presented by a user computing device. The webpage components, when executed by the user computing device, provide a collection of interfaces to present a model image experience to virtually try on instances of a product or a service. At **504**, operations generate the webpage components using the customization information received via the portal and a VTO engine. For each instance of the product or service made available to virtually try on, the VTO engine pre-renders a model after image corresponding to an image of a model. The webpage components are generated to comprise each model after image and a user VTO engine that corresponds to the VTO engine used to pre-render each model after image. At **506**, operations provide the webpage components for execution by the user computing device. The user VTO engine is configured to render a user after image for presenting to virtually try on the instances of the product or service on a before image of the user to provide a user image experience.

[0086] FIG. 5B is a flowchart of operations **520** of a computing device in accordance with an embodiment herein. For example, the operations may define a method of computing device **102**. At **522**, operations receive (e.g. via a configuration portal) at least one before model image and an identification of a plurality of effects to be applied to each of the at least one before model image. In an embodiment, the effects are associated with instances of a product or service such as to

simulate a VTO. The effects can be stored to a data store and retrieved in accordance with the identification received. At **524**, operations execute a VTO engine to batch process the at least one before model image in accordance with the plurality of effects to pre-render after model images showing the effects applied to the at least one before model image. At **526**, the after model images are provided for use such as for display by a user computing device. The display can be as a component of a product or service advertisement, which may comprise a model-based VTO experience. The at least one before model image and the product/service effects can be supplied. In an embodiment (though not shown), prior to operations **520**, for example, the effects are stored to the data store in association with identification information. The identification information can be provided such as for use when providing the at least one before model images and identification information in association with step **522**. In an embodiment (though not shown), after operations **526**, for example, website components are generated using at least some of the after model images and the website components are provided for execution such as to display the at least some of the after model images. In an embodiment (though not shown), information can be received to identify the VTO engine for executing the batch processing from a plurality of VTO engines. The various VTO engines can be configured to apply different effects, for example.

[0087] FIG. **6** is a flowchart of operations **600** of a computing device in accordance with an embodiment herein. For example, operations **600** may define a method for computing device **114**, **116** or **118**. At **602**, operations present a virtual try on (VTO) experience to virtually try on instances of a product or a service, the VTO experience presented in two parts comprising a model image experience and a user image experience providing an augmented reality. At **604**, operations, such as to present the model image experience, display after model images pre-rendered with effects associated with the instances of the product or service by a first VTO engine, the after model images received by the computing device as a part of webpage components executed by the computing device to provide the VTO experience. At **606**, operations, such as to present the user image experience, display after user images rendered with effects associated with the instances by a corresponding second VTO engine executed by the computing device using one or more before user images of the user received from a camera of the computing device. And at **608**, operations present the model user experience prior to presenting the user image experience, while the user image experience is being readied by the computing device. Thus operations **604**, **606** and **608** can be performed as a portion of operations **602**.

[0088] In addition to computing device and method aspects, a person of ordinary skill will understand that computer program product aspects are disclosed, where instructions are stored in a non-transient storage device (e.g. a memory, CD-ROM, DVD-ROM, disc, etc.) and that, when executed, the instructions cause a computing device to perform any of the method aspects stored herein.

[0089] Practical implementation may include any or all of the features described herein. These and other aspects, features and various combinations may be expressed as methods, apparatus, systems, means for performing functions, program products, and in other ways, combining the features described herein. A number of embodiments have been described. Nevertheless, it will be understood that various modifications can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the processes and techniques described herein. In addition, other steps can be provided, or steps can be eliminated, from the described process, and other components can be added to, or removed from, the described systems. Accordingly, other embodiments are within the scope of the following claims.

[0090] Throughout the description and claims of this specification, the word “comprise” and “contain” and variations of them mean “including but not limited to” and they are not intended to (and do not) exclude other components, integers or steps. Throughout this specification, the singular encompasses the plural unless the context requires otherwise. In particular, where the indefinite article is used, the specification is to be understood as contemplating plurality as well as

singularity, unless the context requires otherwise.

[0091] Features, integers characteristics, compounds, chemical moieties or groups described in conjunction with a particular aspect, embodiment or example of the invention are to be understood to be applicable to any other aspect, embodiment or example unless incompatible therewith. All of the features disclosed herein (including any accompanying claims, abstract and drawings), and/or all of the steps of any method or process so disclosed, may be combined in any combination, except combinations where at least some of such features and/or steps are mutually exclusive. The invention is not restricted to the details of any foregoing examples or embodiments. The invention extends to any novel one, or any novel combination, of the features disclosed in this specification (including any accompanying claims, abstract and drawings) or to any novel one, or any novel combination, of the steps of any method or process disclosed.

Claims

1. A method comprising: executing, by a computing device, a virtual try on (VTO) engine to batch process at least one before model image in accordance with a plurality of effects to be applied, the VTO engine pre-rendering after model images showing the effects applied to the at least one before model image to simulate instances of a product or service; and providing, by the computing device, the after model images.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the product or service comprises one of a hair product or service, a nail product or service, or a makeup product or service.
3. The method of claim 1 comprising providing, by the computing device, a portal interface to make the VTO engine available for batch processing, the portal interface configured to receive the at least one before model image and identification information for the plurality of effects to be applied.
4. The method of claim 3 comprising, by the computing device, generating website components defining an advertisement for integration into a website to provide a VTO experience using at least some of the after model images and providing the website components for execution.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the website components define a collection of interfaces to present a model image experience to virtually try on instances of the product or the service.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the website components comprise after model images for a plurality of models and wherein the collection of interfaces includes a model selection interface to select between the after model images.
7. The method of claim 5, wherein the website components further comprise a user VTO engine that corresponds to the VTO engine used to render the at least some of the after model images, the user VTO engine configured to render a user after image for presenting to virtually try on the instances of the product or service on a before image of the user to provide a user image experience.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the collection of interfaces are generated to: a. comprise a landing page to initiate the model image experience, the landing page having a control to initiate the user image experience provided by the VTO engine; b. comprise a loading page to continue to present the model image experience while the user image experience is readied by the computing device; and c. present the model user experience in a region of the webpage that overlaps with the presenting of the user after image comprising the user image experience.
9. The method of claim 7, wherein the website components are generated to cause the user computing device to load components of the user image experience in a background while the model image experience is continued to be provided in a foreground.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein providing the website components comprises providing the website components via a content distribution network responsive to a target market associated with the website components.

- 11.** A system comprising: a virtual try on (VTO) engine including computational circuitry to batch process at least one before model image in accordance with a plurality of effects to be applied to pre-render after model images showing the effects applied to the at least one before model image to simulate instances of a product or service; and computational circuitry to provide the after model images.
- 12.** The system of claim 11, wherein the product or service comprises one of a hair product or service, a nail product or service, or a makeup product or service.
- 13.** The system of claim 11 comprising a portal service including computational circuitry to provide a portal interface to make the VTO engine available for batch processing, the portal interface configured to receive the at least one before model image and identification information for the plurality of effects to be applied.
- 14.** The system of claim 13, wherein the portal service includes computational circuitry to: generate website components defining an advertisement for integration into a website to provide a VTO experience using at least some of the after model images; and provide the website components for execution by a user computing device.
- 15.** The system of claim 14, wherein the website components present the VTO experience as a component of an e-commerce service for purchasing products or services associated with the VTO experience.
- 16.** The system of claim 14, wherein the website components define a collection of interfaces to present a model image experience to virtually try on instances of the product or the service.
- 17.** The system of claim 16, wherein the website components comprise after model images for a plurality of models and wherein the collection of interfaces includes a model selection interface to select between the after model images.
- 18.** The system of claim 14, wherein the website components further comprise a user VTO engine that corresponds to the VTO engine used to render the at least some of the after model images, the user VTO engine configured to render a user after image for presenting to virtually try on the instances of the product or service on a before image of the user to provide a user image experience.
- 19.** The system of claim 18, wherein the website components are generated to, when executed by the user computing device, cause the user computing device to load components of the user image experience in a background while the model image experience is continued to be provided in a foreground.
- 20.** The system of claim 18, wherein the website components are generated to include corresponding product or service effects corresponding the effects applied to the at least some after model images, the corresponding product or service effects for use by the user VTO engine to render the user after images.
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