

# US Patent & Trademark Office

## Patent Public Search | Text View

---

|                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| United States Patent | 12393936                |
| Kind Code            | B2                      |
| Date of Patent       | August 19, 2025         |
| Inventor(s)          | Day; Philip Noel et al. |

---

### Secure wireless audio and speech at a transaction terminal

---

#### Abstract

Audio/speech-based and text-based interactions between a transaction terminal and a user conducting a transaction are provided. In an embodiment, the terminal may establish a direct wireless connection to a user-operated device or an indirection wireless connection to the user-operated device through a proxy device. In an embodiment, the wireless connection is automatically established through a different out-of-band wireless communication between the terminal and the user-operated device. In an embodiment, text-based data for the transaction are provided over a second simultaneous wireless connection that is different from the wireless connection associated with providing the audio/speech data. In an embodiment, audio/speech data provided from the user during the transaction are enhanced for security and are filtered for accuracy using audio-based processing and/or image-based processing. In an embodiment, a speech-to-text and text-to-speech interface for a transaction at the terminal is provided.

---

**Inventors:** Day; Philip Noel (Fife, GB), McNicoll; Grant A. (Carnoustie, GB), Mitchell; Gary James (Kingsmuir, GB), Monaghan; Andrew David (Dundee, GB)

**Applicant:** NCR Atleos Corporation (Atlanta, GA)

**Family ID:** 1000008765701

**Assignee:** NCR Atleos Corporation (Atlanta, GA)

**Appl. No.:** 17/541579

**Filed:** December 03, 2021

#### Prior Publication Data

|                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Document Identifier</b> | <b>Publication Date</b> |
| US 20220092591 A1          | Mar. 24, 2022           |

#### Related U.S. Application Data

---

## Publication Classification

**Int. Cl.:** **G06Q20/38** (20120101); **G06Q20/10** (20120101); **G06Q20/18** (20120101); **G06Q20/20** (20120101); **G06Q20/32** (20120101); **G10L13/00** (20060101); **G10L15/22** (20060101); **G10L15/26** (20060101); **H04W12/04** (20210101)

## U.S. Cl.:

**CPC** **G06Q20/3829** (20130101); **G06Q20/1085** (20130101); **G06Q20/18** (20130101); **G06Q20/20** (20130101); **G06Q20/3278** (20130101); **G10L13/00** (20130101); **G10L15/22** (20130101); **G10L15/26** (20130101); **H04W12/04** (20130101); **G06Q2220/00** (20130101)

## Field of Classification Search

**CPC:** G06Q (20/3829); G06Q (20/1085); G06Q (20/18); G06Q (20/20); G06Q (20/3278); G06Q (2220/00); G06Q (20/321); G10L (13/00); G10L (15/22); G10L (15/26); H04W (12/04); H04W (12/63); H04W (4/80); H04W (12/50); H04L (63/18); H04L (2463/082); H04L (63/0861); G07F (9/001); G07F (19/201); G07F (19/211)

---

## References Cited

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Patent No.   | Issued Date | Patentee Name     | U.S. Cl.  | CPC             |
|--------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 9184630      | 12/2014     | Jenkins et al.    | N/A       | N/A             |
| 9691080      | 12/2016     | Torrance          | N/A       | G06Q<br>30/0255 |
| 9769300      | 12/2016     | Griffin et al.    | N/A       | N/A             |
| 11057525     | 12/2020     | Bland, Jr. et al. | N/A       | N/A             |
| 2006/0036753 | 12/2005     | Curtis            | N/A       | N/A             |
| 2009/0143104 | 12/2008     | Loh               | 340/10.1  | G06Q<br>20/352  |
| 2013/0007241 | 12/2012     | Trahan            | 709/223   | H04L 67/133     |
| 2015/0287408 | 12/2014     | Svendsen          | 704/235   | G10L 15/26      |
| 2016/0012465 | 12/2015     | Sharp             | 705/14.17 | G06Q<br>20/321  |
| 2016/0065761 | 12/2015     | Honda             | N/A       | N/A             |
| 2017/0200147 | 12/2016     | Ansari            | N/A       | G06Q<br>20/381  |
| 2018/0109418 | 12/2017     | Cammarota et al.  | N/A       | N/A             |
| 2018/0204204 | 12/2017     | Giraud            | N/A       | G07C<br>5/0816  |
| 2019/0361694 | 12/2018     | Gordon et al.     | N/A       | N/A             |
| 2023/0401557 | 12/2022     | Mossoba           | N/A       | A61M<br>25/0075 |

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Patent No.    | Application Date | Country | CPC |
|---------------|------------------|---------|-----|
| 2713587       | 12/2019          | EP      | N/A |
| WO-2017112812 | 12/2016          | WO      | N/A |

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“U.S. Appl. No. 16/353,380, Advisory Action mailed Feb. 1, 2024”, 3 pgs. cited by applicant  
“U.S. Appl. No. 16/353,380, Advisory Action mailed Apr. 7, 2023”, 3 pgs. cited by applicant  
“U.S. Appl. No. 16/353,380, Advisory Action mailed Apr. 19, 2022”, 3 pgs. cited by applicant  
“U.S. Appl. No. 16/353,380, Final Office Action mailed Jan. 19, 2023”, 14 pgs. cited by applicant  
“U.S. Appl. No. 16/353,380, Final Office Action mailed Jan. 26, 2022”, 11 pgs. cited by applicant  
“U.S. Appl. No. 16/353,380, Final Office Action mailed Oct. 31, 2023”, 16 pgs. cited by applicant  
“U.S. Appl. No. 16/353,380, Non Final Office Action mailed May 5, 2023”, 15 pgs. cited by applicant  
“U.S. Appl. No. 16/353,380, Non Final Office Action mailed Jul. 29, 2021”, 11 pgs. cited by applicant  
“U.S. Appl. No. 16/353,380, Non Final Office Action mailed Aug. 8, 2022”, 13 pgs. cited by applicant  
“U.S. Appl. No. 16/353,380, Response filed Mar. 12, 2021 to Restriction Requirement mailed Jan. 13, 2021”, 8 pgs. cited by applicant  
“U.S. Appl. No. 16/353,380, Response filed Mar. 20, 2023 to Final Office Action mailed Jan. 19, 2023”, 7 pgs. cited by applicant  
“U.S. Appl. No. 16/353,380, Response filed Mar. 28, 2022 to Final Office Action mailed Jan. 26, 2022”, 10 pgs. cited by applicant  
“U.S. Appl. No. 16/353,380, Response filed Apr. 26, 2022 to Advisory Action mailed Apr. 19, 2022”, 7 pgs. cited by applicant  
“U.S. Appl. No. 16/353,380, Response filed Aug. 7, 2023 to Non Final Office Action mailed May 5, 2023”, 7 pgs. cited by applicant  
“U.S. Appl. No. 16/353,380, Response filed Oct. 28, 2021 to Non Final Office Action mailed Jul. 29, 2021”, 12 pgs. cited by applicant  
“U.S. Appl. No. 16/353,380, Response filed Nov. 8, 2022 to Non Final Office Action mailed Aug. 8, 2022”, 7 pgs. cited by applicant  
“U.S. Appl. No. 16/353,380, Response filed Dec. 29, 2023 to Final Office Action mailed Oct. 31, 2023”, 8 pgs. cited by applicant  
“U.S. Appl. No. 16/353,380, Restriction Requirement mailed Jan. 13, 2021”, 6 pgs. cited by applicant  
U.S. Appl. No. 16/353,380, filed Mar. 14, 2019, Secure Wireless Audio and Speech at a Transaction Terminal. cited by applicant

---

*Primary Examiner:* McAtee; Patrick

*Assistant Examiner:* Idiake; Vincent I

*Attorney, Agent or Firm:* Schwegman Lundberg & Woessner, P.A.

---

## Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION (1) This application is a division of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/353,380, filed Mar. 14, 2019, which application and publication is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

## BACKGROUND

- (1) Modern Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) and Self-Service Terminals (SSTs) sometimes offer private audio for the benefit of blind and partially sighted people. This is provided through a 3.5 mm audio socket on the terminal, into which the user inserts their headset or headphones to listen to the audio for that session. This audio jack insertion is often used to trigger a particular flow (e.g. to switch on the private audio guidance, to change screen colors, switch the screen off, etc.). However, ATMs are one type of terminal where Personal Identification Number (PIN) keypads still have a substantial presence in the industry; this is for a variety of security reasons.
- (2) Some terminals may also offer a handset (either in place of the 3.5 mm socket for private audio or sometimes for video-based communication). The 3.5 mm socket is a de-facto standard, but requires use of analogue headphones, meaning that the audio cable can get interfere with user operation of the terminal, and typically, the user must bring the headphones for use at the terminal. Similarly, the handset is tethered to the terminal, such that the cable can get in the way during operation of the terminal (the user may also have to overcome a constant pulling of the cord associated with the handset retraction mechanism).
- (3) The availability of audio at the terminal may also be mandated by governmental regulations to ensure that sight-impaired individuals have a means of operating the terminal. For security reasons, the audio must also remain private such that bystanders cannot hear the audio or record the audio and potentially discover confidential information associated with the individual operating the terminal.

## SUMMARY

- (4) In various embodiments, methods, systems, and terminals for providing secure wireless audio at transaction terminals are presented.
- (5) According to an aspect, a method for establishing a secure wireless connection between two devices is presented. A first device receives a tag from a second device over a first wireless connection that utilizes a first wireless connection type. The first device maps the tag to a key associated with the second device. The first device uses the key to initiate a second wireless connection to the second device utilizing a second wireless connection type. The first device automatically establishes a communication session with the second device over the second wireless connection using the second wireless connection type.
- (6) In another aspect, a method for interacting with a user during a transaction by the user at a transaction terminal is presented. A server receives a hash value from a transaction terminal for an account associated with a user conducting a transaction on the transaction terminal. The server determines whether the user is logged into a service associated with the account through a mobile application processing on a mobile device operated by the user. The server instructs the transaction terminal based on the determination to provide data associated with an interface of the transaction terminal to the server during the transaction. The server provides at least some audio instructions to the mobile device based on the data during the transaction.
- (7) In still another aspect, a method for processing speech during a transaction at a transaction terminal, according to an embodiment. A voice input is received at a terminal, the voice input is translated into a text string. The text string is matched to a transaction action for a transaction at the terminal, and the action is processed on the terminal for a portion of the transaction.

---

## Description

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- (1) FIG. 1 is a diagram of a system for providing secure wireless audio and speech at a transaction terminal, according to an example embodiment.
- (2) FIG. 2 is a method of establishing a secure wireless audio between two devices, according to an example embodiment.
- (3) FIG. 3 is a diagram of a method for interacting with a user during a transaction by the user at a transaction terminal, according to an example embodiment.
- (4) FIG. 4 is a diagram of a method for processing speech during a transaction at a transaction terminal, according to an example embodiment.
- (5) FIG. 5 is a diagram of a transaction terminal for speech-assisted transaction processing, according to an example embodiment.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

- (6) FIG. 1 is a diagram of a system **100** for providing secure wireless audio and speech at a transaction terminal, according to an example embodiment. It is to be noted that the components are shown schematically in greatly simplified form, with only those components relevant to understanding of the embodiments being illustrated.
- (7) Furthermore, the various components (that are identified in the FIG. 1) are illustrated and the arrangement of the components is presented for purposes of illustration only. It is to be noted that other arrangements with more or fewer components are possible without departing from the teachings of providing secure wireless audio and speech at a transaction terminal presented herein and below.
- (8) The system **100** includes a transaction terminal **110**, a mobile audio device **130**, a server/cloud **140**, and, optionally one or more wireless beacons **150**.
- (9) Transaction terminal **110** includes one or more processors **112**, memory **111**, non-transitory computer-readable storage media **120**, one or more wireless transceivers **113**, one or more microphones **114**, a camera **115**, and a card reader **116**.
- (10) Non-transitory computer-readable storage media **120** includes executable instructions representing a wireless connection manager **121**, an audio/speech agent **122**, a mobile application (app) manager **123**, and a transaction manager **124**.
- (11) Processor **112** loads the executable instructions to memory **111** and executes the executable instructions, which cause processor **112** to perform processing discussed herein and below for: wireless connection manager **121**, audio/speech agent **122**, mobile app manager **123**, and transaction manager **124**.
- (12) Mobile audio device **130** includes a processor **133**, memory **132**, and non-transitory computer-readable storage media **134** having executable instructions representing mobile app **131**. Processor **133** loads executable instructions into memory **132** and executes the executable instructions, which cause processor **133** to perform processing discussed herein and below for mobile app **131**.
- (13) Server/cloud **140** includes one or more processors **143**, memory **142**, and non-transitory computer-readable storage medium **144** having executable instructions representing audio/speech manager **141**. Processor **143** loads executable instructions into memory **142** and executes the executable instructions, which cause processor **143** to perform processing discussed herein and below for audio/speech manager **141**.
- (14) Terminal **110** may connect to server/cloud **140** and/or wireless beacons **150** over a wired connection **118**; and terminal **110** may connect to mobile audio device **130**, server/cloud **140**, and/or wireless beacons **150** over a wireless connection **117**.
- (15) Server/cloud **140** connects to mobile audio device **130** over a wireless connection **117**. Server/cloud **140** connects to terminal **110** and/or wireless beacons **150** over a wired connection **118** and/or wireless connection **117**.
- (16) In an embodiment, server/cloud **140** may connect to mobile audio device **130** over a cellular

connection **119**.

(17) Mobile audio device **130** connects to server/cloud **140**, terminal **110**, and/or wireless beacons **150** over wireless connection **117**.

(18) System **100** provides a variety of novel mechanisms for wirelessly connecting mobile audio device **130** to one or more of: server cloud **140**, wireless beacons **150**, and terminal **110** during a transaction being conducted by a user at terminal **110**. Connection **117** can be directly established between mobile audio device **130** and terminal **110** or indirectly established between mobile audio device **130** and terminal **110** through server/cloud **140** and/or wireless beacons **150**.

(19) System **100** also provides novel mechanism for processing audio/speech during the transaction with novel processing of transaction data associated with the transaction.

(20) Direct or indirect connection **117** provides one-way audio communications from terminal **110** to mobile audio device **130** during the transaction; and/or direct or indirect connection **117** provides two-way audio with speech enabled processing during the transaction.

(21) Furthermore, direct or indirect connection **117** may not, in some embodiments, transmit audio; rather text-based data is processed and receiving devices translate the text-based data to generate the audio/speech on the receiving devices. So, audio and/or speech communication can occur, in some embodiments, without transmitting audio data over any wireless connection **117** and/or over any wired connection **118**.

(22) During processing of system **100**, a direct or indirect connection **117** is securely established between terminal **110** and mobile audio device **130**. This direct or indirect connection **117** can be securely established in a variety of novel manners that include: 1) a proximity based mobile audio device identifier provided from mobile audio device **130** over an initial out-of-band direct wireless connection **117** to wireless transceiver **113** (which initiates automatic pairing between mobile audio device **130** and wireless transceiver **113**); and 2) detection of card entry into card reader **116** with a detected event provided by audio/speech manager **141** indicating the user of mobile audio device **130** is actively logged into an account associated with the user on server/cloud **140** through mobile app **131** and utilizing server/cloud **140** as a proxy between terminal **110** and mobile audio device **130** for the transaction.

(23) Processing of system **100** also provides for novel mechanism by which transactional data, speech-to-text, and text-to-speech data is processed between terminal **110** and mobile audio device **130**.

(24) Conventional wireless pairing between devices requires a variety of manual processing steps. For example, for Bluetooth™ the following takes place: the user device is placed into a pairing mode, the user selects the target device that the user wants to pair with from the user device or the user, selecting the user device from the target device (when user device is a wireless headset of the users, automatically pairing by having the user device configured to accept automatically a first listed device (which is the target device), verification of a shared key if the user device includes a display.

(25) In an embodiment for 1) (as listed above), the pairing process between mobile audio device **130** is modified over the conventional Bluetooth™ pairing process, such that pairing between mobile audio device **130** and terminal **110** is streamlined and includes enhanced security.

(26) In 1), the user pre-registers mobile audio device **130** with server/cloud **140** based on an account of the user. During registration, mobile audio device **130** is assigned a Near Field Communication (NFC) tag from the entity that manages the account of the user; the tag includes a NDEF (NFC Data Exchange Format) tag for use with mobile audio device **130** (can be a headset, a wearable processing device, phone, or tablet). The NDEF tag includes: a Bluetooth™ Media Access Control (MAC) address for mobile audio device, and pair processing details (for hashing, class, etc.). Depending upon a type of mobile audio device **130**, the user may have to pre-set up device **130** for automatic Bluetooth® pairing without entering a pairing mode. The user is advised of this behavior and need to revise when registering mobile audio device **130**.

(27) In 1), once audio device **130** includes the NFC tag with the NDEF tag, the user visits terminal **110** and presents the NFC tag to an NFC tag reader, such as transceiver **113**. Wireless connection manager **121** reads an NFC tag NDEF message generated by the NFC tag based on the embedded NDEF tag. Wireless connection manager **121** automatically initiates a connection between terminal **110** and audio device **130** based on the message using a Bluetooth® transceiver **113**. This is an out-of-band Bluetooth® wireless connection **117** because connection **117** was initiated through one type of wireless protocol (NFC) with one type of transceiver **113** (NFC transceiver **113**) to automatically establish another wireless connection **117** using a different wireless protocol (Bluetooth™) with another type of transceiver **113** (Bluetooth™ transceiver **113**). The wireless Bluetooth™ connection is established without any action required of the user beyond presentation of the pre-registered NFC tag. An audio session is created between audio device **130** and terminal **110** for purposes of supplying audio/speech guidance from terminal **110** to the user through the user's audio device **130** during a transaction.

(28) NFC is a short range wireless protocol which provides greater security to prevent any eavesdroppers attempting to record or listen in on the session. That is, eavesdropping is very difficult when an unauthorized party needs to be physically present within a few centimeters of terminal **110** and tapping mobile audio device **130** to NFC transceiver **130** ensures that the network key for the session (provided with the pairing details of the NDEF tag) is not compromised. This provides assurance that when the Bluetooth™ session is initiated with the network key over Bluetooth™ transceiver **130** only terminal **110** is connected to mobile audio device **130**. Thus, the out-of-band session initiation is automatically achieved, achieved with greater security, and achieved without the conventional Bluetooth™ manual connection processing steps being required of the user.

(29) In 1) if mobile audio device **130** is a wireless headset, audio/speech agent **122** uses a Bluetooth™ Advanced Audio Distribution Profile (A2DP) or equivalent standards to set the vocalized audio prompts and media indicator prompts to device **130**. Device **130** will then convert the audio stream to sounds the user can hear during the transaction.

(30) In 1) if mobile audio device **130** is a phone or a tablet, audio/speech agent **122** uses Bluetooth™ Wireless Data Exchange standards (or equivalent) to send the vocalized audio prompts and media indicator prompts to mobile app **131**. App **131** will then utilize the mobile audio device's speaker to cover the stream into sounds the user can hear.

(31) In 1) volume for the audio provided during the transaction can be controlled using controls on terminal **110** (these can be physical volume controls, onscreen options, or other controls). In an optional extension of this supporting 2-way communication, controls can be sent from audio device **130** to terminal **110** in order to control the volume, and also control play/pause/repeat.

(32) In an embodiment of 1), additional authentication can be added to the above-mentioned connection techniques for purposes of enhancing security of the session associated with the wireless connection **117** and for purposes of processing two-way speech-based communication between terminal **110** and audio device **130**. For example, the user may be asked to provide a PIN, fingerprint scan, voice sample, facial recognition, iris scan, as an additional credential for authentication. These additional credentials can be supplied by the user on user's audio device **130** can communicated to audio/speech agent **122** over the wireless connection **117** as a second factor authentication (first factor being the proximity-based NFC tap discussed above) of the user and for purposes of being able to use audio device **130** to receive and process speech directions provided by the user on audio device **130** during the session for the transaction.

(33) In an embodiment of 1), audio/speech agent **122** provides speech directions during a one-way (uni-directional) audio session directly to a wireless beacon **150** that is external to terminal **110**. Beacon **150** then streams the speech directions directly to audio device **150**. This may be done to improve the bandwidth and responsiveness of the transaction by offloading transmission of the speech directions to an external beacon **150** having a greater coverage range of transmission and

higher bandwidth than that which is available to terminal **110** through transceivers **113**. In this embodiment, the actual connection **117** established is between audio device **130** and beacon **150**, the out-of-band establishment of connection **117** is still achieved via the NFC tap between the audio device **130** and terminal **110**. Wireless connection manager **121** causes the automatic pairing between beacon **150** and audio device **130**.

(34) In an embodiment, beacon **150** is a WiFi router that can be located anywhere within a facility that includes terminal **110**.

(35) In an embodiment, beacon **150** is a standalone Internet-of-Things (IoTs) device in close proximity to terminal **110** and capable of transmitting wireless communications via Bluetooth®, Li-Fi (light-based data communications), or NFC.

(36) In an embodiment of 1), bidirectional (two-way) speech is established between mobile audio device **130** and terminal **110** using the above-referenced second factor authentication to authenticate audio device **130** to terminal **110**. Here, transactional data (text-based data and non-audio data) is also exchanged between audio device **130** and terminal **110**. This provides the ability to use mobile app **131** to interact with transaction manager **124** wirelessly, such that an interface of mobile app **131** on audio device **130** can be used as a transaction interface for the transaction being conducted during the session. So, the user can provide menu selections and input data through an interface to mobile app **131** on audio device **131**. This allows for remote operation of terminal **110** by the user through audio device **130** during the session for the transaction. In an embodiment, the audio device **130** receives both the audio/speech data and transactional data from terminal **110** over a single wireless connection **117**. In an embodiment, the audio/speech data is provided over a first wireless connection **117** (as discussed above for the session, such as Bluetooth® and/or using beacon **150** for indirect delivery or terminal **110**), but the transactional data is provided over a second simultaneous wireless connection **117** (such as over NFC)—this can be achieved by using two different transceivers **113** (transceivers **113** can be Bluetooth®, WiFi, Li-Fi, and NFC) with a higher bandwidth transceiver **113** providing the audio/speech data and a lower bandwidth transceiver **113** providing the transactional data.

(37) In an embodiment of 1) no audio/speech data is actually transmitted at all between terminal **110** and audio device **130** during the session for the transaction, but audio/speech-based processing is enabled for the session. Each receiving device (terminal **110**/audio device **130**) includes a mechanism of providing text-based instructions over wireless connection **117** representing audio/speech, and each device translates the text-based instructions received into audio/speech output delivered of that device's speakers.

(38) In an embodiment of 1) no audio/speech data is actually transmitted at all between terminal **110** and audio device **130**; rather, just transactional data for the transaction is transmitted between transaction manager **124** and mobile app **131** over wireless connection **117**. Here, an NFC transceiver **113** may be used and a transaction interface associated with the transaction manager **124** remotely controlled via a mobile app interface of mobile app **131**.

(39) In an embodiment, terminal **110** also provides the conventional audio connection provided through the 3.5 mm jack (as discussed above). In this embodiment, terminal **110** includes the above-noted wireless audio connection **117** for 1) but can still utilize the existing 3.5 mm hardwired connection between audio device **130** and terminal **110**.

(40) 1) provides an out-of-band initiated wireless audio connection **117** between a user's audio device **130** and terminal **110** (direct or indirect through a beacon **150**) making it easier for sight-impaired individuals to obtain an audio/speech driven transaction with terminal **110** by eliminating conventional manual initiation requirements and enhancing security over conventional wireless pairing approaches.

(41) In 2) (as discussed above), a connection **117** between either audio device **130** and terminal **110** is established utilizing a different connection **117** between audio device **130** and server/cloud **140** from that which was discussed in 1. Here, audio/speech manager **141** maintains a between a unique



hash value of user's payment card with an entity to a mobile app identity associated with mobile app **131** of audio device **130**. This allows audio/speech manager **141** to be notified when the user inserts the payment card into card reader **116** at terminal **110**, through notification of the hash value provided by audio/speech agent **122** of terminal **110**. Mobile app **131** permits the user to log into an account with an enterprise service of the enterprise. This login event can be communicates as a notification to audio/speech manager **141** from the enterprise service. Audio/speech manager **141** may also receive notification of any logout or session time out after a login from the enterprise service. Connections between server/cloud **140**, terminal **110**, and an enterprise server associated with the enterprise service utilize secure sockets protocols to encrypt communications and ensure privacy of the communications. The sever/cloud **140**, terminal **110**, and enterprise server are in trusted and secured relationships during the communications with one another.

(42) In 2), a user first, as an initial prerequisite to initiating a transaction on terminal **110**, logs into the user's account through a user-facing interface of mobile app **131**. Next, the user inserts the user's payment card into card reader **116** at terminal **110** to initiate a transaction. Wireless connection manager **121** and/or audio/speech agent **122** hashes an identity of terminal **110** along with the payment card number of the payment card to a hash value, which is sent from terminal **110** to audio/speech manager **141** of server/cloud **140**. The hash value is mapped to mobile app **131** of audio device **130** and to terminal **110**. Audio/speech manager **141** checks to see if the user is logged into mobile app **131** (based on already known notifications received from the enterprise service associated with the account or based on a dynamic request made to the enterprise service).

Audio/speech manager **141** determines a network latency between the enterprise service with terminal **110** and audio device **130**. If the latency is low, audio/speech agent **122** is instructed to stream audio/speech for the transaction to the enterprise service. If latency is high, audio/speech agent **122** is instructed to data tags in text format representing the audio/speech (vocalized interface prompts, media indicators, etc.) to enterprise service (here mobile app **131** is responsible for translation the data tags into audio/speech that is played on speakers of audio device **130**). The enterprise service then delivers the audio/speech or data tags representing audio/speech to mobile app **131**. In an embodiment, the audio/speech of data tags are sent from audio/speech agent **122** to audio/speech manager **141**, the audio/speech manager **141** initiates a cellular connection **119** or call to audio device **130** and provides audio/speech instructions for the transaction over a voice/cellular connection **119** (here audio/speech manager **141** maintains a mapping to the audio device's phone number in order to make the automated call—note the mobile app identifier can be a mobile phone number).

(43) In an embodiment, the enterprise service is enhanced to include the functionality discussed above for the audio/speech manager **141**.

(44) In an embodiment, of 2) communication during the transaction is one-way from terminal **110** through server/cloud **140** and/or enterprise server to audio device **130**.

(45) In an embodiment, of 2) communication during the transaction is two way between terminal **110** and audio device **130** utilizing server/cloud **140** and/or enterprise server.

(46) In an embodiment, of 2) any of the above-mentioned options for transmitting and processing both audio/speech data, text tags representing speech, and transactional data can be used as was discussed above with 1).

(47) In 2, volume of audio/speech can be controlled on terminal **110** and/or audio device **130** (physical volume controls, onscreen prompts, or other types of controls). During any two-way audio communication (as discussed above) additional controls may be used from audio device **130** for play/pause/repeat of audio/speech instructions.

(48) As stated above, system **100** also provides novel manners of processing speech-to-text and text-to-speech during a direct and/or indirect connection **117** between terminal **110** and audio device **130**.

(49) Accordingly, and in an embodiment, terminal **110** includes microphones **114** and a camera **115**.

Audio/speech agent **122** is configured to perform a variety of novel processing during a session being conducted at terminal **110** by a user.

(50) In one scenario, a user profile associated with an account of the user includes abstract words or phrases defined by the user to indicate a particular action that audio/speech agent **122** is to process during the transaction on behalf of the user and when the user speaks the abstract word or phrase into one or more of the microphones **114** during the transaction. Audio/speech agent **122** translates spoken audio of the user into text and matches the text to the action during the transaction. The action is then provided by audio/speech agent **122** to transaction manager **124** for processing with the transaction. For example, a user may say “1,” “cash,” or any other user-defined word or phrase that the user has mapped to a request for a cash withdrawal at terminal **110**. Audio/speech agent **122** translates the audio/speech received to text, matches the text to a withdrawal request, and provides a withdrawal request to transaction manager **124** for processing the transaction. The personalization may be obfuscated by the user in the user profile, such that an obscure word means a specific withdrawal amount being requested by the user during the transaction (for example “heavy” mapped to a withdrawal amount of \$500).

(51) In an embodiment, audio/speech agent **122** provides interactive voice prompts to the user, such as “for a withdrawal transaction say 1 or cash.”

(52) In an embodiment, audio/speech agent **122** asks a series of questions in a dialogue format of the user where the yes or no responses from the user drives the action communicated from audio/speech agent **122** to transaction manager **124** for processing during the transaction.

(53) In an embodiment, transaction manager **121** is configured to expect a personalized text string converted by audio/speech agent **122** from a personalized word or phrase spoken by the user during the transaction. This personalized text string can be used as an additional authentication factor for one aspect of the transaction. For example, if the user is withdrawing more than a user set amount of \$100, the user is expected to say an additional authentication phrase, such as “just do it.”

(54) In an embodiment, transaction manager **121** is configured to interact with audio/speech agent **122** to perform voice print authentication of the user before any transaction is permitted to be initiated by the user on terminal **110**. The user has set up multiple different authentication phrases that are acceptable, each different phrase associated with a prompt. Audio/speech agent **122** randomly selects one of the prompts, the user speaks the word or phrase that maps to that prompt, and both the content of the spoken phrase and the user's known voice print are compared for authenticating the user for the transaction.

(55) In an embodiment, multiple prompts are used and the user is expected to provide multiple spoken words or phrases that corresponding to each of the prompts.

(56) In an embodiment, each of the prompts map to a same phrase that is expected of the user; however, each prompt is associated with a different spoken inflection pattern that the user is expected to use when given that prompt.

(57) As another instance of novel text-to-speech and speech-to-text processing by system **100**, audio/speech agent **122** is configured to use multiple sets or arrays of microphones **114** to steer or localize the spoken audio provided by the user during the transaction. One set of microphones **114** are intentionally positioned off axis from the front of terminal **110** (i.e., intentionally directed away from an area that the user is expected to provide speech during a transaction). A second set of microphones **114** are on axis and specifically directed to the area where the user is expected to provide speech during the transaction. The audio detected from the set of microphones **114** directed away from the user's location is processed to clean up the audio detected from the set of microphones **114** directed to the user's location by removing background noise associated with the first set of microphones **114** from the user's speech provided over the second set of microphones **114**.

(58) In an embodiment, audio/speech agent **122** also may incorporate proximity detection to determine based on the user's speech a distance of the user from microphones **114**. This distance

information is processed by an audio steering algorithm in order to more quickly localize the area that should be associated with the user's location from other areas associated background noise. In an embodiment, audio/speech agent **122** uses an optical mechanism that bounces light off targets present at or in a vicinity of terminal **110** and measuring reflected light or time taken to receive selected pulses, or both for the distance determination. The optical mechanism can be non-visual (infrared transmitters and receivers) or passive through visual images taken by camera **115** to determine a level of depth perception in resolving the distance determination. In an embodiment, terminal **110** includes multiple cameras **115**, each camera capturing a different angle of the user at terminal **110** and the multiple images processed to resolve the distance determination for the user at terminal **110**.

(59) In another scenario of novel text-to-speech and speech-to-text processing by system **100**, audio/speech agent **122** uses images taken by one or more cameras **115** of facial features of the user while at terminal **110**. Audio/speech agent **122** uses image processing algorithms to interpret lip movements of likely words being spoken by the user during the transaction. These likely words are then used to expedite determinations of the user's speech captured as audio by the microphones **114**. For example, a signal peak in the audio can be mapped to lip movements from the images to better differentiate voice input from any background noise detectable from the audio captured by the microphones **114**. In another example, probabilities are calculated of likely words being spoken by the user based on the movement of the user's tongue and lips identified in the images provided by the cameras **115**.

(60) In an embodiment, audio/speech agent **122** applies frequency filtering to reduce an impact of background noise on the signal associated with the user's voice input. Typical microphones have a frequency response that is significantly broader than the range needed to capture human speech. For example, audio/speech agent **122** may apply a high-pass filter to remove any low frequency content (e.g., something below 200 Hz). Other frequency ranges could also be targeted to boost ineligibility of captured audio that is to be associated with the user's voice input (e.g., a small boost in the 3-6 kHz range to improve detection of otherwise hard to detect S, T, PH phonemes).

(61) One now appreciates how accessibility to vision-impaired individuals and any individual is enhanced with system **100** along with security processing. Direct or indirect connections between user devices **130** and terminals **110** are established as noted above; audio, text-tagged as audio, and transactional data are processed in efficient novel manners during users' sessions with terminals **110** as discussed above (over one or multiple simultaneous wireless connections **117** with audio device **130**); spoken audio is processed in a novel manner for enhanced usability and security as discussed above; and/or novel audio/image processing is performed to provide more accurate speech-to-text translation.

(62) In an embodiment, some processing discussed above with respect to audio/speech agent **122**, transaction manager **124**, and wireless connection manager **121** resides and is processed by wireless connection manager **121**, such that wireless connection manager **121** manages direct communications between terminal **110** and audio device **130**.

(63) It is to be noted that the processing associated with modules **121-124** may be broken out into more processing modules or subsumed into fewer processing modules.

(64) In an embodiment, transaction terminal **110** includes: an ATM, a Self-Service Terminal (SST), a Point-Of-Sale (POS) terminal, and/or a kiosk.

(65) In an embodiment audio device **130** includes: a phone, a tablet, a wearable processing device, and/or a wireless headset.

(66) In an embodiment, wireless beacons **150** include: Bluetooth® beacons, Wi-Fi routers, IoTs devices, NFC beacons, and/or Li-Fi beacons.

(67) The above-referenced embodiments and other embodiments are now further discussed with reference to the FIGS. 2-5.

(68) FIG. 2 is a diagram of a method **200** for establishing a secure wireless audio between two

devices, according to an example embodiment. The software module(s) that implements the method **200** is referred to as a “wireless connection manager.” The wireless connection manager is implemented as executable instructions programmed and residing within memory and/or a non-transitory computer-readable (processor-readable) storage medium and executed by one or more processors of a device. The processor(s) of the device that executes the wireless connection manager are specifically configured and programmed to process the wireless connection manager. The wireless connection manager may have access to one or more network connections during its processing. The network connections can be wired, wireless, or a combination of wired and wireless.

(69) In an embodiment, the device that executes the wireless connection manager is transaction terminal **110**. In an embodiment, the transaction terminal **110** is one of: a SST, a POS terminal, an ATM, and/or a kiosk.

(70) In an embodiment, the wireless connection manager is all or some combination of the wireless connection manager **121**, mobile app manager **123**, audio/speech agent **122**, and/or transaction manager **124**.

(71) At **210**, the wireless connection manager receives a tag from a device over a first wireless connection that utilizes a first wireless connection type.

(72) In an embodiment, at **211**, wireless connection manager receives the tag from an NFC transceiver. The first wireless connection is an NFC connection.

(73) In an embodiment, the tag is received as a NDEF tag as was discussed above with the FIG. **1**.

(74) At **220**, wireless connection manager maps the tag to a key associated with the device. The tag also identifies the device as a pre-registered device.

(75) In an embodiment, at **221**, wireless connection manager obtains from the tag pairing instructions and a wireless protocol encryption key for processing at **230**.

(76) At **230**, wireless connection manager uses the key to initiate a second wireless connection to the device that utilizes a second wireless connection type.

(77) In an embodiment of **221** and **230**, at **231**, wireless connection manager provides the pairing instructions, wireless protocol encryption key and a device identifier for the device to a wireless beacon **150** or a server **140** as a third device for processing associated with **240**.

(78) At **240**, wireless connection manager automatically establishes a communication session over the second wireless connection utilizing the second wireless connection type.

(79) In an embodiment of **231** and **240**, at **241**, wireless connection manager instructs the second device to automatically establish the communication session with the device.

(80) In an embodiment of **241** and at **242**, wireless connection manager maintains a simultaneous network connection to the second device during the communication session between the device and the second device and uses the second device as a proxy for wireless connection manager to communicate with the device during the communication session.

(81) In an embodiment, the second device is a wireless beacon. In an embodiment, the wireless beacon is a Bluetooth® beacon, an IoT device, a Wi-Fi router, or a Li-Fi router. In an embodiment, the wireless beacon is wireless beacon **150**.

(82) In an embodiment, the first wireless connection type is different from the second wireless connection type.

(83) In an embodiment, the first wireless connection type is a same connection type as the second wireless connection type.

(84) In an embodiment, at **243**, wireless connection manager provides audio or speech data over the second wireless connection to the device during the communication session while providing text data over the first wireless connection to the device.

(85) In an embodiment of **243** and at **244**, wireless connection manager utilizes the first wireless connection as an NFC wireless channel to the device and simultaneously uses the second wireless connection as a different wireless communication channel to the device. In an embodiment, the

second wireless connection is a Bluetooth® connection.

(86) In an embodiment of **240** and at **245**, wireless connection manager provides audio data during the communication session to the device as tagged text data that the device translated to play speech-based instructions over a speaker of the device.

(87) In an embodiment, at **250**, wireless connection manager provides a bidirectional remotely controlled interface on the device over the communication channel.

(88) FIG. **3** is a diagram of a method **300** for interacting with a user during a transaction by the user at a transaction terminal, according to an example embodiment. The software module(s) that implements the method **300** is referred to as an “audio/speech transaction manager.” The audio/speech transaction manager is implemented as executable instructions programmed and residing within memory and/or a non-transitory computer-readable (processor-readable) storage medium and executed by one or more processors of a device. The processors that execute the audio/speech transaction manager are specifically configured and programmed to process the audio/speech transaction manager. The audio/speech transaction manager may have access to one or more network connections during its processing. The network connections can be wired, wireless, or a combination of wired and wireless.

(89) In an embodiment, the device that executes the audio/speech transaction manager is the server/cloud **140**. In an embodiment, the server/cloud **140** is a collection of servers logically cooperating as a cloud processing environment.

(90) In an embodiment, the audio/speech transaction manager is all of some combination of: the audio/speech manager **141** and/or the enterprise service discussed above with the FIG. **1**.

(91) At **310**, audio/speech transaction manager receives a unique hash value for a transaction terminal that is associated with an account of a user. The user is conducting a transaction on the transaction terminal.

(92) In an embodiment, at **311**, the audio/speech transaction manager identifies the hash value as being associated with a card number that identifies the account and that indicates a card is inserted into a card reader of the transaction terminal to begin a transaction at the transaction terminal.

(93) At **320**, audio/speech transaction manager determines whether the user is logged into a service associated with the account through a mobile application that is processing on a mobile device operated by the user.

(94) In an embodiment, at **321**, audio/speech transaction manager queries the service to determine whether the user is logged into the service through the mobile app based on a user identifier mapped to the hash value.

(95) At **330**, audio/speech transaction manager instructs the transaction terminal to provided data associated with an interface of the transaction terminal during the transaction.

(96) In an embodiment, at **331**, audio/speech transaction manager determines a network connection latency between the service and the transaction terminal and resolves a data format for the data that the transaction terminal is to provide for the data based on the network connection latency.

(97) In an embodiment of **331** and at **332**, audio/speech transaction manager instructs the transaction terminal to provide the data in an audio format when the network latency is lower than a threshold value.

(98) In an embodiment of **331** and at **332**, audio/speech transaction manager instructs the transaction terminal to provide the data in a text format as tagged audio data when the network connection latency is above a threshold value.

(99) At **340**, audio/speech transaction manager provides at least some audio instructions to the mobile device based on the data during the transaction.

(100) In an embodiment, at **341**, audio/speech transaction manager instructs the service to provide the audio instructions based on the data when the transaction terminal provided the data to the service.

(101) In an embodiment, at **342**, audio/speech transaction manager initiates an automated cellular

phone call to a mobile device number mapped to the hash value, and audio/speech transaction manager provides the audio instructions as speech over a voice call made to the mobile device during the transaction.

(102) In an embodiment, the processing environment of audio/speech transaction manager is the same processing environment as the service.

(103) In an embodiment, the processing environment of audio/speech transaction manager is different from the service.

(104) FIG. 4 is a diagram of a method **400** for processing speech during a transaction at a transaction terminal, according to an example embodiment. The software module(s) that implements the method **400** is referred to as an “audio/speech agent.” The audio/speech agent is implemented as executable instructions programmed and residing within memory and/or a non-transitory computer-readable (processor-readable) storage medium and executed by one or more processors of a device. The processors that execute the audio/speech agent are specifically configured and programmed to process the audio/speech agent. The audio/speech agent may have access to one or more network connections during its processing. The network connections can be wired, wireless, or a combination of wired and wireless.

(105) In an embodiment, the device that executes the audio/speech agent is the transaction terminal **110**. In an embodiment, terminal **110** includes: a POS terminal, an ATM, a SST, or a kiosk.

(106) In an embodiment, the audio/speech agent is all or some combination of the audio/speech agent **122**, the transaction manager **124**, and/or the method **200**.

(107) At **410**, audio/speech agent receives voice input (speech) from a terminal.

(108) In an embodiment, at **411**, audio/speech agent provides, over an audio connection, a speech prompt that identifies options for the transaction and audio/speech agent receives the voice input as response to one of the speech-based options.

(109) In an embodiment, at **412**, audio/speech agent engages a user in a dialogue of speech including a series of speech prompts. Audio/speech agent receives a particular voice input from a user for each prompt, and audio/speech agent identifies the voice input from the dialogue.

(110) In an embodiment, at **413**, audio/speech agent randomly selects a speech prompt from a plurality of available speech prompts. Each of the available speech prompts map to the voice input. Audio/speech agent plays the speech prompt to a user, and audio/speech agent receives the voice input matching the speech prompt from the user.

(111) At **420**, audio/speech agent translates the voice input into a text string.

(112) In an embodiment, at **421**, audio/speech agent uses a first array of microphones that are directed away from a user and captures background noise. Audio/speech agent uses a second array of microphones directed toward the user at the terminal and captures the voice input. Audio/speech agent modifies the voice input to remove any detectable background noise from the voice input before translating the voice input into the text string.

(113) In an embodiment, at **422**, audio/speech agent captures lip movements of a user in images provided by a camera while the user is speaking the voice input. Audio/speech agent matches the lip movements to signal peaks from audio captured by a microphone for the voice input. Audio/speech agent modifies the voice input based on the matching signal peaks to the lip movements before translating the voice input into the text string.

(114) In an embodiment, at **423**, audio/speech agent applies one or more frequency filters to audio captured for the voice input to detect background noise present in the audio and removes the background noise before translating the voice input into the text string.

(115) At **430**, audio/speech agent matches the text string to a transaction action for a transaction at the terminal.

(116) At **440**, audio/speech agent processes the action on the terminal for a portion of the transaction.

(117) In an embodiment, at **441**, audio/speech agent processes the action as a user-defined

authentication for completing a pending action associated with the transaction.

(118) In an embodiment, at **450**, audio/speech agent is processed as a speech-to-text and text-to-speech interface for the transaction at the terminal.

(119) FIG. 5 is a diagram of a terminal **500** for speech-assisted transaction processing, according to an example embodiment. The terminal **400** includes a variety of hardware components and software components. The software components of the terminal **500** are programmed and reside within memory and/or a non-transitory computer-readable medium and execute on one or more processors of the terminal **500**. The terminal **500** may communicate over one or more networks, which can be wired, wireless, or a combination of wired and wireless.

(120) In an embodiment, the terminal **500** implements, inter alia, the processing described above with the FIGS. 1, 2, and 4.

(121) The terminal **500** is the transaction terminal **110**.

(122) In an embodiment, the terminal **500** is one of: an ATM, a SST, a POS terminal, and/or a kiosk.

(123) The terminal **500** includes a hardware processor **501** and non-transitory computer-readable storage medium **502** having executable instructions **503**.

(124) Executable instructions **503** when executed by processor **501** from medium **502**, cause processor **501** to: establish a direct or indirect wireless audio connect to a mobile device of a user engaged in a transaction at the terminal **500**; provide audio guidance for the transaction to the mobile device as text tagged data or audio data; translate any user-provided voice inputs to text-based actions associated with the transaction; and process the actions for the transaction on the terminal **500**.

(125) In an embodiment, the mobile device is the mobile audio device **130**. In an embodiment, the mobile audio device **130** is a phone, a tablet, a wearable processing device, and/or a wireless headset.

(126) It should be appreciated that where software is described in a particular form (such as a component or module) this is merely to aid understanding and is not intended to limit how software that implements those functions may be architected or structured. For example, modules are illustrated as separate modules, but may be implemented as homogenous code, as individual components, some, but not all of these modules may be combined, or the functions may be implemented in software structured in any other convenient manner.

(127) Furthermore, although the software modules are illustrated as executing on one piece of hardware, the software may be distributed over multiple processors or in any other convenient manner.

(128) The above description is illustrative, and not restrictive. Many other embodiments will be apparent to those of skill in the art upon reviewing the above description. The scope of embodiments should therefore be determined with reference to the appended claims, along with the full scope of equivalents to which such claims are entitled.

(129) In the foregoing description of the embodiments, various features are grouped together in a single embodiment for the purpose of streamlining the disclosure. This method of disclosure is not to be interpreted as reflecting that the claimed embodiments have more features than are expressly recited in each claim. Rather, as the following claims reflect, inventive subject matter lies in less than all features of a single disclosed embodiment. Thus the following claims are hereby incorporated into the Description of the Embodiments, with each claim standing on its own as a separate exemplary embodiment.

## Claims

1. A method, comprising: receiving, by a server, a hash value from a transaction terminal for an account associated with a user conducting a transaction on the transaction terminal; determining, by

the server, whether the user is logged into a service associated with the account through a mobile application that processes on a mobile device operated by the user; instructing, by the server, the transaction terminal based on the determining to provide data associated with an interface of the transaction terminal to the server during the transaction; establishing, by the server, a secure wireless connection between the transaction terminal and the mobile device utilizing a second wireless connection type based on a proximity-based mobile audio device identifier and to facilitate the interface for the user to remotely control the transaction at the transaction terminal; providing, by the server, at least some audio instructions to the mobile device based on the data during the transaction, wherein the mobile device utilizes the second wireless connection type based on the proximity-based mobile audio device identifier; and determining, by the server a network connection latency between the service and the transaction terminal and provides the at least some audio instructions in an audio format when the network connection latency is lower than a threshold and provides the at least some audio instructions as tagged text data that the mobile device translates to play speech-based instructions when the network connection latency is above the threshold.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein determining further includes querying the service to determine whether the user is logged into the service through the mobile application based on a user identifier mapped to the hash value.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein instructing further includes determining a network connection latency between the service and the transaction terminal and resolving a data format that the transaction terminal is to provide for the data based on the network connection latency.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein resolving further includes instructing the transaction terminal to provide the data in an audio format when the network connection latency is lower than a threshold.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein resolving further includes instructing the transaction terminal to provide the data in a text format as tagged audio data when the network connection latency is above a threshold.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein providing further includes instructing the service to provide the at least some audio instructions based on the data when the transaction terminal provided the data to the service.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein providing further includes initiating an automated cellular phone call to a mobile device number mapped to the hash value and providing the at least some audio instructions as speech over a voice call made to the mobile device during the transaction.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying further includes identifying the hash value as being associated with a card number that identifies the account and indicates that a card is inserted into a card reader of the transaction terminal to begin the transaction at the transaction terminal.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein instructing further includes instructing the transaction terminal to provide speech input data received at a microphone associated with the transaction terminal through the interface by the user during the transaction.

---