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Risk relationship resource allocation servicing system and method

Abstract

A system may receive a first resource allocation request (associated with a first company) from a first entity. The system may determine that the first request is not associated with a risk relationship and arrange for it to be processed via a claim servicing entity. Information about the first request may then be routed to a request handler device for processing and a communication with a first graphical indication may be generated. The system may also receive a second resource allocation request (associated with the first company) from a second entity and determine that it is to be processed via a risk. The system may then route information about the second request to a request handler device for processing and generate a communication with a second graphical indication. Note that the request handler device may be the same device that received the information about the first request.

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Background/Summary

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION (1) This is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 18/303,927, entitled “RISK RELATIONSHIP RESOURCE ALLOCATION SERVICING SYSTEM AND METHOD”, filed Apr. 20, 2023, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/253,734, entitled “RISK RELATIONSHIP RESOURCE ALLOCATION SERVICING SYSTEM AND METHOD,” filed Jan. 22, 2019, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

BACKGROUND

(1) It may be advantageous to protect against unexpected risks, such as those associated with computer systems and/or risk relationship agreements. For example, it might be advantageous for a company to purchase a typical insurance policy, such as a workers' compensation insurance policy. Such policies generally have the insurer process claims received from claimants. In other cases, a company may prefer to “self-insure” and another party may process claims received from

claimants. In still other circumstances, a company might want to process some claims under an insurance policy while other claims are self-insured. Implementing such a hybrid approach, however, can be a difficult task for an insurer (e.g., in connection with issues associated with certificates of insurance, receiving collateral from the company, different rules and regulations in various states, etc.).

(2) It would be desirable to provide systems and methods to provide risk relationship resource allocation request servicing in a way that provides faster and more efficient results as compared to traditional approaches.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

(3) According to some embodiments, systems, methods, apparatus, computer program code and means are provided to provide risk relationship resource allocation request servicing in a way that provides faster and more efficient results as compared to traditional approaches and that allow for flexibility and effectiveness when processing those requests. In some embodiments, a system may receive a first resource allocation request (associated with a first company) from a first entity. The system may determine that the first request is not associated with a risk relationship and arrange for it to be processed via a claim servicing entity. Information about the first request may then be routed to a request handler device for processing and a communication with a first graphical indication may be generated. The system may also receive a second resource allocation request (associated with the first company) from a second entity and determine that it is to be processed via a risk. The system may then route information about the second request to a request handler device for processing and generate a communication with a second graphical indication. Note that the request handler device may be the same device that received the information about the first request.

(4) Some embodiments comprise: means for receiving, by a computer processor of the back-end application computer server, a first resource allocation request from a first entity, the first resource allocation request being associated with a first company; means for automatically determining that the first resource allocation request is not associated with a risk relationship between the enterprise and the first company; based on the automatic determination, means for arranging for the first resource allocation request to be processed via a claim servicing entity; means for routing information about the first resource allocation request to a request handler device of the enterprise for processing; means for automatically generating a first communication with a first graphical indication in connection with the first resource allocation request; means for receiving a second resource allocation request from a second entity, the second resource allocation request being associated with the first company; means for automatically determining that the second resource allocation request is to be processed in accordance with a risk relationship between the enterprise and the first company; means for routing information about the second resource allocation request to a request handler device of the enterprise for processing, wherein the request handler device may be the same device that received the information about the first resource allocation request; and means for automatically generating a second communication with a second graphical indication in connection with the second resource allocation request, wherein the second graphical indication is different than the first graphical indication.

(5) In some embodiments, a communication device associated with a back-end application computer server exchanges information with remote devices in connection with an interactive graphical user interface. The information may be exchanged, for example, via public and/or proprietary communication networks.

(6) A technical effect of some embodiments of the invention is an improved and computerized way to provide risk relationship resource allocation request servicing in a way that provides faster and more efficient results as compared to traditional approaches. With these and other advantages and features that will become hereinafter apparent, a more complete understanding of the nature of the invention can be obtained by referring to the following detailed description and to the drawings appended hereto.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- (1) FIG. 1 is a high-level block diagram of a traditional workers' compensation insurance arrangement.
- (2) FIG. 2 is a high-level block diagram of an arrangement using a Third-Party Administrator to service workers' compensation claims of a self-insured company.
- (3) FIG. 3 is a hybrid risk relationship resource allocation servicing arrangement in accordance with some embodiments.
- (4) FIG. 4 is a more detailed hybrid risk relationship resource allocation servicing system in accordance with some embodiments.
- (5) FIG. 5 illustrates a method according to some embodiments of the present invention.
- (6) FIG. 6 illustrates a cash call system in accordance with some embodiments.
- (7) FIG. 7 illustrates a cash call method according to some embodiments.
- (8) FIG. 8 is an information flow diagram in accordance with some embodiments.
- (9) FIG. 9 illustrates a payment processing system according to some embodiments.
- (10) FIG. 10 illustrates a payment processing method in accordance with some embodiments.
- (11) FIG. 11 is a block diagram of an apparatus in accordance with some embodiments of the present invention.
- (12) FIG. 12 is a portion of a tabular resource request database according to some embodiments.
- (13) FIG. 13 is an example of a risk relationship resource allocation request display in accordance with some embodiments.
- (14) FIG. 14 illustrates an overall process in accordance with some embodiments.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

(15) The present invention provides significant technical improvements to facilitate electronic messaging and dynamic data processing. The present invention is directed to more than merely a computer implementation of a routine or conventional activity previously known in the industry as it significantly advances the technical efficiency, access, and/or accuracy of communications between devices by implementing a specific new method and system as defined herein. The present invention is a specific advancement in the area of electronic risk protection by providing benefits in data accuracy (e.g., ensuring that resource allocation requests are handled in an efficient and accurate fashion), data availability, and data integrity and such advances are not merely a longstanding commercial practice. The present invention provides improvement beyond a mere generic computer implementation as it involves the processing and conversion of significant amounts of data, from multiple sources, in a new beneficial manner as well as the interaction of a variety of specialized client and/or third-party systems, networks, and subsystems. For example, in the present invention information may be processed, updated, and analyzed via a back-end-end application server to accurately improve processing of resource allocation requests, thus improving the overall efficiency of the system associated with message storage requirements and/or bandwidth considerations (e.g., by reducing the number of messages that need to be transmitted via the network). Moreover, embodiments associated with collecting accurate information might further improve risk values, predictions of risk values, allocations of resources, electronic record processing decisions, etc.

(16) FIG. 1 is a high-level block diagram of a traditional workers' compensation insurance arrangement **100**. A company **110** may enter a risk relationship (e.g., a workers' compensation insurance agreement) with an insurer **120**. Details about the relationship may be stored in an insurance policy data store **130** (e.g., a premium amount, terms and conditions, coverage information, etc.). Claim handlers **160** of the insurer **120** may process resource allocation requests (e.g., insurance claims) as they received from claimants **170** (e.g., injured workers).

(17) FIG. 2 is a high-level block diagram of an arrangement **200** using a Third-Party Administrator (“TPA”) **250** to service workers' compensation claims of a “self-insured” company **210**. As used herein, the phrase “self-insured” may refer to a risk management technique in which the company **210** sets aside a pool of money to be used to remedy an unexpected loss. That is, there is no risk relationship agreement between the company **210** and an insurer. Claim handlers **260** may process resource allocation requests from claimants **270**. According to some embodiments, details about the arrangement **200** may be stored in an optional contracts/service agreement repository **212** (e.g., Service Level Agreement (“SLA”) details). Note that embodiments may be associated with a Self-Insured Retention (“SIR”) agreement which has a dollar amount specified in a contract that must be paid by the company **210** before an insurer will respond to a loss. Under an SIR contract, the company **210** (rather than the insurer) would pay defense and/or indemnity costs associated with a claim until the SIR limit was reached. After that point, the insurer may make any additional payments for defense and indemnity that were covered by the over-arching excess policy.

(18) In some cases, a company might want to use a traditional arrangement **100** for some submitted claims while using a self-insured arrangement **200** for other submitted claims. For example, a company might want to utilize a self-insured approach for a headquarters while utilizing a traditional insured-insurer approach for satellite offices located throughout the country.

Implementing such a hybrid approach, however, can be a difficult task for an insurer. For example, SIR “bundled” claim administration may be associated with a company that purchases a policy without any claims management services. The insurer provides all other policy management services including: filing coverage with the state, reporting claim data to various reporting agencies, and reporting claim information with an applicable state government. The insurer may also issue certificates of insurance if the company needs them for customers or vendors. The insurer may mitigate its risk by requiring collateral from the company for the payment of claims (usually in form of a letter of credit). This may provide the insurer an asset to draw upon if the company's financial condition deteriorates (and it cannot pay losses). Also note that each state has different rules and regulations regarding the administration of self-insured workers' compensation claims. For example, requirements in Electronic Data Interchange (“EDI”) states may be complex making claims difficult to administer claims.

(19) FIG. 3 is a hybrid risk relationship resource allocation servicing arrangement **300** in accordance with some embodiments. As in the traditional approach **100**, a company **310** may enter a risk relationship (e.g., a workers' compensation insurance agreement) with an insurer **320** for certain employees or claims. Details about the relationship may be stored in an excess insurance policy data store **330** (e.g., a premium amount, terms and conditions, coverage information, etc.). Claim handlers **360** of the insurer **320** may process resource allocation requests (e.g., insurance claims) as they received from claimants **370** (e.g., injured workers). In this arrangement, however, a claim servicing entity **350** will service certain workers' compensation claims as a “self-insured” company **310**. The claim handlers **360** may process self-insured resource allocation requests from claimants **370** for the claim servicing entity **350** (e.g., the same claim handlers **360** that process claims under the insurance policy). According to some embodiments, details about the arrangement **300** may be stored in an optional contracts/service agreement repository **312**. The claim servicing entity **350** may comprise, for example, a Limited Liability Company (“LLC”) with its own Tax Identification Number (“TIN”) and/or Federal Employer Identification Number (“FEIN”).

(20) FIG. 4 is a more detailed hybrid risk relationship resource allocation servicing system **400** in accordance with some embodiments of the present invention. In particular, the system **400** includes a back-end application computer server **450** (e.g., associated with an enterprise such as an insurance company or claim servicing entity) that may access information in a risk relationship data store **410** (e.g., storing a set of electronic records **412** representing risk relationships or associations, each record **412** including, for example, one or more risk relationship or insurance policy identifiers **414**, attribute variables **416**, premium values **4148**, etc.) and/or a resource request

data store **420** (e.g., storing records associated with workers' compensation insurance claims). The back-end application computer server **450** may also retrieve information from other data stores or sources—such as a company **432**, a claimant **434**, and third-party data **436** (e.g., storing credit scores, communication addresses, motor vehicle information, or court records)—in connection with a request routing tool **455** and apply algorithms and/or models to the electronic records (e.g., to help process insurance claims in an appropriate way). The back-end application computer server **450** may also exchange information with remote devices **460** (e.g., a workstation) associated with claim handler who process workers' compensation insurance claims (e.g., via a communication port **465** that might include a firewall). According to some embodiments, an interactive graphical user interface platform of the back-end application computer server **450** (and, in some cases, third-party data) may facilitate the display of information associated with the request routing tool **455** via one or more remote computers (e.g., to gather additional information about a contract, risk relationship, or resource allocation requests) and/or the remote device **460s**. For example, the remote devices **460** may transmit updated information (e.g., an adjusted claim file) to the back-end application computer server **450**. Based on the updated information, the back-end application computer server **450** may adjust data from the risk relationship data store **410** or a resource request data store **420** and automatically calculate and display updated values. Note that the back-end application computer server **450** and/or any of the other devices and methods described herein might be associated with a cloud-based environment and/or a third party, such as a vendor that performs a service for an enterprise.

(21) The back-end application computer server **450** and/or the other elements of the system **400** might be, for example, associated with a Personal Computer (“PC”), laptop computer, smartphone, an enterprise server, a server farm, and/or a database or similar storage devices. According to some embodiments, an “automated” back-end application computer server **450** (and/or other elements of the system **400**) may facilitate updates of electronic records in the risk relationship data store **410** and the resource request data store **420**. As used herein, the term “automated” may refer to, for example, actions that can be performed with little (or no) intervention by a human.

(22) As used herein, devices, including those associated with the back-end application computer server **450** and any other device described herein may exchange information via any communication network which may be one or more of a Local Area Network (“LAN”), a Metropolitan Area Network (“MAN”), a Wide Area Network (“WAN”), a proprietary network, a Public Switched Telephone Network (“PSTN”), a Wireless Application Protocol (“WAP”) network, a Bluetooth network, a wireless LAN network, and/or an Internet Protocol (“IP”) network such as the Internet, an intranet, or an extranet. Note that any devices described herein may communicate via one or more such communication networks.

(23) The back-end application computer server **450** may store information into and/or retrieve information from the risk relationship data store **410** and/or resource request data store **420**. The risk relationship data store **410** might, for example, store electronic records representing a plurality of existing risk associations (e.g., workers' compensation insurance policies), each electronic record having a set of attribute values including a resource value (e.g., monetary amounts associated with premiums, deductibles, coverage limits, etc.). The data stores **410**, **420** may also contain information about prior and current interactions with entities, including those associated with various companies **432** and claimants **434**. The risk relationship data store **410** and/or resource request data store **420** may be locally stored or reside remote from the back-end application computer server **450**. As will be described further below, the risk relationship data store **410** and/or the resource request data store **420** may be used by the back-end application computer server **450** in connection with the request routing tool **455** to automatically guide insurance claim processing. Although a single back-end application computer server **450** is shown in FIG. 4, any number of such devices may be included. Moreover, various devices described herein might be combined according to embodiments of the present invention. For example, in some embodiments, the back-

end application computer server **450**, the risk relationship data store **410**, and/or the resource request data store **420** might be co-located and/or may comprise a single apparatus.

(24) Note that the system **400** of FIG. **4** is provided only as an example, and embodiments may be associated with additional elements or components. According to some embodiments, the elements of the system **400** automatically transmit information associated with a workers' compensation insurance claim over a distributed communication network. FIG. **5** illustrates a method **500** that might be performed by some or all of the elements of the system **400** described with respect to FIG. **4**, or any other system, according to some embodiments of the present invention. The flow charts described herein do not imply a fixed order to the steps, and embodiments of the present invention may be practiced in any order that is practicable. Note that any of the methods described herein may be performed by hardware, software, or any combination of these approaches. For example, a computer-readable storage medium may store thereon instructions that when executed by a machine result in performance according to any of the embodiments described herein.

(25) At **S510**, a back-end application computer server of an enterprise (e.g., an insurer) may receive a first resource allocation request (e.g., a workers' compensation insurance claim) from a first entity (e.g., a claimant), the first resource allocation request being associated with a first company. At **S520**, the system may automatically determine that the first resource allocation request is not associated with a risk relationship between the enterprise and the first company. Based on the automatic determination, at **S530** the system may arrange for the first resource allocation request to be processed via a claim servicing entity. At **S540**, the system may route information about the first resource allocation request to a request handler device (e.g., associated with a workers' compensation insurance claim handler) of the enterprise for processing. At **S550**, the system may automatically generate a first communication with a first graphical indication in connection with the first resource allocation request (e.g., on a check, invoice, web page, video chat system, etc.).

(26) At **S560**, the back-end application computer server may receive a second resource allocation request from a second entity, the second resource allocation request being associated with the first company. At **S570**, the system may automatically determine that the second resource allocation request is to be processed in accordance with a risk relationship between the enterprise and the first company. At **S580**, the system may route information about the second resource allocation request to a request handler device of the enterprise for processing. Note that the request handler device may be the same device that received the information about the first resource allocation request. At **S590**, the system may automatically generate a second communication with a second graphical indication in connection with the second resource allocation request, wherein the second graphical indication is different than the first graphical indication. In this way, the system can help ensure that the party receiving the communication understands the role of the enterprise in the transaction.

(27) According to some embodiments, the system may further include a communication port coupled to the back-end application computer server to facilitate a transmission of data with a remote device to support a graphical interactive user interface display via a distributed communication network. The interactive user interface display may provide information about processed resource allocation requests (e.g., so that an operator or administration can review and/or adjust operation of the system).

(28) In some embodiments, an excess risk relationship data store may contain electronic records that represent a plurality of excess risk relationships between the enterprise and a plurality of companies. Each electronic record might include, for example, a relationship identifier and a set of attribute resource values associated with risk attributes. Similarly, a contract service agreement repository may contain electronic records that represent a plurality of service agreements between the enterprise and the plurality of companies.

(29) In this way, embodiments may provide a singular entity that handles both normal workers' compensation claims and self-insured claims in a seamless way. In this way, a single enterprise can utilize the knowledge, experience, and capacity to handle different types of claims in an accurate

and efficient way.

(30) When a claim is handled as a “self-insured” type claim, the claim servicing entity might require that a company provide payment before the claimant receives a benefit. That is, because there is no insurance policy associated with the claim, the claim servicing entity may want to avoid the risk of first paying the claimant and then being reimbursed by the company (especially when the amount of payment is substantial. As a result, FIG. 6 illustrates a cash call system **600** in accordance with some embodiments. As before, the system **600** includes a back-end application computer server **650** (e.g., associated with a claim servicing entity) that may access information in a resource request data store **620** (e.g., storing records associated with workers' compensation insurance claims). The back-end application computer server **650** may also retrieve information from other data stores or sources—such as a company **632** and a claimant **634**—in connection with a claim routing tool **655** and a cash call tool **656** and apply algorithms and/or models to the electronic records (e.g., to help process insurance claims in an appropriate way). The back-end application computer server **650** may also exchange information with remote claim handler devices **660** (e.g., workstations).

(31) At (A), a claimant **634** may submit a workers' compensation insurance claim to the back-end application computer server **650** and information about the claim may be stored into the resource request data store **620** at (B). If the claim meets certain conditions (e.g., the claim is self-insured and associated with a value over a pre-determined threshold), the cash call tool **656** may request pre-payment from the company **632** at (C). Only after the company **632** pre-pays at (D), will the claim servicing entity authorize the claim handler device **660** at (E) to provide payment to the claimant **634**.

(32) FIG. 7 illustrates a cash call method **700** according to some embodiments. At **S710**, a first workers' compensation claim (associated with a first company) may be received from a first claimant. At **S720**, it may be determined if the first workers' compensation claim is associated with an insurance policy. If so, the system processes the first workers' compensation claim and provides payment to the claimant at **S760**.

(33) If there is no insurance policy at **S720** (that is, the claim is “self-insured”), the system determines if the first workers' compensation insurance claim is over a pre-determined limit (e.g., \$100,000) at **S730**. If the claim is not over the limit at **S730**, the system processes the first workers' compensation claim and provides payment to the claimant at **S760** (e.g., the amount of risk assumed by the claim servicing entity is relatively small).

(34) If the claim is over the limit at **S730**, the system requests payment from the first company at **S740** (a “cash call”). Only after payment is received at **S750**, will the system process the first workers' compensation claim and provides payment to the claimant at **S760** (e.g., no risk is assumed by the claim servicing entity which has already received payment).

(35) FIG. 8 is an information flow diagram **800** in accordance with some embodiments. At **812**, an insurance claim adjuster may use an Account Service Agreement (“ACA”) to understand specific cash call requirements for a large SIR handling. A billing analyst may be notified of a cash call at **822** and enter timing and a cash value amount at **824**. For pending settlements and/or groups of payments that need to be made above a cash call threshold, the adjuster might transmit an email to a specialty billing mailbox. The email might contain, for example: an account name; a cash call amount (the total the company should advance fund); a service number; a policy number; policy effective dates; a claimant; a claim number; and a date of loss.

A billing department may then issue a cash call invoice within a pre-determined period of time (e.g., 1 business day) at **842**. The company will then have a period of time (e.g., 3 business days) to execute an Electronic Funds Transfer (“EFT”) providing payment to a billing lockbox at **832**.

When payment is received by the billing analyst, the transaction type may be noted at **826** and payment may be remitted at **828**. The billing analyst may then email the adjuster that the cash has been received at **829** and the adjuster may issue payment at **814**. The cash call can then be applied

to the next invoice. For example, the billing department may mark the payment as a cash call pre-payment at **844**, and the payment may be added to an invoice at **852** in connection with a database system (e.g., a database system associated with national accounts of an insurance enterprise). That invoice may then be sent from the database system (**854**) and received by the customer (**834**). Note that the invoice and/or other communications may make the role the enterprise is performing in the transactions clear (e.g., whether or not the enterprise is acting as an insurer).

(36) Since some workers' compensation claims might be handled under an insurance policy while other claims are handled as “self-insured,” it might be important for an enterprise to make it clear when it is (and when it is not) acting as an insurer. For example, FIG. **9** illustrates a payment processing system **900** according to some embodiments. As before, the system **900** includes a back-end application computer server **950** (e.g., associated with a claim servicing entity) that may access information in a resource request data store **920** (e.g., storing records associated with workers' compensation insurance claims). The back-end application computer server **950** may also retrieve information from other data stores or sources—such as a claimant **934**—in connection with a claim routing tool **955** and a claim processing tool **956** and apply algorithms and/or models to the electronic records (e.g., to help process insurance claims in an appropriate way). The back-end application computer server **950** may then transmit payment checks, invoices, etc. as the claim is being processed.

(37) At (A), a claimant **934** may submit a workers' compensation insurance claim to the back-end application computer server **950** and information about the claim may be stored into the resource request data store **920** at (B). If the claim processing tool **956** determines that the claim is not associated with a risk relationship, it may arrange to process a transfer **980** (e.g., a check or invoice) via a first graphical indication **982** at (C). If the claim processing tool **956** determines that the second first resource allocation request is to be processed in accordance with a risk relationship between the enterprise and first company, it may arrange to process a transfer **990** via a second graphical indication **992** at (D). The second graphical indication **992** may be different than the first graphical indication **982** (e.g., an might include a name, address, logo, etc.).

(38) Note that either the first or second graphical indication might be associated with an image, a logo, a processing party name, an address, contact information, etc., on a postal mailing, web site, video conferencing background, or any other type of communication. Moreover, the determination that a resource allocation request is not associated with a risk relationship between the enterprise and the first company (or instead that it is in fact associated with such a relationship) might be based on a claimant identifier, a business rule, an algorithm, an automated analysis of a resource allocation request, etc.

(39) FIG. **10** illustrates a payment processing method **1000** in accordance with some embodiments. At **S1010** the system may receive a first workers' compensation claim (associated with a first company) from a first claimant. If the first workers' compensation claim is not associated with an insurance policy at **S1020** (that is, it is a “self-insured” claim), a transfer is processed via a first graphical indication at **S1030**. If the first workers' compensation claim is associated with an insurance policy at **S1020**, a transfer is processed via a second graphical indication at **S1040**. In this way, an enterprise may make it clear when it is (and when it is not) acting as an insurer and avoid confusion.

(40) The embodiments described herein may be implemented using any number of different hardware configurations. For example, FIG. **11** illustrates an apparatus **1100** that may be, for example, associated with the system **400** described with respect to FIG. **4**. The apparatus **1100** comprises a processor **1110**, such as one or more commercially available Central Processing Units (“CPUs”) in the form of one-chip microprocessors, coupled to a communication device **1120** configured to communicate via communication network (not shown in FIG. **11**). The communication device **1120** may be used to communicate, for example, with one or more remote claim handler/customer computers and or communication devices (e.g., PCs and smartphones).

Note that communications exchanged via the communication device **1120** may utilize security features, such as those between a public internet user and an internal network of the insurance enterprise. The security features might be associated with, for example, web servers, firewalls, and/or PCI infrastructure. The apparatus **1100** further includes an input device **1140** (e.g., a mouse and/or keyboard to enter information about a company, a claimant, an insurance claim, insurance details, etc.) and an output device **1150** (e.g., to output reports regarding works' compensation insurance claim processing).

(41) The processor **1110** also communicates with a storage device **1130**. The storage device **1130** may comprise any appropriate information storage device, including combinations of magnetic storage devices (e.g., a hard disk drive), optical storage devices, mobile telephones, and/or semiconductor memory devices. The storage device **1130** stores a program **1115** and/or a risk analysis tool or application for controlling the processor **1110**. The processor **1110** performs instructions of the program **1115**, and thereby operates in accordance with any of the embodiments described herein. For example, the processor **1110** may receive a first resource allocation request (associated with a first company) from a first entity. The processor **1110** may determine that the first request is not associated with a risk relationship and arrange for it to be processed via a claim servicing entity. Information about the first request may then be routed to a request handler device for processing and a communication with a first graphical indication may be generated. The processor **1110** may also receive a second resource allocation request (associated with the first company) from a second entity and determine that it is to be processed via a risk. The processor **1110** may then route information about the second request to a request handler device for processing and generate a communication with a second graphical indication. Note that the request handler device may be the same device that received the information about the first request.

(42) The program **1115** may be stored in a compressed, uncompiled and/or encrypted format. The program **1115** may furthermore include other program elements, such as an operating system, a database management system, and/or device drivers used by the processor **1110** to interface with peripheral devices.

(43) As used herein, information may be “received” by or “transmitted” to, for example: (i) the back-end application computer server **1100** from another device; or (ii) a software application or module within the back-end application computer server **1100** from another software application, module, or any other source.

(44) In some embodiments (such as shown in FIG. **11**), the storage device **1130** further stores an excess risk relationship database **1160**, a resource request database **1200**, and a service agreement database **1170**. An example of a database that might be used in connection with the apparatus **1100** will now be described in detail with respect to FIG. **12**. Note that the database described herein is only an example, and additional and/or different information may be stored therein. Moreover, various databases might be split or combined in accordance with any of the embodiments described herein. For example, the resource request database **1200** and the excess risk relationship database **1160** might be combined and/or linked to each other within the program **1115**.

(45) Referring to FIG. **12**, a table is shown that represents the resource request database **1200** that may be stored at the apparatus **1200** according to some embodiments. The table may include, for example, entries associated with workers' compensation claims. The table may also define fields **1202**, **1204**, **1206**, **1208**, **1210** for each of the entries. The fields **1202**, **1204**, **1206**, **1208**, **1210** may, according to some embodiments, specify: a resource allocation request identifier **1202**, a claimant identifier and amount **1204**, a company identifier **1206**, a processing decision **1208**, and a status **1210**. The risk relation database **1200** may be created and updated, for example, based on information electrically received from various claimant computer systems, including those associated with an insurer.

(46) The resource allocation request identifier **1202** may be, for example, a unique alphanumeric code identifying (or a link to) a workers' compensation insurance claim (that might or might not be

associated with a risk relationship such as an insurance policy). The claimant identifier and amount **1204** might indicate a worker name or number and an amount associated with the claim. The company identifier **1206** might identify the insured and the processing decision **1208** might indicate whether the claim is self-insured or covered under a workers' compensation insurance policy. The status **1210** might indicate the current state of the claim (e.g., in process, approved, etc.). By way of example, because "RAR_10004" had processing decision **1208** of "self-insured" and the amount **1204** was substantial, the status **1210** might comprise "awaiting cash call response."

(47) FIG. **13** is an example of a risk relationship resource allocation servicing system display **1300** in accordance with some embodiments. The display **1300** provides a graphical depiction **1310** of elements of a claim servicing entity framework to an operator via an interactive interface that allows the operator to adjust system components as appropriate. For example, selection of an item on the display **1300** (e.g., via a touchscreen or computer mouse pointer **1320**) may let the operator see more information about that particular item in a pop-up window and/or adjust operation of that item (e.g., by determining or over-riding the current status of a workers' compensation insurance claim). According to some embodiments, the display **1300** further includes a user-selectable "halt self-insured claim processing" icon **1330** that can be activated to generate a resource allocation halt signal associated with a company. Responsive to the resource allocation halt signal, the system may flag future resource allocation requests associated with the company that are not associated with a risk relationship between the enterprise and the company (while still processing claims covered under an insurance policy).

(48) Thus, embodiments may provide an automated and efficient way to provide risk relationship resource allocation request servicing in a way that provides faster and more efficient results as compared to traditional approaches. Embodiments may enhance claim service to deliver more value to customers and distribution partners with loss-sensitive workers' compensation exposures. Specifically, embodiments may handle self-insured workers' compensation claims for those customers who have excess workers compensation policies via a claim servicing entity. In this way, a similar claims experience to may be delivered to customers with self-insured and loss-sensitive workers' compensation claims. The ability to offer self-insured, loss-sensitive workers' compensation claims handling may enable an insurer to grow business and improve perception in the marketplace as it relates to broader appetite, innovation and flexibility. Additionally, companies may prefer to keep their traditional loss-sensitive and self-insured workers' compensation programs together with the same claims administrator.

(49) The following illustrates various additional embodiments of the invention. These do not constitute a definition of all possible embodiments, and those skilled in the art will understand that the present invention is applicable to many other embodiments. Further, although the following embodiments are briefly described for clarity, those skilled in the art will understand how to make any changes, if necessary, to the above-described apparatus and methods to accommodate these and other embodiments and applications.

(50) Although specific hardware and data configurations have been described herein, note that any number of other configurations may be provided in accordance with embodiments of the present invention (e.g., some of the information associated with the displays described herein might be implemented as a virtual or augmented reality display and/or the databases described herein may be combined or stored in external systems).

(51) Moreover, although embodiments have been described with respect to particular types of insurance policies, embodiments may instead be associated with other types of insurance policies or arrangements in addition to and/or instead of the policies described herein (e.g., general liability insurance, automobile insurance, etc.). FIG. **14** illustrates an overall business process **1400** in accordance with some embodiments. At **S1410**, a hybrid workers' compensation relationship may be established between an insurer and a company. At **S1420**, workers' compensation insurance

claims may be received from claimants. These claims may then be processed (including both self-insured claims and insured claims) using the same pool of claim handlers at **S1430**. At **S1440**, the insurer (and/or claim servicing entity) may make cash calls and adjust image indications (e.g., on checks and invoices) as appropriate. At **S1450**, payments may be provided to claimants as the workers' compensation insurance claims are processed.

(52) The present invention has been described in terms of several embodiments solely for the purpose of illustration. Persons skilled in the art will recognize from this description that the invention is not limited to the embodiments described, but may be practiced with modifications and alterations limited only by the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

Claims

1. A system to provide resource allocation request servicing for risk relationships via a back-end application computer server of an enterprise, comprising: (a) the back-end application computer server including: a computer processor, and a computer memory coupled to the computer processor and storing program instructions that, when executed by the computer processor, cause the back-end application computer server to: (i) receive a first resource allocation request from a first entity, the first resource allocation request being associated with a first company, (ii) access a plurality of records in a risk relationship data store associated with an encrypted database management system, (iii) in response to the access, automatically determine that the first resource allocation request is not associated with a risk relationship between the enterprise and the first company, the determination based on the back-end application computer server accessing a plurality of records in the risk relationship data store and determining at least one identifier associated with the request is absent from the risk relationship data store, (iv) based on the automatic determination, arrange for the first resource allocation request to be processed via a claim servicing entity, wherein resource allocation requests that are determined to be associated with the risk relationship between the enterprise and the first company are not processed via the claim servicing entity thereby reducing a number of electronic messages transmitted via a distributed communication network, (v) route information about the first resource allocation request to a request handler device of the enterprise for processing, (vi) automatically generate a first graphical indication in connection with the first resource allocation request, (vii) receive a second resource allocation request from a second entity, the second resource allocation request being associated with the first company, (viii) automatically determine that the second resource allocation request is to be processed in accordance with the risk relationship between the enterprise and the first company, (ix) route information about the second resource allocation request to the request handler device of the enterprise for processing, wherein the request handler device may be a same device that received the information about the first resource allocation request, and (x) automatically generate a second communication with a second graphical indication in connection with the second resource allocation request, wherein the second graphical indication is different than the first graphical indication; and (b) a communication port coupled to the back-end application computer server to facilitate a transmission of data with a remote device to support a graphical interactive user interface display via security features of the distributed communication network; wherein the back-end application computer server facilitates updating of electronic records in the risk relationship data store by: automatically, via a first algorithm, adjusting data in the risk relationship data store in response to received updated information; and automatically, via a second algorithm, calculating and displaying updated values on the graphical interactive user interface display based on the updated information in real time, so that each entity has immediate access to the updated values.

2. The system of claim 1, further comprising: (c) the risk relationship data store containing electronic records that represent a plurality of excess risk relationships between the enterprise and a plurality of companies, wherein each electronic record includes a relationship identifier and a set of

attribute resource values associated with risk attributes.

3. The system of claim 2, further comprising: (d) a contract service agreement repository containing electronic records that represent a plurality of service agreements between the enterprise and the plurality of companies.
 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the back-end application computer server is further programmed to: after determining that the first resource allocation request is not associated with the risk relationship, detect that the first resource allocation request is associated with a value above a pre-determined threshold value and, responsive to this detection, request an advance resource transfer from the first company.
 5. The system of claim 4, wherein the back-end application computer server is further programmed to: upon completion of the advance resource transfer from the first company, arrange a resource transfer to the first entity.
 6. The system of claim 1, wherein said determination that the first resource allocation request is not associated with the risk relationship between the enterprise and the first company is based at least in part on: (i) a claimant identifier, (ii) a business rule, (iii) an algorithm, and (iv) an automated analysis of the first resource allocation request.
 7. The system of claim 1, wherein the enterprise comprises an insurer, the first and second entities are claimants, and the resource allocation request is a workers' compensation insurance claim.
 8. The system of claim 7, wherein the request handler device is associated with an insurance claim handler.
 9. The system of claim 1, wherein the back-end application computer server is further to: receive a resource allocation halt signal associated with the first company, and responsive to the resource allocation halt signal, flag future resource allocation requests associated with the first company that are not associated with the risk relationship between the enterprise and the first company.
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