A system and a method for receiving live human feedback of an image provided using a mobile device equipped with a camera. The method includes capturing an image with the mobile device equipped with a camera, inputting a text query, where the text query corresponds with the image, transmitting the image and the text query to a server, determining at least one client user to send the image and the text query to, sending the image and the text query from the server to the at least one client user, reviewing the image and the text query, formulating at least one text response relating to the image and the text query, accepting the at least one text response from the at least one client user, and outputting the at least one text response to a user.
Figure 1

Start

102 ~ Camera On?

Yes

Display current image

No

Generate Image?

Yes

Attach text query

Send image and query to server

Send image and query to clients

Send feedback to user through server

End
Figure 2

Mobile Device With Camera

Server

Client 1

Client 2

Client N

Image & Query

Text Responses

Image & Query

Text Responses
METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
HUMAN-POWERED MOBILE VISUAL
SEARCH AND FEEDBACK

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATIONS

This patent application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application Ser. No. 60/955,995, filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on Aug. 15, 2007 by Wissau-Gross et al., the entire contents of this application being incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND

1. Technical Field

The present disclosure relates to a method and a system for providing various services using photos taken with a camera phone. In particular, the present disclosure is directed to a method and a system for providing data and feedback, back and forth between a user and another set of at least one client user, using photos taken with a camera phone.

2. Description of the Related Art

Mobile telephones have advanced significantly over the past two decades. In addition to mobile telephones having the capability to make wireless telephone calls, they also now have, for example, a game function, a transmitting function and a camera function. The camera function further allows a user to take a photograph and then send the photograph to other mobile phones and electronic mail accounts. However, the process of sending a photograph is not a process by which a receiver of the image can immediately send live feedback in just an instant.

SUMMARY

In an embodiment of the present disclosure, a method for receiving live human feedback of an image provided using a mobile device equipped with a camera is presented. The method includes capturing an image with a mobile device equipped with a camera and inputting a text query the text query corresponds with the image. The method also includes transmitting the image data and the text query to a server, determining at least one client user to send the image and the text query to, and sending the image and the text query from the server to the at least one client user. Further, the method includes reviewing the image and the text query, formulating at least one text response relating to the image and the text query, accepting the at least one text response from the at least one client user, and outputting the at least one text response.

In another embodiment of the present disclosure, a system for receiving live human feedback of an image data provided using a mobile device equipped with a camera is presented. The system includes a mobile device equipped with a camera, a captured image, a text query corresponding to the captured image, a wireless network, a server to receive the captured image and the text query through the wireless network, a processor to determine at least one client user to send the captured image and the text query to, and at least one client user to provide a text response to a user, through the server, through the wireless network.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The objects and features of the present disclosure, which are believed to be novel, are set forth with particularity in the appended claims. The present disclosure, both as to its organization and manner of operation, together with further objectives and advantages, may be best understood by reference to the following description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings as set forth below:

FIG. 1 illustrates a flowchart of the method of sending an image to a client to receive feedback on the image, according to an embodiment of the present disclosure; and

FIG. 2 is an outlined diagram showing a system of a camera phone user generating and sending an image to a server and client users for live human feedback.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY
EMBODIMENTS

The following detailed description refers to the accompanying drawings. The same reference numbers in different drawings may identify the same or similar elements. In addition, the following detailed description does not limit the present disclosure.

FIG. 1 illustrates a flowchart of the method of sending an image to a client to receive feedback on the image, according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

Referring to FIG. 1, the first thing to check is whether or not a camera shooting mode on the camera phone is set to "on", in step 102. If the camera shooting mode is set to "on", the current image of the location which the user wants to shoot is displayed on the display section of the camera phone, in step 104. If the user wants to generate the image into a photograph, at step 106, then the image is taken and stored. The user, at step 108, then has an option to add a text query, such as a subject or a body of the message to correspond to the image captured. At step 110, the image and optional text query are sent to a server through a wireless network. The server sends the image and the optional query, in step 112, to client users, for example, visitors to a website. Then, at step 114, textual responses from the client users are sent to the server and the server forwards the responses back to the camera phone user, in step 114. Therefore, the camera phone user is receiving live human answers and feedback in response to mobile visual queries.

FIG. 2 is an outlined diagram showing a system of a camera phone user generating and sending an image to a server and client users for live human feedback.

Referring to FIG. 2, the system 200 includes a mobile device 202, a server 204, at least one client 206a, 206b, etc., and a wireless network (not shown). The mobile device 202 may be a mobile cellular telephone with a camera feature.

The mobile device with a camera 202 may shoot an object to be captured through a camera lens and then converts the image to a digital photograph that is transmitted through a wireless network.

Once an image is captured on the mobile device 202 and converted to a digital image, and a text query is entered on the same mobile device 202, the image and the text query are sent to the server 204. The server 204 acts as a gateway between (a) a user capturing the image and entering the text query; and (b) the client user who reviews the image and text query and responds with feedback, comments and/or advice. The server 204 also determines which client users to send the image and text query to, how many of them to send it to, and how many responses to accept.

The present disclosure may be especially helpful for, among others, several applications. For example, a user may be shopping and would like to determine if the price that they are getting is reasonable. Therefore, a user may take a photograph, using his camera phone, of a television. The text query may include the television size, make and model.
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the image and the text query are passed through the server; the
feedback received by the user may include prices for comparable
products to those photographed. Therefore, the present
disclosure may be used for comparison shopping.

Another example of using the present disclosure is if a user
is in an unfamiliar area and is lost. The user may use an
embodiment of the present disclosure to obtain directions
and/or a map.

The following is a list of other areas in which the method
and system of the present disclosure may be used:
To assess the reliability of products being considered for
purchase by those who have used them;
To obtain advice and directions what will help in the
assembly of purchases;
To focus test products;
To get advice in social situations, such as on a date;
To get opinions on personal physical and other appear-
ances;
To find out where to purchase products that are photo-
graphed but for which origins are known to the pho-
ographer;
To find out if food is healthful or to assess how many
calories are in a particular food; and
To get help with homework and other problems of an
intellectual nature.

No element, act, or instruction used in the present applica-
tion should be construed as critical or essential to the present
disclosure unless explicitly described as such. In addition, as
used herein, the article "a" is intended to include one or more
items. Where only one item is intended, the term "one" or
similar language is used.

It will be understood that various modifications may be
made to the embodiments disclosed herein. Therefore, the
above description should not be construed as limiting, but
merely as exemplifications of the various embodiments of the
present disclosure. Those skilled in the art will envision other
modifications within the scope and spirit of the claims
appended hereto.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for receiving live human feedback of an image
provided using a mobile device equipped with a camera, the
method comprising the steps of:
capturing an image with a mobile device equipped with a
camera;
inputting a text query, the text query corresponding to the
image;
transmitting the image and the text query to a server;

determining at least one interactive website to send the
image and the text query to; and
sending the image and the text query from the server to the
at least one interactive website, wherein at least one
visitor to the interactive website:
reviews the image and the text query;
formulates at least one text response including advice relat-
ing to the image and the text query; and
sends the at least one text response to the server via the
interactive website; and wherein the server
filters the at least one text response then outputs the at least
one text response to the mobile device capturing the
image.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein only a limited number of
visitors to the at least one interactive website may send the at
least one text response to the server.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the mobile device is a
mobile cellular telephone.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the text response
includes text and/or graphics.

5. A system for receiving live human feedback of an image
provided using a mobile device equipped with a camera, the
system comprising:
a mobile device equipped with a camera;
an image captured using the mobile device;
a text query corresponding to the captured image, the text
query input on the mobile device;
a wireless network;
a server to receive the captured image and the text query
transmitted from the mobile device through the wireless
network;
a processor to determine at least one interactive website to
send the captured image and the text query to; and
at least one visitor to the interactive website to provide a
text response including advice relating to the image and
the text query to the server via the interactive website,
the server to filter the at least one text response then
output the at least one text response to a user, via the
wireless network.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the mobile device is a
mobile cellular telephone.

7. The system of claim 5, wherein only a limited number of
visitors to the at least one interactive website may send the at
least one text response to the server.

8. The system of claim 5, wherein the text response
includes text and/or graphics.

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