Novelty Report

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THE IDEA

A store checkout button that buys an item with one tap using the card and shipping address already on file, without a shopping cart

ASSESSMENT

Occupied, and famously so. United States patent 5960411 - Amazon's 1-Click - claims the stored-credential, single-action, cart-free purchase in exactly the terms of the idea, down to the phrase 'without using a shopping cart ordering model'; it is the reference that decides the question. It expired in 2017, so the idea can be implemented freely but cannot itself be patented. The live patents that carry 'one-tap' in their titles (11455626 and its family) are about physical contactless cards and cryptographic verification, and the pending applications are about delivery settlement and NFC enrolment; none reads on a plain stored-card button. If a filing is the goal, the room is in what the tap authenticates, selects, or settles beyond the 1999 claim - look at 11455626's family first, since those are the only in-force patents in this pool.

CLOSEST PRIOR ART

5960411 95% overlap

Covers: Amazon's 1-Click patent. Claim 1: a client displays item information; in response to only a single action it sends a request with a purchaser identifier; a server-side single-action ordering component retrieves the purchaser's previously stored information, generates the order and fulfils it - 'whereby the item is ordered without using a shopping cart ordering model'. Claim 3 makes the single action a button click.

Overlap with the idea: The idea is the claim. Stored payment and address, one action, no cart - every element is recited, and the 'without a shopping cart' language is in the claim itself. The patent expired in September 2017, so it no longer blocks anyone; it is the reason the idea as stated cannot be patented.

CLAIM ELEMENTS VS. THE IDEA

Client displays information identifying the item	IN THE IDEA
Only a single action performed by the purchaser	IN THE IDEA
Request sent with an identifier of the purchaser	IN THE IDEA
Server retrieves previously stored payment and shipping information	IN THE IDEA
Order generated and fulfilled without a shopping-cart model	IN THE IDEA

11455626 52% overlap

Covers: Capital One, 2022: an authentication app on the phone receives a merchant identifier, transaction identifier, encrypted data and the device's location, decrypts with a card-derived key, checks a prior purchase and a location threshold, then generates a virtual account number with expiry and CVV and sends it to the merchant.

Overlap with the idea: Called 'one-tap payment', but the tap is the phone reading a physical contactless card, and the claim turns on cryptographic verification and a virtual card number. The idea uses stored card details and no physical card, so the core elements are not present.

CLAIM ELEMENTS VS. THE IDEA

Single tap of a contactless card to a mobile device	NOT IN THE IDEA
Encrypted data decrypted with a card-specific key	NOT IN THE IDEA
Location compared with a threshold before approval	NOT IN THE IDEA
Virtual account number generated and sent to the merchant	NOT IN THE IDEA
Purchase completed with one user action	IN THE IDEA

20190164144 48% overlap

Covers: A published application from a food-delivery app: a single prompt that designates the pickup or delivery location and authorises payment including delivery fee and gratuity, completing the order in one step.

Overlap with the idea: One action, stored payment, no cart review - close in spirit. Its distinguishing elements are the delivery-specific fee and gratuity handling and the location designation, which the idea does not include.

CLAIM ELEMENTS VS. THE IDEA

Order completed from a single prompt	IN THE IDEA
Prompt designates pickup or delivery location	ARGUABLY
Payment authorised including delivery fee and gratuity	NOT IN THE IDEA
Stored payment credentials used without re-entry	IN THE IDEA

20140074655 40% overlap

Covers: Application for a wallet server that adds a payment account to a wallet by an NFC tap and then checks out using a stored checkout cookie, so both enrolment and purchase are one tap.

Overlap with the idea: Reaches the checkout half of the idea through the stored-credential cookie; the NFC account-addition step is not part of the idea.

7103566 28% overlap

Covers: Executable shopping lists: a single action from an affiliate site loads a predefined bundle of items into the merchant's cart for purchase.

Overlap with the idea: One action triggers a purchase flow, but it explicitly uses the cart the idea avoids, and it concerns bundles rather than a single item.

APPARENT WHITE SPACE

The idea as described has no white space: 5960411 claims it verbatim, and its expiry makes it public domain rather than open ground. What the later filings show is that new claims in this area come from what happens around the single action - card-present cryptography (11455626), delivery-specific settlement (20190164144), NFC enrolment (20140074655). None of these claims appear to reach a one-tap purchase that adapts to context in a way the 1999 patent did not contemplate: choosing among several stored addresses or cards from the tap itself, confirming the purchase through a device biometric bound to the merchant session, or settling across multiple merchants in one action without a cart.

POSSIBLE DIFFERENTIATORS

- Bind the single tap to a device biometric and a merchant-session key so that the one action is also the authentication, and claim that binding
- Let the tap itself select among stored destinations (long-press for a different address) and claim the

gesture-to-address mapping

- Extend the single action across items from several unrelated merchants settled in one transaction without a cart
- Claim a one-tap purchase that is reversible for a fixed window, with the reversal mechanism as a recited element

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