

CRAIGSLIST PURCHASE HUNTER

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OVERVIEW

Craigslist.com is a free classifieds service. Items are sometimes advertised for free or at a cost below market value. There is an unwritten honor system on Craigslist.com where the first person to respond to an advertisement, especially if the offer is reasonable, will be given the opportunity of first refusal. The challenges for a buyer are to be first to respond, with a reasonable offer, and to timely follow up. The proposed software is intended to address these challenges so that the buyer can close the sale.

DEFINITIONS

Application: The application refers to the tool defined in this document.

Buyer: The buyer is the user of the application. The buyer is interested in advertisements and participates in purchases with the seller.

Seller(s): The seller is the person advertising an item to be purchased. The seller participates with the buyer in a purchase.

Advertisement(s): An advertisement is a <<http://craigslist.com/>> “posting.” The posting contains meta-data about the item(s) for sale. The meta-data includes a price, a title, a description, a category, a geographic region, and a seller's email address.

Advertisement-interest(s): An advertisement-interest is a collection of patterns to match against an advertisement and template initial-response and cancel-response emails. One or more patterns can be defined for each advertisement meta-datum.

Purchase-intent(s): A purchase-intent is initiated when an advertisement-interest is found. The buyer will engage with the seller to purchase the advertised item(s).

Initial-response: Is an email sent to the seller (and buyer) when the application matches an advertisement-interest to the seller's advertisement. This email is automatically initiated, composed, and emailed by the application.

Subsequent-response(s): Is one or more emails sent to the seller by the buyer via the application. These emails are manually created by the buyer.

Cancel-response(s): Is an email sent to the seller (and buyer) when the buyer decides to manually terminate the purchase-intent. This email is manually initiated by the buyer, and automatically composed and emailed by the application.

Pattern: A pattern consists of one or more text or numeric criteria. There are two text criteria, required and prohibited. For example, the pattern "wood stove - rusted" is understood as matching any meta-data that includes the terms "wood" and "stove" and not the term "rusted". Potter English stemming rules should be used to compare the base forms of pattern and meta-data terms. There is one numeric criteria, ranges, and is only applied to the price meta-data. For example, the pattern "10-27 or 200-400" says that the price should be within the ranges 10 to 27 or 200 to 400. When no range is given then any price is acceptable.

REQUIREMENTS

1. The application has one buyer.
2. The application has zero or more sellers.
3. The buyer can set the buyer meta-data name, public email address, public telephone number, private SMS telephone number, and TBD.
4. The buyer can create one or more advertisement-interests.
5. The buyer can view the all the advertisement-interests ordered by date created.
6. The buyer can view a subset of advertisement-interests ordered by date created matching a pattern.
7. The buyer can modify one or more advertisement-interests.
8. The buyer can delete one or more advertisement-interests.
9. The buyer can activate one or more advertisement-interests.
10. The buyer can deactivate one or more advertisement-interests.
11. When an advertisement-interest matches an advertisement a purchase-intent is initiated.
12. When a purchase-intent is initiated an initial-response email is sent to the seller and the buyer. The content of the email is defined within the advertisement-interest.
13. When a purchase-intent is initiated an SMS is sent to the buyer. The content of the SMS is defined within the application.
14. The buyer can view all the purchase-intents ordered by initial-response date.
15. The buyer can view all the purchase-intents ordered by most recent response date (among initial-response, subsequent-response(s), and/or cancel-response).
16. The purchase-intents list view can be ordered by subsequent-response date.
17. The buyer can delete one or more purchase-intents.

18. The buyer can cancel one or more purchase-intents.
19. When a purchase-intent is canceled an email is send the seller and buyer. The content of the email is defined within the advertisement-interest.

END