A Desktop Management Solution for eBay Stores

Abstract:
eBayer is an all-in-one desktop application which integrates an existing store's physical inventory with their eBay listings thereby providing an efficient inventory management tool for small-medium sized sellers who may or may not operate from a corresponding physical location. By automating many of the common processes, eBayer eliminates added work and reduces the possibility of human error in a simple to use, trustworthy application...

User Side:
Using eBayer, the store manager can do many things. They can add items, view items, edit items, and remove items manually that were sold from the store and not sold on eBay, as well as view and edit certain store specific information such as any saved coupons to be sent out later. Customer information that needs to be added or altered, and any information pertaining to any previous online transaction. Everything is stored into a database with the following main tables:

- STORE ITEMS
- CUSTOMERS
- SALES
- COUPONS

ADD ITEM FORM
When adding an item, all information is saved and added to the local inventory, as an online eBay listing, or both

EDIT ITEM FORM
When editing an item, the altered information will be saved in the local database and the online listing (if available)

VIEW ITEM FORM
The view item form displays all relevant information for the item selected – it also allows for viewing the HTML description in a browser and provides a link to the picture associated with the item

Still to Come:
eBayer is by no means finished on the user side. Still to come will be to extending the application to act as an interface with the point of sale terminal in the physical store thereby automate the entire selling process on both ends. In addition, I will look to implement the ability to list items in bulk, which will provide an added convenience especially as the store grows in size.

eBay Side:
With eBayer, once an item is added to the inventory, an online listing is created. The reference number for the online listing is saved along with all the other item specifics, and the total fees for listing the item are returned (similar to once an item is edited). Once on eBay, the item is available for purchase where two events can occur. If the online auction ends without it being purchased, the item is automatically re-listed and the information is updated if anything has changed. If the item is purchased, a transaction item is created. Once eBayer is synchronized with the online store, all new transactions are returned and the item is removed from the inventory. If a duplicate exists, then a new item is listed and the information is saved in the local table. In addition to updating the inventory, all information on the sale and the customer is saved for further reference.

Still to Come:
eBayer is by no means finished as far as online functions are concerned. Still to come will be to extending the application to handle for leaving feedback. To do this, it must be able to save and locally store all feedback received so that one can determine when to leave feedback for the buyer. In addition, the application currently is not capable of editing subscription information for the online store. Although unnecessary, it will provide more convenience and a more all around eBay solution once in place.

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