Patent Center Updated: Replacement for EFS-Web and PAIR

Presented by
Richard Fernandez
Lisa Tran

LI21B
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10:30 AM
Patent Center Update
Replacement for EFS-Web and PAIR

eCommerce Division
Office of Patent Information Management
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Introduction

Presented by:

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Communications Manager

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IT Project Manager

Agenda

• eMod Project and Schedule
• DOCX Filing/Retrieval
• New Authentication for EFS-Web and PAIR
• Patent Center
• Future Plans/Ongoing Efforts
• Public Involvement
eMod Project

The eCommerce Modernization (eMod) Project improves the electronic patent application process by modernizing USPTO’s application filing and viewing systems.

2016 – 2017 eMod Text Pilot Program
• System: Legacy (EFS-Web & PAIR)
• Participants: PI Pilot via Registration

September 2017
Offer Text Features to the Public
• System: Legacy
• Participants: All EFS-Web Registered Filers
• USPTO accepts DOCX for initial submissions
• USPTO provides DOCX (including Office actions)
• USPTO provides XML

March 2018
eMod Patent Center Alpha Release
• System: Next Gen
• Participants: External (active in the eMod Text Pilot)
• Limited live filings: Four types of new applications (utility non-provisional, provisional, national stage – 371, design), and their corresponding follow-on submissions
• Limited functionality for viewing/managing applications
• Legacy tools still needed for other functionalities

Summer/Fall 2018
eMod Patent Center Beta Release
• System: Next Gen
• Participants: External (via open registration)
• Focus on patent applicants
• Features:
  • Unified user interface
  • Key functionalities from EFS-Web and PAIR
  • Updates based on eMod Text Pilot Program

Late 2018
• New Authentication Method for EFS-Web Registered and Private PAIR

DOCX Filing/Retrieval

• Most recent enhancements to EFS-Web and PAIR
  – Ability to accept and process DOCX/XML
    • Ability to accept structured text
    • Ability to deliver structured text for initial submissions
    • Ability to deliver structured text Office actions
    • Ability to download XML for initial submissions
  – Limited to specifications, claims, abstract for non-provisional utility applications
• Based on feedback from the eMod Text Pilot Program
  – August 15, 2016 – September 10, 2017
• Additional features and enhancements are being developed for structured text filing within Patent Center
DOCX Features

DOCX Files Selection

DOCX Features

DOCX Files Attachment
DOCX Features

**DOCX Validation**

![Image of DOCX Validation diagram]

**DOCX Validation: Location of Warnings/Errors**

![Image of DOCX Validation diagram with arrows pointing to specific warnings/errors]

No Errors, 1 Warning found.
DOCX Features

Common Topics

- Multi-Section Documents and Page Numbering
- Document Property (Author, Last Modified By, etc.)
- Revision History (Track Changes, Comments, etc.)
- Feedback Document
- DOCX Writers
- DOCX Availability

DOCX Features

More Information/Resources

- Quick Start Guides
  - DOCX Intake located under EFS-Web Resources
    - [http://www.uspto.gov/SubmitDOCX](http://www.uspto.gov/SubmitDOCX)
  - Access and Download DOCX located under PAIR Resources
    - [http://www.uspto.gov/RetrieveDOCX](http://www.uspto.gov/RetrieveDOCX)
  - Patent Electronic Business Center (EBC)
    - Phone: 1-866-217-9197
    - Email: ebc@uspto.gov
- eMod Mailbox: eMod@uspto.gov
Upcoming Authentication Enhancements

New authentication method for EFS-Web Registered and Private PAIR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who</th>
<th>All EFS-Web Registered and Private PAIR users, including support staff (role-based access)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What</td>
<td>New authentication method similar to Patent Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where</td>
<td>Uses MyUSPTO account log-in email and password, and a second factor to authenticate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When</td>
<td>Scheduled for late 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why</td>
<td>To prepare for Patent Center migration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To resolve issues related to current authentication methods</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Users can prepare now by creating their MyUSPTO accounts

Patent Center Overview

New and unified system to replace EFS-Web and PAIR

Single Interface
- Features single interface for filing and managing patent applications

Recent Technology
- Integrates recent technology
- Allows for enhanced system operations
- Enables increased functionality

Authentication
- Implements new permanent authentication method
- Independent of Java Applet
Patent Center New Functionality

- Upload multiple documents at a time
- Drag and drop for document upload
- Intuitive document codes/descriptions
- DOCX/XML features
- New look and feel (user interface)
- Save submissions at any time

Patent Center New Functionality – Cont.

- New authentication solution
- One user – one account*
- Role-based access*
- Customizable views*

*Under development; will be available in a future phase
Patent Center Preview

Authentication

Registered User Authentication

Unregistered User Warning/Notification
Filing Types Available

Registered User

New application types:
- Utility
  - Nonprovisional
  - Provisional
  - U.S. National Stage under 35 USC 371.
- Design
  - Provisional
- International
  - International Application for filing in the US receiving office

Follow-on document types:
- Document/fee for an existing application

Unregistered User

New application types:
- Utility
  - Nonprovisional
  - Provisional
  - U.S. National Stage under 35 USC 371.
- Design
  - Nonprovisional
- International
  - International Application for filing in the US receiving office

Application Data Selection

User can select between the “Web ADS” and “No ADS, or Attached ADS (PDF)”

- “Web ADS”: Provides the user the required sections for completing the ADS
- “No ADS”: Requires the user to enter the title of invention, the first named inventor, and the correspondence address
Application Data Form

Uploading Documents

• Documents can be attached in various formats, depending on the document type (specification, claims, and abstract can be attached in either PDF OR DOCX)
• Two ways to select files:
  – Drag and drop into browser
  – Browse and select the file(s)
• Documents will be automatically validated when uploaded
• If the file has multiple documents, the system will provide the user the option to provide the document description and the corresponding pages
  – After clicking done, the user may continue to upload more files
• Enter the document description for the file or its parts if not found by the headings
• Additional documents can be added by clicking the "Select file(s)" button
• To remove attached files, click on the three-dot button and select "Delete" beside the file (same row)
Submission Receipt

Payment Receipt
Searching for Applications

Customers using the Patent Center system can search for patent applications on both the home page and the Search page, by:
• Application #
• Attorney docket #
• Patent #
• PCT #
• Publication #
• Intl. Design Reg. #

Viewing Application Data
Workbench: Saved Submissions Tab

Workbench: Applications Tab
Applications Tab – Customization

Columns are customizable to add or remove, and each column is sortable by selecting the desired header.

Patent Center Beta Release

- Scheduled for Summer/Fall 2018
- Incorporates updates from Alpha Release and includes additional features
- Larger number of users

If you are interested in receiving more information, please email eMod@uspto.gov with the subject line “Participation Request: eMod Patent Center Beta Release” and we will contact you when the guidelines are available, and registration into the Beta Release is open.
Future Plans

• **Release Patent Center**
  – Make Patent Center available to the public for filing and managing patent applications
  – Incorporate enhancements based on feedback from testing programs
  – Transfer functionality from EFS-Web and PAIR

• **Retire EFS-Web/PAIR**
  – Share retirement plans for legacy tools after Patent Center is available
  – Provide transition period after Patent Center release

• **Inform users**
  – Outreach events
  – Patents Alerts
  – EFS-Web/PAIR

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eMod Ongoing Efforts

1. Work with stakeholders to assure that we understand business needs
2. Conduct outreach to inform stakeholders and gather user feedback
3. Continue to make improvements based on user feedback
eMod Public Involvement

Get Updates:
• Information Sessions
• Website (http://www.uspto.gov/patent/emod)

Provide Feedback:
• Focus Sessions
• User Sessions
• IdeaScale (http://uspto-emod.ideascale.com)

Question/Answer Feedback Session
Thank you!
For additional inquiries, please email us at:
eMod@uspto.gov
Your opinion matters!

Please take a moment now to complete the evaluation.

Thank You!
**eMod** (eCommerce Modernization)

*eMod* is an exciting project to improve the electronic patent application process by modernizing its filing and viewing systems.

**Patent Center** is the new tool in development to replace EFS-Web and PAIR. It features a unified interface, with all of the capabilities from today’s tools in a single place, and so much more.

**Coming Soon! eMod Patent Center Beta Release Scheduled for Summer/Fall 2018**

Participants will be using the implemented features in Patent Center, the new patent electronic filing and management system in development. During the eMod Patent Center Beta Program, applicants have an opportunity to use the new system and provide feedback. If you would like to sign up to receive additional information about the eMod Patent Center Beta Program, please send an email to eMod@uspto.gov with the subject line “Participation Request: eMod Patent Center Beta Program” to let us know that you’re interested. We will send an email to let you know when the guidelines are available and registration is open.

Provide feedback:  https://uspto-emod.ideascale.com  
More Information:  www.uspto.gov/patent/emod  
Contact us:  eMod@USPTO.gov
Structured Text Filing/Retrieval (DOCX)

All EFS-Web Registered and Private PAIR users are now able to submit structured text (DOCX) specification, claims, and abstract for non-provisional utility applications. Users are also able to receive structured text (DOCX/XML) submissions and structured text (DOCX) office actions.

Benefits:

- Increased efficiencies—eliminates the need to convert structured text into a PDF for filing
- Higher data quality—reduces conversion errors
- Greater reuse of content and improved searching for patent applications and submissions
- Improves validation based on content, such as claims validation for missing claim numbering or abstract validation for word count and paragraph count
- Improves document identification by automatic detection
- Original structured text document is within Private PAIR
- Applicants are able to use structured text, such as copying and pasting from office actions to draft responses

For assistance, please visit www.uspto.gov/SubmitDOCX and www.uspto.gov/RetrieveDOCX, or contact the Patent Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 1-866-217-9197 or ebc@uspto.gov.