

**UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**



Patents end to end IT updates

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November 14, 2019

Patent Public Advisory Committee quarterly meeting

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Participation in patent center beta release

What

- Patent Center is the next gen system that replaces EFS-Web and PAIR for filing and managing patent applications
- The Patent Center Beta release does not have all features available in EFS-Web and PAIR
- Patent Center Beta allows applicants to submit and manage real applications

Who

- External stakeholders who have expressed interest in helping the USPTO in developing Patent Center
- Those interested in participating in the Patent Center beta release can join the waitlist by contacting eMod@USPTO.gov

When

- Limited beta will begin October 2019 with external stakeholders who have joined our Beta Patent Center waitlist and will be contacted for group training and access to Patent Center
- Open beta still start in December 2019 where anyone who is interested will be able to use Patent Center

Why

- Patent Center Beta allows applicants to utilize newly developed features, and provide feedback to the eCommerce Modernization (eMod) team for further improvements

Filing and retrieving in structured text (DOCX)

What

- Currently, applicants are able to file new utility non-provisional patent applications (specification, claims, and abstract) in DOCX format in EFS-Web.
- Applicant submitted DOCX documents and some Office actions in DOCX format are available in Private PAIR.
- DOCX is a common word-processing file format, which is part of Office Open XML (OOXML), an XML-based open standard approved by the Ecma International consortium and subsequently by the ISO/IEC joint technical committee.
- Supported by most popular word-processing applications (Microsoft Word, Google Docs, and LibreOffice, Pages).

Who

- All EFS-Web and Private PAIR users and Patent Center beta users.
- Informational webpage: www.uspto.gov/patent/docx

When

- The USPTO began accepting structured text (DOCX) in August 2017.
- Applicants can file utility non-provisional patent applications (specification, claims, and abstract) in DOCX format in EFS-Web.
- DOCX filing is available for Patent Center limited beta participants (October 2019) and will be available to all users once Patent Center open beta begins (December 2019).

Why

- Eliminates the need to convert DOCX into a PDF for filing.
- Secure: automatic metadata detection and scrubbing.
- Automated document indexing.
- Provides content-based validations pre-submission (e.g., paragraph numbering in specification, lengthy/improper abstract, claim numbering/format).

Stabilization of critical systems

Impact

- Continuity of business operations for patents processing.

Remediation Approach

- Migration of infrastructure components for legacy applications to USPTO and vendor supported versions in order to minimize outage risk.

Accomplishments

- Developed rigorous plan to sequence and stabilize nine critical patent systems.
- Engaged a systems integrator to provide stabilization assessment and recommendations for the 9 critical patent systems; one patent application has been stabilized (P-ELP which stores all patent documents).

Next Steps

- Systems assessment and recommendations to include HA/failover capabilities, as well as cloud adoption.
- Roadmap draft for transitioning systems to the future state architecture, which will provide a simpler unified user experience, as well as an increase in infrastructure resilience for business continuity (flexible enough to address different customer segments).

Questions and comments

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