### **Business Methods**

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## What is the "Business Methods" area?

 The "Business Methods" area of the USPTO is a collection of workgroups in Technology Center 3600.
 Specifically, these are the 3620, 3680, and 3690 workgroups that examine applications pertaining to incentive programs, coupons; operations research; electronic shopping; health care; point of sale, inventory, accounting; cost/price, reservations, shipping, and transportation; business processing; and finance, banking, and insurance.



## Business Methods Art Units and SPEs

Business Methods List of Contacts			
3620, 3680, 3690	Tariq Hafiz	571-272-5350	tariq.hafiz@uspto.gov

Art Unit	Art Description	SPE	Telephone Number	Email
3621	Incentive Programs, Coupons	Rutao (Rob) Wu	(571)272-3136	rutao.wu@uspto.gov
3622		Nathan Uber	(571)270-3923	nathan.uber@uspto.gov
3681		Fonya Long	(571)272-6811	fonya.long@uspto.gov
3682		Vacant	Vacant	Vacant
3688		Kambiz Abdi	(571)272-6702	kambiz.abdi@uspto.gov
3623a	- Operations Research	Beth Boswell	(571)272-6737	beth.boswell @uspto.gov
3623b		Matthew Gart	(571)272-3955	matthew.gart1@uspto.gov
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3683a		Peter H. Choi	(571)272-6971	peter.choi@uspto.gov
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3625a		Jeff Smith	(571)272-6763	jeff.smith4@uspto.gov
3625b	E - Shopping	Marissa Thein	(571)272-6764	maria.thein@uspto.gov
3684		Jason Dunham	(571)272-8109	jason.dunham@uspto.gov
3626	Health Care	Robert Morgan	(571)272-6773	robert.morganuspto.gov
3686a		Elaine Gort	(571)272-6787	elaine.gort@uspto.gov
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Art Unit	Art Description	SPE	Telephone Number	Email
3627	Point of Sale, Inventory, Accounting	Florian (Ryan) Zeender	(571)272-6790	florian.zeender@uspto.gov
3687		Fahd Obeid	(571)270-3324	fahd.obeid@uspto.gov
3628a	Cost/Price, Reservations, Shipping, Transportation	Shannon Cambell	(571)272-5587	shannon.campbell@uspto.gov
3628b		Kevin Flynn	(571)270-3108	kevin.flynn@uspto.gov
3629	Business Processing, Electronic Negotiation	Lynda Jasmin	(571)272-6811	lynda.jasmin@uspto.gov
3689		Janice Mooneyham	(571)272-6805	janice.mooneyham@uspto.gov
3685a	Business Cryptography, Voting	Calvin Hewitt	(571)272-6709	calvin.hewitt@uspto.gov
3685b		John Hayes	(571)272-6708	john.hayes@uspto.gov
3691	Insurance, Banking and Finance	Alexander Kalinowski	(571)272-6771	alexander.kalinowski@uspto.gov
3692		Sarah Monfeldt	(571)270-1833	sarah.monfeldt@uspto.gov
3693		Shahid Merchant	(571)270-1360	shahid.merchant@uspto.gov
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Workgroups	Title	Specialist	Telephone Number
3620s 3680s	TQAS	Jamisue Plucinski	(571)272-6811
3620s 3680s 3690s	Business Specialist	Bob Weinhardt	(571)272-6633
3690s	Appeal Specialist	Vincent Millin	(571)272-6747



- The Business Methods web page
- 35 U.S.C. 101 Eligibility Quick Reference Sheet
- USPTO Automated Interview Request (AIR)
- Web-conferencing



 The Business Methods web page demo: <u>https://www.uspto.gov/businessmethods</u>



### Helpful Tools

### **Examiner Decision Making Process**

**DECISION POINTS** 







#### **FIRST EXAMINATION**

**SECOND EXAMINATION** 

**APPEALS PROCESS** 

During first examination:

- An examiner with signatory authority decides to reject or allow claims.
- An examiner without signatory authority prepares an Office action in which claims are rejected or allowed, and an examiner with signatory authority or SPE reviews, approves, and signs Office action.

If a compliant response is filed, then:

- An examiner with signatory authority decides to reject or allow claims.
- An examiner without signatory authority prepares an Office action in which claims are rejected or allowed, and an examiner with signatory authority or SPE reviews, approves, and signs Office action.

If claims have been twice rejected, Applicant may appeal decision to PTAB by filing a notice of appeal and an appeal brief.

An appeal conference is held with the examiner, SPE, and an additional conferee having sufficient experience to be of assistance in the consideration of the merits of the issues on appeal.

The Office makes a decision to:

- re-open prosecution
- allow claims, or
- proceed with the appeal.

If a decision is made to proceed with the appeal, the examiner prepares an examiner's answer.

**DECIDING OFFICIAL** 



- 35 U.S.C. 101 Eligibility Quick Reference Sheet demo:
  - https://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ieg-qrs.pdf
- Additional links to training materials can be found on the Business Methods web page

## Helpful Tools

- The USPTO Automated Interview Request (AIR) tool web page demo: <a href="https://www.uspto.gov/patent/laws-and-regulations/interview-practice">https://www.uspto.gov/patent/laws-and-regulations/interview-practice</a>
- USPTO hosted Web-conferencing information: <a href="http://www.uspto.gov/patents/resources/web\_conferencing.jsp">http://www.uspto.gov/patents/resources/web\_conferencing.jsp</a>



USPTO Automated Interview Request (AIR) Form
Automated Interview Request Form (IB-15) Approved for use through 7/31/2016. ONB 0551-0031 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid CMBI control number.
* This paper requesting to schedule and/or conduct an interview is appropriate because:  I have previously submitted an authorization for internet communications in a patent application. See form <u>SB/0439</u> .  I am concurrently submitting an authorization to communicate via the internet. See form <u>SB/0439</u> .  This submission is requested to be accepted as an authorization for this interview to communicate via the internet. Recognizing that Internet communications are not secure, I hereby authorize the USPTO to communicate with the undersigned concerning scheduling of the interview via video conference, instant messaging, or electronic mail, and to conduct the interview in accordance with office practice including video conferencing.
*  I understand that a copy of this communication will be made of record in the application file.  *Name(s):
*S-signature: (See 37 CFR 1.4(d)(2)) (/Name/)  Registration Number: (5 Digit Numeric Only: 12345)
*U.S. Application Number: (8 Digit Numeric Only: 12345678)  *Confirmation Number: (4 Digit Numeric Only: 1234)
*E-mail Address:
*Phone Number:
*Proposed Type of Interview: Please select an Interview $\checkmark$ (Examiners working remotely will offer Video Conference or Telephonic interviews)  * $\Box$ I am the applicant or applicant's representative for this application.
* Indicates fields that are required
This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1133. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to prosecute (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentially is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 111 and 114. This collection is estimated to take 24 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Todemark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, DO NOT SEND FIES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS.

# Resources

- Patent Quality Chat web page demo:
   https://www.uspto.gov/patent/initiatives/patent
   -quality-chat
- Inventor's Info Chat web page demo: <a href="https://www.uspto.gov/patents-application-process/inventor-info-chat">https://www.uspto.gov/patents-application-process/inventor-info-chat</a>
- Petitions Timeline:

   https://www.uspto.gov/patents-application-process/petitions/timeline/patents-petitions-timeline

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## Outreach Opportunities

- Business Methods Partnership Meetings
- Patent Examiner Technical Training Program
- Site Experience Education Program



## Questions?