From: jimboski@mindspring.com [mailto:jimboski@mindspring.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2003 12:36 AM
To: AB64 Comments
Subject: 21st Century Strategic Plan

Every attorney I talk to or read about commenting on e-files has
nothing at all good to say about them, that they're impossible to read
on a computer screen, that the hardcopy is also impossible to read,
that it's impossible to deal with only one document at a time in front
of you since you nearly always actually need several pages of documents
at your fingertips simultaneously and being able to toggle from one
screen to another is just not sufficient. While it may save the PTO
money by not having to store and transport paper files, the tradeoff
doesn't seem to be worth it, and it's doubtful any cost saving would be
passed on to the applicants; more likely it would go to the general
treasury fund. And it doesn't appear to have been the attorneys,
applicants, or assignees who wanted this; instead it was imposed by PTO
political management who won't be around to face the heat when the
chickens come home to roost. Bad idea, one size fits all, dreamed up
by those who've never examined or prosecuted patent applications in
their lives, but they have the authority if not the qualifications.