



USPTO RELEASES NEW EFS-WEB ENHANCEMENTS

New Features to Expand Successfully Adopted e-Filing System

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) announces the release of EFS-Web 1.1.4. The new release offers more features and better functionality to e-Filers, making it easier for applicants to file their patent applications online. EFS-Web now offers e-Filers more filing types, improved indexing features, enhancements to existing applications already available on EFS-Web, and easier navigation through the system.

With this latest release applicants can now choose from a larger group of filing types including Accelerated Exam, Design Reissue, Reexamination and Utility Reissue. The new indexing feature also offers a condensed document description list based on the specific filing type chosen by the applicant. However, the applicant can still choose a category to condense the document description list to further minimize indexing errors.

The Intellectual Property community has enjoyed the ease of filing their applications using EFS-Web since March 2006. Currently, over 60% of all new filings are electronically submitted to the USPTO via EFS-Web on a weekly basis, saving applicants' time and providing added security to their submissions. The USPTO works with the Intellectual Property community hand-in-hand to continuously build onto the success of EFS-Web.

Please see next page for a complete list of the EFS-Web 1.1.4 new features.



New Enhancements to EFS-Web

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) brings the following enhancements to patent e-filing with the EFS-Web 1.1.4 release:

New Application Choices

Several new filing types that before could only be filed via paper, are now able to be filed through EFS-Web. The new filing types include Accelerated Exam, Design Reissue, Utility Reissue and Reexamination. e-Filers also need to choose the Reexamination type and application type when submitting a Reexamination request. Furthermore, when submitting an Accelerated Exam application, e-Filers are required to attach the Petition to Make Special Under Accelerated Examination Program form. When filing these applications, users now receive an acknowledgment receipt right after the time of submission and have the ability to view their application information in Private PAIR within an hour of submission.

Existing Applications

When choosing to submit a Pre-Grant Publication submission under 37 CFR 1.211 to 1.221, registered filers can now choose from a list of four types instead of six: Original-Publication Amended, Original-Publication Redacted, Republication-Amended and Voluntary. They also have the option to save their Pre-Grant Publication Application along with any other application submitted through EFS-Web. EFS-Web now accepts PCT-SAFE Zip files for follow-on PCT filings.

Web Screen Changes

Once logged into the system, the e-Filer is now able to choose a filing type. The system no longer automatically selects New Utility application as the default.

A user can now link to other eCommerce systems through the HTML version of the acknowledgement receipt. This provides easy access to Pay Maintenance Fees and Private PAIR.

Easy-to-Use Document Indexing

The new document indexing feature prevents the applicant from having to choose from a list of over 200 document descriptions. EFS-Web now provides the applicant with the specific categories and document descriptions based on the filing type that is chosen. This feature makes it easier to choose the correct document description and help ensure accurate and timely submissions. After uploading an attachment, the category field defaults to the previous category selected, which provides fewer steps when e-filing.

Other Enhancements

The PCT calculate fees screen has been broken up into chapters and the applicant can inform the system of the number of inventions for which they are paying. An applicant also has the option to pay for Multiple Statutory Disclaimers on the Calculate Fees Page. This avoids the applicant from having to repeatedly go back into the system to pay for each disclaimer one at a time.

If registered users immediately close the Web browser after submitting their application and did not save or print their acknowledgement receipt, they can see if their submission was accepted by the USPTO by going to "My Workplace." This is also true if a filing is waiting for fees to be paid or processed after it has been submitted. Registered users will be able to see the application number, EFS ID, and other pertinent information for the filing. However, the applicant will not be able to link to the acknowledgement receipt until later that business day. This will help prevent the applicant from duplicating submissions.

EFS-Web will now accept a 14 or 17-digit PCT number for 371 applications in compliance with PCT rules.

When uploading data, an applicant can now view the status of the upload through a progress bar. This assures the applicant that the system hasn't timed out and that their document is still being uploaded onto the USPTO server.

Training

For more training opportunities, please visit http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/efs_help.html or e-mail EFS.Training@uspto.gov.

EFS-Web Updates

To receive updates on EFS-Web, please register at <http://uspto.websurveyor.net/register.aspx>.