

United States Patent & Trademark Office



Electronic Filing System-Web

The International Applicants' Avenue to Time and Cost Savings

What is EFS-Web?

EFS-Web is the United States Patent and Trademark Office's web-based patent application and document submission solution that U.S. patent agents/attorneys may use when filing patent applications, including those submitted by international applicants.

Electronic Format is Essential for EFS-Web

In order to maximize the U.S. agents' ability to submit patent applications via EFS-Web for their international clients, **international applicants should consult their U.S. patent agent/attorney on the best way to submit their patent applications in electronic format to the agent/attorney.**

Preferred File Formats

Intellectual Property Law Firms have indicated that when their clients submit documents to them, the preferred file format is any commercial word processing format such as: Microsoft Word™, WordPerfect™, or AppleWorks™. These file formats are editable and can be quickly delivered from the client to the U.S. agent/attorney. Use of these file formats also facilitates process workflow, which can result in time-savings for the U.S. agent/attorney and cost-savings for the client.

International applicants can also convert their patent application into the standard PDF file format and then submit the PDF document(s) to their U.S. agent/attorney. If converting to PDF file format, one should follow the PDF document creation guidelines listed on the USPTO website <http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/portal/efs/pdf-creation.pdf>.

Fast, Safe and Secure: Benefits of Submitting through EFS-Web

- Submissions can be viewed quickly in the USPTO's Private PAIR system for the U.S. agent's/attorney's verification.
- A U.S. agent/attorney may file various parts of an application in separate EFS-Web sessions on the same calendar day (based on US Eastern Standard Time) and preserve that day as the filing date, without penalty or surcharge in most cases.
- An Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt is provided to the U.S. agent/attorney within minutes after filing that includes the receipt date and time that the application documents were received by the USPTO, an EFS ID, an application number and a confirmation number.
- Submissions are protected using Transport Layer Security or Secure Socket Layer protocol, which are established e-Commerce Internet Security Standards.

To learn more about EFS-Web, visit <http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/portal/tutorials.htm>.