

WEB CAST RE: PUBLIC PAIR AND DATA-MINING REQUESTS WEB CAST

Background – Public PAIR¹ data mining affects United States Patent and Trademark Office systems

Regular users of Public PAIR observed that system availability and response time were erratic from November 2007 through January 2008. Bulk downloads of massive amounts of data were impeding service to individuals who regularly use the system, including members of law firms and corporations and independent inventors.

After several unsuccessful attempts to prevent disruptive bulk downloading, the USPTO implemented a reCAPTCHA^{TM2} security response in Public PAIR.³ Public PAIR users are now required to manually enter a two-word verification code into the reCAPTCHATM security screen before accessing Public PAIR data. The reCAPTCHATM deployment was a short-term response, not the long-term solution to bulk download.

We recognize that it is the USPTO's responsibility to provide data, as such we are seeking a long-term solution that will allow bulk downloads while maintaining service and system reliability to all of our customers.

Web Cast

On Wednesday, April 30, 2008, at 3:00 p.m. ET, the USPTO invites users to participate in a web cast to explain recent data-mining problems, the short-term reCAPTCHATM response, and request public input and requirements regarding the technical challenges to reach a long-term solution that meets the needs of the intellectual property community while maintaining USPTO system integrity. An e-mail address dedicated to the Public PAIR data-mining problem has been set up to receive questions/input on the process of gathering requirements for data availability (e.g., types of data needed in a particular time period) from our users, PAIR_webcast@uspto.gov.

The video and audio for this event will be streamed to users over the Internet. Participation only requires enrollment, a computer with an Internet connection, sound card, speakers, and the ability to view Windows Media presentations.

Don't miss this important opportunity to have input to the long-term solution!

Go to <https://uspto.connectsolutions.com/ppevent/event/registration.html> to enroll in this free web event.

¹ Public side of the Patent Application Information Retrieval system.

² CAPTCHA (Completely Automated Public Turing Test to Tell Computers and Humans Apart) is an industry-accepted security feature that is utilized to prevent abuse from automated programs.

³ The USPTO has not implemented reCAPTCHA in Private PAIR. Unlike Public PAIR where inquirers can be anonymous to the USPTO and thus unidentifiable when causing system problems, applicants and other users of Private PAIR are registered and receive a digital certificate from the USPTO.

Any inquiries concerning this notice may be directed to Loretta Sponsler, SIRA Customer Outreach team, at 571-272-3065 or at loretta.sponsler@uspto.gov.

03/31/08
Date

John Doll
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Commissioner for Patents