

Patent Center Stakeholder Meeting

October 18, 2023



UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE ®

Agenda

- Review High Priority Tickets
- Question/Answer Session

CP28

CP28. January 2019. CO — Patentcenter saves up any real or imagined defect in an uploaded file on the “upload documents” page, and only three screens later, on the “submit” page, only when the user clicks “submit”, does Patentcenter for the first time gripe about the real or imagined defect. See blog article.

USPTO Response:

Patent Center checks for missing items before the user submits. The user has the ability to go back and make corrections prior to submission being allowed.

- We will be looking at prioritizations of this feature after retirement.



CP31

CP31. June 23, 2020. CO — The default “outgoing correspondence” filter is three days since imaging, but quite often the USPTO clerks take four days after imaging a document to mail it. This means that users will very predictably not be told about some eleven percent of their outgoing correspondence. See blog article. This is [Ideascale idea number 523](#).

USPTO Response:

Private PAIR indicates 3 days of correspondence, but actually displays 4 days of correspondence. In Patent Center, users can utilize the "custom" date range to select specific date(s) and will display the same results. In addition, the user can also select "Mailing Date" under the Date Type filter then select the current day or any other day or date range in the "custom range".

CP49

CP49. This ticket relates to 35-series applications (US designation from a Hague application). When the user tries to pay an Issue Fee using the web-based tool for paying Issue Fees, the system refuses to do so, saying that the tool is not available for this kind of patent application. The error message is “The application type entered does not allow for use of the Web-Based Issue Fee Transmittal.”

USPTO Response: Web 85b is not available for Hague applications. It is only available for Utility Non-provisional, Plant and Design applications as indicated in the Web-based Issue Fee Transmittal Quick Start Guide. This is the same behavior in EFS-Web.

- Answered in training session September 19, 2023
- We will be looking at prioritizations of enhancements after retirement.

CP51

CP51. This ticket relates to 35-series applications (US designation from a Hague application). When the user tries to carry out any SFD (subsequently filed document) or follow-on submission, a wholly inappropriate warning appears that scolds the filer for thinking that the e-filed document might go to the International Bureau. Patentcenter says: The entered application has been transmitted to the International Bureau. The USPTO will not forward, to the International Bureau, follow-on submissions that are received after an international design application has been transmitted to the International Bureau. Thus, for example, where the International Bureau has sent an invitation requiring compliance with a requirement under the Hague Agreement, the applicant must file any reply to that invitation directly with the International Bureau to avoid abandonment or other loss of rights under the treaty.

USPTO Response:

Messaging depends on Hague stage, which has not been disclosed by the user, but for (Stage 3,4 or 5), the entirety of the message reads:

The entered application has been transmitted to the International Bureau. Correspondence filed after the application has been transmitted to the IB will not be forwarded to the IB. Any correspondence intended for the IB after the transmittal of the application should be sent directly to the IB.



CP69

CP69. December 3, 2021. RAS. (Reported on Patent Center child continuity data is incomplete (ideascale.gov.com - [IdeaScale 78](#))) In Public PAIR (and Private PAIR), the Continuity tab for a given patent application lists, as Child continuity data, all US applications that claim priority to the given application. This includes children as well as grandchildren, great-grandchildren, etc. The Patent Center Child Continuity data shows only the immediate child(ren) of the given application and fails to show any grandchildren, great-grandchildren, etc.

USPTO Response: Please provide example application number(s) so that we can investigate. Patent Center displays the continuity provided by the Patent Data Portal (PALM replacement) system.

CP94

CP94. February 7, 2023. RS (Reported by Christian Scholz.) When you file a CPA in a design matter, Patent Center automatically filters the fees you can pay so that they only include the fees that are presumably applicable to CPA applications. However, the fees that are listed DO NOT INCLUDE THE CPA SEARCH OR EXAMINATION FEE. This means if you file a CPA in Patent Center, you then have to go into EFS afterward and pay the two missing fees separately. This was first reported in Ideascale in July 2020.

USPTO Response: The filing fee is present. The search fee and the examination fee is missing. We are working with the financial management team to resolve this. In the interim, users can attach the SB/29 transmittal form indicating the fees they would like to pay along with their form of payment.

- This is on our known issues and workarounds page.



CP98

CP98. February 18, 2023.CO. Patentcenter refuses to provide web-based corrective ADS for provisional patent applications.

USPTO Response: The Corrected Application Data Sheet is not available in PCT, 371, Hague, Provisional, Reexam, Plant, and Supplemental Examination submissions. This information that is outlined on page 3 of the Corrected ADS Quick Start Guide.

- Answered in training session September 19, 2023
- We will be looking at prioritizations of enhancements after retirement.

CP99

CP99. February 20, 2023. CO. Patentcenter fails to check for two attempted entries into US national phase from a single PCT application. See for example Patentcenter number 60947671 e-filed on September 8, 2022 and Patentcenter number 61618254 e-filed on February 19, 2023.

USPTO Response: When a user files a second National Stage application for a single PCT, although initially they will get an application number, it won't initialize in our downstream system and a notice will be sent to the applicant.

- We can improve the system by rejecting the submission as requested.

CP101

CP101. March 5, 2023. CO. Patentcenter refuses to provide the web-based corrective ADS function for 35-series cases (US designation from a Hague application).

USPTO Response: The Corrected Application Data Sheet is not available in PCT, 371, Hague, Provisional, Reexam, Plant, and Supplemental Examination submissions. This information that is outlined on page 3 of the Corrected ADS Quick Start Guide.

- Answered in training session September 19, 2023
- We will be looking at prioritizations of enhancements after retirement.

CP102

CP102. March 5, 2023. CO. Patentcenter refuses to provide the web-based corrective ADS function for 371 cases (US national-phase entry from a PCT application).

USPTO Response: The Corrected Application Data Sheet is not available in PCT, 371, Hague, Provisional, Reexam, Plant, and Supplemental Examination submissions. This information that is outlined on page 3 of the Corrected ADS Quick Start Guide.

- Answered in training session September 19, 2023
- We will be looking at prioritizations of enhancements after retirement.

CP117

CP117. August 9, 2020. JS. In EFS-Web each ack receipt gets a file name that is unique. Patentcenter always tries to give the same name (N417) to every ack receipt. What Patentcenter should do, as part of bringing forward features of from EFS-Web, is give a unique name to each ack receipt. The source of uniqueness in the file name for the ack receipt could be the application number or the docket number or even the patentcenter submission number. This is [Ideascale idea number 595. \(Formerly FR40.\)](#)

USPTO Response: In Patent Center, after selecting "submit", when the user saves the receipt to their computer, the default filename is "N417" and they have to rename it. When the official filing receipt is displayed in retrieval, the application number is added to the filename (e.g., downloads/customer number_application number) For EFS-Web it's "efilingAck.pdf" plus the EFSID after selecting "submit" and "application number.pdf" in Private PAIR for the official filing receipt.

- We will be looking at prioritizations of this feature after retirement.



CP127

CP127. March 28, 2023. RS – Patent Center requires entry of a state/province for certain countries that should not require it. The details of the bug are described below. This bug occurs anywhere in Patent Center that requires/allows entry of a mailing address: Web-ADS (inventor address, applicant address, assignee address), the first page when filing an international PCT application (where you enter the correspondence information), etc. For most countries, Patent Center does not require a state/province. However, Patent Center requires it for China, Oman, and the United Kingdom (and US and Canada but those make sense). It should not be necessary to enter a state/province for China, Oman, and the United Kingdom. In the case of China and Oman, Patent Center only gives a single option for the state/province even though many addresses in those countries are not in the listed “state/province.” In the case of the United Kingdom, Patent Center provides a confusing list of overlapping political subdivisions making it impossible to know which one to pick. For example, Patent Center lists: England, England and Wales, Great Britain (Great Britain is the combination of England, Scotland, and Wales), Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. If an address is in Wales, should the state/province be England and Wales, Great Britain, or just Wales? The address falls within any of these three. [EBC ticket 1-827293068](#).

USPTO Response: Selecting China for a New CN requests requires the user to enter a state/province but there is no data to select.

- This will be fixed by the end of October.



CP151

CP151. September 18, 2023. CO, reported by Robert J. Ross.

The ellipsis has disappeared from Patentcenter Correspondence. This means it is now impossible to display the attorney docket number.

USPTO Response: Fixed 10/6/2023.

CP153

CP153. Patent Center doesn't allow applicants to file ST.25 sequence listings. Error message is an unhelpful "Required resource is null."

USPTO Response: Fixed 10/6/2023.

CP155

CP155. In a US designation from a Hague application (“35-series application”) that the “International Registration Number (Hague)” information is incorrect. Patent Center now lists only incorrect information in this field.

USPTO Response: This will be fixed by the end of October.

CP160

CP160. September 30, 2023. CO, reported by Narek Zohrabyan.

Filer is filing Web 85B Issue Fee form and is also trying to upload a Post Allowance document in pdf format. Regardless of whether filer picks a document code of Miscellaneous – MISC or Post Allowance Communication – Incoming N427, what happens next is an unhelpful error message that says “DocCode must be one of the valid codes from reference data.” This is [EBC ticket number 1-836237428](#).

USPTO Response: We tested using the identical submission type and status and successfully uploaded the PTOL-85 and 2 PDFs using the N427 and MISC doc codes, respectively. A recording of the user's experience would be helpful.