



IP Community Outreach (Suite of Patent Products)

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Overview

- Fulfilling the USPTO Strategic Plan
 - Optimize Patent Quality and Timeliness
 - Objective #3:
 - “Improve the Quality and Timeliness of Patent Examination by exploring a range of approaches to examining applications”
 - “Explore the development of alternative approaches to examination in collaboration with stakeholders”



Overview

- PPAC-led effort to engage the IP community in:
 - Identifying alternate ways to examine patent applications
 - Identifying improvements to the Patent system
- PPAC will reach out directly to the IP community with no preconceived ideas
- Identify all manner of change including:
 - Long term solutions (statutory changes)
 - Medium term solutions (Rule changes)
 - Short term solutions (programs that can be implemented under USPTO existing authorities)



Overview

- Identify and engage a wide variety of stakeholders including:
 - Academics
 - CEOs
 - Industry groups
 - Practitioners/attorneys
 - Patent holders
 - Independent inventors



The Process

- Use an objective process to gather user input and analyze the results
 - Process includes conducting:
 - Focus sessions
 - Virtual focus sessions
 - On-line surveys
 - One-on-one interviews
 - Problem/solution matrix developed to capture and correlate input



The Process

- Use an objective process to gather user input and analyze the results (cont.)
 - Analyze the results scientifically and identify/build solutions
 - PPAC will consider the results and make recommendations to the USPTO on viable solutions
 - USPTO to pilot alternative examination programs based on PPAC recommendations



Phases of the Process – Planning Phase

- Task 1: Conceptual Solutions
 - Defining participant pool for inclusion in the focus sessions
 - Problem/Message Draft to invite participants to the focus sessions
 - Defining subject matter of the focus sessions
 - Conduct the gathering of information
 - Two to three focus sessions planned to gather a wide variety of user input
 - User input will be added to the problem/solution matrix
 - Results from these focus sessions will be evaluated to refine future, more specific information gathering activities



Phases of the Process – Planning Phase

- **Task 2: Exploration of the Concepts**
 - Update problem/solution matrix
 - Examine correlations in the matrix and begin to identify solutions
- **Task 3: Refinement of the Concepts**
 - Two to three additional focus sessions planned to gather input and to have participants react/validate the general ideas uncovered in the first focus sessions
 - Begin on-line surveys and one-on-one interviews



Phases of the Process – Implementation Phase

- TASK 4: Implementation of the Concepts
 - PPAC to consider data/responses and formulate recommendations to USPTO
 - USPTO to develop first set of pilot programs for alternative examination



Timeline

- First Focus sessions tentatively planned for the end of July 2007
- Task 3 “refinement phase” scheduled for fall of 2007 (additional focus sessions and on-line surveys)
- PPAC recommendations scheduled for fall 2007/winter 2008



IP Community Outreach

- Thank you!
- Questions?