



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

The Biotechnology and Chemical Pharmaceutical Customer Partnership

Patent Process Reengineering Team and Patent End-To-End Processing Team

Christian Chace

Patent Process Reengineering Team

December 8, 2010



Patent End-to-End Processing Team

- Overall Goal:
 - The USPTO's Patent automation systems are a collection of systems, some dating back to the 1970s, that have evolved independently. The USPTO ultimately seeks to develop a system architecture which will incorporate a re-design of the pre-examination, examination and post-examination processes.



Patents End-to-End Characteristics

- Deep engagement of the USPTO Director and Senior Advisors
- Extensive stakeholder participation
- Designed to accommodate ongoing change to business processes; business reengineering effort
- XML-based infrastructure and software
 - Allows text-based searching of application contents
- Recent upgrades to network bandwidth completed, further expansion planned



Patents End-to-End

CURRENT STATE

- Average of 35 months from receipt of patent application to final determination
- Examiners use 16 interfaces to process an application
- Poor Quality Core Infrastructure
- Applications/Office actions represented as TIFF images
- Opening a patent application with no search results takes 30 seconds or longer

FUTURE STATE

- Average of 20 months from receipt of patent application to final determination
 - Examiners use integrated interface to process an application
 - Business-Focused Core Infrastructure
 - Applications/Office actions represented as XML text
 - Near-instantaneous opening of a patent application, with extensive search results
-



Benefits

- Application text and analytic reports improve examination efficiency
- Better data capture and data management will allow for automated validation of work production and analysis of submitted documents
- Properly integrated and flexible systems will allow for automated workflow to help with timeliness and reporting for application status
- Examiner user interface design will provide quick, single point access to multiple examination processing systems



Reengineering Team Goal

- To streamline the patent application process to meet the challenges of adapting to rapidly evolving technologies and stakeholder priorities, while ensuring success in meeting the goals of timeliness, quality, and efficiency



Initiatives

- Analyze all business processes and adapt them to a text-based application process
- Review all business processes for elimination of unnecessary steps or elements
- Review all business processes for simplification and eliminate all impediments to efficiency
- Review transitions between processes to ensure smooth and efficient handling of applications from filing to termination of office proceedings



Initiatives (continued)

- Provide direction regarding the appropriate level, vehicle, approach and timing of communications and integration regarding major changes across the USPTO, Patent Corps and key stakeholders
- Develop and document any changes to business processes
- Work with the Office of Patent Training to develop training plan and material for implementation of business process changes
- Organize and facilitate roundtables with the public



Planned Actions and Status

- Initial set up: establish team, charter, timetables, and plans: COMPLETE
- Collect data and ideas from multiple sources:
 - Internal open houses – COMPLETE. Ongoing data collection via PatentProcessReengineeringMailbox@USPTO.gov.
 - External Outreach: *Ad-hoc* continuing through focus groups. Formal External Outreach Team formed and Plan nearing completion
- Organize concepts (vetting, quick fixes, long-term):
 - In Progress – more than 12 working groups and 60 people currently working in “sprints”



Planned Actions and Status

- Present and validate reengineered straw man:
 - Planned for January 2011
- Collect feedback and adjust: Ongoing
- Present recommendations for collaboration with IT team: Ongoing
- Provide support for testing and prototyping: Q3,4 FY11; FY12
- Provide assistance for development of training materials; FY12



Patent Process Reengineering Team

Questions?



Patent Process Reengineering Team

Christian Chace

Patent Process Reengineering Team

Christian.Chace@uspto.gov

571-272-4190