

From: searob1@hotmail.com  
To: patent\_quality\_comments@uspto.gov  
Subject: Comments for Improving Patent Quality  
Date: Thu, 10 Dec 2009 21:17:03 -0800

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These comments reflect my own personal suggestions for helping the PTO become more effective and efficient at examining patents.

Hello,

At this URL <http://patft.uspto.gov/> , there should be a link to a web form for informal appeals to a patent. An informal appeal would be much simpler than formal appeals, so it would be much easier for laypeople on the internet to raise concerns. Although informal appeals should receive less priority from patent examiners than formal appeals.

There should be a process for "crowdsourcing" some of the overloaded patent examination work to users on the internet. Users should be able to comment on pending and granted patents. Users should be able to informally appeal patents and vote on that appeal. With enough votes and comments, that should raise the priority flag that a patent should be formally reviewed. With a high enough priority, it should trigger an automated email alerting patent examiners to review a patent and the comments submitted.

The patent search results from the following URL should also display the full abstract or have an option to display the full abstract in the results:

<http://patft.uspto.gov/netathtml/PTO/search-adv.htm>

Also, regarding this online patent search, the example for advanced search should be made more prominent or there should be more help described. It took me a while of examining the search form before I realized I could perform AND and OR searches. I appreciate the ability to perform searches like that.

Internet users should be able to assign keyword tags and categories to patents for searching. The reason is that laypersons may use terms that lawyers and inventors might not use, so their search terms may be different from those in the actual patent application.

Perhaps a hierarchical category for every invention should be required. The patent requester can select from options that would show what categories does a patent belong to. For example, a patent requester can select a category for an HDTV component in: Electronics -> Entertainment -> Television -> HDTV -> components (or other) . A patent can belong to multiple categories. Having these categories can help limit the time it takes to search or browse for a patent.

For announcing new or pending patents, there should be an internet RSS feed that works similar to the Craigslist.org RSS feeds. At that web site, a user can perform a search, and have the search results contain a link to an RSS feed URL that enables a computer to automatically perform that search on a periodic basis. This may cause too much load on the PTO web servers and databases, so either additional funding

may be required for more servers, or maybe it can be outsourced to internet companies. This web site could be an important tool for helping the public appeal patent requests before patents are granted, because more public users can provide more cases for 'prior art'.

Perhaps there should be a penalty fee for patent requesters who have submitted patents whose patent requests are rejected or their issued patents to be revoked with 'prior art'. There should be a penalty for not adequately referencing past patent numbers. It should be a sliding scale penalty fee based on either the income of the person/corporation or the number of patents already requested by the person/corporation. The reason why it should be a sliding scale penalty fee is so that it doesn't discourage inventors of lower income from filing patents (the independent inventor). This should provide an incentive for inventors to give adequate information on prior art and referenced patents.

Since patent examiners have access to prior art CD-ROMs, microfilm, foreign documents, and etc., that information should be published on the PTO web site so that patent filers/requesters can perform searches of prior art before submitting their patents. Users should also be able to submit information in an online form that will provide more knowledge of prior art. This search-able prior art should include keyword tags or categories to help users to search. Users should be able to contribute their own tags and categories to assist the PTO office.

For filing patents online, there should be patent form templates, guidelines, and adequate help at each stage. Form templates direct patent filers follow standards. These form templates can possibly be designed to encourage patent filers to follow guidelines that will later assist patent examiners.

A PTO request should be sent to Congress to make into law that patent requests can be denied if their purpose is for the sake of holding patents without developing, commercializing, or making available the invention to the public. Granted patents should be revoked if the inventor does not develop, commercialize, or make the invention available for the public to use. There should be a form on the PTO web site that will allow users to call attention to such patent holders.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to submit my suggestions and opinions.

Sincerely,  
Robert Seaborn

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