



Patent Process Reengineering

Status Report

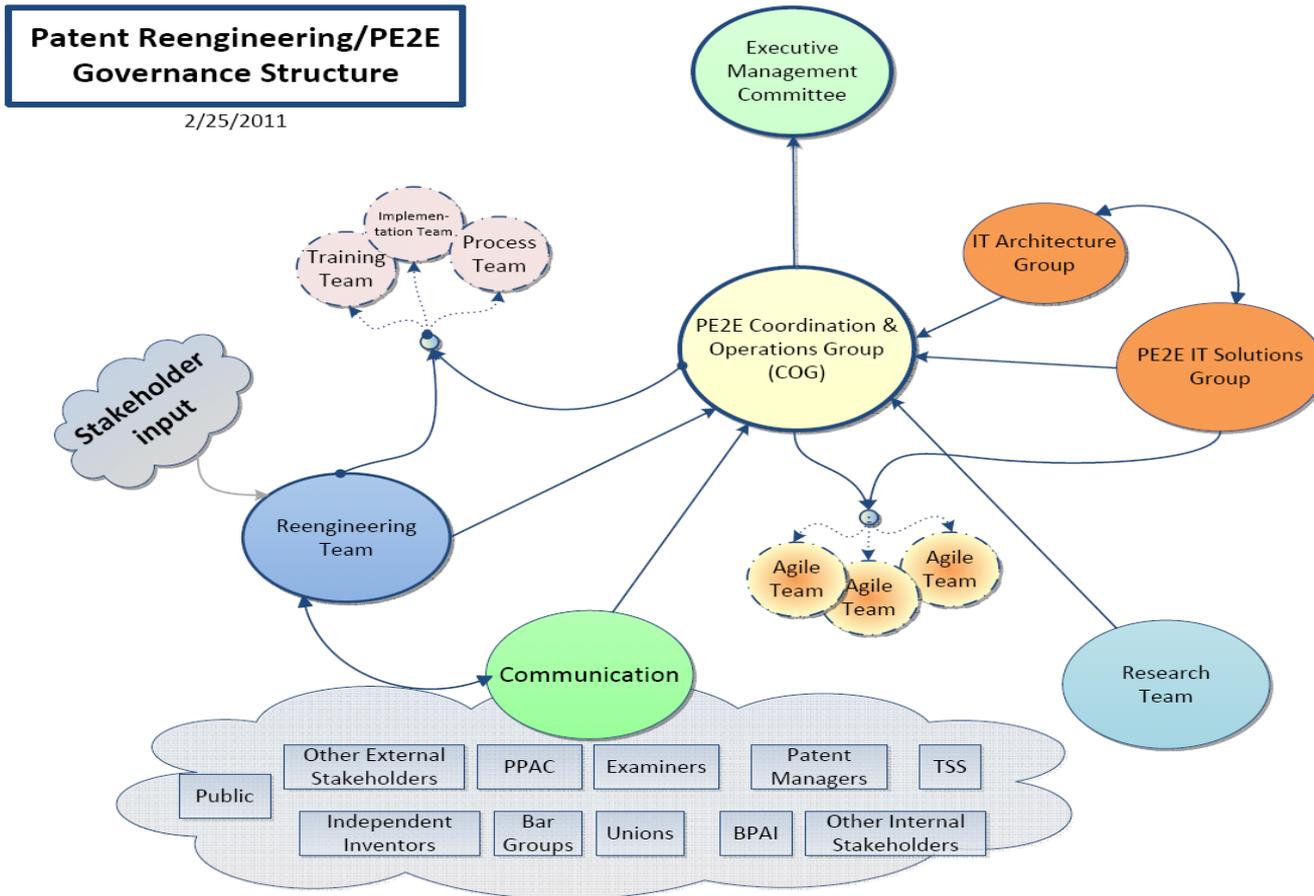
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Governance Structure





Background

- ◆ **Purpose – To streamline the patent application process.**
- ◆ **Structure – Currently 19 working groups exploring processes from filing an application through issuance of a patent. 12 additional teams are working to implement process solutions recommended by the working groups.**



Process/Deliverables

- ◆ **Outline and flow chart of current process**
- ◆ **Identify problems/issues at process and activity levels, root cause**
- ◆ **Identify and prioritize solutions**
 - Impact (low, medium, high)
 - Implementation time (low, medium, high)
 - Systems involvement (non-IT, IT only, IT and Process)
- ◆ **Report out of deliverable**



Progress to Date

◆ Color Drawing

Eliminating petition requirement, and allowing PLT applications to be filed electronically. PE2E-dependent.

◆ Classification/Transfer

Recommendations for Central Transfer and Amalgamation units incorporated into Centralized Examination Support Unit (CESU).



Progress to Date (cont.)

◆ Enhancing Technical Knowledge

Developed a concept to leverage institutional technical knowledge from one person to multiple persons and to integrate this new process into our current and future processes. PE2E-dependent.

◆ CRU

validated current process and are identifying IT requirements to streamline that process. Currently, results being used as pilot for PE2E architecture 1.0. Delivery date being determined.



Progress to Date (cont.)

◆ Pre-Exam

Identified parallel processing, mailing, and automation streamlining opportunities.

◆ Post-Exam

Identified opportunities to reduce cycle time and realize cost-savings through electronic publication. Potential reduction of cycle time of Notice of Allowance to Issue by 75%. PE2E/eGRANT-dependent.



Progress to Date (cont.)

◆ Restriction Practice

Incorporated into DCPEP team. Briefed on interim measures. Working on Unity RFC.

◆ Double Patenting

PE2E system will significantly streamline identification of related cases.

Rule 105 request practice inconsistent

TD processing inefficient – up to 132 days, including applicant response cycle time

19% of TDs in FY2010 – PE2E validation would correct



CENTRAL EXAMINATION SUPPORT UNIT (CESU)

- ◆ **Functionally defined virtual business unit**
- ◆ **Supports Patent Operations, specifically the Technology Centers**
- ◆ **Stand-alone unit recommended by multiple reengineering teams as a means to streamline processes**
- ◆ **Virtual format will allow for seamless implementation**



CESU Functions

- ◆ **Processing all pending Reexamination, Reissue and Interference requests**
- ◆ **Applications of a sensitive nature as requested by the Technology Centers**
- ◆ **Surging technology applications (such as VoIP)**
- ◆ **Classification of disputed transfer applications**
- ◆ **Classification feedback**
- ◆ **Analysis of transfer accuracy and identification of emerging technologies**



CESU Examiners

- ◆ **Examiners will develop technical expertise and may qualify as generalists by performing functions within CESU.**
- ◆ **Examiners will develop classification knowledge and experience to assist with multiple classification issues.**



Ongoing Efforts

- ◆ **IDS**
- ◆ **Applicant/Office Interface**
- ◆ **PCT**
- ◆ **Sequence Listings**
- ◆ **Internal Data Requirements**
- ◆ **Technical Support Staff Implementation**



Issues

- ◆ Funding
- ◆ Resources
- ◆ Policy Shop



Next Steps

- ◆ **Collaboration with PE2E Agile groups in development process**
- ◆ **Assisting with developing training/implementation of new processes**
- ◆ **Continue to identify areas for analysis based on stakeholder input**