Face-to-Face Examiner Interviews

A Demonstration of USPTO Tools

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Overview

– Interview Survey Results
– WebEx Interviews
– Authorization Policy
– Interview Resources
  • Interview Specialist
  • Public Interview Rooms
  • Website & Email box
Interview Surveys

• Surveys on interviews for both Examiners and Applicants were conducted in 2014
• Learn more about interview practice during prosecution
• Identify training opportunities
For advancing prosecution, Applicants were very positive.

**Interview Survey Results**

- How effective do you feel an interview is in advancing prosecution?

- Not useful at all: 2.0%
- Somewhat useful: 30.8%
- Very useful: 28.8%
- Extremely useful: 38.4%
Interview Survey Results

How often do you get an explanation of the rejection during an interview?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Examiner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>88.3%</td>
<td>87.9%</td>
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How often do clarification or better understanding of positions occur during an interview?

- **Applicant**: 97.6%
- **Examiner**: 95.0%
Interview Survey Results

How often does a better understanding of the claimed invention occur during an interview?

- Applicant: 93.5%
- Examiner: 83.7%
Interview Survey Results

How often reaching an agreement or advancing prosecution occur during an interview?

- Applicant: 81.1%
- Examiner: 92.6%
Interview Survey Summary

• Most interviews are initiated by Applicants according to both surveys
• 99% of Applicants indicated that request for interviews are usually granted.
Training Opportunities

If you have never held a WebEx interview what is the primary reason? Check all that apply.

- I don’t know how to conduct an interview in WebEx. 21.9%
- I don’t think WebEx is an effective tool. 6.9%
- I didn’t know that we are able use WebEx to conduct interviews. 42.0%
- I have never been asked to conduct an interview using WebEx. 60.6%
- Other (please specify) 15.6%
WebEx Demo
WebEx Basics

• You need a computer and a high-speed Internet connection is recommended.
• WebEx is a web-based service, so you can use it from any computer (Windows, Mac, Linux, or Solaris).
• No software needs to be downloaded or purchased.
• A telephone will be used to join the audio component of the meeting while a video camera may be used as part of the visual component.
Open the email containing the WebEx online meeting invitation and click on the link to join the visual component of the online meeting.

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To join the online meeting (Now from mobile devices!)
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1. Click the following link: **Join the meeting**
2. If requested, enter your name and email address.
3. If a password is required, enter the meeting password:
4. Click "Join".
Verbal Authorization for Video Conferencing Change to Internet Usage Policy to Permit Oral Authorization for Video Conferencing Tools

- Policy has been updated to make it easier for Applicants to authorize the use of video conferencing tools to conduct examiner interviews.
- MPEP § 502.03 now allows a verbal request to authorize a WebEx interview, instead of submitting a written request.
- The verbal authorization is limited to the video conference interview and does not extend to other communications regarding the application.
Resources & Assistance
Interview Specialist

• Subject matter expert on interview practice and policy in each Technology Center
• To assist Examiners and Applicants in facilitating effective interviews
• The list of TC Specialists can be found here: http://www.uspto.gov/patent/laws-and-regulations/interview-practice/interview-specialist
WebEx Training & Assistance

• Applicants who are interested in more detailed WebEx training may request a one-on-one WebEx training session with an interview specialist.

• Please email your request to ExaminerInterviewPractice@USPTO.gov
  – Include preferred dates and times
  – Please give at least one week notice

Email questions to PatentQualityEventParticipationBox@uspto.gov
Public Interview Rooms

• A Public Interview Room is a video conference room on each USPTO campus designated for Applicants to use to connect and collaborate with examiners that are working remotely or at a different USPTO campus
• Currently in Alexandria, Detroit & Denver
• Coming soon to San Jose & Dallas
Public Interview Rooms

• Must be reserved by Examiner at least two business days prior to interview.

• Written or verbal authorization to communicate electronically is required prior to reserving a public interview room (see MPEP §§ 502.03 and 713.01, and 80 Fed. Reg. 23787, April 2015).
Website

- USPTO.GOV
  - Policies
  - Training
  - FAQs
  - Contacts

- Comments & Questions
  ExaminerInterviewPractice@USPTO.gov

Interview Practice

Interview Practice provides you with free access to video conferencing with USPTO examiners. To join, you need a computer, high speed internet connection, a webcam and a telephone. If you cannot join from home or your office, USPTO offers dedicated meeting rooms at each of its major campuses (Alexandria, Va; Detroit, Mich; and Denver, Colo.).

Survey

We have created a brief survey to learn more about applicant experiences with interview practices during prosecution. Responses will help us identify the best practices and training needs for USPTO.

Take the survey

Federal Register Notice

USPTO is updating its Internet usage policy by modifying the authorization requirements to now permit oral authorization for video conferencing tools, such as WebEx, to be provided by the patent applicant/practitioner
QUESTIONS?

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