EFS-Web Overview

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EFS-Web is the United States Patent and Trademark Office's (USPTO's) easy-to-use, web-based patent application and document submission solution. Using EFS-Web, anyone with a web-enabled computer can file patent applications and documents without download-ing special software or changing document preparation tools and processes.

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

EFS-Web utilizes standard web-based screens and prompts to enable you to submit a por-table document format (PDF) document directly to the USPTO within minutes. You choose the tool, process and workflow with which you author your documents; convert them to standard PDF files and then submit them to USPTO's secure servers. EFS-Web is safe, simple and secure and gives you all of the same benefits as paper filings, including an electronic receipt that acknowledges your submission date.

EFS-Web Benefits

EFS-Web brings several important benefits to anyone who needs to submit patent applica-tions or follow-on documents:

EFS-Web is safe.

Filings made with EFS-Web provide you with the same legal protection as paper-based fil-ings. You receive an electronic receipt and confirmation, as well as the ability to print the receipt for your records, affirming your receipt date.

EFS-Web is simple.

Even the largest and most complex patent applications can be submitted by attaching the appropriate files and filling out a few simple web screens.

EFS-Web is secure.

EFS-Web is fast.

In just a few minutes and using a few web screens, you can submit a patent application, pay for your filing and receive an acknowledgment receipt.

EFS-Web is flexible.

EFS-Web requires you to make no changes to the tools, processes or workflows you use to author patent applications and documents. Filing with EFS-Web does not require you to learn how to use new authoring tools.
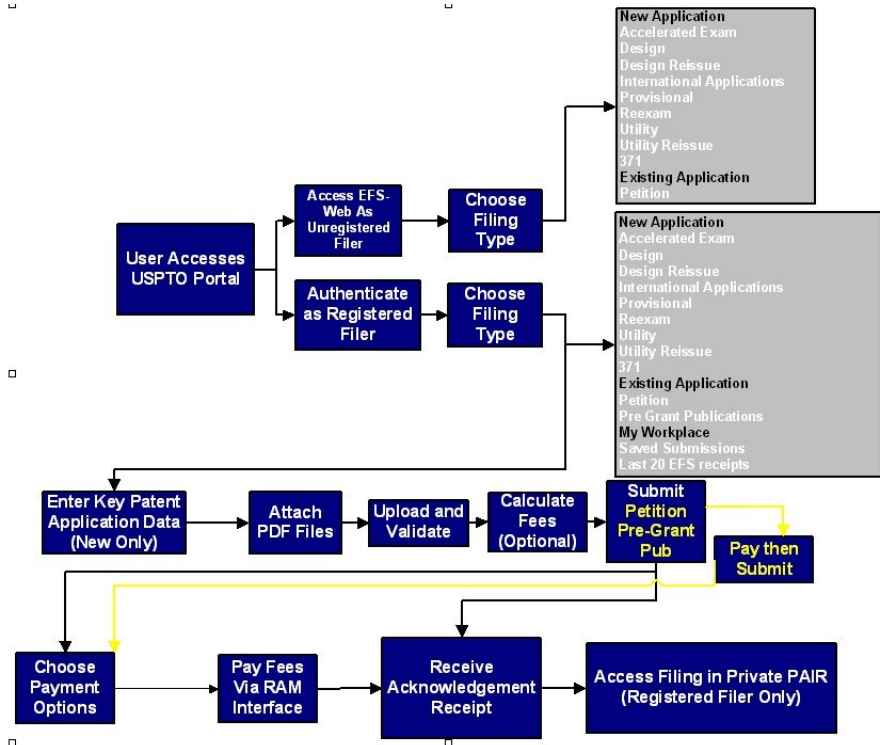
EFS-Web is forgiving.

EFS-Web validates whether the PDF files and data you're trying to file can be accepted before they are submitted. If there's a problem, EFS-Web will tell you why the document can't be submitted – allowing you to take corrective action quickly.

EFS-Web Overview

How EFS-Web Works

EFS-Web is a hosted patent application and document submission solution that is accessible to anyone who has access to a computer and an Internet connection. USPTO operates EFS-Web on its secure servers.

By navigating through just a few simple screens, EFS-Web allows anyone to file patent applications and documents – even individuals who do not have a USPTO customer number.

EFS-Web Sandbox Link

Below is the URL to the online model of EFS-Web where you can practice going through the interface for submitting applications and documents:

http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/portal/tutorials.htm

EFS-Web Overview

EFS-Web Features

Web Access

A computer, an Internet browser and an Internet connection are your tickets to electronic filing. Users can access EFS-Web by navigating to the www.USPTO.gov website and clicking on "File online in EFS-Web" under Patents.

Filings Accepted

EFS-Web accepts new Accelerated Exam, Design, Design Reissue, International Application for filing in the US receiving office, Provisional, Reexam, Utility, Utility Reissue and National Stage applications under 35 USC 371. Registered eFilers may also file follow-on documents for previously filed applications and a Petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c). Both registered and unregistered can file a Pre-Grant Publication under 37 CFR 1.211 to 1.221.

File Formats Accepted

EFS-Web accepts standard PDF documents up to 25 megabytes per file. TXT files are also accepted for submission of mega tables, bio-sequence listings and computer program listings, chemical formulae, mathematical formulae, and 3D protein crystals. Finally, ZIP files are accepted for submission of international applications (ONLY when using PCT-SAFE).

PDF Writers

The EFS-Web team has tested many PDF writers for proper conversion into USPTO systems.

These include (but are not limited to):

✓ Adobe Acrobat Professional

✓ ABXPDFWriter (Freeware)

✓ Open Office (Freeware)

✓ Easy Office (Ad ware)

✓ Cute PDF (Freeware)

✓ PDF 995 (Adware)

✓ Primo PDF (Freeware)

USPTO supports Adobe PDF standards versions 1.1 to 1.6 for PDF creation. Adobe Reader 7.0.9 or higher is required to use EFS-Web Fillable forms. A detailed listing of PDF guidelines may be found on USPTO's Electronic filing web page.

Registered and Unregistered Filers

While EFS-Web gives anyone who accesses the site the ability to submit patent applications and documents, you can get more benefit from the system as a registered filer, including filing any follow-on papers, viewing the last 20 acknowledgement receipts and saving the package before submission. Registering is easy and can be done by submitting PTO-2042, the Certificate Action form, to USPTO's Electronic Business Center, who will then issue a Digital Certificate that authenticates your identity.

EFS-Web Overview

Security

EFS-Web is a secure hosted application, no matter whether you are a registered or an unregistered filer. If you file as an unregistered filer, your documents will be transmitted using Transport Layer Security (TLS) or Secure Socket Layer (SSL) protocol. If you choose to register, your filings will be conducted under a Public Key Infrastructure system that provides authentication and encryption security.

Built-In File Validation

EFS-Web automatically validates files and informs you before submission whether your application meets USPTO standards. If it doesn't meet standards, you'll be notified of the problem so you can take corrective action before final submission.

Online Payment of Fees

EFS-Web allows you to pay filing fees in an e-commerce environment, smoothing the process and allowing you to select the payment option that you desire. It's important to note that unregistered users may not pay any fees online through EFS-Web after their initial filing submission.

Valid Electronic Receipt

EFS-Web provides an Acknowledgement Receipt that contains critical information, including a time and date stamp, an application number and a confirmation number. This electronic receipt may be printed, and it carries the security and authority of the post card receipt commonly provided in paper-filed applications.

Public/Private PAIR

EFS-Web submissions are viewable in Public/Private PAIR just like paper applications. If you are a registered filer, your patent applications and documents are available in Private PAIR in a short time. Private PAIR is accessible through the Acknowledgment Receipt screen when an application has been submitted.

Support

Technical support is available through USPTO's Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 from 6 a.m. to 12 Midnight Eastern Time, Monday – Friday.

Training

Training and EFS-Web QuickStart Guides are provided on the USPTO EFS-Web page. Self-paced Computer Based Training will be available 24 x 7 in various file formats, including Windows Media, Real Media, PowerPoint and PDF files.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

OPERATING SYSTEM	HARDWARE	SOFTWARE	BROWSER	JAVA VIRTUAL MACHINES	COMMENTS
XP Pro SP2 XP Home Win2000Pro SP4	266-MHz or higher Intel Pentium processor (or similar AMD Processor) 256 MB of RAM 20 GB hard drive with 90 MB of free disk space 1024 X 768 Resolution, 800 X 600 minimum 56 Kbps or faster	Adobe Reader 7.0.8	IE 6.0 SP1/SP2, Netscape Navigator 8.1	MS JVM 5.0, Sun Java Plugin 1.5.0 and above	Sun JRE version 1.5.0_06 is strongly recommended for TLS configuration.
Mac Tiger OSX 10.4	PowerPC 256 MB of RAM 20 GB HFS formatted hard drive with 125 MB of free disk space 1024 X 768 Resolution, 800 X 600 minimum 56 Kbps or faster	Adobe Reader 7.0.8 MAC	Mac Safari 2.0.3	Apple JVM 1.5 and above	Apple JVM 1.5 Release 3 is strongly recommended for TLS configuration
RedHat 9.0	266-MHz or higher Intel Pentium processor (or similar AMD Processor) 256 MB of RAM 20 GB hard drive with 90 MB of free disk space 1024 X 768 Resolution, 800 X 600 minimum 56 Kbps or faster	Adobe Reader 7.0.8	Mozilla 5.0 version 1.7.3 (Mozilla 1.7.2 has a security flaw)	Sun Java Plugin 1.5.0 and above	Sun JRE version 1.5.0_06 is strongly recommended for TLS configuration.

EFS-Web Overview

EFS-Web Overview Browser and Adobe Reader Compatibility

The following browser and Adobe Reader version combinations for opening PDFs in a browser window are supported (marked by an 'x').

NEEDS UPDATING

	Acrobat 5.0.5	Acrobat 5.1	Acrobat 6.0.1	Acrobat 7.0*
Internet Explorer 5.01 or higher	x	x	x	x
Netscape 7.0	x	x		x
Netscape 6.x		x		
Netscape 4.7x		x		x
Mozilla 1.73				x
Mozilla 1.8				x
*Needed to use EFS-Web PDF fillable forms				

Contact Us Today

USPTO is committed to assisting the intellectual property community in moving towards electronic submission of all patent applications and documents. For more information on EFS-Web, visit our website at www.USPTO.gov.