

From:

Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 11:33 PM

To: patent_quality_comments

Subject: Increasing patent examination quality

Chief Judge Paul Michel recently said:

"The patent system is failing primarily because the patent office is failing. In a word, it is dysfunctional. Over 700,000 applications sit unread in a warehouse in Alexandria, Virginia, often for years. Although 400,000 are under examination, their progress is far too slow. And every year almost 400,000 more are filed."

The system is "dysfunctional" because Examiners use obsolete tools.

Patent Examiner Work Bench (PxWB) is a tool system designed to help Examiners function more productively.

PxWB alone won't eliminate the backlog, but PxWB can increase efficiency and quality in patent application examination.

The PxWB integrated environment is open source software and is freely distributed at <http://www.pxwb.org> under the GNU General Public License.