

USPTO Announces New Private PAIR Feature: Outgoing Correspondence Notification

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO or Office) is pleased to announce a new feature in **Private PAIR: Outgoing Correspondence Notification**. The Outgoing Correspondence Notification feature allows customers to view a list of outgoing USPTO correspondence, such as examiner Office Actions, Notices of Allowance, etc., when they access this feature in Private PAIR. Each entry on this list includes the Application Number, the mailing date and a description of the document.

Private PAIR allows independent inventors, registered patent attorneys, and patent agents the ability to access real-time status of their pending patent applications; in order to gain this access, customer need to obtain Customer Numbers and a PKI Digital Certificate (see below for additional information). PAIR provides Internet-based access to patent application status, application documents and history information using Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) security technology.

Benefits of Outgoing Correspondence Notification

Private PAIR with Outgoing Correspondence Notification offers customers the following benefits:

- Customers can update their dockets to anticipate the arrival of correspondence.
- Outgoing Correspondence Notification reduces the chance of missed response dates due to delayed mail or non-receipt of mail.
- For documents available in USPTO's Image File Wrapper (IFW), customers can view, print, and store an electronic image of the document.

Registering for Private PAIR

To register for Private PAIR, customers must first obtain the essential identification materials:

1. Customer Number



Unique number associated with a correspondence address, practitioner(s) of record, and/or fee address of the filer.

2. Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) Certificate



Unique profile (created using security software) associated with a single registered practitioner or an independent inventor not retaining counsel.

Once the Customer Number and PKI Certificate have been obtained, customers must:

3. Associate Current Patent Applications with the Customer Number



Customers must associate current patent applications with their new customer number.

The required forms and instructions on registering for Private PAIR are available on the USPTO Internet's PAIR New Users Page: <http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/digitalcert.htm>.

How to use the Outgoing Correspondence Notification Feature

Once customers are registered for PAIR and have their applications associated with their customer number, they can:

- Select Outgoing Correspondence Notification from the main Private PAIR page.

Search results will include:

- Application Number
- Patent Number
- Mailing Date
- Document Description

For those applications where IFW content is available, the "Document Description" will be underlined and provide a link to view the correspondence image. Customers will be able to view and download the correspondence image from IFW.

3 Outgoing Correspondence Notification(s) Found for Customer Number: 59			
<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Patent No.</u>	<u>Mailing Date</u>	<u>Document Description</u>
00/000,001	-	07-05-2003	Non final rejection mailed
00/000,002	-	08-01-2003	Mail Notice of Allowance
00/000,003	-	08-01-2003	Mail Advisory Action (PTOL – 303)

Result sorted by Mailing Date

Note: This data is simulated for training purposes only.

Contact Information

The Patent Electronic Business Center (EBC) is a complete customer service center that supports all Patent e-business products and service applications. EBC representatives can be reached at **703-305-3028** or toll free at **866-217-9197** between the hours of **6 a.m. and midnight Monday through Friday EST**, or by e-mail at: ebc@uspto.gov. Additional information is available on the Patent EBC Web site at: <http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/index.html>.