

**UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**





Patent Center DOCX Filing

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Patent Center

Patent Center will replace Electronic Filing System-Web (EFS-Web) and Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) for filing and managing patent applications. Patent Center features a unified, user-friendly interface and incorporates all the capabilities of EFS-Web, PAIR.



April 2020

- Open to the public
- Training sessions



Mid 2020-2021

- Continue incorporating functionality found in EFS-Web, Public PAIR, and Private PAIR
- Training sessions



2022

- Retired Public PAIR
- Training sessions



2023

- Retire EFS-Web and Private PAIR
- Training sessions

Patent Center (cont.)

Patent Center

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Search for a patent application

Search by application number, patent number, PCT number, publication number or international design registration number.

Application # 

Activities

Perform activities from submissions to post grant request and admin tasks such as managing customer numbers & practitioner associations with customer number

New submission

File utility, design, national stage and international submissions

See the above [Federal Register Notice pertaining to DOCX and Auxiliary PDF filing if you are filing a new utility non-provisional application.](#)

Existing submissions

Add additional documents, pay fees, submit a corrected ADS, and much more

Petitions

File ePetitions for automatic processing and immediate grant, if all requirements are met

Post grant

Perform post grant activities such as a request to reissue, or a request for reexamination

Workbench

View your saved submissions, applications, and correspondence

Manage

Manage your customer numbers, or update application address

NOTE: For information on the Paperwork Reduction Act as it pertains to: ePetitions and Web-based application data sheets, please see the [OMR Clearance and PRA Burden Statement page](#).

Patent Center - Training Mode

Training Mode is a simulated environment for you to:

- Become familiar with the process and required information,
- Practice uploading your files (e.g., DOCX), and
- Receive real-time feedback specific to the information you provide.

Nothing you enter will be saved. There is no risk of submitting an application.

[Enter Training Mode](#)

Bulk Data Downloads - PEDS API

Use the Patent Examination Data System (PEDS) for bulk public patent data. In PEDS, you can:

- Narrow your public patent data results with filters.
- Specify a date range for those results, and
- Request a JSON or XML file download.

[Open Patent Examination Data System](#)

DOCX Filing

- USPTO is switching to DOCX for application filings
- Part of ongoing initiatives to leverage the most advanced technology and to issue and maintain robust and reliable patents
- Use of DOCX is foundational to future efforts and functionality





DOCX submissions

- DOCX is a word processing file format based on open standards, including Extensible Markup Language (XML)
- DOCX is supported by most popular word-processing applications
 - Microsoft Word, Google Docs, LibreOffice, and Pages
 - Typically what is used to generate the PDF currently used to file applications
- **The USPTO began accepting structured text (DOCX) in August 2017**
- **Additional features and enhancements are being developed for structured text filing within Patent Center to further enhance user experience**

What can be filed in DOCX?

- **Applicable to following application types**
 - Utility non-provisional under 35 USC 111(a)
 - Includes Continuations and Divisionals
 - Includes amendments and responses
 - Utility provisional under 35 USC 111(b)
 - National Stage under 35 USC 371
 - Includes amendments and responses

Patent Center DOCX functionality

- **User friendly interface for submitting DOCX files**
 - Drag and drop for document upload
 - Requirement to convert DOCX into PDF for filing is eliminated
 - Automatic metadata detection and scrubbing (e.g., comments, etc.)
- **Automatic splitting of specification, claims, and abstract found within documents**
- **Provides content-based validations including**
 - Specification paragraph number detection
 - Independent and dependent claim count
 - Duplicate or missing claim number detection
 - Improper multiple claim dependency
 - Abstract word count
- **Automated document code assignments for DOCX files**

DOCX benefits

- Eliminates need to convert documents to PDF, reducing likelihood of conversion errors
- Ability to validate files prior to submission, reducing time spent addressing formalities
- Reduces likelihood of OCR errors from converting PDF documents for publication purposes






Application Quality Checks




USPTO has developed checks that detect common errors, such as formatting errors

Instant feedback pre-submission to prevent unnecessary delays in processing your application

Warnings and errors are pinpointed in a copy of the uploaded document in real time

Eliminates the non-embedded font error, the most common error in uploading a PDF

Validation Status	File(s) to be Submitted	Document Description
 WARNING	c484f781-34a4-4156-a0eb-edc511f8bb88.docx (Original: 3005_Specification_Only.docx)	Specification
	Text decorations were found and have been removed. You can view the location of warnings/errors in your uploaded file here .	
 WARNING	46626a46-f05d-4b8f-9a2e-a0912f6cc7f6.docx (Original: 3003_Claims_Only2.docx)	Claims Document
	Text decorations were found and have been removed. You can view the location of warnings/errors in your uploaded file here .	
 PASSED	3004_Abstract_Only2.docx (Original: 3004_Abstract_Only2.docx)	Abstract

 No Error(s)  Warning(s)  Error(s) found



Non-DOCX surcharge

- Starting January 17, 2024, a surcharge up to \$400 will apply when filing a new non-provisional utility application* in PDF format
 - * Applies to the specification, claims, and abstract when filed in PDF format. Please Visit the [Summary of Final Patent Fee Rules](#)
- Drawings are accepted in DOCX format but may still be submitted in PDF format with no surcharge
- Surcharge does not apply to the following application types – provisional, national stage, design, plant, and PCT applications

Auxiliary PDF

- Applicants have the option to submit a PDF document of their application along with their DOCX document in Patent Center
 - Applies to utility non-provisional applications (until further notice)
- This initiative will allow more time for applicants to acclimate to DOCX filing and for the USPTO to receive any feedback on issues with the DOCX to PDF conversion process
- Applicants will still rely on the DOCX version as the source or evidentiary copy
 - May also rely on the auxiliary PDF to support a request to correct an error or discrepancy
- Applicants should contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) if they experience any issues with filing applications in DOCX format

