

Fix problem of "501 internal server error" for many file uploads

There are many PDF files that are acceptable to EFS-Web when uploaded but that cause Patentcenter to puke when uploaded. Attached is an exemplary PDF file. USPTO will need to figure out what is wrong with Patentcenter that is making it puke on a PDF file that is acceptable to EFS-Web.

What happens next is that the user sees "501 internal server error" and then the user is able to continue to fee payment and then continue to "submit". Only then does Patentcenter complain that a document description is required, and it is not actually possible to submit.

Voting

0 votes

0 up votes
0 down votes

- Active

ACTIVE

can't enter US national phase

when user tries to enter US national phase, the system says "500 internal server error". The EBC reproduced the error with ticket number 1-618630498 per Harvey. This will need to be fixed in Patentcenter.

Voting

0 votes

0 up votes
0 down votes

- Active

ACTIVE

Idea Actions

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- Share

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s-signature block violates 37 cfr 1.4

the patentcenter s-signature refuses to accept an s-signature that contains only one letter (for example "/s/" even though this is compliant with 37 CFR 1.4. This needs to be corrected in patentcenter.

Voting

0 votes

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- Active

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Idea Actions

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online issue fee page is broken for China

The online issue fee page has a place to add an assignee. It lists a country of China. But then it requires the user to select a "state/province" which makes no sense for China. The drop-down menu forces the user to select "Tibet" which makes no sense. The screen then renders the result as "Beijing 45 China" which makes no sense. This needs to be corrected.

Voting

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Idea Actions

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PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE

mishandling of file with embedded font

patentcenter mishandles a file if it has an embedded font. one consequence is that it is then impossible to delete the file. the workaround is to save the submission and then reopen it. Then you can delete the file.

Voting

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ACTIVE

Idea Actions

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PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE

we need to be able to preview an ADS

if we upload a PDF ADS, we need to be able to view the rendered content (the rendered bibliographic data).

Voting

2 votes

2 up votes
0 down votes

- Active

ACTIVE

Idea Actions



PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE

pukes on PDF with typewriter text

Lots of people use the Acrobat typewriter tool to type information onto a PDF page. Such a page may be freely uploaded to EFS-Web. No problem. But the exact same PDF will cause patentcenter to puke. Why?

Voting

0 votes

0 up votes
0 down votes

- Active

ACTIVE

Idea Actions



PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE

forced logouts - stop it

very often patentcenter will force me to log in again even though I am in the middle of doing something. In other words it is not as though my computer has been idle, not even for five minutes.

Voting

1 vote

1 up votes
0 down votes

- Active

Submitted by Carl Oppedahl (@oppedahl) 29/Oct/18 7:44 AM

ACTIVE

PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE

workbench forgets the sort order

If I pick a sort order, the workbench should remember what sort order I picked. As far as I can see, any time I browse away from the workbench and browse back, the system has forgotten everything that it knew about what I was doing in my workbench.

Voting

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ACTIVE

Idea Actions

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- Share
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PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE

saved submission often doesn't work

Quite often when I save a submission package, it does not work. Later I go to look at my saved submissions, the saved submission is not there. This is very disappointing.

Voting

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0 down votes

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Idea Actions

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- Share
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PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE

where are the first office action predictions?

I can't find the first office action predictions in Patent Center. Where are they?

Voting

0 votes

0 up votes
0 down votes

- Active

ACTIVE

Idea

PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE

captcha not needed for Patent Center

for any login at Patent Center, the user is required to do two-factor authentication. This is more than adequate to prove that the user is not a robot. Therefore there is no need for a captcha session. Thus you should eliminate the captcha session for logins at Patent Center.

Voting

1 vote

1 up votes
0 down votes

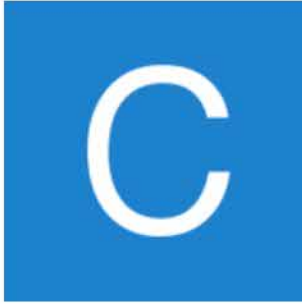
- Active

ACTIVE

Idea Actions

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- Share
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PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE



Carl Oppedahl (@oppedahl)

02/Nov/18 9:22 AM

Do not combine "documents & transactions"

In PAIR if I want "IFW" I can click on IFW with one click" In PAIR if I want "transaction history" I can reach it with one click. That is good.

But in Patent Center a poor decision has been made in the user interface. These two important frequently used resources are now collapsed behind a single heading called "documents & transactions". This means that if I am in Patent Center, whichever one of these things I need, it is now very often **two clicks away** whereas in PAIR it only required **one click** to get there. So just now for example to reach the transaction history for a particular case I had to do a first click on "documents & transactions" and then I had to click on "transactions".

In patent center the "documents" and "transactions" functions need to each have their own main click button on the main screen for a particular patent application, just as they do in PAIR.

Even more evil is that when that second screen populates, seemingly at random it sometimes populates with the "transactions" tab active and other times populates with the "documents" tab active. There seems to be no pattern with this. This means that when I am doing telephone tech support with somebody on this, I will never be able to guess what the other user is seeing.

Tags

[Edit tags]

Tags

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Save

Voting

-1 votes

0 up votes

1 down votes

- Active

ACTIVE
Idea No. 244

Idea Actions

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- Share
- Toggle navigation

- Comments [3]
- Activity
- Attachments [0]

- Community

Comments

Sort by [Latest First](#)

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1. Comment



Dai Phipps (@dhipps) 02/Nov/18 10:07 AM

I actually like having the two tabs accessible from the same view as they are now. It is easy to toggle back and forth to see the transaction date of something related to the document.

[Reply]

[Attach a file]

[Edit]

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[Delete]

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Comments on this comment

Load Reply

2. Comment



Jerome Weekes Jr (@jerome.weekes.jr) 17/Dec/18 1:04 PM

(Moderator)

Thank you for your suggestion. This feature was implemented based on feedback from users during focus sessions and other outreach events. - Jerome, eMod team

[Reply]

[Attach a file]

[Edit]

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Add your comment



Comment Details

IFW in Patent Center often lags behind IFW in PAIR

It very often happens that newly posted documents that are visible in IFW in PAIR are not visible in Patent Center. Clearly this is a Big Problem and needs to be fixed.

A typical example comes up when I click on "correspondence" to bring up the most recently mailed correspondence notifications from the USPTO. If I do this in Private PAIR, and if I then try to actually view this newly mailed correspondence, it is always visible.

But, and this is the Big Problem, if I do this in Patent Center, and if I then try to actually view this newly mailed correspondence, quite often it is not yet visible in Patent Center.

Tags

[Edit tags]

Tags

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Save

Voting

1 vote

1 up votes

0 down votes

- Active

ACTIVE
Idea No. 245

Idea Actions

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- Share

- Toggle navigation

- Comments [3]

- Activity

- Attachments [0]
- Community

Comments

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1. Comment



Dai Phipps (@dhipps) 02/Nov/18 10:10 AM

I too experienced this early on in the alpha test. Seems to be fixed as the past few filings I completed all showed up immediately in Patent Center.

[Reply]

[Attach a file]

[Edit]

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2. Comment



Carl Oppedahl (@oppedahl) (**Idea Submitter**) 02/Nov/18 11:02 AM

Lucky you! It's sure not working for me. This morning I clicked in Patent Center alpha on the outgoing correspondence and not one piece of actual correspondence was visible for any of our files. So I had to go to Private PAIR to click in IFW to see our actual outgoing correspondence.

[Reply]

[Attach a file]

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[Delete]

[Pin]

3. Comment



Jerome Weekes Jr (@jerome.weekes.jr) 13/Feb/19 11:04 AM

(Moderator)

Thank you for sharing this issue. We have looked into this issue and it will be resolved in a future release of Patent Center.- Jerome, eMod team

[Reply]

[Attach a file]

[Edit]

PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE



Carl Oppedahl (@oppedahl)

13/Dec/18 6:06 AM

e-filing preview fails to do decent preview

What a disappointment. Ten years ago it was pointed out that when EFS-Web receives a PDF containing color or gray scale, EFS-Web ruins the file when converting it to TIF. The pixels that are any color other than pure black and white are grouped with neighboring pixels in an ill-advised half-toning algorithm. The result is that the pages become very blurry and often become unreadable.

This would not be so bad except that the USPTO systems do not let the user know that this is going to happen. The first point at which the user learns what the USPTO systems did to the PDF file is much later when the user gets to see what is in IFW in PAIR. At that point it is too late to do anything about the problem.

Particularly poorly designed in EFS-Web was the "preview" button which did not really "preview" the images. The "preview" button simply gave back the exact PDF from the saved submission package, giving no hint or suggestion about the damage that would later be done by the USPTO systems to the PDF file.

The only protective step that a user could do in those days to get an actual preview was to e-file the PDF in some old provisional file that did not matter any more, and then look in IFW to see what the USPTO system was going to do with the PDF file.

Meanwhile the folks at WIPO got it right. In ePCT, when you upload a PDF that contains any color or gray scale, immediately a message appears on the screen letting the user know that this is the case. The user is then invited to click on a preview button that really works. The user can see what the file will actually look like in ePCT after filing. If the quality of the previewed image is acceptable the user can continue or otherwise the user can go back and struggle with the PDF file to try to remove the color or gray scale.

Now I find that in Patentcenter, none of the user feedback from ten years ago from EFS-Web was listened to. Now in Patentcenter alpha, if I upload a PDF and click the preview button, the "preview" is not really a preview. Just as with the old EFS-Web, the "preview" button does nothing more than display the original PDF from the saved submission. It does not preview the file in the form in which it will appear after Patentcenter ruins the gray scale or color information in the file.

This needs to be fixed. The easiest way for USPTO to do this would be for USPTO folks to contact WIPO and ask them how they do the real preview and then implement the real preview in patentcenter.

Tags

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Tags

Save

Voting

0 votes

0 up votes

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ACTIVE
Idea No. 265

Idea Actions

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- Share
- Toggle navigation
- Comments [3]
- Activity
- Attachments [0]
- Community

Comments

Sort by Latest First

Submit

1. Comment



Dai Phipps (@dhipps) 18/Dec/18 3:13 PM

I am able to retrieve nice PDFs when doing a preview. It seems to depend mostly on the quality of the original upload. I also have the documents preview in Adobe and not my web browser.

[Reply]

[Attach a file]

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2. Comment



Carl Oppedahl (@oppedahl) (**Idea Submitter**) 18/Dec/18 3:56 PM

In patent center alpha the preview *always* looks beautiful. That's exactly the evil of it. The whole point of what I wrote is that later after I click submit and then look at it in IFW in PCA, the USPTO system will have half-toned the gray scale and the images in IFW will have been degraded.

My whole point is that if the USPTO system is going to degrade the image as part of the "submit" process, then the "preview" system should show faithfully what the degraded image will look like. This way the user can make an informed decision whether to click submit or not.

ePCT is the example that the USPTO people should emulate. In ePCT, the Preview screen shows how the image will later get degraded in the event that the user clicks "submit".

[Reply]

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3. Comment



Jerome Weekes Jr (@jerome.weekes.jr) 15/Apr/19 2:46 PM

(Moderator)

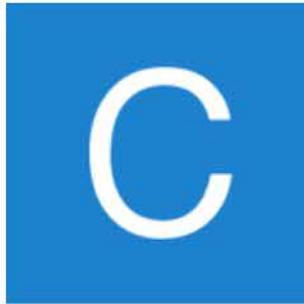
Thank you for your suggestion. We will look into this for a future release of Patent Center. - Jerome, eMod team

[Reply]

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PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE



Carl Oppedahl (@oppedahl)

13/Dec/18 6:10 AM

patentcenter fails to autoload design drawings into score

One of the good things with EFS-Web is that if you are e-filing a design application, and if you upload drawings into the design application, EFS-Web automatically loads the drawings into score regardless of which document description you happen to select (black and white or non-BW).

Unfortunately this good design feature got lost in patentcenter. In patentcenter, if you pick "black and white" in your design submission, patentcenter will NOT auto-load the design drawings into score.

This needs to be fixed in patentcenter. Any and all drawings that are uploaded into any design application need to get auto-loaded into SCORE regardless of the document description selected by the filer.

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Voting

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Idea No. 266

Idea Actions

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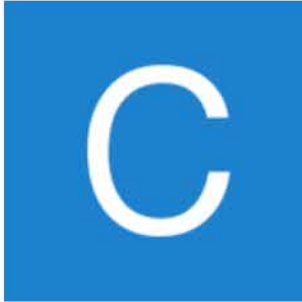
- Comments [0]
- Activity
- Attachments [0]

- Community

Comments

Add

PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE



Carl Oppedahl (@oppedahl)

13/Dec/18 6:28 AM

patentcenter won't even let me pick non-BW

I upload a PDF that happens to contain the word "figures" in the file name. Patentcenter decides it knows better than I do what the document description should be. It forces me to accept a document description of "black and white drawings". It refuses to even allow me to change the document description to "non-BW drawings". I remove it, upload it again, same problem.

The workaround is to rename the file to eliminate the word "drawings" in the file name. Then when I upload it, patentcenter will allow me to pick the document description and I can pick non-BW which is what I want so as to force Patententer to load the drawings into score.

This is not good. Patentcenter should always permit the user to change a document description so that if patentcenter picks the wrong DD, the user can change it to the correct one.

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Idea Actions

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Idea No. 268

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- Share
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- Comments [1]
- Activity
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- Community

Comments

Sort by

Submit

1. Comment



Jerome Weekes Jr (@jerome.weekes.jr) 04/Jan/19 2:23 PM

(Moderator)

We were able to test this scenario and we can verify that you should be able to double click on the document description to change to another one of your choosing. - Jerome, eMod team

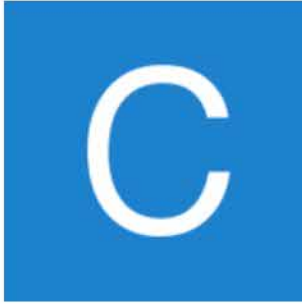
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PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE



Carl Oppedahl (@oppedahl)

18/Dec/18 3:44 PM

why it's so bad that PCA designers dropped "recent ack receipts"

I'll try to be more clear just how and why it is such a serious design mistake that the designers of Patent Center Alpha chose not to provide the "most recent thirty ack receipts" feature that is so important in EFS-Web.

There is of course the "application table" section of Patent Center Alpha. This is the place where you can list some of your applications that are visible to you. To the right of this table are a couple of columns with eyeballs. One column is a column of eyeballs that are links that sometimes bring up "ack receipts" and to its right is a column of eyeballs that are links that sometimes bring up "fee ack receipts". By this we mean that if somehow you *already know* that some particular application is the application for which you are looking for the most recent ack receipt, then yes the eyeball that is looking at you is an eyeball which might, if clicked, bring up this ack receipt. Likewise if somehow you *already know* that some particular application is the application for which you are looking for the most recent *fee ack receipt*, then yes the eyeball that is looking at you is an eyeball which might, if clicked, bring up a fee ack receipt. Except not, if the most recent e-filing submission is a submission in which no fees were paid, in which case the eyeball will bring up a sort of failure message.

But the existence of this massive array of hundreds or thousands of eyeballs, two eyeballs for each application in your workbench, is not in any way even remotely a replacement or meaningful successor for the "most recent thirty ack receipts" feature of EFS-Web. I will give a few examples of why it is not even remotely a replacement or meaningful successor.

First suppose I am looking for all of the things that somebody filed in the past week. Maybe I am looking to see all of the things that somebody filed who works for me. Maybe they filed this, maybe they filed that. My goal is to find out what they filed. Or maybe I didn't keep as good of notes as I should have as to what I did over the past weekend, or during the last airplane flight. Or I am simply forgetful sometimes. Anyway so the situation is, I want to simply review the most recent few things that got e-filed. Maybe the most recent things I personally e-filed. Or the most recent things that my assistant e-filed.

Well, anyway so there are people who suggest that it's not a problem that "most recent thirty ack receipts" is gone, because you can just go to your workbench and start clicking on eyeballs. But no, if my goal is to find out what my assistant did recently, then clicking around on eyeballs in my workbench only works *if I already know the answer*. It only works *if I already know my assistant filed something in a particular case*. But one of the important things about the "most recent thirty ack receipts" feature of EFS-Web is that it tells me about filings that somebody filed that I did not already know about.

A related situation is where I file a new application, which means that for the first time I learn what my new application number is. Yes of course when I learn what my new application number is, I should write it on my hand with a pen, so that if the Patent Center Alpha screen crashes I will still have the new application number. But that's nuts. What if Patent Center Alpha crashed right away and I did not have time to write the application number on my hand? Then I cannot go to my workbench and start randomly clicking on eyeballs looking for an ack receipt.

Oh you might say "silly practitioner just sort on the application number, the most recently filed case will come to the top and that is how you will learn the application number if you forgot to write it on your hand after PCA crashed." Nope. PCA draws its application numbers from a pool of app numbers that is not anywhere near the highest numbers. EFS-Web draws from the highest-numbered pool of application numbers.

Okay here is a second example. Suppose somebody filed two or three submissions on the same day, in the same case. Clicking on the eyeball in the workbench will not provide any ack receipt other than *the single most recent one*. In contrast, one of the most important things about the "most recent thirty ack receipts" feature of EFS-Web is that it provides *all* of the recent ack receipts relating to a particular application, not merely the single most recent ack receipt relating to a particular application.

A third example of the complete inadequacy of the massive array of eyeballs to click on in the workbench is that it's a treasure hunt. Some eyeballs actually do something. Other eyeballs, when you click on them, the eyeball does nothing. If, as I say, I have a goal of finding out what somebody did within the past few days in terms of e-filing, it is a treasure hunt. If I am looking for the recent filing activity of someone who works for me, I would simply have to click on *every one of the hundreds or thousands of eyeballs* in a treasure hunt to try to find ack receipts that are dated within the past few days. That is nuts.

Anyway yes what is needed is the "most recent thirty ack receipts" feature just as we know it from EFS-Web.

Tags

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Tags

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Voting

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ACTIVE
Idea No. 271

Idea Actions

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 - Share
 - Toggle navigation
- Comments [1]
- Activity
- Attachments [0]
- Community

Comments

Sort by Latest First

Submit

1. Comment



Jerome Weekes Jr (@jerome.weekes.jr) 13/Feb/19 11:08 AM

(Moderator)

Thank you for your suggestion. We will look into this for a future release of Patent Center. - Jerome, eMod team

[Reply]

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PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE



Carl Oppedahl (@oppedahl)

19/Dec/18 1:50 AM

Patent Center Alpha pages not all RESTful

During the first intro sessions for Patent Center Alpha, we were told the pages would be RESTful. (See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Representational_state_transfer . One aspect of RESTfulness is that you can right-click on a link and open a page in a new window that is not dependent upon the internal states of some previous window.) One of the chief design flaws of Private PAIR, from the user point of view, is the non-RESTfulness of the pages.

Yes it turns out that a modest fraction of the pages of Patent Center Alpha are RESTful. To a limited extent for example sometimes a user is able to right-click on a link and open a new window, or copy a link and open a new window and paste the link into the location bar and the link will actually open in a browser.

But unfortunately it turns out the promise of RESTfulness is not fulfilled on all pages of Patent Center Alpha. Here is one example and as I run into them I will post others. Go for example to your Outgoing Correspondence page. I see two applications in which there is outgoing correspondence of interest. I'd like to right-click on each of these applications and open it in a new window, because I need to compare certain pieces of information in the two applications. Maybe I'd like to compare the inventor lists in the two applications, or the fee payments in the two applications. But anyway I would like to open each of the two applications in a new window. So I go to the "application number" column and I see the link for the application number of one of the applications that I am interested in. I right-click on it, hoping to choose "open in new window". Nope. The Patent Center Alpha web site tells the browser that this is a non-RESTful link.

Okay, so I figure I will just copy the link and open my own new window and paste the link into the location bar of the new window. Nope. when I right-click on the link, I cannot do a "copy link location". Again I realize the Patent Center Alpha system is refusing to allow the web browser to "copy the link location".

So the corrective action is, on the Outgoing Correspondence page, the links to the application numbers need to be made so that the user can right-click on them and open them in a new window. The links to the application numbers need to be made so that the user can right-click on them and copy the link location. The promise of many months ago, that the Patent Center Alpha system design is RESTful, needs to be fulfilled.

Tags

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Tags

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Representational_state_transfer

[Representational state transfer - Wikipedia](#)



Voting

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Idea No. 272

Idea Actions

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- Share

- Toggle navigation

- Comments [1]
- Activity
- Attachments [0]

- Community

Comments

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1. Comment



Jerome Weekes Jr (@jerome.weekes.jr) 02/Jan/19 9:48 AM

(Moderator)

Thank you for your suggestion. We will look into this for a future release of Patent Center. - Jerome, eMod team

[Reply]

[Attach a file]

[Edit]

PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE



Carl Oppedahl (@oppedahl)

19/Dec/18 2:01 AM

IFW in PCA missing most recent six months of documents

I'm in Patent Center Alpha. It gives me an OCN (outgoing correspondence notification) in application number 14/564,636 (this is a published case). Okay so I'd like to view that outgoing correspondence. Nope. It's not there in the "documents" of PCA. In fact, the most recent five months of documents are missing from the IFW of PCA for this application. Look at the screen shot. The status is "notice of allowance mailed 12/17" but look at the IFW and the most recent document is in August of 2017.

Yeah. If I actually want to see my outgoing correspondence, I have to give up and go look for it in the legacy Private PAIR system. And in fact if I even want to see *any* documents dating from the most recent five months, I have to go and look for them in the Private PAIR system.

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Voting

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Idea No. 273

Idea Actions

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- Share
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- Comments [1]
- Activity
- Attachments [1]

- Community

Comments

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1. Comment



Jerome Weekes Jr (@jerome.weekes.jr) 11/Jan/19 2:07 PM

(Moderator)

Thank you for bringing this issue to our attention. The documents are now available and any new documents will be available on the mail date. - Jerome, eMod team

[Reply]

[Attach a file]

[Edit]

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PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE



Carl Oppedahl (@oppedahl)

28/Dec/18 1:32 AM

[a specific example of typewriter tool pathology](#)

Here (attached, file name 626837426) is a specific example of Patentcenter puking on a PDF file that contains text that was typed using the typewriter tool.

There are quite a few really bad things about how Patentcenter handles this, each which requires correcting in the software of Patentcenter.

Bad Thing number one. The file 626837426 is no problem at all in EFS-Web. EFS-Web handles this PDF file just fine. But Patentcenter pukes on this file. One of your general goals at eMod should be that Patentcenter should be able to accept any PDF file that EFS-Web will accept. This goal fails with this file, due to the text from the Acrobat typewriter tool. You need to fix this Bad Thing number one.

Bad Thing number two. The error message. What Patentcenter should do is actually come out and say so if it is going to refuse to accept Acrobat typewriter text. Instead, Patentcenter pussyfoots around, merely giving this very fuzzy message:

The attached file contains comments or annotations. Comments are not recommended and may cause processing problems with the document.

"Not recommended?" Patentcenter merely says the use of the Acrobat typewriter tool is "not recommended"? "may cause"? So you are not saying that it "will cause"? Well Patentcenter did not say that I could not proceed. So I guess I will proceed. But Bad Thing number two needs to be corrected in Patentcenter. You need to come out and say it if you are going to puke on such a document, not merely say that "comments are not recommended".

Bad Thing number three. Patentcenter wrongly permits me to continue and continue and continue, only finally puking completely at the page for submitting. I will describe it. I had just uploaded this PDF. I select a document description, namely "power of attorney" and I click "continue". And "continue". And "continue". Patentcenter keeps allowing me to continue through the fee screens to the "review and submit page". But you need to correct this. If Patentcenter is going to puke completely on the "review and submit" page, then Patentcenter should *not* have allowed me to "continue" and "continue" and "continue" on the previous four pages.

Bad Thing number four. I am now on the "submit page" and there is an error message "all files which have generated error messages must be removed from this submission before you may proceed". Keep in mind this is a PDF that would have been perfectly okay in EFS-Web but Patentcenter is puking on it. Anyway okay so I give up, I will remove it from this submission. So I scroll down looking for the place to click to remove this file from the submission. Egad! The three little dots are missing! The very thing you say I must do, namely to remove the file, is a thing that you refuse to allow me to do. You need to fix this Bad Thing number four.

Bad Thing number five. The auto-saved submission did not work. Patentcenter lied and said it saved this submission. Later when I went to look at the saved submissions, this submission package is not there. You need to fix this Bad Thing number five.

Bad Thing number six. The user save submission did not work. At this point in the "submit" page where your system said I must remove the file, and yet your system refused to permit me to remove the file, I figured I would click on "save". Which I did. And your system lied to me and said it had saved the submission. But then when I canceled the submission and went to look at my saved submissions, there was no saved submission. you need to make it so that if Patentcenter says it saved a submission, that this is not a lie. That is Bad Thing number six.

Here we are and it is the last week of December 2018. I had proposed to you folks a live demo of these six problems in Patentcenter which would have taken place in a gotomeeting on September 13. Unfortunately you folks said no maybe later. I invited you folks to another live demo of these six problems via gotomeeting on October 11. Unfortunately no one from USPTO attended the gotomeeting. I invited you folks again on November 2 to a gotomeeting to demonstrate this six problems with Patentcenter. Crickets.

Anyway now I have presented these six Big Problems about patentcenter in ideascade. Again I will extend the offer to do a live demo of these six problems to you folks via Gotomeeting. That way you see see exactly what Patentcenter is doing wrong. But anyway, as requested now by Jerome, here is a sample PDF file that you can use to recreate the six problems described here (that I have been telling you about since September).

Tags

[Edit tags]

Tags

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Save

Voting

0 votes

0 up votes

0 down votes

- Active

ACTIVE
Idea No. 279

Idea Actions

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- Share
- Toggle navigation

- Comments [1]
- Activity
- Attachments [1]

- Community

Comments

Sort by Latest First

Submit

1. Comment



Jerome Weekes Jr (@jerome.weekes.jr) 13/Feb/19 11:18 AM

(Moderator)

Thank you for sharing this issue. We have looked into this issue and it will be resolved in a future release of Patent Center. - Jerome, eMod team

[Reply]

[Attach a file]

[Edit]

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PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE

score placeholder missing

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Submitted by Carl Oppedahl (@oppedahl) 31/Dec/18 4:45 PM

PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE

much continuity data failed to auto-load into Palm via PCA

I e-filed three cases just now in PCA, using ADSs that were supposed to auto-load into Palm. Some of the continuity data did auto-load, but the provisionals failed to auto-load into Palm. So the provisionals now fail to appear in the continuity data in PCA. This is a big problem. One such case is 15/929,079.

Voting

0 votes

0 up votes
0 down votes

- Active

ACTIVE

Idea Actions

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- Share

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PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE



Carl Oppedahl (@oppedahl)

22/Jan/19 2:44 AM

[continued noncompliance with 37 cfr 1.4](#)

Patentcenter continues to fail to comply with 37 cfr 1.4. I reported this problem many months ago and it is still not fixed. I attempt to e-sign a web-based Application Data Sheet with a virgule

signature that completely satisfies Rule 4. But Patentcenter pukes on it. I am unable to proceed except by adding a completely unnecessary additional character to my virgule signature and only then does Patentcenter permit me to proceed with my filing. This is not a good situation.

Tags

[Edit tags]

Tags

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Save

Voting

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- Active

ACTIVE
Idea No. 289

Idea Actions

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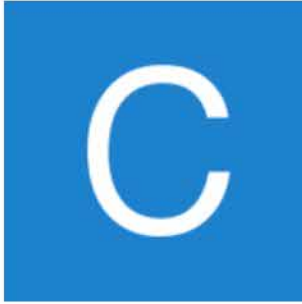
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- Share
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- Comments [0]
- Activity
- Attachments [0]

- Community

PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE



Carl Oppedahl (@oppedahl)

22/Jan/19 2:59 AM

web-based ADS has a defective error message for priority claim

I am in PCA filing a new US patent application, using the web-based ADS. I click to add a priority. I enter the filing country (Germany in this case) and filing date (February 28 of a year ago). I carefully copy and paste the priority application number in the exact format that is employed in the German patent office. Which in case you wondered is two numerical digits, a space, four digits, a space, three digits, a space, then three digits and a decimal point and a check digit. This is standard German format.

And PCA pukes on the priority claim. Here is the exact text of the red colored error message (screen shot attached if you don't believe me):

```
Validation failed for object = 'foreignPrioritiesDTO'. Error count: 1
```

Please tell me exactly what this error message means. Please tell me exactly what this error message is communicating about what I should do differently to pass the validation.

Anyway I did a variety of random things to try to guess what exactly PCA was trying to say in this puking of the priority claim. Eventually I decided to randomly try removing the spaces from the application number. And this worked! I was able to force PCA to permit me to finish my ADS and I was able to do my e-filing. And the priority claim did auto-load into Palm. The priority claim is now visible in Private PAIR in the publication review page and in the "foreign priority" tab.

But my main point is the error message is extremely poorly designed. It provides no hint or suggestion as to what the filer is supposed to do differently to overcome this error message.

My other point is that it is rather presumptuous of the designers of PCA to say what counts as a proper format for an application number in some foreign patent office. If, as here, a properly formatted German application number has a space in it, then I do not see why the designers of PCA should feel entitled to presume to say that the spaces should be removed.

But anyway, if the designers of PCA are going to be stubborn and say that the spaces must be removed, then it is incumbent upon the designers of PCA to come out and say what exactly they thing is wrong about the format of the application number. Not this unhelpful error message "Validation failed for object = 'foreignPrioritiesDTO'. Error count: 1".

Tags

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Tags

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Voting

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Idea No. 290

Idea Actions

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- Share
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- Comments [1]
- Activity
- Attachments [1]

- Community

Comments

Sort by

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1. Comment



Jerome Weekes Jr (@jerome.weekes.jr) 31/Jan/19 1:15 PM

(Moderator)

Thank you for your suggestion. We will look into this for a future release of Patent Center. - Jerome, eMod team

[Reply]

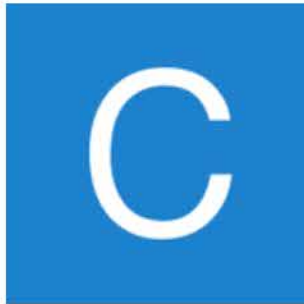
[Attach a file]

[Edit]

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PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE



Carl Oppedahl (@oppedahl)

22/Jan/19 3:09 AM

PCA continues to puke on PDFs that EFS-Web accepts

Just now I was trying to file a 111a patent application in PCA. It was being filed in a non-English language. I had a PDF from foreign counsel. The PDF was in the non-English language. It was an image-based PDF. I happened to open it in Acrobat and I did an OCR on the PDF. The resulting PDF of course had computer-readable characters inside as well as being image-based.

Such a PDF would load into EFS-Web with no problem, as we all know. But I am alpha-testing PCA. So I upload it into PCA. And very predictably, PCA pukes on the PDF file, saying it is preferable not to have comments inside the PDF file, something like that.

To make the problem go away, I then print the file to CutePDF. And the resulting file from CutePDF I upload into PCA. And PCA does not puke on that file. I did successfully e-file the patent application at that point.

But the main problem here is that if any particular PDF file is acceptable to EFS-Web, as a general rule you folks need to make it so that PCA will not puke on it. And even after months of my reporting examples of this problem, still it has not been fixed in Patentcenter Alpha.

Tags

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Tags

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Voting

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Idea No. 291

Idea Actions

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- Comments [1]

- Activity

- Attachments [0]

- Community

Comments

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1. Comment



Jerome Weekes Jr (@jerome.weekes.jr) 15/Apr/19 2:30 PM

(Moderator)

Thank you for your suggestion. We will look into this for a future release of Patent Center. - Jerome, eMod team

[Reply]

[Attach a file]

[Edit]

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PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE



Carl Oppedahl (@oppedahl)

22/Jan/19 3:26 AM

nonguest access at Patentcenter alpha only works at random times

A successful login at Patentcenter Alpha requires three things: (1) the user's IP address is required to be in an htaccess file at the USPTO, and (2) the user needs to have a user ID that is on the "good

list" for being an alpha tester of PCA, and (3) some random thing at USPTO needs to be working which only works at random times.

I have no difficulty satisfying requirement number 1. In our office we have the ability to log in by means of a VPN to either of two servers having a WAN IP address is on the htaccess list. So requirement number 1 is never a problem. In fact no matter how badly things are jammed up at the USPTO, we can always at the very least obtain "guest" access at Patentcenter alpha simply by logging in at either of the two VPN servers that I am talking about. And the fact that I can reach the "guest access" screens tells me that yes, I surely am using one of the IP addresses that is in the htaccess file.

But suppose I do not merely want "guest" access in PCA, I want to "log in". So then I click around with the goal of "logging in" at PCA. Here is where the randomness comes in. Sometimes PCA permits me to reach logged-in status and other times PCA goes through the motions (asking for user ID, asking for password, asking for 2FA code) but then returns me to the guest-only screens.

When this happens I am then able to click over to MyUSPTO and I find that my login steps *did* log me in for purposes of MyUSPTO. I am for example able to reach Private PAIR in MyUSPTO because of the logging-in steps that I carried out in Patentcenter Alpha.

But in PCA my status continues to be a mere "guest".

This tells me that what is going on is that condition number 3 is not satisfied. I have tried to log in at a time when the random condition of things at the USPTO is not permitting me (maybe is not permitting anyone!) to actually log in at PCA.

This usually happens on weekends or at night. Usually during banker's hours I have no difficulty achieving logged-in status for Patent Center Alpha.

Probably there is some lookup table that needs to be online for people to successfully elevate from "guest" status at PCA to logged-in status. And the lookup table is on some machine that needs constant tending and the machine tends to crash on weekends and nobody reboots it until 10AM on a Monday or something. Which would explain why generally I can log in at Patentcenter Alpha usually only during banker's hours.

Tags

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Tags

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Idea No. 292

Idea Actions

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- Comments [1]
- Activity
- Attachments [0]
- Community

Comments

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1. Comment



Jerome Weekes Jr (@jerome.weekes.jr) 15/Apr/19 2:28 PM

(Moderator)

Thank you for your suggestion. We will look into this for a future release of Patent Center. - Jerome, eMod team

[Reply]

[Attach a file]

[Edit]

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PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE



Carl Oppedahl (@oppedahl)

22/Jan/19 3:36 AM

something that actually works! diacritical marks in ADS

Well in the category of good news, the web-based ADS in Patentcenter Alpha does seem to work at least as well with diacritical marks (umlaut, scharfes S) as does the web-based ADS in EFS-Web. I recently did an e-filing in Patentcenter Alpha using the web-based ADS and the diacritical characters did actually autoloading accurately into Palm. I was astonished. This is good news.

The diacritical characters I am talking about are:

A with umlaut (Ä/ä)

O with umlaut (Ö/ö)

U with umlaut (Ü/ü)

And also the scharfes S (ß)

All of them seem to have successfully auto-loaded from the Patentcenter alpha ADS into Palm.

Now to try the same experiment with the Polish stroke (ł) which is an important part of many Polish inventor names. The EFS-Web web-based ADS does not handle Polish stroke correctly. But maybe

I will get lucky and it will turn out that the ADS in Patentcenter Alpha handles Polish stroke correctly. We shall see.

And then the next time I am filing a case with French inventors, I guess I will find out whether Patentcenter Alpha pukes on French diacritical marks, namely:

The cédille (cedilla) Ç ...

The accent aigu (acute accent) é ...

The accent circonflexe (circumflex) â, ê, î, ô, û ...

The accent grave (grave accent) à, è, ù ...

The accent tréma (dieresis/umlaut) ë, ï, ü

Oh wouldn't it be so nice if USPTO were to provide actual documentation that would make clear exactly which non-English diacritical marks will be accepted into Palm and which will not. But I have looked and looked and I cannot find anyplace where USPTO has documented this.

Tags

[Edit tags]

Tags

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Voting

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ACTIVE
Idea No. 293

Idea Actions

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- Activity
- Attachments [0]

- Community

Comments

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1. Comment



Jerome Weekes Jr (@jerome.weekes.jr) 31/Jan/19 1:13 PM

(Moderator)

Thank you for your suggestion. We will look into this for a future release of Patent Center. - Jerome, eMod team

[Reply]

[Attach a file]

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PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE



Carl Oppedahl (@oppedahl)

13/Dec/18 6:15 AM

captcha needs to be scrapped in patentcenter alpha login

It is recalled that after enormous user protest with the MyUSPTO system for logging in at EFS-Web and Private PAIR, USPTO did eventually scrap the time-wasting and unnecessary "captcha" screens for the MyUSPTO system for logging in at EFS-Web and Private PAIR. This was of course the right thing to do, for the simple reason that if the user has managed to fulfill the requirement of providing the two-factor login code the user has already proven himself or herself not to be a robot.

The same is true for Patentcenter alpha. If the user has managed to fulfill the requirement of providing the two-factor login code for Patentcenter alpha, then the user has already proven himself or herself not to be a robot. This means that it is unnecessary to force the user to go through the "captcha" screens as a precondition to logging in at Patentcenter alpha.

Please scrap the "captcha" screens in the login process for Patentcenter alpha.

Tags

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Tags

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Save

Voting

1 vote

1 up votes

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- Active

ACTIVE
Idea No. 267

Idea Actions

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- Share
- Toggle navigation

- Comments [1]
- Activity
- Attachments [0]

- Community

Comments

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1. Comment



Jerome Weekes Jr (@jerome.weekes.jr) 19/Dec/18 11:09 AM

(Moderator)

Thank you for sharing this suggestion. As of 12/16/2018, Patent Center no longer requires the use of reCAPTCHA when attempting to login to Patent Center. - Jerome, eMod team

PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE

utility drawings wrongly characterized as design

we upload some utility drawings as "not black and white" to force them into Score. Then patentscope wrongly says they are "design drawings"

Voting

0 votes

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- Active

ACTIVE

Idea Actions

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- Share
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Submitted by Carl Oppedahl (@oppedahl) 26/Oct/18 1:18 PM

PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE

how to view recent acknowledgment receipts?

I can't figure out where to view recent e-filing acknowledgment receipts in patentcenter.

Voting

0 votes

0 up votes
0 down votes

- Active

ACTIVE

Idea Actions

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Submitted by Carl Oppedahl (@oppedahl) 26/Oct/18 1:20 PM

PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE

deep link please from application to followon page

if I am on the page for an application, may I please have a deep link that will permit me to e-file a document directly in that application? ePCT does this for me. Why can't patentcenter do this for me? why force me to write down the application number and confirmation number and separately enter them into a separate screen?

Voting

1 vote

1 up votes
0 down votes

- Active

ACTIVE



Carl Oppedahl (@oppedahl)

13/Dec/18 6:15 AM

captcha needs to be scrapped in patentcenter alpha login

It is recalled that after enormous user protest with the MyUSPTO system for logging in at EFS-Web and Private PAIR, USPTO did eventually scrap the time-wasting and unnecessary "captcha" screens for the MyUSPTO system for logging in at EFS-Web and Private PAIR. This was of course the right thing to do, for the simple reason that if the user has managed to fulfill the requirement of providing the two-factor login code the user has already proven himself or herself not to be a robot.

The same is true for Patentcenter alpha. If the user has managed to fulfill the requirement of providing the two-factor login code for Patentcenter alpha, then the user has already proven himself or herself not to be a robot. This means that it is unnecessary to force the user to go through the "captcha" screens as a precondition to logging in at Patentcenter alpha.

Please scrap the "captcha" screens in the login process for Patentcenter alpha.

Tags

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Tags

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Voting

1 vote

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Idea Actions

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- Comments [1]
- Activity
- Attachments [0]
- Community

Comments

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1. Comment



Jerome Weekes Jr (@jerome.weekes.jr) 19/Dec/18 11:09 AM

(Moderator)

Thank you for sharing this suggestion. As of 12/16/2018, Patent Center no longer requires the use of reCAPTCHA when attempting to login to Patent Center. - Jerome, eMod team

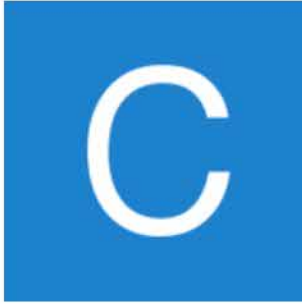
[Reply]

[Attach a file]

[Edit]

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Carl Oppedahl (@oppedahl)

13/Dec/18 6:35 AM

provide deep links when appropriate

For years we have been asking for direct links. For example if I am in Private PAIR looking at a particular application, there ought to be a deep link straight to EFS-Web for filing a document in that particular application. But there is no such link. The folks at WIPO provide such a link in ePCT. But even now in Patentcenter there is no such link.

Similarly if I just got done e-filing something in EFS-Web, what would have made sense is to provide a deep link that would go directly to Private PAIR to allow me to see in IFW exactly what I just filed. This would make sense for newly filed applications and this would make sense for follow-on documents. But there is no such deep link in EFS-Web.

The folks at WIPO provide such deep links.

Anyway, in patentcenter, such deep links need to be provided. If I just got done filing an application, patentcenter should provide a deep link to the page where I can see the application that I just filed. If I just got done filing a follow-on document, patentcenter should provide a deep link to the page where I can see the document that I just filed.

And if I am looking at the page for a particular application, patentcenter should provide a deep link for e-filing a follow-on document in that particular application, just as in ePCT.

Tags

[Edit tags]

Tags

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Save

Voting

1 vote

1 up votes

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- Active

ACTIVE
Idea No. 269

Idea Actions

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- Share
- Toggle navigation

- Comments [1]
- Activity
- Attachments [0]

- Community

Comments

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1. Comment



Jerome Weekes Jr (@jerome.weekes.jr) 02/Jan/19 11:01 AM

(Moderator)

Thank you for your suggestion. We will look into this for a future release of Patent Center. - Jerome, eMod team

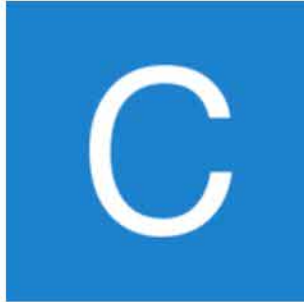
[Reply]

[Attach a file]

[Edit]

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PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE



Carl Oppedahl (@oppedahl)

13/Dec/18 6:40 AM

no most recent thirty ack receipts

EFS-web provides a list of the thirty most recent ack receipts. Patentcenter fails to provide this.

The only thing that is sort of a little bit like this is that if you get lucky and can stumble upon the application that you are worried about in your workbench, there will be an eyeball that you can click on to see "the ack receipt". Meaning, I guess, the most recent ack receipt for that particular application.

But this is not at all a functional replacement for the "most recent thirty ack receipts" function of EFS-Web for two distinct reasons.

First, the presence of the ack receipt eyeball in the application list in the workbench is no help at all if you are not in a position to know what the application number is for the recent e-filing submission that you are hunting for.

Second, the presence of the ack receipt eyeball in the application list in the workbench is no help at all if the submission that you are hunting for happens to not be the most recent submission in some particular application.

Tags

[Edit tags]

Tags

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Save

Voting

0 votes

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ACTIVE
Idea No. 270

Idea Actions

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 - Share
 - Toggle navigation
- Comments [2]
- Activity
- Attachments [0]
- Community

Comments

Sort by Latest First

Submit

1. Comment



Dai Phipps (@dhipps) 18/Dec/18 3:01 PM

Hi all. You can use the status date to select items that fall on a certain date or date range. You can even add New as the status category to help narrow it down further. Give that a go.

[Reply]

[Attach a file]

[Edit]

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[Delete]

[Pin]

Attachments

- Dai Phipps attached: PatentCenter-Range-8abeac.PNG 18/Dec/18 3:01 PM

[Delete]

2. Comment



Jerome Weekes Jr (@jerome.weekes.jr) 11/Jan/19 3:17 PM

(Moderator)

Thank you for bringing this issue to our attention. Currently we are aware that the customization for the workbench does not persist. However a fix is on the way to remedy this issue. - Jerome, eMod Team

[Reply]

[Attach a file]

[Edit]

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PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE

can't send email to report what I just e-filed

In EFS-Web, with a click of the mouse, I can launch an email message in my email client. It populates the email message with information. I can use this to report what I just filed. I can report it to my docket desk, to colleagues, and so on.

But Patent Center Alpha fails to provide this function. This needs to be corrected in Patent Center Alpha.

Voting

1 vote

1 up votes
0 down votes

- Active

ACTIVE

Idea Actions

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PATENT CENTER ALPHA RELEASE

PCA IFW lags behind PAIR IFW

Very frustrating. Look in the IFW in PAIR for application number 14/564,464. You will see the Notice of Allowance dated January 30, 2019. Now look in the IFW in Patentcenter Alpha for that same application number. The most recent document in IFW is from last December. The Notice of Allowance is missing.

Voting

1 vote

1 up votes
0 down votes

- Active

ACTIVE

Idea Actions

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