

We only use cookies that are necessary for this site to function to provide you with the best experience. The controller of this site may choose to place supplementary cookies to support additional functionality such as support analytics, and has an obligation to disclose these cookies. Learn more in our [Cookie Statement](#).

The logo for the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), consisting of the lowercase letters "uspto" in a white, sans-serif font inside a dark blue rounded rectangle.

## USPTO Subscription Center

### **USPTO taking next step in transition to DOCX**

United States Patent and Trademark Office sent this bulletin at 12/21/2023 02:01 PM EST

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

# Patent Alert



# USPTO taking next step in transition to DOCX

*Non-DOCX filing fee to take effect in January*

As a part of our continuous efforts to modernize our patent application systems to improve user experience, provide applicants a more streamlined process, promote harmony across patent systems globally, and strengthen our ability to examine applications quickly and effectively, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is taking the next step in its transition to DOCX format for the filing of patent application-related documents in Patent Center. Patent Center makes it easy for all users to file the specification, claims, abstract, and drawings in DOCX format and provides pre-prosecution checks that improve the robustness and reliability of patents.

Since we began accepting filings in DOCX, we have worked carefully and thoughtfully with stakeholders to shape the transition and its timing. As [previously noted](#), we will continue to allow filings in non-DOCX filing formats for new, non-provisional utility patent applications **until January 17, 2024**. After January 17, those filing new, non-provisional utility patent applications with specification, claims, and abstract in non-DOCX filing formats will incur a surcharge. The option for applicants to provide a backup PDF, or [auxiliary PDF](#), version of their application with their DOCX version remains available. There are no fees associated with providing the backup PDF.

We are committed to ensuring a successful and smooth transition to the DOCX format for our patent applicants, and invite you to utilize the FAQs and other resources on the [DOCX information page on the USPTO website](#). Additionally, we have a video explaining “How to file your patent application documents in DOCX” available, as well as [free upcoming training webinars](#).

For questions or assistance regarding DOCX filing, please contact the Patent Electronic Business Center at [ebc@uspto.gov](mailto:ebc@uspto.gov) or 866-217-9197, Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to midnight ET.



Stay connected with the USPTO by subscribing to regular email updates.

Visit our subscription center at [www.uspto.gov/subscribe](http://www.uspto.gov/subscribe) to update or change your email preferences.

This email was sent from an unmonitored mailbox. To contact us, please visit our website [www.uspto.gov/about/contacts](http://www.uspto.gov/about/contacts). To ensure that you continue to receive our news and notices, please modify your email filters to allow mail from [subscriptioncenter@subscriptions.uspto.gov](mailto:subscriptioncenter@subscriptions.uspto.gov).



uspto

**Subscribe to updates from United States Patent and Trademark Office**

Email Address  e.g. name@example.com