



EFS-Web
Web Enabled Patent Filing

EFS-Web News *Program Update*

EFS-Web - The New Web-Based Patent Electronic Filing System

September 2005

Information Exchange with E-Filing Forum Participants

Welcome to the first EFS-Web News, a monthly update to promote the continuing information exchange between E-Filing Forum participants and the USPTO's EFS-Web program development team. Your input has helped define specific product requirements that will significantly improve the way customers conduct business with the USPTO. As the EFS-Web development effort continues to progress, we will continue to keep you updated on new efforts, beta test results, and important product announcements.

Development Mission: A New EFS Product; Simple, Secure, and Easy to Use

EFS-Web will be an Internet-based electronic filing system that will be secure, easy-to-use, and eliminate the need for using USPTO proprietary software for creating and submitting patent applications and associated documents.

EFS-Web will be a light-client, Web portal architecture allowing users to integrate their current business practices with product functionality. Users will log into a secure Web-based dedicated USPTO server, and submit completed applications. EFS-Web will allow users that are registered Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) certificate holders to save intermediate work products for up to 4 days, allow users to share in-progress work documents with others by accessing the saved documents before submission to the USPTO, then submit completed applications when finished.

EFS-Web will employ a flexible architecture that provides users the option of using off-the-shelf tools, including Portable Document Format (PDF) creation tools, commercially available browsers, and both low and high-level security configurations, including Transport Layer Security (TLS) and USPTO-issued PKI certificates (Entrust TruePass™).

EFS-Web Beta Testing

Limited beta testing of EFS-Web is scheduled to begin on or about December 1, 2005, and is planned to continue through early Spring 2006.

In coming weeks representatives of the EFS-Web development team will be contacting E-Filing Forum participants to request contact information for beta test participation. Shortly thereafter, instructional information and test materials will be sent to beta test participants.

Public Product Release

EFS-Web will be released for general use in the Spring of 2006 after successful beta testing.

Submission Types – EFS-Web will permit new submissions for the following types of patent applications:

- Utility
- Design
- Provisional
- U.S. National Stage Applications Filed Under 35 U.S.C. 371

EFS-Web will also allow registered PKI users to file follow-on application documents except 3rd Party Submissions.

Accepted Fillable PDF Forms - The release of EFS-Web will include the capability to submit the following PDF fillable forms:

- Application Data Sheet – ADS (37 CFR 1.76)
- Information Disclosure Statement – IDS (37 CFR 1.97 & 1.98)

What Does the Future Hold?

The future development of EFS-Web will include:

- Navigation improvements
- PDF Converter Standards
- Portal Customization
- Additional Submission and PDF Fillable Form Types

Give Us Your Feedback

Your continued feedback is important to the EFS-Web development team. Please send your comments or feedback on the EFS-Web development program to:

EfilingForum@uspto.gov

