New e-Filing System and Online Search System

Intellectual Property Department
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Agenda

• Background
• e-Filing Service Improvements
• New features
  • Online Web-form Filing
  • B2B Electronic Filing
• Demonstration
• Q&A
Background

• IPD will launch the New Integrated IT System (NIS) to replace the existing electronic processing systems, e-filing system and online search system, which were launched in different phases since January 2003 for processing, publishing, searching and filing applications for trademarks, patents and designs.

• Target rollout date :
  • 1st stage : End of 2018 (e-filing system, online search system and major functions of the electronic processing systems)
  • 2nd stage : May 2019 (e-filing of new electronic forms and the remaining functions of the electronic processing systems)
1. New state-of-the-art hosting infrastructure and design, ensuring **Security** and **High availability** without regular maintenance windows and down-times - Maintenance on ad-hoc basis to accommodate new features and fixes

2. Fully web-based e-Filing solution for **on-line electronic filing** and management of individual forms through intuitive User Interfaces – no additional software is required by the e-Filers

3. **Business-to-Business (B2B)** e-Filing solution for bulk submission and payment of electronic forms without involvement of User Interfaces
eFiling Service Improvements

4. Support of more e-Filer types, including **Public Users**, **Individuals** (Agents and Owners), and **Firms** (Agents and Owners)

5. Consolidation of **e-Forms** and **i-Forms** (T5, T8, T10, T13, P9, P10, P18, D12) into a single type of electronic forms, for immediate automatic processing by the IPD’s back-end systems upon predefined rules for each form

6. Increased **number of forms available in electronic format** (T6, T7, T12, T14, P2, P11, and P15)
eFiling Service Improvements

7. High diversity in access to electronic forms and authentication methods:
   - Two factor authentication e-Certificate Accounts with full access to all electronic forms
   - Standard Accounts (username / password) with access to most of the electronic forms
   - Public (no Account) access to the common forms

*Example future scheme in Trademarks Registry*
Online Web Forms Filing

1. Contemporary Web standards, responsive User Interface (Workstations, Notebooks, Tablets, Smartphones) and cross-browser compatible (Support of IE 11, Edge, Chrome, Firefox, Safari)

2. Real-time validations and interactive features during form filling and upon form validation (e.g. prefilling of re-usable information, lookup services, on-screen guidance, etc.)

3. Support filing of electronic requests through dedicated on-line Web Forms for:
   • New e-Filers
   • New Deposit Accounts (DA accounts)
   • Credit Advices on DA accounts
   • Refund Requests for closure of DA accounts

4. Direct electronic form-filling within online Web-forms, avoiding the steps of download, conversion, off-line digital signature, upload, etc.
Online Web Forms Filing

5. Minimization of manual steps required for electronic form preparation and submission (4 steps for final submission VS 12 steps for download of the e-forms until their upload to the current e-filing system

6. New e-payment options, including the use of credit card payments

7. Advanced management features for the Administrative User of the Firms e-Filers (e.g. independent creation of subsidiary e-Filing accounts, full management of subsidiary users and their access rights, etc.)

8. New advanced functions in Electronic Mailbox, including more search functions, setting reminder date, and direct reply to electronically received correspondence by the IPD

9. Ideal for small-scale Firms, occasional filings and complex electronic requests
B2B Electronic Filing

1. Implementation of an asynchronous System to System interface without manual and on-line interventions for filing Registries’ forms

2. Electronic submissions of structured data relying on technical specifications (XSD) for each electronic form

3. Common infrastructure set-up and mechanism for all electronic forms, supporting submission and responses for hundreds of forms at once

4. Secure Authentication / Authorizations channels (secure connection protocols, network security, secure e-Filer’s identity management)

5. Payments through Deposit Account
B2B Electronic Filing

6. Bulk feedback mechanism (2 levels of feedback, on submission validity and on processing results) and configurable polling mechanism to run periodically within the day.

7. Response File includes :
   • Validation results
   • Submission receipt (with Application No. for new application forms e.g. T2, P4, D1) in PDF
   • Submitted electronic forms in PDF
   • Metadata for further automatic processing by e-Filer’s IT Systems within the response package (i.e. dedicated element within the XML response files)

8. Ideal for large-scale Firms, frequent filings and standardized electronic requests, involving IT investments on the e-Filers’ side for performance improvement.
B2B electronic Filing (Overview)

Request File:
Header File (metadata)
Electronic Forms (XML)
Complementary Files (Attach.)

B2B Client

FTPS Authentication / Transfer

Response File:
Validation Results,
Submission Receipts in PDFs,
Submitted forms in PDFs

FTP folders:
- Out(going)
- In(coming)

B2B Service

NIS Back Office

Intellectual Property Department
Way forward

1. IPD will invite e-filers to participate in the UAT on web-form filing in Summer 2018.


3. Dedicated UAT for e-Filers expressing their interest to use B2B services will be arranged from September 2018 onwards, and continue after the rollout of the B2B service in Production, on need basis. Different sessions will be scheduled according to the e-Filer’s needs and readiness schedule.

4. Update on NIS e-filing and online search will be posted in IPD web-site and by email.

5. For enquiry, please send email to businesscentre@ipd.gov.hk.
Demonstration
Q & A
Thank you