



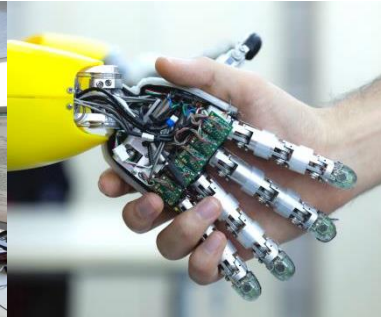
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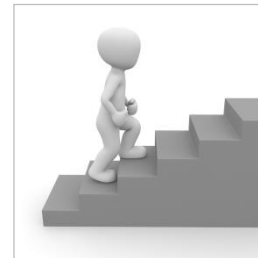
The INPADOC classification scheme and WIPO ST.27: An update



Outline

- The INPADOC classification scheme:
 - category level
 - detailed structure level
- WIPO ST.27:
 - XML schema
 - detailed event level

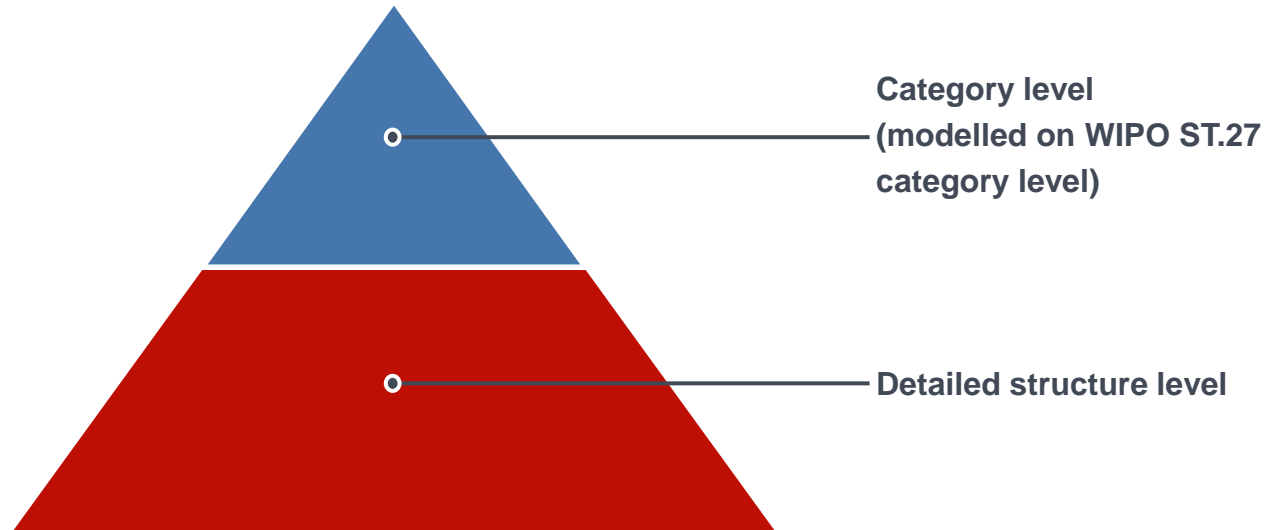
The INPADOC database: Motivation for further development



- Large diversity of different INPADOC legal event codes
- Need to harmonise diversity of similar codes for different patent authorities
- Ever-growing needs and expectations of patent information users, e.g.
 - interest in increasing the coverage, accuracy and timeliness of INPADOC legal event data further
 - need to understand the detailed nature of legal events quickly
 - need to search and analyse patent data using legal events in an efficient way

INPADOC classification scheme

- EPO decided to develop genuine classification scheme for INPADOC database having hierarchical structure with 2 levels:



INPADOC classification scheme:

Category level: 21 categories



| Category | Title | Category | Title |
|----------|---------------------------------|----------|---|
| A | Application filing | P | Re-publication of document after modification |
| B | Application discontinuation | Q | Document publication |
| C | Application revival | R | Party data change |
| D | Search and examination | S | Information on licensing and similar transactions |
| E | Pre-grant review request | T | Administrative procedure adjustment |
| F | IP right grant | U | Payment |
| G | Protection beyond IP right term | V | Appeal |
| H | IP right cessation | W | Other |
| K | IP right revival | Y | Correction and deletion of event information |
| L | IP right review request | Z | Classification pending |
| M | IP right maintenance | | |

INPADOC classification scheme: Category level



- EPO classified 2 800 INPADOC legal event codes used since 1997 on that category level
- Category data made available last summer
- New event codes are categorised by default
- Category data maintained on a regular basis

INPADOC classification scheme: Category level: Use case



- Global Patent Index: Retrieving patent applications and patents filed by Hexagon Technology having at least 1 event related to party data changes:

Screenshot of the INPADOC search interface showing a query for "Hexagon Technology" and a list of patent events for document EP 1513715 A2 20050316.

Query: `app="Hexagon Technology" and evcs=R`

Result list: 245 / 250

| Event d... | Event category | Event c... | Event description |
|------------|--|-------------|---|
| 2016.08.17 | W - Other | AK | DESIGNATED CONTRACTING STATES: Document kind: B1 Countries: AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HU IE IT LU MC NL PT RO SE SI SK TR |
| 2016.08.17 | F - IP right grant | REG GB FcAd | EUROPEAN PATENT GRANTED |
| 2016.04.06 | D - Search and examination | INTG | ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO GRANT Effective date: 2016.03.08 |
| 2014.03.26 | D - Search and examination | 17Q | FIRST EXAMINATION REPORT Effective date: 2014.02.24 |
| 2009.04.15 | D - Search and examination | A4 | DESPATCH OF SUPPLEMENTARY SEARCH REPORT Effective date: 2009.03.13 |
| 2006.11.02 | Y - Correction and deletion of event information | RIN1 | INVENTOR CHANGED BEFORE GRANT Inventor: EHUJSEN, J. A. |
| 2006.11.02 | Y - Correction and deletion of event information | RIN1 | INVENTOR CHANGED BEFORE GRANT Inventor: NEWHOUSE, NORM |
| 2006.02.15 | R - Party data change | RAP1 | TRANSFER OF RIGHTS OF AN APPLICATION Owner: HEXAGON TECHNOLOGY AS |
| 2005.10.05 | Y - Correction and deletion of event information | DAX | REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF THE EUROPEAN PATENT (TO ANY COUNTRY) (DELETED) |
| 2005.03.16 | D - Search and examination | 17P | REQUEST FOR EXAMINATION FILED Effective date: 2004.12.17 |
| 2005.03.16 | W - Other | AK | DESIGNATED CONTRACTING STATES: Document kind: A2 Countries: AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HU IE IT LU MC NL PT RO SE SI SK TR |
| 2005.03.16 | W - Other | AX | REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF THE EUROPEAN PATENT TO: Countries: AL LT LV MK |

INPADOC classification scheme: Detailed structure level

- The EPO is evaluating options for the detailed structure level of the scheme
- The main objective: to help patent information users
 - to understand the detailed nature of a level event in the INPADOC database
 - to retrieve and use legal events in an efficient way

INPADOC classification scheme: Detailed structure level: Analysis of 3 options

| Option | Description |
|--------|--|
| A | No further breaking down of the top level of the scheme |
| B | Using the detailed events as defined in WIPO ST.27 |
| C | Defining a genuine detailed structure level for the INPADOC classification schema, based on common characteristics of legal events |

INPADOC classification scheme: Detailed structure level: Option B

- Using the detailed events defined in WIPO ST.27
- Examples of detailed events in the category 'Post-grant review request':

- L10. **IP right review requested:** An IP right review was requested. This includes, but is not limited to a request for a post-grant opposition, re-examination, limitation, reissue, surrender, or invalidation.
- L11*. Post-grant opposition filed (A post-grant opposition was filed.)
- L12*. Post-grant re-examination requested (A post-grant re-examination was requested.)
- L13*. Limitation or reissue of IP right requested (A limitation or reissue of an IP right was requested.)
- L14*. Surrender of IP right requested (A request to surrender an IP right was made by the IP right owner.)
- L15*. Invalidation requested (An administrative revocation, cancellation, nullity, annulment or invalidation proceeding was requested.)
- L16. Post-grant third party observation filed (A third party filed prior art documents or other related information with the IPO after the grant of an IP right.)
- L17. Declaration of non-infringement requested (A third party requested a declaration of non-infringement of the IP right.)
- L18. Request for IP right review rejected (A request for an IP right review was inadmissible, rejected or withdrawn.)
- L19*. Post-termination review requested (A post-termination review was requested to invalidate an IP right *ex tunc*.)
- M. IP right maintenance:** This category is a group of events related to the maintenance of a granted IP right in full or

INPADOC classification scheme: Detailed structure level: Option C

- Based on observation that large majority of legal events in the database can be characterised by 2 features:
 - feature 1: the administrative procedure in which the procedural step occurred
 - feature 2: the nature of the procedural step
- Example: event code JP A621 ('Written request for application examination'):
 - feature 1 (administrative procedure): examination
 - feature 2 (nature of procedural step): request filed

INPADOC classification scheme:

Detailed structure level: Analysis of options A - C

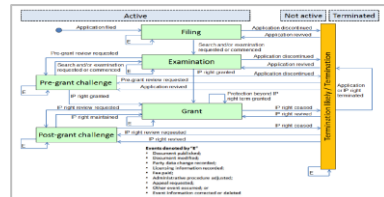
- Advantages and disadvantages of the options were analysed
- EPO sent results of analysis to interest groups and asked for feedback regarding options A - C
- Feedback received so far suggests that option C is preferred over option B



WIPO ST.27 standard

- Objective:
 - to promote efficient exchange of legal event patent data in a harmonised way between patent offices
 - to facilitate access to legal event data by patent offices, data providers and patent information users
- Standard enables customers to identify and generally understand legal event data even without knowing the language of the competent patent office
- Based on generic prosecution model including various stages and potential transitions
- Competent patent offices will define status event codes for their legal events

WIPO ST.27 standard: Status event code



- Standard proposes data structure in coded form describing the minimum information which should be provided for each legal event
- Six-part status event code:
 - ¹State after the event occurred –
 - ²From (previous) stage –
 - ³To (current) stage –
 - ⁴Key event code –
 - ⁵Detailed event code –
 - ⁶Original event code

WIPO ST.27 standard: On-going discussion

- Standard will include XML schema for the exchange of legal event data: Details are being discussed
- Detailed event level:
 - at present: list of more than 150 detailed events with different levels of detail
 - alternative concept using faceted classification approach based on procedure tags being discussed

Thank you for your attention!

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