

CPC Experiences at PRV

PRV - PatCom Meeting 2013-06-04
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PRV

The ECLA experience

- PRV used ECLA since 2003
- PRV have generated around 230,000 ECLA classifications
- PRV was the only office to reclassify when ECLA was revised
- Not switching to CPC was never an option

The CPC timetable

- The Swedish Patent Database used ECLA
- Therefore it had to be switched to CPC as soon as possible after Espacenet
- Converting or running parallel ECLA and CPC systems was ruled out for IT reasons
- This decided a rather tight timetable for PRV's switch to CPC

ECLA reclassification

- Only valid current ECLA symbols could be converted to CPC
- Around 100,000 changes were made in the ECLA schemes during 2012-2012
- Almost 25,000 ECLA classifications (10 % of the total) needed to be updated.
Deadline: 1 November 2012

CPC IT development

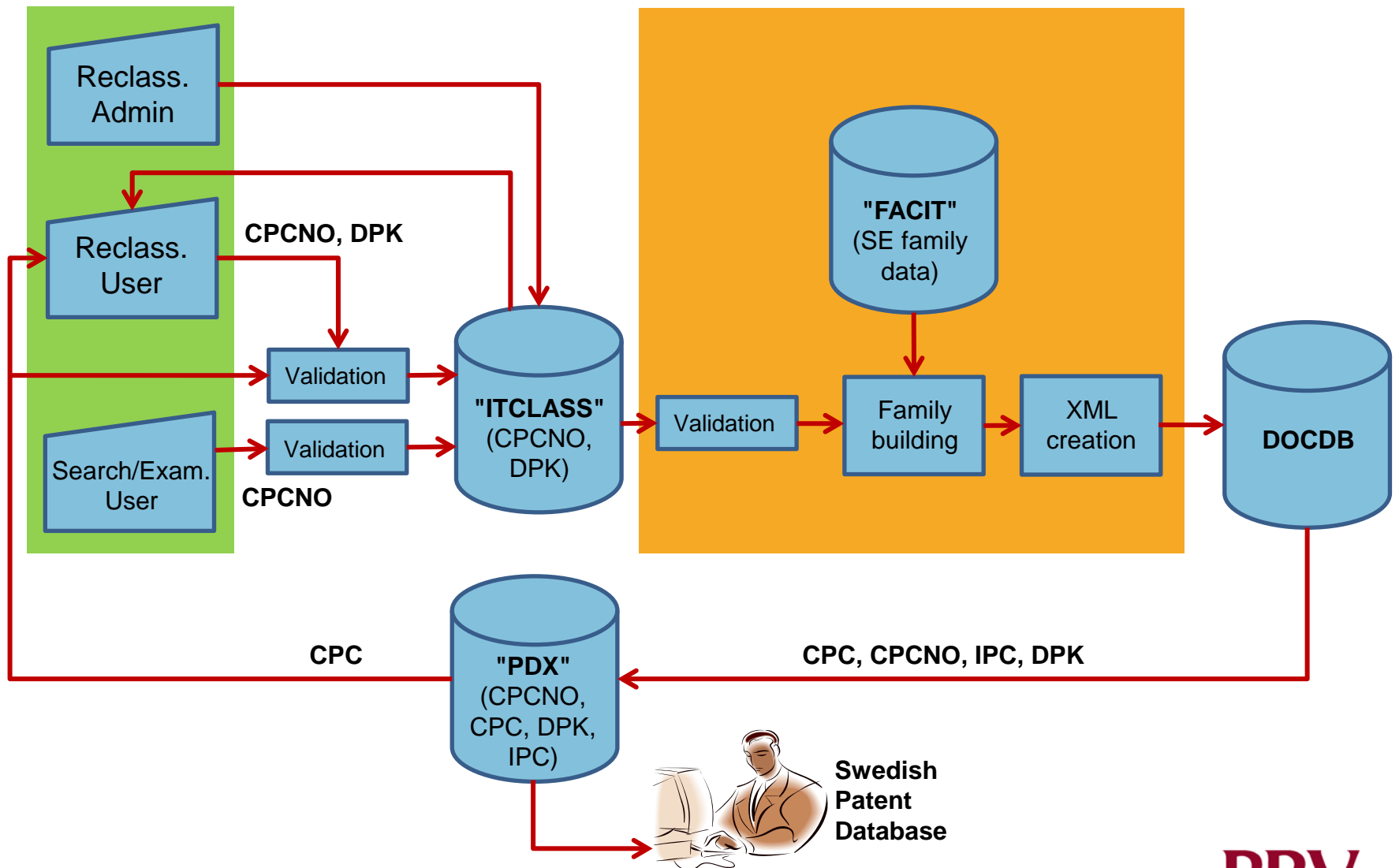
- Development started in May 2012
 - Database infrastructure
 - Examiners' software
 - Reclassification software
 - The Swedish Patent Database service
 - Data exchanges

CPC IT development

- Problems:
 - Old software, difficult to maintain
 - Double database structure
 - Incomplete and complicated family matching
 - Standalone processes
 - No interaction with "official" ECLA
 - No support for IPC-style CPC metadata

CPC IT development

- Requirements:
 - Unified database structure
 - CPC stored on applications, not documents
 - Complete and updated family matching
 - CPC and CPCNO in one classification picture
 - Support for the reclassification process
- Everything had to be replaced!



The CPC timetable

- 2012-10-01: Databases and loading systems ready for incoming CPC data
- 2012-11: Reclassification finished
- 2012-11-15: EPO switched the weekly DOCDB updates to CPC
- 2012-12-04: ECLA reclassification software closed
- 2012-12-08: ECLA data converted to CPC

The CPC timetable

- 2012-12-10: Examiners' software switched to CPC
- 2012-12-11: Data deliveries switched to CPC
- 2012-12-20: EPO switched Espacenet to CPC
- 2012-12-21: Swedish Patent Database switched to CPC
- 2013-03-12: CPC reclassification software launched
- 2013-07-01: First CPC revisions expected

CPC training

- All examiners are experienced users of IPC and ECLA
- CPC is basically ECLA in new clothes
- No great need for training
- All examiners had a 45-minute presentation about the new features

General experiences

- A huge number of late ECLA changes
- Late and insufficient information from EPO about the process
- Welcome improvements promised relating to support for revisions
- Surprisingly few questions from users

Questions?

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