Website and Webpage Patents
Can one really patent a 'website' or 'webpage'?

Sometimes one might ask: "How can a website or a webpage be patented"? While website and webpages are not precisely traditional patent subject matter, they are remain nevertheless patentable subject matter and this has now been reaffirmed and hardened up by the Supreme Court most recently. In Bilski et al, the Supreme Court was widely expected to reign in allowable subject matter with respect to 'business method' and perhaps software patents. However, in a surprise ruling they did not only fail to set any new limits, but did rather modify one measure of patentability by increasing its scope in saying the so called Machine or Transformation test "is not the only test" which may be used to determine patentability in these types of cases. What exactly does all this mean? - Software, and more precisely websites and webpages, in most cases are patentable.

Indeed, here are several recent US Patents which are explicitly drawn to 'website' or 'webpage':

- 7,925,543  Product characteristic selection website
- 7,933,890  Propagating useful information among related web pages, such as web pages of a website
- 7,779,023  Intelligent internet website with hierarchical menu
- 7,702,523  Website messaging system
- 7,571,461  Personal website for electronic commerce on a smart Java card with multiple security check points

You may find many others simply by going to the USPTO search site and using the following query: "ttl/website OR ttl/webpage". While this business of patenting websites is a bit new in terms of legal rules and procedure timelines, you can bet your bottom dollar that since Bilski was settled we should see a serious acceleration of patent activity in these areas.

If you have questions regarding patenting of software or patenting of websites and webpages, we'd like to take a few moments and explain to you our approach of preparing these types of patents. Please contact us at your convenience to schedule a working meeting anywhere you’d like us to visit. Our primary office is in Europe (French Sophia Antipolis) however we will try to accommodate any travel request. Please call +1 858 699 6015 or e-mail jpage@integrityip.com now to start your software patent program.

Please download for more comprehensive detail about Website Patents.

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