

Quick Start Guide

1. Search by PCT Number

1.1 Description

Customers using the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) Private Patent Application Information and Retrieval (PAIR) system can enter an International Application (IA) Number and the system returns bibliographic data and a list of documents stored in the Image File Wrapper (IFW)—data must be available in the Patent Application Locating and Monitoring (PALM) System.

The availability of this function enables a user to search for Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) bibliographic data using an International Application (IA) Number issued by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). PALM will return the information to identify both pending and published WIPO applications and provide bibliographic data for those applications.

NEW

DESCRIPTION: Assignment data for PCT Applications now can be accessed. Also, owners, who are registered users, can view PCT Chapter II documents and transactions for applications with which they are associated. Non-owners, however, only can view Chapter I documents and transactions.

PROCEDURE: Search for a PCT Application and click on the Assignments tab if it is available. PCT Chapter II documents are included in the Image File Wrapper tab list. PCT Chapter II transactions are listed in the Transaction History tab list.

BENEFIT: Registered users will have more comprehensive access to the information for PCT Applications.

NOTE! For assistance with any of the steps shown in this guide, users can contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at the Customer Support Center. Information is shown in the table at the end of this guide (in Section 4).

2. Access PCT Application(s)

To access PCT Applications, the following criteria must be met:

- PCT Application Numbers must be associated with your Customer Number to be viewable in Private PAIR.
- Bibliographic data must be available for the PCT Application Number in the PALM database.
- The application must be from the U.S., as a designated country.
- And the PCT application must be current, that is, it has not been withdrawn.

From the PAIR main page, navigate to the “Select New Case” screen, and as shown in Figure 2-1.

1. Select the PCT Number search option.
2. Enter PCT Number in the search box. (The system reads PCT Application Numbers in the new (17 character) WIPO formats. This includes a user entry of four digit years, i.e. ‘PCT/US1999/123456’.)
3. Click the Search button.

The screenshot shows the PAIR search interface. At the top, there is a dropdown menu for 'Search for Application' with a list of search options: 'Patent Number', 'Publication Number', and 'PCT Number'. The 'PCT Number' option is selected. Below the dropdown, there is a search box with the text 'Enter number:' and a 'SEARCH' button. Red arrows and numbers 1, 2, and 3 indicate the steps: 1. Select the PCT Number search option, 2. Enter PCT Number in the search box, and 3. Click the Search button. The interface also shows a 'Search by Attorney Docket Number' section at the bottom.

Figure 2-1 Accessing the PCT Application Information

Regarding Step 3 above, entering the PCT Number, users can enter PCT (Patent Cooperation Treaty) or International Application Number in the following alternate formats:

- PCT/CCYY/99999 (14 character)
- PCT/CCYYYY/999999 (17 character)

CC= 2 character Country Code
 YY= last 2 digits of year filed
 YYYY=four digit year filed
 99999,999999=5 or 6 digit sequence number

Users also can enter an alternate entry number format for the PCT Application Number using “CCYYYY/NNNNNN” without the leading characters “PCT/” where CC = Country Code, YYYY is the year, and NNNNNN is the sequence number.

The system retrieves the International Publication Number, and Publication Date. Publication Dates must be the same or older than the current date.

The system will show only Chapter I status dates to non-owners (roll back from Chapter II status date to most recent Chapter I status date).

If the PCT Application Number is not valid, the system displays an exception message; you may either re-enter the number to be sure it is typed correctly, or enter a new number, and continue the search.

If the Application Number is valid and the search is successful, the Bibliographic Data for the PCT application will appear, as well as related tabs (shown in Figure 2-2).

Secured Patent Application Information Retrieval

XML Download —XML download of bibliographic data

PCT/US06/85270 hjgh

Select Application Data Transaction History Address & Attorney/Agent Image File Wrapper — Additional application information available using tabs

Bibliographic Data

Application Number:	PCT/US06/85270	Customer Number:	20341
Int'l. Filing Date:	12-05-2006	Status:	Application Undergoing Preexam Processing
Application Type:	PCT	Status Date:	12-05-2006
Examiner Name:	-	Location:	-
Group Art Unit:	-	Location Date:	-
Confirmation Number:	1705	WIPO Publication No.:	-
Attorney Docket Number:	Update	WIPO Publication Date:	-
Class / Subclass:	-	Patent Number:	-
First Named Inventor:	-	Issue Date of Patent:	-

Title of Invention: hjgh

If you need help:

- Call the Patent Electronic Business Center at (866) 217-9197 (toll free) or e-mail EBC@uspto.gov for specific questions about Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR).
- Send general questions about USPTO programs to the [USPTO Contact Center \(UCC\)](#).
- If you experience technical difficulties or problems with this application, please report them via e-mail to [Electronic Business Support](#) or call 1 800-786-9199.

Figure 2-2 Valid PCT Search Result(s)

The information is also available in an Extensible Markup Language, or XML, download version. (See the USPTO XML Quick Start Guide for more information.)

- To download an XML version of the Bibliographic Data for the application, click on the XML download button and follow the screen prompts.
- To access additional application information, such as Transaction History, Address and Attorney/Agent information or the documents in the Image File Wrapper, use the tabs above the Bibliographic Data to navigate to the desired location. (The Assignment tab appears when Assignment data is available.)

3. View Image File Wrapper Contents

As an example, you can click on the Image File Wrapper (IFW) tab to display a list of any documents available for viewing:

The screenshot shows the PAIR interface for application PCT/US06/86270. The 'Image File Wrapper' tab is active. Below the navigation tabs, a message states: 'This application is officially maintained in electronic form. To View: Click the desired Document Description. To Download and Print: Check the desired document(s) and click Start Download.' Below this is a table of available documents:

Mail Room Date	Document Description	Document Category	Page Count	Select All	Start Download	Clear All
12-05-2006	Amendment to the claims under PCT Article 19	PROSECUTION	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12-05-2006	Fee Worksheet (PTO-875)	PROSECUTION	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12-05-2006	Status Letter Mailed to Applicant	PROSECUTION	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Below the table, there is a section for help: 'If you need help: Call the Patent Electronic Business Center at (866) 217-9197 (toll free) or e-mail EBIC@uspto.gov for specific questions about Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR). Send general questions about USPTO programs to the [USPTO Contact Center \(UCC\)](#). If you experience technical difficulties or problems with this application, please report them via e-mail to [Electronic Business Support](#) or call 1 800-786-9199.'

Figure 3-1 View Image File Wrapper Screen Results

To search for another PCT Application, click the “Select New Case” tab and follow the steps for Search by PCT Number listed above.

4. Questions? Contact Information for EBC

Call, e-mail or send a fax (or letter by regular mail) to the USPTO regarding any questions you may have about the PCT Search steps or related matters. You can contact the USPTO Electronic Business Center (EBC) directly using the following telephone numbers or address information. The EBC hours of operation are also noted.

Weekday Operation: Monday – Friday: 6 AM - Midnight (Eastern Time)

Telephone: 1-866-217-9197 (toll-free)
571-272-4100 (local)

E-mail: ebc@uspto.gov

Fax: 571-273-0177

Postal: Mail Stop EBC
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450