PEERTOPATENT
FIRST PILOT FINAL RESULTS

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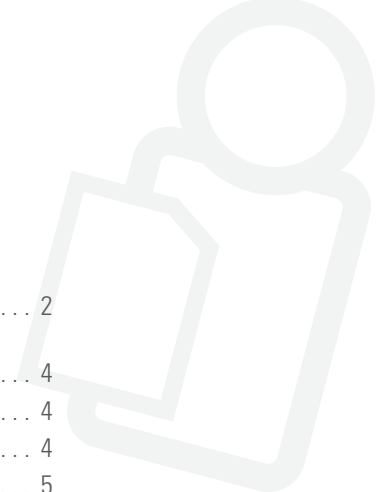Thomas Lemmo   Christopher Wong
Joseph Merante

Center for
PATENT INNOVATIONS
at New York Law School

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Letter from the Directors

Citizen-Experts Deliver Meaningful Contributions to Our Patent System

When New York Law School's Center for Patent Innovations last published a report on the first Peer To Patent pilot in June 2009, we had incomplete data, as the work of our citizen-expert reviewers was still underway. We now present the full results of that first pilot (June 15, 2007 to June 15, 2009), and those results demonstrate why the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office elected to conduct a second Peer To Patent pilot beginning in the fall of 2010.

In the first pilot, the citizen-expert identified relevant and useful prior art in more than 20 percent of the cases for which prior art was submitted. Citizen-experts reviewed 189 applications and produced 602 prior art references (of which 316 were non-patent literature). The primary impact of their effort was to narrow the allowed claims rather than any dramatic increase in the overall disallowance rate. In other words, applicants participating in Peer To Patent experienced no meaningful increased risk of having all of their claims disallowed. As a result, one can readily conclude that those applications that matured to issuance were more thoroughly vetted and, thus, stronger than many of their counterparts which did not participate in this public review.

We hope you will find the results reported here both compelling and worthy of additional study. Although New York Law School is wrapping up its participation in Peer To Patent, data obtained during the project will remain accessible to those wishing to study it in more detail. If you desire such access for purposes of academic study, please contact Naomi Allen in the Institute for Information Law & Policy at 212.431.2368.

To all of those foundations and companies that financed Peer To Patent for the past seven years, we express our sincere gratitude. The same is true for all of the students, both at New York Law School and other law schools around the country, who provided the leadership and staffing for the project. You have helped change our patent system for the better.

Mark Webbink
Center for Patent Innovations
New York Law School
May 2012

Letter from the Directors

Collaboration Is Key to Improving Patent Quality

In the first pilot, a community was built around the idea that citizen-expert reviewers would participate to review patent applications. In theory, through their participation on Peer To Patent, reviewers would have the opportunity to collaborate with each other and vet these applications. Yet from the onset, we were uncertain about the extent to which the reviewing community would actually collaborate.

From the beginning, reviewers were left to determine their own level of involvement by opting to review applications, post comments, submit prior art, contribute research, rate prior art, or annotate prior art submissions. In many ways it was the patent equivalent to "choose your own adventure." Citizen-expert reviewers found numerous ways to contribute to the overall reviewing process. Some chose to read the application and submit prior art (equating to about 11 percent of all activity), while others chose to focus on rating prior art (equating to about 6 percent of all activity). Each contribution helped "break the ice" so that the community would further understand the application. This led us to ask: If only approximately 17–20 percent of the participation was focused on providing and rating prior art, how were the majority of the participants contributing to the pilot?

Indeed, we found that the vast majority of reviewers actually participated through the discussion function offered for each application. In total, there were 747 comments posted throughout the various discussion sections. These posts helped frame the state of technology and further explain how the prior art submissions related to the application. Some went beyond the technology to help explain patent prosecution or provide instructional support for participation. Perhaps most importantly, we found that many of these posts involved reviewers sifting through the potential prior art to find what they believed to be the "most relevant piece" that could provide the examiner with the proper fodder to determine whether the application was either invalid or too broad. In fact, evidence from our statistical analysis proved that patent examiners found the discussion section to be useful and often used discussion contributions as a basis for the USPTO prior art search.

The most telling evidence of the benefits of collaboration was found in the office actions. In all, 41 prior art submissions were referenced in the office actions for 38 applications. In analyzing the reviewer activity in these communities, we found that there was a minimum of five discussion posts per application. This is in comparison to the overall average of three discussion posts for each application.

In sum, we see that collaboration is key to successful participation. Participants will become as involved as they feel comfortable; however, the success of Peer To Patent was the extent to which each reviewing community worked together to review applications. I encourage you, in reading this report, to also examine the narratives for each patent application. These narratives highlight instances of integral community collaboration, which proved to refine the quality of submissions, making them more poignant to the USPTO review.

Andrea Casillas '10
Center for Patent Innovations
New York Law School

Project Summary

The Challenge

Patent examiners in the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) are struggling under a massive backlog of more than one million applications. Those patent examiners have roughly 20 hours to evaluate whether the invention deserves a 20-year grant of monopoly rights that will shape the future of an industry and fundamental research. In this short time, examiners are expected to digest the potential patent, research prior art, and draft office actions. Furthermore, patent examiners conduct their research in a limited database. Additionally, inventors are not required to conduct their own prior art searches or supply the Patent Office with prior art they are not immediately aware of. As a result, increased patent litigation and USPTO resource constraints have raised questions about the quality of patents being issued.

While patent examiners have access to some non-patent literature, they do not have the same degree of access to much of the non-patent prior art literature that exists, such as published articles, software code, and conference presentations. In issuing the press release announcing Peer To Patent, Jon Dudas, then-Director of the USPTO, stated, "Studies have shown that when our patent examiners have the best data in front of them, they can make the correct decisions. Examiners, however, have a limited amount of time to find and properly consider the most relevant information. This is particularly true in the software-related technology where code is not easily accessible and is often not dated or well documented."[1] It follows that identifying more prior art, especially non-patent prior art, can reduce the number of unjustifiable patents and improve patent quality. This is the idea behind Peer To Patent.

The Project

At New York Law School's Center for Patent Innovations, we believe in a better system that enables and integrates participation to identify and assess critical prior art. This system is Peer To Patent, the first governmental social networking Web site designed to solicit public participation in the patent examination process.

The concept behind Peer To Patent, harnessing a collaborative network of citizen-experts to help identify and evaluate relevant prior art for consideration by patent examiners, stemmed from an idea advanced in late 2005 by Beth Simone Noveck, Professor of Law at New York Law School. Through the financial sponsorship and technical expertise of the MacArthur Foundation, the Omidyar Network, CA, General Electric Company (GE), Hewlett-Packard (HP), International Business Machines Corporation (IBM), Intellectual Ventures, Microsoft, and Red Hat, the technology to drive the Peer To Patent project was developed.

Starting in June 2007, New York Law School, in cooperation with the USPTO, publicly launched Peer To Patent. By integrating such a system into the prior art search process, the burden is no longer on the patent examiner or the inventor alone to identify whether or not a patent application is, in fact, novel and non-obvious. Instead, communities of interest come together to vet the patents that affect their industry and inform the examiner's decision making. Peer To Patent accomplished this by soliciting public participation in the prior art search process via the Web.

Applicants wishing to participate in Peer To Patent must first file a consent form with the USPTO. After consent and the application is published by the USPTO, it is then posted to the Peer To Patent Web site (www.peertopatent.org) for a four-month consultation period in which self-selecting experts may, individually or as a team, review the application. These reviewers may discuss the

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1 USPTO to Test Impact of Public Input on Improving Patent Quality in the Computer Technologies. USPTO Press Release, June 7, 2007.
   http://www.uspto.gov/news/pr/2007/07-21.jsp
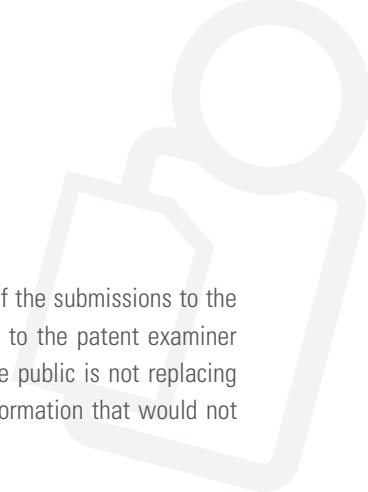
application, submit prior art, critique submissions made by other members, and vote on the relevance of the submissions to the patent application. The 10 best prior art references, as judged by the community, are then forwarded to the patent examiner for consideration, along with annotations explaining the relevance of the prior art references. Thus the public is not replacing the substantive work of the official patent examiner, but rather augmenting it by submitting useful information that would not otherwise be found.

Peer To Patent represents the first direct opportunity for the scientific and technical public to participate directly in the patent examination process. The online Peer To Patent program has dramatically opened up the process, not only to lawyers, but to scientists, engineers, students, and other patent enthusiasts as well. It creates a forum for these communities to work together to share useful information, to the benefit of both the USPTO and society. The forum for participation is accessible to anyone, unlike most things involving patents, and the system is simple and easy to use.

In July 2008 the USPTO authorized a second year of the project and expanded the scope of the subject matter to include business method patents in addition to computer software. In December of 2009 the USPTO further solidified its support for the project by sending letters to the owners of more than 20,000 patent applications notifying them of their eligibility to participate. The first pilot for Peer To Patent concluded on July 15, 2009. This report is the culmination of the first two years of the project following each application from its public review until its final review.

Project Design

The Peer To Patent Web site was built using open source technologies. It is an Internet application implemented using Ruby on Rails with MySQL database on a Linux operating system. The system infrastructure includes hosted Web servers and database servers, as well as a load balancer for traffic management. Interactive features include discussions, e-mail alerts, RSS feeds, social bookmarks, video clips, tagging, ratings, and more.

Peer To Patent seeks to improve identification of patents of interest to peer reviewers. Although the Patent Office assigns a standard but arcane classification to every patent application, the governmental schema for classifying such information does not correspond to the ways in which technical and scientific experts typically classify information. This imposes a linguistic barrier preventing those with the most knowledge from contributing to the process. Peer To Patent reviewers can use terms that are familiar and appropriate to their subject-matter areas to "tag," label, and search for applications. Tagging is a way to assign a short (one- or two- word) label to an item of content. More than half the active users of Peer To Patent took the time to tag an application. This is important because it helps non-lawyers to classify patent applications. This kind of supplementary community self-tagging, called a "folksonomy," lets users associate a patent with a familiar technology or product.

Substantial effort went into designing a system that creates a sense of cohesive group participation and helps the community visualize its own efforts. "Sparkline" and "treemap" graphics provide users with an immediate, visual overview of community membership and activity. Activity for each patent application and for the site as a whole is displayed in real time. In addition, the system captures and displays feedback from the USPTO. When an examiner uses a submission from the Peer To Patent community, the site recognizes the reviewer's contribution by displaying a "Prior Artist" award graphically on the home page and on the reviewer profile page.

How Peer To Patent Works:
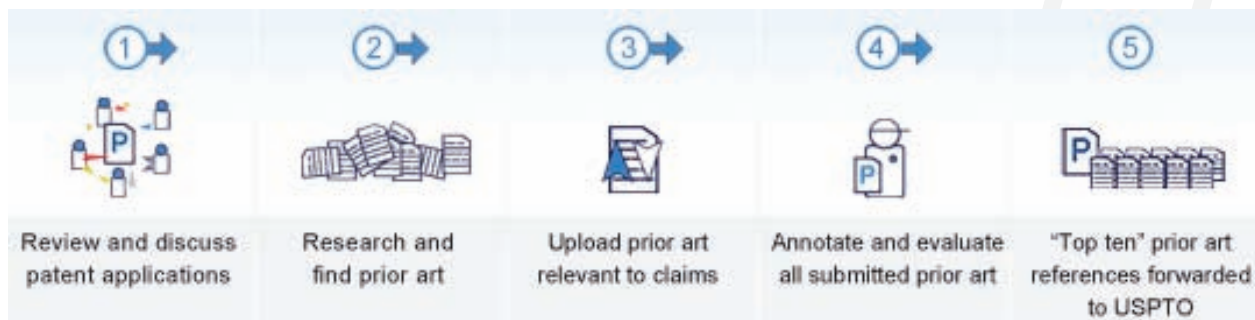
Step 1: Review and discuss posted patent applications.

Step 2: Research and find prior art.

Step 3: Upload prior art relevant to claims.

Step 4: Annotate and evaluate all submitted prior art.

Step 5: Top 10 prior art references forwarded to USPTO.

By displaying a visual "map" of the Peer To Patent process to educate the newcomer, the goal is to communicate what work is required and convey to those with no experience with open review of patent applications that there are assignments that can be undertaken in 10 minutes or 10 hours.

Project Governance

Professor Beth Simone Noveck at New York Law School's Institute for Information Law & Policy designed and developed Peer To Patent, which has been supported in its growth, development, and operation by New York Law School. On leave from New York Law School from 2009 through 2011, Professor Noveck served as the Deputy Chief Technology Officer for Open Government in the White House, where she led the administration's Open Government Initiative.

The Omidyar Network and MacArthur Foundation have funded much of the software development and operating costs of Peer To Patent. Software development has been directed by Eric Hestenes of ViKiwi, with graphic design by Pablo Aguero of Hanee Designs. The lead and founding corporate sponsors for this first pilot were CA, HP, GE, IBM, Intellectual Ventures, Microsoft, and Red Hat. A steering committee comprising attorneys from the lead sponsors continues to provide technical and professional direction for the project. An advisory board (listed below) of legal and technology academics and representatives from other patent offices, foundations, and the press, as well an eight-person team from the USPTO, led by Jack Harvey, provided oversight and direction.

Project Summary

Peer To Patent Advisory Board

Tilo Bachmann
Administrator, European Patent Office

Robert Barr
Executive Director, Berkeley Center for Law and Technology, Berkeley Law School
Former Vice President for Intellectual Property and Worldwide Patent Counsel, Cisco

John Bracken
Program Officer, MacArthur Foundation

Dennis Crouch
Patently-O
Associate Professor of Law, University of Missouri School of Law

Sean Dennehey
Patents Director, UK Patent Office

John Duffy
Professor of Law, George Washington University Law School

Will Fitzpatrick
Corporate Counsel, Omidyar Network

Alan Kasper
Vice President, American Intellectual Property Law Association
Partner, Sughrue Mion PLLC

Stephen G. Kunin
Special Counsel, Oblon Spivak
Former Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy, USPTO

Mark Lemley
Director, Stanford Program in Law, Science and Technology
William H. Neukom Professor of Law, Stanford Law School

Stephen Merrill
National Academies

Michael V. Messinger
Director, Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox P.L.L.C.

Marcus Mueller
European Patent Office, EPO Scenarios for the Future Project

Gideon Parchomovsky
Professor of Law, University of Pennsylvania Law School

Arti K. Rai
Elvin R. Latty Professor of Law, Duke University Law School

Steven S. Weiner
Partner, Davis, Polk & Wardwell

Terry Winograd
Professor of Computer Science, Stanford University

Project Summary

Project Staffing

In June 2008 New York Law School established the Center for Patent Innovations within the Institute for Information Law & Policy for the purpose of providing a permanent home for Peer To Patent and related projects. With the establishment of the Center, New York Law School hired Professor Mark Webbink to serve as the Center's first director.

From its inception to its current state, Peer To Patent has largely been managed by law students. New York Law School students Will Stock '08, Yeen Tham '09, Rahan Uddin '07, and Chris Wong '08 each served as project managers for Peer To Patent during its development and operation, with Chris Wong serving in that capacity from 2007 to 2009 with Thomas Lemmo '11 serving as interim student project manager. The project has also enjoyed the assistance of Institute for Information Law & Policy Office Manager Naomi Allen and Staff Assistant Bridgette Johnson.

Peer To Patent began as a small-scale project composed of a handful of New York Law School student volunteers under the leadership of Professor Noveck. The project has since grown into a sizeable, dedicated team of New York Law School students running the project on a daily basis under the guidance of Professor Webbink. Furthermore, the project has grown beyond the boundaries of New York Law School. In the last year, we had student volunteers from Albany Law School, North Carolina Central School of Law, and University of California at Berkeley School of Law. These students are tasked with managing individual patent applications.

The Peer To Patent Team

New York Law School:

Andrea Casillas *Outreach Management Lead*	Thomas Lemmo *Application Manager*	Michael Murphy
Jason Deveau-Rosen	Joseph Merante *Applications Manager*	Kaydi Osowski
Jason Kreps *Development Analysis Lead*		Christopher Wong *Project Manager*

Albany Law School:

Adel Limbao	Jason Murphy	Brian Reese

U.C. Berkeley School of Law:

Joanne Kwan	Linfong Tzeng

North Carolina Central University School of Law:

Sandy Lam

Project Construct
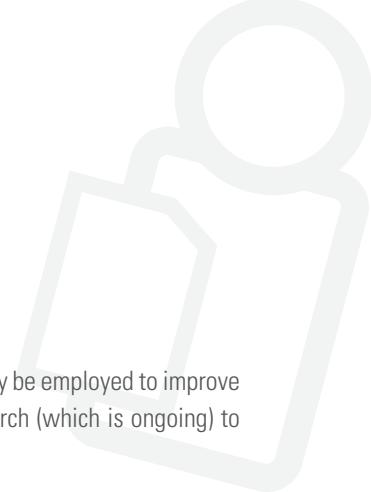
Methodology

The Peer To Patent project set out to measure whether an online public consultation process can effectively be employed to improve the quality of issued patents. To answer this question, we conducted qualitative and quantitative research (which is ongoing) to answer three questions:

- What is the impact of public participation on examiner decision making?
- What is the level of expertise of public reviewers participating via an open network, and how does this group-based, online participation process shape that expertise?
- What is the impact on the resulting quality of the issued patent?

We tracked the number of peer reviewers who signed up, served as active participants on a team, and submitted prior art, as well as the USPTO responses. Reviewer profiles are compiled through information that Peer To Patent software automatically culls. This information is further supplemented by data gathered from surveys.

Participants were asked to fill out a survey at the end of Year Two. The online survey, administered using Survey Monkey, includes 43 questions organized into three sections:

1. Reviewer Information (14 questions)

2. Application Specific Questions (17 questions)

3. Peer To Patent Format Questions (12 questions)

We assessed information gathered from:

- User-generated online profiles by participating peer reviewers
- Surveys collected from participating peer reviewers
- Activity performed on the Peer To Patent Web site by visitors and subscribers
- Responses to "first office actions" from the USPTO in the subsequent examinations of applications submitted through Peer To Patent
- Surveys collected from participating USPTO examiners

The sample size is relatively small and drawn from information collected through April 2009. The results reflect the data in 2,600 user profiles—in particular, the profiles of 505 active users of the Peer To Patent Web site, as well as in the 54 USPTO patent examiner surveys and 71 surveys of public contributors.

Project Construct

Hypotheses

In Year One, Peer To Patent sought to measure whether an online public consultation process can effectively be employed to improve the quality of issued patents. To this end, we conducted qualitative and quantitative research to address three hypotheses:

Hypothesis 1: An open network of human searchers will improve the quality of information available to examiners over that currently available from closed databases. Public participation can and will improve examiner searching, both by providing relevant information and guiding examiner searching, thereby improving the quality of examiners' work products and the work experience.

Hypothesis 2: The public is capable of self-selecting on the basis of expertise and producing information relevant to the patent examination process.

Hypothesis 3: Public participation produces a better quality, stronger patent.

Hypothesis 4: The open network will willingly expand to address an increased volume of applications and a broader scope of subject matter.

Peer To Patent Process Map
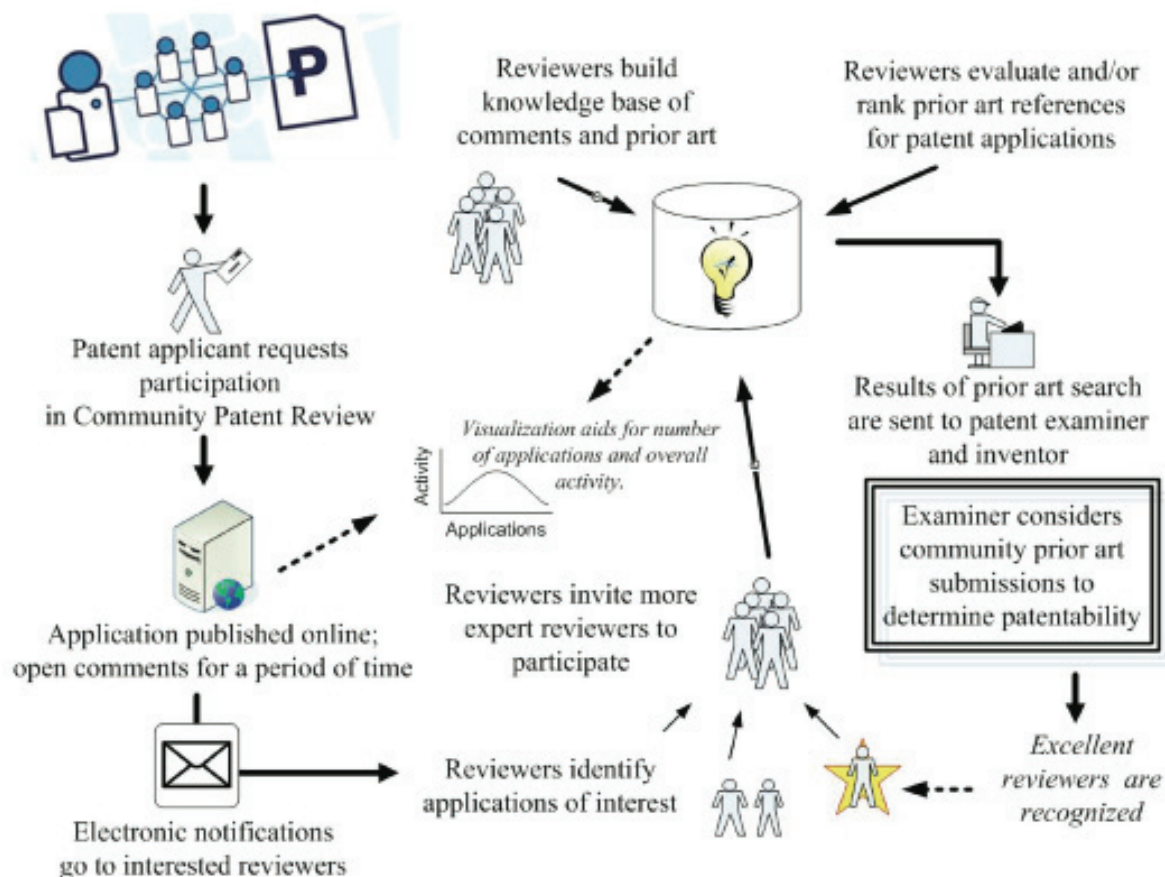
Peer To Patent: Collaboration

Traffic Trends

In order to explore the scalability of the Peer To Patent model of public participation, we first analyzed the extent to which the Peer To Patent pilot has been successful in mobilizing contributors and utilizing their collective expertise. The following data provide insight into those dimensions of the Peer To Patent interface that show promise for scalability and those that need to be improved. Generally, the figures illustrate various trends concerning the traffic to the Peer To Patent Web site and the interaction of users with the project. Peer To Patent was driven by a robust and loyal base of peer reviewers. We have determined that an essential component to enhancing the project's effectiveness rests on the ability to both solicit and retain more peer reviewers.

Monthly data was collected spanning the life of the pilot, from June 15, 2007 to June 15, 2009, to examine traffic sources. The most informative visitor trends were established within the following categories: visitor loyalty, type of engagement, depth of visit, and traffic sources.

Since its launch, Peer To Patent has cultivated a committed peer reviewer base that uses the site regularly and thoroughly. There were many individual users who only visited the Web site once. Naturally, the number of users who did this was exponentially higher than those who visited the site more than 200 times in the beginning months of the program. However, the number of users who visited Peer To Patent 9–50 times was fairly steady throughout the entire pilot. On average, there were 306 individual users who visited our Web site 9–50 times per month.

Starting in Month 4, individual users began to visit the Web site more than 200 times monthly. Initially, the number of visitors who visited to this extent was sporadic; however, starting in Month 17, the number steadily increased to a peak of 153 users in Month 23. Considering that this number was in addition to the 376 users who visited the Web site 9–50 times, these figures provide an illustration of the current success of the project in stimulating the self-selection of participants, retaining these participants, and developing an overall "human database" of interested citizen-experts.

Monthly Individual Visits
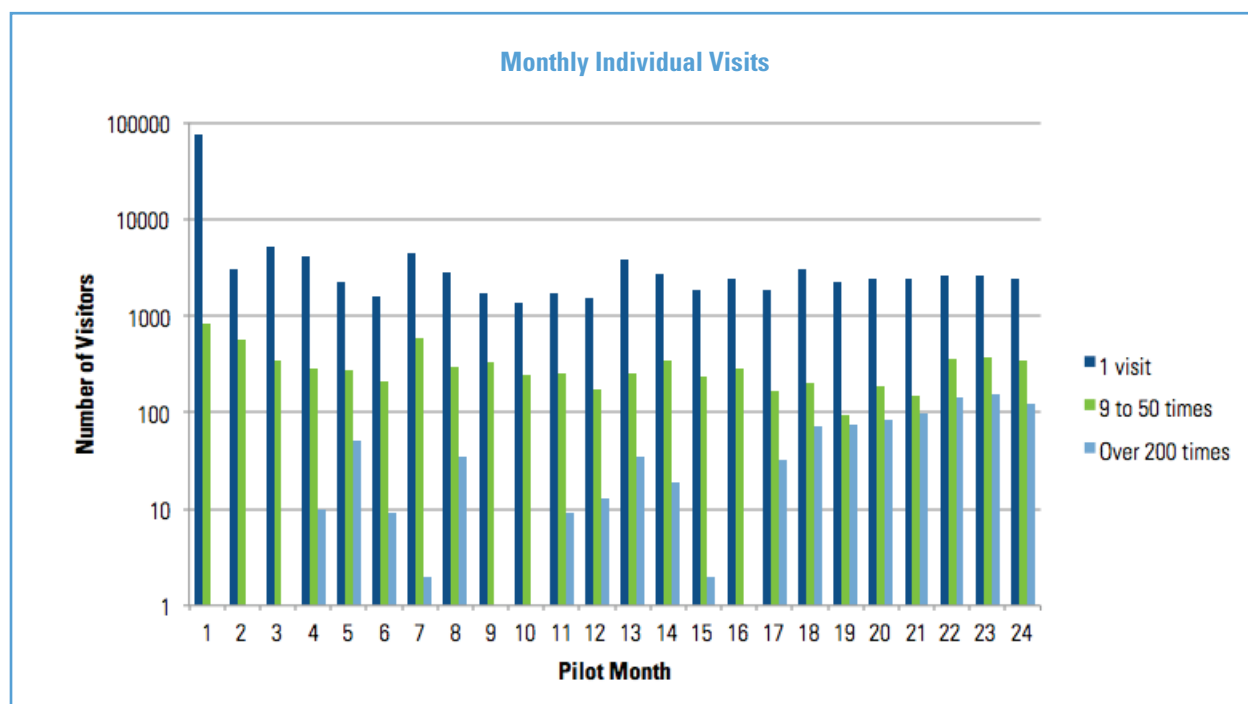
Peer To Patent: Collaboration
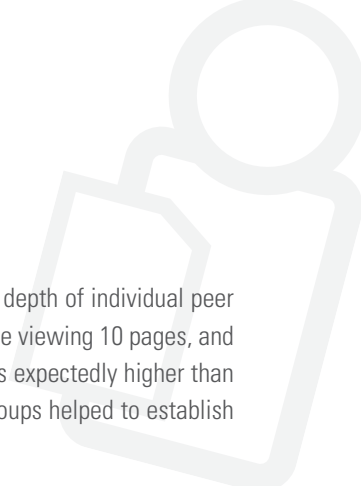
In order to further understand the peer reviewer base, page views were also examined to determine the depth of individual peer reviewer visits. The data from three groups were analyzed: individual visitors viewing only one page, those viewing 10 pages, and those viewing more than 20 pages. The number of individual visitors viewing no more than one page was expectedly higher than the other groups; however, there was consistently steady interest throughout the pilot. The other two groups helped to establish that there was an invested interest for many individual visitors.

The public showed an interest in Peer To Patent throughout the entirety of the pilot evidenced by the amount of single page views. On average, there were about 2,400 single page views per month. After the initial month of activity, single page views had three separate peaks—in Month 7 (December 16, 2007–January 15, 2008), Month 13 (June 16, 2008–July 15, 2008), and Month 18 (November 16, 2008–December 15, 2008)—when the average was about 3,000. Interestingly, these peaks coincided with the project being referenced in popular media outlets and announcements. In Month 7, several outlets covered Peer To Patent, including *Ars Technica*[2], *Technology Liberation Front*[3], EDN.com[4], and *Democracy: A Journal of Ideas*[5]. In Month 13, the Peer To Patent team released the First Anniversary Report publishing the pilot's initial results. Similarly, in Month 18 additional articles from *Ars Technica*[6], *IEEE*[7], and *Financial Times*[8] were published drawing further attention to the Peer To Patent. While these single page visits may not have produced active peer reviewers, these visits contributed to driving the public's interest in the project.

Monthly Number of Pages Visited by User
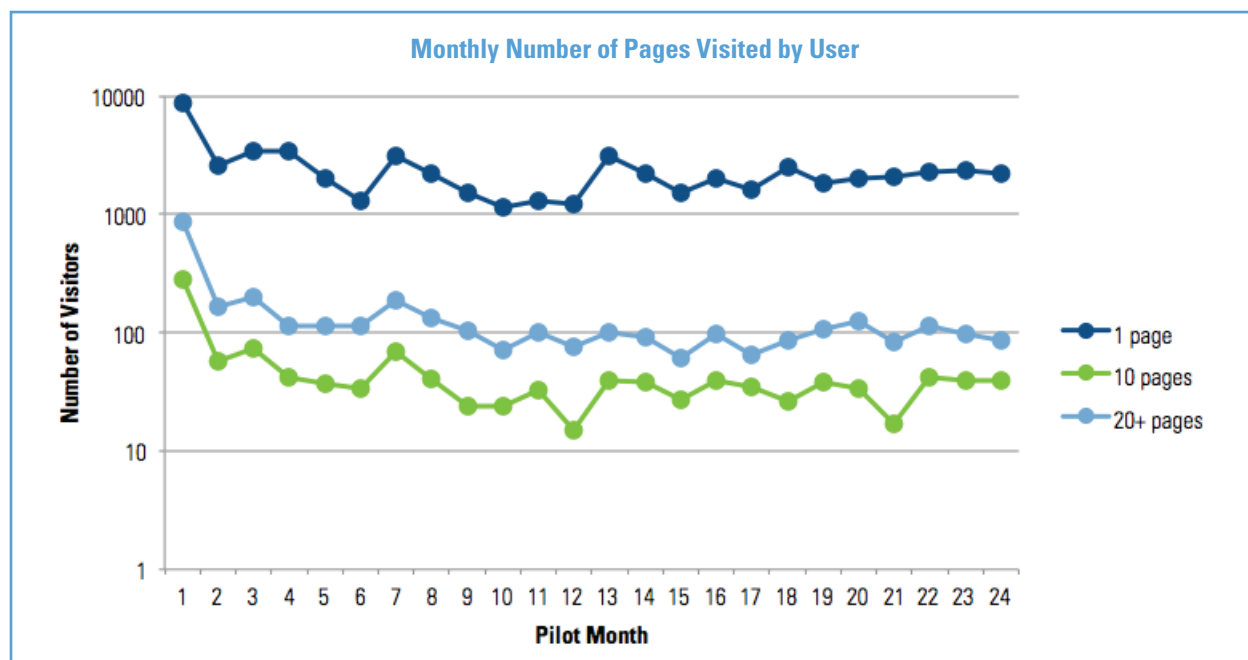
[2] Paul, Ryan. Yahoo to patent "Smart drag-and-drop," Ars submits prior art, *Ars Technica*, Dec. 27, 2007. http://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/news/2007/12/yahoo-to-patent-drag-and-drop-ars-submits-prior-art.ars

[3] Harper, Jim. Wiki-Government, *Technology Liberation Front,* Dec. 21, 2007. http://techliberation.com/2007/12/21/wiki-government/

[4] Mutschler, Ann Steffora U.S. patent office looking for prior art on IBM Patent application, EDN, Dec. 28, 2007. http://www.edn.com/article/472880-U_S_patent_office_looking_for_prior_art_on_IBM_patent_application.php

[5] Noveck, Beth Simone. Wiki-Government, Dec. 14, 2007, cited in *Democracy: A Journal of Ideas*, Winter 2008. http://www.democracyjournal.org/7/6570.php

[6] Sanchez, Julian. Google CEO Touts Green Energy Shock Doctrine, *Ars Technica*, November 28, 2008. http://arstechnica.com/old/content/2008/11/eric-schmidts-shock-doctrine.ars

[7] Udan, Rahan. Using the Internet to Produce Science and Technology. *IEEE-USA Today's Engineer*. December 1, 2008. http://www.todaysengineer.org/2008/Dec/peer2patent.asp

[8] Waters, Richard. Obama weighs putting the wisdom of crowds to work, *Financial Times*, December 8, 2008. http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/652a44ee-c566-11dd-b516-000077b07658.html#axzz1mOIKL534

Interestingly, individual users visiting more than 20 pages on the Peer To Patent site per month outnumbered users visiting only 10. The monthly average of individual users viewing more than 20 pages was 139, whereas the average of those viewing 10 pages monthly was about 48. In addition to number of pages visited, users demonstrated more than a passing interest based on length of visit, with a significant portion spending between 10 and 30 minutes viewing the Web site. These data showed us that Peer To Patent was successful in drawing the attention of a dedicated community of self-selected citizen-experts.

Duration of Reviewer Visits
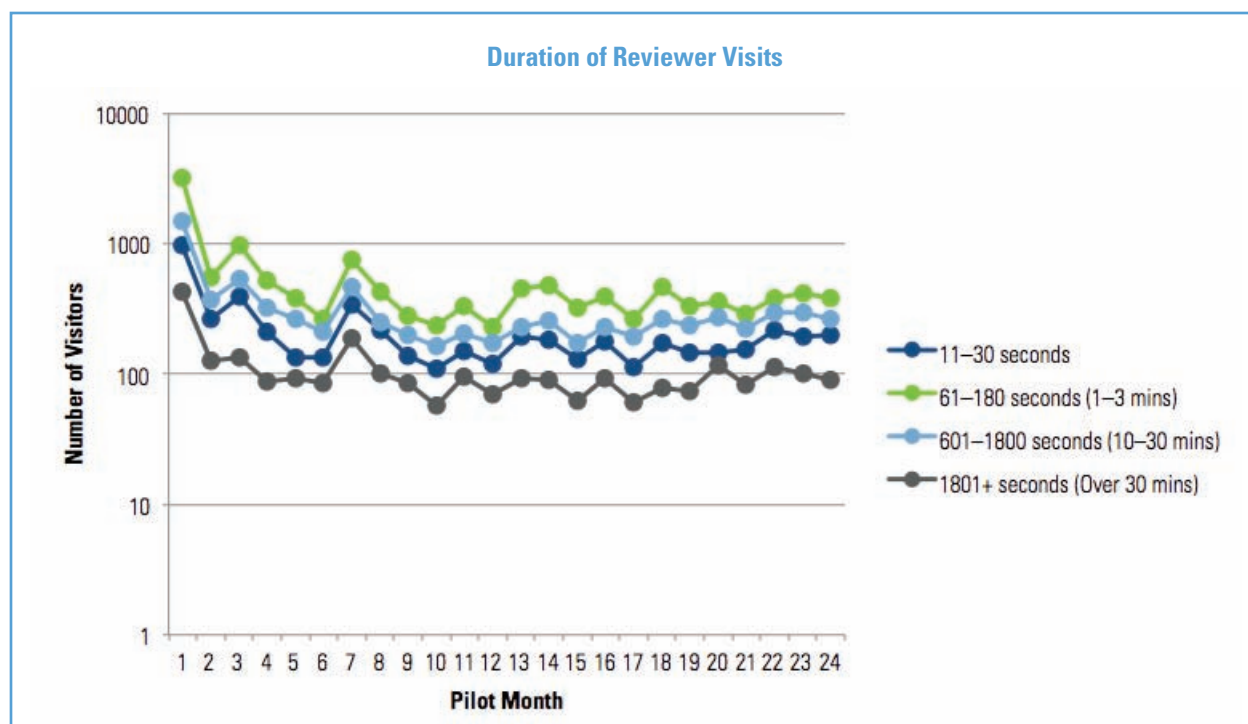
An examination of the various traffic sources was conducted and showed that Peer To Patent has also been successful in attracting the attention of more than just its most loyal participants. Traffic sources were separated into three categories: direct traffic, referring sites, and search engines. For most of Year One, there was significant variation among these traffic sources. However, close to 18 months into Peer To Patent, the sources started to coalesce until traffic from each was nearly the same.

Direct traffic represents visitors arriving from bookmarks and URL input. Users accessing the site through these means interact on a more frequent basis. The percentage of visits that came from direct traffic ranged from 25 percent (in the first month) to a peak of 48 percent (in Month 9 of Year One, February 16–March 15, 2008). There appears to be a correlation between the number of returning visitors and direct traffic, particularly in the final six months. As the project progressed, return visitors more frequently accessed the Web site, reflecting an increase in direct traffic. Gradually, the percentage of direct traffic visits plateaued around the average of 33 percent about 19 months (December–January) into the pilot.

Peer To Patent: Collaboration

Overall Traffic

Direct Traffic
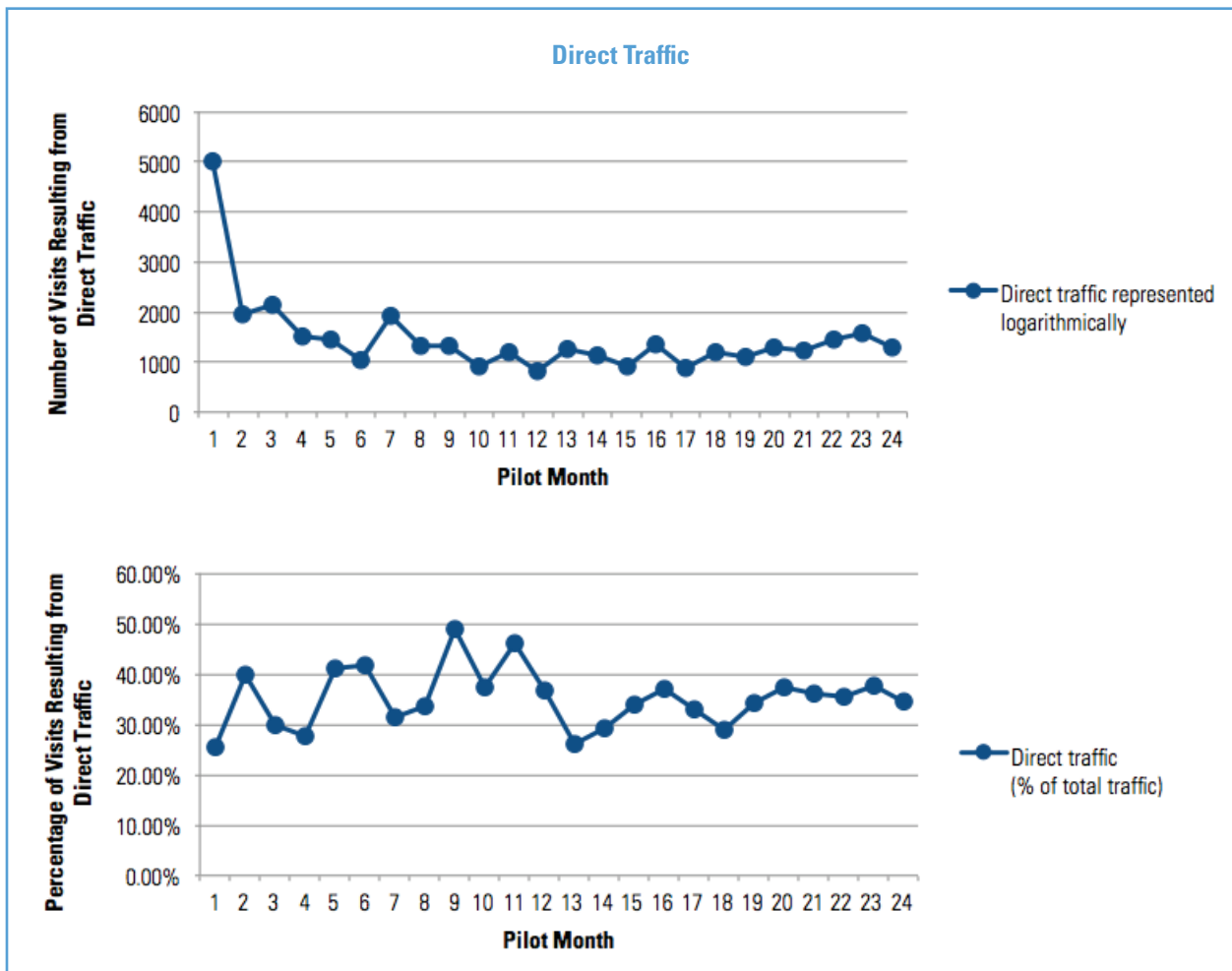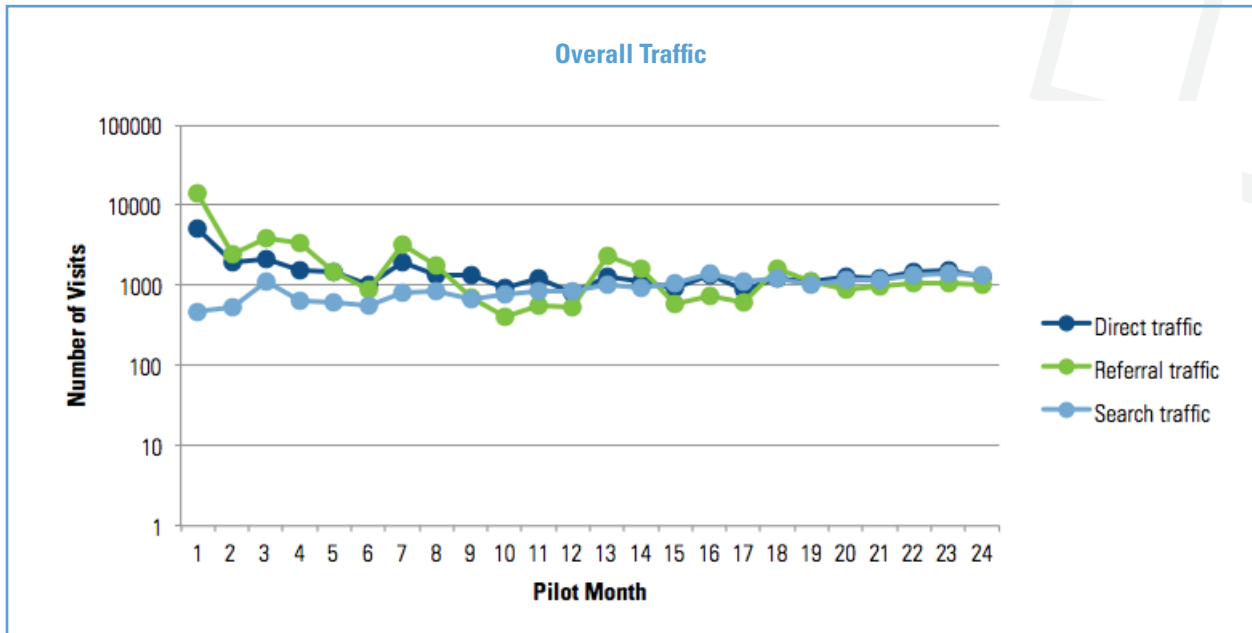
Peer To Patent: Collaboration

Search engine traffic represents the visitors arriving at the Peer To Patent Web site by way of a search engine results page. Initially, the search engine traffic was low, at around 2 percent of all visits in the first month of the pilot. However, search engine traffic steadily increased throughout the entirety of the pilot, with its highest peak in Month 17 (October 16–November 15, 2009) at 41 percent, and an overall average of 21 percent of all traffic to our Web site. The increase in search engine traffic is illustrative of the familiarity the public had with the project throughout the first pilot. Initially, Peer To Patent was unknown to many, but even if visitors did not participate as a reviewer, once they heard about the pilot, they were interested and searched to find the Web site.

Search Traffic
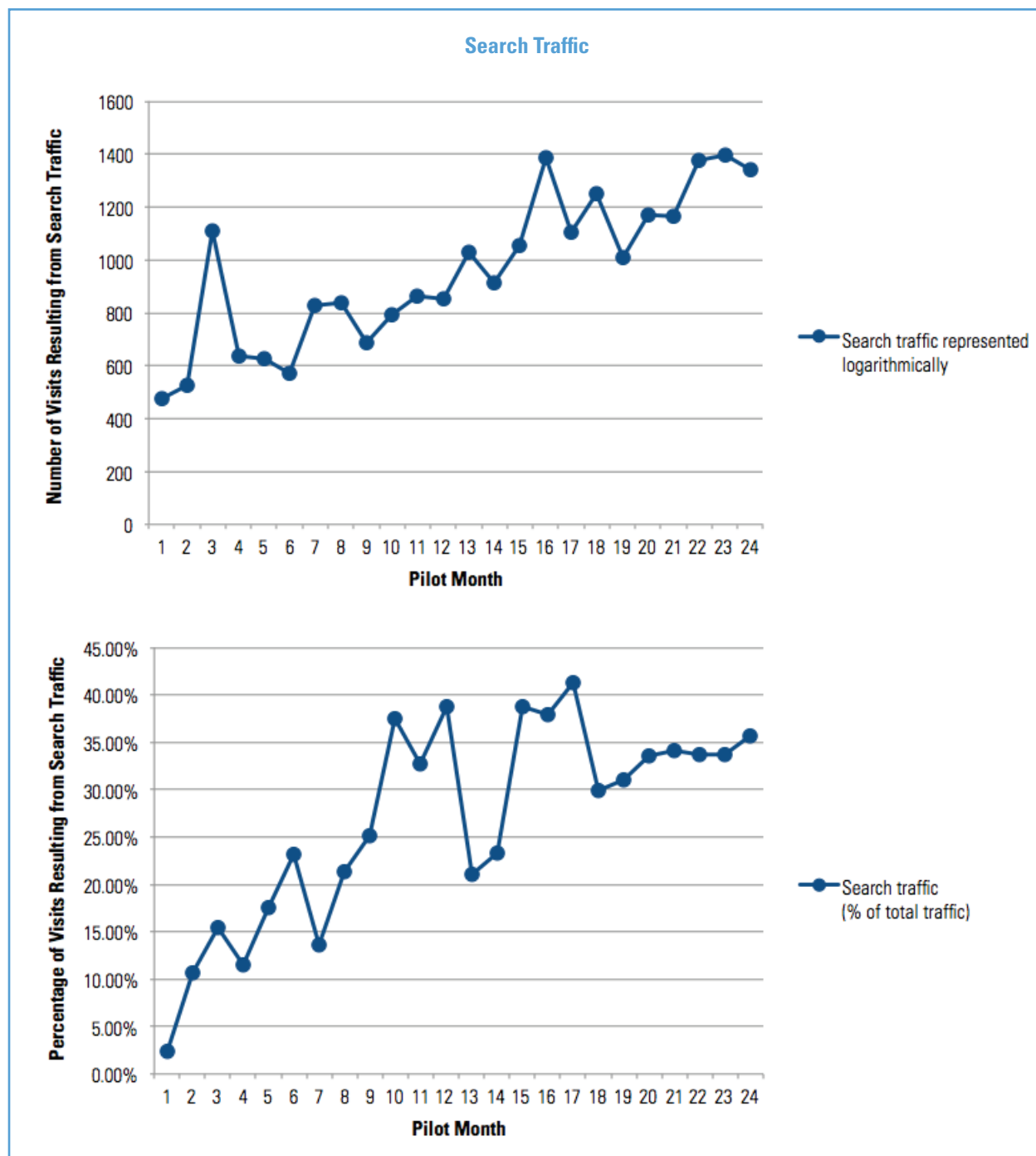
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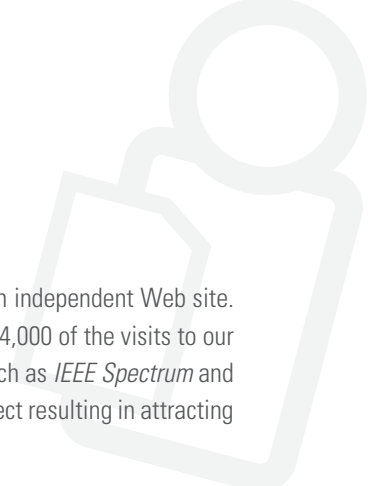
Traffic from referring sites represents visits resulting from clicking a link referencing Peer To Patent on an independent Web site. During the first month, this traffic was at its peak, accounting for 71 percent of all traffic and more than 14,000 of the visits to our Web site. Initially, this traffic was guided to Peer To Patent from technical articles featured on sources such as *IEEE Spectrum* and *Ars Technica*. The prevalence of news articles helped draw attention to Peer To Patent throughout the project resulting in attracting the attention of well over 22,000 new visitors.
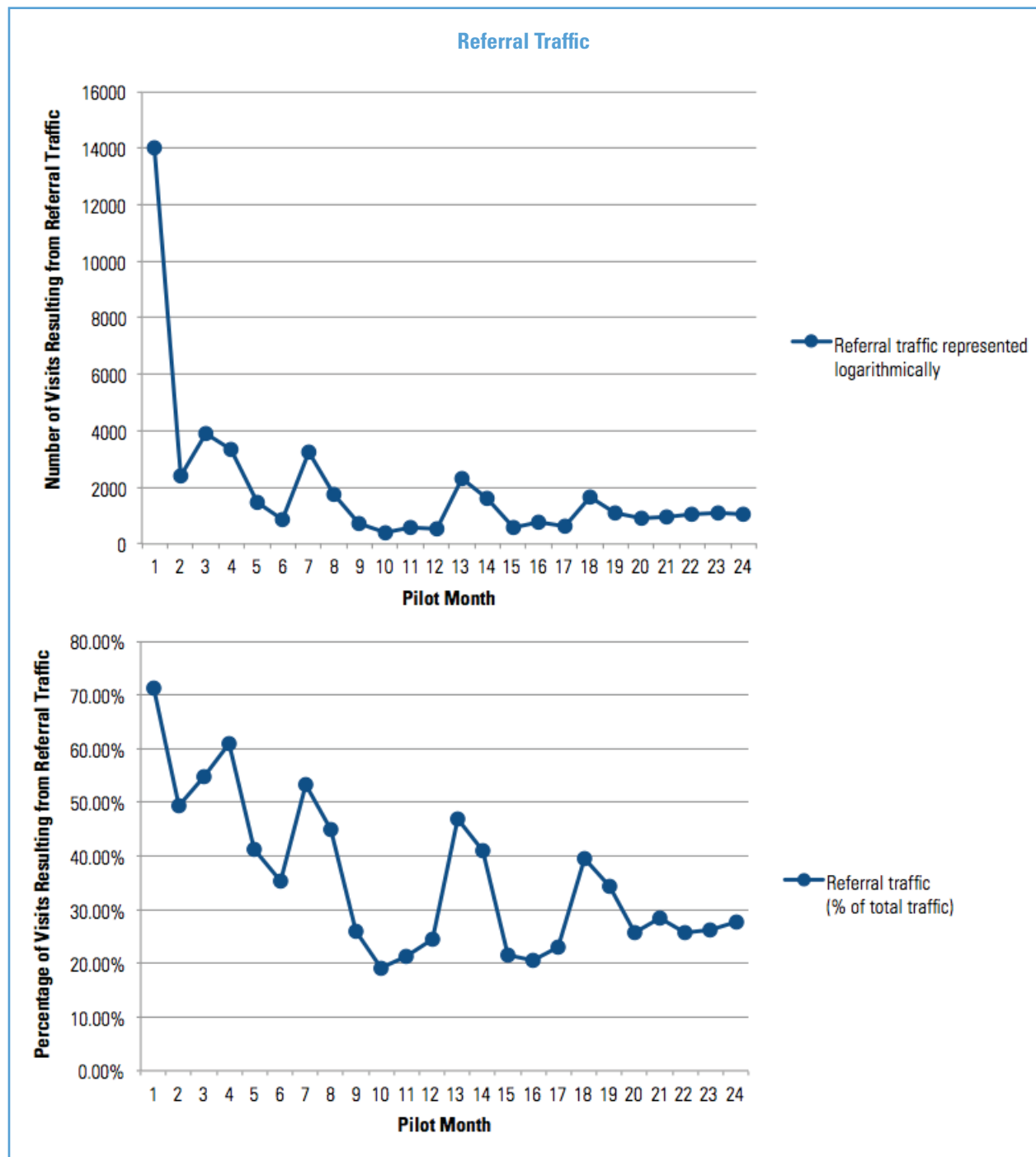
While the referral traffic did not exhibit the same volume throughout the entirety of the project, there were still several peaks before this traffic began to plateau at around 30 percent. These peaks occurred throughout the project and accompanied project being covered in notable media outlets and Web sites. For example, Months 7 (December 16, 2007–January 15, 2008) and 13 (June 16, 2008–July 15, 2008), when the project was covered in *Ars Technica, Groklaw,* and *Wired* respectively, saw visible peaks in the percentage of visits from referral traffic, at around 52 percent for Month 7 and 47 percent for Month 13, accounting for about 4,500 new visitors. It was not until the last four months that referral traffic began to level with the other forms of traffic, showing that Peer To Patent had a continued presence in the technical arena through articles and Web sites.

As the project evolved, the ratio of the traffic sources became balanced, culminating in a roughly equal distribution among the three sources. Out of the overall traffic, referral traffic accounted for 45 percent of all traffic and was the avenue for over 46,000 visits. Although many articles were written about the project in scientific and technical publications, key referring Web sites developed later in the project, including *The Huffington Post* and Wikipedia.org, both non-patent Web sites.

Applicant Outreach

Following on the heels of a successful first year, Peer To Patent attracted new and previously reluctant applicants. For example, in a September 6, 2007, article about Peer To Patent that appeared in *The Economist,* Xerox General Counsel Mark Costello was quoted as saying the idea has merit, but that he would be watching closely to see "whether it remains a fair and objective system after competitors enter the process." In March 2009 Peer To Patent received its first application from Xerox, which has since been followed by two more.

The perception of Peer To Patent as an unbiased and objective program has undoubtedly contributed to the success of our outreach strategy for soliciting new applicants. While numerous published articles increased the program's profile, many eligible applicants did not become aware of the pilot. This prompted a grassroots approach to contact potential applicants. Thus, the Peer To Patent team set out on a campaign to contact attorneys and solicit their organizations' consent to participate in the program. In addition to the efforts of students, coverage in the blogosphere and other online publicity, as well as the continued participation/involvement of the project's existing supporters, helped alert potential applicants to the benefits of public participation in vetting patents.

In December 2008, well into the second year, the USPTO began sending letters to inventors alerting them to the benefits of participating in Peer To Patent and identifying which of their applications qualified for the program. These letters boosted the program, and the number of applications more than doubled. This dramatic increase in participation resulting from direct USPTO contact demonstrated that the relatively low level of participation in the first year was primarily a result of insufficient familiarity with the program rather than a lack of interest on the part of the applicants. Had such USPTO-driven outreach efforts been established at the time Peer To Patent was launched, we believe the program would have easily hit its limit of 400 participating applications.

Peer To Patent: Collaboration

Applicants

In total, there were 226 applications posted to Peer To Patent. Initially, 71 applications came from a small number of participating applicants. The combination of the Peer To Patent team's aggressive outreach strategy and assistance from the USPTO encouraged many new applicants to participate in the pilot. The number of applications in the second year more than doubled. By the end of the pilot, applications came from 100 unique applicants.

In the second year, the eligible classifications expanded from Computer Architecture, Software, and Information Systems to include the so-called Business Methods and e-Commerce. By the end of the pilot, nearly half (49 percent) of the applications came from three classes: 705, 707, and 709. Class 707 - Data Processing and class 709 - Electrical Computer and Digital Process systems are both part of Software classifications and were included in Year One of the pilot. There were 36 applications in class 707 and 26 applications in class 709. These were surpassed by 50 applications classified as 705 - Business Methods. This is notable because this classification was not eligible for participation in the first year, accounting for roughly a third of the applications added in the second year.

Applications per Classification
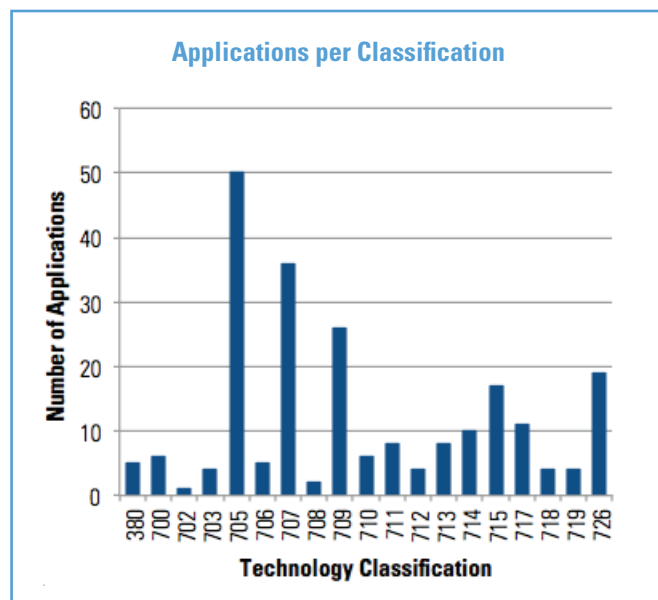
The top three participants were GE, IBM and *Pro Se* applicants. Initially, the maximum amount of applications that a single applicant could submit to participate in Peer To Patent was 25. However, the

Assignee	Number of Applications
Pro Se (all)	36
IBM*	31
GE*	29
HP	14
Intel	9
Microsoft	8
VMWARE	8
Sun Microsystems	5
Novell, INC	4
Palo Alto Research Center, Inc.	4
CISCO	3
Red Hat, Inc.	3
Visa	3
Xerox Corp.	3
Yahoo	3
AT&T	2
Discretix Technologies LTD	2
Disney Enterprises, Inc.	2
Ebay, Inc.	2
International Characters, Inc.	2
Lynch Marks LLC	2
Oracle International Corp.	2
Proctor & Gamble	2
Rearden Commerce, Inc.	2
Urban Mapping, Inc.	2
Wenshine Technology, LTD	2
Adobe Systems, Inc.	1
AID 2 O LLC	1
Align Technology	1
AVAYA, Inc.	1
B-HIVE Networks, Inc.	1
Board of Trustees of the Leland Stanford Junior University	1
Broadcom Corporation	1
Citicorp	1
Consolidated Edison Company of NY, Inc.	1
Embraer-Empresa Brasileira De Aeronautica S.A.	1
EMC Corp.	1
FMR, LLC	1
Future Health Strategies, LLC	1
Goldman Sachs	1
Harris Technology	1
Informed Control, Inc.	1
Intension, Inc.	1
International Securities Exchange, LLC	1
KDDI Corp	1
Marengo Intellectual Property LTD	1
Markets, Patents & Alliances	1
Mitac Technology Corp.	1
NEC Electronics Corp.	1
NHN Corp.	1
Nixle LLC	1
Orix Venture Finance, LLC	1
Purpose Intellectual Property Managements II, Inc.	1
Seven Networks	1
Softwired AG	1
Texas Instruments	1
TLC Integration	1
University of Arkansas	1
University of Massachusetts	1
Vixs Systems	1
Voice, Trust Mobile Commerce IP S.A.R.L.	1
Vulcan, Inc.	1
W.A.R.F.	1
Webroot Software, Inc	1
Weyerhaeuser Company	1
XIV, LTD	1
Yardstick Research, LLC	1
Total	**226**

* The USPTO allowed GE and IBM to submit applications beyond the program limit of 25 because a handful of their earlier applications did not attract any prior art

Peer To Patent: Collaboration

USPTO approved additional applications for both GE and IBM. In total, IBM submitted 31 applications, and GE submitted 29. Interestingly, the number of *Pro Se* applications outnumbered these at 36 applications. There were a couple *Pro Se* applicants in Year One, however the vast majority submitted their applications during Year Two.

Participating GE Applications

Participating IBM Applications
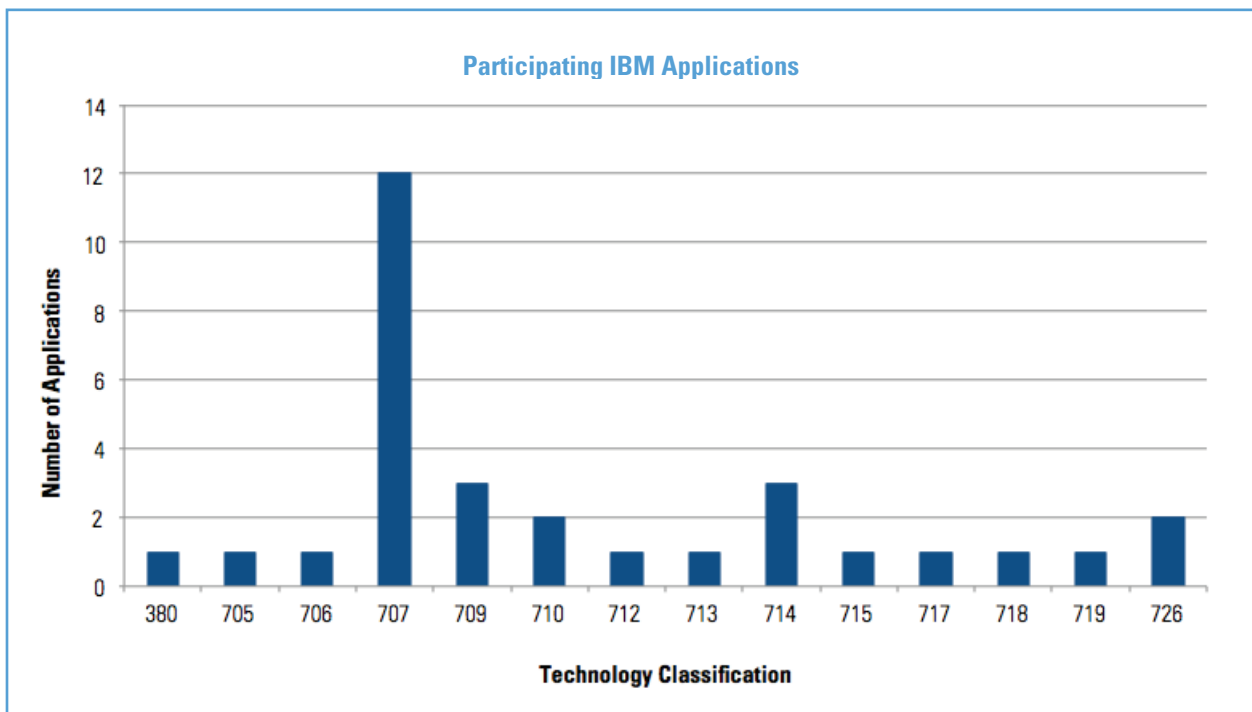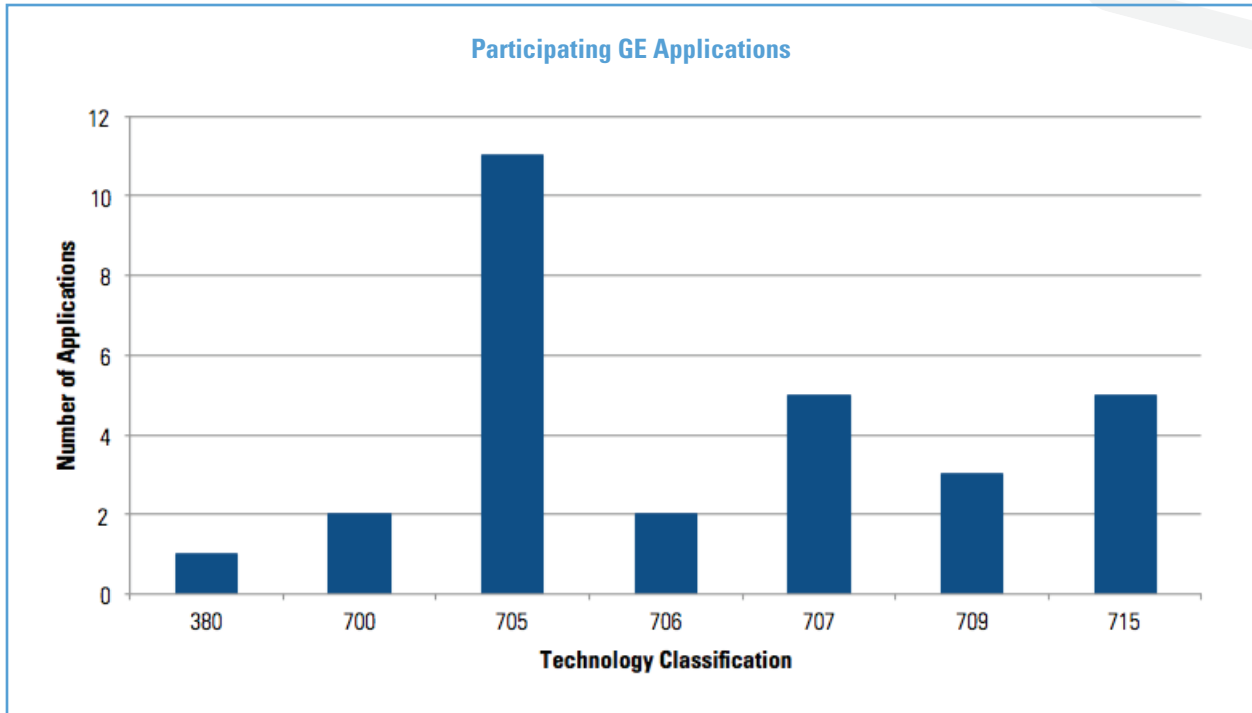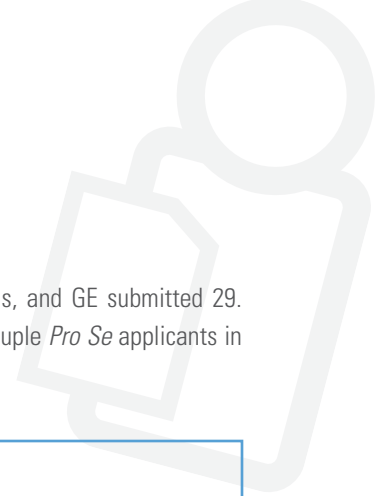
Participating *Pro Se* Applications
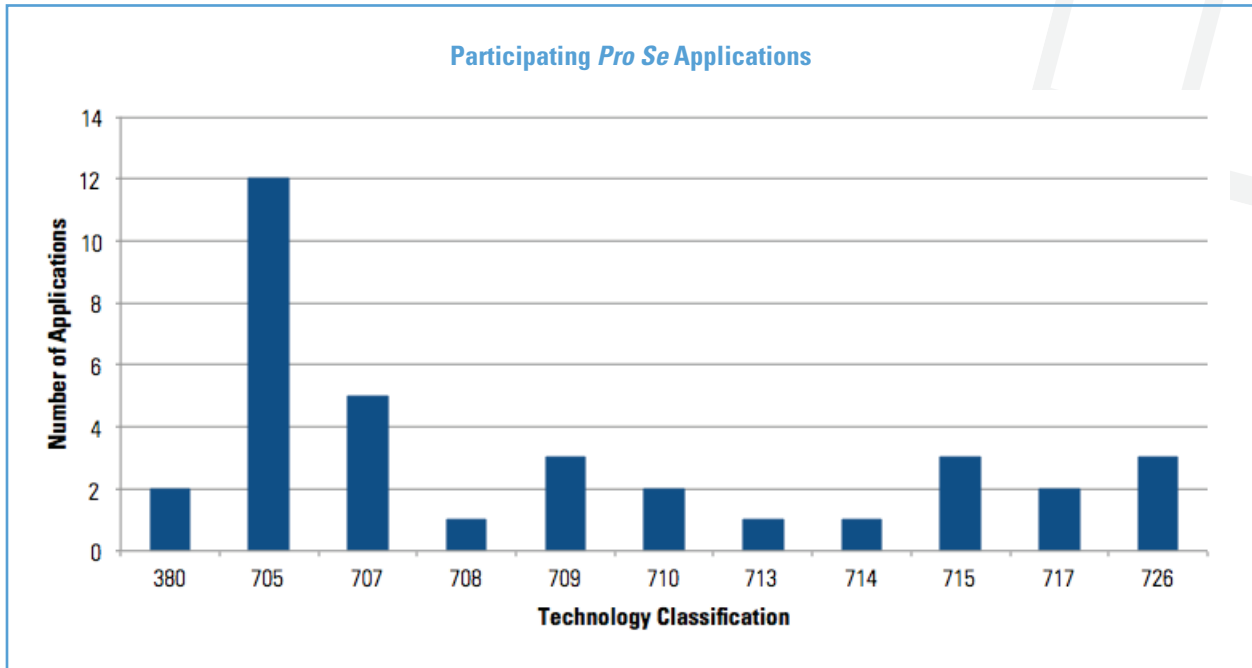
The types of applications that were being filed by these participants were also evaluated to compare the corporate entities and *Pro Se* applicants. GE filed applications classified in seven different categories, with most (11) being filed in 705 - Business Methods. IBM filed applications across 14 classifications with the most (12) filed under 707 - Data Processing. In total, applications coming from *Pro Se* applicants came across a variety of classifications (11) with the most applications filed under 705 - Business Methods (12)—nearly the same number as GE.

Top Applicants by Classification
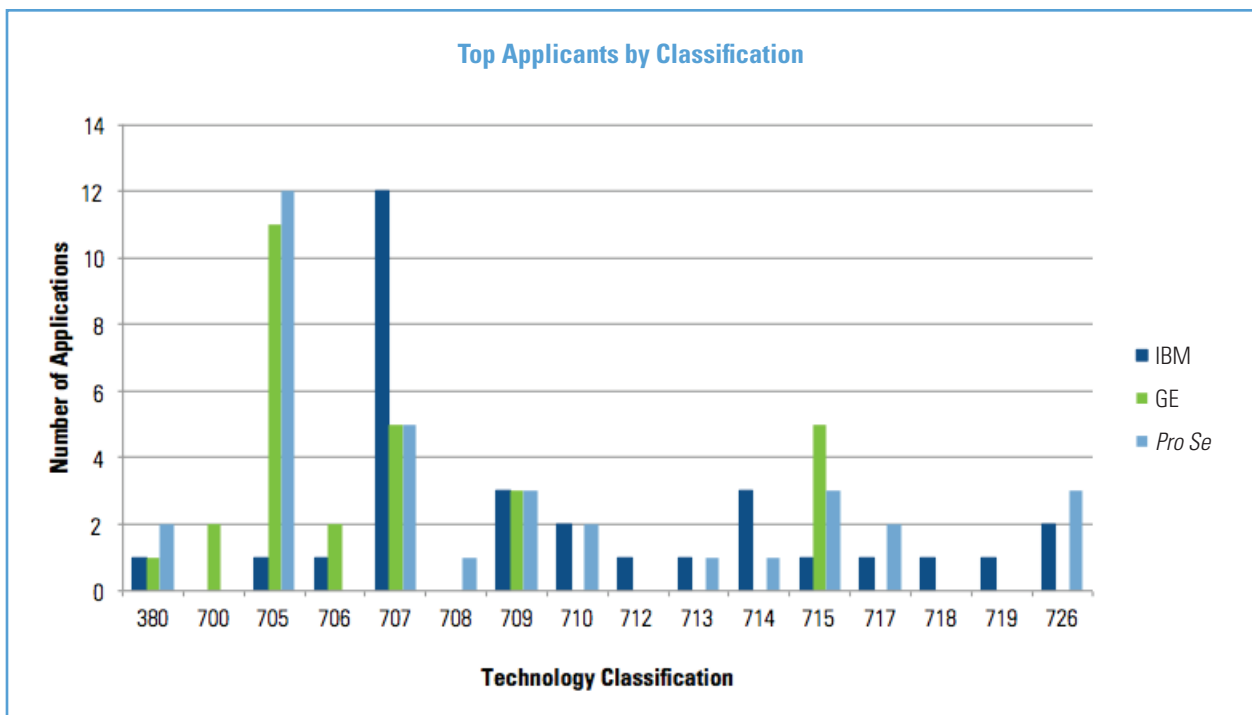
Peer To Patent: Collaboration

Reviewers

Reviewer demographics were analyzed throughout the pilot. Many of our participants indicated that they were participating in the U.S.; however, reviewers also reported from around the world. Included in the top 10 were India, United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, Germany, Australia, Netherlands, France, and Spain.

Peer To Patent Reviewers Internationally

Visits
1 _____ 67,446

- U.S. - 67,446
- India - 5,008
- UK - 4,569
- Canada - 4,389
- Japan - 3,175
- Germany - 2,316
- Australia - 1,855
- Netherlands - 1,572
- France - 1,421
- Spain - 1,055
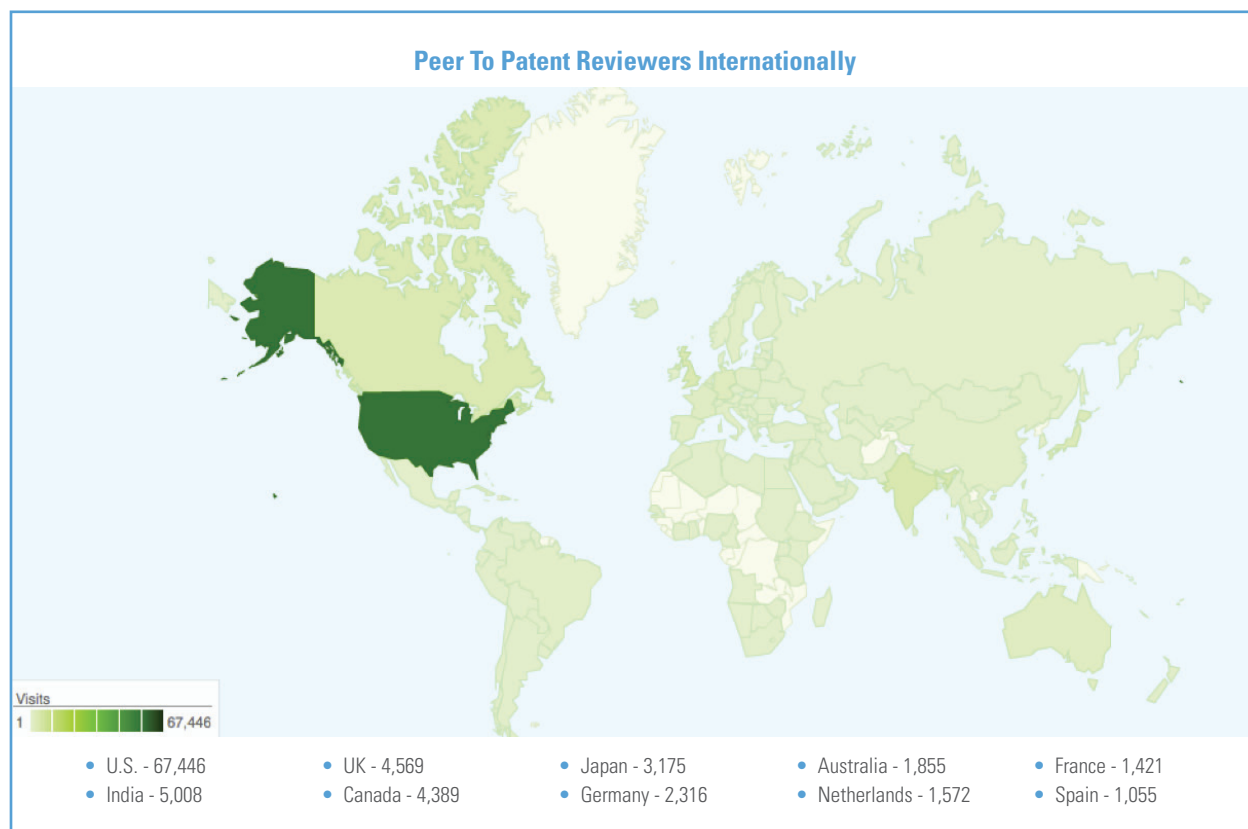
Roughly one-third (34 percent) of the participants identified themselves as "computer professionals/technologists." The next largest participant group in terms of background was those who identified themselves as "engineers" (17 percent), followed by "legal professionals" (9 percent), "patent professionals" (7 percent), "research scientists" (6 percent), and "students" (6 percent).

Reviewer Professional Role

Reviewer Professional Role	Number of Reviewers
Computer Professional/Technologist	665
Engineer	336
Lawyer/Legal Professional	170
Patent Professional/Searcher	144
Research Scientist	125
Grad/Undergrad Student	109
Academic Technologist/Engineer	84
Other	74

Entrepreneur/Business Owner	68
Business/Industry	64
Science Academic/Advisor	28
Government Employee/Civil Servant	18
Legal Academic/Professor	13
Not Employed	12
Doctor/Healthcare Professional	10
Writer/Editor	9
Accountant/Auditor/Finance	8
Foundation/Philanthropy/NGO	4
Journalist	4
Laborer	4
Activist/Organizer	3
Lab Technician	3
Clergy	2

Throughout the pilot, reviewers indicated that their reasons for participating were "professional" (39 percent). However, many indicated that their reasons for participating were "personal" (12 percent). The number of participants indicating that their reasons for participating were "contributing to issues of quality patents" grew from 9 percent in the beginning to 11 percent by the end of the pilot. Similar to this reason, 10 percent of participants indicated that their reasons for participating were "contributing to patent reform."

Reviewer Reasons for Participating in Peer To Patent

Reasons for Participating	Number of Reviewers
Professional	342
Personal	108
Contributing to the issue of quality patents	94
Contributing to patent reform	88
Exploring subject matter	68
Participate in a community of practice	51
Develop professional reputation	28
Promote open decision making generally	21
Competitive interests	14
Desire to limit or eliminate issuance of software patents	14
Desire to find prior art to strengthen claims	12
Academic credit	8
Desire to ensure open source code remains open	8
Desire to find prior art to narrow claims or defeat application	5
Ensure long-term commitment from USPTO for public participation	5
Patent abolitionism	3
Interest in specific applicant/assignee	1

Participants reported coming from more than 40 industries. The most prevalent were those citing their industry background as "computer software" (45 percent). The second most prevalent were reviewers from the "technology" industry (9 percent), followed by the "legal" (7 percent), "education" (4 percent), and "electronics" (4 percent) industries.
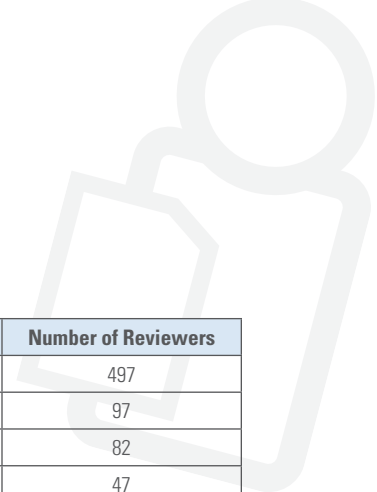
Reviewer Industry Backgrounds

Reviewer Industry Background	Number of Reviewers
Computer Software	497
Technology	97
Legal	82
Consulting	47
Education	40
Electronics	40
Information Services	33
Telecommunication	30
Health Care/Insurance	24
Biotechnology	23
University	22
Business	16
Professional Services	16
Energy	15
Government	15
Manufacturing	13
Food/Entertainment	12
Arts/Design	11
Pharmaceuticals	8
Financial Services/Bank	7
Consumer Goods	7
Application Service Provider	6
Medical Equipment	6
Transportation	6
Automobile	5
Interactive Services	4
Non-Profit	4
Publishing	4
Broadcasting	3
Construction	3
Marketing	3
Military	3
Brokerage	2
Game Site	2
Investment	2
Retail	2
Small Business	2
Airline	1
Catalog	1
Online Community	1
Sports	1

Peer To Patent: Collaboration
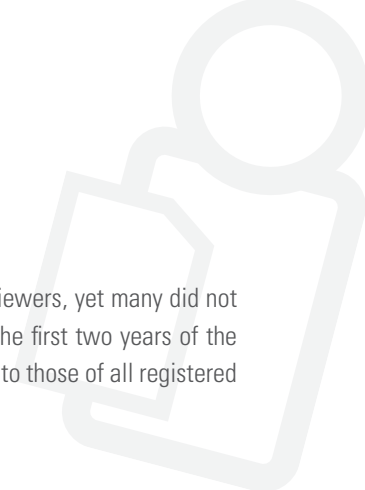
In total, there were 107,105 visits to Peer To Patent during the first pilot; 2,800 people registered as reviewers, yet many did not actively contribute to the review of the application. The number of active reviewers nearly doubled in the first two years of the pilot, going from 365 to 686. Further analysis was done to compare the demographics of active reviewers to those of all registered reviewers. The demographics data were consistent for both groups.

Active Reviewer Interest Type

Active Reviewer Interest Type	Number of Reviewers
Professional	117
Contributing to the issuance of quality patents	41
Contribute to patent reform	36
Personal	31
Participate in community of practice	19
Exploring subject matter	16
Develop professional reputation	13
Desire to limit or eliminate issuance of software patents	7
Academic credit	6
Promote open decision making generally	5
Competitive interests	3
Desire to find prior art to strengthen claims	3
Desire to ensure that open source code remains open	2
Ensure long-term commitment from USPTO for public participation	2
Interest in specific applicant/assignee	2

Active Reviewer Professional Role

Active Reviewer Professional Role	Number of Reviewers
Computer Professional/Technologist	230
Engineer	138
Lawyer/Legal Professional	72
Patent Professional/Searcher	67
Grad/Undergrad Student	53
Research Scientist	43
Entrepreneur/Business Owner	24
Academic Technologist/Engineer	20
Other	18
Business/Industry	12
Science Academic/Professor	11
Legal Academic/Professor	8
Government Employee/Civil Servant	6
Not Employed	5
Accountant/Auditor/Finance	3
Doctor/Healthcare Professional	3
Writer/Editor	3
Lab Technician	2
Laborer	2
Professional Role	2
Foundation/Philanthropy/NGO	1

Peer To Patent: Collaboration
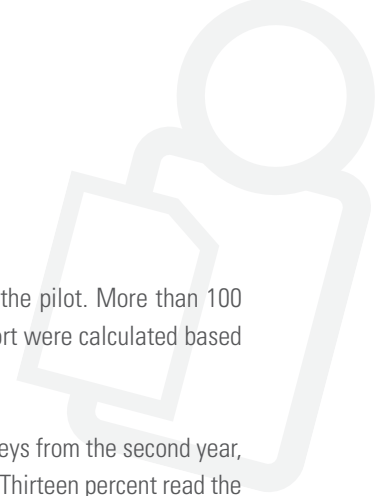
At the end of each year, Peer To Patent conducted a reviewer survey to collect reviewers' insights on the pilot. More than 100 surveys were completed. Because a response is not required, the percentages used throughout this report were calculated based on the number of respondents per individual question.

Participants who completed the surveys indicated that they participated in different ways. Based on surveys from the second year, the largest percentage (29 percent) of reviewers read the application and posted to the discussion board. Thirteen percent read the application, posted to the discussion board, and submitted prior art.

Peer reviewers were willing to spend a number of hours working on different tasks for any given patent application. Reviewers invested an average of one hour posting to the discussion, one hour reviewing and reading the application, and one hour annotating and rating submissions. Reviewers are not required to participate in all of the activities. The average total time spent reviewing each patent application was two hours. Additionally, on average, individual reviewers joined in on the review process of two applications.

Reviewer Activities
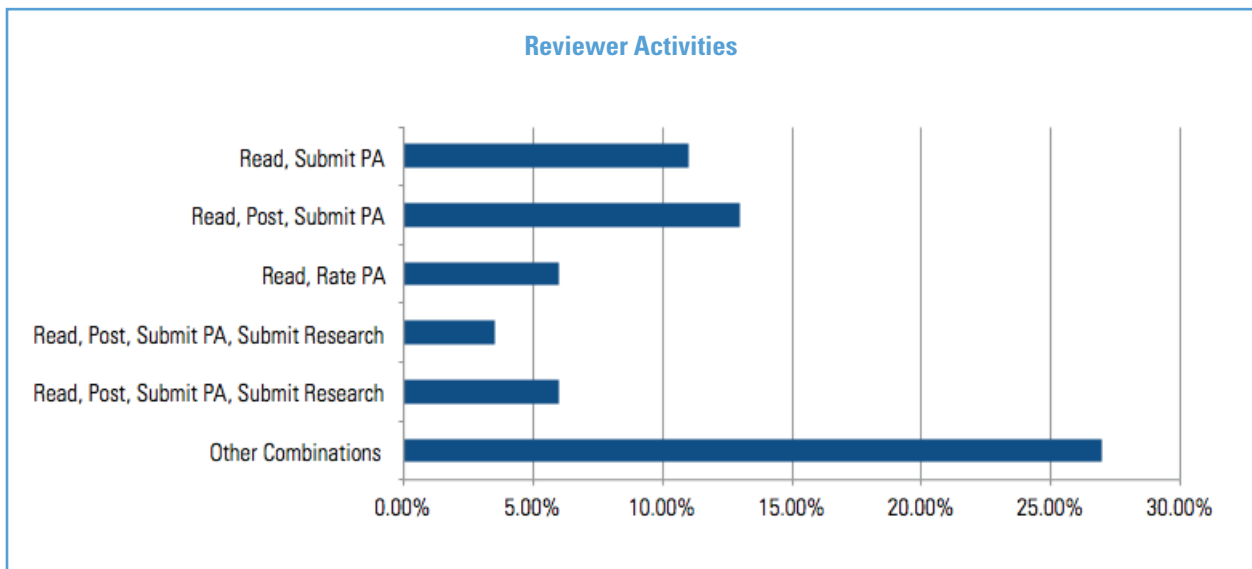
Peer To Patent: Highlights
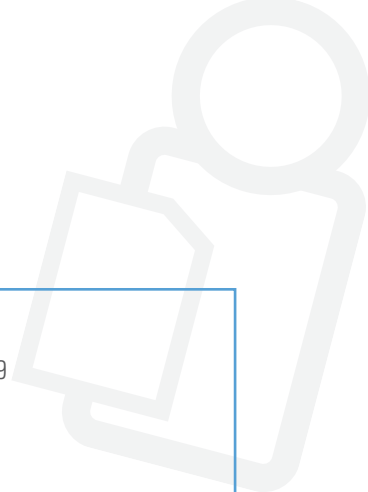
- Total patent applications reviewed by citizen-experts: 226
- Patent applications for which one or more prior art references were forwarded to the examiner: 189
- Total number of prior art references submitted by citizen-experts: 602
- Average number of prior art references forwarded to the examiner per application: 2.66
- Total number of discussion postings: 747
- Average number of discussion postings per application: 3.12
- Average number of discussion posts per application citing P2P prior art: 5.13
- Total number of community annotations of submitted prior art: 107
- Total number of research items submitted: 68
- Percentage of peer reviewers citing non-patent prior art: 53%
- Number of unique applicants participating: 100

Reviewer Activity

Preliminary results reported in the First and Second Anniversary Reports where limited to the applications that had completed public review and USPTO examination. Only 71 applications had completed review and were previously reported on. All applications have now completed review and most have reached finality.

In total, 226 applications where reviewed by citizen-experts on Peer To Patent in the first pilot. The community submitted 602 prior art references: 316 pieces were non-patent literature and 286 were patent references. Of these applications, only 37 were forwarded to the examiner without any prior art references. On average, each application had 2.66 prior art references submitted by the community. Reviewers also provided the examiner with further guidance by annotating the prior art reference. Overall, there were 107 annotations provided with the prior art submissions.

Overall Prior Art Submissions

Patent Literature 48%

Non-Patent Literature 52%

Non-Patent Literature v. Patent Literature

- Total applications: 226
- Total Prior Art Submissions: 602
- Non-Patent Literature: 316 or 52%
- Patent Literature: 286 or 48%
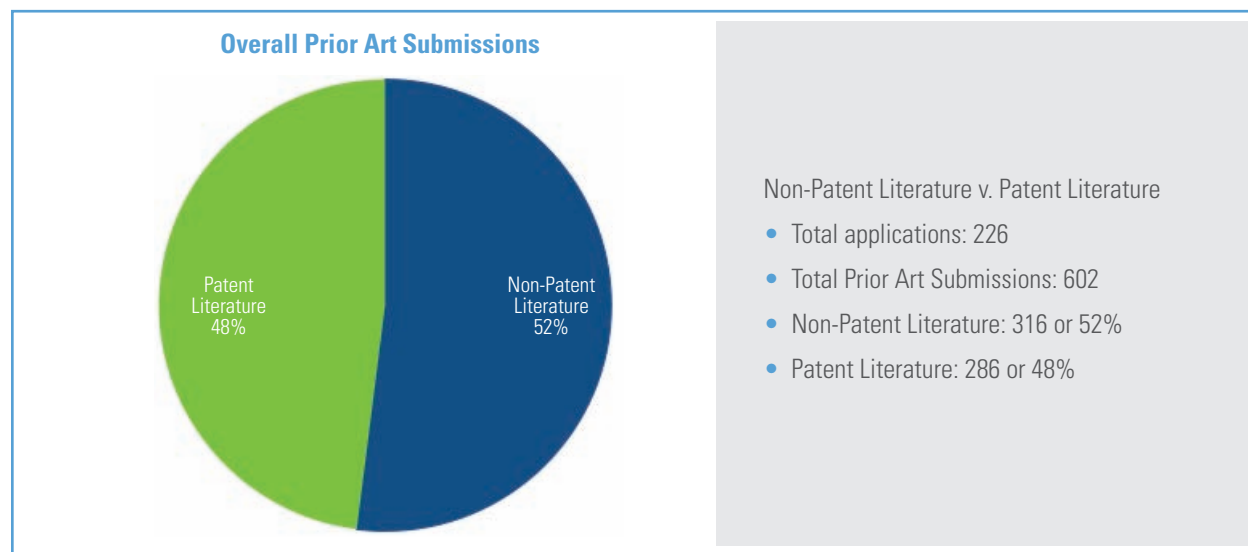
Peer To Patent: Highlights

The reviewing community was equally active in other aspects on Peer To Patent. There were 747 discussion posts during the first pilot. Many of these focused on guiding each other on interpreting the patent claims, discussing relevant technology, and also encouraging the actual submission of prior art to the application. On average, each application had 3.12 discussion posts. In addition to discussion posts, reviewers posted 68 research pieces to provide some further guidance to the community.

Prior Art Utilization

Ultimately, the goal of Peer To Patent was to provide relevant and strong prior art for consideration by the examiner in hopes of improving patent quality. The previous reports cited preliminary results of the first Peer To Patent pilot. Now all applications have undergone public review, USPTO examinations, numerous amendments, and office actions. These applications that started with Peer To Patent in 2007 have now been issued as patents, are under appeal, undergoing reexamination, or have been abandoned.

In total, 38 applications were rejected based on 41 references submitted through Peer To Patent. Most of these references were cited in first office actions; however, in five instances, Peer To Patent prior art was not used until the final office action. In total, 20 of these references were non-patent literature and 21 were patent literature.

The examiners also cited 32 Peer To Patent references as pertinent to the rejection. Normally, pertinent prior art is considered relevant but not strong enough to provided basis for rejection. Initially, this gave us the indication that the reviewers were on the right path. However, for the five applications with Peer To Patent prior art used in a later office action, these references were all initially cited as pertinent, with exactly 50 percent being non-patent literature.

Office Action Results

Legend: Patent literature (blue), Non-patent literature (green)

Overall Office Action Data
Non-Patent Literature v. Patent Literature
- Rejection Basis: 38 patent applications citing P2P prior art in office action — 41 pieces of prior art
- Pertinent: 32 references deemed pertinent to the rejection — 16 NPL, 16 PL
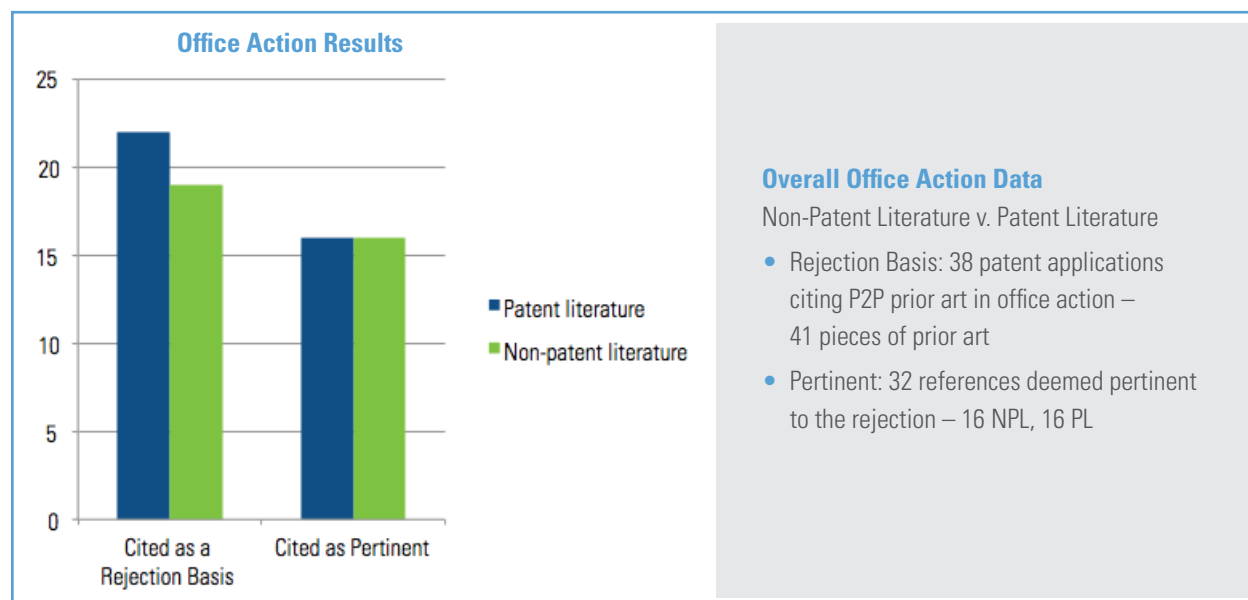
There were also indications that the examiners tended to use references from communities having robust discussion posts. As previously indicated, many of these discussion posts helped guide the community to relevant prior art. There were several instances in which prior art was only posted in the discussion section and not submitted as prior art. The examiner appears to have used this prior art nonetheless in three cases as a basis for rejection in the office action.

Peer To Patent: Community Outcomes

Additionally, communities that collaborated more in the discussion section appeared to be able to submit prior art that was more relevant to the office action. In looking only at the communities whose prior art was used as a basis for rejection, they averaged 5.13 discussion posts in comparison to all other applications where the average was 3 discussion posts.

Of all the applications participating in Peer To Patent, 48 percent were ultimately patented and 20 percent were abandoned. Additionally, 32 percent of these applications are either undergoing reexamination or are still on appeal.

Overall Application Outcomes

Appeal
9%

Abandoned
20%

Patent
Allowance
48%

Reexamination/
RCE
23%

Final Outcomes of All 226 Patent Applications
- Abandoned: 46 or 20%
- Patent Allowance: 109 or 48%
- On Appeal: 20 or 9%
- Reexamination/RCE: 51 or 23%
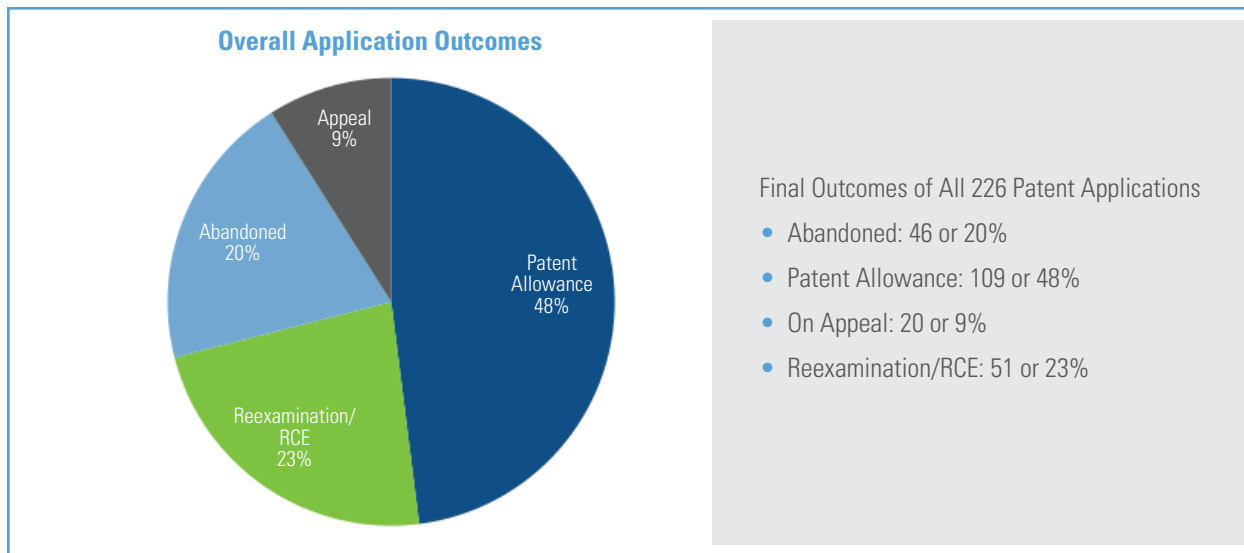
Of the 38 applications using the 41 Peer To Patent references as a rejection basis, 58 percent were ultimately issued a patent. Moreover, 26 percent were abandoned and 16 percent are still undergoing reexamination or appeal. These results exemplify that peer review and collaboration in the patent process enhances the patent.

Application Outcomes Using P2P Prior Art

Appeal
8%

Reexamination/
RCE
8%

Abandoned
26%

Patent
Allowance
58%

Final Outcomes of Applications Using P2P Prior Art (38 Patents Citing P2P Prior Art References in Office Action)
- Abandoned: 10 or 26%
- Patent Allowance: 22 or 58%
- On Appeal: 3 or 8%
- Reexamination: 3 or 8%
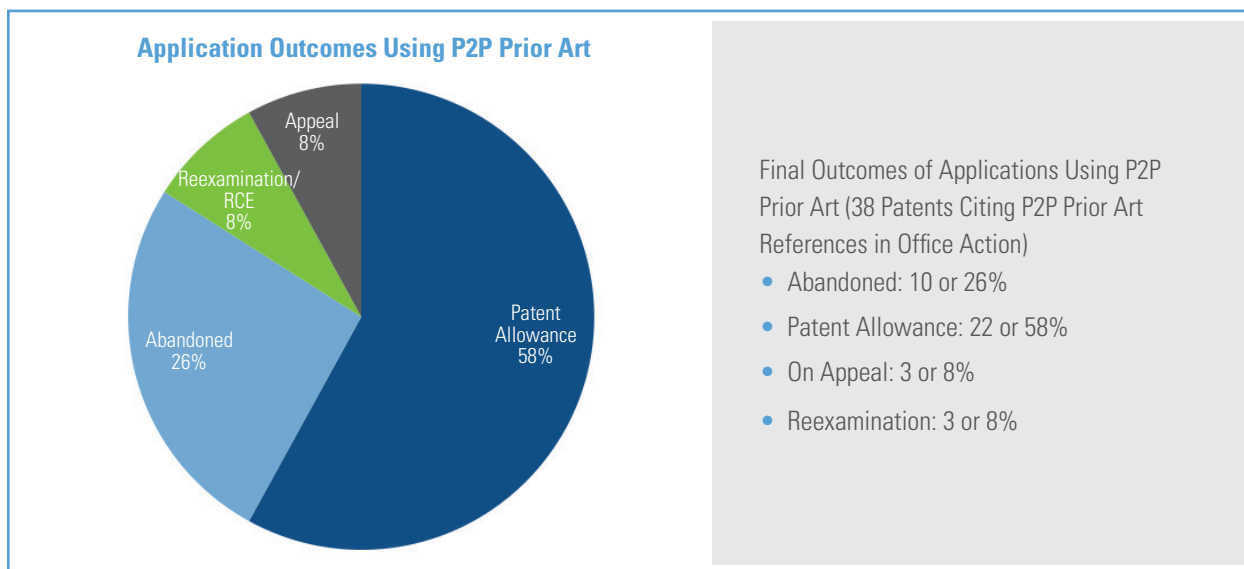
Examiner Feedback

In the first pilot, a yearly Web-based examiner survey was administered. This survey was coordinated by the Patent Examiner Union to ensure confidentiality and compliance with workplace procedures.

In each survey, the majority of examiners who received access to the Peer To Patent prior art found the peer-reviewed prior art to be either helpful or very helpful. As one examiner stated, "I found all aspects (of the pilot) somewhat useful. The discussion gave me an insight as to how peers view patent claims and how they interpret references. On seeing the references, it helped focus on another search."

Additionally, more than 70 percent of examiners thought that the Peer To Patent process would be helpful if implemented in regular office practice. In response to this survey question, one examiner responded, "This program would be helpful because: first, I have resources that I can rely on in case the resources do not turn up during the search, and second, it might give me different directions/ keywords when doing the search."

In both surveys nearly 20 percent of the examiners noted that Peer To Patent prior art would have gone undiscovered. Additionally, 12 percent of the examiners said that reviewer submitted prior art was completely inaccessible through the USPTO. Regarding this, one examiner said, "Some Non-Patent Literature (NPL) art that was submitted would not be easily found using USPTO resources." Another examiner stated, "[O]ne [of the inaccessible references] was a patent. Two were [non-patent literature] that were accessible, but not very likely to have been found with our search tools, as they were instruction manual-type references rather than scholarly papers."

The results from these surveys underline the goal of improving patent quality. Peer To Patent can provide quality prior art to the examiner who, in turn, may make a more thorough evaluation of a particular application.

Prior Artists Awards

Awarded to reviewers whose prior art contributions were referenced as a basis for rejection in office actions.

List and Reviewer Stats (Listed by the amount of contributed prior art used by the examiner)

- **Diane Willis** 9 (38 discussion posts, 124 prior art contributions for 82 applications)
- **Susan Murray** 4 (17 discussion posts, 27 prior art contributions for 31 applications)
- **Steve Pearson** 4 (66 discussion posts, 13 prior art contributions for 22 applications)
- **Mark Nowotarski** 2 (42 discussion posts, 20 prior art contributions for 13 applications)
- **Mark Webbink** 2 (4 discussion posts, 18 prior art contributions for 10 applications)
- **Walter Dietrich** 1 (1 discussion post, 4 prior art contributions for 1 application)
- **Christian Seifert** 1 (3 discussion posts, 2 prior art contributions for 1 application)
- **Kathy Wang** 1 (0 discussion posts, 1 prior art contribution for 1 application)
- **Abhay Porwal** 1 (2 discussion posts, 2 prior art contributions for 2 applications)
- **Charles Peck** 1 (0 discussion posts, 4 prior art contributions for 1 application)
- **Sharat Mendu** 1 (0 discussion posts, 3 prior art contributions for 1 application)
- **Rob Cameron** 1 (5 discussion posts, 2 prior art contributions for 4 applications)
- **Jeff Morill** 1 (1 discussion post, 4 prior art contributions for 4 applications)
- **Kent Williams** 1 (0 discussion posts, 1 prior art contribution for 1 application)
- **Gabriel Gomez** 1 (1 discussion post, 3 prior art contributions for 1 application)
- **Alexandre Eichenberger** 1 (0 discussion posts, 2 prior art contributions for 1 application)
- **Henning Thienemann** 1 (0 discussion posts, 2 prior art contributions for 1 application)
- **Ian Shields** 1 (5 discussion posts, 5 prior art contributions for 4 applications)
- **John Moore** 1 (1 discussion post, 2 prior art contributions for 2 applications)
- **Ankush Bedi** 1 (0 discussion posts, 3 prior art contributions for 2 applications)
- **Jimmy Chen** 1 (0 discussion posts, 2 prior art contributions for 1 application)
- **Peter Klett** 1 (0 discussion posts, 3 prior art contributions for 1 application)
- **Conrad Herrmann** 1 (5 discussion posts, 7 prior art contributions for 5 applications)
- **Sujith Subramanian** 1 (1 discussion post, 4 prior art contributions for 2 applications)
- **Jason DeVeau Rosen** 1 (20 discussion posts, 16 prior art contributions for 23 applications)

Peer To Patent: Community Outcomes

Peer To Patent: Application Outcomes

- **20070260907: Technique to Modify a Timer**
  Applicant abandoned the application after receiving a first office action citing Peer To Patent prior art.

- **20070255832: Method for Configuring a Wind-farm Network**
  Applicant amended the claims to avoid the Peer To Patent prior art and was granted a patent.

- **20080120576: Method and Systems for Creation of Hanging Protocols Using Graffiti-Enabled Devices**
  Applicant amended the claims to avoid the Peer To Patent prior art and was granted a patent.

- **20080046686: Method and Apparatus for an Inductive Doubling Architecture**
  Applicant amended the claims to avoid the Peer To Patent prior art and was granted a patent.

- **20080022202: Image Inversion**
  After amendments and a final office action, which cited the same Peer To Patent prior art, this application is on appeal awaiting decision by the Board of Appeals.

- **20070180110: System & Method for Retaining Information in a Data Management System**
  Applicant abandoned the application after receiving a first office action citing Peer To Patent prior art.

- **20070174746: Tuning Core Voltages of Processors**
  Applicant amended the claims to avoid the Peer To Patent prior art and was granted a patent.

- **20070160202: Cipher Method & System for Verifying a Decryption of an Encrypted User Data Key**
  Applicant amended the claims to avoid the Peer To Patent prior art and was granted a patent.

- **20070234226: Smart Drag and Drop**
  Applicant amended the claims to avoid the Peer To Patent prior art and received a final rejection. Applicant has since filed a request for continued examination.

- **20070220583: Methods of Enhancing Media Content Narrative**
  Applicant amended the claims to avoid the Peer To Patent prior art and was granted a patent.

- **20070226722: Method & Apparatus for Selectively Executing Different Executable Code Versions Which Are Optimized in Different Ways**
  Applicant amended the claims to avoid the Peer To Patent prior art and was granted a patent.

- **20070208822: Honey Monkey Network Exploration**
  Applicant amended the claims to avoid the Peer To Patent prior art and was granted a patent.

- **20080104494: Matching a Slideshow to an Audio Track**
  Applicant amended the claims to avoid the Peer To Patent prior art and was granted a patent.

- **20070118658: User Selectable Management Alert Format**
  Applicant appealed final rejection that cited Peer To Patent prior art and is awaiting a decision.

- **20070271363: Computer Compliance System and Method**
  Applicant abandoned this application after receiving both a first office action and a subsequent final rejection citing Peer To Patent prior art.

- **20080016013: System and Method for Implementing a Multi-objective Evolutionary Algorithm on a Programmable Hardware Device**
  Applicant amended the claims to avoid the Peer To Patent prior art and was granted a patent.

- **20070244891: Method of Obtaining Samples from a Data Stream and of Estimating the Sortedness of the Data Stream Based on the Samples**
  Applicant amended the claims to avoid the Peer To Patent prior art and was granted a patent.

- **20080255875: Systems and Methods for Managing Patient Preference Data**
  Applicant abandoned this application after the examiner cited two Peer To Patent prior art references in several office actions.

- **20090062969: Hybrid Robust Predictive Optimization Method of Power System Dispatch**
  Applicant amended the claims to avoid the Peer To Patent prior art and was granted a patent.

- **20080294578: Diagnosing Intermittent Faults**
  Applicant amended the claims to avoid the Peer To Patent prior art and was granted a patent.

- **20080301712: Verification of Loadable Objects**
  Applicant amended the claims to avoid Peer To Patent prior art and has filed a request for continued examination.

- **20090063248: Education System to Improve Online Reputation**
  Applicant amended the claims to avoid Peer To Patent prior art and examiner filed an advisory action.

- **20090110192: Systems and Method for Encrypting Patient Data**
  Applicant abandoned this application after a first office action citing Peer To Patent prior art.

- **20080028242: Method of Remotely Controlling the Power Consumption of One or More Servers**
  Applicant amended claims to avoid Peer To Patent prior art and was granted a patent.

- **20080104325: Temporarily Relevant Data Placement**
  Applicant amended claims to avoid Peer To Patent prior art and was granted a patent.

- **20080221945: Ecosystem Allowing Compliance with Prescribed Requirements or Objectives**
  Applicant amended the claims to avoid Peer To Patent prior art and has filed a request for continued examination.

- **20080162919: Booting Utilizing Electronic Mail**
  Applicant amended claims to avoid Peer To Patent prior art cited in a second office action and was granted a patent.

- **20080307264: Parameterized Test Driven Development**
  Applicant amended claims to avoid Peer To Patent prior art and was granted a patent.

- **20090119118: Method for Providing Tissue Products Having Coordinating Décor Features**
  Applicant abandoned this application after examiner cited Peer To Patent prior art in three separate office actions.

- **20090129585: Exclusive Encryption System**
  Applicant amended the claims to avoid Peer To Patent prior art and was granted a patent.

- **20090089450: System and Method Providing Secure Access to a Computer System**
  Applicant amended claims to avoid Peer To Patent prior art and was granted a patent.

- **20090144087: Medication Identifying and Organizing System**
  Applicant abandoned this application after examiner cited Peer To Patent prior art.

- **20080162625: Method and Apparatus for Delivering Device Drivers**
  Applicant amended claims to avoid Peer To Patent prior art and was granted a patent.

- **20080104353: Modified Buddy System Memory Allocation**
  Applicant amended claims to avoid Peer To Patent prior art and was granted a patent.

- **200900006439: Smart, Secured Remote Patient Registration Workflow Systems and Methods Using a Kiosk Model**
  Applicant abandoned this application after examiner cited two pieces of Peer To Patent prior art in several Office Actions.

- **20090144374: System and Method for Unsolicited Electronic Mail Identification and Evasion**
  Applicant abandoned this application after examiner cited Peer To Patent prior art in the first office action.

- **20090063329: Method and System for Loan Application Non-acceptance Follow-Up**
  Applicant appealed examiner's first office action citing Peer To Patent prior art in a first office action.

- **20090119685: Multiple-Multipathing Software Modules on a Computer System**
  Applicant amended claims to avoid Peer To Patent prior art and was granted a patent.

Peer To Patent: The Future
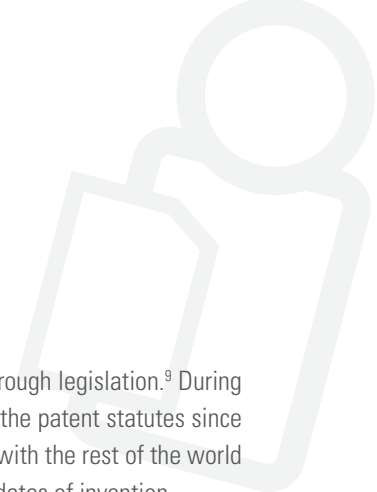
Legislative Outlook

At the completion of the first pilot, Congress was contemplating extensive changes to the Patent Act through legislation.[9] During that time, the Patent Reform Act was working its way through both houses as the first major change to the patent statutes since Title 35 of the United States Code was enacted in 1952. One proposed change covered syncing the U.S. with the rest of the world by assigning the crucial date to "first to file" from "first to invent," helping to avoid disputes over actual dates of invention.

Second, these proposed amendments would allow for third-party submissions of prior art for use in the examination process facilitating public participation in the patent prosecution. Upon completion of the first pilot, the only option for third-party submissions to a patent application required fee payment by the third party and submission could be no later than two months after the publication of the application. Such submissions may not include any explanation of the utility or relevance of the submitted prior art reference. The proposed Patent Reform Act would allow the USPTO to eliminate such fees and involve public participation.

In order to participate in Peer To Patent, applicants must give consent for their applications to be peer reviewed. With the passage of a reform act, the need for consent would be eliminated. Ultimately this could lead to applications that are more thoroughly reviewed and more meritorious patents being rewarded as illustrated by the success of Peer To Patent.

International Expansion

Patent offices across the world face problems similar to those at the USPTO. The majority of these issues have to do with backlogged applications, a lack of time to review applications, deficiency in personnel, and information inaccessibility. Peer To Patent's success did not go unnoticed, and a year after the launch of the program, international offices took action.

In 2008, the Center for Patent Innovations advised Japan's Institute of Intellectual Property (IIP) on the development of a sister program for the Japan Patent Office (JPO). The JPO launched a pilot named Community Patent Review, beginning July 16, 2008 and ending December 8, 2008. Although the implementation was not identical, Community Patent Review produced results similar to those of Peer To Patent. During the pilot, 16 companies submitted 39 patent applications for review by 253 reviewers. These reviewers submitted 137 prior art references, which were cited in 13 first actions. Based on the examiner's reliance on the reviewer submitted prior art, Community Patent Review was viewed as successful.

In December of 2009, the Queensland University of Technology launched Australia's six-month Peer To Patent pilot in collaboration with IP Australia and New York Law School. During this pilot, 103 people registered as peer reviewers. The community reviewed 31 patent applications and submitted 106 prior art references. Examiners used 11 of these references as a basis to reject one or more claims. There were six examiners who participated in reviewing these applications. All examiners indicated that the pilot was helpful in assisting them to locate prior art. Most also indicated that they believed that the program would be useful if integrating into IP Australia's regular practice.

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[9] Note that the America Invents Act was signed into law in September 2011, before the second Peer To Patent pilot was completed.

Peer To Patent: The Future

Where to Now?

As of the end of the first pilot, interest in Peer To Patent was growing. Much of this growth was due to the increase in involvement and discussion across the board, ranging from government recognition to new applicants wishing to become involved in the program. In his first day in office, President Obama announced the Open Government Initiative consisting of three principles aimed at encouraging the public to share their knowledge with the government, with Peer To Patent being a core example of this effort. Peer To Patent was also recognized on the White House Web site's Innovation Gallery as being an example of how agencies across the executive branch are implementing the three principles of the initiative. Peer To Patent strives to ensure that patents are granted only on those innovations that are truly worthy. This is accomplished by opening up the patent application process to the public to that they may share their expertise with the USPTO.

We have also seen interest in Peer To Patent grow among applicants and reviewers. In the first year, 71 applications were posted for public review. By the end of the second year, this number had grown to 226. While this number was less than the number of applications to which Peer To Patent was limited (400), it is worth noting that 115 additional applications were rejected due to constraints of the pilot. Forty-five applications were rejected because consents were not filed in a timely fashion (i.e., not within 30 days of the patent application publishing). Thirty-two patent applications were rejected because they would not have been published prior to the pilot's expiration. Eight patent applications were rejected because their assignees had already reached their cap of 25 patent applications. Finally, the USPTO received 30 requests to submit patent applications pending in a technology center not eligible for Peer To Patent under the current rules. We view this as essentially 30 petitions from inventors to expand Peer To Patent to other patentable subject matter.

Additionally, we saw large growth amongst active reviewers, going from 365 in the first year to more than 600 by the end of the second year. This growth exhibits the public's belief in the importance of peer review in patent applications and in patent examination. The public has grown more aware of the importance of and drawbacks to granting 20-year monopolies. With the advent of Peer To Patent, the public is ready and equipped to share their knowledge of existing prior art with patent examiners.

In September 2010, New York Law School and the USPTO announced a second Peer To Patent pilot. Building on the success of the first, the new pilot aims to test the ability of the project to scale in both volume of applications and subject matter. The maximum number of applications to be processed has been increased to 1000 from the previous limit of 400. In addition, the eligible subject matter now includes biotechnology, biopharmaceuticals, telecommunications, and speech recognition technology, as well as computer software, architecture, and information systems, which were eligible in the first pilot. The time for public review has also been shortened from four months to three. Lastly, the number of items of prior art forwarded to the examiner is reduced from 10 to 6.

Appendix 1: Office Actions

Technique to Modify a Timer - Intel
Patent Application Publication #20070260907

This Intel application, classified as 713, describes a technique to modify a timer in computing devices. More specifically, this invention relates to modifying a timer value without making significant changes to the timer advancement. This application was posted on Peer To Patent on November 8, 2007 and had a total of 30 claims.

The community for this application consisted of two patent professionals, two engineers, one computer professional, one laborer, one legal academic, and one uncategorized reviewer. There was no research shared, but nine comments were posted in discussion. The majority of these comments specifically discussed the validity of the claims:

Todd Gatts: "I think Claim 2 is more wishful thinking than invention."
Tom Lovett: "The notion of compensating for the elapsed time is included in a more complicated time update scenario in US 6591370, 'Multi-Node Computer System with Distributed Clock Synchronization System.'"

The community posted two pieces of patent literature as prior art. Although the piece of prior art that was used by the examiner was not annotated or rated, another piece of prior art was annotated and rated with a "thumbs down."

Examiner Action:
In the first office action, the patent examiner cited U.S. patent 6,591,370, "Multi-node Computer System with Distributed Clock Synchronization System," submitted by Steven Pearson, a software engineer for IBM, to reject claims 1–3 and 17–20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). After receiving this office action, the application was abandoned on January 10, 2009.

Method for Configuring a Wind-Farm Network - General Electric (GE)
Patent Application Publication #20070255832

This General Electric application, classified as 709, describes a method for configuring a wind-farm network. The invention relates to a network of wind turbines, and through IP addresses and identifier tags, allows for central control of the network. This application was posted on Peer To Patent on November 1, 2007 and had 20 claims.

The community for this application comprised of 17 reviewers consisting of eight computer professionals, three research scientists, one lab technician, one laborer, one engineer, one legal academic, one patent professional, and one uncategorized reviewer. There was a discussion with 21 comments posted, and no research was shared. Many of these comments were discussed relevant prior art and existing technology:

Robert Geiger: "This invention is not an invention. DHCP is open source. Networks of every kind of appliance have been auto-configuring themselves for decades."

Tim Davies: "Every major industrial facility uses IP to define components of the system. Look at refineries, etc."

The community submitted three pieces of prior art, all of which were patent literature. The piece of prior art used by examiner was rated, but not annotated.

Examiner Action:
In the first office action, the patent examiner cited U.S. patent 20,050,163,118, "Method for Assigning an IP Address to a Device," submitted by Henning Thienemann, a patent professional from Germany, to reject claims 1–20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). After amendments, a second office action referencing the same prior art was cited to reject claims 1, 3–8, and 10–20 again under a 35 U.S. C 103(a) basis. A Notice of Allowance was issued on June 1, 2011.

Appendix 1: Office Actions

Methods and Systems for Creation of Hanging Protocols Using Graffiti-Enabled Devices - GE
Patent Application Publication #20080120576

This General Electric application, classified as 715, describes a method for creating a hanging protocol based on gesture input in a clinical environment. The invention is related to improving healthcare application workflow through the use of gesture recognition. This application was posted on Peer To Patent on May 22, 2008 and had a total of 20 claims.

The community for this application consisted of one computer technologist and one legal academic. There was no discussion posted or research shared. Two pieces of prior art were submitted, both patent literature. The prior art was not annotated or rated.

COMMUNITY (2)		View All Community
1	Computer Professional/Technologist	
1	Legal Academic/Professor	

Examiner Action:
In the first office action, the patent examiner cited U.S. patent 7,421,647, "Gesture-based Reporting Method and System," submitted by Diane Willis, an IBM software developer, to reject claims 8–20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). After two amendments, a final office action citing the same prior art was issued under the same 35 U.S.C 103(a) rejection basis. Upon further amendments a Notice of Allowance was issued on March 17, 2010.
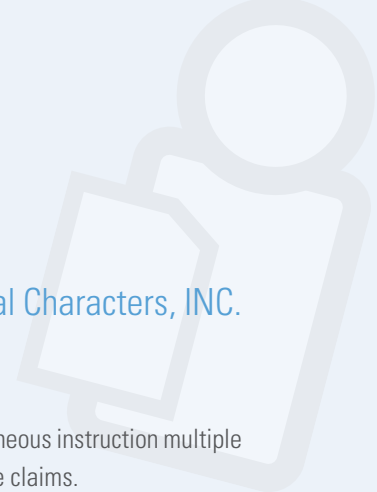
Method and Apparatus for an Inductive Doubling Architecture - International Characters, INC.
Patent Application Publication #20080046686

This International Characters application, classified as 712, describes a method and apparatus for simultaneous instruction multiple data processing. This application appeared on Peer To Patent on February 21, 2008 and had a total of five claims.

This application gained interest from four participants including two research scientists, one engineer, and one science academic. There were no research items or discussion posts. The community submitted two pieces of prior art, one patent literature and one non-patent literature. These submissions were not annotated or rated.

COMMUNITY (4)		View All Community
2	Research Scientist	
1	Academic Technologist/Engineer	
1	Science Academic/Professor	

Examiner Action:
The patent examiner used U.S. patent 20,060,227,966, "Data Access and Permute Unit," submitted by Alexandre Eichenberger, a research scientist for IBM, to reject claims 1–5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) in the first office action. Eichenberger's second submission indicated that non-patent literature "A High-Performance SIMD Floating Point Unit for Bluegene/L:Architecture, Compilation, and Algorithm Design" was relevant to all claims. Although not used as a rejection basis, the examiner considered this submission pertinent to the rejection. The application was then amended; however, the community- contributed patent literature was again used to reject all claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). After final amendments, a Notice of Allowance was issued on August 4, 2010.

Image Inversion - Hewlett-Packard (HP)
Patent Application Publication #20080022202

This Hewlett-Packard application, classified as 715, describes a method of using first center point for a first portion of an image to produce different types of special effects as applied to digital photography. This application was posted on Peer To Patent on January 24, 2008 and had a total of 20 claims.

The community for this application comprised two engineers, one business professional, one computer technologist, one lawyer, and one legal academic. There were two comments posted in the discussion section, but no research was submitted. The discussion contained recommendations of possible relevant prior art:

Susan Murray: "This sounds like something CADAM or CATIA has been doing for a long while, though I don't have my fingers on the documentation."

Gabriel Gomez: "I think you guys are onto something with the Adobe Photoshop comments. Also, Adobe Photoshop 7.0 or 8.0 introduced scripting which would make it possible to automate the inversion process. This could call into question claims 9–16 and 18–20 since the general language here could apply to a computer, hard drive, memory, and human interface."

The community contributed five pieces of prior art, three were patent literature and two were non-patent literature. Reviewer Gabriel Gomez, a business professional for Massachusetts Institute of Technology, made three of these submissions. There were no annotations or ratings posted to the prior art.

Examiner Action:
The patent examiner used U.S. patent 6,091,423, "Image Transformation System for Producing a Kaleidoscope Effect," submitted by Mr. Gomez, to reject claims 3 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in the first office action. After amendments and a final office action, which cited this same piece of prior art, this application is on appeal awaiting decision by the Board of Appeals.

System and Method for Retaining Information in a Data Management System - GE
Patent Application Publication #20070180110

This General Electric application, classified as 709, describes a system and method for retaining information in a data management system in the event of a service interruption. The application was posted on Peer To Patent on August 2, 2007 and has a total of 20 claims.

The community for this application included six computer professionals, two engineers, one student, and one laborer. Three of the computer professionals and one engineer engaged in discussion about how one piece of submitted prior art appeared to anticipate one of the claims in the application, which the examiner ultimately found pertinent in the first rejection:

Walter Dietrich: "I've only read some of the independent claims, but it seems to me that J2EE servers from IBM and BEA have been doing this kind of thing for a while now. I think BEA is able to store sessions in main memory and share across servers. I think IBM is able to store sessions in RAM or databases and share them across servers. The only question is how the association between clients and sessions persist when servers go down, but I think the systems handle that by using cookies or URL rewriting. That's probably in the J2EE spec."

Roy Hodges: "Agreed, using object mapping in data managers that use ASP.net session state to store values has already been done by many, including myself since ASP.net was first released in beta."

This community submitted seven items of non-patent prior art literature and one suggested avenue for research.

Examiner Action:
In issuing the first office action, the patent examiner cited one of the four pieces of prior art contributed by Walter Dietrich, a senior technical staff member of IBM. Reviewer Steve Pearson annotated this prior art with a quote noting the relevance to the inventive technology claimed in the application. The examiner used this submission, a print publication entitled "WebSphere App. Server-Express V6 Development Guide and Development Examples," to reject claims 1, 10, 18, and 20 for being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(a). Four other pieces of community-submitted prior art were deemed pertinent to the rejection. This application was abandoned on Nov. 12, 2008.

Tuning Core Voltages of Processors - HP
Patent Application Publication #20070174746

This Hewlett-Packard patent application, classified as 714, described a method to improve the ability of a computer system to use multiple processors in order to achieve fault-tolerant computing. The application was posted on Peer To Patent on July 26, 2007 with 20 claims.

The community reviewing this application comprised of three engineers, two professional patent searchers, one student, one laborer, and one entrepreneur. The community posted fourteen comments in the discussion section, including one by the reviewer whose submission was used in the examination. Much of the comments were dedicated to explaining patentable standards:

Mark Nowotarski: "Matt, Great observations, but just to clarify patent lingo, claiming a process where the computer system instead of integrated circuit test equipment discover Vdd rangers would make an invention 'novel' (35 U.S.C. 102) in the sense that it is different. I think what you meant to say is that having a computer system discover Vdd ranges would be obvious (35 U.S.C. 103) to a person of ordinary skill in the art in light of the fact that it is well known to have integrated circuit test equipment discover such ranges. To help support this argument you might want to scan and submit the appropriate pages from an Intel data book. Your argument would be further strengthened if you could post an example of where someone implemented a procedure normally done on test equipment directly into a computer system. The examiner would then find the claim obvious in light of the Intel reference and further in view of the computer implementation system."

Ultimately, the community did not post any research items but did submit three items of non-patent literature as prior art. One of these items was annotated and received one thumbs up.

Examiner Action:
In the first office action, the examiner rejected claims 2, 4, 7, 9, 10, 13, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in light of several pieces of examiner-found prior art in further view of one community-submitted annotated non-patent literature, a journal article titled "Making Typical Silicon Matter with Razor" submitted by Mark Nowotarski, an entrepreneur. This prior art was again used to make the same rejection in the second office action. After further amendments, this application was eventually issued a Notice of Allowance on January 29, 2009.

Cipher Method for Verifying a Decryption of an Encrypted User Data Key - IBM
Patent Application Publication #20070160202

This IBM application, classified as 380, describes a method for authenticating encrypted user data. The application had 21 claims and was posted on Peer To Patent on July 12, 2007.

The community that reviewed this application consisted of a computer professional, an engineer, a student, a laborer, and an uncategorized reviewer. Three items of non-patent literature were submitted as prior art, all of which were annotated. Two of these received two thumbs up, and one received three thumbs up. In addition, one member submitted a PowerPoint presentation as background research. Four reviewers posted 18 comments in the discussion section about the novelty and obviousness of certain claims. These comments focused on discussing the claimed technology:

Rob Cameron: "This application uses confusing technology for a well-known problem in key management. User data (content) is encrypted with a first key using a symmetric encryption scheme. The first key is typically known as a content encryption key (CEK). A second key, called the key-encryption key (KEK), is then used to encrypt the CEK so that it may be transmitted or stored…"

G.R. Konrad Roeder: "…The way I read it, that they are not attempting to patent the key wrap/unwrap method with an integrity check, but a much broader concept of using an unwrapped key to decrypt the integrity check message in Claim 1.

Scott Hadfield: "Technically I don't think this is key wrap, which is symmetric, but instead key encapsulation which is the equivalent idea using an asymmetric algorithm."

G.R. Konrad Roeder: "The description makes it look like a two-layer asymmetric cipher. Patent claims are the legal basis for patent protection. They form a protective boundary line around the patent. If you look at Claim 1, the claim mentions decryptions without saying anything about the cypher type being asymmetric, symmetric or hybrid. So their claim is so broad that it claims wraps, encapsulation, hybrid encapsulation. In comparison, their description is much narrower."

Examiner Action:
In the first office action, the patent examiner cited an online publication titled "Cryptographic Message Syntax," submitted by reviewer Rob Cameron, to reject claims 1 and 15 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). This application was later amended to add additional claims. In the second office action, claims 15 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) referencing the same community-contributed prior art. This application was amended and ultimately issued a Notice of Allowance on February 11, 2009.

Smart Drag and Drop - Yahoo! Inc.
Patent Application Publication #20070234226

This Yahoo! Inc. application, classified as 715, described a method and apparatus for manipulating objects in a user interface. This application had 20 claims and was posted on Peer To Patent on October 4, 2007.

This application garnered the attention of 25 reviewers including seven computer professionals, three professional patent researchers, three students, two engineers, two science academics, and two professors. Many of the reviewers within this community participated in discussing the subject matter of the application, potential references, and directions for submitting prior art:

Michael Hamson: "Prior art is rather obvious in this case. There are a plethora of applications that perform this functionality. Everything from NetNewsWire to Apple Mail. This also includes Apple's Finder, iCat and Safari.
Roger Bohn: "To amplify Michael Hamson's comment, the Apple Finder has a functionality called 'Spring-loaded folders.' According to Wikipedia this was introduced in Apple OS 8 in 1997. It works as follows…"
Susan Murray: "Just a reminder that while it's fine to discuss amongst yourselves in this Discussion page, in order to be sure it will be considered by the USPTO, you must submit each prior art reference on the Prior Art page."

Overall, this community submitted 10 pieces of prior art, eight were patent literature and two were non-patent literature. One of these submissions was annotated. The community participated in rating the 10 pieces of prior art submitted, and ultimately the prior art used by the examiner was given a rating of three thumbs up.

Examiner Action:
In the first office action, the examiner cited U.S. patent 5,745,111, "Method and System for Automatic Presentation of Default-Drop Target Icons at Window Borders," submitted by Abhay Porwal a patent professional from India, to reject dependent claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). After a period of abandonment, this application was amended and examined. The second office action cited the same prior art to reject claims 1–4, 6-9, 12-18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). The application was amended and this community-submitted prior art was again used, this time in a final rejection to reject claims 1–4, 6–15, and 21–25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). A Request for Continued Examination was filed on July 7, 2011.

Methods of Enhancing Media Content Narrative - Intension, Inc.
Patent Application Publication #20070220583

This Intension, Inc. application, classified as 715, described a method of enhancing a viewer's experience of a video program by allowing them to select an alternative video program scene on a display. This application had 40 claims and was posted on Peer To Patent on September 20, 2007.

The reviewing community consisted of two computer professionals, two engineers, one patent professional, one student, one legal professional, and one uncategorized reviewer. In reviewing this application, the community discussed the relevance of existing technology:

Manuel Perez: "The only difference I see between the present invention and the known prior art is the fact the user can select between different 'cuts' of the movie and that features do not appear to be 'technical' (because it has to do only with the video stream content); I think therefore, that from the technical point of view, the invention is not new and/or inventive."

Eric Barsness: "There are a variety of patents and applications pending relating to viewing different versions of a video program. They aren't focused on the editing/assembling part as much as the viewing part. There seems to be strong prior art on the assembling pieces…"

The community submitted four pieces of prior art, all non-patent literature. Two of these were annotated and none were rated.

Examiner Action:
In the first office action, the examiner cited prior art contributed by Susan Murray, a lawyer from IBM, titled "Interactive Cinema: Collaborative Expression with Digital Video," to reject claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). This was amended, but the same prior art was used to later reject claims 1, 2, 6, 14–16, 20–22, 24, 26, 27, 29–31, 35, and 37–41 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). After further amendments, a Notice of Allowance was ultimately issued on December 7, 2009.

Method and Apparatus for Selectively Executing Different Executable Code Versions Which Are Optimized in Different Ways - Sun Microsystems
Patent Application Publication #20070226722

This Sun Microsystems application, classified as 717, described a system designed to improve the performance of computer applications that selectively excludes different versions of executable code for the same source code. This application was posted on Peer To Patent on September 27, 2007 and had 21 claims.

The community for this application consisted of four computer professionals, three engineers, one laborer, one student, one research scientist, one legal academic, one science academic, and an uncategorized reviewer. There were 13 comments posted in the discussion section in which the reviewers worked together to examine relevant prior art:

L Zhang: "As an example, FFTW (www.fftw.org) does exactly as the patent described . . . In some cases, it involves running many small codelets on a system and then choose the best ones to use. 'FFTW: An Adaptive Software Architecture for the FFT,' M. Frigo and S. G. Johnson, 1998 ICASSP conference proceedings (vol. 3, pp. 1381–1384); 'A Fast Fourier Transform Compiler,' Matteo Frigo, in the Proceedings of the 1999 ACM SIGPLAN Conference on Programming Language Design and Implementation (PLDI '99).
Matteo Frigo: "(I am one of the authors of FFTW) . . . As prior art, I would point out that the Intel C/C++ compiler generates different executables from the same source code, together with a runtime dispatch of the appropriate version . . . "

The community also submitted three pieces of prior art; two were non-patent literature and one was patent literature. All were rated and two were annotated.

Examiner Action:
In the first office action, the examiner cited "Dynamic Feedback: An Effective Technique for Adaptive Computing," submitted by Steven Pearson, a senior software engineer at IBM, to reject claims 1, 3–4, 7, 8, 10–11, 14, 15, 17–18, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a). The application was amended and a request for reconsideration was filed. A Notice of Allowance was issued on February 11, 2009.

Honey Monkey Network Exploration - Microsoft
Patent Application Publication #20070208822

This Microsoft application, classified as 709, described a system that was capable of visiting network locations and detecting whether certain URLS are capable of exploiting a user's visit to the location. The application had 20 claims and was posted on Peer To Patent on September 6, 2007.

This application garnered the interest of 12 members consisting of four students, three computer professionals, three engineers, one laborer, and one legal academic. The community posted 14 comments in the discussion section and six research items. A student group participated in discussing the application, but were focused on profitability rather than patentability. The experienced members of this community help redirect the discussion:

Jason Strzala: "My group reviewed this project for a class project . . . We believe that this is a worthwhile invention for businesses. However, while this can be a worthwhile innovation for companies, we are unsure what type of impact it will make on the consumer segment."

Fabian Fagerholm: "The question is not 'How will this make money' or 'What is the business model.' The question is whether this is patentable."

There were also three pieces of non-patent literature submitted as prior art. One of these submissions cited in the office action had two annotations and a rating of two thumbs up.

Examiner Action:
In the first office action, the examiner used "Using Honeyclients to Detect New Attacks," an online publication submitted by Kathy Wang, an engineer at MITRE Corporation, to reject claims 1, 2, and 16 under 35 U.S.C 102(a). The applicant also listed this prior art on their Information Disclosure Statement. Also cited was the annotated print publication, "A Crawler-Based Study of Spyware on the Web," submitted by Christian Seifert, an uncategorized reviewer to reject claims 3–9 and 18–20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Ultimately, this application was issued a Notice of Allowance on April 6, 2010.

Matching a Slideshow to an Audio Track - HP
Patent Application Publication #20080104494

This Hewlett-Packard application, classified as 715, describes the creation of a slideshow through digital media, and specifically, a method for matching a visual slideshow to an audio track. This application was posted on Peer To Patent on May 1, 2008 and had 20 claims.

The community for this application included a computer technologist, a legal academic, and a research scientist. There was one comment posted in the discussion section and no research items were shared. One piece of non-patent literature was submitted as prior art and was rated but not annotated by the community.

COMMUNITY (3)			View All Community
👤	1	Computer Professional/Technologist	
👤	1	Legal Academic/Professor	
👤	1	Research Scientist	
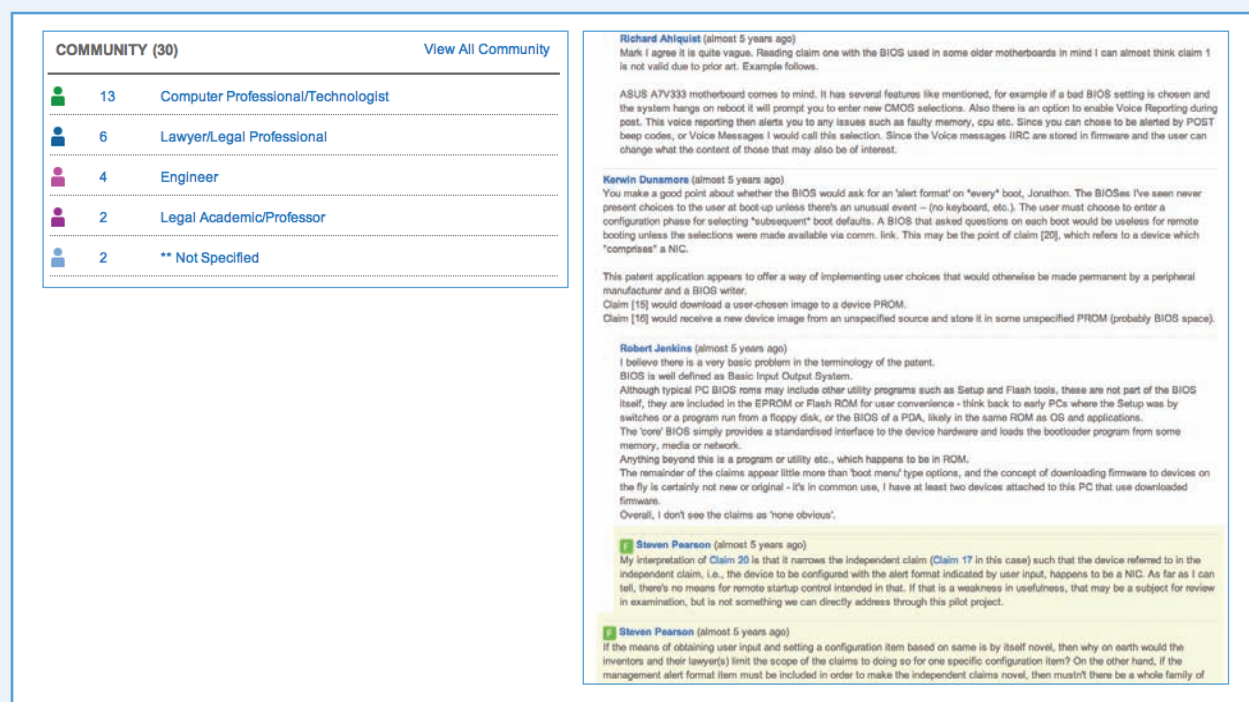
In the first office action, the examiner cited this prior art "Image browsing apparatus and image browsing method" submitted by John Moore, an IBM software engineer, to reject dependent claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). This prior art was cited for the same claim and rejection basis in the second office action. Subsequently, this application was amended and was issued a Notice of Allowance on February 3, 2010.

User Selectable Management Alert Format - HP
Patent Application Publication #20070118658

This Hewlett-Packard application, classified as 709, describes a computing system that implements user selectable management alert format. This was published on Peer To Patent May 24, 2007 and had 21 claims.

The community for this application comprised of thirty reviewers consisting of 13 computer professionals, six lawyers, four engineers, two legal academics, one student and one laborer. There was a lengthy discussion of 30 posts, where many reviewers focused on parsing through the claims and reviewing the relevant state of the art:

Richard Ahlquist: "Mark, I agree it is quite vague. Reading claim one with the BIOS used in some older motherboards in mind I can almost think Claim 1 is not valid due to prior art . . . "

Kerwin Dunsmore: " . . . The BIOSes I've seen never present choices to the user at boot-up unless there's an unusual event. . . . A BIOS that asked questions on each boot would be useless for remote booting unless the selection were made available via comm. Link. This may be the point of claim 10, which refers to a device which 'comprises' a NIC."

Additionally, six research references were shared to provide possible prior art references. In the end, the community contributed nine pieces of prior art. The community then rated these references according to their relevance to the applicant. The reference ultimately used by the patent examiner was favorably rated and provided an annotation to help guide the examiner to a specific portion of the reference that was relevant.

Examiner Action:
In the first office action, the patent examiner cited "Intel Active Management Technology Quick Reference Guide," submitted by Steve Pearson, to reject claims 1–21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). This reference was also used to reject these claims under the same rejection basis in the final rejection. This application is currently on appeal.

Computer Compliance System and Method - GE
Patent Application Publication #20070271363

This GE application, classified as 709, describes a system and a method provided to dynamically scan a network. This was published on Peer To Patent November 26, 2007 and had 26 claims.

This application garnered the interest of a laborer, a legal professional, a patent professional, a student, a computer professional, and an uncategorized reviewer. There were three comments posted in the discussion section and no research. The discussion was intended to alert the community that the priority date was mistaken on the Web site. The community contributed seven pieces of prior art, all of which were patent literature. One was annotated and none were rated.

Examiner Action:
In the first office action, the examiner utilized U.S. patent 5,185,860, "Automatic Discovery of Network Elements," submitted by Sharat Mendu, a legal professional, to reject claims 1–5, 7–10, 13–15, and 18–23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). After amendments, this same prior art was utilized, this time to reject claims 1–2, 4–5, 7–10, 13–14, 18–19, 21–23 again under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection basis. The application was abandoned on July 20, 2009.

System and Method for Implementing a Multi-objective Evolutionary Algorithm on a Programmable Hardware Device - GE
Patent Application Publication #20080016013

This General Electric application, classified as 706, described a system for implementing a multi-objective evolutionary algorithm. This application had 22 claims and was published on Peer To Patent on January 17, 2008.

The community for this application consisted of a student, a legal professional, an academic, and a research scientist. Although there was no discussion posted, one piece of research was shared. One reviewer submitted all four pieces of non-patent literature as prior art. One piece was annotated and none were rated.

COMMUNITY (4)		View All Community
1	Grad/Undergrad Student	
1	Lawyer/Legal Professional	
1	Legal Academic/Professor	
1	Research Scientist	

Examiner Action:
In the first office action, the examiner cited community-submitted literature, "A High-Performance, Pipelined, FPGA-Based Genetic Algorithm Machine," posted by Charles Peck, a scientist from IBM Research, to reject claims 1–3, 11–13, and 19–22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Additionally, this office action referenced "ICSC, Neural Network Fitness for a Musical IGA and Microwave and Genetic algorithm with artificial neural networks as its fitness function to design Rectangular Microstrip Antenna on Thick Substrate," also submitted by Charles Peck, as pertinent. After amendments, a second office action utilized this same community-submitted prior art to reject claims 1–3, 11–14, 16, 19–22 under 102(b). The final office action again cited the same prior art to reject claims 1–3, 11–14, 16,18–22 under U.S.C. 102(b). After further amendments, this application was issued a Notice of Allowance on June 15, 2010.

Method of Obtaining Samples from a Data Stream and of Estimating the Sortedness of the Data Stream Based on the Samples - IBM
Patent Application Publication #20070244891

The IBM application, classified as 707, describes a method of scanning data stream in a single pass to obtain uniform data. This was posted on October 18, 2007 and had 20 claims.

The community for this application consisted of three computer professionals, one laborer, one engineer, and one legal academic. No research was shared, but one comment was posted in the discussion section. There was one piece of non-patent literature submitted as prior art was not annotated or rated.

COMMUNITY (6)		View All Community
3	Computer Professional/Technologist	
1	Laborer	
1	Engineer	
1	Legal Academic/Professor	

Examiner Action:
In the first office action, the examiner cited prior art "Models and issues in data stream systems" submitted by reviewer Jeff Morrill, a computer professional technologist, to reject claims 1–5, 7–11, 13–16, and 18–19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). After amendments, the second office action again cited the same prior art, this time to reject claims 1–4, 7–10, 13–15, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). The application was ultimately issued a Notice of Allowance on September 14, 2010.
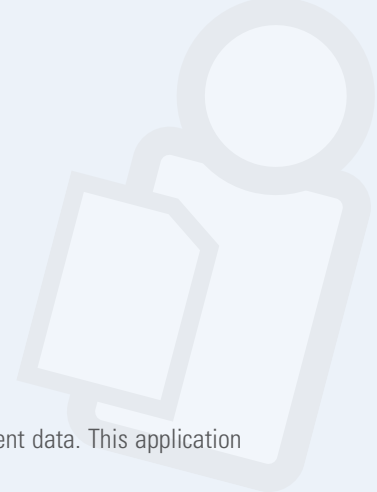
Systems and Methods for Managing Patient Preference Data - GE
Patent Application Publication #20080255875

This GE application, classified as 705, describes a method for healthcare professionals to manage patient data. This application was posted on Peer To Patent on October 16, 2008 and had 20 claims.

This application attracted a community of three legal professionals, two computer professionals, one engineer, and one patent professional. There were two comments posted in the discussion section, but no research items shared. In discussion, reviewers were encouraged to submit prior art for claims that are not novel:

Kamal Arvind: "Regarding Claim 1, I am confused how come GE is filing applications with so broad claims. I mean personally I do not see anything novel in claim 1."
Susan Murray: "If you do not see anything new in these claims, please submit prior art which discloses each of the claims elements."

Four pieces of prior art were submitted, one patent literature and three non-patent literature. None were annotated or rated.

Examiner Action:
In the first office action, the examiner did not cite community-submitted prior art as a rejection basis. However, U.S. patent 5,572,421, "Portable Medical Questionnaire Presentation Device," contributed by reviewer Sheldon Linker, a computer professional, was cited as pertinent. The second office action cited non-patent literature "Improving Health Care by Understanding Patient Preferences: The Role of Computer Technology," submitted by reviewer Diane Willis, a software developer, to reject claims 1–5, 7–8, 10, 12, and 15–18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

The third office action again referenced Ms. Willis' contribution to reject claims 16–17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). After amendments, this same prior art was used in a fourth office action. However, also referenced was a piece of non-patent literature contributed by reviewer Susan Murray of IBM titled "Handheld Technology to Improve Patient Care," to reject claims 1, 3–5, 7, 10–12, 18, 21, 23, 26–27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). In a fifth office action listed as final, Ms. Murray's contribution was again cited to reject claims 1, 3–5, 7, 11–12, 18, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) in addition to the Ms. Willis' submission to reject claims 16–17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). The application was ultimately abandoned on September 14, 2010.

Hybrid Robust Predictive Optimization Method of Power System Dispatch - GE
Patent Application Publication #20090062969

This GE application, classified as 700, describes a method of power system dispatch control by using a predictive algorithm. The inventor made the invention under a contract with the U.S. Department of Energy, and relates to the field of improving microgrid efficiency. The application had 34 claims and was posted on Peer To Patent on March 5, 2009.

The community for this application consisted of two legal professionals, one computer technologist, one graduate student, and one patent professional. No research items or discussion comments were posted. There were five pieces of prior art submitted, three of which were non-patent literature. These submissions were not annotated or rated.

COMMUNITY (5)		View All Community
2	Lawyer/Legal Professional	
1	Computer Professional/Technologist	
1	Grad/Undergrad Student	
1	Patent Professional/Searcher	

Examiner Action:

In the first office action, the patent examiner cited community-contributed prior art, "Optimal Participation of a Microgrid to the Energy Market with an Intelligent EMS," submitted by legal professional Mark Webbink to reject claims 1–6, 8, 11–17, 19, 22–29, 31, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). After amendments and a Request for Continued Examination, a second office action cited the same prior art to reject claims 1–6, 8, 11–17, 19, 22–29, 31, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). After further amendments, a third office action used this prior art to reject claims 1–6, 8, 11–17, 19, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). After a final round of amendments, this application was issued a Notice of Allowance on April 6, 2011.

Diagnosing Intermittent Faults - Palo Alto Research Center
Patent Application Publication #20080294578

This Palo Alto Research Center application, classified as 706, describes a method for diagnosing any persistent and intermittent faults. The application has 21 claims and was posted on Peer To Patent on November 27, 2008.

The community for this application included a computer professional, an engineer, and a science academic. No discussion comments or research items were posted. There was one piece of prior art that was submitted and it was not rated or annotated.

COMMUNITY (3)		View All Community
👤	1	Computer Professional/Technologist
👤	1	Engineer
👤	1	Science Academic/Professor

Examiner Action:
In the first office action, the patent examiner cited this prior art titled "Diagnosing Intermittent Faults in Telecommunications Networks," submitted by Diane Willis, to reject claims 1, 15, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and also claims 1, 2, 3, 5–7, 17, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). After amendments, the same prior art was utilized to reject claims 1, 15, 22, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and claims 1, 2, 3, 5–7, 16, 17, and 19–21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). After further amendments, this prior art was cited in the third office action to reject claims 1, 15, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and claims 2, 3, 5–7, 16, 17, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). The application was amended and ultimately received a Notice of Allowance on June 6, 2011.

Verification of Loadable Objects - Red Hat
Patent Application Publication #20080301712

This Red Hat application, classified as 719, describes an invention that relates to the method and apparatus of verifying loadable objects before loading them into memory. This application has 20 claims and was posted on Peer To Patent on December 4, 2008.

The community for this application consisted of two computer technologists and one academic technologist. Four pieces of patent literature were submitted as prior art. None were annotated or rated. There were four comments in the discussion section, but no research items were shared. In discussion, the community shared existing technology and encouraged each other to submit the references:

Carlos Perez: "Verifying loadable objects is quite common in byte code virtual machines systems such as the Java VM. See patent 6851108."

Diane Willis: "This looks to be a good piece of prior art for this patent application. Is it possible to establish the date for this prior art? I do see this at that URL: This page is specific to Microsoft Visual Studio 2003/.NET Framework 1.1. For the Patent Office to use this as prior art, please enter it in the Prior Art section via peertopatent.org. The Discussion section is not passed onto the Patent Office."

Conrad Herrmann: "Linkers have been placing checksums in executables for a very long time. There certainly has been one in the DOS linkers since the beginning."

Examiner Action:

The patent examiner did not cite any of these submissions in the first office action. In the second office action, U.S. patent 6,694,434, "Method and Apparatus for Controlling Program Execution and Program Distribution," submitted by reviewer Conrad Herrmann, an academic technologist, was used to reject claims 1–20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). This application has since been amended and awaits results from a Request of Continued Examination filed June 21, 2010.

Education System to Improve Online Reputation - eBay
Patent Application Publication #20090063248

This eBay application, classified as 705, describes an education system for improving the online reputation of buyers and sellers who engage in transactions in an Internet marketplace community. The application had 30 claims and was posted on Peer To Patent on March 5, 2009.

The community for this application consisted of a student, a computer technologist, and a lawyer. One comment was posted in the discussion section and no research items were shared. Four pieces of prior art were submitted and three of these submissions were non-patent literature. These prior art submissions were not annotated or rated.

COMMUNITY (3)		View All Community
1	Computer Professional/Technologist	
1	Grad/Undergrad Student	
1	Lawyer/Legal Professional	

Examiner Action:
In the first office action, the patent examiner cited U.S. patent 20,010,037,206, "Method and System for Automatically Generating Questions and Receiving Customer Feedback for Each Transaction," submitted by Diane Willis to reject dependent claims 13 and 24 under 35 U.S.C 103(a). The second, third, and fourth office actions used this prior art for the same claims and rejection basis. After further amendments, this application is currently under review. The examiner filed an Advisory Action on July 29, 2011.

Systems and Method for Encrypting Patient Data - GE
Patent Application Publication #20090110192

This GE patent application, classified as 380, describes a method for protecting electronic patient data by using biometric identifiers. The application had a total of 20 claims and was posted on Peer To Patent on April 30, 2009.

The community interested in this application comprised of two computer technologists, one engineer, and one patent professional. There were no discussion or research items posted. One piece of non-patent literature and two pieces of patent literature were submitted as prior art. These submissions were not annotated but all received one thumbs up by the community.

COMMUNITY (4)		View All Community
2	Computer Professional/Technologist	
1	Engineer	
1	Patent Professional/Searcher	
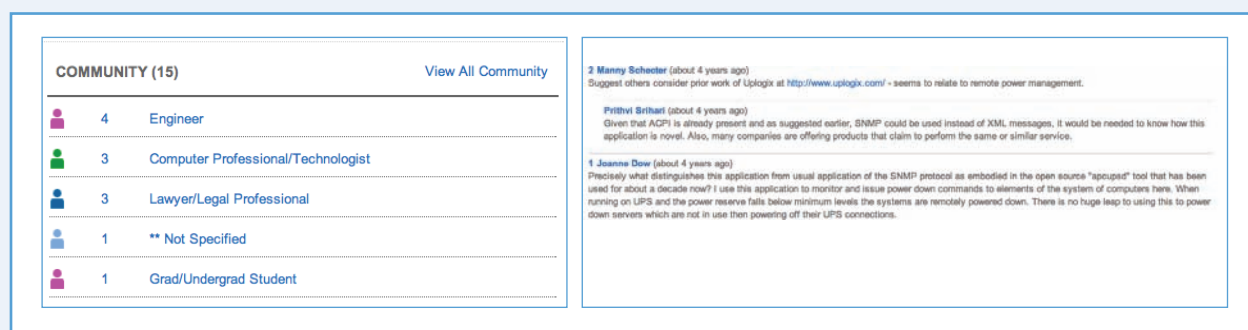
Examiner Action:
In the first office action, the examiner cited U.S. patent 20,040,129,787, "Secure Biometric Verification of Identity," submitted by Sujith Subramanian, a patent professional from India, to reject independent claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). After amendments, a second office action was issued using other prior art. This application was abandoned on January 6, 2011.

Method of Remotely Controlling the Power Consumption of One or More Servers - HP
Patent Application Publication #20080028242

This Hewlett-Packard application, classified as 713, describes a method for remotely controlling power consumption of a server by creating real time updates on the servers from remote locations. This application was posted on Peer To Patent on January 31, 2008 and had 20 claims.

This application garnered interest from 15 participants, including four engineers, three computer technologists, three lawyers, one graduate student, and one uncategorized reviewer. There were three comments posted in the discussion section and no research. In discussion, the community examined relevant technology:

Joanna Dow: "Precisely what distinguishes this application from usual application of the SNMP protocol as embodied in the open source 'apcupsd' tool that has been used for about a decade now? I use this application to monitor and issue power down commands to elements of the system of computers here. When running on UPS and the power reserve falls below minimum levels the systems are remotely powered down. There is no huge leap to using this to power down servers which are not in use then powering off their UPS connections."

Manny Schecter: "Suggest others consider prior work of Uplogix at http://www.uplogix.com/ - seems to relate to remote power management."

Prithvi Srihari: "Given that ACPI is already present and as suggested earlier, SNMP could be used instead of XML messages, it would be needed to know how this application is novel. Also, many companies are offering products that claim to perform the same or similar service."

The community submitted four pieces of patent literature and other four pieces were non-patent literature. Along with annotations, the community participated in rating the prior art submitted. Ultimately the prior art referenced in the office action was given a rating of two thumbs up.

Examiner Action:
In the first office action, the patent examiner cited U.S. patent application 20040255171 (now U.S. patent 7,051,215), "Power Management for Clustered Computing Platforms," submitted by Steven Pearson, an IBM engineer, to reject claims 1–3, 5, 8–10, 12, 15–16, 18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). The same prior art was used to also reject claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). After amendments, and two more office actions referencing the same prior art, this application was issued a Notice of Allowance on March 17, 2010.

Temporarily Relevant Data Placement - Intel
Patent Application Publication #20080104325

This Intel application, classified as 711, pertains to the field of data management in computer systems. This application was posted on Peer To Patent on May 1, 2008 and had 27 claims.

The community for this application comprised of two computer technologists, two legal academics, one engineer, and another with a background in computer sciences. Nine pieces of patent literature were submitted as prior art. Although not annotated, the submissions were rated. There were three comments posted in the discussion section, but no research items were shared. In discussion, the community worked together to distinguish what was being claimed in the application:

David Brown: "This is hierarchical storage management, moved from disk/tape storage to apply to slower and faster cache memories."

Diane Willis: "I agree. Do you know of any prior art related to cache memory? Also, I'm trying to understand the invention here; how this is different from what has already been done. Is it the idea of a 'monitor'?"

Tim Pepper: "The monitor part jumps out at me as well. The concept of monitors (e.g., Hoare) is well established in the art, but I don't think they meant it that way. Still, it is common for a programmer to explicitly place a lock and data together with the knowledge that common bus hardware will pull the data into a more local cache at the time of the lock acquisition . . . "

Examiner Action:
In the first office action, the examiner cited U.S. patent application 20060224860, "Apparatus and Method for Supporting Execution of Prefetch Threads," submitted by Diane Willis, to reject claims 7, 8, 11, 12, 17, 18, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Additionally, the patent examiner considered U.S. patent 6,711,651, "Method and Apparatus for History-based Movement of Shared-data in Coherent Cache Memories of a Multiprocessor System Using Push Prefetching," also submitted by Diane Willis, as pertinent. The application has since been amended and a Notice of Allowance was issued on June 30, 2010.

Ecosystem Allowing Compliance with Prescribed Requirements or Objectives - Goldman Sachs
Patent Application Publication #20080221945

This Goldman Sachs application, classified as 705, describes a method for creating and maintaining a financial ecosystem for participants to engage in activities that comply with internal and external qualifications, requirements, and conditions. This application was posted on Peer To Patent on September 11, 2008 and had 25 claims.

The community for this application garnered the attention of five legal professionals, one entrepreneur, one accountant, one engineer, one computer professional, one research scientist, one graduate student, and one uncategorized reviewer. There were six discussion comments and no research items shared. Five pieces of prior art were submitted, three of which were patent literature. The community participated in rating and annotating these submissions. In discussion, the community discussed the relevant prior art:

Michael Olenick: "This seems no different than any auction site that prequalifies people before they're invited to participate; no different than the myriad of other auction sites. There seems to be nothing here that's either original and non-obvious. That's not to say it isn't a good idea; just can't see how it'd be appropriate for patent protection."

Mark Nowotarski: "There appears to be a lot of earlier patent literature in this area. I uploaded a couple of examples. Anyone see any holes they could squeeze through?"

Alan King: "The third reference seems pretty relevant."
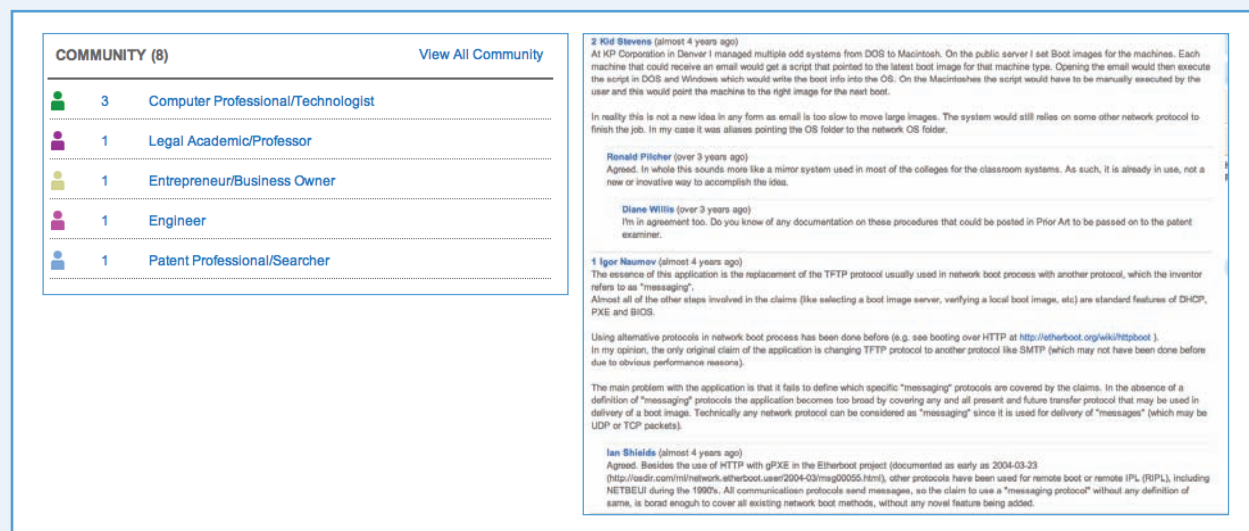
Examiner Action:
In the first office action, the examiner cited U.S. patent application 20030028467, "Method of Raising Capital for Early Stage Companies Through Broker-dealer," submitted by Mark Nowotarski, to reject claims 3–4, 10–11, 20–21, and 25 under 35 U.S.C 103(a). This prior art was again cited in the second office action to reject claims 3–4 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). This application has since amended and awaits the results from a Request for Continued Examination filed on September 13, 2010.

Booting Utilizing Electronic Mail - Intel
Patent Application Publication #20080162919

This Intel application, classified as 713, discusses a method of booting a computer system utilizing an electronic mail or messaging protocol. This was posted on Peer To Patent on July 3, 2008 and had 20 claims.

The community for this application included three computer technologists, one legal academic, one entrepreneur, one engineer, one patent searcher, and one uncategorized reviewers. There were five comments posted in the discussion section, but no research items were submitted. The community discussed key terms in the claims:

Igor Naumov: " . . . The main problem with the application is that it fails to define which specific 'messaging' protocols are covered by the claims. In the absence of a definition of 'messaging' protocols the application becomes too broad by covering any and all present and future transfer protocol that may be used in delivery of a boot image. Technically any network protocol can be considered as 'messaging' since it is used for delivery of 'messages' (which may be UDP or TCP packets)."
Ian Shields: "Agreed . . . All communications protocols send messages, so the claim to use a 'messaging protocol' without any definition of same, is broad enough to cover all existing network boot methods, without any novel feature being added."

The community submitted four pieces of prior art, three of which were non-patent literature. These submissions were annotated and rated.

Examiner Action:
In the first office action, the examiner did not cite any community-contributed prior art. In the second office action, U.S. patent application 20080155245, "Network Booting Apparatus and Method," submitted by Ankush Bedi, a patent professional from India, to reject claims 1, 9, and 17–20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). After amendments, the application was issued a Notice of Allowance on August 11, 2010.

Parameterized Test Driven Development - Microsoft
Patent Application Publication #20080307264

This Microsoft application, classified as 714, describes a method for automatically generating unit tests to help reduce the likelihood of developing software bugs during the coding process. This was posted on Peer To Patent on February 11, 2008 and has a total of 20 claims.

The community consisted of two patent professionals, two engineers, and two computer professionals. There was no discussion or research posted. The community submitted one piece of non-patent literature and two pieces of patent literature as prior art. All were rated but none annotated.

COMMUNITY (6)		View All Community
2	Patent Professional/Searcher	
2	Engineer	
1	Computer Professional/Technologist	
1	Other	

Examiner Action:

In the first office action, the examiner cited U.S. patent application 20080115114, "Automated Software Unit Testing," submitted by Jimmy Chen, a Beijing IBM patent agent, to reject dependent claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). After amendments, the application issued a Notice of Allowance on February 24, 2010.

Method for Providing Tissue Products Having Coordinating Décor Features - Proctor & Gamble
Patent Application Publication #20090119118

This Proctor & Gamble application, classified as 705, describes a method for customizing a tissue product that relate to home décor. The application had 13 claims and was posted on Peer To Patent on April 29, 2009.

The community for this application consisted of a computer technologist and a student. There were no discussion comments or research items posted. One piece of non-patent literature was submitted as prior art but it was not ranked or annotated.

COMMUNITY (2)		View All Community
1	Computer Professional/Technologist	
1	Grad/Undergrad Student	

Examiner Action:
In the first office action, the examiner cited "Custom Printed Toilet Paper" submitted by student reviewer Jason DeVeau-Rosen, to reject claims 1 and 8–9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Additionally, this prior art was used to reject claims 2–7, 10, and 11–12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). After amendments, a second and third office action was issued using the same prior art to invalidate claims 1 and 3–12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). This application was abandoned on February 25, 2011.

Exclusive Encryption System - *Pro Se*
Patent Application Publication #20090129585

This *Pro Se* application, classified as 380, describes an invention relating to encryption systems. Specifically, it discusses an exclusive encryption system that employs a unique encryption algorithm for each implementation. This application was posted on Peer To Patent on May 21, 2009 and had 22 claims.

The community for this application consisted of a computer professional and a legal professional. There was no discussion or research posted. Each reviewer contributed a piece of non-patent literature as prior art, neither had ratings or annotations.

COMMUNITY (2)		View All Community
1	Computer Professional/Technologist	
1	Lawyer/Legal Professional	

Examiner Action:
In the first office action, the examiner cited "Specification for the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)," submitted by Susan Murray, to reject independent claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C 102(b). After amendments, this application was issued a Notice of Allowance on June 2, 2010.

System and Method Providing Secure Access to a Computer System - *Pro Se* Weatherford
Patent Application Publication #20090089450

This *Pro Se* application, classified as 709, describes a method for providing secure access to a computer system by dividing the password into multiple segments and placing them in data packets. This application had a total of 26 claims and was posted on Peer To Patent on April 2, 2009.

COMMUNITY (1)		View All Community
👤	1	Computer Professional/Technologist

Examiner Action:

There was a community reviewer for this application, Diane Willis, who submitted one piece of patent literature as prior art. The patent examiner used this piece of prior art, U.S. patent 20,030,101,339 (patented 7,142,672 but now expired due to nonpayment of maintenance fees under 37 CFR 1.362), "Method and System for Transmitting Sensitive Information over a Network," to reject claims 21 and 24 under U.S.C. 102(b). After amendments, this application was issued a Notice of Allowance on July 14, 2010.

Medication Identifying and Organizing System - *Pro Se* Kelsch
Patent Application Publication #20090144087

This *Pro Se* application, classified as 705, describes a method of assisting a patient in identifying, sorting, and administering medication accurately by electronically accessing a database of color photographs of the specific medications. This application was posted on Peer To Patent on June 11, 2009 and had six claims.

The community for this application comprised a computer technologist and a law student with a biotechnology background. There was no discussion or research posted for this application. The community posted one patent literature and one non-patent literature. There were no annotations or ratings posted for these pieces of prior art.

COMMUNITY (2)		View All Community
1	Computer Professional/Technologist	
1	Other	

Examiner Action:
In the first office action, the patent examiner cited the non-patent literature "EPS - Extended Pharmacy Services," submitted by Diane Willis, to reject claims 1–3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). In the same office action, U.S. patent 5,597,995 "Automated Medical Prescription Fulfillment System Having Work Stations for Imaging, Filling, and Checking the Dispensed Drug Product," also submitted by Ms. Willis, was considered pertinent. After amendments, this prior art was again used to reject claim 4 under the same rejection basis. This application was abandoned on October 23, 2010.

Method and Apparatus for Delivering Device Drivers - Sun Microsystems Inc.
Patent Application Publication #20070162625

This Sun Microsystems application, classified as 710, describes a method for delivering a device driver to an operating system without user intervention. This was posted on Peer To Patent July 12, 2007 and had 20 claims.

The community for this application comprised 23 reviewers, including 11 computer technologists, four patent professionals, two engineers, one laborer, and one graduate student. There were 16 comments posted in the discussion section, and no research items were shared. In discussion, the community walked through the application to evaluate the technology being claimed:

Teddi Maranzano: "I read it that they are talking about vmware containers that can be moved from one h/w platform to another, so that's running an old OS on a newer platform. They're also talking about needing a new driver for a newly installed bit of h/w, and also about updating an existing driver to a newer version. It has to be Non-volatile RAM or other solid state so that the drivers are available prior to OS initialization. This may be beyond the scope of the application, but how would you update the service processor? Through firmware updates to the h/w platform?"

Alex Young: "That's out of scope, because they aren't claiming anything related to updating the service processor. That being said, I'd handle it with a privileged management OS that downloaded updates over the network and handed them off to the hypervisor for storage via a virtual device driver."

The community submitted 10 pieces of prior art, seven of which were patent literature. These submissions were rated, with one being annotated. The prior art cited in the office action was given a rating of six thumbs up.

Examiner Action:
In the first office action, the examiner cited U.S. patent 5,815,731, "Method and System for Providing Device Driver Configurations on Demand," submitted by patent professional Kent Williams, to reject claims 2–4, 10, 15, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). After amendments, this application was issued a Notice of Allowance on October 28, 2008.
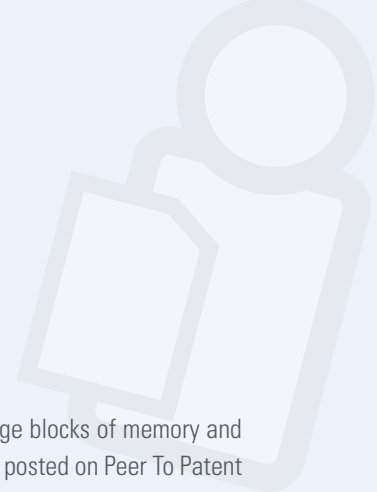
Modified Buddy System Memory Allocation - HP
Patent Application Publication #20080104353

This HP application, classified as 711, describes memory allocation systems that are used to receive large blocks of memory and then break them into smaller blocks of memory to allow for the proper memory size. This application was posted on Peer To Patent May 1, 2008 and had 20 claims.

The community for this application consisted of one computer professional, one engineer, and one legal academic. There were two comments posted in the discussion section, but no research items were shared. Three pieces of non-patent literature were submitted as prior art, one of which was rated, but none were annotated.

COMMUNITY (3)		View All Community
1	Computer Professional/Technologist	
1	Engineer	
1	Legal Academic/Professor	

Examiner Action:
In the first office action, the examiner cited "Tailored-List and Recombination-Delaying Buddy Systems," submitted by IBM computer technologist Ian Shields, to reject claims 1–5, 7–10, 13–16, and 19–20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). After amendments, this prior art was used to reject claims 1–3, 5, 7–10, 13–16, and 19–20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in the second office action. Following further amendments, this application was issued a Notice of Allowance on October 27, 2009.

Smart, Secured Remote Patient Registration Workflow Systems and Methods Using a Kiosk model - GE
Patent Application Publication #20090006439

This GE application, classified as 707, describes a remote patient registration and the use of a patient kiosk. This application was posted on Peer To Patent January 1, 2009 and had 26 claims.
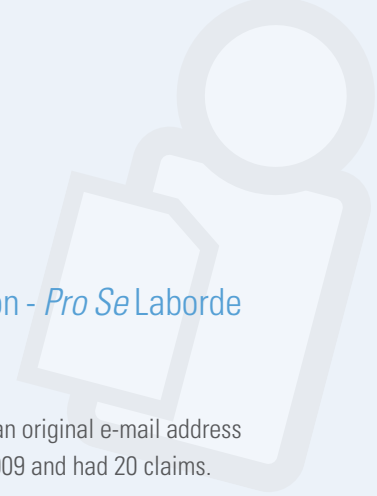
The community for this application consisted of two lawyers, two computer professionals, one entrepreneur, one student, one patent professional, and one engineer. There was one comment posted in the discussion section and no research shared. The community contributed four pieces of patent literature as prior art, none of which were annotated or rated.

Examiner Action:

In the first office action, the patent examiner cited U.S. patent application 20040186744 (also referenced as WO2004084034), "Patient registration kiosk," submitted by an IP law counsel at IBM Research in Switzerland, Peter Klett. Also cited was U.S. patent application 20040138924, "System and method for intake of a patient in a hospital emergency room," submitted by Susan Murray. These were both used to reject claims 1, 4–11, 14–23, 25, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Additionally, U.S. patent application 20060106646, "Medical Kiosk with Multiple Input Sources," and WO2006071634, "System and method for managing medical facility procedures and records," were cited as pertinent. After amendments, a second office action was issued again utilizing the U.S. patent applications 20040186744 and US20040138924 to reject claims 1, 4–5, 8, and 27 under 103(a). The application was ultimately abandoned on June 26, 2007.

System and Method for Unsolicited Electronic Mail Identification and Evasion - *Pro Se* Laborde
Patent Application Publication #20090144374

This *Pro Se* application, classified as 709, describes a method to avoid unsolicited e-mails by examining an original e-mail address by generating a new unique e-mail address. This application was posted on Peer To Patent on June 4, 2009 and had 20 claims.

The community for this application consisted of two engineers, one computer professional, and one student. There was one comment posted in the discussion section and no research shared. There were two pieces of patent literature submitted as prior art. These were not ranked or annotated.

COMMUNITY (4)		View All Community
👤	2	Engineer
👤	1	Computer Professional/Technologist
👤	1	Grad/Undergrad Student

Examiner Action:

In the first office action, the patent examiner cited U.S. patent 20,020,129,111, "Filtering Unsolicited E-mail," submitted by Diane Willis, to reject claims 1–3 and 11–12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and claims 4–12 and 13–20 under U.S.C. 103(a). After receiving this non-final rejection, the application was abandoned on November 30, 2007.

Method and System for Loan Application Non-acceptance Follow-up -
Purpose Intellectual Property Management
Patent Application Publication #20090063329

This Purpose Intellectual Property Management application, classified as 705, discusses a method for online financial lending systems, specifically, technology relating to an online loan application system. This application was posted on Peer To Patent March 5, 2009 and has 20 claims.

The community for this application consisted of one computer technologist and two lawyers. There were no comments posted in the discussion or research shared. There were three pieces of prior art submitted, two of which were patent literature. These were not ranked or annotated.

COMMUNITY (4)		View All Community
2	Engineer	
1	Computer Professional/Technologist	
1	Grad/Undergrad Student	

Examiner Action:
In the first office action, the patent examiner did not use any of the community-contributed prior art. After amendments, the second office action cited U.S. patent 6,611,816, "Method and Computer Network for Co-coordinating a Loan over the Internet," submitted by Mark Webbink, to reject claims 1–4 and 12–17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). The current status of the application is On Appeal -- Awaiting Decision by the Board of Appeals.

Multiple Multipathing Software Modules on a Computer System - VMWare, Inc.
Patent Application Publication #20090119685

This VMWare application, classified as 719, describes a method for enabling a computer system to run multiple multipathing software modules. This application was posted to Peer To Patent on June 5, 2009 and has 17 claims. Reviewer Diane Willis was the sole participant in this community. She submitted one piece of non-patent literature as prior art.

COMMUNITY (1)		View All Community
👤	1	Computer Professional/Technologist

Examiner Action:

The examiner did not use community-contributed prior art in the first office action. This application was then emended. However, in the second office action, the examiner cited community-contributed prior art. This office action, designated as final, cited "Configuring Linux to Enable Multipath I/O" to reject claims 1–8 and 14–17 under a 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection basis. After amendments, this application was issued a Notice of Allowance on October 20, 2010.

Appendix 1: Office Actions

Prior Art Submissions that Helped the Examiner's Search

Register Tracking for Speculative Prefetching - Intel
Patent Application Publication #20070118696

This Intel application, classified as class 711, describes an apparatus and method for prefetching based on register tracking. The application had 17 claims and was posted on Peer To Patent on May 24, 2007.

The community for this application consisted of 16 people, including four legal professionals, three computer professionals, two legal academics, one engineer, and three uncategorized contributors. There were 15 comments posted in the discussion section and five pieces of research shared.

Four pieces of prior art were posted, two of which were non-patent literature. All four pieces of prior art that were posted were rated, but none were annotated. Despite these prior art submissions, none were used as a rejection basis in the first office action, although they were cited as pertinent in the examiner's research strategy. After amendments, a piece of non-patent literature posted in the discussion was cited in the second office action, titled "Speculative Precomputation" by Jamison D. Collins, posted by Keith O'Neill, a computer professional. This was used to reject claims 1–5, 10–18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). The examiner also relied on another paper by Collins, "Speculative Precomputation: Long-Range Prefetching of Delinquent Loads," in the second office action. Additionally, a co-author of the community-posted Collins paper, D. Lavery, is an inventor on a secondary reference relied on by the examiner to reject claims. Ultimately, the application was abandoned on March 6, 2009.

Off-line Economies for Digital Media - Microsoft
Patent Application Publication #20070136608

This Microsoft application, classified as 713, described a method to perform secure off-line transfers between a buyer and a seller. The application had 22 claims and was posted on Peer To Patent on June 14, 2007.

The community on this application consisted of 20 people, including five computer professionals, five engineers, two students, two academic engineers, and two legal professionals. Twenty-four comments were posted in the discussion section, and one piece of research was shared. Seven pieces of prior art were submitted, including five pieces of patent literature. All seven pieces were rated positively, and one piece contained annotations.

In the first office action, the examiner did not cite community-contributed prior art, but comments posted in the discussion section by reviewer Brian Regence were used. In Mr. Regence's comments he directs the reader to a blog entry for "Digital Music News." The examiner used this reference to reject claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Proof of the influence this discussion post had was evidenced in the examiner's search where both "Weedshare" and "John Beezer" were referenced. After amendments, a Notice of Allowance was issued on August 23, 2010.

Automated Sequential Imaging of Selected Computer Produced Pages of Data Associated with Designated Text Data Objects Listed on Automated Permutations of Data Tables - *Pro Se* Listou
Patent Application Publication #20090138797

This *Pro Se* application, classified as 715, describes a method for visual examination of data allowing computer users to rapidly view similar pages related to other selected text data objects. This application was posted on Peer To Patent on May 28, 2009 and has two claims.

The community for this application consisted of three computer professionals, one legal professional, and one research scientist. There were 10 comments posted in the discussion section and no research items shared. Two pieces of patent literature were posted as prior art, but were not annotated or ranked. In the discussion section, a reviewer posted potential references, the community promptly encouraged him to post these to the prior art section:

Darius Slavietz: "1] U.S. Patent No. 6,134,564 Automated permutation of data tables; and concurrent and coordinated imaging of graphics associated with items on the data table. Expires 2017 . . . "
Susan Murray: "Darius, If you're suggesting any of this is prior art, please submit it through the Prior Art Page so that the PTO can consider it. They won't necessarily read this discussion. Tx."

Examiner Action:
In the first office action, the examiner did not cite the community-contributed prior art. However, the examiner based a non-final rejection on a prior art reference raised in discussion by reviewer Darius Slavietz, a forensic expert. In discussion, Mr. Slavietz posted a link to U.S. patent 6,134,564 "Automated Permutation of Data Table; and concurrent and coordinated imaging of graphics associated with items on the data table." This reference was used to reject claims 1–2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). The item has the same inventor as the application under review and is cross-referenced in the application as a related application. The application was abandoned on February 18, 2010.

Appendix 2: Examiner Survey

1. Reviewer Information

Thank you for your participation in the Peer-to-Patent Pilot Program. We are currently working on compiling data for our Second Anniversary Report, to be released in mid-June. We ask that you please take a few minutes of your time to complete the following questionnaire about the pilot. The sooner you can respond to the survey, the more likely we will be able to use your responses in preparing our report. Your responses will not only help us improve our system, but they will also help the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determine if the patent examination process should be opened up for greater public participation.

The survey consists of 47 questions, some of which ask for explanations and none of which are required. We ask, however, that you provide us with as much feedback as possible.

You are welcome to complete the survey anonymously but if you wish to receive a Peer-to-Patent commemorative T-shirt, you will need to provide us with your name and address.

New applications will continue to be posted until June 15, 2009, and we hope that you will sign up to participate again as well as continue to spread the word to friends. Please feel free to e-mail us at info@peertopatent.org. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

1. Name

2. Gender

◯ Male   ◯ Female

3. Organization or Firm

4. Professional Role / Job Title

5. How many years in this position?

6. Please briefly describe the work you perform at your job:

7. Please list (separated by commas) your areas of technical expertise:

8. Please list (separated by commas) your areas of legal expertise:

9. Please tell us about your academic degrees and concentrations. Use commas to list multiple concentrations within a degree.

B.A.

B.S. or equivalent

Master's

M.D.

J.D.

Ph.D.

Additional Information

10. Please assess your training in the subject matter of this patent application:

◯ Expert   ◯ Some Professional Familiarity   ◯ Hobbyist   ◯ No Prior Knowledge

11. Please assess your experience with the patent process:

◯ Expert   ◯ Knowledgeable   ◯ Some Knowledge   ◯ No Prior Knowledge

12. Please assess your comfort level with patents and patent applications:

◯ I am not at all comfortable with this subject matter   ◯ Hard Work but Doable   ◯ Easy Reading

13. Prior to participating in this process, did you understand the meaning of "prior art"?

◯ Yes   ◯ No   ◯ Never heard of it

Explain

14. Subsequent to participating in this process, do you understand the meaning of "prior art"?

◯ Yes   ◯ No   ◯ Never heard of it

Explain

2. Application - Specific Questions

15. Have you ever joined the review process for any application?

◯ Yes   ◯ No

16. If you answered "Yes" to question 15, when did you typically join the review process?

◯ First Month   ◯ Second Month   ◯ Third Month   ◯ Towards the End

17. If you answered "Yes" to question 15, how often did you participate over the course of the public review?

◯ Daily   ◯ Weekly   ◯ Monthly   ◯ Once or Twice and Never Came Back

18. On any application, which of the following did you do? (check all that apply)

☐ Read the Application   ☐ Submit Research

☐ Post to the Discussion Forum   ☐ Annotate Prior Art

☐ Submit Prior Art   ☐ Rate Prior Art

Other (please specify)

[   ]

19. On average, how did you spend your time on each facet of any ONE application?

	Time
Total time spent on patent application	
Time spent reviewing/reading the application	
Time spent discussing the application in the discussion area	
Time spent annotating/rating submissions from others in the community	

20. How many applications have you joined in on the review process?

◯ None   ◯ One   ◯ Two   ◯ Three   ◯ Four or more

21. If you submitted prior art, did you have to research that reference or was it something you already knew of and had handy?

◯ Researched the prior art

◯ Knew about the source but had to go find it

◯ Knew about the source but had to check the cite

◯ Had it handy
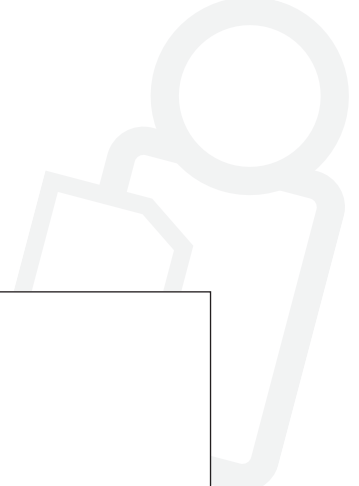
22. How difficult were the applications to read and understand?

◯ Impossibly difficult to understand

◯ Understandable

◯ Easier than most patent applications

◯ Among the easiest to examine that I've seen

Explain

23. What informational tools or Web sites did you consult? (i.e., USPTO Web site, Google Patent Search, Way Back Machine, LexisNexis, Westlaw, etc.)

24. How would you assess the expertise of other members of the team of reviewers?

◯ High Level

◯ Mixed Levels

◯ Low Level

Explain

25. On a scale of 1 (not at all informative or relevant) to 10 (highly informative or relevant), how would you rate the following on any application you have joined in on the review process for:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	N/A
Discussion	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Prior Art Submissions	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Prior Art Annotations	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

Explain

26. How would you assess the relevance of your work to the examination process of the USPTO?

◯ Highly Relevant

◯ Somewhat Relevant

◯ Not Likely to Be Considered

◯ I Don't Know

Explain

27. Would you have been willing to spend additional time on any application?

◯ Yes   ◯ No

Explain

28. Would you participate in the examination of another Peer-to-Patent application?

◯ Yes, I am already signed up for an additional application

◯ Yes, but currently I am not signed up for another application

◯ No

Explain

29. Why did you participate in Peer-to-Patent?

☐ Competitive Interest

☐ Interest in ensuring good quality patents in general

☐ Interest in ensuring good quality patents in this area of science

☐ Desire to distinguish myself professionally / Develop reputation

☐ Desire to be part of a community of practice / Conversation in a particular area of innovation

☐ Interest in and desire to contribute to patent reform / Improving patent quality

☐ Interest in (positive or negative) a particular patentee / assignee

☐ Desire to contribute to open decision-making and encourage more of the same

☐ Desire to weaken a patent by finding prior art to narrow its claims or defeat the patent

☐ Desire to strengthen a patent by finding prior art to hone the claims

☐ Academic credit

Other (please specify)

30. How helpful was participation in this pilot program to achieving the goals you selected in the previous question?

◯ Very Helpful   ◯ Helpful   ◯ Somewhat Helpful   ◯ Not Helpful

Explain

31. Please add any other general comments about your participation:

3. Peer-to-Patent Format

32. Did the Peer-to-Patent site clearly explain what to do?

◯ Yes   ◯ No

Explain

33. Did you know what was expected of you?

◯ Yes   ◯ No

Explain

34. Was the presentation of prior art submissions clear and well formatted?

◯ Yes

◯ No

Explain

35. Was the presentation of research resources clear and well formatted?

◯ Yes

◯ No

Explain

36. Was the presentation of discussion on the application clear and well formatted?

◯ Yes

◯ No

Explain
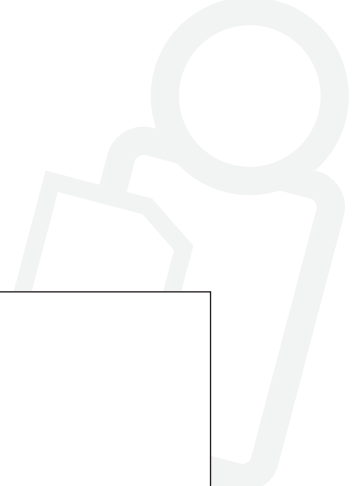
37. Did you use any of the following functions (click all that apply):

- [ ] Subscribing to a Class/Subclass
- [ ] Search by Class/Subclass
- [ ] Invite a Reviewer
- [ ] Tutorials
- [ ] Add a Tag
- [ ] Search by Tag
- [ ] Most Active Teams
- [ ] Applications in Need
- [ ] News
- [ ] Sharing Icons (Facebook, Digg, etc.)
- [ ] Notifications via RSS Feed
- [ ] Notifications of New Applications by E-mail
- [ ] None

38. What suggestions do you have to improve the format of the Peer-to-Patent Web site?

39. Do you think that a program like Peer-to-Patent (third-party submissions of prior art) should be incorporated into regular USPTO practice?

- ( ) Yes
- ( ) No

Explain

40. Is there value to public participation in patent examination?

- ( ) Yes
- ( ) No

Explain

41. What is your perception of the patent system in the United States?
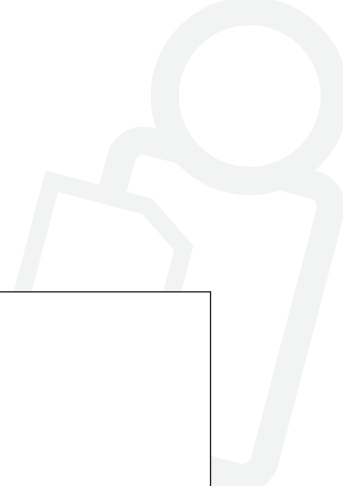
42. Overall, were you satisfied with the experience of Peer-to-Patent?

○ Yes   ○ No

Explain

43. Additional Feedback
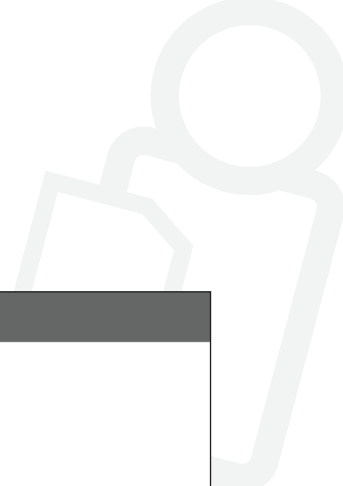
4. USPTO Feedback

44. Did the USPTO use material that you submitted?

◯ Yes

◯ No

◯ Don't Know

Explain

45. If yes, what material was used? (Check all that apply)

☐ Prior Art

☐ Research

☐ Annotations

Explain

46. Were you satisfied with the feedback from the USPTO?

◯ Yes

◯ No

Explain

47. If you would like to receive a free T-shirt for participating in Peer-to-Patent, please fill out the address form below:

Name:

T-Shirt Size (S, M, L, XL):

Address:

Address 2:

City/Town:

State/Province:

ZIP/Postal Code:

Country:

Peer-to-Patent thanks you for participating in the pilot program and providing valuable feedback.

1. Examiner Background

Please Note: Did you examine more than one peer review pilot application? If so, please provide a separate survey response for each of the pilot applications.

＊1. Please click on your areas of technical expertise (click on all that apply):

☐ 380	☐ 711
☐ 700	☐ 712
☐ 703	☐ 713
☐ 705	☐ 714
☐ 706	☐ 715
☐ 707	☐ 717
☐ 708	☐ 718
☐ 709	☐ 719
☐ 710	☐ 726

＊2. Please briefly describe your work experience prior to working at the USPTO.

2. Application-Specific Questions

Please Note: Did you examine more than one peer review pilot application? If so, please provide a separate survey response for each of the pilot applications.

* 1. Did you find the art submitted by the peer reviewers during the examination of this application helpful?

◯ Yes

◯ Somewhat

◯ Neutral

◯ Not at All

Please Explain

[text field]

* 2. What information tools did you use to conduct your search (e.g., EAST, WEST, PLUS, Dialog, Internet, ... etc.)? Please list all resources considered.

[text field]

* 3. Was any prior art submitted by the peer reviewers inaccessible by PTO resources?

◯ Yes

◯ No

◯ Don't Know

Please Explain

[text field]

3. Peer-to-Patent Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Questions

Please Note: Did you examine more than one peer review pilot application? If so, please provide a separate survey response for each of the pilot applications.

* 1. When was the Peer-to-Patent prior art submission provided to you?

◯ Before Initial Examination

◯ After Initial Examination

2. If before, did the Peer-to-Patent prior art submission provide you with any information to aid with your search?

◯ Yes, very helpful

◯ Yes, somewhat helpful

◯ No, not helpful

◯ It was irrelevant

◯ Other, please describe

3. If before, did the Peer-to-Patent list of research resources assist with your search?

◯ Yes, very helpful

◯ Yes, somewhat helpful

◯ No, not helpful

◯ It was irrelevant

◯ No research resources were provided

◯ Other, please describe

4. If after, did the Peer-to-Patent prior art submission contain information, that you used in an Office Action, that was not turned up during your search?

◯ Yes

◯ No

◯ Other, please describe
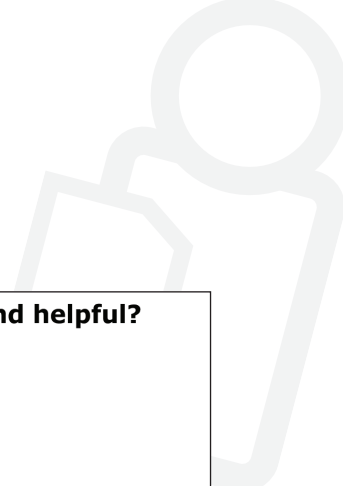
* 5. Which aspects of the Peer-to-Patent prior art submissions did you find helpful? [Check all that apply]

☐ Peer-to-Patent Prior Art IDS

☐ Peer-to-Patent Annotations on the Prior Art

☐ Peer-to-Patent Research Resources

☐ Peer-to-Patent Discussion

Please Explain

* 6. Did you apply prior art references from the Peer-to-Patent prior art submission (whether or not turned up in your own searches as well)?

○ Yes

○ No

* 7. Which references were used to reject any claims in the examination of this patent application?

* 8. Were any claim(s) indicated allowable?

○ Yes

○ No

If yes, during which stage of the prosecution were they indicated allowable? [e.g., first office action, after amendment, etc.]

4. Peer-to-Patent Format

Please Note: Did you examine more than one peer review pilot application? If so, please provide a separate survey response for each of the pilot applications.

* 1. Was the presentation of the Peer-to-Patent Prior Art submission clear and well formatted?

◯ Yes

◯ No

Please Explain

* 2. Was the presentation of Peer-to-Patent Annotations on Prior Art clear and well formatted?

◯ Yes

◯ No

Please Explain

* 3. Was the presentation of Peer-to-Patent Research Resources clear and well formatted?

◯ Yes

◯ No

Please Explain

* 4. Was the presentation of Peer-to-Patent Discussion on the application clear and well formatted?
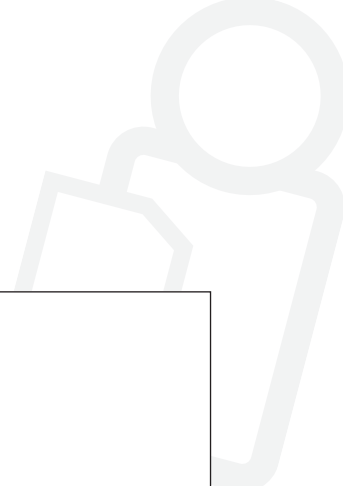
◯ Yes

◯ No

Please Explain

* 5. Were the Prior Art references complete?

◯ Yes

◯ No

Please Explain

✱ 6. How helpful was participation in this pilot program?

- ◯ Very helpful
- ◯ Somewhat helpful
- ◯ Not very helpful
- ◯ Not helpful at all

Please Explain

7. If helpful, what part of the Peer-to-Patent program did you find particularly helpful?

8. What suggestions do you have to improve the Peer-to-Patent pilot?

✱ 9. Would you welcome examining another Peer-to-Patent application?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ Indifferent

Please Explain

✱ 10. Do you think that a program like Peer-to-Patent (third-party submissions of prior art) would be useful if it were incorporated into regular Office practice?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

Please Explain

✱ 11. Would the Peer-to-Patent program be helpful in doing your job?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

Please Explain

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LAW SCHOOL**