

Paperless administrative procedure: Experience of FI

Protection and Access to Innovation in the Net

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Finnish Information Society

- The Finnish Information Society Strategy Plan emphasises:
 - E-commerce
 - Networking
 - Innovativeness
- The role of the public sector is to develop the framework for information society activities.

Finnish Information Society

- Information society plan for public administration
- Initiatives to improve efficiency, flexibility and quality of services in administration
 - Identity Card Law 1.12.1999
 - Electronic identity card FINEID
 - Act on Electronic Service (e-commerce) in the Administration 1.1.2000
 - Provisions on certificates and certification authorities

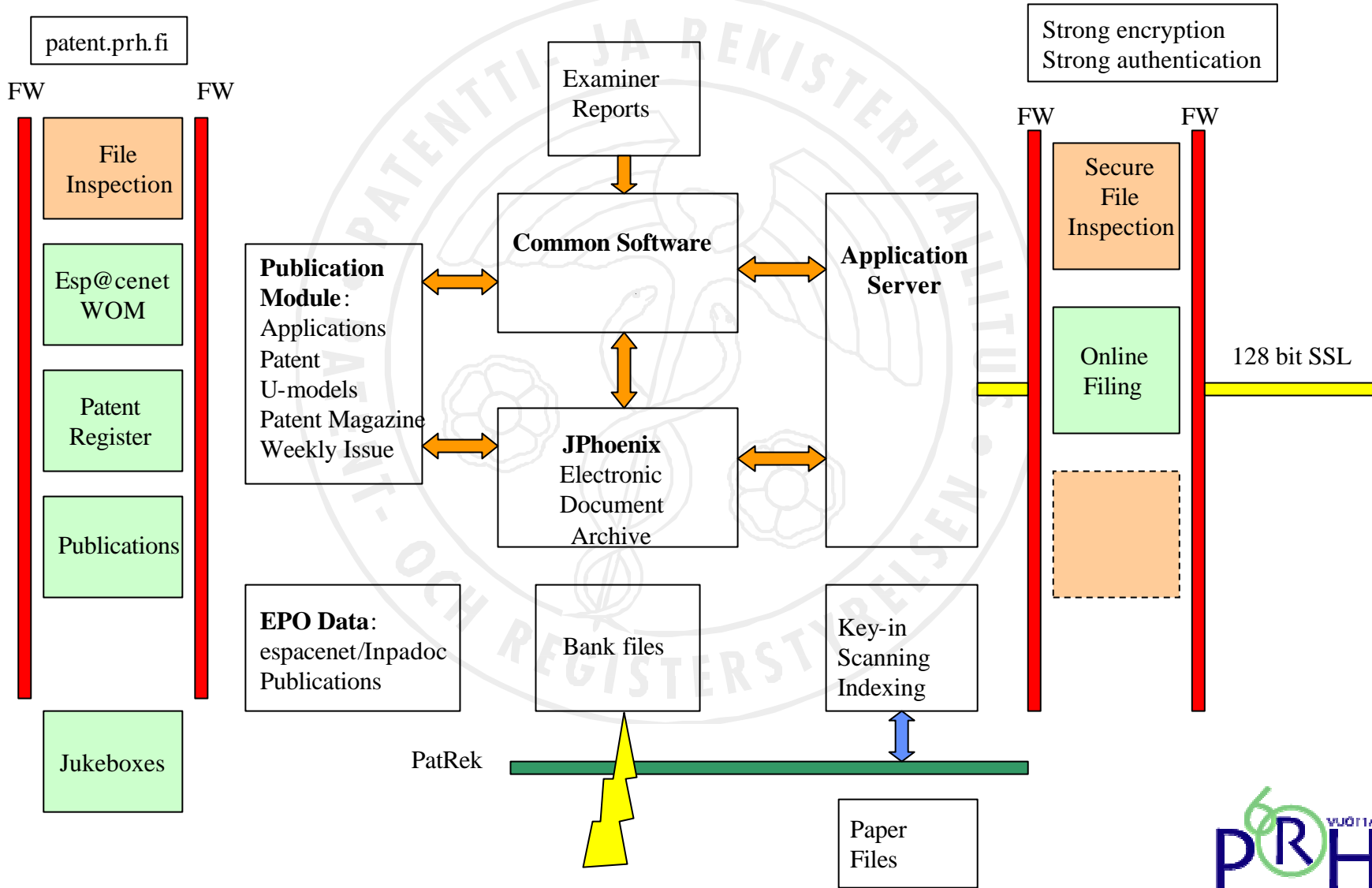
The role of the Finnish Patent Office

The strategic function of the Finnish Patent Office is to further technical and economic development and cooperation.

E-commerce projects of the Finnish Patent Office

- Online filing of applications
- Electronic correspondence
- File inspections
- Electronic payments
- Patent information services

FI Patent Data Flow



PRH-epoline cooperation

Pending projects:

- Common Software – administrative system
- Online filings
 - OLF - EASY project
- Phoenix - Electronic archive system
 - File inspections
- Patent Register “WebRegister” 2002

Act on eServices in the public administration

- Creates the legal framework for eServices in the public administration
- No need to change patent act to enable online filings
- New rules and annex for online filing

Online Filing rules

New filing rule article:

- Application can be filed online or using CD-R
- Rules for online filing in annex
- Annex will be applied also to CD-R filings
 - CD-R application has to be filed together with application form with hand written signature
 - CD-R will be used for "Mega applications"

Online Filing rules

New annex for online filing 01.04.2001:

- Act for eServices will be applied
- EPO filing standard will be applied
 - Except signatures, FINEID card has to be used
 - WIPO filing standard ?.2002?
- Filing software will be provided free of charge by PRH
- FINEID identity card
 - PKI digital signature

FINEID

Electronic identity card

- Will be used in Finnish Patent Office in electronic services for authentication and for digital signature:
 - online filings
 - secure file inspection
 - filing PCT applications
- Can be used also filing:
 - EP applications

FI Online Filing

- If online filing successful receipt will be delivered in the end of session
 - Online filings have own application number series starting from YYYY5001
- Online filing server is running 7/24 but Office opening hours from 08.00-20.00 from Monday to Friday
 - Filings received after office hours will be received on next office day

FI Online filing

- FI OLF deployment phase I
 - Production starting day 17.04.2001
- FI eOLF deployment phase II
 - New epoline software v1.10, 17.05.2002
 - Drafting, signing and submission as own phases
 - New FI-client with FI-EP translation module
- FI eOLF deployment phase III
 - Epoline OLF v.2.0 Q1.2003
 - More user friendly new FI client
 - Other FI communications

FI user experiences and conclusions?

- Users are interested but still in observer status
- Document formats? PDF? XML?
- Other communications (subsequent filings)
- Demand for PCT-e filings
- Network solution
 - Multi-user support
- Revision of eService act

FI user experiences and conclusions?

- Unstoppable progress to changeover to paperless administration has started
 - Change your working processes
- Transparency of administration
- Increased quality of services
- Cost benefits
 - Decreased clerical work
 - Decreased paper handling work
- Independent from time and place

The Finnish Office *esp@cenet* project:

- Public access to the national register via *esp@cenet*
- Extension of the *esp@cenet* coverage:
All Finnish patent publications will be available in Finnish language:
 - All FI patents from number 1 since 1842
 - Public access to FI-EP patent translations
 - Public access to Finnish abstracts



Thank you for attention!

