

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Business Methods Customer Partnership Meeting

Director's Update FY2017 Q4

Tariq Hafiz

Director

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PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Business Methods Art Units and SPEs

Workgroups	Director	Telephone Number
3620, 3680, 3690	Tariq Hafiz	571-272-5350

Art Unit	Art Description	SPE	Telephone Number
3621	Incentive Programs, Coupons	Rutao (Rob) Wu	(571)272-3136
3622a		Eric Stamber	(571)272-6724
3622b		Nathan Uber	(571)270-3923
3681		Fonya Long	(571)272-6811
3682		Namrata Boveja (Pinky)	(571)272-8105
3688		Amanda Abrahamson	(571)270-1376
3623a	Operations Research	Beth Boswell	(571)272-6737
3623b		Matthew Gart	(571)272-3955
3624		Anita Coupe	571-270-3614
3683		Peter H. Choi	(571)272-6971
3625a	E - Shopping	Jeff Smith	(571)272-6763
3625b		Marissa Thein	(571)272-6764
3684		Jason Dunham	(571)272-8109
3626	Health Care	Robert Morgan	(571)272-6773
3686a		Elaine Gort	(571)272-6787
3686b		Victoria Shumate	(313)446-4858

Art Unit	Art Description	SPE	Telephone Number
3627	Point of Sale, Inventory, Accounting	Florian (Ryan) Zeender	(571)272-6790
3687		Fahd Obeid	(571)270-3324
3628a	Cost/Price, Reservations, Shipping, Transportation	Shannon Campbell	(571)272-5587
3628b		Kevin Flynn	(571)270-3108
3629	Business Processing, Electronic Negotiation	Lynda Jasmin	(571)272-6811
3689		Janice Mooneyham	(571)272-6805
3685a	Business Cryptography, Voting	Calvin Hewitt	(571)272-6709
3685b		John Hayes	(571)272-6708
3691	Insurance, Banking and Finance	Alexander Kalinowski	(571)272-6771
3692		Sarah Monfeldt	(571)270-1833
3693		Shahid Merchant	(571)270-1360
3694		Kambiz Abdi	(571)272-6702
3695		Ryan Donlon	(571)270-3602

Business Methods Quality Specialists

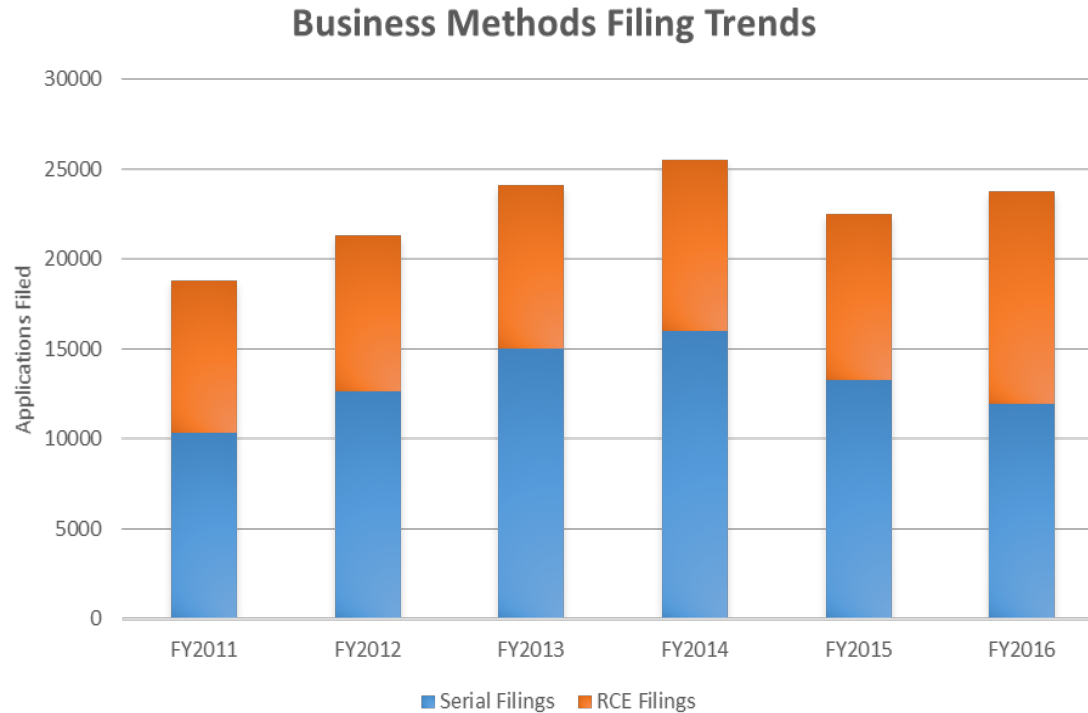
The mission of the quality specialist is to ensure that USPTO wide quality initiatives are successfully administered and the quality needs of work groups and art units are met by providing support to examiners, supervisors and support staff.

Workgroups	Title	Specialist	Telephone Number
3620s 3680s	TQAS	Jamisue Plucinski	(571)272-6811
3620s 3680s 3690s	Business Practice Specialist	Bob Weinhardt	(571)272-6633
3690s	Appeal Practice Specialist	Vincent Millin	(571)272-6747

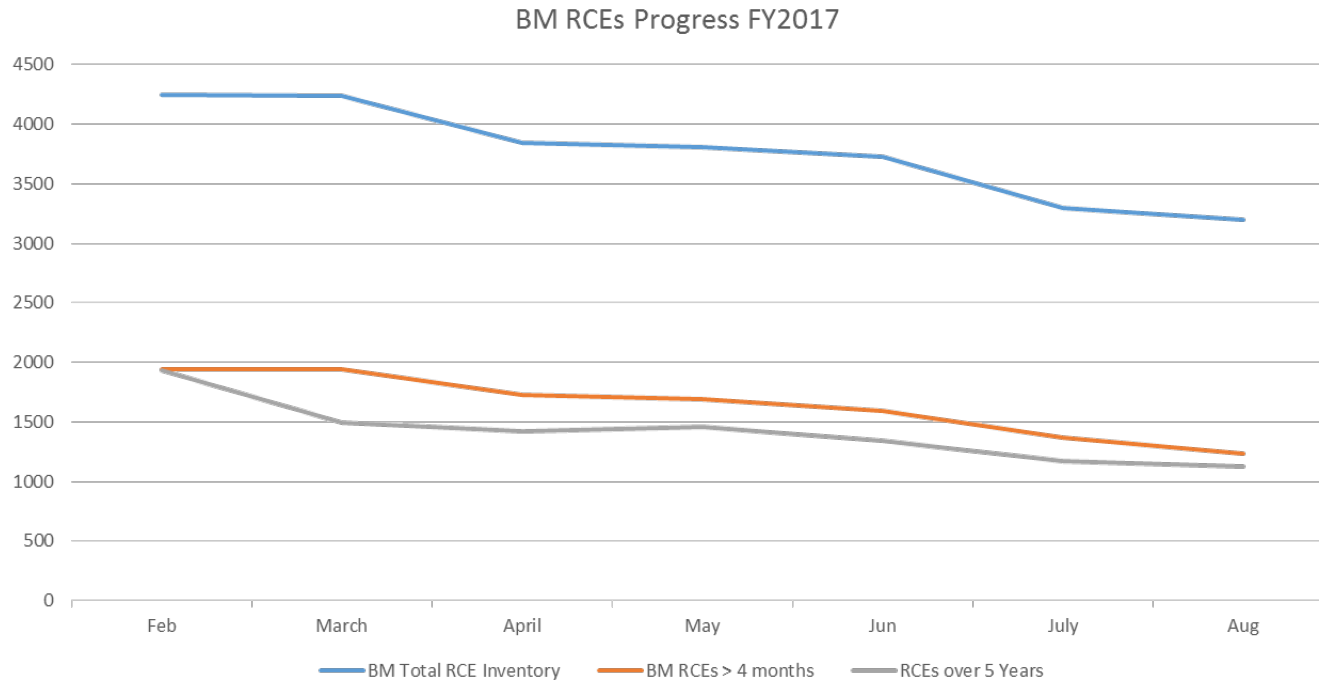
Data Update: Top Assignees for Patent Grants in Class 705 (USPC)

Top Assignees (FY2015 - Present)			
1	INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION	11	MICROSOFT TECHNOLOGY LICENSING, LLC
2	MASTERCARD INTERNATIONAL INCORPORATED	12	FACEBOOK, INC.
3	PAYPAL, INC.	13	STATE FARM MUTUAL AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY
4	BANK OF AMERICA CORPORATION	14	VISA INTERNATIONAL SERVICE ASSOCIATION
5	AMAZON TECHNOLOGIES, INC.	15	TOSHIBA TEC KABUSHIKI KAISHA
6	WAL-MART STORES, INC.	16	AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVEL RELATED SERVICES COMPANY, INC.
7	GOOGLE INC.	17	SQUARE, INC.
8	LINKEDIN CORPORATION	18	ADOBE SYSTEMS INCORPORATED
9	INTUIT INC.	19	SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., LTD.
10	WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.	20	SK PLANET CO., LTD.

Data Update: Filing Trends in Business Methods



Data Update: Business Methods RCE Inventory Progress FY2017

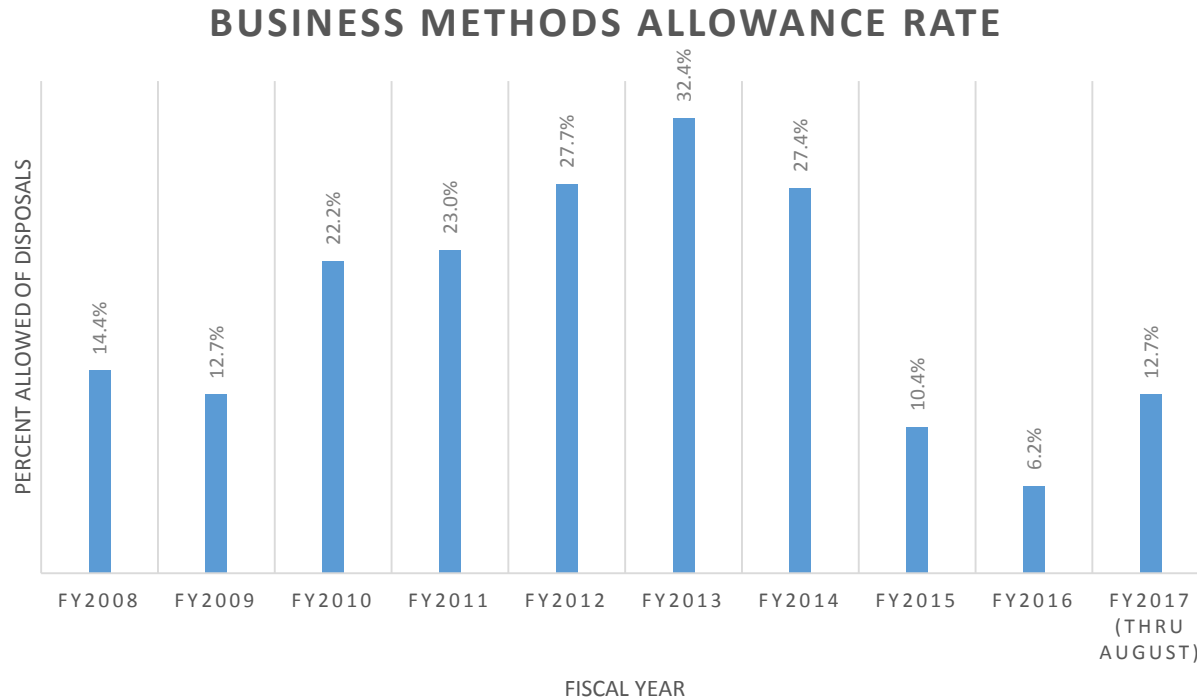


Data Update: Examiner Growth/Patent Grants

Fiscal Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Thru July 2017
Number of Examiners in Business Methods	125	110	116	133	147	260	300	328	316	324	325	346	387	384	372	408
Patent Grants From Business Methods Examiners	494	486	271	687	1055	1186	1571	1659	3515	4042	4432	5205	6094	1657	1396	1770

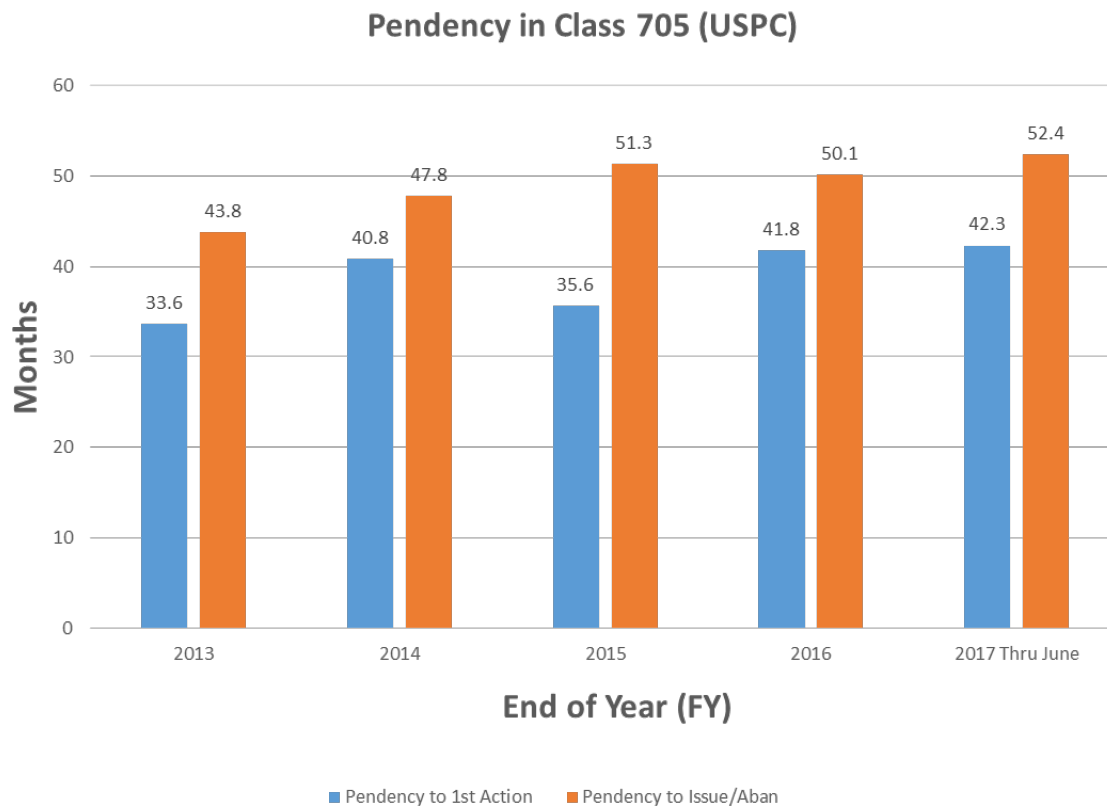
- Data on this chart represents Examiner counts at the end of a fiscal year and does not include Examiners currently in the Patent Training Academy

Data Update: Business Methods Allowance Rates



- Includes RCE Disposals

Data Update: Business Methods Pendency in Class 705 (USPC)



Business Methods Initiatives

Stakeholder out reach

- We continue to emphasize being proactive, collaborating with applicants, and promoting compact prosecution
- Continued emphasis on good interview practice and on formulating clear and specific rejections
- Bi-Annual Partnership Meetings



Business Methods Initiatives

Manager Collaboration

- Manager biweekly open forum workgroup discussions
- Manager continued education, i.e. offsite meetings, refresher training
- Focus Groups / surveys in order to gather input on effectiveness and efficiency of duties.

Business Methods Initiatives

Identifying Statutory Subject Matter

- Looking at the Specification
- Quality Enhancement Discussions
- Bank of Hours



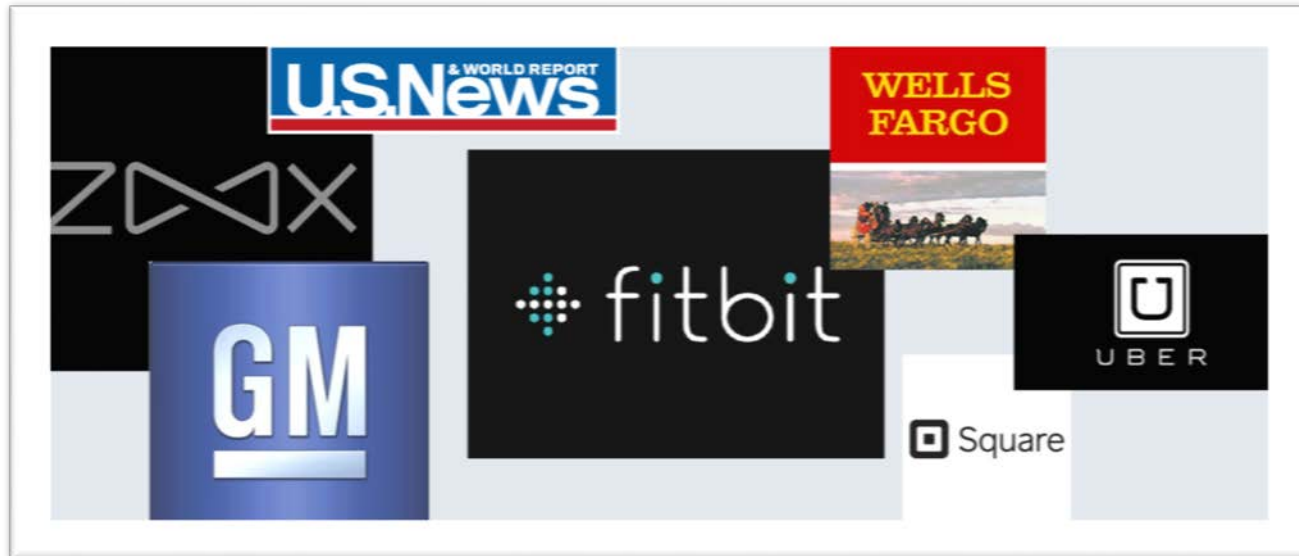
Business Methods Initiatives

Training

- Modules are provided to the art units as needed
- Resources are used to discuss emerging case law with regards to eligibility
- Training is provided to all Examiners and SPEs including discussions with the Office of Patent Legal Administration

Patent Examiner Technical Training Program (PETTP)

Business Methods has hosted various large and small technology leaders across diverse industry sectors. Recently:



Patent Examiner Technical Training Program (PETTP)

Interested participants should contact the USPTO and identify their area of expertise by filling out the online form available at:

- <https://www.uspto.gov/PatentExaminerTechTraining>, or
- By sending an email to Examiner_Technical_Training@uspto.gov.

Class 705 (USPC) Allowance Template Refresher

- Reasons for Allowance
- Search Areas
- Search Query
- Reference Citations

Business Methods on the Web:

[uspto.gov/businessmethods](https://www.uspto.gov/businessmethods)

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Business Methods

This site is designed to provide you with best practices and current information regarding Business Methods related patent applications.

1 Overview

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4 Prosecution Resources

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Overview

"Business method" is a generic term that has been used by many to describe various types of process claims. The Federal Circuit has not yet defined what it is that specifically characterizes a business method claim and separates it from other process claims. The Court has, however, stated that claims drawn to a method of doing business should not be categorized as a "business method" claim, instead they should be treated like any other process claim. *State Street Bank & Trust Co. v. Signature Financial Group, Inc.* 47 USPQ2d 1596, 1604 (Fed. Cir. 1998).

Highlights

- 2017 TC 3600 [Business Methods Partnership Meeting](#) (BMPM) is scheduled for September 20, 2017 at the USPTO Headquarters. We established BMPM to create a collaborative forum providing attendees with the opportunity to meet and share ideas, experiences, and insights with management from the Business Methods Technology Center. The event is free, open to the public, and will be webcast to include viewing sessions at USPTO regional offices in Dallas, Denver, Detroit, and San Jose. [Register to attend.](#)



Tips to Help Expedite Prosecution

- Interviews - look for opportunities to identify allowable subject matter
- Avoid overly broad claims and a reluctance to narrow the claim language
 - Be aware that “testing the market” by filing multiple RCEs significantly slows prosecution
- Submit a manageable number of claims

Tips to Help Expedite Prosecution

- Make sure claims, drawings, and specification are clear and complete
- Consider the search and prior art applied in your foreign application when you file or amend your U.S. application
- Provide all pertinent arguments early in prosecution

Questions?

