WIPO Work on Blockchain

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Standards Section
Overview

- WIPO Standards
- WIPO Discussions on Blockchain
- Potential Use Cases in IP
- IP Office Projects
- Future work
What are WIPO Standards

For IP Information and Documentation:

- provide a single, common framework for working with IP documents and information, at all stages of prosecution
- enable IP offices around the globe to work in a more efficient, harmonious, and timely manner
- streamline international cooperation among IP offices
- help public users of IP information to better access and make use of that information
Who develops WIPO Standards

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS):

- collaborative international forum for developing WIPO Standards and other matters related to industrial property information and documentation. https://www.wipo.int/cws/en/

- comprises 192 member states and observers

- 16 expert groups (Task Forces) carry out work under the CWS with participants from IP offices and industry user groups
WIPO Discussions on Blockchain

- ICT Strategies and AI for IP Administration meeting in May 2018:
  - Recommendation: Explore possibility to interlink distributed IP registries (R12)
- Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) created a Blockchain Task Force in Oct 2018
- Workshop on Blockchain and IP held in April 2019
Member States established the Blockchain TF to:

- Explore the possibility of using blockchain technology to support IP rights protection, management, and use
- Develop reference models for using blockchain technology in the IP field, including guiding principles, common practice, and use of terminology
Blockchain Workshop - Purpose

- Main objectives

  - Bridge the IP community and blockchain community to discuss potential use cases for IP
  - Explore appropriate roles for the public and private sectors in the IP and blockchain ecosystem
  - Develop areas for WIPO standardization of IP data for blockchain

Blockchain Workshop - Results

- Two day workshop: 1. general features and uses of blockchain and 2. IP-specific uses of blockchain

- Covered topics include:
  - Existing and planned blockchain applications in public services
  - Blockchain applications for IP: patent management and copyrights management
  - Opportunities and Challenges for IP Ecosystem
  - Blockchain and standardization
Potential use cases in IP

- Patent Management
- Trade Secret Management
- Smart IP Rights and Registries
- Evidence of Use
- Traceability
- Certification Trademarks
- Evidence of Creation
- IP Enforcement
- Anti-counterfeiting
- Supply Chain Tracking
- Provenance Authentication
- Smart Contracts
- Digital Rights Management
Rospatent: IP rights creation chain

Creation
- Idea
- Research
- Application
- Examination
- Registration

Registration
- Blockchain
- Rights management

Trade
- Blockchain
- Commercialization
- Product

- Inventors
- Applicants
- Patent Attorneys
- National IP offices
- Owners
- Investors
IP Australia – Smart Trademark 1

Business Problem

No mechanisms for real-time enforcement

Creates ease of replicating trade marks on products and digital applications

With limited visibility of supply in export markets

This leads to counterfeit goods that deteriorate Australian brands
IP Australia – Smart Trademark 2

Supply Chain Events

- Register
- Produce and Sell
- Supply
- Received

Smart Trade Mark - Service

- Record scanned event
- Display product history
- Verify ownership
- Notarise and store
- Call events records

Smart Trade Mark - Trial Application

WIPO PUBLIC
Areas for future work

- Explore and develop potential use cases for blockchain technology in the IP ecosystem
- Coordinate pilot projects on IP and blockchain with IP offices and the blockchain community
- Discuss standards to ensure interoperability between IP blockchain systems and actors, focusing on IP data to be stored on a blockchain
- Cooperate with other blockchain standardization bodies on issues in common
- Prepare a white paper on blockchain for the IP ecosystem
Questions and Discussion

Thanks for your attention!