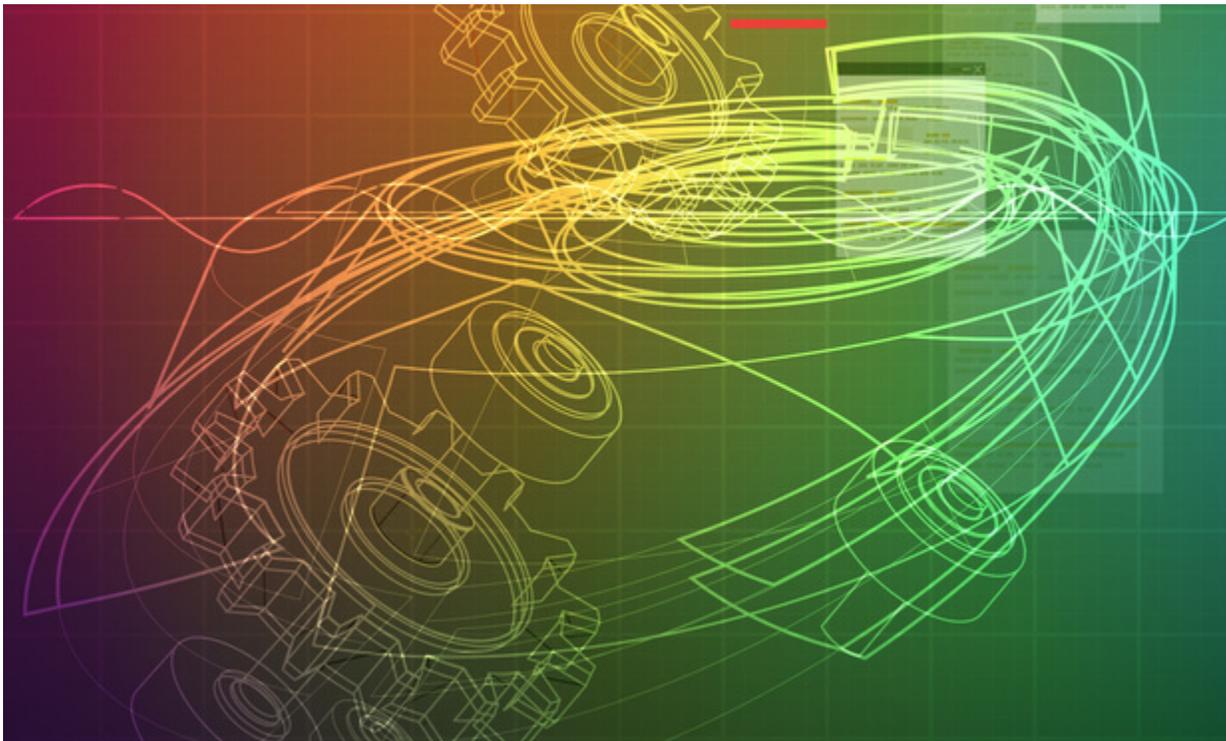


# Microsystems Introduces Desktop Version of Patent Companion

To meet intellectual property contract constraints, Microsystems created an offline, updated version of their patent-drafting platform.

*Gabrielle Orum Hernandez, Legaltech News*

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Intellectual property artwork *iStock*

Microsystems recently released a desktop version of their patent drafting platform, Patent Companion, to include Word integration, an automated claim tree and office action handling capabilities.

Although Patent Companion began as a cloud-based tool, the new version allows users to use the product entirely offline.

While many leading legal technology tools are migrating toward cloud storage, Microsystems' patent tool had to step away from it because many intellectual property contracts stipulate that product information stay localized on one machine or inside the office.

"We were ahead of the curve, and our customer base said, 'We're not ready for this.' So we had to back up a little bit," said Nkem Nwankwo, product manager for Patent Companion.

The cloud version is still available for use, but the desktop version allows customers, who pay a per-seat subscription fee, to comply with contractual demands as needed.

The new version also is integrated with Microsoft Word, allowing users to work with Patent Companion inside a Word document, rather than referring back and forth from a separate application.

Given how ubiquitous Word is within the patent application community, Nwankwo said it was a no-brainer to integrate tools to the Word environment.

"Microsoft Word is the most used application by patent drafters to draft their patent applications. It's universal, really, in that realm. So it just made the most sense. It's something we're basically experts in, so it was pretty easy for us to make that transition," Nwankwo said.

In addition, two new tools have been added to the Patent Companion—an automated claim tree to help patent drafters map the logical flow of their applications and an upgraded office action manager that allows drafters to track changes from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and other collaborators.

The claim tree also has some predictive features. "It points out any logical inconsistencies you may have between patent drafts," Nwankwo said.

Nwankwo said the new additions came directly from user feedback, especially those clamoring to use the tools while meeting contract needs for intellectual property.

"We communicate with our customers really regularly, and this is something they requested," he said.

While the update also includes secure mobile access, allowing patent information to stay offline and secured on patent drafters' mobile or tablet devices, Nwankwo said that most users still favor Patent Companion on desktops, where word processing is far easier.

"We're kind of getting ahead of the curve to have that functionality right now," he said.

Overall, the tool parses words within a patent application to ensure language is being applied consistently and appropriately throughout the patent.

"When you're getting into a patent application, your choice of words can be really important. You want to make sure you're using the right language at all times. You don't want the competition to be able to infringe upon their patent," Nwankwo noted. "We really find a lot of the errors that might get overlooked in the drafting process."