



Patent Intelligence for Innovators, Inventors, Makers and More – *Video Transcript*

Module 4: Anatomy of a patent and data held within

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In this segment, we'll cover what data is in a patent by looking at an example. You don't necessarily have to read many or any full patents to use patent data for intelligence, but walking through will show what data is there.

Our example is a US granted patent. Patents look different authority to authority but are generally well-labeled. As an added helper, check the additional resources to find a guide listing useful metadata and diagramming what's where in documents from several authorities. However, one of the many advantages of using a tool that searches and displays patents from around the world is a consistent patent view to limit reviewing the original patent PDFs.

Patents can be broken down into several parts:

1. The front page or title page
2. Drawings
3. The description, which includes multiple sections
4. And claims, which define what the patent covers

You may also hear the description and claims together called the "specification."

Front Page

- Document Type: The front page includes a variety of information, including the title and abstract, but even more basic, the document type. There are published patent applications and issued patents. Of course, not all patent applications get granted, and a granted patent can be quite different from its original application. Both are useful for patent intelligence, and you can determine the type of document up at the top and via the kind code, the last two characters of the publication number, which defines more nuanced document types. We're looking at an issued patent, not an application.
- Geography: Also at the top of the page, you can see the patenting authority or country. The first two characters of the publication number is the two-letter country or authority code.
- Dates: For a granted patent, there is the publication date, which is when the patent issued, and there are a couple additional dates for filing and priority, each which carry some meaning and will be covered in a separate course to help understand when to use which date.



- Title: The title is straight forward. Note that a title is not unique to a patent. So you'll also find some patents with the same name. Patent titles can also be pretty vague sometimes.
- Abstract: Abstract is a short summary.
- Representative drawing: And also on the front page is a representative drawing, selected by the examiner. The title, abstract, and front page drawing together provide a simple summary of the invention, but are not the source for determining what the patent actually covers.

There's additional information that can be found on the front page that's useful for patent intelligence:

- Inventors and their city of residence. Anyone who has contributed to the invention should be included. The first inventor is called out at the top of the US patent and may be significant as first inventor, but some companies might list inventors in an insignificant order, like alphabetical.
- Assignees shows the owner of the patent at the time of issue. Note that the face of the patent reflects the original assignee, and the current assignee or owner might be different.
- Classification codes, which come from hierarchical technical classification systems assigned by the patent offices. These codes match up to a description of the technical categories.
- A list of references or cited prior art – this is a list of the considered prior art during the examination process. Naturally, this means that the examiner determined the invention was patentable over this prior art.
- Lastly, the parties involved in the patent prosecution – the examiner(s) and attorney, agent, or firm.

Drawings

Patents generally include at least one drawing, which are provided to help understand the invention. They are an important part of the disclosure, and good disclosures will include as many drawings as are needed to demonstrate the invention. There may be multiple views, an exploded view to show the individual elements, and drawings of one or more components, so you can end up with quite a few. Each element is distinguished with a reference number, described in the description.

Description and claims

The description follows and can be quite lengthy. It provide the relevant context for interpreting the claims. It is usually broken into sections, and those sections vary between authorities. Usually there is a background section that provides general context but usually contains very little about the invention. The description of the invention is usually broken in sections, summary of the invention, list of drawings, and detailed description.

The drawings are listed and described, and the little reference numbers that point to each element are named and described in the description.



This makes up main technical disclosure, and as discussed earlier, this is what should enable a person skilled in this field to make or use the invention.

Last but not least, is the claims. The claims set forth and define the scope of the exclusive rights – what the patent covers.

These are the contents and parts of a single patent from the patent itself. There is also metadata not found within these pages – things like the current assignees or owner and metadata on those entities like location or size, estimated expiry date, maintenance payments, detailed legal events, legal status, litigation, forward citations, and more. There is also a file wrapper or file history that includes the details of the patent prosecution – back and forth between the patent office, which could speak to quality or be invaluable backstory if a patent is of key interest by way of threat or opportunity. Find a list of useful patent metadata for innovation intelligence in the guide in the resources.

In the last section, we'll take what we've covered so far and explore what we can learn and the types of insight to be gained when analyzing sets of patents documents.