What is USPTO?

USPTO is the Federal agency that grants U.S. patents and registers trademarks. The Agency also advises the President and Federal agencies on intellectual property (IP) policy, protection, and enforcement, and promotes stronger and more effective IP protection around the world.

Mission:
Fostering innovation, competitiveness and economic growth, domestically and abroad to deliver high quality and timely examination of patent and trademark applications, guiding domestic and international intellectual property policy, and delivering intellectual property information and education worldwide, with a highly skilled, diverse workforce.
What is IP?

Intellectual property (IP) refers to creations of the mind, such as inventions; literary and artistic works; designs; and symbols, names and images used in commerce.

Role of the USPTO in IP

• **100% fee funded agency** - no tax dollars are spent by the USPTO
• **Named One of the Best Places to Work in Federal Government**
• **FY2015 Key Statistics:**
  – **More than 617,000** new patent applications filed; more than **320,000** patents issued
  – **More than 503,000** new trademark applications filed; more than **280,000** trademarks registered
  – Approximately **12,600** employees, including roughly **8,300** patent examiners and **500** trademark attorneys
# Overview of Intellectual Property

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What’s Protected?</th>
<th>Examples</th>
<th>Protection Lasts for:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Utility Patent</td>
<td>Inventions</td>
<td>iPod, chemical fertilizer, process of manipulating genetic traits in mice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design Patent</td>
<td>Ornamental (non functional) designs</td>
<td>Unique shape of electric guitar, design for a lamp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copyright</td>
<td>Books, photos, music, fine art, graphic images, videos, films, architecture, computer programs</td>
<td>Michael Jackson’s Thriller (music, artwork and video), Windows operating system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Secret</td>
<td>Formulas, methods, devices or compilations of information which is confidential and gives a business an advantage</td>
<td>Coca-Cola formula, survey methods used by a pollster, new invention for which patent application has not been filed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trademark</td>
<td>Words, symbols, logos, designs, or slogans that identify and distinguish products or services</td>
<td>Coca-Cola name and distinctive logo, Pillsbury doughboy character</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Office of Education and Outreach

• Science of Innovation videos and lesson plans
• Girl Scout IP Patch activities
• Young inventor stories
• Inventor cards and related build-an-invention activities
• USPTO collaborators and additional government kids’ webpages

http://www.uspto.gov/kids/
The USPTO’s West Coast Regional Office in Silicon Valley

Establishing A Regional Presence
USPTO Offices

Midwest – Detroit, MI
- Elijah J. McCoy
- Opened July 2012

Rocky Mountain – Denver, CO
- Byron G. Rogers Federal Building
- Opened July 2014

West Coast – Silicon Valley
- San Jose City Hall
- Opened October 2015

Texas – Dallas, TX
- Terminal Annex Federal Building
- Opened Nov. 2015
Regional Office Expansion

Three primary goals:

1. Bring USPTO services to the region
   ... to improve access for stakeholders

2. Attract, hire and retain top talent
   ... to help keep backlogs low and quality high

3. Serve as a hub of outreach and education
   ... to support the innovation ecosystem
The Silicon Valley USPTO
West Coast Regional Office
Thank You

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