



WIPO | PCT

The International
Patent System

ePCT for Applicants

Roberto PEREZ GOMES
Senior Technical Cooperation Assistant
PCT Technical Cooperation Section

**Geneva/Kingston
(Online)
March 28, 2022**

What is ePCT?

- Online portal that **provides PCT services** for both applicants and IP Offices
- User interface available in 10 PCT publication languages
- Provides **secure and direct interaction** with PCT applications maintained by the International Bureau
- Applicants can conduct **electronic PCT transactions** with the IB and participating IP Offices
- Allows applicants to file online → **ePCT-Filing**

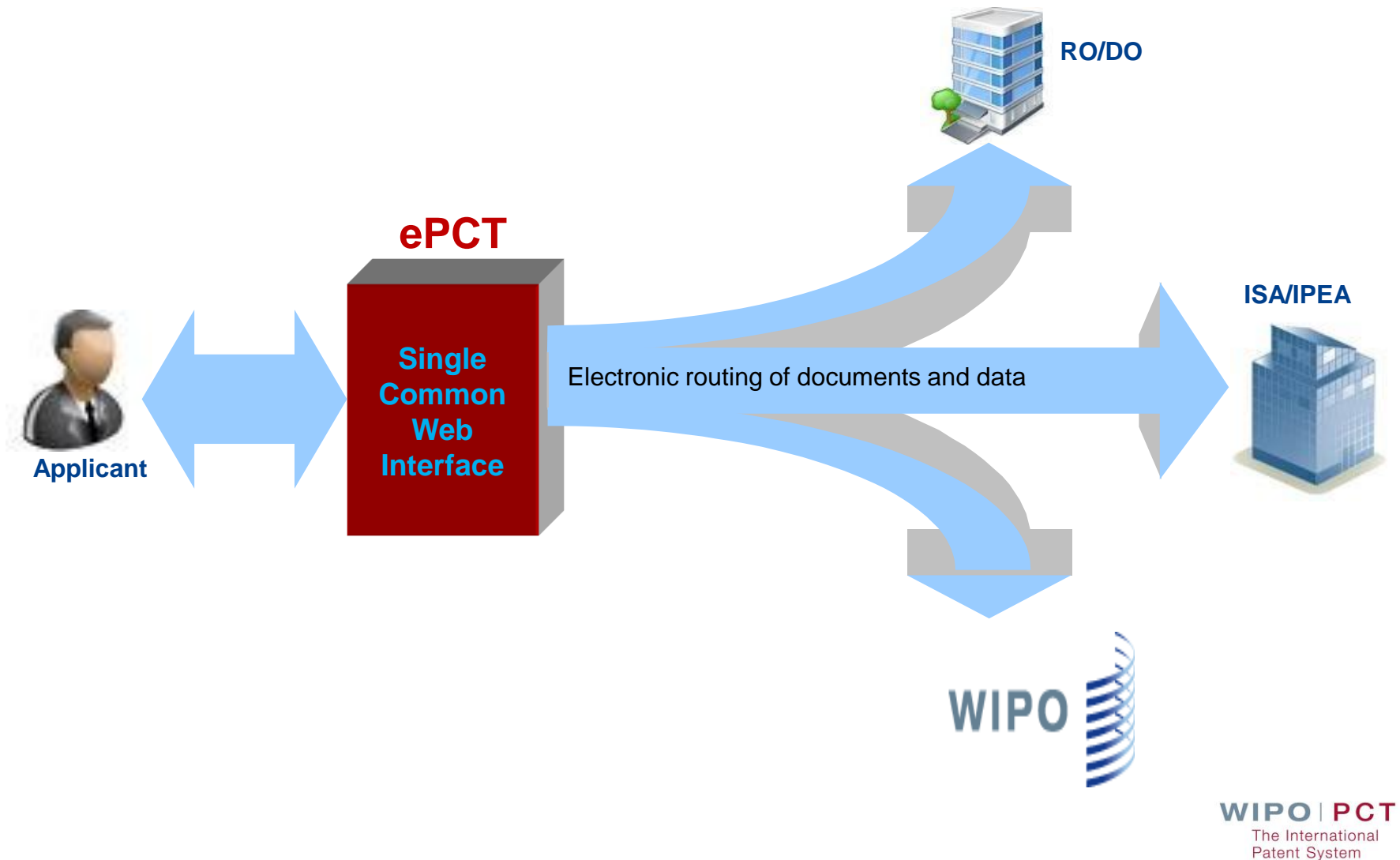
ePCT-Filing

- Web-based filing of PCT applications available to all PCT applicants
- Fill in the screens in the order in which they appear to benefit from re-use of certain data
- More detailed information on ePCT-Filing at <https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/epct/learnmore.html?N=567>
- Request form can be prepared in all PCT publication languages
- **Real-time validation** of data against the electronic processing system of the International Bureau

ePCT Advantages

- Customer expectations of modern interactive service
- Same service levels for applicants from all States
- Reduces errors (data entry and real-time validation)
- Efficiencies for Authorities, Offices and applicants
- No installation or updates required
- Improved efficiency in international phase (most actions at RO, ISA and IB, should be done before publication and surface mail can take very long between some points)

Single Common Web Interface (ePCT)





WIPO | PCT

The International
Patent System

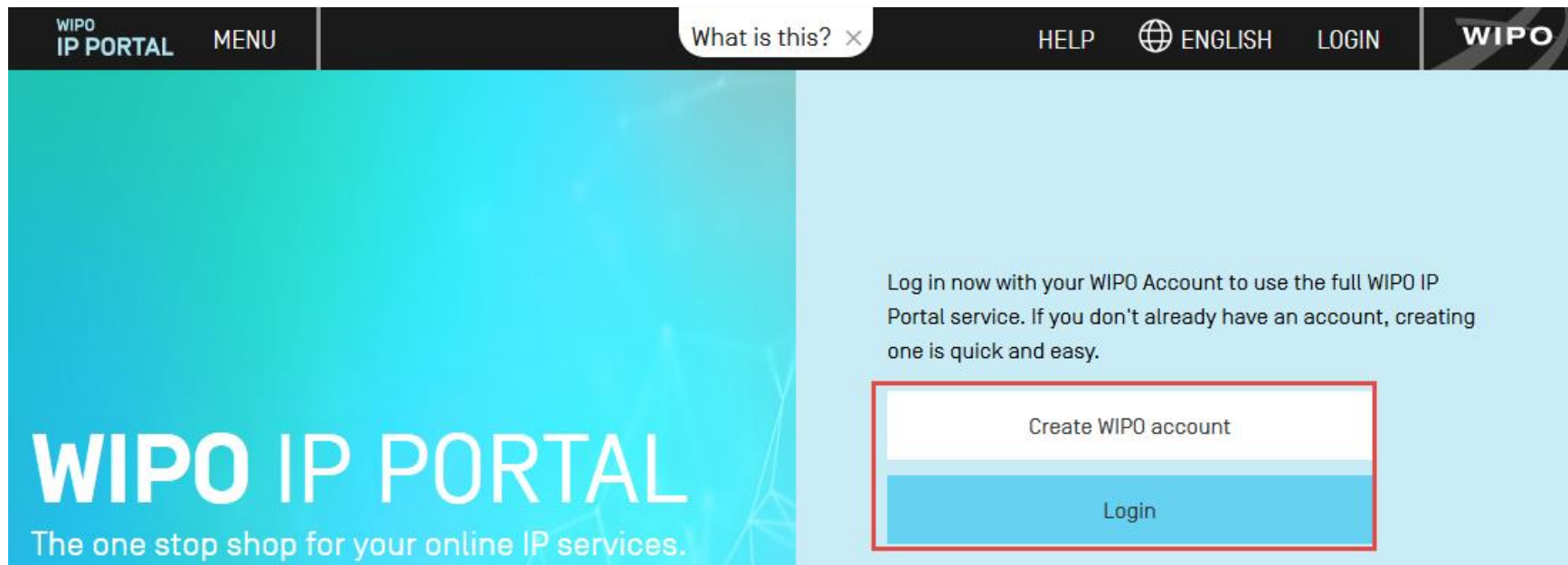
ePCT Access Modes

ePCT – Access modes (1)

■ **Single WIPO Account** (username and password) gives access to ePCT and WIPO's other online services

■ Create a WIPO Account WIPO IP Portal

<https://ipportal.wipo.int>



The screenshot shows the WIPO IP Portal homepage. The top navigation bar includes the WIPO IP PORTAL logo, a MENU button, a search bar with the text "What is this? x", a HELP button, a language selector for ENGLISH, a LOGIN button, and the WIPO logo. The main content area features a large blue banner on the left with the text "WIPO IP PORTAL" and "The one stop shop for your online IP services." On the right, there is a light blue box containing the text: "Log in now with your WIPO Account to use the full WIPO IP Portal service. If you don't already have an account, creating one is quick and easy." Below this text are two buttons: "Create WIPO account" and "Login". The "Create WIPO account" button is highlighted with a red border.

ePCT – Access modes (2)

- ePCT **without** strong authentication
 - Limited functionality, document upload
 - Practical alternative to paper

ePCT – Access modes (3)

- ePCT **with** strong authentication
 - Additional identity verification allows access to all services and functions including the filing of PCT applications
 - **Authenticator application** with one-time password on a mobile device or equivalent application for computer if use of mobile devices is not permitted
 - **Text message** with one-time password
 - **Digital certificate** from WIPO
 - Best practice – set up at least 2 strong authentication methods



WIPO | PCT

The International
Patent System

ePCT Access Rights

Types of Access Rights

■ *eOwner*

- **Complete control** over all aspects of the PCT application in ePCT
- May be the applicant, agent or other individual (e.g., paralegal, assistant, secretary) who actually filed the PCT application, or another individual to whom access rights were granted by an existing eOwner

■ *eEditor*

- Can do **everything except assign** access rights

■ *eViewer*

- **“Look”** but don’t “Touch”

<https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/epct/learnmore.html?N=694>

Access Rights - Assigning and Managing

- Access rights can be managed for multiple applications
- *eHandshakes* consist in the **association and trusted recognition** between different ePCT user accounts with strong authentication
- Access rights can be automatically assigned to a default group of *eHandshake* users
- Best practice - always have **at least 2 eOwners** to facilitate access rights management
- Access rights should be removed for ePCT users no longer requiring access (e.g., change of applicant, change of agent, departure, etc.)
- Full history of all access rights modifications available

Access Rights - Signatures

- ePCT access rights holders (*eOwner* or *eEditor*) are different from authorized signatories (**applicant** or **agent**)
- **Applicant** or **agent** may not necessarily be an *eOwner* or *eEditor* in ePCT
- Applicant or agent signatures are required for ePCT-Filing and all Actions and uploads, e.g., Rule 92*bis* changes, filing of Chapter II Demand, Article 19 amendments, withdrawals



WIPO | PCT

The International
Patent System

ePCT Main Components

ePCT Main Components

Login / Strong Authentication

First Level (Workbench)

Create new IA

Find IA outside of my Workbench

Second Level (prior to filing – draft application)

Priority

Names

Declarations

Documents

Signature

Designations

Search

Biology

Fees

Second Level (filed application)

Data

Fees

Access Rights

National Phase

History

Documents

Actions

Timeline

Send ePCT Message

User Menu

My Account

Address Book

Access Rights

My History

eOwnership Code

PCT Resources

Office Profiles

ePCT in DEMO mode

- <https://pctdemo.wipo.int>
- Demo environment can be used to practice and familiarize oneself with ePCT
- **Do not use confidential or sensitive data in the ePCT demo environment**



Where to Get Help

PCT information available on the Internet

■ [PCT System Webpage \(www.wipo.int/pct/en/\)](http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/)

- News
- PCT Resources
- General information
- Meetings and documents
- Training
- Reference
- Related Links



WIPO | PCT

The International
Patent System

Thank you for your attention