



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office
ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND COMMISSIONER
OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

November 18, 1998

NOTICE
TO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICES
HAVING CD-ROM EXCHANGE ARRANGEMENTS
WITH THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

The United States Patent and Trademark Office is in the process of improving storage of, and access to, patent data currently provided on the Cassis CD-ROM Series products. All of the Cassis products, except GLOBALPat, will be affected by one or more of the following changes:

- CD-ROM discs will be replaced by DVD-ROM discs for all products, except USAPat and GLOBALPat, by about May of 1999. USAPat will switch to DVD-ROM discs beginning with the first issue of the year 2000. GLOBALPat will not be changing.
- Retrieval software will be changed to Dataware II running under Windows 95, 98 or NT platforms by mid-1999;
- USAPat patent document images will be in TIFF format instead of the current Yellow Book (US Patent Image Data File) format beginning on January 1, 1999. (USAMark is already provided in TIFF format.)

Each of these changes will significantly improve the Cassis products and provide a number of highly desirable features.

The storage of data on single sided, double layer (SSDL) DVD-ROM discs will greatly reduce the number of discs needed to publish data, e.g., USAPat on CD-ROM currently requires about 300 discs per year whereas on DVD-ROM it will require only 52 discs per year. In addition, the USPTO is about to undertake publishing the entire US patent backfile from 1790 through 1999 on DVD-ROM. We estimate that it will fit on about 650 DVD-ROM discs. One complete set of the USAPat DVD-ROM backfile will be provided at no charge to each office which currently receives USAPat CD-ROM. Other advantages of DVD-ROM drives are that they are much faster than CD-ROM drives and the Windows version of the retrieval software installs faster, prints faster and is easier to view. While DVD-ROM drives can be expected to vary in price depending on the quantity purchased, they should be moderately priced. In short, the use of DVD-ROM as a storage media will provide substantial benefits at minimal costs.

Please note that CD-ROM drives cannot read DVD-ROM discs. Your office will need to have DVD-ROM drives available to read the new DVD-ROM discs at whatever locations they will be used. It is recommended that your office use second-generation or later DVD-ROM drives since they will provide the capability to read both DVD-ROM, CD-ROM, and CD-R discs. Likewise, if your office uses jukeboxes having CD-ROM drives, you will need

to check with the manufacturer regarding upgrading or replacing them with DVD-ROM drives.

The change to TIFF format on USAPat will provide document images in an industry standard format which will permit the use of a broader range of software than the current Yellow Book format. DocD for Windows (DocDW) image viewing software is already being provided on the current USAPat discs and can be used now since it works with both Yellow Book and TIFF formats. A CD-ROM disc containing sample USAPat TIFF files will be provided to your office in advance of this change.

All Cassis search discs will switch to Dataware II software which uses the BRS search engine, a full-featured, robust and time-tested search engine. It will offer many enhanced features including the ability to add hypertext links and to provide natural language queries and document relevance ranking. Our products will no longer run under DOS or Windows 3.1 as part of this changeover. Your office will NOT need to make any separate licensing agreements with Dataware.

Further details regarding these enhanced Cassis products is provided in the "Cassis Currents" newsletter issued bimonthly by the USPTO and sent to your CD-ROM subscription address. Copies of the first two issues (August and October 1998) are enclosed.

Detailed questions regarding these changes may be directed to Bruce B. Cox, Manager, Optical Disc Publishing Program (ODPP) at the following address:

USPTO - OPTI - ODPP
Crystal Park 3 Suite 441
Washington, DC 20231

Telephone: 1-703-306-2600

Fax: 1-703-306-2737

E-mail: cassis@uspto.gov

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen G. Kunin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephen G. Kunin
Deputy Assistant Commissioner for
Patent Policy and Projects

Enclosures: "Cassis Currents" newsletters, Issue Nos. 1 and 2, August and October 1998