



Pillar 2 — Proposal 4: Review of and Improvements to Quality Metrics

Summary: The USPTO proposes to re-assess the effectiveness of the Quality Composite Metric. The USPTO currently uses a quality composite of 7 different quality metrics in the assessment of Patent Quality. By reevaluating the Quality Composite Metric, the USPTO aims to increase the effectiveness, clarity, and simplicity of USPTO review, employ a system that measures both errors by commission and errors by omission, and obtain examination metrics that are specifically tied to procedures for improving performance based on identified trends. Additionally, the USPTO proposes to re-evaluate its current ways of measuring the impact of training provided to examiners to enhance the effectiveness of examiner training.

| Concept | Brainstorming Questions |
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| Overall Value of the Quality Composite | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the advantages and disadvantages of using a single composite measure versus using the multiple components of the composite to define quality for public and system users? Is one more useful than the other? • How should the complex nature of a robust quality metric be balanced with a need to simplify its understanding? |
| Perception/Definition Of Patent Quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we capture perceptions of downstream users of the patent system, e.g., investors and technologists, in our evaluation of Patent Quality? • How could we capture the quality of the application as-filed and its impact on overall Patent Quality? |
| Effectiveness of the Quality Composite as an accurate depiction of Patent Quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What metrics, if any, should be added, substituted or removed? • Besides our Internal Quality Survey, are there other ways to incorporate the effectiveness of the USPTO training programs in defining the quality of work product? |