

# Ingenious e-Brain

Nurturing Innovations - Fostering Business

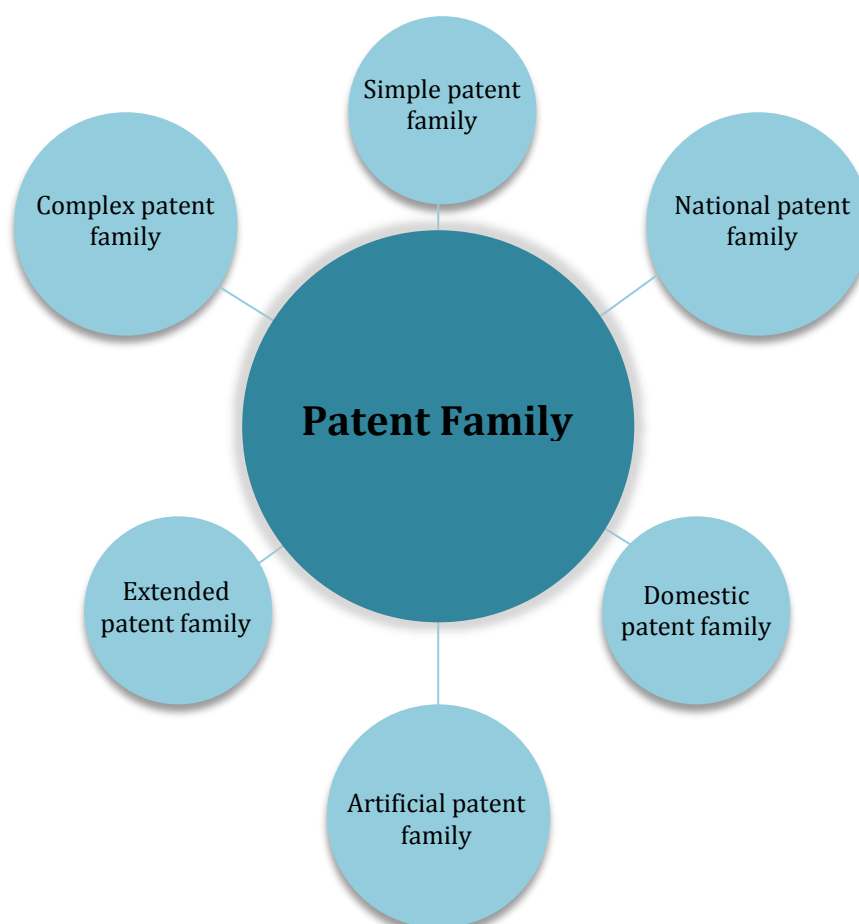
## Patent Family & Data Sources



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A patent is a set of exclusive rights given to creator/inventor to exclude others from making a duplicate copy of his/her findings viz. to exclude others from selling, making and using for limited time (usually 20 years). Patents can be granted in different countries, each having slightly different rules or legal formalities. Now if one wants to have legal protection over his invention in multiple countries, it would require him to file multiple patents for each country or region. It may cause duplication, to avoid this duplication, a concept of patent family was introduced to reduce multi-national results of one invention. Therefore, a group of patent documents that share same inventive concepts and technical details is known patent family. The basis of creation of patent families is the shared priority data so that all patent documents that are to be included in family are technically equivalent.

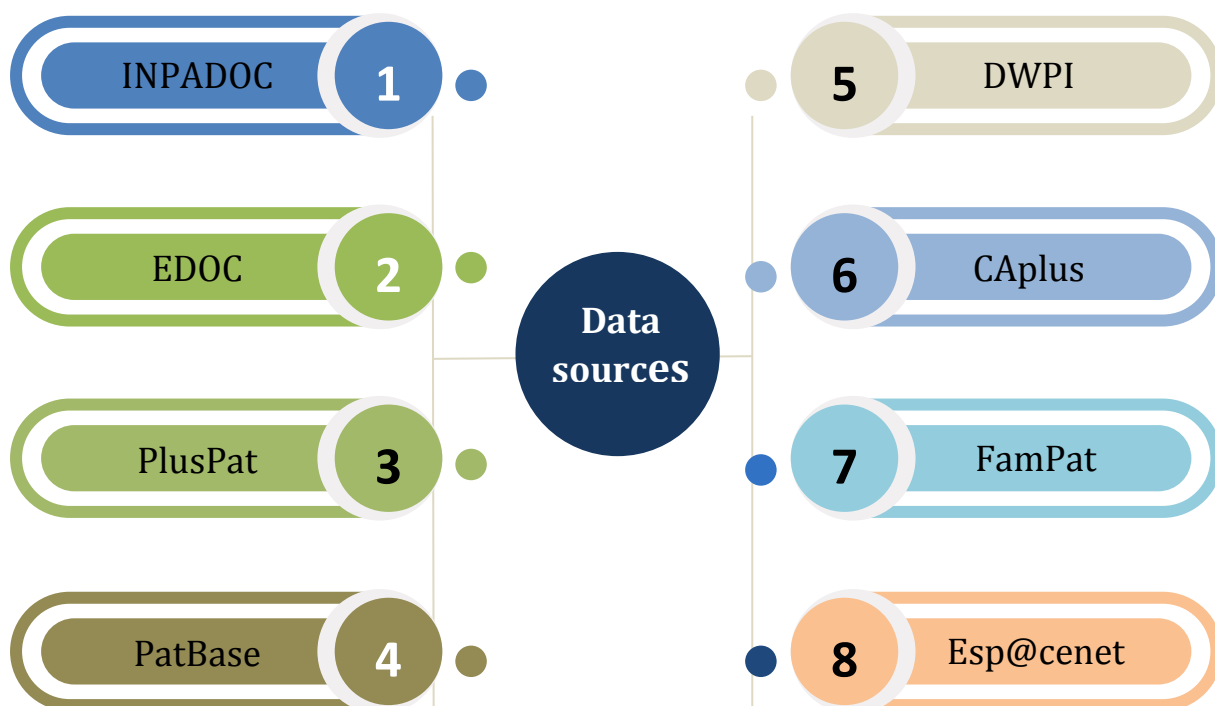


## Comparative analysis of Different Patent Families:

Simple <sup>1</sup>	Complex <sup>1</sup>	Extended <sup>1</sup>	National <sup>1</sup>	Domestic <sup>1</sup>	Artificial <sup>2</sup>
Relating to identical invention	Relating to similar inventions	Relating to one or more invention	Relating to one or more invention, published by the same office	Single office's different procedural publications	Equivalent patent documents, published by different offices
Each member has the basis of 'priority rights' exactly the same originating application	At least one is originating application in common with the other members of the family	At least one is originating application in common with at least one other member of the family.	At least two of which are distinct from each other and at least one originating application in common with the other members of the family	Same country of publication with procedural publications for the same originating application	At least some of which do not share a common originating application or applications
Related document with multiple priorities is not allowed into the family	Multiple priorities are not allowed into the family unless it shares priority number common to all the other members	All related documents sharing at least one priority member shown in the list above may enter the family	At least two of the published patent documents are a result of additions, continuations, continuations-in-part, or divisions of the original subject of invention	It grouped together all the publication stages of a patent in one place. It therefore prevents duplication.	Members of this type of family are determined only after intellectual investigation to have essentially the same disclosed content

<sup>1</sup> [Patent Families](#)

<sup>2</sup> [The artificial patents in the PATSTAT database: how much do they matter when computing indicators of internationalisation based on worldwide priority patents?](#)

**Data Sources:****INPADOC:**

- International Patent Documentation Centre was founded in 1974 by an agreement between Austrian Patent Office and World Patent Organization. Its purpose is to collect and document patent families
- A new family member must share at least one priority document with at least one other patent in the family. Therefore, a document's INPADOC patent family means that it is an extended patent family
- To reduce the re-classifying of older records, EPO worked on older documents without proper priority data, associating them using inventor and subject matter information to create artificial patent families
- Due to their extensive family building rules INPADOC families can become quite large, chemical and biological subject fields tend to generate largest INPADOC families

- The field of genetic engineering is known to have INPADOC patent families reaching thousands
- The updating of INPADOC database mainly dependent on national patent office, which may not be able to provide regular updates. Another difficulty of relying on national patent office for the raw data is the quality of data. This leads to data error
- This patent family data product is available to commercial patent information providers; it is the basis for many patent family databases

### **Derwent World Patents Index:**

- Uses human indexers to add abstract, indexing codes and re-written titles
- Patents records are organized into intellectually created families, so that each family represents single subject invention
- Creation relies on priority data
- It is a simple patent family but systematically identifying non-convention equivalents which can make it as artificial patent family
- DWPI database can never be current as all the new basic documents with unique priority data needs to be indexed before feeding them to database

### **CAplus:**

- Collection of records produced by Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) for the patent invention in chemical field
- Contains re-written abstracts and human-indexed content
- The new basic records are added to the database, but no additional indexing is done
- Collection is an extended patent family

### **EDOC/EPODOC:**

- European Patent Organization's Search Documentation System
- This family structure formed the basis of PlusPat file
- EPO's internal patent examiner database
- EDOC first consisted of application, priority and publication numbers. EPODOC then added abstracts, titles, inventors and applicants

- In 1990 EPODOC was merged to INPADOC to serve internal database. Questel re-launched the commercial version of EDOC as PlusPat
- It uses INPADOC as the source.

### **FamPat:**

- It is a simple patent family database
- It is enhanced with key contents like:
  - Object of invention
  - Advantages of the invention and drawbacks of the previous one
  - Independent claims
- It includes EPO's family rules along with the enhanced contents
- It also includes: First page information, Classification nodes, Patent and non-patent literature citations, Full specifications, claims and detailed legal status information

### **PlusPat:**

- It is precursor to FamPat database
- It grouped all the publication stages of a patent at one place. It therefore prevents duplication
- It is also known as the domestic patent family

### **PatBase:**

- It takes aggregated family data as the meta-record
- Instead of indexing it focuses on loading full text data of an individual publication record to increase the chances of being found on search
- It uses extended INPADOC patent family

### **Esp@cenet:**

- Used to provide representative family members that constitute entire family record in English wherever possible
- To search for equivalent records from other countries to match the technical content of the record undertaken

- It is a simple patent family
- EPO/DOCB is used as the database source

### Comparative Analysis of Different Data Sources:

INPADOC	DWPI	CAplus	EDOC/EPODOC	FamPat	PlusPat	PatBase	Esp@cenet
Extended patent family	Simple patent family	Extended patent family	Commercially used as domestic patent family else an extended patent family	Simple patent family database	Domestic patent family	Extended INPADOC patent family	Simple-patent family
Quite large families for biological subject fields	Awareness bulletin for pharmaceutical industry	Collection of records produced by Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) for chemical field	Forms the basis of PlusPat file. Used by EPO as internal patent examiner database	It is enhanced with key contents along with classification nodes	Precursor to FamPat database	Full text data of an individual publication record	To search for equivalent records from other countries
Basis for many patent family databases except for DWIP	Unique priority data needs to be indexed before feeding them to database	Receives data from many sources	It uses INPADOC as the source	Follows EPO's family rules. INPADOC as the source	Commercial version of EDOC	Takes aggregated family data as the meta-record	EPO/DOCB is used as the database source
Raw data may lead to error	Uses human indexers	Contains re-written abstracts	Application, priority and publication	Contains Patent and Non-Patent	It grouped all the publication	Raw data may lead to error	Provide representative family

	to add abstract, indexing codes and re-written titles	and human-indexed content	numbers. EPODOC then added abstracts, titles, inventors and applicants	Literature Citations, Full text claim and Legal status information	stages of a patent in one place to avoid duplication		members that represent entire family record
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# Contact Details



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## Ingenious e-Brain Solutions

Ingenious e-Brain Solutions provides high-quality, customized and cost-effective Intellectual Property Research, Business Research and Market Research solutions to industry leaders, law firms and innovative companies across the globe. Innovation, knowledge and transparency form the basis of our company's mission and vision. Along with cost benefits, we provide highest quality **patent search** results ensuring fool-proof confidentiality and security. Since our inception, we have conducted patent studies covering over 100 jurisdictions. We are an ISO certified company with offices in India and USA.