Overview of ePCT for Applicants

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What is ePCT? (1)

- Web portal developed by WIPO that provides PCT online services for both applicants and IP Offices
https://pct.wipo.int

- User interface available in all PCT publication languages

- Provides secure and direct interaction with PCT applications maintained by the International Bureau

- ePCT-Filing at 87 PCT receiving Offices

- ePCT allows applicants to conduct a number of electronic PCT transactions ('Actions') with the IB and other participating IP Offices

What is ePCT? (2)

- RO, ISA, IPEA + DO role-based access to PCT applications via secure ePCT Office accounts

- Increasing number of IP Offices now using ePCT for their regular PCT business using services hosted by WIPO

- 'Office profile' function allows you to look up if an Office is using ePCT and other useful reference data
  https://pct.wipo.int/ePCT/private/officeProfile.xhtml

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2022 ePCT Statistics*

■ Applicants filed about 93,500 PCT applications using ePCT in 2022, an increase of 53.5% compared to 2021
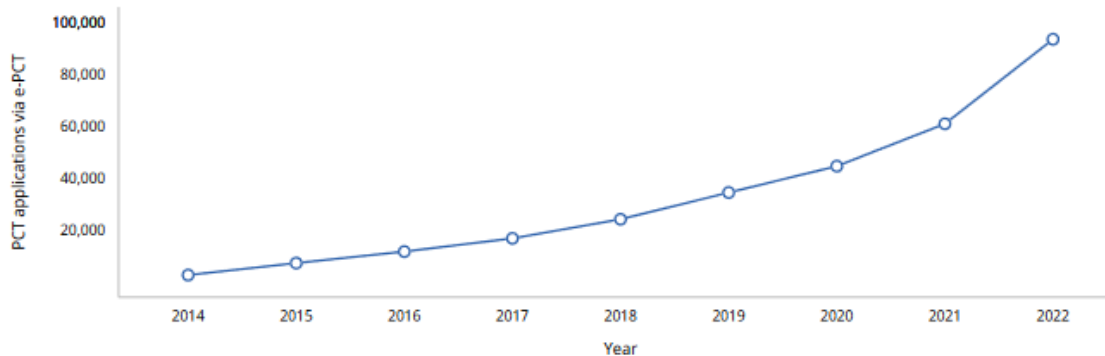
■ Top 5 origins of ePCT-Filings: US, KR, IT, CA, IN
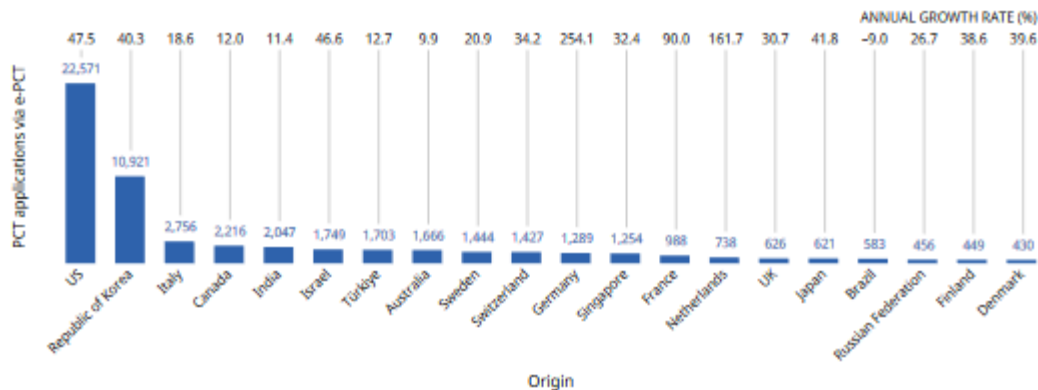
*Source PCT Yearly review 2023

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% ePCT Filings (2023)

- RO/IB = 92%

- RO/US = 73%

- RO/CA = 99%

- RO/KR = 99%

- RO/AU = 99%

- RO/BR= 98 %

- RO/CL, CU, DO, DZ, EA, GE, IQ, IR, IS, JM, JO, LV, LY, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PH, PT, QA, SG, TN, TR, UG = 100 %

WIPO IP Portal - ePCT Integration (1)

■ Click «Protect & Manage» to navigate through the different WIPO IP Services https://ipportal.wipo.int/

WIPO IP Portal

WIPO

English ˅   🔍   🔔   🛒   Pascal PIRIOU ˅

Understand & Learn ˅   Find & Explore ˅   Protect & Manage ˄   Partner & Collaborate ˅   About WIPO ˅

Patent Protection

PCT – The International Patent System

ePCT

Budapest – The International Microorganism Deposit System

Trademark Protection

Madrid – The International Trademark System

eMadrid

Article 6ter (armorial bearings, flags, state emblems)

Industrial Design Protection

Hague – The International Design System

eHague

Geographical Indication Protection

Lisbon – The International System of Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications

eLisbon

Plant Variety Protection (UPOV)

UPOV PRISMA

UPOV e-PVP Administration

UPOV e-PVP DUS Exchange

IP Dispute Resolution

Mediation

Arbitration

Expert Determination

Domain Name Disputes

IP Office Business Solutions

Centralized Access to Search and Examination (CASE)

Digital Access Service (DAS)

Paying for IP Services

WIPO Pay

Current Account at WIPO

Find more IP tools in the IP Portal →

Read more about our Organization →

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WIPO IP Portal - ePCT Integration (2)

■ Example of IP Dashboard - customisable by the user

WIPO IP Portal - ePCT Integration (3)

■ ePCT Homepage

WIPO IP Portal - ePCT Integration (4)

■ ePCT Workbench

ePCT – with/without strong authentication

- **Single WIPO Account** (username and password) gives access to ePCT and WIPO's other online services
  - ❑ Create a WIPO Account via this link.
- ePCT **without** strong authentication
  - ❑ Limited functionality, document upload
  - ❑ Practical alternative to paper
- ePCT **with** strong authentication
  - ❑ Additional identity verification allows access to all services and functions including the filing of PCT applications https://pct.wipo.int/ePCTExternal/pages/landing.xhtml
  - ❑ Access to PCT applications filed as of January 1, 2009, including before publication

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ePCT with strong authentication

■ Best practice – set up at least 2 strong authentication methods

❑ PUSH Notification using the ForgeRock Authenticator app installed on a mobile device to receive push notifications

❑ Authenticator app with one-time password on a mobile device or equivalent app for computer if use of mobile devices is not permitted, e.g., WINAUTH

❑ SMS text with one-time password or One-time password sent to land line number

■ Set-up instructions and videos are available on the ePCT HELP page https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/epct/support.html

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ePCT-Filing
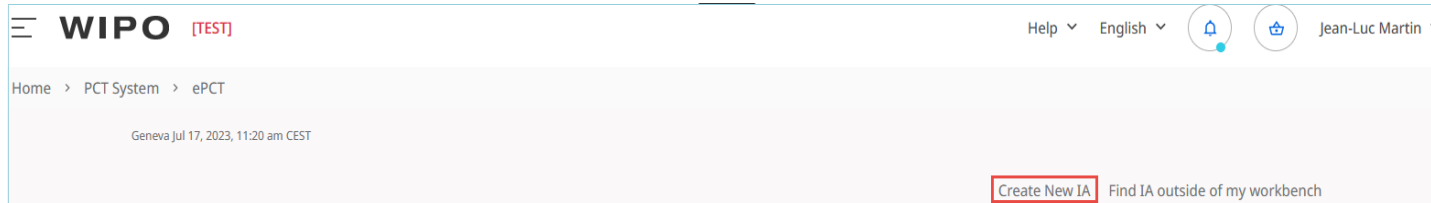
■ Web-based filing of PCT applications available to all PCT applicants

■ Request form can be prepared in all PCT publication languages

■ Real-time validation of data against the electronic processing system of the International Bureau

■ 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

Direct ePCT-Filing with ROs

- **All** data + documents are uploaded and validated in ePCT

- Transmitted to the receiving Office' server or to the hosted server by IB

- ePCT cannot be used to pay the fees to the receiving Office

Clone IA

- "Clone" existing application or draft application to create a new one

- Provided that an international application was prepared using ePCT-Filing

  - Bibliographic data of an existing application (whether filed or not) can used as application template

  - Choose to include specification and any attached documents in the New IA (except for US and IL)

  - Except: SL, Declaration of inventorship (iv), Translation of IA body

Connections (1)

■ First step in sharing access rights to PCT applications

■ Association and trusted recognition between different WIPO User Accounts with strong authentication, before access rights can be shared

■ Connections do not directly result in shared access rights which have to be specifically assigned (default access rights options can be pre-defined)
https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/epct/learnmore.html?N=695

Connections (2)

■ Connections are managed within your WIPO Account: select 'My WIPO Account' from the dropdown menu after clicking on your name in the navigation bar

WIPO [TEST]

Help ∨   English ∨   🔔   🎁   Jean-Luc Martin ∧

› PCT System › ePCT

Geneva Jul 17, 2023, 1:43 pm CEST

My WIPO Account	My history
My Academy Dashboard	Generate access rights code
My IP Portal Dashboard	PCT resources
My Favorites	Office profiles
Address book	Logout

Create New

ePCT - Workbench ∨

My connections

Manage my connections.

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Connections (3)

■ Making a connection

❑ Enter the e-mail of the users to whom you want to connect

Request new connection

Emails *

Enter the email of the users to whom you want to connect.

Connect

❑ Your associate will receive an e-mail notification with instructions on how to request a connection with you. The connection is fully established only after the recipient clicks on 'Accept'

My connections

Refresh

Pascal PIRIOU TEST   pascal.piriou@wipo.int   Accept

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Types of Access Rights

- eOwner

  - Complete control over the application in ePCT

  - Can be the applicant, agent or another individual (e.g., paralegal, assistant, secretary) who actually filed the PCT application, or an individual to whom access rights were granted by an existing eOwner

- eEditor
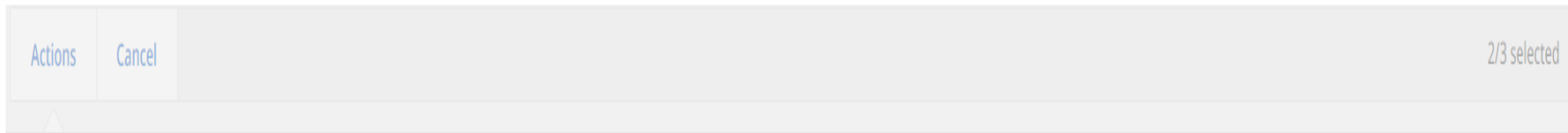
  - Can take all actions except manage access rights

- eViewer

  - 'View' and 'Download'

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

Assigning + Managing Access Rights

■ An eOwner can assign/modify/remove access rights via the Workbench (e.g., for multiple applications) or within individual applications via the 'Access Rights' function

Actions	Cancel						2/3 selected

Perform action on selected applications *

ACCESS RIGHTS
Manage access rights
Remove my rights

☑	PCT/IB2020/086241	Not yet Published	T-20201211	11 Dec 2020		MO, Jiao	eOwner	Add
☑	PCT/IB2021/081549	Not yet Published	Kun9-Nov17	12 Apr 2021	12 Jan 2021	川上電機株式会社 KAWAKAMI ELECTRIC CO. LTD.	eEditor	Add
☐	PCT/IB2021/084220	Not yet Published	T-Test-KUN	27 Oct 2021		ＡＢＣ京都株式会社ＡＢＣ京都株式	eEditor	Add

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Request Access Rights at the time of filing using ePCT

- **Process is automatic when using ePCT-Filing**

- Access rights can be assigned to connection contacts, including prior to filing

- Default access rights group can be set up and automatically applied

Viewing a PCT application

■ Shortcut links for navigating to each section
https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/epct/learnmore.html?N=830

Dropdown menu on IA number

■ Gives quick access to a number of useful ePCT functions
https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/epct/learnmore.html?N=833

| Data | Documents | Fees | Actions | Access Rights | Timeline | National Phase Entry | National Phase | History |

T-Test-KUN PCT/IB2021/084220 ⌃

Archive	
IA Status **Not yet Publishe** **Add to Portfolio**	g Date **27 Oct 2021**
Priority Date **No Priority C** **Warning Message**	
My Comments	
Applicant(s) (JA) **A B C京** (EN) **ABC CORPORATION,** Inventor(s) (JA) **A B C京** (EN) **ABC CORPORATION,** **Clone IA** **View draft IA as filed via ePCT**	
Team at IB **PCT RO/IB Tea** **IA Status Report (PDF)**	Language of Filing **JA**
Title (JA) **PCT TEST APPLIC** **IA Status Report (XML)**	
	History
	Add bookmark 🔗

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Data

- Up-to-date bibliographic data for the PCT application with possibility to preview as publication front page layout

- Information about the target date for international publication/republication

- Obtain current "IA Status Report" (IASR) in PDF or XML format https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/epct/learnmore.html?N=877

- Where the language of filing of a PCT application is in Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Korean or Russian, bibliographic data is available in those languages in addition to the English transliteration

Documents (1)

■ Access to documents on Record as held by the IB, but also documents submitted to ePCT participating Offices in their capacity as RO, ISA, IPEA
https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/epct/learnmore.html?N=532

Documents (2)

■ Click on 'More' to view indications about the status and public availability of each document type in PATENTSCOPE, plus audit trail information, where available.

⌄ Record as held by the IB

☐	Documents [Doc ID] ⇕	Source ⇕	Status ⇕	PATENTSCOPE ⇕	Date ⌄		
☐	Translation of Application Body for the purposes of international search (Rule 1...	ePCT	Not yet processed	Pending processing	27 Oct 2021	View	More
☐	Application Body as Filed [3]_ 7 pages	ePCT	Not yet processed	Pending processing	27 Oct 2021	View	More
☐	Fee Calculation Sheet [5]_ 1 page	ePCT	Not yet processed	Pending processing	27 Oct 2021	View	More

Document : Fee Calculation Sheet[5]
Status : Not yet processed
Available on PATENTSCOPE : Pending processing   Close
View document as it will be rendered at the IB

> 27 Oct 2021 AnaK MENA Import

Documents (3)

■ 'View' button allows you to view in the same browser window the TIFF version of a document as held in the IB's electronic system that will be used for subsequent processing and publication

Documents (4)

- ■ 'Upload' shortcut button to ePCT Action to 'Upload documents' (mostly PDF format) to the IB and also to participating Offices in capacity as RO, ISA, IPEA

  - ❏ Types of document selectable depend on recipient selected

  - ❏ A cover letter is automatically generated – user can type a message to be included in the cover letter

- ■ Simple, secure alternative to sending documents by mail

- ■ Current date and time at the *recipient* Office is displayed in the interface and set as date of receipt

- ■ After upload, documents are visible under Documents and the recipient Office is notified by the system

Upload Documents – Priority Document

■ Upload of digitally signed priority documents

❑ Available only for priority documents issued in electronic format by AT, BR, CZ, FR, GR, IT, PL, PT, SG or US

https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/epct/learnmore.html?N=838

Actions (1)

■ Full suite of Actions only available if signed in to ePCT with strong authentication and with eOwner/eEditor access rights to an application

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Actions (2)

- ■ "Actions" should be used instead of the equivalent document upload

- ■ The user benefits from pre-filled bibliographic data and automated validations to avoid errors; time limit checks

- ■ Data and documents submitted through Actions are directly imported for processing with no need for retyping (reduces potential transcription errors)

- ■ Secondary workflow benefits, e.g.,

  - ❑ Action to withdraw application automatically prevents publication if technical preparations not yet complete

  - ❑ Action to submit Chapter II Demand reroutes to IB if required for time limit (e.g., time limit just expired at IPEA/AU)

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ePCT Workbench (1)

■ Your default landing page after login – a list of all PCT applications to which you have access rights in ePCT

■ First-time users will have an empty Workbench with dedicated links prompting to set up strong authentication

https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/epct/learnmore.html?N=544

ePCT Workbench (2)

■ After first login with strong authentication start to build up your Workbench

❑ prepare a new application using ePCT-Filing

❑ search for existing applications and request access rights from the IB

❑ have access rights assigned to you by an associate who has eOwner access rights and with whom you have a connection

Workbench functions (1)

■ Your landing page – a list of all PCT applications to which you have access (eOwner, eEditor, eViewer)
https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/epct/learnmore.html?N=692

■ The Workbench has 7 pre-defined shortcut filter buttons to display applications filtered as per their status

ePCT - Workbench ⌄

| Current IAs | Last Accessed | Draft IAs | Draft Actions | Unpublished | Published | Archived |
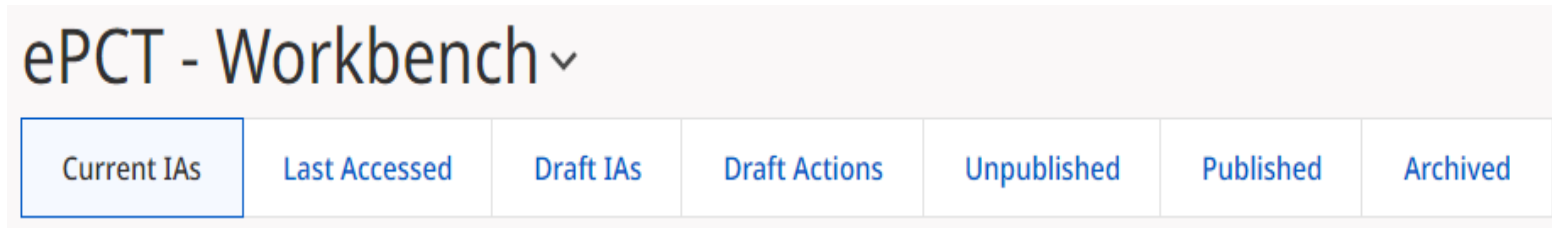
■ If any applications have passed 30 + 2 months from the priority date, ePCT proposes to archive them for you when you sign in

Consider archiving IAs for which the 30 month time limit [end of the international phase] has expired +2 additional months for entry into national phase in certain designated Offices   Archive

Workbench functions (2)

■ Many combinations are possible with the Advanced search on the Workbench - you can choose to extend filter to archived IAs

Advanced search | Download list | Columns | Show rows [ALL] | Default sort order

☐ Extend filter to archived IAs

Search criteria *

Reset   Add criteria   Apply Filter

■ It is possible to save 'favorite' filter combinations for reuse

ePCT - Workbench ⌄

| Current IAs | Last Accessed | Draft IAs | Draft Actions | Unpublished | Published | Archived | Search 🔍 |

Filter applied | Save filter | Download list | Columns | Show rows [ALL] | Default sort order

Save filter

Filter Name *
RO/EP English filings

Cancel   Save filter

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Workbench functions (3)

- The Workbench columns can be re-arranged by dragging/dropping; customize show/hide ('Save columns' to keep applied changes)

- Workbench list can be downloaded to a spreadsheet

- Select one or more applications to reveal a bar that gives access to functions such as managing access rights, archiving and organizing applications into Portfolios

- Clicking on the IA number, file reference or 'My rights' link will open up the corresponding application

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Timeline

■ Date and time in Geneva, Switzerland, is displayed at the top of the screen to facilitate awareness of deadlines

■ Graphical representation of PCT time limits

■ Summary of key dates

■ E-mail alerts for most of these time limits can be set up in Notifications Preferences
https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/epct/learnmore.html?N=528

ePCT Notifications

- Strong authentication required to benefit fully

  - Preferences allow you to specify the events in the lifecycle of a PCT application for which you want to receive notifications

  - Informative reminders, not yet a formal communication method (planned as future step)

  - Method (e-mail, ePCT Notifications list, or both) and type of notifications

- Filters

  - Received date, read date, unread, date range

- Clearing of notifications from the list

- Only most recent 500 notifications are displayed

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Multilingual Address Book

- Record and store contact details of applicants, inventors, and agents

- Possibility to include English transliteration for entries in Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Russian

- Import of existing address book (.csv extension) from former PCT-SAFE or EPO online filing software

- Address book sharing based on access rights
  - eOwner (can edit, view and share)
  - eEditor (can edit and view)
  - eViewer (can view only)

History

- List of actions taken by all ePCT users for the PCT application in question

  - Option to filter by date

- Default view is for the last one week period

- Similar 'My History' function is available via the dropdown menu next to your name in the ePCT header

  - 'My History' lists only <u>your</u> actions taken in ePCT in respect of any international application

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Business Continuity Service

- Business Continuity Service (BCS) https://pctcs.wipo.int

  - **IMPORTANT** - BCS is a backup solution to be used only if ePCT is unavailable for technical reasons or you are unable to log in ePCT with your WIPO Account

  - Please use ePCT system whenever possible to benefit from the full range of functions and validations

- Possibility to file with 87 receiving Offices

- Upload documents to IB only

- https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/epct/learnmore.html?N=1648

Direct links to useful information

■ ePCT web page
https://pct.wipo.int/ePCTExternal/pages/landing.xhtml

■ PCT Resources page https://www.wipo.int/pct
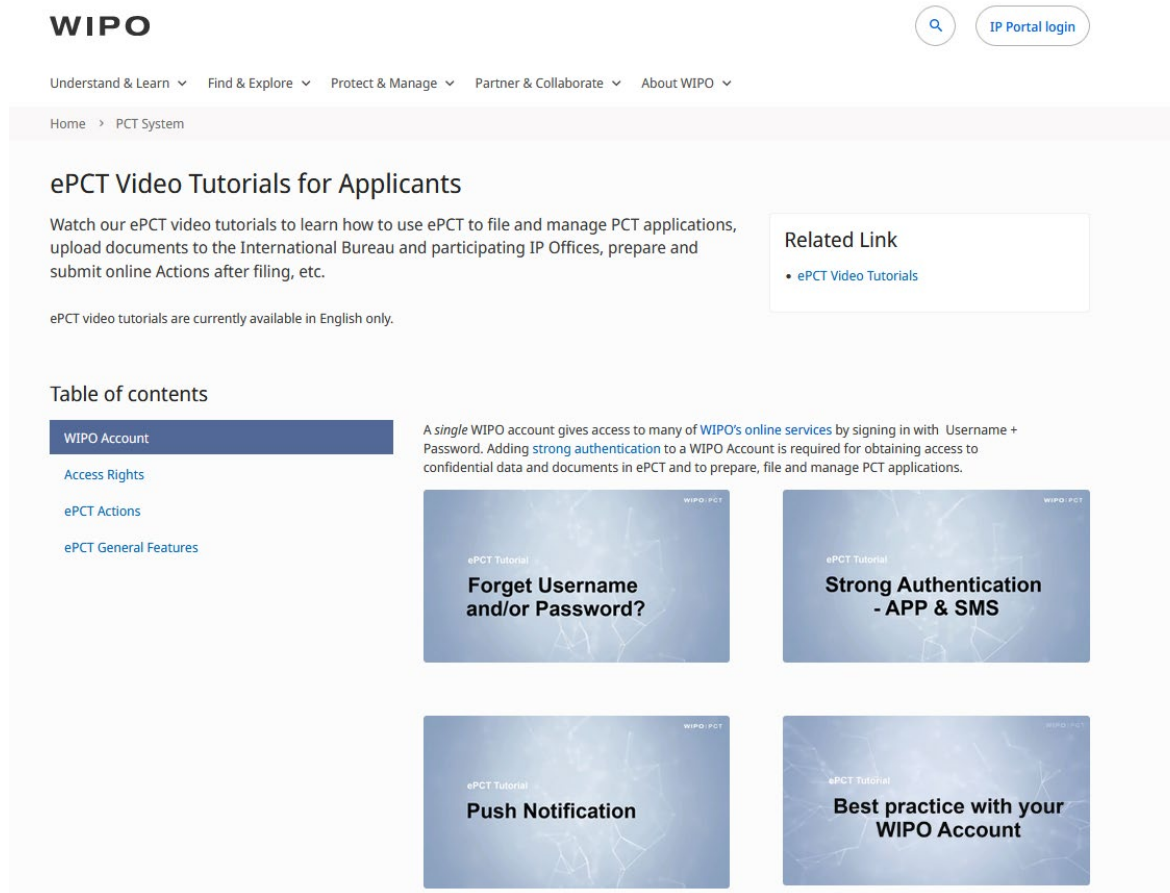
■ Quick access to other WIPO online services, e.g., DAS, Madrid (trademarks), The Hague (designs), etc. via the IP Portal 'MENU'

■ Office profiles (look up competent RO-ISA info, closed dates, fee amounts, filing methods, etc.)

ePCT tutorial videos

■ https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/epct/tutorials.html

ePCT in DEMO mode

■ [https://pct**demo**.wipo.int](https://pctdemo.wipo.int)

■ Demo environment in which you can practice and familiarize yourself with ePCT

■ **Do not use confidential or sensitive data in the ePCT demo environment**

■ **BE CAREFUL NOT TO CONFUSE <u>DEMO</u> MODE WITH <u>PRODUCTION</u> MODE!**

HELP with ePCT (1)

■ Use the "HELP" link in the ePCT header
https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/epct/support.html

■ FAQs and user documentation

❑ Database of help info (use 'Search' feature to pinpoint a topic)

❑ Live Chat (during business hours) available via FAQ answers

❑ Webinars on ePCT

❑ Useful "how to" videos

HELP with ePCT (2)

■ Look up ePCT reference data held in IB data base – the basis for extensive validations in the system, including Office profiles, closed, dates, fee amounts, etc.

■ PCT eServices

❑ Tel: +41-22-338-9523

❑ E-mail: pct.eservices@wipo.int

❑ Monday to Friday, 9am-6pm Geneva time

❑ Chat feature available

Thank you!

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