

## Possibilities!

As a user of the online registration portal for both of my businesses and as a business systems analyst and consultant engaged in conceptualizing, implementing, and maintaining process improvements for online and offline workflows I'd like to offer the following suggestions. These are just a few ideas that come to mind.

### Registration Process for Unpublished Works

#### *Upload Progress Bar & Process Progress Are Not Always Synchronized*

Observation: During upload of zipped files at small business speeds (cable modem), I've often noted the browser upload window's progress bar apparently lags the actual upload process. For example, if I have an upload which will be close, but under the 60minute/170MB ceiling, the file apparently completes while the progress bar shows the upload still underway.

I say "apparently" as the confirmation email is received noting the correct size and filename of the upload, indicating to me the upload was successfully completed.

This is most apparent it seems at slower upload speeds.

Recommendation: Revisit the progress indicator to see if there are performance enhancements which can be implemented to bring it into synchrony with the actual upload process.

#### *Electronic Deposit Upload Updates Report – Include Filename & File Size*

Observation: While the filename is retained for sending out the email indicating successful upload, the report of uploads for a given case do not retain this information. Instead the fields comments, activity type, status, created, created by are listed some of which are populated by what appears to be standard application/SQL insert text which I suspect means more internally to the development and customer support teams than it does necessarily to users. For example, the "Created By" field is populated by the text "ECOPRDGUEST". It would be more helpful in my instance, and I suspect other uploaders as well, to include a column with the actual filename that was uploaded as well as its file size – both have meaning to the uploading user providing immediate comparators to what is on our systems.

As another tweak, I would also recommend replacing or retitling the "Comments" field as the report basically has boilerplate populated by username and date of upload – "Submitted by USERNAME on UPLOAD DATE". Since the upload date is apparently in line with the "Created" column's date timestamp, that part seems a bit redundant. For clarity sake the "Created" column might instead be retitled "Upload Date" or "Create Date" though that is somewhat of a semantics issue that may not apply if the report is reused for other purposes. Getting back to the "Comments" field, it seems it would be better titled "Submitted By" or "User" since the USERNAME is the only non-redundant information in the rest of the report.

If there is a need for “Created By” in this display for customer service or developers then perhaps there should be a role that is setup so that this column only displays for them and not for the end user to whom “ECOPRDGUEST” means little.

## Completed Registrations

### *Capability to Search for Individual Digital Files within a Registration (Search done by Registrant)*

Observation: Although I’d agree it should be up to the registrant to maintain their own system for identifying which digital files are registered with what registration, it would be extremely valuable to have the ability to identify specific digital files within a registration (closed case).

Recommendation: If zipped files are unzipped and fed into the system, I assume that at some point these files are tied to the registration for which they were uploaded. Presumably this is a database of sorts which could be queried.

It would be incredibly valuable to be able to query that repository to at minimum get the filename, file size, and date of upload in a report from the online copyright registration portal. This could help clarify that a user has in fact done what they thought they had in terms of including images (or other files) for copyright (sounds silly, but...).

Optimally that search also would display a web rendering of the uploaded file along with the aforementioned data. Metadata also would be fantastic – including information such as is available from Phil Harvey’s EXIF Tool could be helpful although the EXIF information if still within exposed (visibly presented to the user) files can be done on the client side so that doesn’t necessarily have to be information placed into the database – although indeed it could be for users seeking information about images or other media files.

### *Capability to Search for Individual Digital Files (Search Done by Others)*

This I would think also would be valuable to those wishing to validate an image’s copyright status or the viability of a copyright claim.

Recommendation: While I can see this as being helpful to identify copyrighted works, care must be taken also to not expose works to others that might violate those copyrights. Given that many view online images as being “free” regardless of copyright status, opening searches should be done carefully to respect copyright holders.

### *Registered Image Check (Search Done by Others)*

It could be quite powerful if an image were dropped into a search (uploaded) for comparison against existing registrations. Using digital methods to compare the actual image with the version uploaded by the searcher, it could offer an opportunity to avoid copyright infringements by identifying copyright holders. It might work something like this:

1. Image user uploads picture to check
2. Copyright.gov system runs comparisons against image data & metadata to see if there is a match
3. Copyright.gov website returns a match if X% of the data is the same as a registered item and provides the copyright owner's contact email\* should the image user want to license the image  
\*if the registrant identifies in their profile to expose this information

Such a service could be at a cost that could assist in maintaining the copyrighted material.

*Infringed Image Check (Automated Search Periodically Checks for Online Infringements)*

This also could be a powerful item, though likely would need to work in tandem with companies like DigiMarc and others who provide subscription based services searching for infringers.

Should this even be feasible given the mass of media placed online daily, there is definitely a benefit to copyright registrants as internet based infringements I would think is responsible many that occur. A system which focuses on domains which are the greatest infringers would reduce processing time.

I can see a report display within the online registration system which enables a registrant to view an application, and enables drill-down to the uploaded files within the application. That drill-down would display a column or indicate the number of infringements found. This number could be a link that would open to hyperlinks to the infringing locations. It would be up to the registrant to address the infringement. Though not a perfect system these days this would be incredibly valuable.

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In closing, I'd like to say I appreciate the ability to upload unpublished works. It speeds the workflow incredibly. I also appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback and recommend a link to this feedback page be placed prominently on the login page so that others can provide similarly valuable feedback. Opening the doors to users can provide an opportunity to really meet their needs. Thanks!

Sincerely,  
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