GQ Life Sciences

GENOMEQUEST FAMILY ASSIGNMENTS

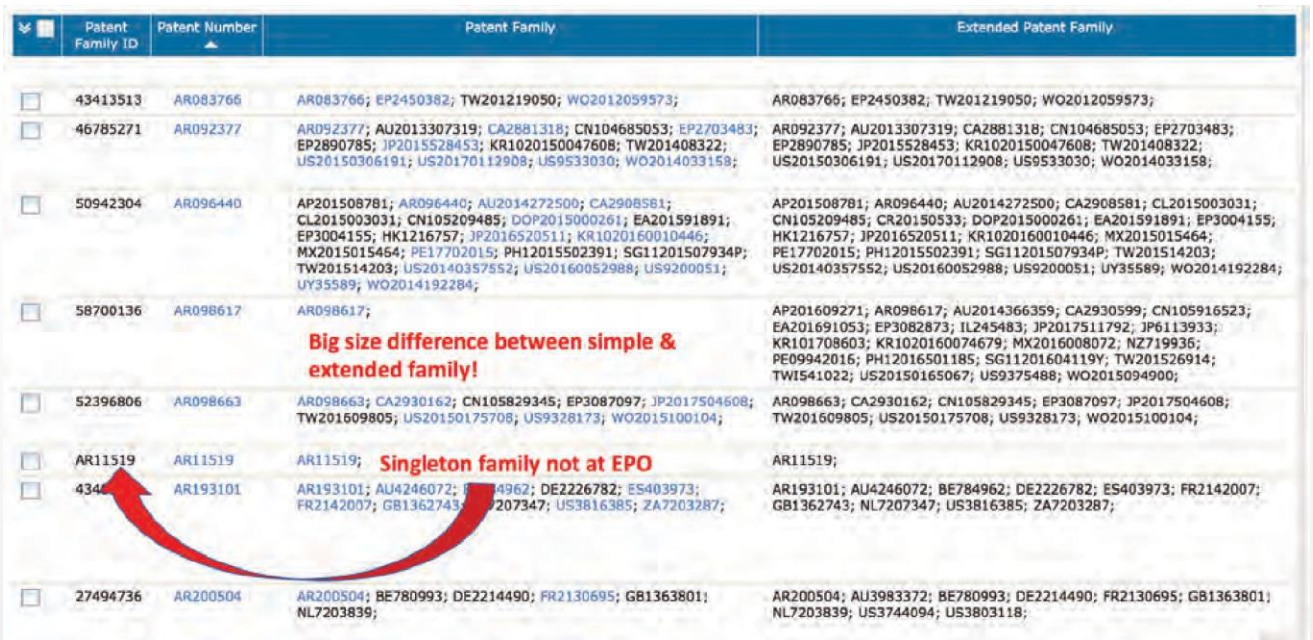
Over the last year, GenomeQuest has moved from Extended to Simple (or tight) family assignments. You may have noticed that your Patent Family ID values look completely different. They have changed from being a patent number (usually the first one in the family alphabetically) to just a numeric string for almost all families.

The logic behind this is that extended families are just that – extended and very broad. Often members are only tenuously related with regard to the technology or the invention. EPO's definition is "a collection of related patent applications that is covering similar technical content". Many searchers have shaken their heads at least once over some of the members of an extended family. Members like this (for example, patents on coin-counting systems and a genetic invention in the same family) are included by the coincidence of a single priority filing coinciding with that of one other family member.

Our new focus, "tight (or simple) families" are patent filings all drawn to the same invention. EPO's definition is "a collection of related patent applications that is covering the same technical content". Divisionals are included in the same simple family; however, continuations-in-part are NOT, because they contain new content, and thus they are assigned to a new family.

Although we've switched our identifiers to the simple family numerics, we've retained the Extended Family field. This is useful for several reasons:

- If you are accustomed to using extended families, you still have access to this information;
- If you need for some reason to go back to the "old" Patent Family ID values, take the first member of the Extended Family and use that for the Patent Family ID. This can easily be done in EXCEL. This will give you two Patent Family ID columns: the "new" simple family ID, and the older extended family ID.



Some more detail and links!

Extended Family == INPADOC Extended Family:
https://www.epo.org/searching-for-patents/helpful-resources/first-time-here/patent-families/inpadoc.html

One liner description:
An extended patent family is a collection of patent documents covering a technology. The technical content covered by the applications is similar, but not necessarily the same. Members of an extended patent family will have at least one priority in common with at least one other member - either directly or indirectly.

How to identify them in GQ:
They are in the extended family field and are shown the full member list. The extended family id is a patent number of the family.

Tight family == DOCDB Simple Family:
https://www.epo.org/searching-for-patents/helpful-resources/first-time-here/patent-families/docdb.html

One liner description:
A simple patent family is a collection of patent documents that are considered to cover a single invention. The technical content covered by the applications is considered to be identical. Members of a simple patent family will all have exactly the same priorities.

How to identify them in GQ:
The tight family can be identified using family_id, which is essentially docdb_family_id. docdb_family_id is an integer and is persistent in EPO's database and provided by EPO.

Exception: There are sometimes single patents that the EPO doesn't have in their database, so they aren't assigned to a tight family. Their family_id in GQ would be the patent number themselves, the way we previously identified families.

CONTACT

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