

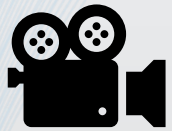


HONU™

Navigating the World with Ease:

Discover How HONU Can Optimize Your IP Law Firm's Foreign Patent Management

Before We Get Started



Recording

A link to the recording and slides will be emailed to all registrants.



Recording

Type in the question box, and we will answer in real time or during the Q&A.



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Panel



Jim Hallenbeck

President & CEO,
Black Hills AI



Elliott Higgins

Computer Scientist,
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Dr. John Collins

Director,
Murgitroyd



Adam Reece

IP Automation Specialist,
Black Hills AI

Agenda

- Foreign Correspondence Docketing Challenges
- What is HONU
- How HONU Works
- Demo
- Murgitroyd: Experience of a participating foreign firm
- Workflow: From HONU to Delivery
- Automated Docketing from HONU

Foreign Correspondence Docketing Challenges



Docketing Challenges

Traditional Docketing Processes

- Rare, but some still use physical files and paper-based tracking systems
- Manual data entry of incoming correspondence
- Manual verification of docketing, filing receipts, office actions, and other filings
- Individual handling of each prosecution document
- Reliance on email communications
- Duplicate emails from foreign agents

Docketing Challenges

Common Inefficiencies

- Time-consuming manual data entry
- Risk of human error in deadline calculations
- Inconsistent data entry formats
- Duplicate data entry across multiple systems
- Delayed processing of incoming correspondence
- Limited or delayed visibility into prosecution status

Docketing Challenges

Error-Prone Practices

- Manual deadline calculations
- Inconsistent naming conventions
- Reliance on individual memory for complex procedures
- Lack of standardized verification processes
- Inadequate backup systems for critical dates
- Manual cross-referencing of related applications
- Delayed client report out
- Delayed updates to client records

Docketing Challenges

Optimal Docketing Processes

- Reduce/eliminate touches of correspondence
 - True Automation
 - Data acquisition
 - Docketing
 - Verification
 - Automated Internal Reporting
 - Automated Client Reporting
 - Each of these can be achieved
 - But normalizing correspondence and the associated datasets is necessary

What is HONU™?



Introduction to HONU™

Managing complex global IP portfolios can be challenging. Inconsistent reporting practices and terminology complicate things and a lot of time is wasted on unnecessary duplicate notifications and reminders.

HONU is a platform that enables reporting of IP correspondence through a dedicated portal for management in a simple, structured manner to obtain a **normalized data set** of the correspondence.

HONU provides great efficiencies through elimination of multiple manual steps and provides opportunities for automation.

Benefits of Using HONU™

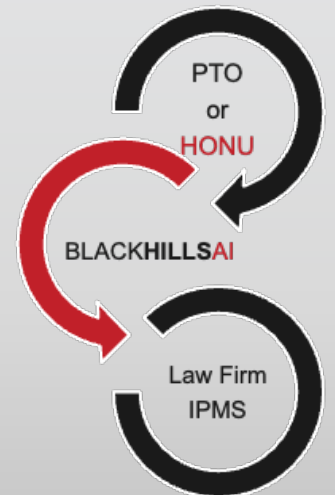
- **Incoming foreign docketing can be standardized.**
 - All communications are reported in the same format with due dates all clearly identified.
- **Redundant communications can be eliminated.**
 - Agent gets a confirmation immediately upon upload eliminating confirmation copies and responses.
- **Foreign agent workflows can be simplified.**
 - Only communications requiring docketing need be attended to by the Docketing department – all other communications are directly between the respective paralegals and attorneys.
- **Docketing turn-around can be significantly improved.**
 - Time saved wading through redundant and junk communications can be used to docket items instead and docketing standardization makes docketing faster.
- **Higher quality docketing can be achieved.**
 - Elimination of errors identifying due dates in free text and correctly identifying the purpose of the docketing communication are eliminated, resulting in fewer errors.

HONU™ Output

The Role of Normalized Data Sets

Definition and Importance of Normalized Data Sets

- *Reduce/eliminate touching of correspondence documents*
- Standardization of data formats for predictable, reliable, and accurate processing
- Consistent representation of dates, names, reference numbers, procedures, document indexing and storage schemes
- Unified terminology for document types and status indicators
- Structured format for attorney and inventor information
- Uniform deadline calculation rules
- Consistent, logical commenting
- Matching your standards, processes, and procedures with the capabilities of your IP Management System and its Application Programming Interface (API)



The Benefits of Normalized Data Sets

- **Enhanced Data Accuracy**

- Reduced data entry errors
- Automated validation checks
- Consistent data interpretation

- **Improved Efficiency**

- Automated data import/export
- Faster processing of documents
- Simplified reporting capabilities

- **System Integration**

- Seamless data integration
- Enhanced compatibility
- Improved data migration capabilities

- **Quality Control Advantages**

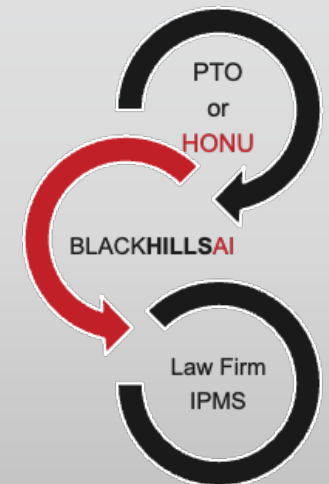
- Standardized docketing procedures
- Standardized quality checks
- Automated error detection
- Consistent reporting metrics

How HONU™ Works



Translating Normalized Datasets to Docketing

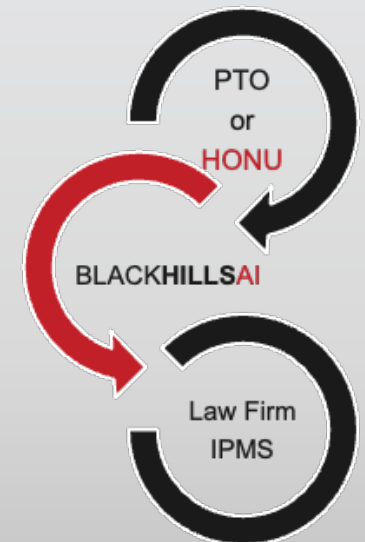
- Manual docketing teams do not need to hunt for data as all the relevant data is extracted and presentable for manual docketing
- Manual effort is significantly reduced by eliminating duplicates of correspondence and automating acquisition of documents and data
- Databases – two docketing procedure databases and a mapping database:
 - A database of normalized docketing procedures
 - A database of firm specific docketing procedures
 - A mapping database includes data mapping normalized docketing procedures to firm specific docketing procedures



Translating Normalized Datasets to Docketing

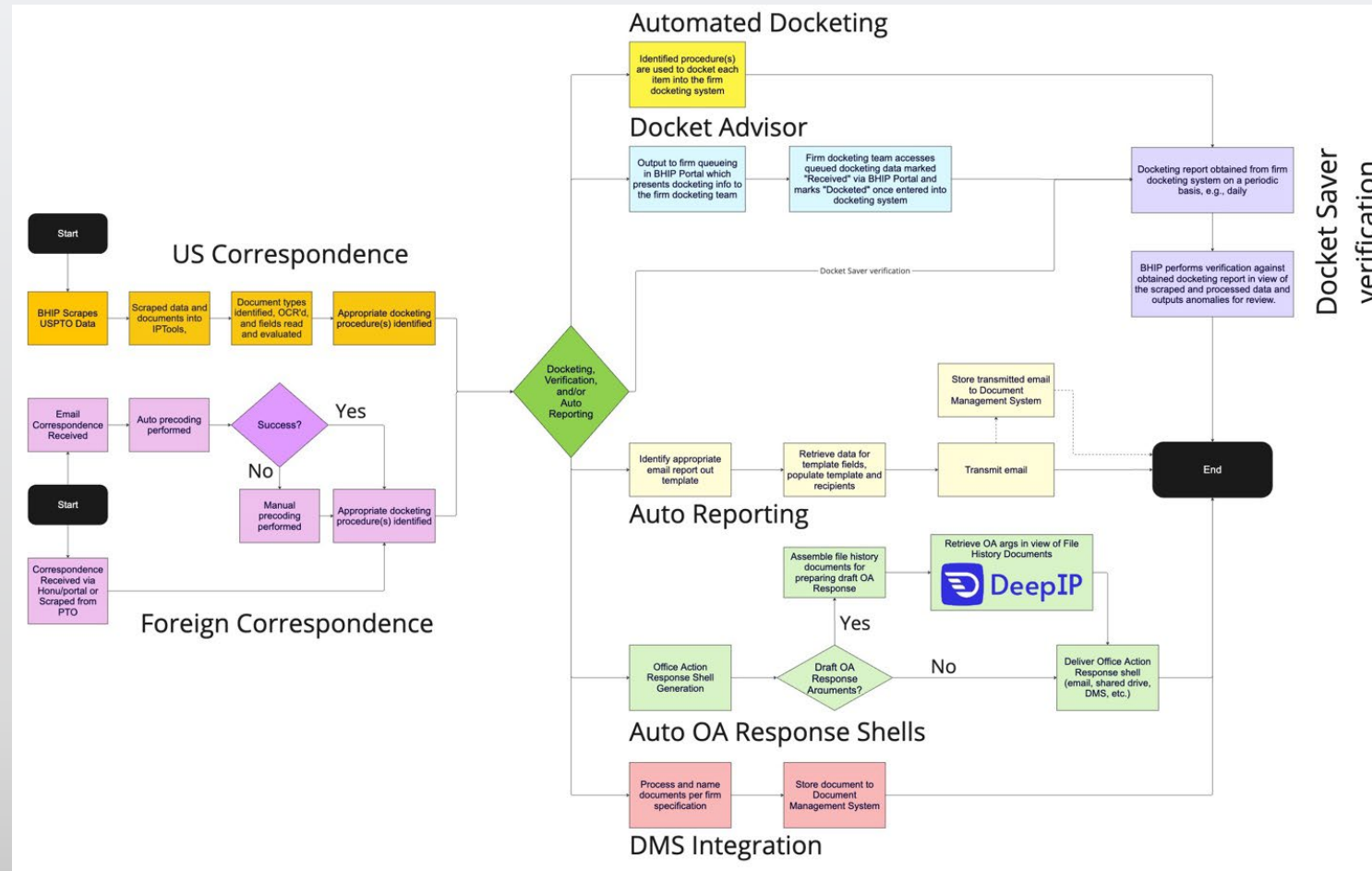
Processing Correspondence

- Received correspondence data and documents are processed to identify the appropriate normalized docketing procedure
- A mapping of the identified normalized docketing procedure to a firm specific docketing procedure is then identified
- The combination of the normalized docketing procedure and the firm specific docketing procedure are executed in concert to output the documents and data in the normalized form either:
 - To a dashboard for manual docketing entry, or
 - To an automate docketing process to effectuate the proper docketing procedure to make the docketing entry



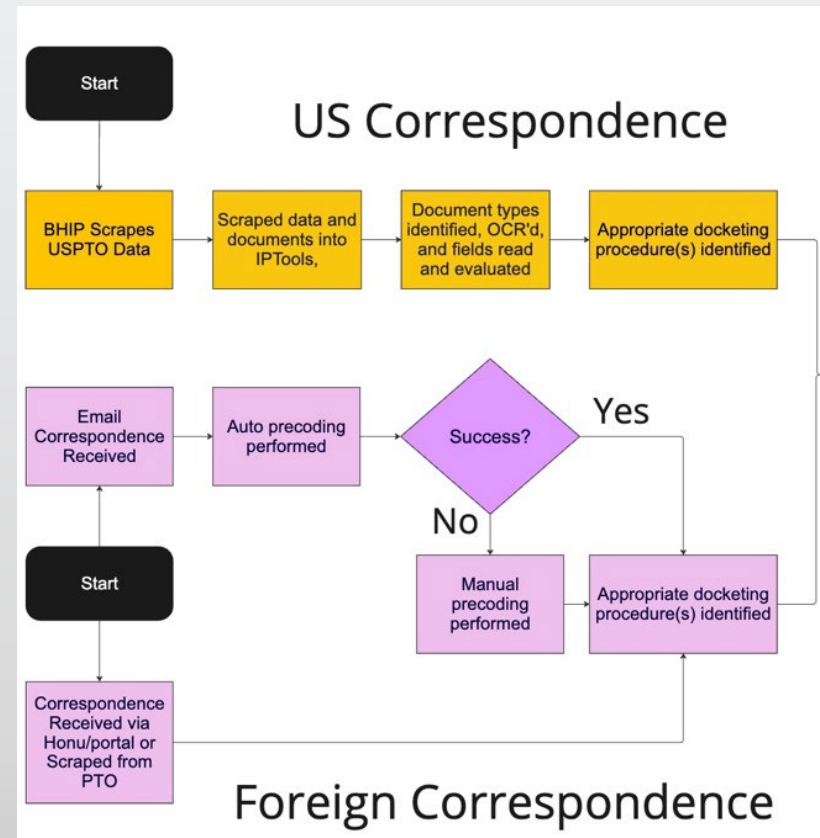
Normalization Process

This is a comprehensive automation process supported by normalization.



Normalization Process

This is a detailed view of the automation process supported by normalization.



Building the Normalized Dataset

USPTO correspondence normalization processing includes:

- Downloading the documents and associated (XML) data from Patent Center
- OCR'ing the document(s)
- When USPTO data identifies the document type:
 - Verifying the identification using the OCR and sophisticated processing logic
 - If incorrect, identifying the correct document type(s)
 - Extracting the relevant data based on the identified document type(s)
- Identifying normalized docketing procedures based on the identified document types, USPTO data, and extracted data

Building the Normalized Dataset

Foreign Correspondence

- Correspondence is submitted via HONU using a wizard-like adaptive interface to build a normalized dataset and to identify uploaded documents as they are received
- The foreign agent then immediately receives a confirmation of what was submitted so the agent doesn't have to follow up if an acknowledgement of receipt email is not received
- The processing for foreign correspondence then proceeds the same as USPTO correspondence to validate the accuracy of the data received and to identify the proper normalized procedure and so on

HONU™ Demo



Murgitroyd: Experience of a Participating Foreign Firm



Murgitroyd's Use of HONU™

- Murgitroyd was an early adopter of HONU in February 2024.
- Adoption of HONU into Murgitroyd's processes was simple and intuitive.
- Paralegals at Murgitroyd use HONU for reporting all official communications filed by Murgitroyd at and received from:
 - the UKIPO (patents trademarks and designs),
 - the EPO,
 - the EUIPO (designs and trademarks),
 - WIPO (patents, designs and trademarks), and
 - the national patent offices of France, Hong Kong and the Netherlands.

The Process - Simplicity

- The use of HONU replaces the traditional reporting using emails.
- The HONU portal allows for the direct reporting of official communications for docketing to HONU and for informational emails to be generated and sent by HONU to, e.g.:
 - Responsible attorney in Murgitroyd.
 - Instructing US counsel.
 - The client or other third parties as required by the client.
- For reporting of EPO communications, HONU provides a listing of documents on the EPO official file to allow simple selection of the communication to be reported.

The Process - Sureness

- HONU retrieves information when the client's reference is entered to start the process to allow the paralegal to check that the correct case is selected for reporting.
- The selection of EPO documents for reporting reduces uploading errors.
- An automatic receipt is generated by HONU which is saved to Murgitroyd's records as proof of reporting.

HONU™ Workflow



HONU Workflow



Docketing Reported Through Honu™

What gets reported through Honu?

New Applications

Acknowledgment of request to file a new patent application
Confirmation of filing of an application
Request for documents needed for the filing of an application
Any papers filed to complete application
PTO actions respecting formalities and completed
Official filing receipt

Prosecution and Issuance

Publication of the application
Request for examination
All PTO actions (e.g., notices, rejections/allowances)
Report of interview/oral communications with PTO
Translations of actions or cited art
All items filed or paid by the applicant
Issuance documents (patent grants or certificates)
Final or urgent reminders
Any other communications regarding a new due date

What doesn't get reported through Honu™?

Non-Docketing Events

Preliminary reports of an action taken
Communications regarding items previously reported by agent (with the exception of urgent and final reminders)
Questions or advice directed to the Attorney/Paralegal
General attorney communications that are merely informational, like notifications of a change in law or regulations
Invoices (please report these as previously instructed)



Foreign document
needs reporting

Does the document require docketing?

Yes

No



Report through Honu™



Send via conventional
email



Honu automatically routes
docketing correspondence
to docketing team



Communication is
received by
paralegals/attorneys



Docketing is performed



Paralegals/attorneys
respond to agent as
needed



Communication is routed
to the paralegal/
attorneys

Auto-Docketing



Adding Structure: Automation using HONU TM

- 1. Identify relevant matter data**
 - Country
 - Application Number
 - File Number
- 2. Select actionable attachment(s)**
 - Official PTO Communication
 - Filed Response
 - References
- 3. Classify documents**
- 4. Extract necessary docketing data**
 - Mail date
 - Due date
 - Instructions date
 - Bibliographic data

Adoption



Agents & HONU

Honu Invites Sent	264
Honu Firm Invites Accepted	195
Honu Users	637

Thank you for your interest.

Questions?

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