

Using PEDDaL to prove the age and integrity of paper documents

A. Registering the Document: (document owner actions)

1. Generate a word-processing version of the document.
The computer file can be a MS Word document (*.doc), WordPad rich text format (*.rtf), an ASCII text file (*.txt), or any other convenient format.
2. Calculate a modified integrity verification code (IVC) according to the methods taught in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 12/053,560, Document Integrity Verification.
IMPORTANT: A separately licensed computer software product may be required in order to generate the modified IVC.
3. Register the modified IVC with PEDDaL.
NOTE: The IVC for most PEDDaL records will be the default style record, which uses IVCs for verifying computer files, not paper documents.
You may wish to also submit another record to PEDDaL for the computer file.
4. Keep at least one paper copy safe and legible.
5. Retain the PEDDaL record and database edition information, so that the proper record can be found easily, when you need to prove the age and integrity of the document.

B. Proving the Document Age and Integrity: (verifying entity actions)

6. Obtain a copy of the paper document.
7. Scan the paper copy to generate an image of the document in a computer file.
The computer file can be an Adobe Acrobat document (*.pdf) file
8. OCR the image to generate a text version of a computer file.
9. Calculate a modified IVC from the OCR text, using the same method as used earlier to generate the modified IVC PEDDaL record.
10. Obtain identifying information for the PEDDaL record and database edition, which allegedly prove the paper document age.
11. Obtain a copy of the identified PEDDaL edition.
12. Establish a date for the PEDDaL edition.
13. Identify the record in the PEDDaL edition, which allegedly matches a document record that was submitted earlier, by the document owner.
The final few characters of each 256 character record is the index number. It is in hexadecimal, so it may be a combination of both numbers and letters.
14. Identify, within the record in the PEDDaL edition, the digital fingerprint portion.
The digital fingerprint portion is the first 168 characters of each 256 character record, and is two hash values, each generated from a different SHA hash function, which is endorsed by the NSA. Both values are hexadecimal.
15. Compare the modified IVC, generated in Step #9, with the digital fingerprint found in the PEDDaL edition.