

Glossary



Intellectual Property: Patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets.

Patent: A grant issued by the federal government giving an inventor the right to exclude others from making, having made, using, leasing, offering to sell, selling, or importing an invention in the United States.

Trademark/™ ® : A non-functional word, logo, slogan, symbol, design—or any combination of these—that distinguishes a product or service.

Copyright/© : A right that protects original works of authorship fixed in a tangible medium of expression. Copyright protects the expression of ideas, not the ideas themselves, and gives their authors exclusive rights to reproduce the copyrighted material.

Trade Secret: A formula, pattern, manufacturing process, method of doing business, or technical know-how that gives its holder a competitive advantage. Trade secrets cover a wide spectrum of information, including chemical compounds, machine patterns, customer lists and software.

Invention: Any art or process (way of doing or making things), machine, manufacture, design, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, or any variety of plant, which is or may be patentable under the patent laws of the United States

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO): An intergovernmental organization of the United Nations system. WIPO is responsible for the promotion of the protection of intellectual property throughout the world and for the administration of various multilateral treaties dealing with the legal and administrative aspects of intellectual property.

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

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