



## INVENTION DISCLOSURE CHECKLIST COMPUTER-BASED INVENTIONS

The following checklist includes questions to ask when writing invention disclosures or teaching documents for computer-based technologies. It will help identify patentable subject matter for a robust patent application that is more likely to be successful.

### Focus of the Invention

- What are we improving?
- Does the process improve the ability of a generic computer or other technology to perform its functions?
- Why can't a human perform this process with a pen and paper?
- Is the computer doing more than simply implementing the process?
- Is there something special about the hardware or the software required?

### Structure of the Invention

- What is the structure of the system that implements the process?
- Can we include diagrams of the architecture/network/hardware?
- Can we include block diagrams to show interconnections or interrelationships?
- What user interface elements are needed and how are they generated or arranged?
- Is there anything special about the *generic* elements?
- Is the computer system used in a non-standard way or location?
- How is the data stored and/or updated?
- Why were certain data structures used instead of others?

### Invention Execution Details

- What are the inputs to the process? Where and how are they obtained?
- What are the steps of the process?
- Are certain steps implemented by certain components in a system? Why are those components used?
- Can we include flow charts/sequence diagrams/swim lanes?
- What is the result of the process?
- If the process were implemented in *hardware* what sorts of components would be involved?