



Australian Government
IP Australia



Patents



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The CPC journey at IP Australia

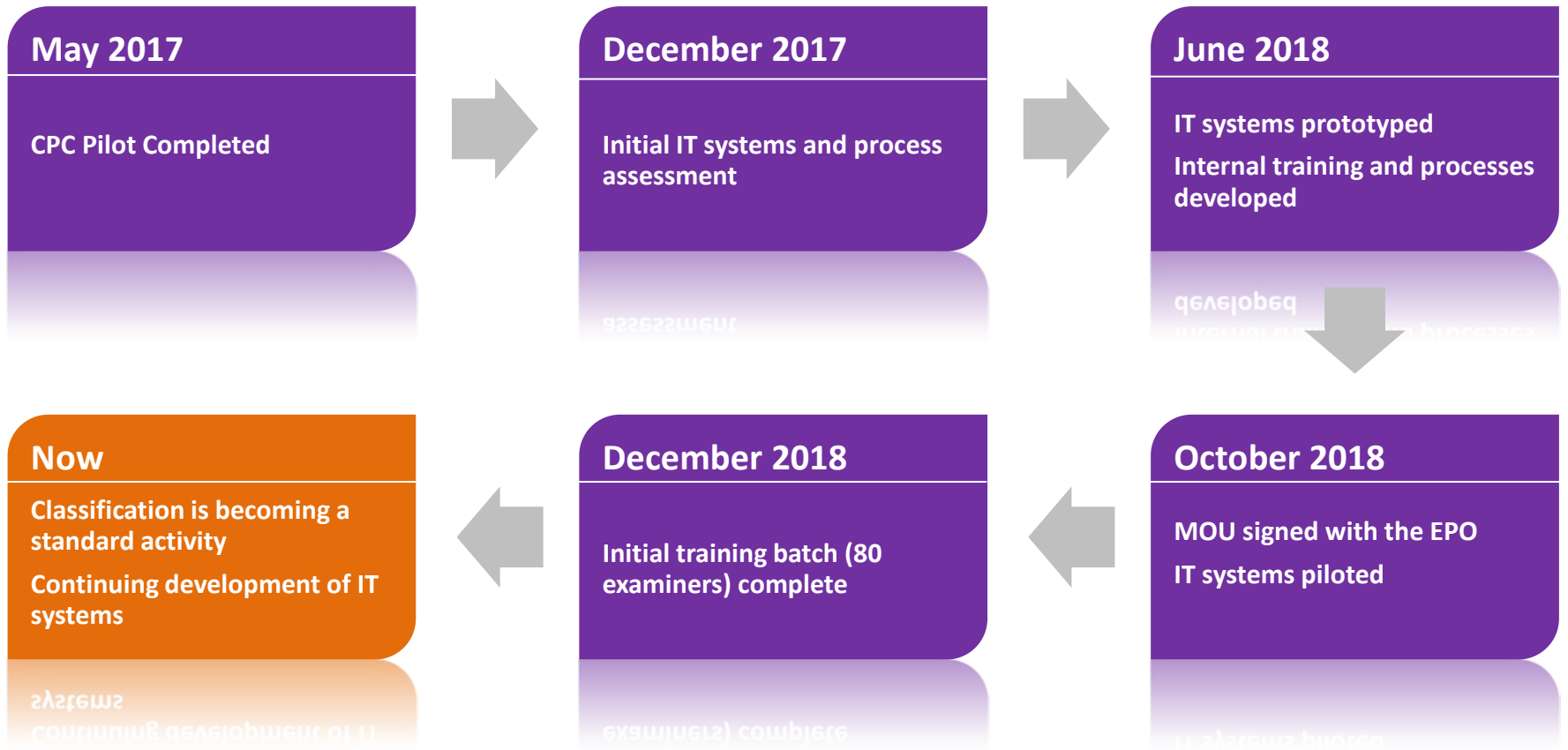
Abhinay Mukunthan

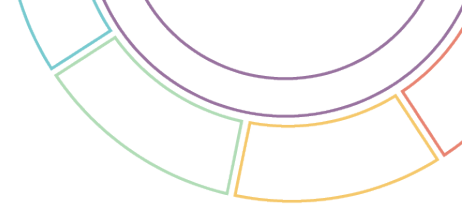
CPC Implementation team | Senior examiner of Patents
IP Australia.





A history of CPC at IP Australia





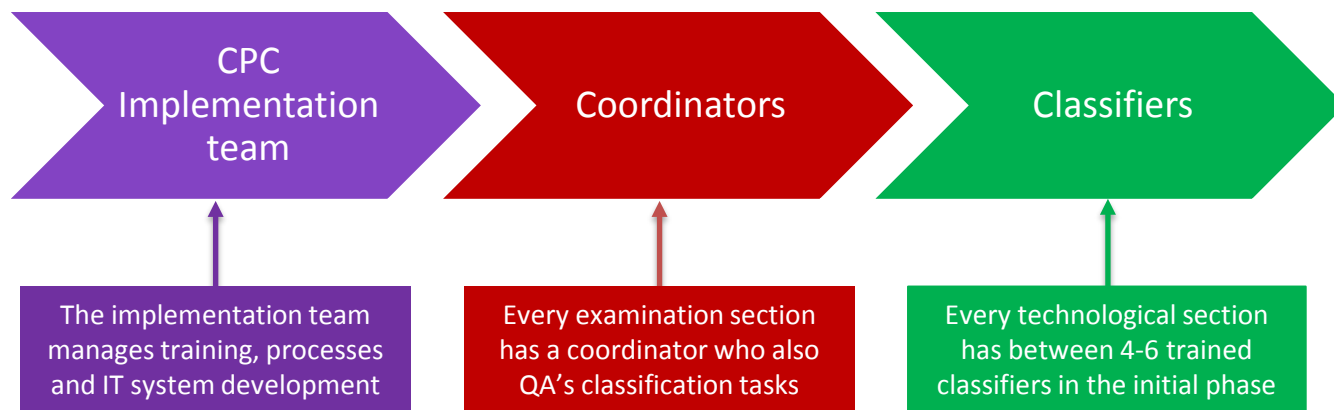
Outcomes from the Pilot

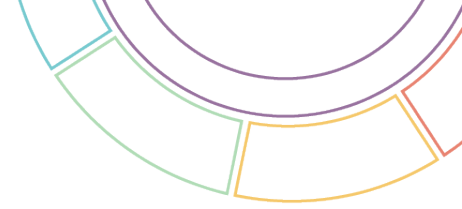
- Feedback from the EPO in December 2016 and internal analysis in 2017 indicated that our classification of an acceptable standard
- The pilot program led to assessment of foundational requirements such as:
 - Training
 - ICT infrastructure
 - Resourcing



CPC at IP Australia

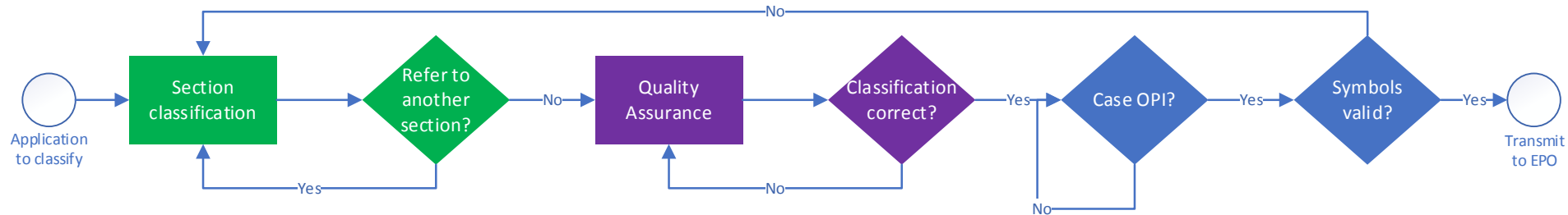
- An implementation team was created to formalise various aspects of CPC classification: Processes, Training, IT Systems, and Communications
- This team works with a coordinator in each examination section, who coordinates a group of classifiers in their section





The Classification Process

- Each application is classified and QA'd at filing to make symbols available for search and examination
- Symbols are revised against latest schema before transmission to the EPO





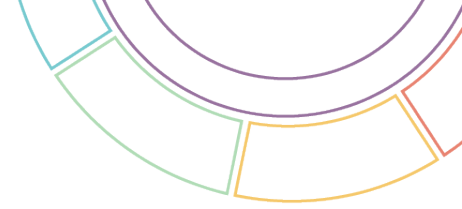
Training

- Training materials were developed using knowledge and resources of staff who have trained directly at the EPO offices and internal resources
- We introduced a blended training program comprised of:
 - A common e-learning module to introduce the concepts of the CPC
 - Classrooms providing Technology-Specific Training and
 - A period of ongoing training through discussion and feedback exercises
- More than 80 Examiners have completed the new CPC training program, with plans for more examiners to undertake the training program based on operational requirements.



Continuous Training Phase

- This phase allows classifiers to familiarise themselves with the CPC classification process through regular classification activities
- Challenges identified from this phase:
 - Developing business rules for Combination sets
 - Managing revision of classification symbols prior to exporting data to the EPO in the IT system
 - Defining what “classification competency” is
 - Finalising communication channels with the EPO for data export



ICT development

- Adapting existing IT systems for the CPC process posed significant challenges
- A new cloud-based tool, independent of existing IT systems, was therefore developed and currently supports:
 - Workflows for classification and QA
 - Collaborative classification and QA of a cross-technology case by multiple examination sections
 - Validation of symbols against the latest version of the CPC schema
- The upcoming version will include workflows for revision and reclassification and a schema browser for ease of classification



Tool Interface – Task Overview

Patent CPC Classifier Hello, **Abhinay** ELEC2 admin Admin Export

Start

Default Unassigned Assigned Advanced Search ▾

Application No ↑	Section	Status	Created ↓
<input type="text" value="Filter by number"/>	<input type="text" value="MECH1 - Mecha ▾"/>	<input type="text" value="Pending QA ×"/> <input type="text" value="Completed QA ×"/>	
AU2019100052	MECH1 MECH5	QA COMPLETED CL PENDING	2019-02-05
AU2019100102	MECH1	QA PENDING Aisha Qi ●●●●●	2019-02-04



Tool Interface – Classification Screen

CURRENTLY BEING CLASSIFIED
by you

AU2018123456
Updated on 2019-02-05 by Abhina...

ELEC2 ▾ ← Back to pending classification Complete classification →

Active section

Classification required by these sections

ELEC2 - Electronics and Communications × ELEC3 - Computing ×

Classification comment

ELEC 3: Consider G06Q for elements of the case connected to financial transactions

Invention Symbols H04L9/02 Add

Invalid CPC

ELEC2 QA: pending

H04L9/0825 Abhinay Mukunthan v20130101

Additional Symbols New symbol Add

ELEC2 QA: pending

H04L9/083 Abhinay Mukunthan v20130101

New Combination Set First symbol I A Add



What's happening right now?



We classify all national applications with Australian, New Zealand or no priority, in addition to all international PCT applications for which IP Australia is the International Search Authority (ISA)



Classification takes place at filing, prior to searching. The RCL is used to ensure that classification is valid before transmission to the EPO



On-going refinement of internal CPC classification and QA processes and the IT systems



What's next?



Share data of all OPI applications with the EPO through Web Services if possible. Data exchange to start prior to Jan 2020.



Make CPC classification a “standard” activity within patent exam



Continuous improvement to the classification tool to better integrate with existing IPA systems



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Thank You

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