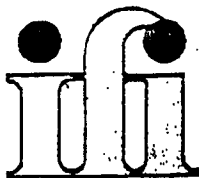


*Mr. Lehman*

Cable Address "UNITERM"

*Mr. Huth*



# IFI/PLENUM DATA CORPORATION

102 EASTWOOD ROAD, SUITE D6F • WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403 • TEL (910) 392-0088 • FAX (910) 392-0240

September 12, 1995

FAX LETTER

Bruce Lehman  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
and Commissioner, Patents and Trademarks

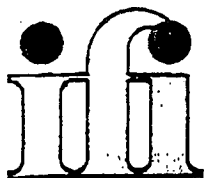
Dear Mr. Lehman:

The attached letter was faxed to Ms. Susan Katzen and Mr. Bruce McConnell of OMB. We are very much against the free service proposed by Carl Malamud and urge the PTO not to allow such a plan. Your support in this matter would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Harry M. Allcock  
Vice President

TRADEMARKS  
95 SEP 16 AM 1995  
E



# IFI/PLENUM DATA CORPORATION

102 EASTWOOD ROAD, SUITE D6F • WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403 • TEL (910) 392-0088 • FAX (910) 392-0240

September 12, 1995

## FAX LETTER

Bruce W. McConnell  
Chief, Policy and Technology Branch  
OMB  
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. McConnell:

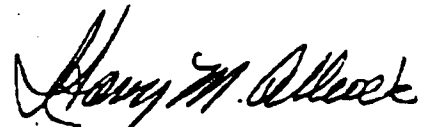
I have read with interest the news articles about making EDGAR DataBase searching available free and about the efforts of Internet Multicasting to force PTO to make patents available for free searching. From what I have been hearing from the "Malamud Press" I understand OMB has now agreed that they -- who are supposedly responsible for enforcing Circular A-130 (having written and issued it) -- are in favor of Mr. Malamud's proposal that patents be made available for free searching. As a minimum this seems a desecration of the law (Paperwork Reduction Act) and the Policy that OMB has promulgated. Such callous disregard of legality and principle is unbelievable on the part of the supposed enforcement agency.

I have been in the patent information services business for 34 years. My company obtains bibliographic patent tapes weekly from PTO and adds value to these tapes by expanding the titles of patents to disclose the use or what is novel about the patent; standardization of all assignment names; and updates of all US classifications currently and retrospectively back to 1950. Prior to the release of machine readable data from the PTO IFI keytaped the information from the "Official Gazette" and today we have computerized patent information available from 1950 to date. Our products are widely used and represent an investment of over \$30 million. We now depend on being able to purchase the magnetic tapes from the PTO at a price based on the cost of dissemination (pursuant, we understand to OMB Circular A-130) and on the government adhering to its policies on user fees and to the policies concerning making patent searching available through the 79 patent depository libraries and through the Public Search Room.

We are not a large business, but our patent Database is up on four online services and it is used in many countries throughout the world, thus, in a modest way, helping the U.S. trade balance.

If the PTO were to begin offering free patent searching it would have a serious negative effect on our business. We have relied for many years on what amounts to a partnership with the PTO, in fact we have supplied data to the PTO that was lost, and this has served the needs of patent searchers and helped the U.S. information services economy. The Internet does not change these realities, nor is it a reason to suddenly shift policies. We urge you to cease and desist from any attempts to promote or encourage PTO provision of free patent searching. Even though the Malamud service is full-text, its sponsorship by PTO would cause serious erosion of our business. Of course, if bibliographic data for multiple years were to be provided, that would be disastrous for IFI/ Plenum Data Corporation. We have built our business on hard work, skill, and business acumen. We would not like to see it destroyed by someone who has convinced OMB or PTO that all patent information should be free.

Sincerely,



Harry M. Allcock  
Vice President