**GovHack Welcome Pack 2018 – IP Australia**

IP Australia is the Australian Government agency that administers intellectual property (IP) rights and legislation relating to patents, trademarks, designs and plant breeder’s rights. It contributes to the innovation system by advising government and businesses on IP matters.

This is the fourth year that IP Australia has been a sponsor of GovHack as we once again encourage the development of innovative solutions to how we can make better use of and improve our data.

IPNOVA is our visual search engine interface to our IP rights data. It was produced by a bounty winner in our first year of sponsorship. IPNOVA is a GovHack success story, check it out [here](https://ipnova.ipaustralia.gov.au).

**Bounty Statement:**

How could the same business applicant be identified across multiple datasets and over time? How could we do this in new and interesting ways such as the use of blockchain?

**Problem and Technical Statement:**

IP data have duplicated records and misidentified businesses because applicants are inconsistent with providing their details. We also have little visibility about what our applicants do and thus, have a difficult time verifying their identity over time.

We also have different systems that capture different bits of information about our applicants and our systems don’t talk to each other. Different business areas at IP Australia attempt to harmonise their applicant names in isolation and this left us with a mess of different applicant IDs.

We are looking for your best and brightest ideas to help us decentralise applicant identification within a consensus. Please consider the use of emerging technologies such as blockchain.

**Data Dictionary for GovHack 2018:**

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| **variable** | **type** | **description** |
| appl\_number | string | number that identifies a patent application |
| appl\_year | number | year the application was effectively filed in Australia |
| applicant\_name | string | applicant name as given in the IP Australia records |
| applicant\_type | string | derived applicant type for research organisation, SME and large firm |
| abn | number | Australian Business Number (ABN) matched on applicant\_name |
| acn | number | Australian Company Number (ACN) matched on applicant\_name |
| entity\_type | string | type of entity identified for the matched ABN |
| no\_of\_appl | number | number of unique applications by the applicant\_name |
| ipa\_id | number | (new) unique applicant ID derived from applicant\_name |
| fmr\_ipa\_id | number | (old) unique applicant ID from the previous data release |
| party\_id | number | harmonised applicant ID in the Customer Data Hub |
| ccs\_pams\_customer\_id | number | raw applicant ID from the source systems |
| sap\_customer\_id | string | identifies the same applicant in the finance system |
| ipa\_customer\_id | string | unique ID for applicants with an eServices account |

 dataset: [data.gov.au/dataset/govhack-2018-ip-australia](https://data.gov.au/dataset/govhack-2018-ip-australia).