Optimized Assignee and Ultimate Parent: Lifting the fog around patent ownership

Remove the ambiguities around patent ownership. Learn more and [request a demo](#) today.

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Patents are rights of ownership. They confer the right to exclude others from using your invention without permission which you may grant freely, under license, or not at all. The control of how the rights are used resides with the owner. Establishing true ownership is important when assessing a technology landscape or identifying potential competitors, partners or acquisition targets as part of making strategic business decisions.

But it can be unclear who actually owns the patent. The name on the document is just the starting point. It may be accurate and complete, but often it is not. It may contain typographical errors (e.g. Int Busness Mashines Corp), may be a variant of the common business name (e.g. International Business Machine Corp, IBM Res GmbH etc.) or may be a subsidiary company (Storewiz Inc, Netezza Corp etc.). Or it may be absent altogether as in many US patent applications.

Then factor in that the patent may have been re-assigned, maybe several times, and it becomes clear that establishing the true ownership of a patent can be a challenge. And how about identifying the complete patent portfolio for a given company? Or for a complete group of companies from the parent down through all its subsidiaries?

There are some manual techniques which can be applied to help with these challenges, but they require substantial time and effort to achieve useful results. The same can now be achieved in a fraction of the time by automating those processes and using AI machine learning to derive true ownership of patents. That's what the newly introduced Optimized Assignee and Ultimate Parent fields within *Derwent Innovation* are designed to do.

Optimized Assignee provides a single preferred entity name which is not only a normalized company name, but also predicts missing assignees, and takes corporate structure into account. It includes the probable Assignee (where no organization is listed on the application) and takes into account the latest reassignment, company hierarchy, and name clean-up/normalization.

Ultimate Parent provides the entity which has ultimate and current responsibility for the patent and who has the ability to exploit it. The Ultimate Parent is calculated as the top company in the hierarchy above the Optimized Assignee after accounting for reassignment and so on.

In practice, once a search for a technology field has been done, the fields can be displayed as single values in the results list and can be used to sort results and filter results both using text filters and the visual dashboard.

On selecting a specific record, the Optimized Assignee and Ultimate Parent fields are shown at the top of the record in the Key Summary Data and as a full table in the body of the record.

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The fields can be used to create automatic groupings in ThemeScape and export in all major formats is supported.

It is also possible to assemble the portfolio for an Optimized Assignee by using the "Retrieve Optimized Assignees" option which allows user to perform a normal search then select one, several or all of the Optimized Assignees present in a dataset and pull in all of the patents which have that Optimized Assignee.
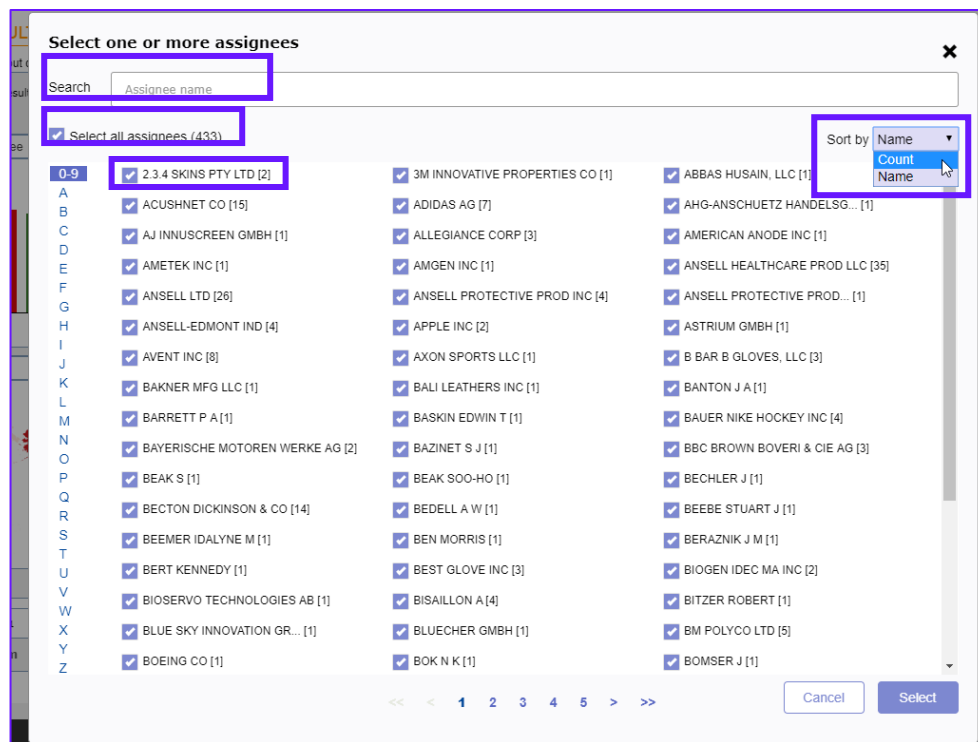
The process used to derive the Optimized Assignee and Ultimate Parent fields is a combination of data science, data aggregation and editorial using a constant feedback loop with human interaction in a machine learning process to create single values. This represents a significant use of machine learning bringing together our Data Science and *DWPI* editorial teams combined with editorially-produced gold standard data to solve a set of problems that have proved challenging for many years.

To learn more, visit **clarivate.com/derwent**
or **request a demo**.

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