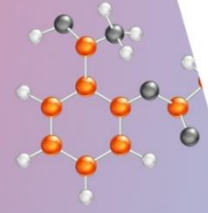
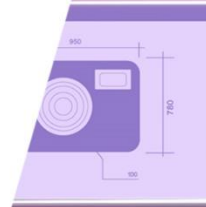




**WIPO | PROOF**

Trusted Digital  
Evidence



# WIPO's new digital service, WIPO PROOF

WIPO PROOF is an online fee-based service that provides proof of existence and possession of any digital file at a specific point in time.

## Enabling innovation development and management

Designed to be easy to use, WIPO PROOF provides features and offers tailored to any inventor or creator :

- **Individuals**

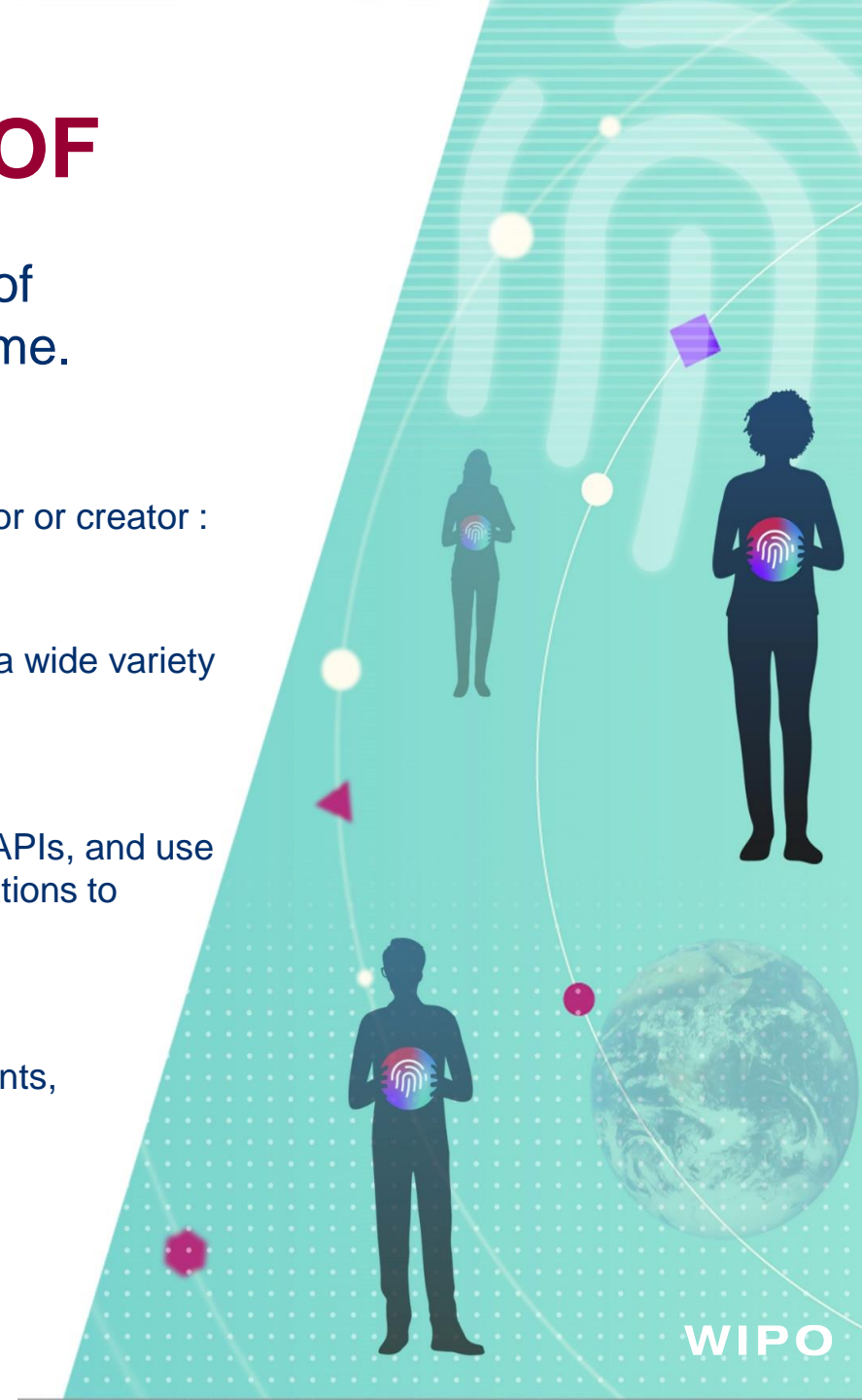
Anyone can use the service, generating digital evidence in a matter of seconds online, for a wide variety of use cases and payment methods.

- **Companies and Organizations**

WIPO PROOF offers features and packages targeted to larger entities. Pre-paid bundles, APIs, and use of Current Account at WIPO allow the service to be directly integrated into 3<sup>rd</sup> party applications to facilitate more extensive use.

- **Legal representatives**

Law firms, IP practices and legal representatives can use the service on behalf of their clients, by declaring a different owner for each file.



# Strengths of WIPO PROOF

WIPO PROOF was conceived to act as a single source of global proof of existence, for any intellectual asset, acceptable to the widest range of jurisdictions. Key strengths include:

- **Use of PKI technology, compliant with the strictest standards**  
WIPO PROOF uses Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) technology in generating digital fingerprints of files, which are digitally signed to produce encrypted tamperproof “tokens”. The service complies with the eIDAS regulation, ETSI (RFC 3161) technical standards, and conforms to the ISO/IEC 27001 standard for Information Security Management.
- **Approved by more than 190 countries**  
During WIPO’s [59th General Assembly in October 2019](#), its member states unanimously approved the creation of WIPO PROOF; this fact will work in our customer’s favour when WIPO PROOF tokens are presented as digital evidence in jurisdictions around the world.
- **WIPO is a trusted Time Stamping Authority (TSA)**  
The service’s eIDAS compliance makes WIPO a trusted Time Stamping Authority (TSA).
- **The same digital evidence in 10 different languages**  
WIPO PROOF offers evidential documentation in the languages of the world’s largest markets for innovation and IP – WIPO PROOF meets the needs of globally active innovators and creators.



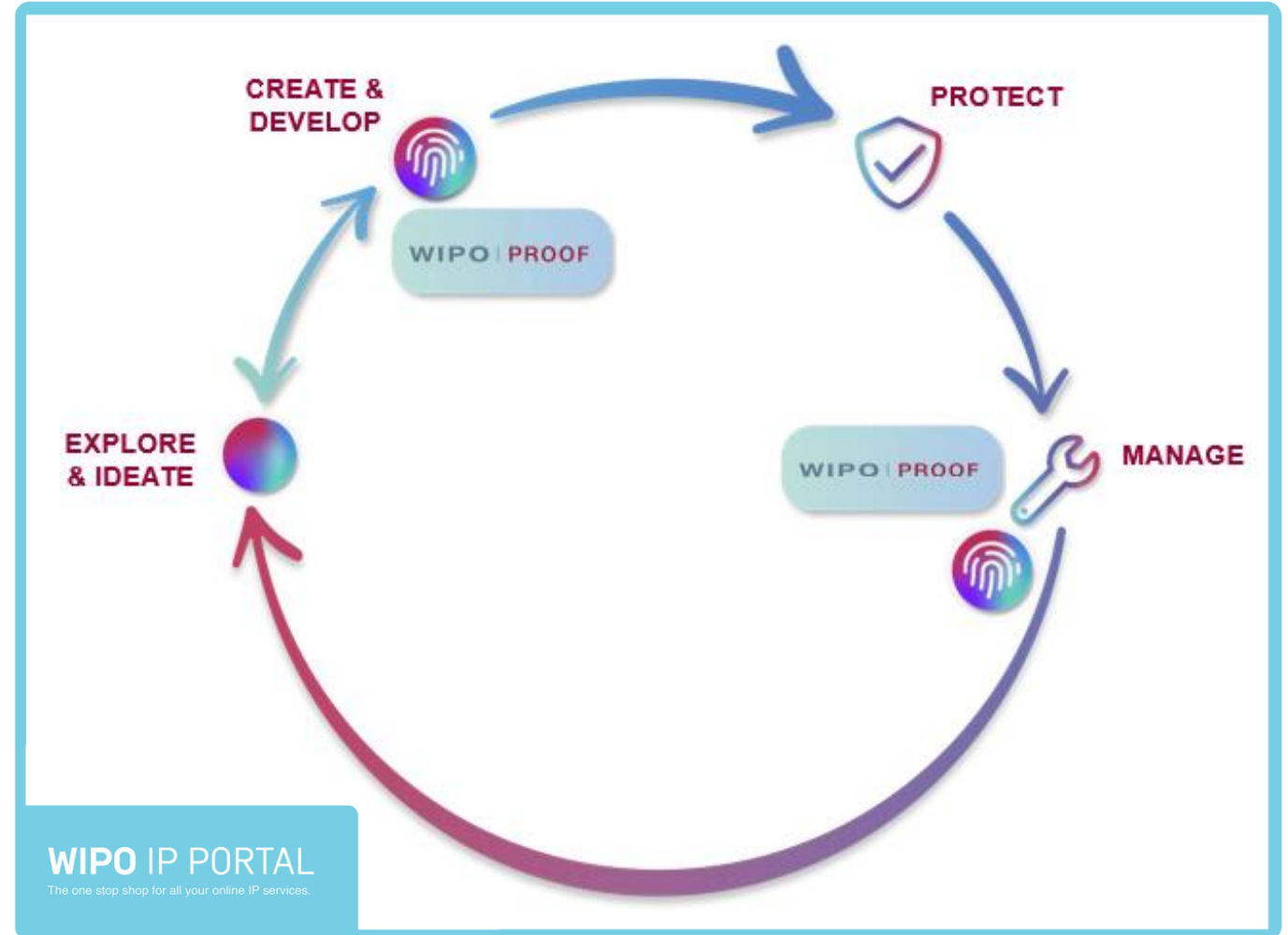
# Why WIPO PROOF?

## Complementing WIPO's existing IP services, through our IP Portal platform

- At every stage of the innovation lifecycle, enormous amounts of intellectual assets – increasingly or exclusively in digital form – are being generated. Such assets, like data and research, may not benefit from formal IP protection, despite their high value, nor will all intellectual assets become formal IP; in these cases, WIPO PROOF provides a valuable service. WIPO now offers a complete suite of services to safeguard or protect any intellectual activity through a common platform approach through our IP Portal.

## Digital transformation of the innovation ecosystem

- The rapid increase in digital intellectual activity is a reality that requires new IP-related services. WIPO PROOF applies digital certification technology to the market need of proving “first in time” for any intellectual asset, more efficiently and more cost effectively.



# Key benefits of WIPO PROOF

## Valid evidence

The service can be used to pre-empt unlawful behavior or in legal disputes to support the “first in time, first in right” principle, by producing proof of existence at a specific point in time.

## Instantaneous

The service generates WIPO PROOF tokens for digital files of any format or size, in a matter of seconds. Up to 20 files can be processed at one time, directly online, and APIs are available for higher volumes.

## Affordable

A single WIPO PROOF token costs 20 CHF; however, the per-token cost can significantly reduce when using pre-paid bundles of tokens. Larger bundles for higher volume use are available.

## Confidential

The digital file is not read by or uploaded to WIPO. WIPO PROOF tokens cannot be reverse engineered to create the original file, and no information is made public or added to a registry.

## Backed by WIPO

The service and its products are backed by the World Intellectual Property Organization, custodian of the International IP system for over 130 years. WIPO PROOF tokens are stored on WIPO’s servers to benefit from updates in encryption technology, and are always and easily accessible by their owners.



# Uses: Trade Secrets and Know-How

Trade secrets and other valuable know-how that is to remain undisclosed can benefit from additional measures to safeguard against misuse and misappropriation.



Trade secrets are protected by law, as long as they have economic value and steps are taken to preserve their confidentiality; having evidence that a trade secret was in possession and secured at a given point in time can be extremely beneficial.

Evidence from WIPO PROOF, in the form of digital tokens:

- Demonstrates that files existed at a certain point in time and that steps were taken to secure their confidentiality, indicating their high value whilst deterring employees from unauthorized sharing or use of trade secrets while employed or once they leave the organization.
- Deters external parties, who gain access to trade secrets and confidential files through common business relations, from relaying or using the knowledge.

WIPO PROOF tokens can also help resolve future disputes, such as:

- Prior use defense from patent trolls or in cases where a patentee claims infringement of an invention that was previously held by an separate party in the form of a trade secret.
- Trade secret theft, helping individuals and organizations prove that a patent was filled or awarded unlawfully because it was based on a trade secret, which was disclosed without a party's authorization.

# Uses: Creative Works and Designs

Establishing proof of existence at a point-in-time for unregistered intellectual assets.



Creative works and some designs benefit from inherent copyright protection where official registration is not required - This can often lead to complications and disputes if there is lack of evidence proving the existence of work

WIPO PROOF tokens confirm that a creative work, software, or design existed under certain possession at a specific date and time; this has numerous ramifications.

## Evidence from WIPO PROOF:

- Can be linked to authorship at the date of creation or at the time of upload to a digital distribution platform such as Youtube and Spotify;
- Allows creators to certify individual contributions (such as lyrics, scripts, and composition, for musical works) in joint endeavours to aid in resolving possible future disagreements around authorship;
- Can prove the use of existing registered trademarks in the marketplace;
- Can prove prior use and possession of industrial designs, useful in:
  - Japan, China and the Republic of Korea, when industrial designs similar to registered ones are used independently of the rights holders;
  - The EU, where creators depend on 3 years of granted protection for unregistered designs.

# Uses: Research and Data

A protective measure for data, research results, and insights generated during the development phase of any invention-related activity.



Research, data and any related insights are valuable inputs and outputs of the innovation and creation process. Even if research leads to a form of formally protected intellectual property, all related data remains vulnerable to misappropriation and other potential future disputes.

WIPO PROOF tokens confirm that such digital files existed under certain possession at a specific date and time.

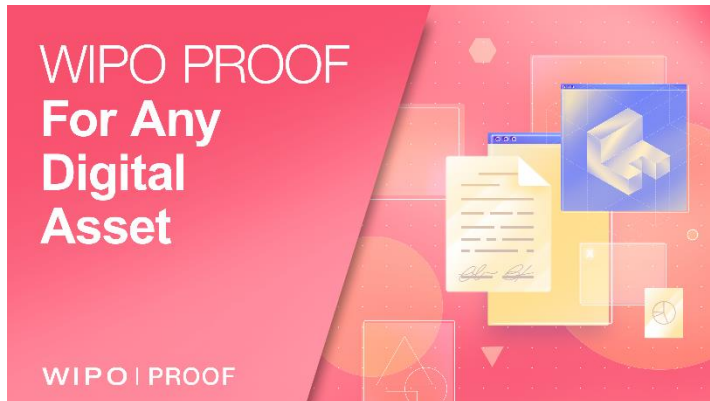
This aids innovators and creators by:

- Providing a basic insurance policy for valuable digital assets, mitigating any risks associated to future disputes;
  - For example, structured data used to train Artificial Intelligence is rapidly increasing in importance and demand, becoming a valued intellectual asset for many organizations. By using WIPO PROOF as a protective measure, this data can be safeguarded in case of theft;
- Serving as a form of secure version control for research results, and lab notes;
  - For example, in the Life Sciences sector, massive amounts of data and research is generated where more formal and controlled recordation of the existence of such assets can be very beneficial to various stakeholders. WIPO PROOF can provide such a mechanism.



# Uses: Other Digital Assets

Peace of mind against potential disputes concerning any digital asset.



Inventors and creators produce many digital assets during the innovation process that may or may not become registered IP. Such assets are subject to future disputes, challenging their past existence and possession — Taking the right protective measures today can be very advantageous in the future.

Evidence from WIPO PROOF can be used to prove:

- Exhibition during pre-patent filing grace periods, and the possession and existence of related digital assets used to support the quality of a patent;
- Existence of earlier and preparatory work related to the registration of a trademark, supporting prior use claims in common law jurisdictions;
- Historical development of designs and tech, challenged in related IP infringement cases;
- Existence of operational records and data essential to undisclosed know-how.

Additionally, evidence from WIPO PROOF is useful for:

- Establishing prior art (e.g., for defensive publishing);
- Prior use defense and to fight patent trolling;
- Certifying existence and possession of assets used to develop formally protected IP;
- Securing non-IP related documentation for audit and compliance, forensics, and the insurance industry.

# How it works

WIPO PROOF creates tokens using the highest standard of Public Key Infrastructure technology and is compliant with the RFC 3161 protocol.

## Access

1. Connect to the WIPO PROOF web application via the url [www.wipo.int/wipoproof](http://www.wipo.int/wipoproof) using any modern browser.

## Request a WIPO PROOF token

2. Choose a digital file(s) in any electronic format.  
NB: A WIPO Account is required to request a WIPO PROOF token.

3. The local browser generates a unique digital fingerprint (a hash) of the file using a strong SHA-2 (256bit), one-way hashing algorithm.  
NB: At no point in time is the original digital file uploaded to WIPO PROOF. The customer retains full possession of the digital file(s). Only the hash of the digital file(s) that is calculated in the customer's browser is uploaded to WIPO PROOF.

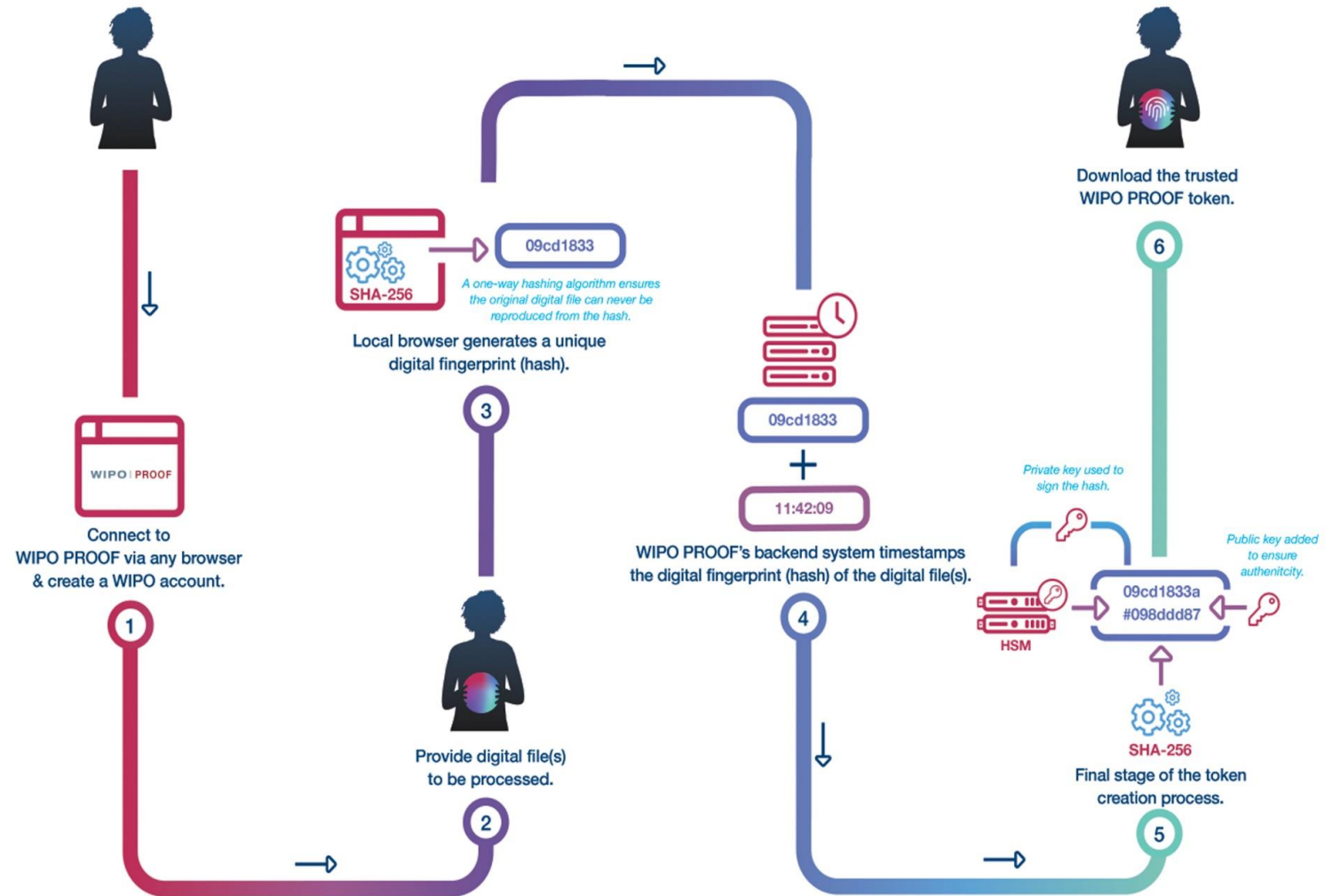
## WIPO PROOF token creation

4. WIPO PROOF's audited and high-integrity backend system, fully compliant with industry standards, timestamps the hash of the digital file(s). The hardware-based timesource used to timestamp the hash is synchronized to the Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).

5. The hash is signed with the private key stored in a locked-down Hardware Security Module (HSM) certified to FIPS-140 level 3 standard, creating a digital signature. A public key is added to the digital signature to ensure authenticity.

6. Download the resulting WIPO PROOF token which provides unalterable proof of existence of the digital file(s) at the point in time the token was created.

# The token creation process



## Main website:

[wipoproof.wipo.int](http://wipoproof.wipo.int)

## Webinars in VoD:

[\*WIPO PROOF explained in many languages\*](#)

## Articles & Reviews:

[\*Points of view from legal experts in different jurisdictions\*](#)

[\*WIPO PROOF Featured: ECTA Bulletin, Oct 2020\*](#)

[\*IP Magazine's "Stamp of Approval", Aug 2020\*](#)



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