



Connected IP Lifecycle

Preparing for an AI-Orchestrated Future

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By 2035, most, if not all, IP management will be orchestrated by AI: continuous, predictive, and frictionless. Rather than reacting to events, IP professionals will guide outcomes.

The future role of IP experts, whether in law firms or corporations, will be to set strategic direction, make decisions based on AI-driven recommendations, and ensure that IP outputs align with business goals.

This may seem a distant vision for organizations that are just beginning to adopt AI into IP processes. But the sheer speed of innovation is driving new thinking. Where the early adoption of AI was about doing more with less, the new drive is to keep up with the pace of developments across the entire IP lifecycle. One corporate client summed this up by saying, *“AI improvement cycles are getting to the point where it is hard to keep up.”*

As more law firms and corporate IP departments experience the benefits of AI deployment firsthand, the next challenge becomes how to safely and effectively transition from systems of record to systems of intelligence.

Deploying interconnected AI solutions across the lifecycle enables organizations to deploy systems that carry out work on behalf of the user and help to guide IP professionals through judgement-heavy decision making across an entire IP lifecycle.

Deploying an interconnected AI platform isn't just about efficiency; it's about reimagining what's possible. By orchestrating intelligence across the entire IP lifecycle, we empower the AI-driven platform to take on the work itself, while freeing up IP professionals to focus on the moments of judgment, creativity, and strategy that truly shape the future.

Corporate IP departments and attorneys are seeking answers to questions such as:

- How do I connect my AI-driven IP processes to deliver more value?
- What opportunities are there and what risks should be avoided?
- What skills will I need to thrive in this new AI-powered environment?

In this e-book, we go beyond adopting AI, to focus on transforming how IP work gets done. This is meant to help guide IP teams from fragmented, application-led approaches to a fully orchestrated lifecycle—where every process is connected, optimized, and aligned to drive meaningful business and client impact.

We spoke with leading corporations and law firms at the forefront of IP transformation to create this e-book. You will see their quotes within this document, and while each is anonymized, each is genuine and reflects the needs and demands of stakeholders as they strive to optimize.

There is no single path forward. AI is evolving too quickly to provide definitive answers. Instead, this is a point of view, grounded in what forward-looking organizations are already exploring, testing, and achieving.

We hope this guide helps you on your AI journey and would love to hear about your progress and experiences.

Toni Nijm

Chief Product Officer, Anaqua



The Future of IP: Autonomous, Connected, and Intelligent

“AI is not just changing individual tasks; it is changing how fast innovation itself happens. IP systems that do not quickly evolve will be left behind.”

— Corporate Head of IP Operations

Many companies and law firms have adopted AI-driven solutions to support specific IP tasks. But a wider opportunity awaits those that embed AI across the entire IP lifecycle and beyond.

Integrating individual processes and applications into one single, seamless, AI-powered IP management solution is challenging, especially given the rapid pace of change in AI. However, the IP lifecycle is an ideal domain for end-to-end AI deployment. This is a structural advantage that the IP industry can use to fundamentally rethink execution and outcomes.

Corporate IP managers and lawyers continue to grapple with faster cycles of innovation, creating almost limitless volumes of complex data – all of which need to be governed by structure and rules. Combined with the high-stakes nature of IP decision-making, this creates the ideal conditions for rules-based, agentic AI to play a meaningful role.

This shift redefines the role of the IP team itself, moving from maintaining systems of record to shaping and overseeing systems of intelligence. Work is no longer executed procedurally by users; it's carried forward by systems that orchestrate activity across the broader ecosystem, while supporting human judgment where it matters most.



AI enables a fundamentally new model for IP software. It brings together systems of record and workflow into a coordinated system of autonomous action—designed, governed, and continuously refined by IP experts.

The result is more than an enhanced IPMS. It is an AI-orchestrated operating model.

From Manual to Intelligent: Adopting a New IP Operating Model

Once AI is being deployed to successfully deliver specific tasks, saving time and reducing risk, what are the next steps for wider adoption? Where can AI add value, not only across the IP lifecycle but beyond it? And what does this mean for the IP professional?

“AI will do the reading, drafting, monitoring. IP professionals will do the deciding.” – Managing Partner of IP Law Firm

Redefining the user experience

From data entry to decision making.

Litmus Test:

AI will do the reading, drafting, and monitoring. IP professionals will do the deciding.



How AI is reshaping the role of the IP professional

TODAY — THE OPERATOR

In a traditional IP management system (IPMS), the IP expert can be seen as primarily an operator – responsible for assembly of data, deadline monitoring and patent drafting. Support is provided by both specialist law firms and technology platforms (such as IPMS) but the operator is still actively running systems and solutions. And as the volume of filings grows, so does the workload.



TOMORROW — THE STRATEGIST

Now, imagine an advanced, AI-enabled system. In this scenario, the IP professional creates processes and workflows for AI agents to carry out. IP experts are now overseeing the work that they used to do themselves, which is now being carried out by AI agents. IP experts analyze the plausibility of AI-driven outcomes and make decisions based on them. They evaluate risk and manage processes. They are no longer operators, but strategists.

In the words of a senior counsel in an IP Law Firm, **“To step up we need time, and that is something we lack because of the administrative work in IP. If we can limit that and spend more time with the client, especially delivering insight and intelligence, that a step change.”** Perhaps the most important shift is enabling the IP professional to fundamentally evolve their own role.

Where to Start?

Reimagining the Process, Not Just Automating It

Reimagining the future, starts with understanding the present. Before organizations can redesign workflows or deploy AI agents effectively, they need a clear view of how work is performed across the IP lifecycle today. This creates the foundation for both immediate AI adoption and longer-term process transformation.

Different IP experts will be responsible for different applications, so the first challenge is to map the processes across the entire IP lifecycle. From here IP experts can create and train AI agents to follow these, just as an organization would train a new employee in its processes and procedures, but quicker.

One common mistake though organizations make is using AI to replicate existing processes exactly as they exist today. While this can deliver incremental efficiency gains, the real opportunity is far greater. IP teams should challenge themselves to rethink how work gets done in an AI-enabled environment.

Many of today's IP processes were designed around the limitations of human capacity, disconnected systems, and manual handoffs. As AI agents become capable of handling routine analysis, data gathering, drafting, monitoring, and workflow coordination, many of these traditional steps may no longer be necessary.

This means IP leaders should not only map current-state processes but also design future-state processes. Rather than asking, "How can AI support our existing workflow?" organizations should ask, "If AI were available from the start, how would we design this workflow today?" The answer may look fundamentally different.



Testing

That AI adoption needs to be thoroughly tested before being deployed is obvious. Typically, this will take place in a sandboxed environment – an isolated and controlled zone where the AI agents' behaviour can be refined and analysed without the risk of errors or data leaks. Agents should only be deployed when IP professionals are satisfied with results and outcomes.

Establishing human oversight gates

Manual gates are a critical part of any AI process. A powerful part of people trusting AI results is ensuring they see the steps each AI agent is going through along the way. Asking AI to "show its working out" and building in opportunities for human intervention helps people better see the processes that are taking place and to intervene at relevant times.

This builds trust in the journey by showing the process as well as the outcome, helping to drive a clearer understanding of what the agent has achieved and – importantly – how.



From human in the loop to human on the loop



Historically, humans were involved in every step of the IP lifecycle, from filing and docketing to renewals and prosecution. As a portfolio grows, so does the workload — but not usually the available resources, which leaves even less time for analysis, assessment, and review.



This changes significantly in an agentic AI environment. The agent orchestrates everything based on the rules and workflows set by the IP professional. The IP professional now supervises, analyzes, and checks based on a set of criteria and rules-based workflows.



The routine work is outsourced to AI, and the IP professional is more "on the loop" than "in the loop," managing, judging, and reviewing outputs and deciding outcomes.

"AI supports what our attorneys do. It does not replace the judgement that defines us." – Vice President, Law Firm

AI in action across the IP lifecycle

“Every stage of the IP lifecycle – from the spark of an idea to strategic decision making – can be positively impacted by AI implementation – moreover automating how these practices operate effectively together delivers further time savings and insights.”

– Head of IP Operations at a Pharmaceutical Company

The scope of impact that AI can have on IP management is almost limitless. AI has a role to play across each stage of the IP lifecycle, including ideation, intake, classification, data accuracy, docketing, deadlines, prosecution, brand protection, and risk detection.

Combining how these stages seamlessly interact delivers not only improved portfolio management but critical insight for faster and more accurate decision making.

Invention and brand creation

One of the most significant opportunities to deploy AI is enabling new sources of ideas generation.

There is a real opportunity for AI agents to surface innovation that might otherwise be missed, pulling from unstructured sources and helping teams prioritize ideas that are worth protecting. This could significantly change how portfolios are built.

Anaqua is currently developing an AI tool that takes notes from an invention meeting and creates invention disclosure from these notes. The AI agent can cross reference files, create insights, identify inventions, map features and compose a disclosure. It can then run prior art searches on the disclosure – all this from meeting notes.

Patent & Trademark drafting

A natural consequence of the above is empowering AI to create a first draft of a patent or trademark filing from the disclosures it creates. AI can be deployed to identify if the disclosure is strong enough to be protected and ensure consistency in the application, before review and iteration by humans. A further AI agent can monitor Patent Office actions, track examiner patterns and suggest amendments to applications, based on precedent. This can help ensure applications are more likely to be approved more quickly.

“We can drop in an invention disclosure and receive high-quality output very quickly.”

– Corporate IP Manager in a Technology company

“In the patent and trademark field you have plenty of very repetitive tasks, and smart automation has a potentially significant role to play.”

– Partner at a leading IP Law Firm

Data intake, classification, and docketing

“Having something to manage email and tools that are able to docket by looking at the different patent offices throughout the world; this is a really interesting opportunity.”

– Senior Corporate IP Counsel
in the Biotech industry

Automating IP operations management is one of the most immediately transformable opportunities for AI. It has a direct impact on turnaround times, risk reduction, and IP professional's productivity.

AI can capture data from incoming emails, global patent and trademark offices, agents, documents and structured feeds. It can then classify these directly and trigger actions to remove a great deal of friction in the IP lifecycle.

Docketing Agents can effectively monitor deadlines automatically renewing protection against specific pre-assigned criteria or flagging for human intervention where this is required.

Brand Protection and Risk Detection

As the number of copycat products on marketplaces and fake websites have grown, the opportunity for AI agents to monitor for potential misuse of Trademarks and Patents – whether counterfeits or IP infringements – has become increasingly relevant.

Technologies such as AI image recognition, scanning global IP addresses for cybersquatting and spoofed websites, identification of fake goods and social media impersonations can all be identified via AI agents far more efficiently than through manual review. This can accelerate time to action and help to ensure IP and brand protection.

Portfolio insights and strategic decision making

The management of IP portfolios is becoming increasingly complex, driven by multiple factors including—but not limited to—technology developments, changing business priorities, evolving competitor portfolios, and the growing complexity of the global operating environment for businesses and law firms.

“Surfacing information about competitor filings and trends in specific industries is a great use case for AI” – Senior Corporate IP Counsel
in the Biotech industry

Effective portfolio management starts with understanding what you own. As patent portfolios grow, manually categorizing inventions across technologies, products, business units, and strategic initiatives becomes increasingly difficult, often limiting the ability to generate timely insights. AI-powered patent classification can help organizations create structure at scale.

Where portfolio prioritization might historically have been assessed annually, today near real time review helps optimize budgets and drive better ROI.

AI enables decision making to be continuously assessed against the criteria above and more. One potential opportunity lies in using IP data as an input for R&D decisions, product strategy, and investment planning.

With AI agents reviewing different criteria, IP professionals have better data for making decisions, not only regarding portfolio management, but also across the wider business. IP experts can continually optimize portfolio management using the most up-to-date, relevant data.

The IP professional of the future

“AI won’t replace patent attorneys. Patent attorneys that know AI will replace those that don’t.”

– Head of IP Operations, Anaqua Corporate Client

In an AI optimized IP process, what role does the IP professional play?
Rather than being focused on managing processes, the emphasis will shift to:



Strategic guidance



Data interpretation



Business alignment

The future role of the IP professional is not diminished by AI—it is amplified. The technical and legal expertise of IP professionals remains as essential as ever and becomes the foundation for strategic leadership, trusted judgment, and business value creation.

Key skills for the IP expert of the future to explore

Data literacy

Interpreting the plausibility of AI-driven insights

Commercial awareness

Building business wide understanding of how IP ties to business outcomes

Technology fluency

Understanding the tools and knowing how they work, working effectively with modern AI applications and agents

Change leadership

Helping organizations adapt to new ways of working

Managing trust and governance in an AI enabled IP lifecycle

“Human oversight is not a constraint on AI. It is what makes AI work in a legal environment. IP professionals need to see not only the results of AI but how the results were achieved. It should be transparent not magic.” – Head of IP, Semiconductor Manufacturer

Building trust and governance into AI-powered IP lifecycle management requires planning. IP teams will need to carefully consider where to place human interventions in the process. These interventions serve not only to check plausibility, but also to ensure that AI agents follow agreed-upon paths to outcomes.

In some cases, these human interventions may not be strictly required — the AI could skip them — but by creating these interventions, IP professionals can ensure that the results are plausible and gain a better understanding of the journey that the AI agents are taking. While this builds trust in the results, it does not reduce the need for human decision-making.



Key governance principles

Transparency

Ensuring humans understand how decisions are being made – even at the expense of speed

Human oversight

Deciding what level of certainty triggers an agent flagging for human decision making

Ongoing monitoring

To identify and correct bias

Governance frameworks

Including clear policies about when AI can be used and how

The emerging ISO/IEC 42001 Standard will be an important development for corporates and law firms in the governance of AI.

The standard provides requirements for establishing, implementing, maintaining and continually improving an AIMS within the context of an organization. Holding the standard demonstrates organizations have developed, deployed, and are using AI systems responsibly.

The ISO/IEC 42001 Standard focuses on risk management, ethics, transparency, and compliance. It helps organizations manage AI throughout its lifecycle, including data usage and model training.

Creating the environment for success

“Success will be defined by responsible integration rather than full automation.” – Partner in Law Firm

Successful implementation of AI solutions in IP relies on careful planning, a deep knowledge of the processes used in the IP lifecycle, and data quality.

Setting up for success: a checklist for ip teams deploying AI

01

Am I investing the time to plan for success?

Simply buying an AI tool and rolling it into the IP process does not deliver success. Planning and insight are required for successful implementation – otherwise it is simply a faster route to a dead end.

02

Have I accurately mapped my IP processes while also re-imagining new processes with AI?

Often people that carry out a process, so do out of habit or experience. They may not find it simple to categorize and record every process they go through. Support in mapping workflows can often help shape a successful implementation.

03

Is my data foundation ready for AI?

AI tends to amplify whatever environment it operates in. If data quality is poor, or systems are fragmented, this will be reflected in the output from AI-powered systems.

04

Am I building sufficient trust in the results?

Humans are naturally sceptical of automation. This is why building multiple opportunities for human intervention into AI processes is critical to establishing confidence in outcomes. Even when trust is established, there is value in human intervention to catch the exceptions.

As one Law Firm Partner noted, *“Our main concern is over-reliance on AI outputs without human verification.”* Addressing concerns such as trust, oversight, and accountability early in the implementation process can help ensure AI delivers lasting value throughout the IP lifecycle.

The route to an orchestrated, AI driven IP lifecycle

“The dream would be that – in five years’ time – we have robust AI tools and processes that frees our attorneys and team members to spend time doing things that really drive strategic value.”

– Senior IP Counsel in a Biotechnology company

Looking ahead, AI agents are likely to play two distinct yet interconnected roles:

OPERATIONAL OPTIMIZATION

Automating and orchestrating the day-to-day activities required to run an efficient IP operation—from administrative workflows to complex processes—significantly reducing manual effort while preserving human oversight and control.

STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE

Continuously transforming IP data into actionable insights, helping organizations identify opportunities, assess risks, align innovation investments with business priorities, and make more informed strategic decisions.

AI agents will be able to constantly monitor external and internal data to identify potential IP as it emerges, connecting diverse efforts across companies, continents and industries. AI will be recommending protection strategies, while also automating IP execution across the lifecycle, while all the time learning and improving from human intervention.

Three specific cases offer most impact: AI-driven invention harvesting, automated docketing and workflow orchestration, driving predictive portfolio optimisation in real time. These are both significantly impactful and realistically achievable in the next decade.

The AI journey for IP managers will not have an end destination. As the technology evolves, IP professionals will remain aware of the opportunities and threats and a continuous evolution is likely to continue as the technology evolves.

One possible **AI transformation roadmap** for an organization could look like this:

PHASE 1: AI Co-Pilot Foundation

(0–12 Mo)

Drafting, Summarizing,
Data Training

Training data, using AI to draft and summarize submissions and deploying AI solutions where automation can offer the most immediate efficiencies.

PHASE 2: Autonomous Micro-Agents

(12–24 Mo)

Deadline monitoring,
Renewal execution

Deploying fully trained and tested AI agents to tasks such as deadline monitoring and renewal execution.

PHASE 3: Multi-Agent Orchestration

(24–36 Mo)

Cross-lifecycle
collaboration
(Invention to Filing)

Multi-agent orchestration across the IP lifecycle – from invention to filing and prosecution, AI agents are collaborating to optimize outcomes.

PHASE 4: Strategy Agents

(36+ Mo)

R&D guidance,
Valuation, Disruption

Strategic agents: AI provides direction into portfolio management, return on IP investment and future R&D direction.

Each organization will have its own timescales for these phases, depending on multiple factors including data quality, IP processes, use of IP in the business, appetite to risk and knowledge of what is possible. **The phases above are a guide to what might evolve, rather than a roadmap.**

Conclusion

The momentum behind AI in IP is undeniable. We can already envision a future where routine processes are increasingly automated, insights become more predictive, and intellectual property plays a more influential role in guiding innovation investment and business strategy. Yet this future is not fixed. AI technology continues to evolve at an extraordinary pace, and new innovations, regulations, and market expectations will continue to reshape what is possible.

"Don't be scared of AI. You can understand it, learn, find out where it adds value for you in a safe and secure way. If you can do that, you'll become really powerful in your role."

— Law Firm Partner

While connecting systems and data across the IP lifecycle is a significant challenge today, it is ultimately a technical one—and technical challenges tend to be solved.

The greater opportunity lies beyond operational efficiency. It lies in transforming IP data into strategic intelligence: a business asset that informs research and development priorities, shapes product strategy, highlights emerging opportunities, and supports better decision-making across the organization.

Realizing this vision will require more than technology alone. It demands collaboration between IP, legal, R&D, product, and business leaders. It requires trusted data, connected workflows, and a willingness to rethink established ways of working. Most importantly, it requires embracing AI as a tool that augments human expertise rather than replacing it.

As AI takes on more of the administrative and operational burden of IP management, the role of the IP professional becomes more valuable, not less. Their focus shifts from managing processes to providing strategic guidance, applying expert judgment, interpreting insights, and helping organizations make smarter innovation decisions.

The future of IP will not be defined by AI alone. It will be defined by how effectively IP professionals harness AI to elevate their expertise, strengthen business alignment, and unlock the full value of innovation. Technology may provide the catalyst, but people will remain the driving force behind meaningful change.

The organizations that succeed will not simply use AI to do IP better. They will use AI to make IP a more strategic contributor to business growth, innovation, and competitive advantage.



Interested in learning how Anaqua can support your AI journey?

[Contact us](#)

Additional content you may be interested in:

- [A New Way of Working: Adopting AI into IP Processes](#)
- [Built to Lead in the AI-Native Era of IP](#)
- [AI Readiness and IP Operations | Anaqua](#)
- [How AI Will Transform Your IP Operations in 2026](#)

Anaqua – your partner on the journey to an AI orchestrated IP lifecycle

“We are critically aware that we will need to rely on partners that have a deep understanding of both AI and IP to help us create a plan and deploy the tools we need to increase efficiency while remaining compliant.”

– Anaqua corporate client

AI is already reshaping the IP industry and there is likely much more to come. The potential of AI to positively impact IP operations depends on partners that have the right architecture, expertise, and ecosystem to help law firms and corporates recognize their own unique position and opportunity and help them take advantage of this in a way that feels risk free, effective and measured.

Anaqua’s combination of global IP expertise, systems and solutions built over decades for the IP industry and team of human consultants that support our clients offers companies a combination of innovative AI expertise, deep knowledge of IP, and pragmatism.

Anaqua’s approach to AI is deliberate, secure, scalable, and aligned with how global IP management needs to work in the face of AI transformation. Our clients steward the world’s most valuable and complex IP portfolios. Our DNA is rooted in software and IP, with deep domain expertise, shaped by close collaboration with the world’s leading IP custodians. We are guided by a relentless focus on protecting and maximizing the value of these intangible assets.

Most transformations accumulate in the background, then become unavoidable. At Anaqua we have seen this pattern before. AI is louder and stronger, with more potential, but it is not different.

We have the experience, tools, people and staying power to move through it with you.

➤ Connect with us
to learn how we
can support your
AI journey:
www.anaqua.com

About Anaqua, Inc.

Anaqua is a premier provider of integrated intellectual property (IP) management technology solutions and services for corporations and law firms. Its IP management software platforms, AQX®, PATTSY WAVE®, and RightHub® offer best practice workflows with big data analytics and tech-enabled services to create an intelligent environment designed to inform IP strategy, enable IP decision-making and streamline IP operations – tailored to each segment’s needs. Today, nearly half of the top 100 U.S. patent filers and global brands, as well as a growing number of law firms worldwide use Anaqua’s solutions. Over two million IP executives, attorneys, paralegals, administrators and innovators use Anaqua’s platforms for their IP management needs. The company’s global operations are headquartered in Boston, with offices across the U.S., Europe, Asia and Australia.

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