



*The Definitive
Guide to*


PROTECTING CRYPTO TECHNOLOGIES WITH PATENTS

A 4-step guide





Image by [Art Rachen](#) at [Unsplash](#)



Note: this guide is for educational purposes and is not legal advice. Patent laws vary by country, and the right advice will always depend on your unique circumstances. If you are interested in obtaining a patent, always consult a registered patent agent or patent attorney.

Background: what is a patent?

If you've come to this guide, you're thinking about how to protect your intellectual property. That's great!

Let's start with a quick introduction to patents.

A **patent** protects an invention which is new and useful.

To contrast with some other forms of intellectual property, **trademarks** protect things that indicate a source of a good or service (like a logo or company name), and **copyrights** protect creative works (like a book, movie, or music).

For crypto, a patent might protect techniques used in your software to record transactions on the blockchain, to process transaction data, to facilitate transactions between users, and more.

Protecting these techniques can make it difficult or impossible for competitors to offer the same benefits as you.

INDEX

5

Step 1: Identify unique features

7

Step 2: What makes the magic happen?

9

Step 3: Make a Plan

11

Step 4: Consult a licensed professional

13

Conclusion





Step One

**Identify unique
features**



What features are new and unique?

Think about your crypto offerings - what is different about them as compared to what others are doing?

Your goal here is to come up with a list of what you want protected that you can talk about with a patent professional so they can help you figure out the how.

Here are a few questions to help you get started:

- **Selling Points:** What features are most marketable?
- **Customer Response:** What features do customers respond positively to?
- **Block Competitors:** Are any features hard to imitate without outright copying your process?



Step Two

**What makes the magic
happen?**



What technology enables your unique features?

For patents on software inventions like crypto, the patents often protect the algorithm used.

Consider how your software algorithms work to enable the features you identified at Step One.

In the US, patentable software inventions often involve an improvement to the functioning of the computer.

What computer-related problems did you need to solve? Did you solve any problems related to:

- **Cybersecurity?**
- **Network communications?**
- **Data processing?**
- **Memory usage?**
- **Processing time?**



Step Three

Make a Plan



Anything worth doing is worth planning out

Now, you should develop a patenting plan. This plan should synergize with your business strategy.

When making a patenting plan, take into account:

- **Budget:** Set aside a budget for patents. Factor in both initial costs and costs that come later.
- **Priorities:** Prioritize patenting features that are most important to your business. Take into account any time limits your patent professional identified.
- **Goals:** File patent applications based on the strategic goals for your business. Consider if you need additional patents to mitigate risk or to improve valuation for investment purposes.



Step Four

**Consult a licensed
professional**



Go to a patent professional to analyze patentability

A patent professional can help you identify patentable features and file a patent application.

Have an initial consultation as soon as possible. Don't delay! You may lose the chance to obtain a patent if you wait too long to file a patent application.

In the US, you should consult a patent professional who is licensed to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Not all US lawyers can advise on filing patent applications.

Seek out a professional who has experience with software patents. Patenting software-related inventions like crypto algorithms can be tricky even for experienced professionals.

START TODAY!

Starting the patent process early is very important for rapidly evolving fields like crypto.

Set up an initial consultation today.



[CONTACT US](#)