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IT Law

1. Scenario Analysis

A practical intellectual property (IP) scenario involves a small IT startup that develops a **new mobile application** providing secure file sharing through an innovative encryption algorithm. To protect their work, the developers apply three IP rights. First, the **software code and user interface** are protected through **copyright**, preventing unauthorized copying or distribution. Second, the unique encryption algorithm is **patented**, granting exclusive rights for 20 years and ensuring competitors cannot replicate or profit from the invention without permission. Third, the **application name and logo** are registered as **trademarks**, ensuring brand identity is legally safeguarded. Together, these protections prevent infringement, encourage innovation, and strengthen the company's market position. If disputes arise, the startup can reference WIPO or USPTO databases to verify ownership and defend its rights. This scenario highlights how copyright, patents, and trademarks work together to provide comprehensive legal protection in IT.

2. Concept Research

Open-source licenses play a crucial role in IT by allowing software creators to share their work while setting rules for use, modification, and distribution. Unlike traditional copyright, which restricts use, open-source licenses promote collaboration and innovation by granting users legal permissions. Examples include the **GNU General Public License (GPL)** and **MIT License**. These licenses ensure that while software is freely available, developers retain recognition and sometimes require derivative works to remain open-source. Open-source licensing fosters global cooperation in IT development, reduces costs for organizations, and prevents legal disputes by clearly defining usage rights for both developers and users.

3. Tool Practice

I explored the **USPTO (United States Patent and Trademark Office) database** to understand how patents are searched and filed. The database allows innovators to verify whether an invention already exists before filing, preventing conflicts. Searching for encryption-related patents revealed the extensive number of registered algorithms, emphasizing the importance of novelty. The USPTO also provides resources and guidelines for drafting claims, application fees, and timelines. Reflecting on this process, I realized that exploring patent databases is essential

for IT professionals seeking innovation. It ensures originality, avoids legal disputes, and provides confidence that new technology can be legally protected.

4. Diagram Design

I created an **Intellectual Property (IP) process flowchart** in Draw.io to show how protections apply to IT innovations. The flowchart begins with **idea creation**, followed by a step to identify the type of protection required. If it's **software code or documentation**, the process leads to **copyright registration**. If it involves a **novel algorithm or IT hardware**, the process directs to **patent filing** with USPTO or WIPO. For **brand names, logos, or slogans**, the process moves to **trademark registration**. The final stage is **monitoring and enforcement**, where owners track possible infringements. This diagram simplifies understanding of IP protection in IT.