RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

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DOCX AT INPI FRANCE
8 YEARS IN APPLICATION

September2026

inpi FRANCE

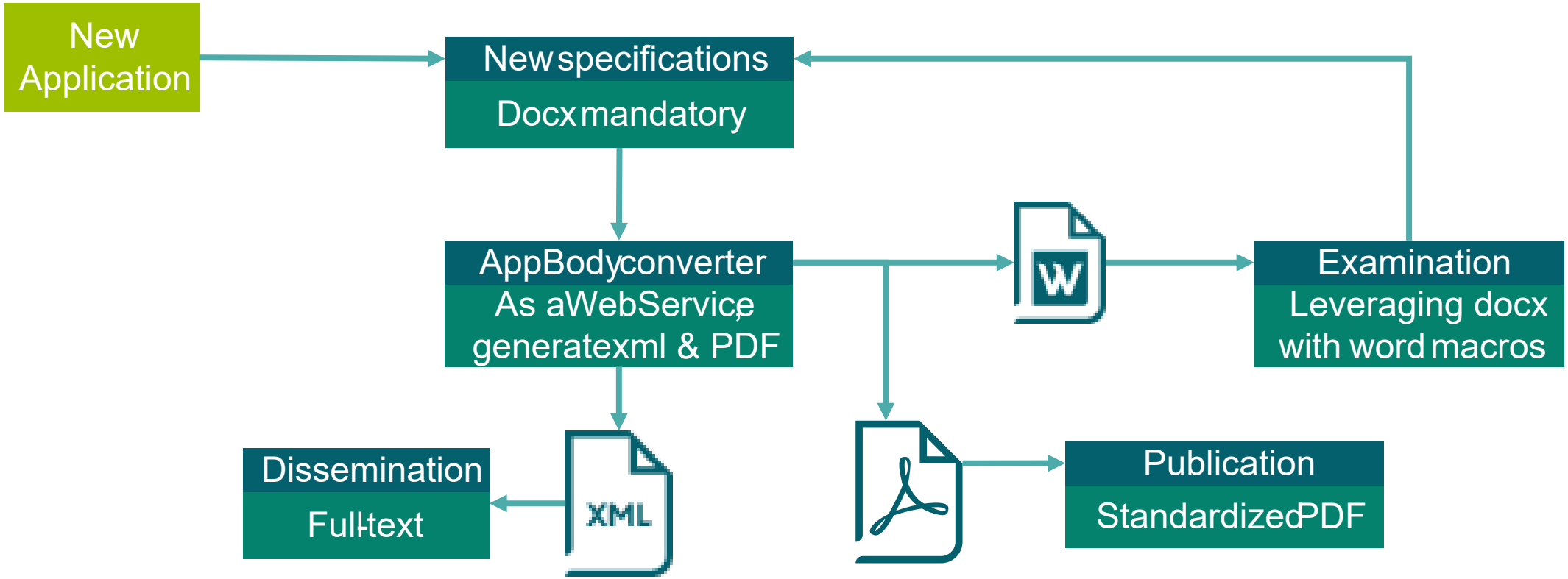
1

INTEGRATION

DOCX IN THE ECOSYSTEM



DOCXFLOW

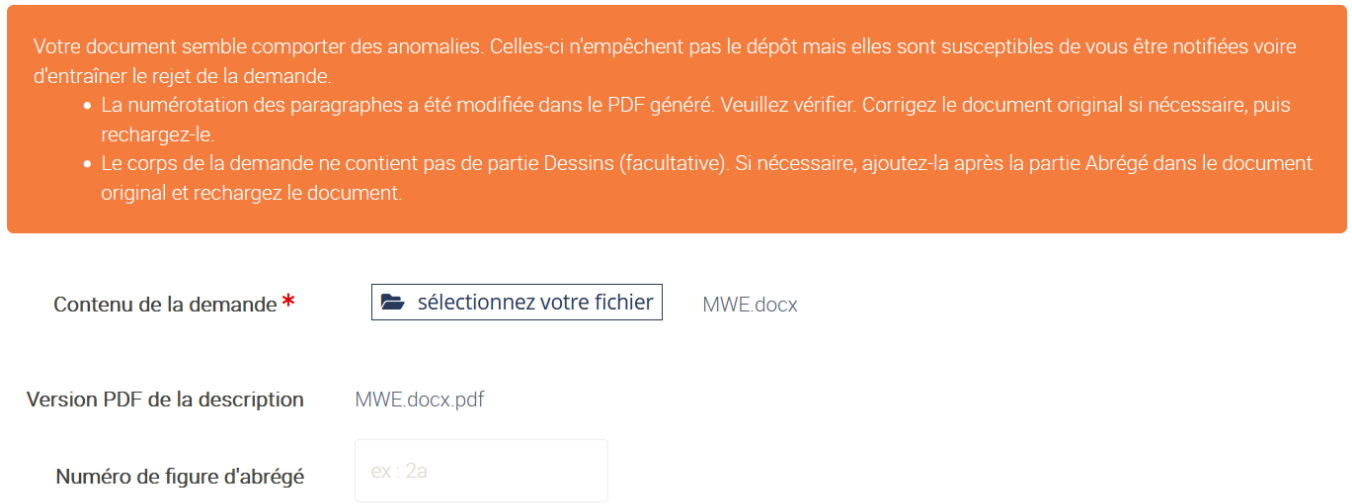

New Application
New specifications
Docx mandatory
AppBody converter
As a WebService
generate xml & PDF
Examination
Leveraging docx
with word macros
Dissemination
Full-text
XML
Publication
Standardized PDF

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USAGE

APPLYING WITH DOCX

- MANDATORY format at INPI
- Simply drop the document into the application form at procedures.inpi.fr
  - Conversion is showed as synchronous (but can be asynchronous in the Back End) ; yields results in minutes
  - Indications from the application on what was not correctly interpreted



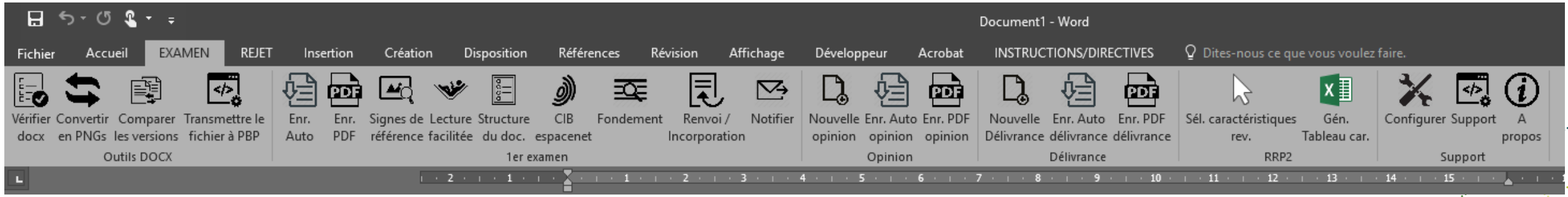
APPLYING WITH DOCX

- **Use case: application cannot be rendered**
  - INPI's policy: allow PDF submission to garanty the application date and content (or reply date and content), then allow for a delay to format the application
  - Team of 4 patent examineers is available to provide support to the applicant in the formatting process
  - Roughly ~ 10 applications /week, amounting to 7 hours of work



EXAMINATION

- « On the desktop »
  - Docx are downloaded on the examineer desktop and opened with word
  - Extra layer of functionnalities to ease the examination, as shadow IT by the business, for the business, e.g.
    - comparing versions including images (using hash)
    - Automatic standard look and feel (min size at 12pt…)
    - Automatic check for known issues with converter



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REX

LESSONS LEARNED

- **STEEP learning curve**
  - Docx has many ways to code for a same visual rendering some are OK others should be banned
  - Alleviate with : comprehensive user documentation ; pilot phase
- **Peak filling period**
  - Users file in preferably in June and December, causing the API to crash when reaching 1000 conversions /hour
  - Alleviated WIPO installed a queue system that rejects promptly new jobs when queue is full
- **Applicants are inventors**
  - Even in their use of docx…
  - No efficient alleviation found

CHALLENGES

- **Issues can appear anytime**
  - Alleviate with: rendered PDFs checked systematically to identify problematic behavior, close collaboration with WIPO team to resolve the issues
- **AI prepared applications**
  - Applicants refer to chatGPT and others for drafting
  - Catastrophic content AND format: increase workload for the support team and then the assigned examineer for « nothing »

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Merci

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