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[The World is Full of Scam Artists](#)

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On a regular basis, we receive inquiries from clients about IP-related solicitations that they receive from third parties relating to things like renewing trademark registrations and domain names. Typical solicitations are one-pagers with a patina of legitimacy, referencing a particular IP asset, the owner, then usually ending with the punch line of requesting a fee or payment for "registration" or some other official-sounding service. (Example [here](#).)

The [Domain Name Strategy Blog](#) (which you can now access at both domainnamestrategy.com and domainstrategy.com) [wrote recently](#) about a solicitation that they received from a company calling itself WIPD, an acronym for "World Intellectual Property Database." Some of you may know that there is a rather large organization in Europe called WIPO, or "World Intellectual Property Organization," which is a U.N. organization that facilitates (or attempts to facilitate) an international IP system. WIPO is well known in IP circles.

Here's a screen shot of the header from a WIPD solicitation:



And here's a screen shot of WIPO's home page:



The WIPD website is only a slightly less egregious ripoff. Hit the jump to see those side-by-side.



WIPO is aware of this scam, as well as many others. See [here](#). This has not stopped WIPD from including a warning in its solicitations that . . . wait for it . . . "It has come to the attention of WIPD, Trademark owner [sic] are receiving invitations to pay fees that do not come from World Intellectual Property Database . . ." Here's the full warning:

WARNING: Requests for Payment of Fees

It has come to the attention of WIPD, Trademark owner are receiving invitations to pay fees that do not come from World Intellectual Property Database s.r.o. and are unrelated to the processing of our Trademark Services, they bear no connection to WIPD.

The bad guys are out there, folks. Watch out for scams, and make sure your IP protections are up to snuff wherever you think that you may need them.



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