

Idea Disclosure Template

Capture a technical idea in your own words — what it is, the problem it solves, how it works, and the broader concept behind it. Plain language, no legal jargon.

This template documents and organizes your idea. It is engineering documentation, not legal advice, and does not decide anything about patents, inventorship, or protection. Take a completed disclosure to a qualified patent attorney to discuss whether and how to protect it. See the full acknowledgment at the end.

Your Idea

Idea Name

A short working name for the idea (an internal label, not a formal title). Example: "Repository-Aware Model Routing."

In a Sentence or Two

Describe the idea the way you'd tell a colleague what you built and what it does.

The Problem It Solves

What technical problem, bottleneck, inefficiency, failure mode, or limitation does this address? What was hard, slow, or broken before?

How It Works

Explain the technical approach in practical detail: the components, data, rules, models, prompts, thresholds, and how they interact. What happens first, next, and last? Key inputs and outputs?

The Broader Idea

Step back from the specific code: what is the reusable technical insight? What would someone need to understand to rebuild this in another system? Which parts are essential, and which are just one way to do it?

Other Ways It Could Work

Alternative architectures, algorithms, models, data sources, workflows, or fallbacks. These need not be built or preferred.

What's Better Because of It

The technical benefits or expected improvements — speed, latency, compute or memory use, accuracy, reliability, security, scalability, cost, developer or user workflow. Measurements help but are not required.

Current Status

Where is this today? (Identified by a scan / Confirmed / prototype / Built, not deployed / Deployed internally / Released to users / Partly built / Deprecated / Unsure)

Where It's Used and Where Else It Could Apply

Where is this used today, and where else could the same approach apply? Name the products, features, tools, or workflows it powers now, plus adjacent areas it could extend to.

Have You Shared It?

Sharing an idea publicly can affect what is possible later. This is factual context only — no legal classification is asked of you.

Shared Outside Your Company? (No / Yes / Unsure)

Has this idea, its code, a demo, a repo, or a product using it been shared, shown, sold, offered, published, or open-sourced outside your organization? Include public and private sharing.

What Was Shared, and Roughly When?

Briefly: what was shared, with whom, roughly when, and whether it was public or kept confidential. Approximate dates are fine.

Any Sharing Planned Soon? (No / Yes / Unsure)

Is any public release, sale, demo, publication, or open-source release planned in the near future? If timing matters, note it here.

Supporting Details

Related Approaches You Know Of

Without searching, list any tools, products, systems, papers, open-source projects, or internal systems you already know about that are related. "None known" is fine.

Who Helped (name / role / organization / contribution)

People who contributed to the idea, design, implementation, testing, or problem-solving. For your records; this does not decide legal inventorship.

Evidence, Examples, or Results

Screenshots, logs, benchmark results, test data, before-and-after outputs, charts, notebooks, or engineering notes that help support the idea.

Other Materials

Diagrams, flowcharts, architecture drawings, whiteboard photos, UI mockups, specs, or design docs that help explain the idea.

Public/Private and Third-Party Materials

Is the related code public or private? Does it use any third-party libraries, APIs, models, datasets, SDKs, or vendor tools? Include names, versions, or licenses if you know them.

Open Questions

Anything unresolved or uncertain — missing data, unclear contributor history, unknown dependencies, or things to raise with your team.

Before You Rely On This

Disclaimer (subject to final review by IP counsel). This template is used solely to document, organize, and describe a technical idea. It and any output are for informational and technical-documentation purposes only and are not a substitute for advice from qualified intellectual property counsel. Use of this template does not constitute legal services or legal, patent, patentability, inventorship, ownership, claim-drafting, filing-strategy, deadline, or freedom-to-operate advice, and does not create an attorney-client relationship with Obviously Not. Intellectual-property protection can be time-sensitive: public disclosure, product release, open-source publication, sale, offer for sale, demo, or other external sharing may affect available rights. You are solely responsible for promptly consulting qualified intellectual property counsel about any legal or IP issue.

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