

Next Generation of CM/ECF (NextGen) – The Next Step

On **February 1, 2021**, the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Arkansas** will be upgrading its Case Management/Electronic Case Filing System (CM/ECF) to the Next Generation of CM/ECF (NextGen). The upgrade will occur for the **U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas** on **February 8, 2021**. This upgrade will provide users with several benefits including Central Sign-On, which allows e-filing attorneys to use one PACER login and password to access any NextGen court (district, appellate, and bankruptcy) in which they practice.

You should now have your own PACER account or should have upgraded your existing PACER Account. Your PACER account will be your login to CM/ECF. E-filing attorneys will not be able to use shared PACER accounts. If you have not obtained your own PACER account or upgraded your existing account, please refer to our November 25, 2020 announcement under News and Announcements which includes the link to our first announcement.

Step 1: Make note of the CM/ECF login and password you are currently using. If you do not know your current login and password, please contact the HelpDesk at (501) 918-5590. You will need your CM/ECF login and password for Step 2.

Step 2: ON or AFTER the Court's GO-LIVE date for NextGen, you must then link your upgraded PACER account to your current CM/ECF account. Linking is a one-time process that can be completed once the court is live on NextGen CM/ECF. Failure to link your CM/ECF account(s) with your upgraded individual PACER account will prevent you from filing electronically after NextGen goes live.

On or after the NextGen go-live date, link your court issued CM/ECF account and your upgraded PACER account by going to the court's CM/ECF site and clicking the "Efiling CM/ECF" link. You will be automatically redirected to PACER to complete this process. Link your Arkansas Bankruptcy account at: <https://ecf.areb.uscourts.gov> or <https://ecf.arwb.uscourts.gov>

- Log in with your individual upgraded PACER user name and password.
- Click Utilities, then click "Link a CM/ECF account to my PACER account."
- Enter your current CM/ECF credentials in the CM/ECF login and CM/ECF password fields. Click "Submit." Verify that the CM/ECF account and PACER account listed are accurate. If so, click "Submit."
- After the court reviews and approves your request, you will receive an email stating that your account has been linked.
- You have successfully linked your account. You will now use only your PACER account to access both PACER and CM/ECF for this court.

If you practice in more than one Federal Court you must link each of those CM/ECF accounts with your one upgraded PACER account as each court adopts NextGen over the coming months. See a list of NextGen courts at <https://www.pacer.gov/psco/cgi-bin/links.pl>.

After NextGen goes live you will go to the PACER website and use your Central Sign-On account to view dockets through PACER and also to file electronically in courts using the NextGen CM/ECF system. Not all courts will adopt NextGen at the same time. Until a court does adopt NextGen you will continue to access that court's legacy CM/ECF system through their local website using the account information issued by that court. See a list of NextGen courts at <https://www.pacer.gov/psco/cgi-bin/links.pl>.

After NextGen goes live all account maintenance requests will be handled by the PACER service center. You will need your PACER account number when contacting PACER.

On the web at <https://www.pacer.uscourts.gov>, Email the PACER service center at pacer@psc.uscourts.gov, Call PACER at (800) 676-6856.