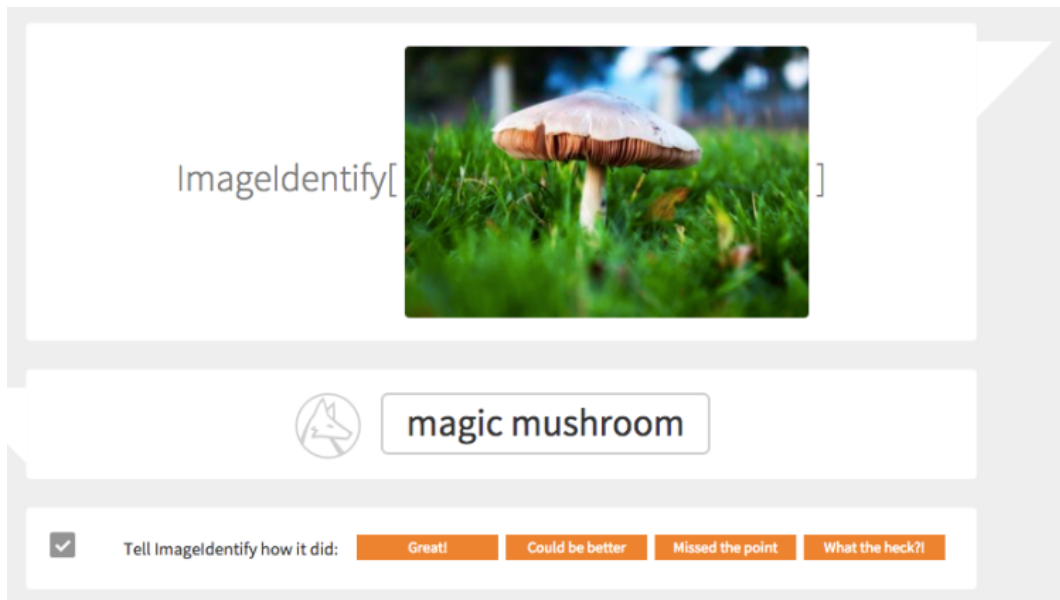


Beat

How Stephen Wolfram's image-recognition tool performs against 5 alternatives

Jordan Novet
@jordannovet

May 16, 2015 2:01 PM



Is that a magic mushroom? ImagelIdentify thinks it is.
Image Credit: Screenshot



We are excited to bring Transform 2022 back in-person July 19 and virtually July 20 - 28. Join AI and data leaders for insightful talks and exciting networking opportunities. [Register today!](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

This week Stephen Wolfram, founder and chief executive of Wolfram Research, [announced](#) a new component of the [Wolfram Language](#) for programming called [ImageIdentify](#). Wolfram also introduced a new website, dubbed [The Wolfram Language Image Identification Project](#), that demonstrates the language's new capabilities.

The new site lets you upload images and get inferences and definitions in response. You can provide feedback, which should help it become more accurate. You can hit buttons like "Great!," "Could be better," "Missed the point," and "What the heck?!" After you choose one, the service offers a few more guesses, and a text box where you can type in a tag. Then you can type in your email address, so it can tell you "when ImageIdentify learns more about your kind of image."



Live Stream Starting Soon

The service uses a trendy type of artificial intelligence called [deep learning](#). It draws on artificial neural networks, which train on a large quantity of information, like pictures, and then make inferences when you give it new information, like a new picture. Big web companies like [Facebook](#), [Google](#), and [Microsoft](#) use deep learning for various purposes, and increasingly smaller companies have been exposing deep learning tools for pretty much anyone to try out.

To get a rough sense of the power of the new Wolfram technology, I decided to put it up against other existing image-recognition systems you can test out on the Internet today, from [CamFind](#), [Clarifai](#), MetaMind, [Orbeus](#), and [IBM-owned AlchemyAPI](#). I chose images from Flickr that seemed to clearly fall into the [1,000](#)

ADVERTISEMENT



ImageNet visual recognition competition. It was unscientific — just for the sake of curiosity.



EVENT

Transform 2022

Join us at the leading event on applied AI for enterprise business and technology decision makers in-person July 19 and virtually from July 20-28.

[Register Here](#)

What I found is that Wolfram's new system doesn't seem to be all that bad. It wasn't overly conservative or vague, and it didn't make many obvious mistakes — although it wasn't as consistently accurate as MetaMind, for one. With time, Wolfram's technology should improve — especially as people point out its flaws.

Here are 10 of the tests I ran to reach my conclusion.

1. Coffee mug





Above: Coffee mug.

Image Credit: [evan.p.cordes/Flickr](#)

Wolfram ImageIdentify: tea

CamFind: white ceramic mug

Clarifai: coffee cup nobody tea mug cafe hot ceramic coffee cup cutout

MetaMind: Coffee mug

Orbeus: cup

AlchemyAPI: coffee

2. Mushroom



Explore Litigation Insights

Docket Alarm provides insights to develop a more informed litigation strategy and the peace of mind of knowing you're on top of things.

Real-Time Litigation Alerts



Keep your litigation team up-to-date with **real-time alerts** and advanced team management tools built for the enterprise, all while greatly reducing PACER spend.

Our comprehensive service means we can handle Federal, State, and Administrative courts across the country.

Advanced Docket Research



With over 230 million records, Docket Alarm's cloud-native docket research platform finds what other services can't. Coverage includes Federal, State, plus PTAB, TTAB, ITC and NLRB decisions, all in one place.

Identify arguments that have been successful in the past with full text, pinpoint searching. Link to case law cited within any court document via Fastcase.

Analytics At Your Fingertips



Learn what happened the last time a particular judge, opposing counsel or company faced cases similar to yours.

Advanced out-of-the-box PTAB and TTAB analytics are always at your fingertips.

API

Docket Alarm offers a powerful API (application programming interface) to developers that want to integrate case filings into their apps.

LAW FIRMS

Build custom dashboards for your attorneys and clients with live data direct from the court.

Automate many repetitive legal tasks like conflict checks, document management, and marketing.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Litigation and bankruptcy checks for companies and debtors.

E-DISCOVERY AND LEGAL VENDORS

Sync your system to PACER to automate legal marketing.