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How can I read an image from an Internet URL in Python cv2, scikit image and mahotas?

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How can I read an image from an Internet URL in Python cv2?

This [Stack Overflow answer](#),

```
import cv2.cv as cv
import urllib2
from cStringIO import StringIO
import PIL.Image as pil
url="some_url"
```

```
img_file = urllib2.urlopen(url)
im = StringIO(img_file.read())
```

is not good because Python reported to me:

```
TypeError: object.__new__(cStringIO.StringIO) is not safe, use cStringIO.StringIO.__new__
```

[python](#)[opencv](#)[image-processing](#)[scikit-image](#)[mahotas](#)

edited Mar 1 at 12:31

 Peter Mortensen

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829 4 18 39

2 Answers

Since a cv2 image is not a string (save a Unicode one, yucc), but a NumPy array, - use cv2 and NumPy to achieve it:

```
import cv2
import urllib
import numpy as np

req = urllib.urlopen('http://answers.opencv.org/upfiles/logo_2.p
arr = np.asarray(bytearray(req.read()), dtype=np.uint8)
img = cv2.imdecode(arr, -1) # 'Load it as it is'

cv2.imshow('lalala', img)
if cv2.waitKey() & 0xff == 27: quit()
```

edited Mar 1 at 12:32



Peter Mortensen

12.9k 19 83 111

answered Jan 11 '14 at 12:07



berak

28.3k 7 61 69

ok it works, but after that, i use also scikit image library: `imgbnpin = mh.morph.dilate(gray, disk7)` and i get: `ValueError: morph.get_structuring_elem: Bc does not have the correct number of dimensions. Using local images i do not get this error, why now? – postgres Jan 11 '14 at 12:41` ✎

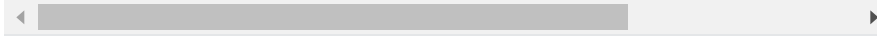
so ? i don't get your point – berak Jan 11 '14 at 12:42

Using a local image my script works fine both with cv2 and scikit

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oh, sorry. understand your problem, but no idea. – [berak](#) Jan 11 '14 at 12:56

- 2 it's a 3d array because of the color channels. if you want it 2d(grayscale), do : `cv2.imdecode(arr,0)` # load as grayscale – [berak](#) Jan 13 '14 at 11:53



The following reads the image directly into a NumPy array:

```
from skimage import io

image = io.imread('https://raw2.github.com/scikit-image/scikit-image.github.com/master/_static/img/logo.png')
```

edited Mar 1 at 12:33



[Peter Mortensen](#)

12.9k 19 83 111

answered Jan 11 '14 at 15:36



[Tony S Yu](#)

1,640 17 32



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