

Image Classification using AWS

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Introduction

Problem Statement

The project aims at building an elastic web application that can automatically scale out and scale in on-demand and cost-effectively by using cloud resources. The resources used were from Amazon Web Services. It is an image classification application exposed as a Rest Service to the clients to access.

Objectives

The application takes the images and returns the predicted output using an image classification model through the AWS resources, an IaaS provider. AWS as an IaaS provider offers a variety of compute, storage and message services. So the tasks involved designing the architecture, implementing RESTful Web Services, a load balancer that scales in and scales out EC2 instances at App Tier according to the demand of the user.

Milestones

The initial milestones involve

- Design and build an interactive system for User.
- Explore and understand the AWS services and improve the infrastructure.
- Enable AWS Services and run some tests to see storage and computation performance.

Tools Used

- AWS services (EC2, SQS, S3).

- Pretrained Image classification model.
- Web Services (HTML, CSS, Flask).
- Testing for resources.
- Python for backend of the architecture.

Literature Review

Image Recognition is an essential component of various applications, such as facial recognition, object detection, and product recommendation. With the growing demand for image recognition, many researchers have focused on developing image recognition systems using cloud and edge computing. This literature review summarizes and analyzes five research papers that discuss image recognition as a service.

In the paper "Cloud Strategies for Image Recognition," da Costa and Pisa [3] discuss various cloud strategies for image recognition. The authors analyze the features of different cloud providers, such as Amazon Web Services, Google Cloud Platform, and Microsoft Azure, and evaluate their suitability for image recognition tasks. The paper emphasizes the importance of cloud computing in image recognition and provides insights into cloud-based image recognition services.

In "Real-Time Object Detection with TensorFlow Model Using Edge Computing Architecture," N et al. [4] propose a real-time object detection system using a TensorFlow model and edge computing architecture. The paper presents a system architecture that utilizes edge computing to reduce latency and improve response time. The authors evaluate the system's performance using a dataset of real-world images and demonstrate the effectiveness of the system in detecting objects in real-time.

In "The Utilization of Cloud Computing for Facial Expression Recognition using Amazon Web Services," Rafael et al. [5] discuss the utilization of cloud computing for facial expression recognition. The authors use Amazon Web Services to develop a facial expression recognition system and evaluate the system's performance using a dataset of facial expressions. The paper demonstrates the effectiveness of cloud-based facial expression recognition systems and highlights the potential of such systems in various applications, such as security and entertainment.

In "Object Detection and Recognition using Amazon Rekognition with Boto3," Sharma

[6] discusses object detection and recognition using Amazon Rekognition with Boto3, a software development kit for Python developers. The paper presents an overview of the Amazon Rekognition service and explains how to use the service with Boto3. The author demonstrates the effectiveness of the Amazon Rekognition service in detecting and recognizing objects in real-time, providing a practical guide for developers.

Finally, Suguna et al. [7] present "An Efficient Real-time Product Recommendation using Facial Sentiment Analysis." The paper proposes an efficient product recommendation system that utilizes facial sentiment analysis to determine a user's emotional state. The system uses the Microsoft Azure Face API to extract facial features and sentiment scores, which are then used to recommend products. The authors evaluate the system's performance using a dataset of user reviews and demonstrate the system's effectiveness in generating relevant product recommendations.

In conclusion, these five research papers provide insights into image recognition as a service using cloud and edge computing. The papers demonstrate the effectiveness of cloud-based and edge-based image recognition systems and provide practical guidance for developers. The papers also highlight the potential of image recognition in various applications, such as facial recognition, object detection, and product recommendation.

Our project aims to create an elastic web application that uses cloud resources to develop an image recognition application. The project involves designing the architecture and implementing RESTful Web Services to provide access to the application. The use of cloud resources to provide scalable and cost-effective solutions is a common theme in the above 5 research papers. The above research papers emphasize the use of cloud-based services, including AWS services, for scalable and cost-effective image recognition solutions.

Project Background

Image classification, also known as computer vision, is a field of study in artificial intelligence that involves training computer systems to identify, interpret, and understand images or visual data. It involves categorizing images into predefined classes or labels using machine learning algorithms. This process is similar to image recognition, which also uses machine learning algorithms to analyze and interpret visual data. Image recognition identifies and labels objects within an image, whereas image classification categorizes entire images.

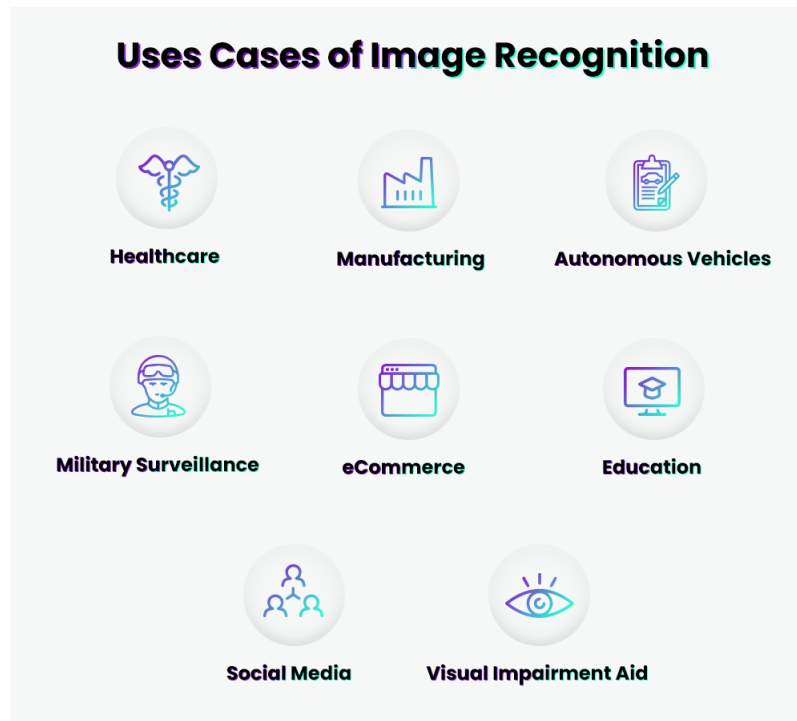


Figure 1: Some use-cases of Image Recognition.Ariwala [1]

Image classification, like image recognition, also has a wide range of applications across various industries such as healthcare, automotive, retail, security, and entertainment as shown in the Figure 1. Image classification technology can be used for various tasks such as object detection, medical diagnosis, and product recognition. Some examples include:

- **Medical Diagnosis:** Image classification can be used for medical imaging analysis, identifying and diagnosing diseases like cancer, or detecting anomalies in medical images.
- **Agriculture:** Image classification can be used for crop and soil analysis, plant disease detection, and monitoring crop growth and health.
- **Manufacturing:** Image classification can be used for product quality control, identifying defects, and ensuring consistency in production lines.
- **Retail:** Image classification can be used for product recognition, inventory management, and customer behavior analysis, such as tracking the popularity of certain products.
- **Security:** Image classification can be used for object detection, facial recognition, and surveillance monitoring, such as identifying security threats and detecting suspicious behavior.
- **Environmental Monitoring:** Image classification can be used for land use and land cover mapping, identifying deforestation or other changes in the environment, and monitoring wildlife populations.

IaaS (Infrastructure as a Service) is a cloud computing model in which cloud service providers offer virtualized computing resources such as servers, storage, and networking to users on a pay-per-use basis. IaaS allows users to scale up or down their computing resources as needed, without having to invest in their own infrastructure. Examples of IaaS providers include Amazon Web Services, Microsoft Azure, and Google Cloud Platform.

IaaS services have a wide range of applications across various industries, such as:

- **Web hosting:** IaaS providers can host websites and web applications in the cloud, providing scalable and reliable infrastructure.

- **Big data:** IaaS providers can provide the computing resources needed to process and analyze large volumes of data.
- **Disaster recovery:** IaaS providers can provide backup and recovery solutions in the event of a disaster or outage.
- **DevOps:** IaaS providers can provide the infrastructure needed for software development and testing.
- **Machine learning:** IaaS providers can provide the computing resources needed to train and run machine learning models.

Infrastructure

The infrastructure described is a common architecture for building web applications that require image classification capabilities. The infrastructure is divided into two tiers: the Web-Tier and the Application-Tier.

The Web-Tier of the system consists of a simple User Interface, where a user can interact with our system. In our system, user can upload images they want to classify. The Application-Tier contains core functionality of the system, image classification. It also handles business logic, database manipulation functions (CRUD), and communicates with other resources. The overall system architecture of our project can be viewed in the Figure 2.

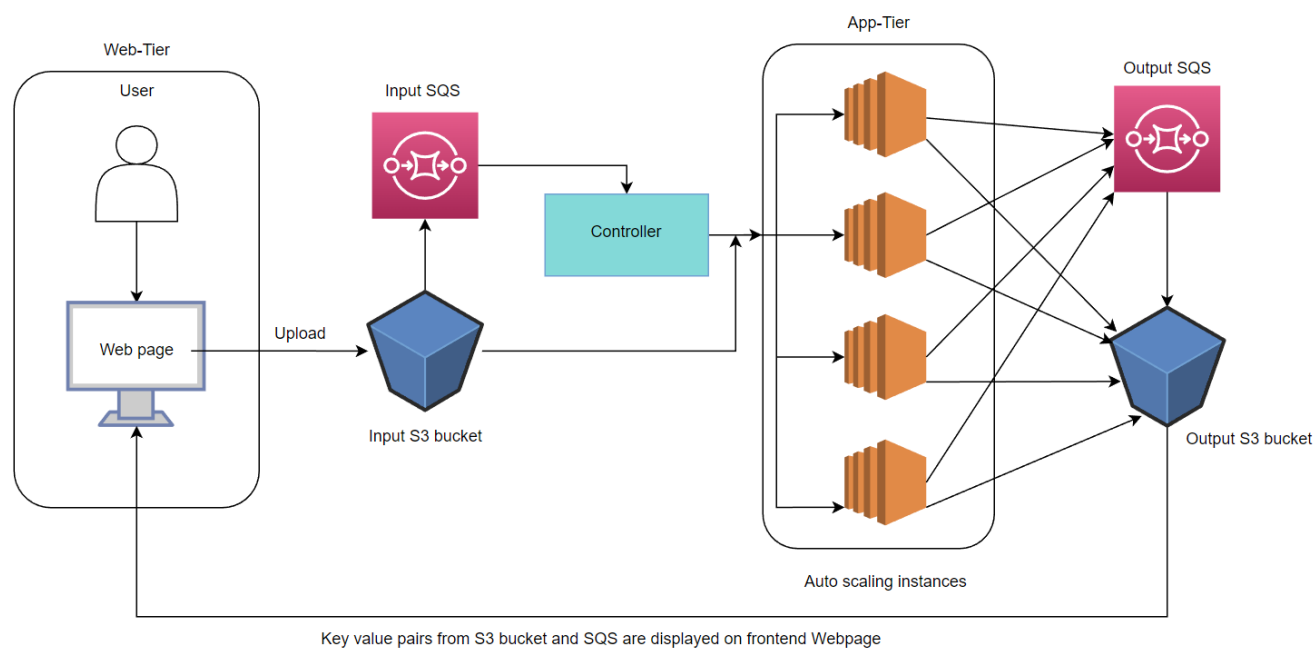


Figure 2: System Architecture.

The number of EC2 instances needed depends on the frequency of data uploads. Scaling in and scaling out of instances are determined based on the number of input images

uploaded, which are fed into the SQS queue and the number of messages are calculated. Scaling in is managed by the controller, which automatically terminates instances when there are no more messages left in the input SQS. Scaling out is implemented using the number of running instances and the estimated number of visible SQS messages. Instances are created with the AMI, and the scaling out logic is designed not to create more than 15 instances. If the number of SQS messages is less than 15, the number of instances created will be the number of messages minus the number of already running instances. If the SQS messages exceed 15, then the number of instances created will be equal to 15 minus the number of currently running instances

This infrastructure utilizes AWS' EC2, SQS, and S3 resources. Specifically, the App Tier relies on S3 and SQS to store and transmit data, respectively. Once the classification results are generated, they are sent as key-value pairs to the output SQS and output S3 bucket to be displayed on the web page.

The infrastructure is a standard two-tier architecture used to develop web applications that incorporate image classification features. The Web-Tier provides a user interface for uploading images, while the Application-Tier contains core functionality, such as image classification, business logic, and database manipulation functions. AWS EC2, SQS, and S3 resources are utilized to create this infrastructure. Scaling in and out of resources is determined by the number of incoming images, which are processed through SQS, and the number of running instances. The infrastructure is designed to create up to 15 instances, and the number of instances created is based on the number of incoming images, with automatic termination of instances when the queue is empty. By leveraging AWS services and this scalable infrastructure, web applications with image classification capabilities can be built in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

Implementation

The following is a detailed description of the implementation steps involved in building a web application with image classification capabilities on AWS using a two-tier architecture with a Web-tier and App-tier.

Setup

Web-tier

To implement the front-end part of the application, we utilized HTML and CSS to design a visually appealing static web page, with HTML providing the structural framework and CSS enabling customization of the layout, font, and color schemes. We integrated the Flask framework to manage communication between the front-end and back-end components, with essential tools and libraries provided to handle various user requests. Using the boto3 libraries, we established a seamless connection between the front-end and App-tier EC2 instance, allowing us to interact with the instance and upload images to the input S3 bucket for processing by the image classification model. Our approach was effective in creating a user-friendly interface while ensuring seamless integration with the App-tier EC2 instance.

App-tier EC2 instances

App-tier EC2 instances were created following the instructions Barr [2] provided by AWS to create an AMI with a t2.small instance type and a root key attached. The default location was set to us-east-1 and the results were stored in JSON format. On the App-tier instances, we installed the necessary libraries listed in "requirements.txt" and added "worker.py" and "image_classification.py", which contains a pre-trained ResNet model with ImageNet labels from the Keras library used for image classification. The model has been

pre-trained on the ImageNet dataset, which includes over a million labeled images, making it a powerful tool for quickly and accurately classifying images without extensive training on a custom dataset. To run the scripts automatically every minute, we used cron tab and executed the command `* * * * * python3 /home/ubuntu/worker.py > ./result.txt`.

Execution Steps

1. First, we started the Web-tier application manually on the terminal using the command `python3 app2.py`, which started the Web-tier.
2. Next, the controller is started on the terminal using the command `python3 controller.py`. The script retrieves information about an SQS queue, counts the number of running instances, and starts new instances if necessary. It is designed to be run continuously in a loop as a background process on a local machine.
3. As the local IP address is static and does not change over time, we associated the Web-tier with it. Then, the images are uploaded using the upload button.
4. The required number of instances started running depending on the input number of images.
5. These instances can be on the EC2 dashboard, images were uploaded to the input S3 bucket, and the classification results were uploaded to the output S3 bucket via message passing through SQS.
6. Finally, the results were forwarded to the frontend webpage in key-value pair from SQS and S3 respectively in the format: `image.jpeg`, `image_label`.

Results

The Results section of the document showcases the functionality of the AWS-based image classification system. The user interface of the web application comprises a simple web page that allows users to upload any number of images for classification as shown in Figure 3 . The UI has a "Choose file" button that enables users to select the image files to be uploaded, and an "Upload" button to upload them to the AWS services.

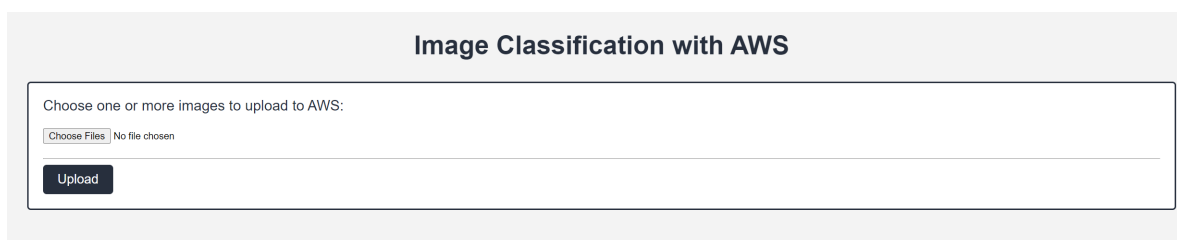



Figure 3: User Interface.

Upon clicking the "Upload" button, the web application automatically creates EC2 instances based on the number of uploaded images. A screenshot of Figure ?? displays the number of instances running based on the number of images uploaded, here . This dynamic scaling of the App-tier instances ensures that the system can handle a large number of requests efficiently.

Instances (4) Info				
Find instance by attribute or tag (case-sensitive)				
Instance state = running X Clear filters				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Name ▾	Instance ID	Instance state ▾	
<input type="checkbox"/>	-	i-0eb8d0e06aa78533c	Running	
<input type="checkbox"/>	-	i-01a6cc7019c8b39f0	Running	
<input type="checkbox"/>	-	i-013213793ff684d99	Running	
<input type="checkbox"/>	App-Tier	i-0aff3f765effcbce4	Running	

Figure 4: 4 instances are running when 3 images are uploaded.

After the images have been processed, the system returns the classification results in the form of key-value pairs. The screenshot of Figure 5 displays the results beneath the "Upload" button on the same webpage. Each image is labeled with its corresponding class and displayed in the format: `test_0.JPEG`, `hair_spray`. This user-friendly interface enables users to quickly and easily classify multiple images with high accuracy, thanks to the use of a pre-trained ResNet model.



The screenshot shows a web interface titled "Image Classification with AWS". It features a file upload section with a text prompt "Choose one or more images to upload to AWS:", a "Choose Files" button, and an "Upload" button. Below the upload section, a message "Upload Done !" is displayed. The results are shown in four separate boxes, each containing a filename and its classification label: "test_0.JPEG: hair_spray", "test_1.JPEG: eggnog", "test_2.JPEG: monarch", and "test_3.JPEG: monastery".

Figure 5: Sample output displayed on the UI.

The total time taken to print the results on the webpage is calculated by measuring the time difference between two events: the first event is the time when the user clicks the upload button to initiate the image classification process, and the second event is the time it takes to display the results on the webpage. This time difference is calculated using the Python `'time'` module, which provides functions to measure time in seconds. By subtracting the start time from the end time, we can determine the total time taken to print the results on the webpage.

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