

The world's simplest facial recognition api for Python and the command line

#machine-learning #face-detection #face-recognition #python

🔖 89 commits

🌿 2 branches

📦 1 release

👥 9 contributors

📄 MIT

Branch: master ▾

New pull request

Create new file

Upload files

Find file

Clone or download ▾

🔗 zxu7 committed with ageitgey make batch\_size effective in \_raw\_face\_locations\_batched

Latest commit df83b44 18 days ago

📁 .github	Initial commit	10 months ago
📁 docs	corrected minor typo in docs	5 months ago
📁 examples	Support for new dlib 19.7 stuff (#185)	3 months ago
📁 face_recognition	make batch_size effective in _raw_face_locations_batched	18 days ago
📁 tests	Add support for dlib's new cnn-based face detector (#157)	4 months ago
📄 .editorconfig	Initial commit	10 months ago
📄 .gitignore	Initial commit	10 months ago
📄 .travis.yml	Fix For Travis Test Step (#20)	9 months ago
📄 AUTHORS.rst	pre-release fixes	10 months ago
📄 CONTRIBUTING.rst	Initial commit	10 months ago
📄 Dockerfile	Support for new dlib 19.7 stuff (#185)	3 months ago
📄 HISTORY.rst	Support for new dlib 19.7 stuff (#185)	3 months ago
📄 LICENSE	Initial commit	10 months ago
📄 MANIFEST.in	Initial commit	10 months ago
📄 Makefile	pre-release fixes	10 months ago
📄 README.md	Support for new dlib 19.7 stuff (#185)	3 months ago
📄 README.rst	Support for new dlib 19.7 stuff (#185)	3 months ago
📄 requirements.txt	Require a more recent scipy that supports imread w/ mode	9 months ago
📄 requirements_dev.txt	Set up travisci	10 months ago
📄 requirements_docs.txt	Add blank reqs file for RTD	10 months ago
📄 setup.cfg	Fix For Travis Test Step (#20)	9 months ago
📄 setup.py	Fix build	24 days ago
📄 tox.ini	Fix build	24 days ago

📖 README.md

# Face Recognition

Recognize and manipulate faces from Python or from the command line with the world's simplest face recognition library.

Built using [dlib](#)'s state-of-the-art face recognition built with deep learning. The model has an accuracy of 99.38% on the [Labeled Faces in the Wild](#) benchmark.

This also provides a simple `face_recognition` command line tool that lets you do face recognition on a folder of images from the command line!

[PyPI Build Status](#) [Documentation](#) [Status](#)

## Features

---

### Find faces in pictures

Find all the faces that appear in a picture:

```
import face_recognition
image = face_recognition.load_image_file("your_file.jpg")
face_locations = face_recognition.face_locations(image)
```

### Find and manipulate facial features in pictures

Get the locations and outlines of each person's eyes, nose, mouth and chin.

```
import face_recognition
image = face_recognition.load_image_file("your_file.jpg")
face_landmarks_list = face_recognition.face_landmarks(image)
```

Finding facial features is super useful for lots of important stuff. But you can also use for really stupid stuff like applying [digital make-up](#) (think 'Meitu'):

### Identify faces in pictures

Recognize who appears in each photo.

```
import face_recognition
known_image = face_recognition.load_image_file("biden.jpg")
unknown_image = face_recognition.load_image_file("unknown.jpg")

biden_encoding = face_recognition.face_encodings(known_image)[0]
unknown_encoding = face_recognition.face_encodings(unknown_image)[0]

results = face_recognition.compare_faces([biden_encoding], unknown_encoding)
```

You can even use this library with other Python libraries to do real-time face recognition:

See [this example](#) for the code.

## Installation

---

### Requirements

- Python 3.3+ or Python 2.7
- macOS or Linux (Windows not officially supported, but might work)

### Installation Options:

#### Installing on Mac or Linux

First, make sure you have `dlib` already installed with Python bindings:

- [How to install dlib from source on macOS or Ubuntu](#)

Then, install this module from pypi using `pip3` (or `pip2` for Python 2):

```
pip3 install face_recognition
```

If you are having trouble with installation, you can also try out a [pre-configured VM](#).

### Installing on Raspberry Pi 2+

- [Raspberry Pi 2+ installation instructions](#)

### Installing on Windows

While Windows isn't officially supported, helpful users have posted instructions on how to install this library:

- [@masoudr's Windows 10 installation guide \(dlib + face\\_recognition\)](#)

### Installing a pre-configured Virtual Machine image

- [Download the pre-configured VM image](#) (for VMware Player or VirtualBox).

## Usage

---

### Command-Line Interface

When you install `face_recognition`, you get a simple command-line program called `face_recognition` that you can use to recognize faces in a photograph or folder full of photographs.

First, you need to provide a folder with one picture of each person you already know. There should be one image file for each person with the files named according to who is in the picture:

`known`

Next, you need a second folder with the files you want to identify:

`unknown`

Then you simply run the command `face_recognition`, passing in the folder of known people and the folder (or single image) with unknown people and it tells you who is in each image:

```
$ face_recognition ./pictures_of_people_i_know/ ./unknown_pictures/  
/unknown_pictures/unknown.jpg, Barack Obama  
/face_recognition_test/unknown_pictures/unknown.jpg, unknown_person
```

There's one line in the output for each face. The data is comma-separated with the filename and the name of the person found.

An `unknown_person` is a face in the image that didn't match anyone in your folder of known people.

### Adjusting Tolerance / Sensitivity

If you are getting multiple matches for the same person, it might be that the people in your photos look very similar and a lower tolerance value is needed to make face comparisons more strict.

You can do that with the `--tolerance` parameter. The default tolerance value is 0.6 and lower numbers make face comparisons more strict:

```
$ face_recognition --tolerance 0.54 ./pictures_of_people_i_know/ ./unknown_pictures/
```

```
/unknown_pictures/unknown.jpg,Barack Obama  
/face_recognition_test/unknown_pictures/unknown.jpg,unknown_person
```

If you want to see the face distance calculated for each match in order to adjust the tolerance setting, you can use `--show-distance true`:

```
$ face_recognition --show-distance true ./pictures_of_people_i_know/ ./unknown_pictures/  
  
/unknown_pictures/unknown.jpg,Barack Obama,0.378542298956785  
/face_recognition_test/unknown_pictures/unknown.jpg,unknown_person,None
```

### More Examples

If you simply want to know the names of the people in each photograph but don't care about file names, you could do this:

```
$ face_recognition ./pictures_of_people_i_know/ ./unknown_pictures/ | cut -d ' ' -f2  
  
Barack Obama  
unknown_person
```

### Speeding up Face Recognition

Face recognition can be done in parallel if you have a computer with multiple CPU cores. For example if your system has 4 CPU cores, you can process about 4 times as many images in the same amount of time by using all your CPU cores in parallel.

If you are using Python 3.4 or newer, pass in a `--cpus <number_of_cpu_cores_to_use>` parameter:

```
$ face_recognition --cpus 4 ./pictures_of_people_i_know/ ./unknown_pictures/
```

You can also pass in `--cpus -1` to use all CPU cores in your system.

### Python Module

You can import the `face_recognition` module and then easily manipulate faces with just a couple of lines of code. It's super easy!

API Docs: <https://face-recognition.readthedocs.io>.

#### Automatically find all the faces in an image

```
import face_recognition  
  
image = face_recognition.load_image_file("my_picture.jpg")  
face_locations = face_recognition.face_locations(image)  
  
# face_locations is now an array listing the co-ordinates of each face!
```

See [this example](#) to try it out.

You can also opt-in to a somewhat more accurate deep-learning-based face detection model.

Note: GPU acceleration (via nvidia's CUDA library) is required for good performance with this model. You'll also want to enable CUDA support when compiling `dlib`.

```
import face_recognition  
  
image = face_recognition.load_image_file("my_picture.jpg")
```

```
face_locations = face_recognition.face_locations(image, model="cnn")

# face_locations is now an array listing the co-ordinates of each face!
```

See [this example](#) to try it out.

If you have a lot of images and a GPU, you can also [find faces in batches](#).

#### Automatically locate the facial features of a person in an image

```
import face_recognition

image = face_recognition.load_image_file("my_picture.jpg")
face_landmarks_list = face_recognition.face_landmarks(image)

# face_landmarks_list is now an array with the locations of each facial feature in each face.
# face_landmarks_list[0]['left_eye'] would be the location and outline of the first person's left eye.
```

See [this example](#) to try it out.

#### Recognize faces in images and identify who they are

```
import face_recognition

picture_of_me = face_recognition.load_image_file("me.jpg")
my_face_encoding = face_recognition.face_encodings(picture_of_me)[0]

# my_face_encoding now contains a universal 'encoding' of my facial features that can be compared to any ot

unknown_picture = face_recognition.load_image_file("unknown.jpg")
unknown_face_encoding = face_recognition.face_encodings(unknown_picture)[0]

# Now we can see the two face encodings are of the same person with `compare_faces`!

results = face_recognition.compare_faces([my_face_encoding], unknown_face_encoding)

if results[0] == True:
    print("It's a picture of me!")
else:
    print("It's not a picture of me!")
```

See [this example](#) to try it out.

## Python Code Examples

---

All the examples are available [here](#).

### Face Detection

- [Find faces in a photograph](#)
- [Find faces in a photograph \(using deep learning\)](#)
- [Find faces in batches of images w/ GPU \(using deep learning\)](#)

### Facial Features

- [Identify specific facial features in a photograph](#)
- [Apply \(horribly ugly\) digital make-up](#)

### Facial Recognition

- [Find and recognize unknown faces in a photograph based on photographs of known people](#)

- [Compare faces by numeric face distance instead of only True/False matches](#)
- [Recognize faces in live video using your webcam - Simple / Slower Version \(Requires OpenCV to be installed\)](#)
- [Recognize faces in live video using your webcam - Faster Version \(Requires OpenCV to be installed\)](#)
- [Recognize faces in a video file and write out new video file \(Requires OpenCV to be installed\)](#)
- [Recognize faces on a Raspberry Pi w/ camera](#)
- [Run a web service to recognize faces via HTTP \(Requires Flask to be installed\)](#)

## How Face Recognition Works

---

If you want to learn how face location and recognition work instead of depending on a black box library, [read my article](#).

## Caveats

---

- The face recognition model is trained on adults and does not work very well on children. It tends to mix up children quite easy using the default comparison threshold of 0.6.

## Deployment to Cloud Hosts (Heroku, AWS, etc)

---

Since `face_recognition` depends on `dlib` which is written in C++, it can be tricky to deploy an app using it to a cloud hosting provider like Heroku or AWS.

To make things easier, there's an example Dockerfile in this repo that shows how to run an app built with `face_recognition` in a [Docker](#) container. With that, you should be able to deploy to any service that supports Docker images.

## Common Issues

---

Issue: `Illegal instruction (core dumped)` when using `face_recognition` or running examples.

Solution: `dlib` is compiled with SSE4 or AVX support, but your CPU is too old and doesn't support that. You'll need to recompile `dlib` after [making the code change outlined here](#).

Issue: `RuntimeError: Unsupported image type, must be 8bit gray or RGB image.` when running the webcam examples.

Solution: Your webcam probably isn't set up correctly with OpenCV. [Look here for more](#).

Issue: `MemoryError` when running `pip2 install face_recognition`

Solution: The `face_recognition_models` file is too big for your available pip cache memory. Instead, try `pip2 --no-cache-dir install face_recognition` to avoid the issue.

Issue: `AttributeError: 'module' object has no attribute 'face_recognition_model_v1'`

Solution: The version of `dlib` you have installed is too old. You need version 19.7 or newer. Upgrade `dlib`.

Issue: `Attribute Error: 'Module' object has no attribute 'cnn_face_detection_model_v1'`

Solution: The version of `dlib` you have installed is too old. You need version 19.7 or newer. Upgrade `dlib`.

Issue: `TypeError: imread() got an unexpected keyword argument 'mode'`

Solution: The version of `scipy` you have installed is too old. You need version 0.17 or newer. Upgrade `scipy`.

## Thanks

---

- Many, many thanks to [Davis King \(@nulhom\)](#) for creating `dlib` and for providing the trained facial feature detection and face encoding models used in this library. For more information on the ResNet that powers the face encodings, check out

his [blog post](#).

- Thanks to everyone who works on all the awesome Python data science libraries like numpy, scipy, scikit-image, pillow, etc, etc that makes this kind of stuff so easy and fun in Python.
- Thanks to [Cookiecutter](#) and the [audreyr/cookiecutter-pypackage](#) project template for making Python project packaging way more tolerable.