

AutoCull End-User Documentation

Group 11

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1 Introduction

AutoCull is an intelligent image management application that automatically identifies and removes near-duplicate or low-quality photos from a given collection. The program leverages AI/ML techniques to both streamline large-scale photo curation, and improve the user's photographic abilities.

This document serves as a comprehensive guide for end users, covering installation, usage, configuration, and troubleshooting.

2 System Requirements

- Operating System: Windows 10 or later / macOS / Linux
- Python 3.10 or higher
- PostgreSQL 14 or higher
- Recommended RAM: 8 GB+
- Disk space: Minimum 1 GB free

3 Installation Guide

3.1 Step 1: Obtain AutoCull

You can install AutoCull using one of the following two methods:

Option A: Download the Pre-Built Executable (Recommended for Most Users)

1. Visit the project's GitHub repository: https://github.com/Manwithacape/COSC345---Group_11/actions
2. Under the latest successful build, scroll to the **Artifacts** section.
3. Download the file named **AutoCull.exe**.
4. Once downloaded, simply double-click **AutoCull.exe** to launch the application. No setup or Python installation is required.

Option B: Clone and Run the Source Code (For Developers)

```
git clone https://github.com/Manwithacape/COSC345---Group_11.git
cd COSC345---Group_11
```

3.2 Step 2: Create a Virtual Environment (Source Installation Only)

```
python -m venv venv
source venv/bin/activate      # macOS/Linux
venv\Scripts\activate        # Windows
```

3.3 Step 3: Install Dependencies (Source Installation Only)

```
pip install -r requirements.txt
```

3.4 Step 4: Set Up PostgreSQL Database

AutoCull uses PostgreSQL to store image metadata, similarity metrics, and user preferences.

1. Install PostgreSQL 14 or higher from <https://www.postgresql.org/download/>.
2. During installation, note your chosen **username**, **password**, and **port number** (default is 5432).
3. Open the PostgreSQL interactive terminal:

```
psql -U postgres
```

4. Create a new database and user for AutoCull:

```
CREATE DATABASE autocull_db;
CREATE USER autocull_user WITH PASSWORD 'yourpassword';
GRANT ALL PRIVILEGES ON DATABASE autocull_db TO autocull_user;
```

Example configuration file (`.env` or `config.json`):

```
{
  "dbname": "autocull_db",
  "user": "autocull_user",
  "password": "yourpassword",
  "host": "localhost",
  "port": 5432
}
```

5. Initialize the schema using the provided `schema.db` file. You should see a confirmation message indicating that tables were created successfully.

3.5 Step 5: Launch AutoCull

- **If using the .exe file:** Simply double-click `AutoCull.exe` to start the program.
- **If running from source:**

```
python app.py
```

If the program launches successfully, you should see the AutoCull interface.

4 Configuration

AutoCull requires a database configuration file named `db_config.json` or environment variables defined in a `.env` file in the project root.

```
{
  "dbname": "autocull_db",
  "user": "autocull_user",
  "password": "yourpassword",
  "host": "localhost",
  "port": 5432
}
```

Ensure this file is present before running the application.

5 Dependencies

AutoCull relies on several Python libraries for image processing, database interaction, and machine learning. All dependencies can be installed automatically using the `requirements.txt` file included with the project.

- **ImageHash** – Perceptual hashing for duplicate detection
- **numpy** – Numerical operations and data manipulation
- **opencv_python** – Image analysis and computer vision tools
- **piexif** – EXIF metadata reading and writing
- **Pillow** – Image loading, display, and format conversion
- **python-dotenv** – Environment variable and configuration management
- **scikit_learn** – Machine learning and clustering algorithms
- **scikit-image** – Advanced image processing utilities
- **ttkbootstrap** – Modern themed interface for Tkinter
- **rawpy** – RAW image file decoding
- **psycopg2-binary** – PostgreSQL database connectivity
- **google-genai** – Integration for Google Gemini-based text generation
- **torch** – Core PyTorch deep learning framework
- **torchvision** – Vision utilities for PyTorch models
- **transformers** – Access to pretrained deep learning models
- **face_recognition** – Face detection and recognition functionality
- **exifread** – Lightweight EXIF metadata extraction

- **CLIP (OpenAI)** – Image-text embedding model for similarity and semantic scoring

To install all dependencies:

```
pip install -r requirements.txt
```

6 Key Features

- Intelligent duplicate detection using perceptual hashing
- Photo scoring based on exposure, focus, and composition
- EXIF metadata viewer
- Collection management interface
- Integrated PostgreSQL backend for image data
- Lightweight, dark-themed Tkinter GUI

7 Using AutoCull

7.1 Basic Workflow

1. Launch AutoCull.
2. Import images by selecting "Import" from the sidebar.
3. AutoCull scans for near duplicates and low-quality images.
4. Review detected clusters of similar images.
5. Suggest photos for deletion based on quality scores.
6. Confirm deletion or move duplicates to a separate folder.

7.2 GUI

The GUI provides options for:

- Photo importing
- Viewing detected duplicates
- Marking photos for deletion
- Previewing detected duplicates
- Batch delete/move operations
- Suggesting photos for deletion based on quality scores

- Viewing collections
- Creating collections
- Viewing exif data
- Viewing image metrics

8 Troubleshooting

- **Program doesn't start:** Ensure Python 3.10+ is installed and dependencies are correctly installed.
- **Database connection error:** Verify that PostgreSQL is running and credentials are correct.
- **No duplicates found:** Try lowering the `threshold` value.
- **Permission errors:** Run as administrator or check write permissions on output directories.

9 Uninstallation

To remove AutoCull, delete the application folder and its virtual environment. If desired, remove the PostgreSQL database using:

```
DROP DATABASE autocull_db;  
DROP USER autocull_user;
```

10 About

This application was developed as part of a university project for COSC345. For more information, visit the GitHub repository: https://github.com/Manwithacape/COSC345---Group_11

Please do not attempt to contact anyone regarding bugs, issues, or feature requests. These will likely not be addressed.

11 Credits and License

Developed by **Group 11, COSC345 2025 S2** as part of the AutoCull project.

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