Hi John,

I’m an avid hiker in Colorado. I’ve been a member, hike leader, and assistant instructor with the Colorado Mountain Club, and I’m the founder of the After Work Hiking Plus! Meetup where I have lead over 400 hikes and about 25 trail work days.

Professionally, I’m taking a Data Science Immersive class at Galvanize in Denver. In this class, we learn statistics, machine learning, and related topics, and I’m required to do a capstone project utilizing skills we’ve learned. I’m considering a project on the same topic as a paper done by Steph Abegg:

<http://www.stephabegg.com/home/projects/regression>

He used the listsofjohn dataset to do a statistical analysis using elevation, prominence, and isolation to determine if there is any rationale for why a particular mountain might be named “Mountain”, “Mount”, or “Peak”.

I’m considering doing the same analysis, except try to classify the mountains into one of those three categories by analyzing the photos. The technical term for what I would use is a “convolutional neural network”. I would need a very large number of photos (your website says it has nearly 24,000 images), and I’d use some of them to train my program, and the remainder to test if the program works.

I would only use the photos or other data from your website strictly for this research, and I have no intention of redistributing the data (other than a small number of photos for examples in my presentation). And, of course, I would credit listsofjohn as the source of the data. I’d be happy to sign a non-disclosure agreement or other contract if necessary. And if you’d prefer, I can agree to destroy any data I’ve downloaded upon completion of the project.

Mostly, I would like to know if you have some kind of API or other means of accessing the listsofjohn data directly (e.g. from a server or Amazon Web Service account) instead of me having to scrape the data from the website manually.

I look forward to hearing from you. I think this would be a fun project that would allow me to demonstrate my mastery of advanced technologies in this class.

Sincerely,

Ed White

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