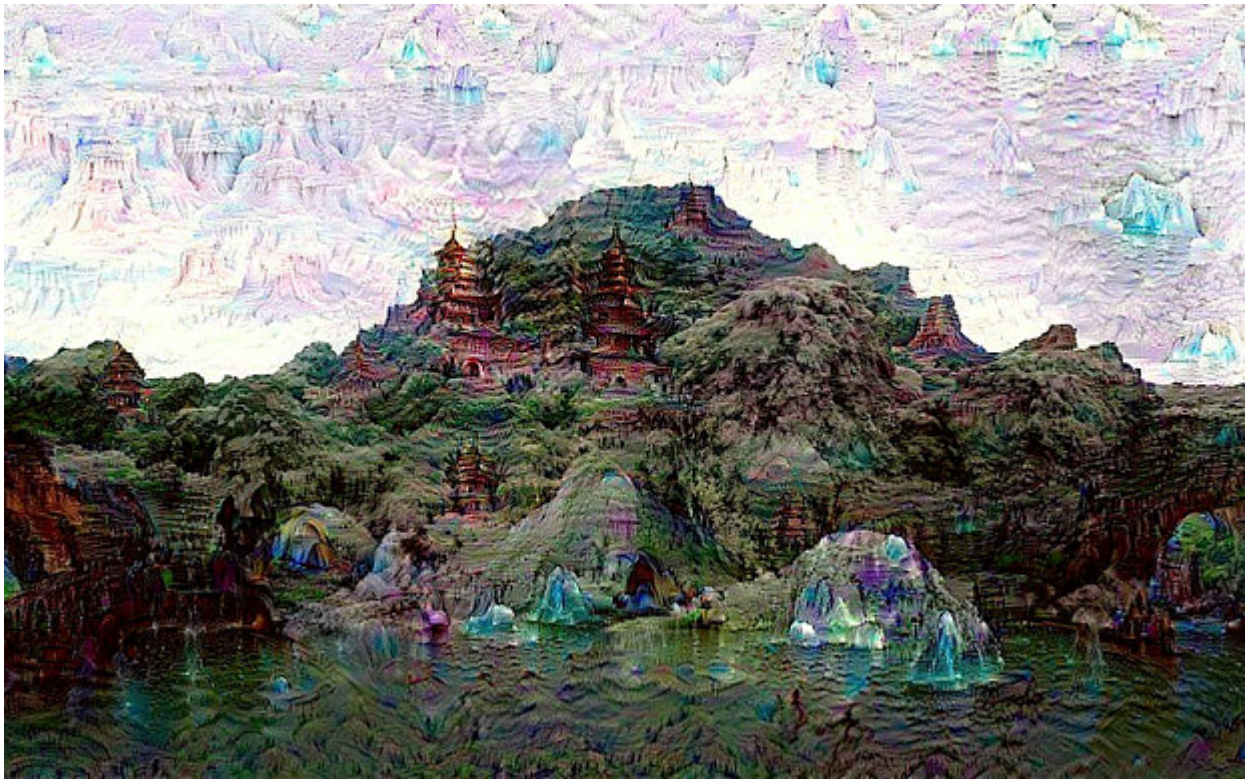
Google unleashes machine dreaming software on the public, nightmarish images flood the internet

Artificial intelligence code is open-sourced by Google developers, with internet users sharing psychedelic images under #deepdream hashtag



Google's Deep Dream software re-inteprets photos with patterns it recognises Photo: Google

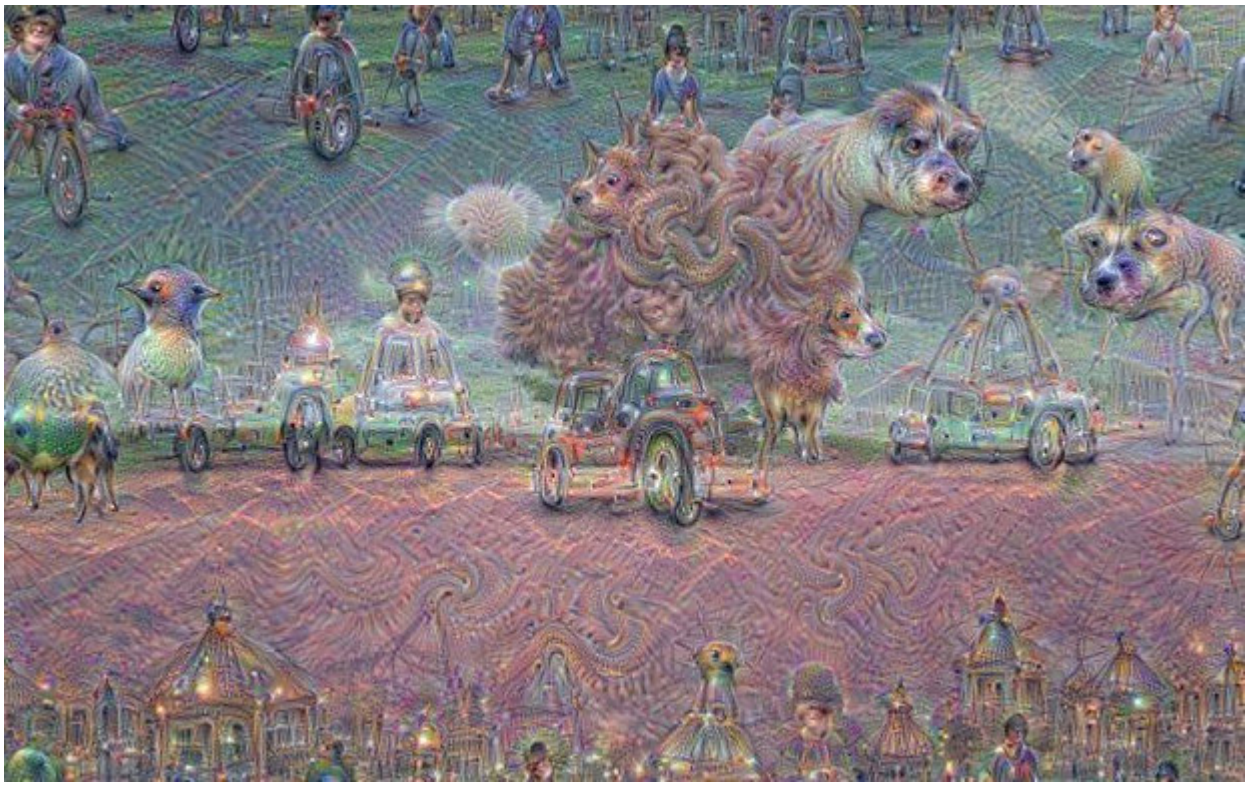
By James Titcomb

9:14AM BST 02 Jul 2015

Two weeks ago, Google engineers released the bizarre results of an artificial intelligence experiment, which saw photos interpreted and edited by the company's "neural network".

The "DeepDream" software, based on code used to detect faces and other patterns in images, would find such a pattern, edit the image slightly to make it look more like that pattern, and repeat.

Over the course of multiple iterations, everyday photos would morph into psychedelic, abstract, images ranging from the beautiful to the grotesque. Many of the edited images featured animal eyes and faces, since that is what the software had been "trained" to recognise.

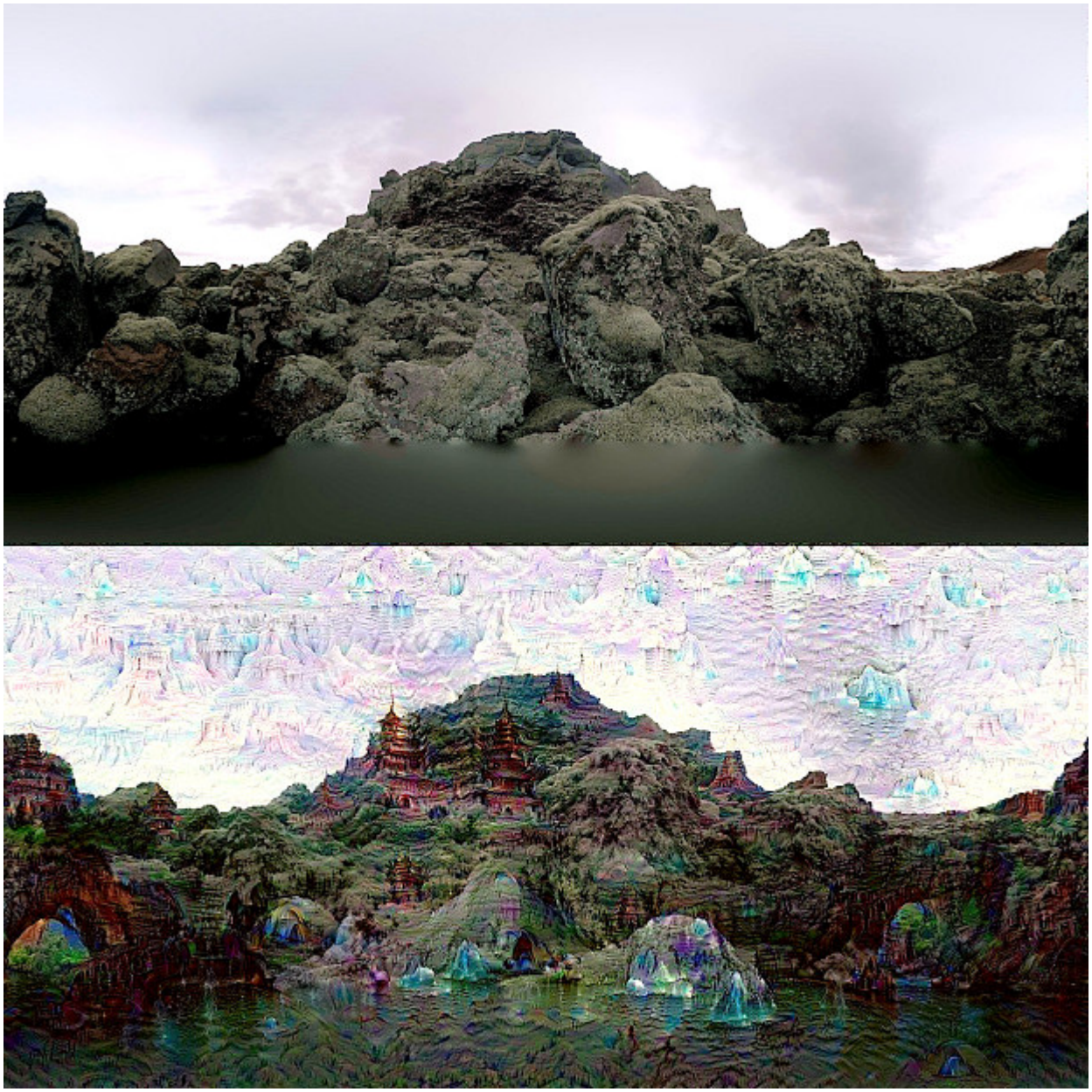


Although Google's algorithms can land the company it hot water - this week, it emerged that its photo software assigned black people the "gorilla" tag - it can also be used to produce art, engineers suggested.

"The techniques presented here help us understand and visualize how neural networks are able to carry out difficult classification tasks, improve network architecture, and check what the network has learned

during training," engineers wrote at the time.

"It also makes us wonder whether neural networks could become a tool for artists—a new way to remix visual concepts—or perhaps even shed a little light on the roots of the creative process in general."

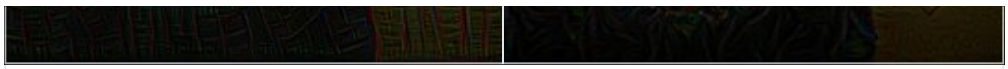


On Wednesday night, Google made the code for the tool public, posting it on open source site Github so that anybody can download and try it out.

The results

Internet users took to Facebook, Twitter and Google+ to publish their own images under the #deepdream hashtag.

They ranged from the strange



Mind's Forge
@mindsforge

Deepest #deepdream (ok time for sleep!)
9:19 AM - Jul 2, 2015

11 See Mind's Forge's other Tweets

Felipe Hoffa
@felipehoffa

Can machines dream? Play with Google's #deepdream's neural network code github.com/google/deepdre… (thx @mtyka!)
12:54 AM - Jul 2, 2015 · San Francisco, CA

32 42 people are talking about this

To the trippy

Yusuke
@9ncM9v2R

Mt. Fuji with an artificial town #deepdream

5:57 AM - Jul 2, 2015

21 See Yusuke's other Tweets

And, obviously, cat pictures

Chris Ing
@jsci

Not even cats are safe #deepdream
5:24 AM - Jul 2, 2015

15 See Chris Ing's other Tweets

colin
@cdotwright

happycat, bifurcated#deepdream
9:15 AM - Jul 2, 2015

53 43 people are talking about this

To the downright weird

Tomasz Malisiewicz
@quantombone

Creepy #deepdream animation of my face. imgur.com/kThM9vf via @imgur

9:32 AM - Jul 2, 2015

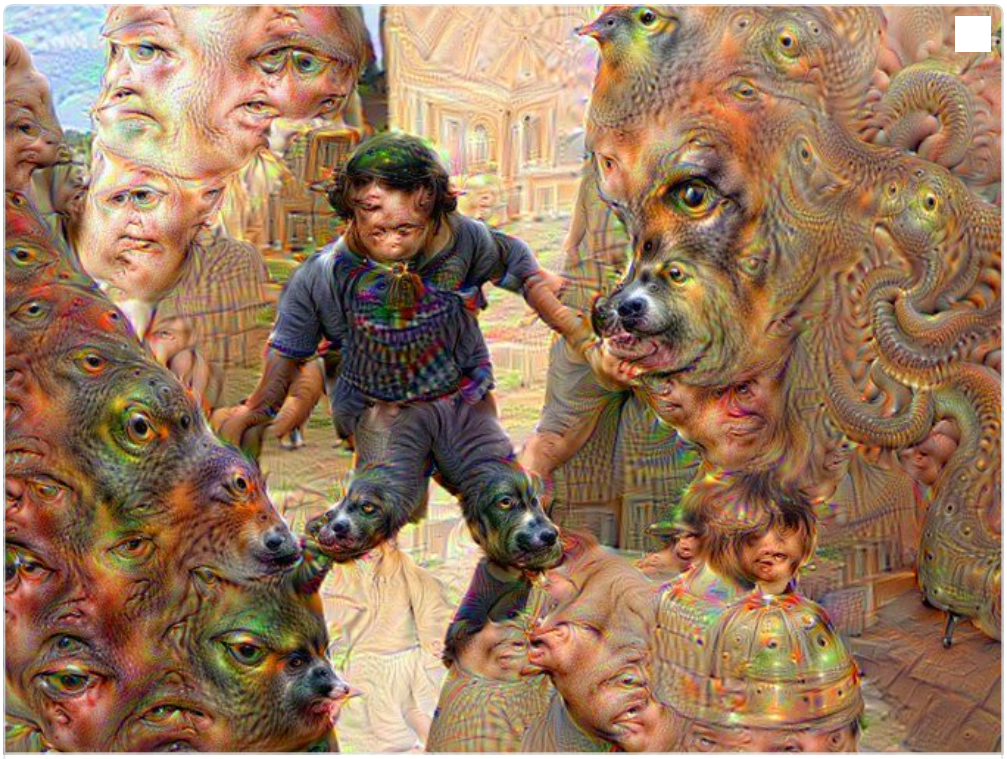
21 24 people are talking about this

the jesus & markov chain
@nepe6op

is my hand going to be like this forever?? #deepdream

10:02 AM - Jul 2, 2015

18 16 people are talking about this



John Mendonça
@johnmendonca

"Yeah well, it did get a little weird... but I would totally go back." #deepdream

10:39 AM - Jul 2, 2015

19 20 people are talking about this

You can read more about the DeepDream software, and find out how to download it yourself, at Google's Research blog.

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