

Project 2 Milestone 4

In this project, I decided to do a face detection app using Google Mobile Vision API, which is a powerful open-sourced library launched by Google. It is an API that enables powerful functions including human face detection, text recognition and barcode detection. The reason I chose to do this one was that Machine learning is a really hot topic among the computer science community. I was fascinated by the intro of this API that it was a realization of machine learning on the mobile side. And I was also interested in exploring Android's library usage.

Simple as it may look like, I spent a tons of time making this app work. I didn't expect it to take so much time fully mastering an API. Everything seemed alright but it just didn't compile correctly. Finally I found I had to modify the app level Gradle files to ensure they all got the right versions. Using a third-party API is not like writing functions yourself, you have to understand its logic and usage and add functions as you like. But I actually found it was a very good strategy to integrate some open sourced API to embellish your app without spending time creating your own.

I really liked the mobile development classes I took both semesters. And I hope to have more practice on mobile development in the future!