

SPONSORED BY:

MOBILE



Transform Your Business With Data

ABOUT US REGISTER LOGIN

HOME BLOGGERS MESSAGES POLLS WEBINARS RESOURCES VIDEOS | STRATEGY ANALYTICS TECHNOLOGY FB TW LI G+ RSS

FINANCIAL SERVICES HEALTHCARE GOVERNMENT EDUCATION RETAIL

BIG DATA ANALYTICS

Big Photo Data



Robert Plant, Associate Professor, School of Business Administration, University of Miami
2/27/2013
Comment
16 comments

Login
50% 50%

The increased accessibility of photo equipment has resulted in more photos, and now big data is giving us avenues to find and use them.

We all have a collection of old photos on various media. To be honest, we probably never look at most of them, but we continue to click away on our smartphones, where the cost of taking a picture is seemingly zero.

Search is too linear

However, this has brought us a new problem: We have way too many photos and only very primitive search technologies. It can seem almost impossible to find a desired photo quickly.

This situation is not helped by the fact that most of us probably don't add timestamp or geolocator meta data to our photos. Nor do we store them in a nice file structure.

One way to recall photos is to put them on a social network site like Facebook, which itself has discovered the big photo data phenomenon.



Necessity is the mother of technology invention. And computer scientists have been working to help us through this big data photo maze, developing new approaches to search, storage, and the way we think of photo ownership.

The collective photo

One approach is to change our way of thinking about photos -- from being personal to being part of a collective. Rather than searching for our photo of London's Tower Bridge, we can use a synth solution that lets us view our photo along with many others, generating a much richer, three-dimensional view of the bridge.

Researchers from the University of Washington and Microsoft Live Labs have pioneered this approach and produced Photosynth. It allows photos from the web (scraped from sources such as Flickr) to be combined through algorithms that identify properties of the object to use as an anchor -- the tower peaks on the Tower Bridge, for example.

Microsoft released a version of this for public use in 2008. Other tools and support features have followed, such as Microsoft ICE (Image Composite Editor), which allows panoramic images to be stitched together.

Crowd analysis

A second approach is to use crowd analysis or collective observational behavior. Data is collected from smartphone photos taken at a particular event or in a particular space.

MORE BLOGS FROM ROBERT PLANT

A Review: Big Data in 2013

39 comments
Data scientists, NSA, C-suite buy in... Big data changed a lot in the last 12 months.

What Would Seymour Cray Think of Big Data?

13 comments
How would the tech legend respond to the 4 Vs?

The 360 Degree View of a Customer

56 comments
Big data is helping companies like Netflix see what you really want (and even when you go to sleep).

Lessons for Big Data From President Obama's Healthcare Implementation

24 comments
Three big data lessons for CEOs from HealthCare.gov's bumpy start.

Is Big Data Ruining Sports?

29 comments
From sailing to the NBA -- big data could increase the gap between sporting haves and have-nots (while ruining the magic in the process).

More from Robert Plant



FLASH POLL

All Polls

DIGITAL AUDIO



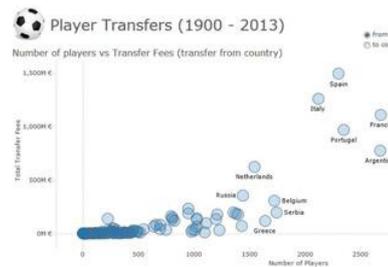
Big Data Analytics Radio

Latest Archived Broadcast
Your Big Data Initiative Starts With a Great Team
The Big Data Conference and Nemertes Research have teamed up to provide expert advice on building a big data team and finding the right leader.

Full schedule Archived shows Download to calendar

DATA VISUALIZATION SHOWCASE

Visualizing Sporting Value: Football Player Transfers



A great visualization of transfer fees leads us to think of deeper sporting analytics. Explore this data here.

More Data Visualization Showcase

Members of the Crowdoptic community can also share photos, run analytics on them, and interact within a shared viewer community, providing more valuable social media and behavioral information.

While we click away as individuals or collect big image data as corporations, new pathways with their own value propositions are starting to be mapped out and offered to us. Until now, the high intrinsic value of visual information has been largely latent, because its storage, manipulation, and contextualization has been extremely difficult for the average organization. However, with the advent of meta-tagged visual data -- delivered and analyzed in real-time on flexible, saleable platforms such as Azure or EC2 -- this previously untapped dataset is coming online.

Its power is already beginning to be harnessed by early adopters determining how to blend it into their emerging big data technology platforms and strategies. Perhaps it's time to evaluate the potential of big image data in your firm.

Related posts:

- [RFID & Big Data](#)
- [Predicting People's Participation in a Big-Data Project](#)

— Robert Plant, Associate Professor, School of Business Administration, University of Miami

[Email This](#) [Print](#) [Comment](#)

COMMENTS

[Newest First](#) | [Oldest First](#) | [Threaded View](#)

PAGE 1 / 2 > >>

 SharCo, User Rank: Petabyte Pathfinder
3/5/2013 | 11:22:15 AM

Re: Click Click Click
Agreed. I'm behind this, as long as there are measures on controlling privacy settings and all that.

[Login](#)

On a side note, I noticed that Reddit was mentioned, and I know users use Imgur to host images as it automatically strips images of their meta data.

50% 50%

[Reply](#) | [Post Message](#) | [Edit/Delete](#) | [Messages List](#) | [Start a Board](#)

 SharCo, User Rank: Petabyte Pathfinder
3/5/2013 | 11:20:48 AM

Re: Big Photo Data
"Run analytics?" Yikes! I read that and was like, Whoa! This is creepy! Big data and photos are a good combination, but there's a whole lot of issues you can expect to stem from a service like this. Primarily privacy issues, even cases of safety.

[Login](#)

50% 50%

[Reply](#) | [Post Message](#) | [Edit/Delete](#) | [Messages List](#) | [Start a Board](#)

 amrith, User Rank: Bit Player
3/5/2013 | 7:14:59 AM

Great post!
@Robert, great article. One often forgets that there is a lot more to Big Data than just traditional business data or rows and columns of stuff.

[Login](#)

Your article also reminded me of that other Big Data problems out there at the Large Hadron Collider!

50% 50%

[Reply](#) | [Post Message](#) | [Edit/Delete](#) | [Messages List](#) | [Start a Board](#)

 Saul Sherry, User Rank: Blogger
3/4/2013 | 6:32:19 AM

Re: Click Click Click
It leaves me wondering about a business solution sold back into end users with private photos. Could the data from the photos not be anonymized and enveloped back into algorithms which others can use to define their images... thinking of a function in Picasa etc. here.

[Login](#)

50% 50%

[Reply](#) | [Post Message](#) | [Edit/Delete](#) | [Messages List](#) | [Start a Board](#)

 Saul Sherry, User Rank: Blogger
3/1/2013 | 11:31:20 AM

Re: Big Photo Data
Guys, maybe it is that level of creepiness which keeps details down to a minimum. We've seen the overall reaction to Raytheon in the last week. That might be good press for a big scary security firm, but not for the warm, fuzzy social networks and tool providers.

[Login](#)

50% 50%

[Reply](#) | [Post Message](#) | [Edit/Delete](#) | [Messages List](#) | [Start a Board](#)

 smkinoshita, User Rank: Exabyte Executive
2/28/2013 | 8:50:25 PM

Re: Big Photo Data
@Edwin -- I'm surprised too! I thought face recognition would have been the first thing discussed on the article.

[Login](#)

Or is that what is meant by:

"Members of the Crowdoptic community can also share photos, run analytics on them, and interact within a shared viewer community, providing more valuable social media and behavioral information."

When I read "analytics", that's one of the first things that came to my mind. Potential creepiness regarding face recognition aside, I think big data and photos is a great combination. I'm bad for organizing my photos, glad I don't take a lot of them.

50% 50%

[Reply](#) | [Post Message](#) | [Edit/Delete](#) | [Messages List](#) | [Start a Board](#)

 Edwin Willems, User Rank: Exabyte Executive
2/28/2013 | 1:23:26 PM

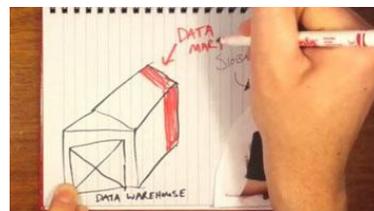
Re: Big Photo Data

BDR IN YOUR INBOX

Enter email

FEATURED VIDEO

Big Data Explained: What is a Data Mart? 18



Use this video to explain quickly to someone the difference between a data warehouse and a data mart. [Watch This Video](#)

[More Video Blogs](#)

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

 **Big Data Republic** @BigDataRepublic 15 Apr

AllJoyn: A Common Language For Internet Of Things - Open-source lingua franca aims to let IoT devices and services... [ow.ly/2FHbY7](#)

Retweeted by Yakamoto

[Expand](#)

 **Hajime Ozaki** @hajozaki 22h

BDR Top 20 #BigData David Smith David Smith List of top tweeters on Big Data from @BigDataRepublic [wp.me/p4Aaavi-2](#)

[Show Summary](#)

 **Marcus Borba** @marcusborba 28 Apr

#BigData #Analytics #BusinessIntelligence #FS @informationweek @AllAnalytics @BigDataRepublic @BigDataNetwork @BigDataClub

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

 **Big Data Republic**

Like

4,168 people like Big Data Republic.



Facebook social plugin

ACCOLADES

 **MEDIA PIONEER AWARDS WINNER 2013**

Media Pioneer Award Winner

[Login](#)



@Robert - I'm surprised you're not talking about face recognition algorithms. I'm a bit surprised that this technology, readily available in personal photo processing tools (or on sites such as facebook) isn't taken a step further, or do you think that Big Data crunchers aren't prime time to handle this in large volume?

[Reply](#) | [Post Message](#) | [Edit/Delete](#) | [Messages List](#) | [Start a Board](#)



technetronic, User Rank: Blogger
2/28/2013 | 11:34:43 AM

Re: Click Click Click

That's a good point in that the point of personal photos are the people and events in them, not necessarily wanting to share those with the entire world.

[Login](#)



Although that mentality is changing, too, with an increasing desire to "share everything" - there's a big personal preference there.

OP makes a good point about collective vs. individual search. I've been discussing lately the idea of linear vs. associative search and in a way, we're moving out of a more linear paradigm into one based on associations among people, events, and times.

I don't think personal photos will die out though...did the television kill radio? All of these media & methodologies just seem to keep piling up and growing into a larger ecosystem.

[Reply](#) | [Post Message](#) | [Edit/Delete](#) | [Messages List](#) | [Start a Board](#)



Robert Plant, User Rank: Blogger
2/28/2013 | 10:21:43 AM

Re: A long way to go?

Yes, my favourite use is where the team at Microsoft create time travel photo images where you don't just look around in 3D but can move (backwards!) through time at a location.

[Login](#)



[Reply](#) | [Post Message](#) | [Edit/Delete](#) | [Messages List](#) | [Start a Board](#)



Saul Sherry, User Rank: Blogger
2/28/2013 | 6:44:15 AM

Re: A long way to go?

@Robert I wonder how focussed this could become? Could snaps of landscapes without identifiable landmarks in be geo located based on colours and shapes in the landscape... might be asking too much (especially when we consider how many photos are taken with instagram to filter out true colours etc).

[Login](#)



[Reply](#) | [Post Message](#) | [Edit/Delete](#) | [Messages List](#) | [Start a Board](#)

PAGE 1 / 2 > >>

BIG DATA REPUBLIC

[ABOUT US](#) | [CONTACT US](#) | [HELP](#) | [REGISTER](#)
[TWITTER](#) | [FACEBOOK](#) | [LINKED IN](#) | [GOOGLE+](#) | [RSS](#)



bigdatarepublic : /bigdatarepublic/section/2635 : /bigdatarepublic/section/2635/259592



UBM TECH

OUR MARKETS: [Business Technology](#) | [Electronics](#) | [Game & App Development](#)

Working With Us: [Advertising Contacts](#) | [Event Calendar](#) | [Tech Marketing Solutions](#) | [Corporate Site](#) | [Contact Us](#) / [Feedback](#)

[Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Statement](#) | [Copyright © 2014 UBM Tech, All rights reserved](#)