

# Image Search

## Quick Start

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## Overview

This article provides step-by-step guidance on how to quickly purchase and use Image Search instances.

## Intended users

This article is intended for the following users:

- Users who want to purchase Image Search instances.
- Users who want to use Image Search instances.
- Users who want to test the Image Search service.

For more information about using Image Search, see [FAQ](#).

## Procedure

Follow these steps to purchase and use Image Search instances:

1. Select a search mode.
2. Create instances.
3. Import data.

## Select a search mode

Image Search provides two search modes as follows:

Product search

This feature is typically used for online shopping. It allows you to obtain information about products that are similar or identical to the product in your input image.

#### Generic Search

This feature is typically used for photo-stock company and photo-sharing forums. It allows you to find images containing subjects or elements that are similar or identical to your input image.

## Create instances

### Prerequisites

- Make sure you have an Alibaba Cloud authenticated account.

### Procedure

1. Log on to the **Image Search Console**.
2. In the left-side navigation pane, select a search mode (product search or generic search), and click **Create Instance**.
3. Select a region on the **Purchase Plan** page.

**Note:** Instances in different regions cannot communicate with each other. Once you select a region to host your instance, you cannot change the region.

4. Select **Query Frequency** and **Capacity**.

**Note:** The pricing and resources of the instance vary depending on the query frequency and capacity you selected. Currently, an instance supports a maximum of 5 queries per second and 10 million images (10 million images refer to image number rather than product number for product search mode).

5. Enter an instance name.

**Note:** An instance name can be 4 to 32 characters in length and can contain lowercase letters and numbers. It must start with a lowercase letter, for example, imagesearch12138.

Select **Package type**, **Package** and **Duration**.

Click **Purchase**.

**Note:** The system automatically initializes all purchased instances. To manually initialize an instance with a status of **New** or **Initialization Failed**, go to the instance list or the **Instance Details** page, and click **Initialize**.

## Import data

Image Search instances provide two methods to import data, that is, **Upload** and **OSS Import**.

### Upload

With Upload method, you can upload images to the Image Search system. This method is intended for upload of small numbers of images. For more information, see [Upload images](#)

### OSS import

With OSS Import method, you can import images from OSS. This method is intended for upload of large numbers of images. To do this, you must activate **Object Storage Service** and then add the required RAM role to your account. For more information, see [Import from OSS](#).

### Further actions

With data imported, you can use the specified API and SDKs for secondary development to consume the image search service. For more information, see [Developer Guide](#).