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** 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.

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

   Note: The pricing and resources of the instance vary depending on the query frequency and capacity you seclected. 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).

   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 **Buy Now**.

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 the 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 the 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**.