

[AI & Machine Learning Products](https://cloud.google.com/products/machine-learning/) (<https://cloud.google.com/products/machine-learning/>)

[Cloud Vision API](https://cloud.google.com/vision/) (<https://cloud.google.com/vision/>)

[Documentation](https://cloud.google.com/vision/docs/) (<https://cloud.google.com/vision/docs/>) [Guides](#)

# Quickstart: Using the command line

This page shows you how to send three feature detection and annotation requests to Cloud Vision using the [REST interface](https://cloud.google.com/vision/docs/reference/rest) (<https://cloud.google.com/vision/docs/reference/rest>) and the `curl` command.

Cloud Vision API enables easy integration of Google vision recognition technologies into developer applications. You can send image data and desired feature types to the Vision API, which then returns a corresponding response based on the image attributes you are interested in. For more information about the feature types offered, see the [List of all Vision API features](https://cloud.google.com/vision/docs/features-list) (<https://cloud.google.com/vision/docs/features-list>).

## Before you begin

1. [Sign in](https://accounts.google.com/Login) (<https://accounts.google.com/Login>) to your Google Account.

If you don't already have one, [sign up for a new account](https://accounts.google.com/SignUp) (<https://accounts.google.com/SignUp>).

2. In the Cloud Console, on the project selector page, select or create a Google Cloud project.

★ **Note:** If you don't plan to keep the resources that you create in this procedure, create a project instead of selecting an existing project. After you finish these steps, you can delete the project, removing all resources associated with the project.

[GO TO THE PROJECT SELECTOR PAGE](https://console.cloud.google.com/projectselector) ([HTTPS://CONSOLE.CLOUD.GOOGLE.COM/PROJECTSELECTOR](https://console.cloud.google.com/projectselector))

3. Make sure that billing is enabled for your Google Cloud project. [Learn how to confirm billing is enabled for your project](https://cloud.google.com/billing/docs/how-to/modify-project) (<https://cloud.google.com/billing/docs/how-to/modify-project>).
4. Enable the Vision API.

[ENABLE THE API](https://console.cloud.google.com/flows/enableapi?apiid=vision.googleapis.com) ([HTTPS://CONSOLE.CLOUD.GOOGLE.COM/FLOWS/ENABLEAPI?APIID=VISION.GOOGLE.COM](https://console.cloud.google.com/flows/enableapi?apiid=vision.googleapis.com))

5. Set up authentication:
  - a. In the Cloud Console, go to the **Create service account key** page.

**GO TO THE CREATE SERVICE ACCOUNT KEY PAGE** ([HTTPS://CONSOLE.CLOUD.GOOGLE.COM/](https://console.cloud.google.com/))

- b. From the **Service account** list, select **New service account**.
- c. In the **Service account name** field, enter a name.
- d. From the **Role** list, select **Project > Owner**.

★ **Note:** The **Role** field authorizes your service account to access resources. You can view and change this field later by using the [Cloud Console](https://console.cloud.google.com/) (<https://console.cloud.google.com/>). If you are developing a production app, specify more granular permissions than **Project > Owner**. For more information, see [granting roles to service accounts](https://cloud.google.com/iam/docs/granting-roles-to-service-accounts) (<https://cloud.google.com/iam/docs/granting-roles-to-service-accounts>).

- e. Click **Create**. A JSON file that contains your key downloads to your computer.
6. Set the environment variable **GOOGLE\_APPLICATION\_CREDENTIALS** to the file path of the JSON file that contains your service account key. This variable only applies to your current shell session, so if you open a new session, set the variable again.

▼ **Example:** Linux or macOS

Replace **[PATH]** with the file path of the JSON file that contains your service account key.

```
export GOOGLE_APPLICATION_CREDENTIALS="[PATH]"
```

For example:

```
export GOOGLE_APPLICATION_CREDENTIALS="/home/user/Downloads/service-account-file.json"
```

▼ **Example:** Windows

Replace **[PATH]** with the file path of the JSON file that contains your service account key, and **[FILE\_NAME]** with the filename.

With PowerShell:

```
$env:GOOGLE_APPLICATION_CREDENTIALS="[PATH]"
```

For example:

```
$env:GOOGLE_APPLICATION_CREDENTIALS="C:\Users\username\Downloads\[FILE_NAME].json"
```

With command prompt:

```
set GOOGLE_APPLICATION_CREDENTIALS=[PATH]
```

7. [Install and initialize the Cloud SDK](https://cloud.google.com/sdk/docs/) (<https://cloud.google.com/sdk/docs/>).

## Make an image annotation request

After completing the [Before you begin](#) (#before-you-begin) steps you can use Vision API to annotate an image file.

In this example you use curl to send a request to the Vision API using the following image:

### Cloud Storage URI:

```
gs://cloud-samples-data/vision/using_curl/shanghai.jpeg
```

### HTTPS URL:

```
https://console.cloud.google.com/storage/browser/cloud-samples-data/vision/using_curl
```



Image credit: [Steve Long](https://unsplash.com/photos/jNGs6ys7MKk) (https://unsplash.com/photos/jNGs6ys7MKk) on [Unsplash](https://unsplash.com/) (https://unsplash.com/).

## Create the request JSON

The following `request.json` file demonstrates how to request three `images:annotate features` (https://cloud.google.com/vision/docs/features-list) and limit the results in the response.

Create the JSON request file with the following text, and save it as a `request.json` plain text file in your working directory:

`request.json`

```
{
  "requests": [
    {
      "image": {
        "source": {
          "imageUri": "gs://cloud-samples-data/vision/using_curl/shanghai.jpeg"
        }
      }
    }
  ]
}
```

```
    }
  },
  "features": [
    {
      "type": "LABEL_DETECTION",
      "maxResults": 3
    },
    {
      "type": "OBJECT_LOCALIZATION",
      "maxResults": 1
    },
    {
      "type": "TEXT_DETECTION",
      "maxResults": 1,
      "model": "builtin/latest"
    }
  ]
}
]
```

### Field value details

- `image.source.gcsImageUri` - Indicates the image stored in a Google Cloud Storage bucket. You change this request to `image.source.imageUri` for a publicly available URI, or `image.content` to pass a base64 encoded string representation of an image.
- `features` - An object representing a specific feature type. You can request multiple feature types for a single image.
  - `type` - The enum value (<https://cloud.google.com/vision/docs/reference/rest/v1/Feature#type>) specifying a feature.
  - `maxResults` (optional) - A limiting value on the results returned.
  - `model` (optional) - If applicable you can specify either `builtin/stable` (the default if unset) or `builtin/latest` to choose your model. Refer to the Release notes (<https://cloud.google.com/vision/docs/release-notes>) topic for a list of recently updated models.

## Send the request

You use `curl` and the body content from `request.json` to send the request to the Cloud Vision API. Enter the following on your command line:

```
curl -X POST \  
-H "Authorization: Bearer "$(gcloud auth application-default print-access-token) \  
-H "Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8" \  
https://vision.googleapis.com/v1/images:annotate -d @request.json
```

- The sample `curl` command uses the `gcloud auth application-default print-access-token` command to get an authentication token.
- Note that to pass a filename to `curl` you use the `-d` option (for "data") and precede the filename with an `@` sign. This file should be in the same directory in which you execute the `curl` command.

## Interpret the response

You should see a JSON response similar to the one below.

The request JSON body specified `maxResults` for each annotation type. Consequently, you will see the following in the response JSON:

- three `labelAnnotations` results (`#label-results`)
- one `textAnnotations` result (`#text-results`) (shortened for clarity)
- one `localizedObjectAnnotations` result (`#object-results`)

### Response

**Note: Zero coordinate values omitted.** When the API detects a coordinate ("x" or "y") value of 0, *that coordinate is omitted in the JSON response*. Thus, a response with a bounding poly around the entire image would be

`[{},{"x": 100},{"x": 100,"y": 100},{"y": 100}]` for an image that is 100px by 100px. For more information, see the [API Reference documentation](https://cloud.google.com/vision/docs/reference/rest/v1/images/annotate#boundingpoly) (<https://cloud.google.com/vision/docs/reference/rest/v1/images/annotate#boundingpoly>).

```
{  
  "responses": [  

```

```
{
  "labelAnnotations": [
    {
      "mid": "/m/09g5pq",
      "description": "People",
      "score": 0.9504782,
      "topicality": 0.9504782
    },
    {
      "mid": "/m/01c8br",
      "description": "Street",
      "score": 0.8911568,
      "topicality": 0.8911568
    },
    {
      "mid": "/m/079bkr",
      "description": "Mode of transport",
      "score": 0.89089024,
      "topicality": 0.89089024
    }
  ],
  "textAnnotations": [
    {
      "locale": "zh",
      "description": "????\n",
      "boundingPoly": {
        "vertices": [
          {
            "x": 159,
            "y": 212
          },
          {
            "x": 947,
            "y": 212
          },
          {
            "x": 947,
            "y": 354
          },
          {
            "x": 159,
            "y": 354
          }
        ]
      }
    }
  ]
}
```

```
    },
    ...
  ],
  "fullTextAnnotation": {
    "pages": [
      {
        ...
        "paragraphs": [
          {
            ...
            "words": [
              {
                ...
                "symbols": [
                  {
                    ...
                  },
                ],
                "blockType": "TEXT"
              }
            ]
          }
        ]
      }
    ],
    "text": "????\n"
  },
  "localizedObjectAnnotations": [
    {
      "mid": "/m/01g317",
      "name": "Person",
      "score": 0.94413143,
      "boundingPoly": {
        "normalizedVertices": [
          {
            "x": 0.26063988,
            "y": 0.46869153
          },
          {
            "x": 0.40736017,
            "y": 0.46869153
          },
          {
            "x": 0.40736017,
            "y": 0.8957791
          },
          {
            "x": 0.26063988,
```



```

    "y": 0.8957791
  }
]
}
]
}
]
}
]
}
}

```

## Label detection results

1. description: "People", score: 0.950
2. description: "Street", score: 0.891
3. description: "Mode of transport", score: 0.890

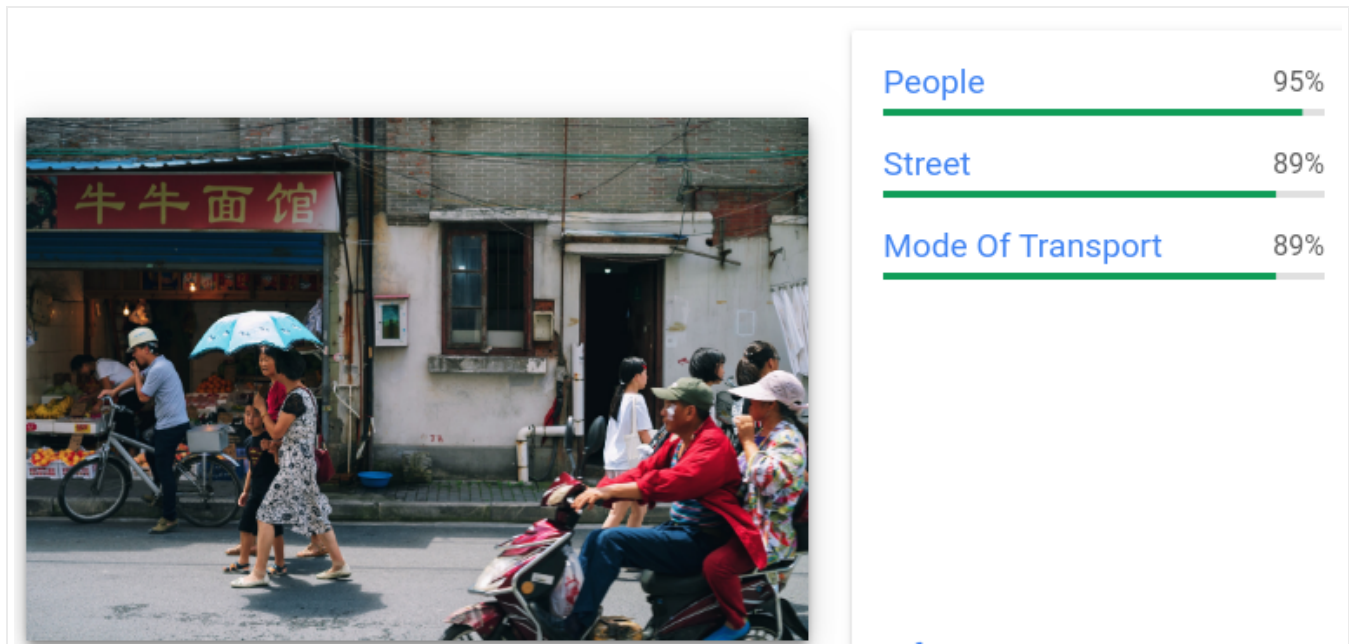


Image credit: [Steve Long](https://unsplash.com/photos/jNGs6ys7MKk) (https://unsplash.com/photos/jNGs6ys7MKk) on [Unsplash](https://unsplash.com/) (https://unsplash.com/) (annotations added).

## Text detection results

- text: ????\n
- vertices: (x: 159, y: 212), (x: 947, y: 212), (x: 947, y: 354), (x: 159, y: 354 )



Image credit: [Steve Long](https://unsplash.com/photos/jNGs6ys7MKk) (https://unsplash.com/photos/jNGs6ys7MKk) on [Unsplash](https://unsplash.com/) (https://unsplash.com/) (annotations added).

## Object detection results

- name: "Person", score: 0.944
- normalized vertices: (x: 0.260, y: 0.468), (x: 0.407, y: 0.468), (x: 0.407, y: 0.895), (x: 0.260, y: 0.895)



Image credit: [Steve Long](https://unsplash.com/photos/jNGs6ys7MKk) (https://unsplash.com/photos/jNGs6ys7MKk) on [Unsplash](https://unsplash.com/) (https://unsplash.com/) (annotations added).

Congratulations! You've sent your first request to Vision API.

## What's next

- See a list of [all feature types](https://cloud.google.com/vision/docs/features-list) (https://cloud.google.com/vision/docs/features-list) and their uses.
- Get started with the Vision API in your language of choice by using a [Vision API Client Library](https://cloud.google.com/vision/docs/quickstart-client-libraries) (https://cloud.google.com/vision/docs/quickstart-client-libraries).
- Use the [How-to guides](https://cloud.google.com/vision/docs/how-to) (https://cloud.google.com/vision/docs/how-to) to learn more about specific features, see example annotations, and get annotations for an individual file or image.
- Learn about batch [image](https://cloud.google.com/vision/docs/batch) (https://cloud.google.com/vision/docs/batch) and [file](https://cloud.google.com/vision/docs/file-small-batch) (https://cloud.google.com/vision/docs/file-small-batch) (PDF/TIFF/GIF) annotation.
- Work through the [sample applications](https://cloud.google.com/vision/docs/samples) (https://cloud.google.com/vision/docs/samples).

- Browse more specific use cases on the [community tutorials](https://cloud.google.com/community/tutorials?q=vision) (<https://cloud.google.com/community/tutorials?q=vision>) page.

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