

Project Proposal

Project Information

Project:	Web Image Snatcher (WIS)
Project Time-frame:	Feb 2011 – June 2011
Submitted by:	Yaakov Sayag & Simcha Simon
Summary:	Our project will enable full integration of online image resources, with popular daily programs like the Office package, Adobe, etc...

Background and Motivation

What is the setting and history behind this project?

Search engines were originally designed and built as a medium of searching for web pages only. Over the past decade, search engines have advanced and now enable searching for various types of media: images, audio files, video clips, and more.

What is the problem to be addressed?

The largest image resource is of course the internet. One can obtain many images in any subject by using various search engines. That said, there is currently no integrated and seamless way to import images from a search engine into one's document.

What are some current approaches to this problem?

Currently, in order to import an image from the internet, one must open a web browser, go to a search engine site, search for an image, copy to clipboard or save it locally, and then insert it into the document.

Why is this problem worth solving or worth solving better?

A quicker and more intuitive way to add images, would be a big time saver, and also be much more user friendly. It could greatly increase user productivity, allowing one to spend much more time writing or designing, and much less time dealing with non significant technical issues (copy, save, import etc...).

Why is this project interesting/challenging?

This product is innovative, and no similar product currently exists on the market. We are excited to work with a new programming language, and the entire area of public third party API's is new to us, and very useful information for any programmer.

Goal

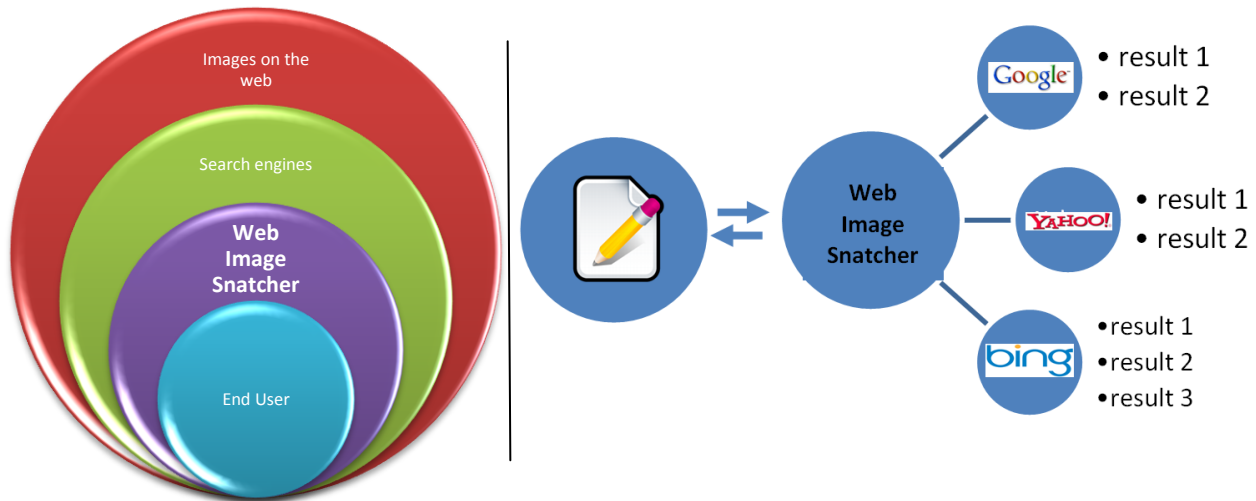
What is the goal of this project?

This project will enable a user to intuitively and quickly search for and add images to a document that is currently being composed.

What are the defining features and benefits of this product?

- A search interface with highly configurable search options that allows one to find exactly what he is looking for, with maximum accuracy, speed and comfort.
- The interface will enable searching using specific search engines or image databases, and will have an open source to enable other developers to customize it to their needs.

Program Outline



- We will be programming in VB using the standard libraries available for applications.
- We will rely on various search engine's API's, and establish communications between our program and the search engines.

Risks and Rewards

What are the main risks of this project?

1. This program is based on the currently open API's of several leading search engines. If the search engines would disable such features, then the program would not work (or further developing would have to be made to cope with this new challenge)
2. The schedule for this project is very short. We will manage this by developing a basic working platform, and then gradually adding more advanced features to it.
3. In order to fully integrate our program with document editing software, we must learn how the latter works, and how to best integrate both programs.

What are the main rewards if this project succeeds?

If we accomplish the elements of our plan, our program has a potential of filling in a big existing need of simple image search integration.