Crowdsourcing Algorithms to Solve Complex Problems

More than 615,000 patent applications were filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in 2014. While the number of applications is staggering on its own, the amount of paperwork that comes with each application is even greater. Sorting through all those documents and images is not an easy task.

Enter crowdsourcing. While companies are increasingly turning to crowdsourcing to increase the rate of innovation, it’s still a fairly novel process for the federal government. Alongside several collaborators, Christoph Riedl, a Northeastern professor with dual appointments in D’Amore-McKim School of Business and CCIS, designed and ran a crowdsourcing contest for USPTO in 2013. The results of the contest were published in the International Journal of Document and Image Recognition, a peer-reviewed academic journal in the image-processing field.

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CCIS Grad Collaborates with Chelsea Handler on App

Among Netflix’s original programming is Chelsea Does, a series starring comedian Chelsea Handler. The documentary series follows Handler as she explores topics and experiences that she’s not entirely familiar with, including marriage, drugs and Silicon Valley. The Silicon Valley episode features a familiar CCIS face: alum Tony Scherba (BS, Computer Science/Business ’11), who co-founded app development company Yeti just before graduating.

“This was a unique experience to do what we do and have it broadcast,” Tony says of the experience. “We’ve never done a documentary before. It was definitely kind of a break from the mold for us.” The connection between Yeti and Handler’s production company was made by a former Yeti client, and camera crews arrived at Yeti’s office after just a few phone calls.

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Northeastern Team Wins Regional Cyber Defense Competition

When the Northeastern division of the Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (CCDC) came to a close on March 13, Northeastern’s team had once again come in first place, advancing to the national competition, which will be held in San Antonio, Texas between April 22-24.

This is the third time Northeastern’s team has won the regional competition and advanced to the final stage. In 2009, the team came in second place at nationals, while in 2010, the team was the national champion. CCDC has student teams take on administrative and security roles for small businesses, then scores the teams on how they respond to security threats and attacks while keeping services like mail servers and web servers running.

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