Machine Vision: MVTec expands its range of functions and improves usability with MERLIC 5.1

- **Further development of the easy-to-use MERLIC machine vision software**
- **Deep learning functions have been expanded**
- **Release date: April 7, 2022**

Munich, March 2, 2022 – MVTec Software GmbH (www.mvtec.com), a leading international provider of industrial machine vision software, will launch the latest version (5.1) of its easy-to-use MERLIC machine vision software on April 7, 2022. MERLIC enables complete machine vision applications to be quickly developed and operated without having to write a single line of code. About six months after the release of MERLIC 5, an enhanced feature set is now available that provides even better usability. In particular, the range of functions of the deep learning AI technology was expanded. In addition to the anomaly detection and classification features that were already included in MERLIC 5, Deep OCR has now been added. MVTec has also optimized hardware compatibility in MERLIC 5.1, which greatly accelerates deep learning applications.

"MERLIC 5.1 is inspired by our belief that even users without any in-depth programming knowledge should be able to benefit from machine vision. MERLIC 5 was already a tremendous success and raised the software to a whole new level. With version 5.1, we're continuing along the same path – for example, by relying even more on innovative deep learning technologies and integrating new functions so that more users can take advantage of our easy-to-use machine vision software," explains Christoph Wagner, Technical Product Manager MERLIC at MVTec.

Robust character recognition with Deep OCR
MERLIC 5.1 includes a new tool for optical character recognition that is based on HALCON's Deep OCR technology. Compared to other algorithms, this holistic deep-learning-based approach can localize characters much more robustly, regardless of their orientation, font type, polarity, and it requires significantly less parameter tuning. Recognition performance is further increased by the automatic grouping of characters. This allows the identification of whole words and thus reduces the chance of misinterpretation of similar-looking characters. This new tool does not require the Deep Learning Add-On and is therefore already included in the entry level package MERLIC 5.1 S.

Support for AI accelerator hardware

MERLIC 5.1 also includes Artificial Intelligence Acceleration Interface (AI²) plug-ins for the NVIDIA® TensorRT™ SDK and the Intel® Distribution of OpenVINO™ toolkit. This enables users to benefit from compatible AI accelerator hardware – quickly and conveniently. MERLIC tools using deep learning functionality can thus achieve significantly faster inference times when paired with compatible hardware like NVIDIA GPUs or Intel processors including GPUs, CPUs and VPUs like the Intel® Movidius™ Neural Compute Stick. By expanding the range of supported Intel devices, customers now enjoy even more flexibility in their choice of hardware. By adding support for AI², MERLIC will also benefit from any future plug-ins that integrate new accelerator hardware.

Image Source Manager improvements

And finally, selecting and setting the correct camera parameters within the Image Source Manager (ISM) is further simplified in MERLIC 5.1. When a camera is set up, the required parameters can be found much faster and with greater ease. The search for parameters can now be carried out via the ISM GUI, similar to the search function in the Tool Library. In addition, it is possible to filter for persistent parameters that are stored in the camera, even if the camera is switched off. Furthermore, configurations and image sources can now be renamed in MERLIC RTE Setup. Last but not least, the connection status of cameras that support this feature is now displayed.

About MVTec Software GmbH

MVTec is a leading manufacturer of standard software for machine vision. MVTec products are used in all demanding areas of imaging: semiconductor industry, surface inspection, automatic optical inspection systems, quality control, metrology, as well as medicine and surveillance. By providing modern technologies such as 3D vision, deep learning, and embedded vision, software by MVTec also enables new automation solutions for the Industrial Internet of Things aka Industry 4.0. With locations in Germany, the USA, and China, as well as an established network of international distributors, MVTec is represented in more than 35 countries worldwide. www.mvtec.com

About MVTec MERLIC

MVTec MERLIC is an all-in-one software product for quickly building machine vision applications without any need for programming. It is based on MVTec's extensive machine vision expertise and combines reliable, fast performance with ease of use. An image-centered user interface and intuitive interaction concepts like easyTouch provide an efficient workflow, which leads to time and cost savings. MERLIC provides powerful tools to design and build complete machine vision applications with a graphical user interface, integrated PLC communication, and image acquisition based on industry standards. All standard machine vision tools such as calibration, measuring, counting, checking, reading, position determination, as well as 3D vision with height images are included in MVTec MERLIC. Furthermore, the software is able to execute tools in parallel, increasing overall efficiency and improving the implementation of multi-camera-setups. MERLIC's features are all based on the latest state-of-the-art machine vision technologies, such as matching or deep learning. The software is available for Windows-based PC and embedded platforms, making it ideally suited for use in smart cameras. www.merlic.com

Press release

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