



Ghironi Documentation

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Ghiro is an *Open Source* software for digital photo and digital image forensics. The forensic analysis is fully automated, report data can be searched or aggregated in different perspectives. Ghiro is designed to assist you and your team in the process of analyzing a massive amount of images, it could become an essential tool in your forensic lab.

This documentation will explain what Ghiro is, which techniques it uses for forensic analysis, how to set up it and how to use it.

Introduction

1.1 Why Ghiro?

Sometime forensic investigators need to process digital images as evidence. There are some tools around, most of them are little scripts, otherwise it is difficult to deal with forensic analysis with many images involved. Digital images contain tons of information, it is a tedious work to manually extract all of them, Ghiro extracts these information from provided images and display them in a nicely formatted report. Dealing with tons of images has never been so easy, Ghiro is designed to scale to support gigs of images. All tasks are totally automated, you have just to upload your images and let Ghiro do the work. Understandable reports and great search capabilities allows you to find a needle in a haystack. Ghiro is a multi user environment, different permissions can be assigned to each user. Cases allow you to group image analyses by topic, you can choose which user allow to see your case with a permission schema. Every team in your forensic lab could work in their own cases with privileges separation.

1.2 Use Case

Ghiro can be used in many scenarios, forensic investigators could use it on daily basis in their analysis lab but also people interested to undercover secrets hidden in images could benefit. Some use case examples are the following:

- If you need to extract all data and metadata hidden in an image in a fully automated way
- If you need to analyze a lot of images and you have not much time to read the report for all them
- If you need to search a bunch of images for some metadata
- If you need to geolocate a bunch of images and see them in a map
- If you have an hash list of “special” images and you want to search for them

Anyway Ghiro is designed to be used in many other scenarios, the imagination is the only limit.

1.3 Supported image types

The following file type are supported:

- Windows bitmap .bmp
- Raw Canon .cr2
- Raw Canon .crw
- Encapsulated PostScript .eps

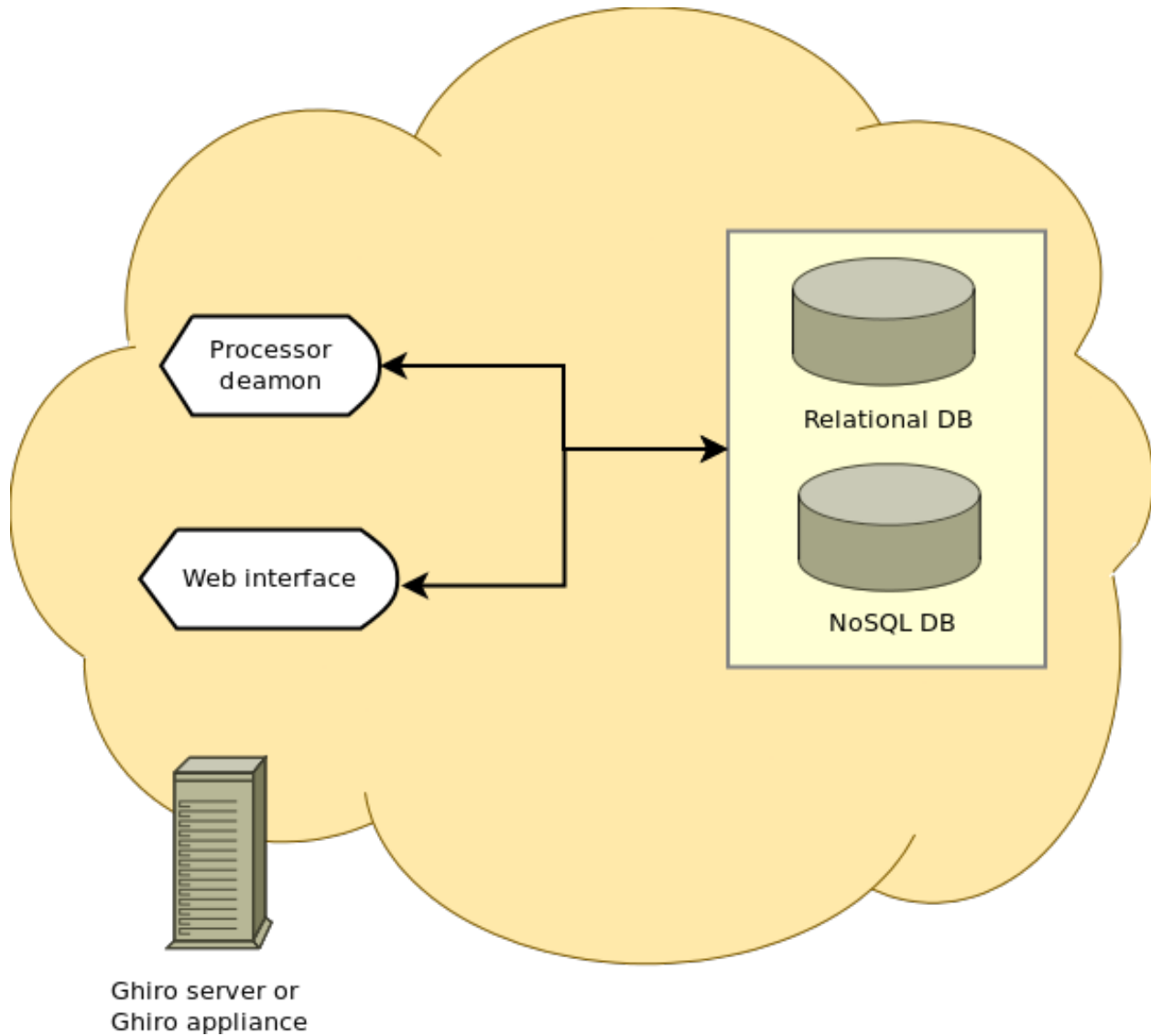
- Graphics Interchange Format .gif
- JPEG File Interchange Format .jpg or .jpeg
- Raw Minolta .mrw
- Raw Olympus .orf
- Portable Network Graphics .png
- Raw Photoshop .psd
- Raw Fujifilm .raf
- Raw Panasonic .rw2
- Raw TARGA .tga
- Tagged Image File Format .tiff

1.4 Architecture

Ghiro is composed by the following components:

- The web interface: to interact with all features, this is the component used by users to work with Ghiro
- The processor daemon: it fetches waiting tasks from the queue, process and analyze images
- The relation database: it stores relational data, you can choose between MySQL, PostgreSQL and SQLite3
- The MongoDB database: it stores analysis data

Following the architecture in a simple schema:



1.5 Download Ghiro

Ghiro can be downloaded from the [official website](#), where the stable and packaged releases are distributed. Stable package is available in both .zip and .tar.gz format. The package above is strongly suggested for all users. Some people need to keep updated with Ghiro's changes, they can download (git clone) from our [official GitHub page](#). There are two different releases available.

1.5.1 Development Branch

The development branch is where the next Ghiro's release is developed. You can download Ghiro from here if you need to keep it always at the cutting edge or if you want to hack on Ghiro. You can download it with the following command:

```
git clone https://github.com/ghirensics/ghiro.git
```

Warning: While being more updated, the development branch should be considered an *under development*. Therefore its stability is not guaranteed.

1.6 Virtual Appliance

The faster way to start playing with Ghiro is to download the Ghiro Virtual Appliance. You can download it from the [official website](#). In few minutes you will have a fully functional Ghiro setup, running in a virtual machine, to start to analyze your images. It is an OVA file, you have to import in your virtualization software (like VirtualBox or VMWare) and configure the networking as explained in the documentation.

1.6.1 Getting Started

Import the .OVA file in your virtualization software (VirtualBox or Vmware). For example in VirtualBox go in File > Import Appliance and select the .OVA file. Start the appliance.

The appliance credentials are: Username: ghiro Password: ghiromanager

For extra security, remember to change the password at your first access.

The first time you have to properly configure the network interface. Select the virtual networking you like (for example bridged or NAT); by default the appliance is configured in bridged mode. By default, Ghiro appliance will get an IP address using DHCP and show it in the boot screen.

If you need to manually configure your IP address: login in, and configure the networking card with your desired IP, for example to give the IP 192.168.0.10 use the following command:

```
sudo ifconfig eth0 192.168.0.10 up
```

When Ghiro appliance has an IP address, via DHCP or via manual configuration, the web interface is reachable on default HTTP port 80/tcp, just put the appliance address in your browser. For example:

<http://192.168.0.10> (or other DHCP or manually configured adress)

The web interface credentials are: Username: ghiro Password: ghiromanager

For extra security, remember to change the password at your first access.

Now you can start analyzing images! Go in the “Cases” panel, create your first case, and add your images with the add button. For usage help please refer to the documentation at: <http://www.getghiro.org/docs/latest/usage/index.html>

If you need to access remotely to the appliance you can use SSH. The appliance is shipped with a default disk of 50GB, if is not enough you can create another virtual disk and add that to the root volume using LVM.

1.6.2 Appliance building

The appliance building script is open source and available under a project dubbed [ghiro-appliance](#) on Github.

Ghiro appliance builder is a [packer.io](#) script to automagically create a Ghiro appliance ready to be used, based on Ubuntu.

Using this script you should be able to create your own Ghiro appliance updated to Ghiro’s developed branch. You can easily customize the appliance building script to have your own customized appliance.

Techniques

2.1 Techniques

Several techniques are used to extract all data and metadata hidden in digital images. They are briefly described in this chapter.

2.2 MIME information

Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions (MIME) is a standard to describe content type of a file, MIME is detected using magic number inside the image. Magic numbers implement strongly typed data and are a form of in-band signaling to the controlling program that reads the data type(s) at program run-time. Many files have such constants that identify the contained data. Detecting such constants in files is a simple and effective way of distinguishing between many file formats and can yield further run-time information. The image MIME type is detected to know the image type you are dealing with, in both compacted (example: image/jpeg) and extended form.

2.3 Metadata information

Metadata may be written into a digital photo file that will identify who owns it, copyright and contact information, what camera created the file, along with exposure information and descriptive information such as keywords about the photo, making the file searchable on the computer and/or the Internet. Some metadata are written by the camera and some is input by the photographer and/or software after downloading to a computer. Metadata are divided in several categories depending on the standard they come from. The following categories are extracted and analyzed:

- **EXIF metadata extraction**

- Standard Exif tags
- Canon MakerNote tags
- Fujifilm MakerNote tags
- Minolta MakerNote tags
- Nikon MakerNote tags
- Olympus MakerNote tags
- Panasonic MakerNote tags
- Pentax MakerNote tags

- Samsung MakerNote tags
 - Sigma/Foveon MakerNote tags
 - Sony MakerNote tags
- **IPTC metadata extraction**
 - IPTC datasets
- **XMP metadata extraction**
 - Dublin Core schema (dc)
 - XMP Basic schema (xmp)
 - XMP Rights Management schema (xmpRights)
 - XMP Media Management schema (xmpMM)
 - XMP Basic Job Ticket schema (xmpBJ)
 - XMP Paged-Text schema (xmpTPg)
 - XMP Dynamic Media schema (xmpDM)
 - Adobe PDF schema (pdf)
 - Photoshop schema (photoshop)
 - Camera Raw schema (crs)
 - Exif schema for TIFF Properties (tiff)
 - Exif schema for Exif-specific Properties (exif)
 - Exif schema for Additional Exif Properties (aux)
 - IPTC Core schema (Iptc4xmpCore)
 - IPTC Extension schema (Iptc4xmpExt)
 - PLUS License Data Format schema (plus)
 - digiKam Photo Management schema (digiKam)
 - KDE Image Program Interface schema (kipi)
 - Microsoft Photo schema (MicrosoftPhoto)
 - iView Media Pro schema (mediapro)
 - Microsoft Expression Media schema (expressionmedia)
 - Microsoft Photo 1.2 schema (MP)
 - Microsoft Photo RegionInfo schema (MPRI)
 - Microsoft Photo Region schema (MPReg)
 - Metadata Working Group Regions schema (mwg-rs)

2.4 Preview thumbnail extraction

Most digital camera and phones write a preview, called thumbnail, in image metadata. The thumbnails and data related to them are extracted from image metadata and stored for review.

2.5 Preview thumbnail consistency

Sometimes when a photo is edited, if the image editing software does not support image preview, the original image is edited but the thumbnail not. A simple comparison between the original image and the thumbnail could detect image edits.

2.6 GPS Localization

Embedded in the image metadata sometimes there is a geotag, a bit of GPS data providing the longitude and latitude of where the photo was taken. Geotagging is when a device such as an iPhone, Android smartphone or digital camera stores your location or geographical information, such as your GPS coordinates, within a photo. A geotagged photograph is a photograph which is associated with a geographical location by geotagging. Geotags are useful in helping people find a wide variety of location-specific information. For example, one can find images taken near a given location by entering latitude and longitude coordinates into a suitable image search engine. The geotag inside image metadata is read and the position where the photo was taken is displayed on a map.

2.7 ELA (Error Level Analysis)

Error Level Analysis (ELA) is a technique aimed to detect if an image is edited or not. It can be applied to compressed images, i.e. JPEG or PNG. The main idea is that an image in his original form has unique levels of compression. The analyzed image is resaved and differences in compression levels are calculated, if differences are detected a probability of edits is high. Ghiro calculates error levels and detects differences between them.

2.8 Hash digest generation

Most common hash are calculated for the image, to create an unique identifier of it. The calculated hashes are:

- CRC32
- MD5
- SHA1
- SHA224
- SHA256
- SHA384
- SHA512

2.9 Hash list matching

Suppose you are searching for an image and you have only the hash. You can provide a list of hashes and all images matching are reported.

2.10 Strings extraction

All text strings contained in the analyzed image are extracted, like in the unix strings tool. The more interesting (i.e. URLs) are highlighted.

2.11 Signature engine

Signature provides evidence about most critical data to highlight focal points and common exposures. Signature engine to highlight common exposure on over 120 signatures

3.1 Setup Ghiri

Ghiri is supposed to run on a *GNU/Linux* native system. For the purpose of this documentation, we choose **latest Ubuntu LTS Server** as reference system for the commands examples, although Ghiri works on any GNU/Linux distribution. Probably Ghiri could work on other systems like MacOSX but this is not tested and out of scope of this documentation.

3.2 Requirements

Ghiri has the following requirements:

- MongoDB: you need to run a MongoDB database (at least release 2.0)
- Python: that's how we roll (only Python 2.x, at least release 2.7)
- Python-magic: for MIME extraction
- Python 2.x bindings for gobject-introspection libraries, required by Gexiv2
- Gexiv2: for metadata extraction (at least release 0.6.1)
- Pillow (Python Imaging library - PIL fork): for image manipulation
- Python-dateutil: for datetime manipulation
- Pymongo: driver for MongoDB (at least release 2.5)
- Django: for web interface (at least release 1.5, suggested django 1.6.x)
- Chardet: for text encoding detection
- Pdftkit: used for PDF report generation (at least release 0.4)
- Wkhtmltopdf: used by pdftkit

If you choose MySQL or PostgreSQL as database you have to install their additional drivers.

Ghiri web application is tested and working on the following browsers:

- Internet Explorer 8, Internet Explorer 9, Internet Explorer 10
- Mozilla Firefox 24
- Opera 17
- Safari 7

- IOS 7 for Ipad and Iphone

3.3 Getting started

3.3.1 Download and extract

Download Ghiro as explained in this documentation, if you download the stable package extract it. Enter in the Ghiro folder.

3.3.2 Preparing

If you don't have already it, install MongoDB with the following command (run as root or with sudo):

```
apt-get install mongodb
```

Ghiro works with SQLite although it is strongly suggested to use MySQL or PostgreSQL as database. If SQLite is used, Ghiro will automatically decrease processing parallelism to one because SQLite does not support concurrent operations. Optionally, as an example, you can install MySQL with the following command (run as root or with sudo):

```
apt-get install mysql-server
```

Install required libraries with the following commands (run as root or with sudo):

```
apt-get install python-pip build-essential python-dev python-gi
apt-get install libgexiv2-2 gexiv2-0.10 wkhtmltopdf
apt-get install libtiff4-dev libjpeg8-dev zlib1g-dev libfreetype6-dev
apt-get install liblcms2-dev libwebp-dev tcl8.5-dev tk8.5-dev python-tk
```

The wkhtmltopdf tool used for PDF report generation needs a X server running, if you don't have one just install XFVB and configure wkhtmltopdf to use it with:

```
apt-get install xvfb
printf '#!/bin/bash\nxvfb-run --server-args="-screen 0, 1024x768x24" /usr/bin/wkhtmltopdf $*' > /usr/
chmod a+x /usr/bin/wkhtmltopdf.sh
ln -s /usr/bin/wkhtmltopdf.sh /usr/local/bin/wkhtmltopdf
```

Install updated libraries via pip with the following commands (run as root or with sudo):

```
pip install -r requirements.txt
```

3.3.3 Preparing

The default databases are SQLite3 and MongoDB (you need to have it listening on localhost). If you need to change this see the configuration chapter below.

First of all you need to create an empty database with the following command (inside Ghiro's root):

```
python manage.py syncdb
```

You will be asked to create a superuser for administration, choose *yes* and fill all the required fields.

3.3.4 Running

To start the web interface run the following command (inside Ghiro's root):

```
python manage runserver
```

A web server running Ghiro will be available on <http://127.0.0.1:8000/>. If you need to listen expose Ghiro to all addresses or change the port (in this example is 9000) run the following command (inside Ghiro's root):

```
python manage runserver 0.0.0.0:9000
```

To start processing images you have to start the processing daemon, run the following command (inside Ghiro's root):

```
python manage.py process
```

3.4 Configuration

Ghiro works pretty well with default options, which are SQLite3 as relational database and use MongoDB installed and listening on local host. If you want to change any setting the configuration file is located in *ghiro/local_settings.py*. The default settings will fit all common user needs.

Following is the default *ghiro/local_settings.py* file:

```
LOCAL_SETTINGS = True
from settings import *

DATABASES = {
    'default': {
        # Engine type. Ends with 'postgresql_psycopg2', 'mysql', 'sqlite3' or 'oracle'.
        'ENGINE': 'django.db.backends.sqlite3',
        # Database name or path to database file if using sqlite3.
        'NAME': 'db.sqlite3',
        # Credentials. The following settings are not used with sqlite3.
        'USER': '',
        'PASSWORD': '',
        # Empty for localhost through domain sockets or '127.0.0.1' for localhost through TCP.
        'HOST': '',
        # Set to empty string for default port.
        'PORT': '',
        # Set timeout (avoids SQLite "database is locked" errors).
        'timeout': 300,
    }
}

# MySQL tuning.
#DATABASE_OPTIONS = {
# "init_command": "SET storage_engine=INNODB",
#}

# Mongo database settings
MONGO_URI = "mongodb://localhost/"
MONGO_DB = "ghirodb"

# Max uploaded image size (in bytes).
# Default is 150MB.
MAX_FILE_UPLOAD = 157286400
```

```
# Allowed file types.
ALLOWED_EXT = ['image/bmp', 'image/x-canon-cr2', 'image/jpeg', 'image/png',
               'image/x-canon-crw', 'image/x-eps', 'image/x-nikon-nef',
               'application/postscript', 'image/gif', 'image/x-minolta-mrw',
               'image/x-olympus-orf', 'image/x-photoshop', 'image/x-fuji-raf',
               'image/x-panasonic-raw2', 'image/x-tga', 'image/tiff', 'image/pjpeg',
               'image/x-x3f', 'image/x-portable-pixmap']

# Override default secret key stored in secret_key.py
# Make this unique, and don't share it with anybody.
# SECRET_KEY = "YOUR_RANDOM_KEY"

# Language code for this installation. All choices can be found here:
# http://www.i18nguy.com/unicode/language-identifiers.html
LANGUAGE_CODE = "en-us"

ADMINS = (
    # ("Your Name", "your_email@example.com"),
)

MANAGERS = ADMINS

# Allow verbose debug error message in case of application fault.
# It's strongly suggested to set it to False if you are serving the
# web application from a web server front-end (i.e. Apache).
DEBUG = True

# A list of strings representing the host/domain names that this Django site
# can serve.
# Values in this list can be fully qualified names (e.g. 'www.example.com').
# When DEBUG is True or when running tests, host validation is disabled; any
# host will be accepted. Thus it's usually only necessary to set it in production.
ALLOWED_HOSTS = ["*"]

# Automatically checks once a day for updates.
# Set it to False to disable update check.
UPDATE_CHECK = True
```

If you change the configuration after the first setup, before editing this file you have to stop both Ghiro's web interface and processing daemon, you may restart them after the edit.

If you changed any setting related to the database configuration you have to re-build your database with the command (inside Ghiro's root):

```
python manage.py syncdb
```

3.5 Running Ghiro as service

If you want to run Ghiro as a service you have to get rid of Django web server and run Ghiro inside a web server (i.e. Apache).

3.5.1 Database

We do not suggest SQLite3 for production environment, please go for MySQL or PostgreSQL. In this example we are going to show you how to configure Ghiro with MySQL.

Setup MySQL and Python drivers with the following command (run as root or with sudo):

```
apt-get install mysql-server python-mysqldb
```

Go through the wizard and set MySQL password. Configure Ghiro to use MySQL as explained in configuration paragraph.

3.5.2 Apache as a front-end

Now we are going to configure Apache as a front end for Ghiro's django application.

Setup Apache and mod_wsgi with the following command (run as root or with sudo):

```
apt-get install apache2 libapache2-mod-wsgi
```

An example of virtual host configuration is the following (Ghiro is extracted in /var/www/ghiro/ in this example):

```
<VirtualHost *:80>
    ServerAdmin webmaster@localhost
    WSGIProcessGroup ghiro
    WSGIDaemonProcess ghiro processes=5 threads=10 user=nobody group=nogroup python-path=/var/www/ghiro
    WSGIScriptAlias / /var/www/ghiro/ghiro/wsgi.py
    Alias /static/ /var/www/ghiro/static/
    <Location "/static/">
        Options -Indexes
    </Location>

    ErrorLog ${APACHE_LOG_DIR}/error.log

    # Possible values include: debug, info, notice, warn, error, crit,
    # alert, emerg.
    LogLevel warn

    CustomLog ${APACHE_LOG_DIR}/access.log combined
</VirtualHost>
```

Restart apache. Now the web application is listening on port 80/tcp, just put the IP address in your browser.

3.5.3 Run the processor with upstart

You can automatically run the processor with upstart.

Create the file ghiro.conf in /etc/init/ with the following content:

```
description      "Ghiro"

start on started mysql
stop on shutdown
script
    chdir /var/www/ghiro/
    exec /usr/bin/python manage.py process
end script
```

To stop the processor use the following command (run as root or with sudo):

```
service ghiro stop
```

To start the processor use the following command (run as root or with sudo):

```
service ghiro start
```

Usage

4.1 Usage

Ghiro's web application is composed by several parts to organize information and analysis data.

4.1.1 Dashboard

This is the summary of all Ghiro activities, here you can figure what is going on, which are the last cases and analysis, and take a look to analysis trend.

4.1.2 Cases

Image analysis are grouped in cases. Different users and permissions can be assigned to each case. You can upload images via an upload in many ways:

- You can add some images using your browser using the “Add image” method
- You can add an image from an URL using the “Add URL” method
- You can add images from a folder in Ghiro's server giving his path with the “Add folder” method
- You can add images from a folder in Ghiro's server via command line

4.1.3 Images

Here you can see all image analysis in the system (all images you have permission to see).

4.1.4 Search

You can search for several image properties or for image location. Search is available also inside a case, to have the search scope restricted to the case.

4.1.5 Hashes

Sometimes hash lists are used to search and match a special kind of images you already have an hash. A text file with a list, one per line, of image's hashes can be loaded in Ghiro with a label and a description. If Ghiro detects an image with an hash matching your hash list, it will trigger a signature and warn you.

4.1.6 Administration

In Ghiro's administration panel you can:

- Administer all Ghiro's users
- See user's activity log
- Check for required dependencies

4.2 Administration

Some hints about Ghiro administration.

4.2.1 Run processor in debug mode

If you need to run the image processor daemon in debug mode to debug tracebacks run the following command (inside Ghiro's root):

```
python manage.py process --traceback
```

4.2.2 Create a new superuser

If you need to create a new superuser from the command line, for example because you closed you out from the web interface, run the following command (inside Ghiro's root):

```
python manage.py createsuperuser
```

4.2.3 Upload images via command line utility

You can analyze images from command line with the submit utility. It can load and submit for analysis: an image, a folder containing images, a folder containing images and other folders, and recurse inside them.

If you want to add the image located at /target/image.jpg to case with id 2 and owner user name "foobar" run the following command (inside Ghiro's root):

```
python manage.py submit -u foobar -c 2 -t /target/image.jpg
```

If you want to add all images in folder /target/images to case with id 2 and owner user name "foobar" run the following command (inside Ghiro's root):

```
python manage.py submit -u foobar -c 2 -t /target/images
```

If you want to add all images in folder /target/images and all subfolders to case with id 2 and owner user name "foobar" run the following command (inside Ghiro's root):

```
python manage.py submit -u foobar -c 2 -t /target/images -r
```

If you need to load tons of images this utility is designed for you, all images could be loaded in a single batch.

4.2.4 Check for updates

Ghiro automatically checks for new updates every day, if you don't disable the update check. Anyway a command line command is available to manually check for updates:

```
python manage.py update_check
```

4.2.5 Save all images

If you need to dump all images in Ghiro's database, in their original format, to disk, you can save all to disk with:

```
python manage.py images_save_all -p /path/to/disk/
```

4.3 API Usage

External systems might like to interact with Ghiro and share data with it. For example you might integrate Ghiro with your analysis environment, have a system sending images to Ghiro and fetch results. Ghiro comes with a set of JSON API to help automation and integration with external systems. All major functionalities are accessible through API, although API will be expanded and enriched in the future.

4.3.1 /api/cases/new

POST /api/cases/new

Adds a new case with name, description optional. Returns the ID of the newly created case.

Example request:

```
curl -kis -F name=foo -F description=bar -F api_key=YOUR_API_KEY http://127.0.0.1:8000/api/c
```

Example response:

```
{"id": 6}
```

Form parameters:

- name (*required*) - case name
- api_key (*required*) - your API key (get it in your profile page)
- description (*optional*) - case description

Status codes:

- 200 - success

4.3.2 /api/images/new

POST /api/images/new

Adds a new image to a case and enqueue it for analysis. Returns the ID of the newly created analysis. This is an example, you should put your Ghiro's server IP address and port in the url.

Example request:

```
curl -kis -F case_id=1 -F image=@path_to_image.jpg -F api_key=YOUR_API_KEY http://127.0.0.1:
```

Example response:

```
{"id": 6}
```

Form parameters:

- `case_id` (*required*) - case ID
- `image` (*required*) - image file to upload for analysis
- `api_key` (*required*) - your API key (get it in your profile page)

Status codes:

- 200 - success

4.4 FAQ

4.4.1 How to install GExiv2 on a virtualenv?

First of all setup GExiv2 on your system installing it the usual way, for example with apt-get. Now you have two ways to get it working on a virtualenv. The first is create your virtualenv starting from system packages. The `--system-site-packages` option links the public packages installed on the system to the new virtual environment. The second one is to symlink the GExiv2 library from your virtualenv with:

```
$ cd virtualenv
$ cd lib/python2.7/
$ ln -s /usr/lib/python2.7/dist-packages/gi
```

5.1 Keep in touch with us

Join the discussion to talk about Ghiro, we want you! Please share your opinion with us, we are happy to get your feedback, we setup many different ways to communicate with us and to keep in touch with the community.

5.1.1 Mailing list - Google Group

Join our mailing list to the [Ghiro Google Group](#), you will receive updates and discussions by mail (low rate).

5.1.2 IRC Chat

You are welcome in our IRC chat on [Freenode](#):

```
Server: irc.freenode.net  
Channel: #ghiro
```

Join using your favorite IRC client or using the Freenode [web client](#).

5.1.3 WTF mail

If you have something super secret to discuss privately with us just drop an email to: wtf@getghiro.org

5.2 Contribute, bugs and feature requests

We appreciate every feedback, question, bug report, pull requests and contributions. You can help Ghiro in many ways: contributing with code, hunting bugs, submitting feature request, donating money or in many other ways. To report bugs or request for new features you can use the ticketing system in [official GitHub page](#). or just get in touch with us.

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