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FAQ for carnoise.wtf Web Site

What does this product do?

The site uses a short audio recording of your vehicle to guide the triage process, so you can direct your efforts to the systems in which you are most likely to find the problem you are looking for.

How accurate is the information the software provides?

As of the date of this note, the precision of the data model in use is about 81%. You have some control over this- you'll get the best accuracy by not talking, and not using the vehicle's audio or HVAC systems, while using the app.

Who is this software intended to be useful for?

People who ask you about noises their car makes, and people who may not hear any problematic sounds emitted by their vehicle. If you've ever gotten in the car with a friend or family member, asked "How long has it been making this noise?!" and they reply "What noise?", then both of you are the people we had in mind as users.

What computers or devices will the software run on?

Any device with a web browser. Although we can't imagine why anyone would use it on a desktop, it does work on desktop computers too.

Is there an Android version?

Get out of here! Who ever heard of an Android device that can access the *Web?!?*

How do I use the software? Is there a User Guide?

There *is* a user guide, available in the "Documents" section of our website: solanum-service.com/documents, also linked directly from carnoise.wtf (look at the bottom of the page). Please read the User Guide before using carnoise.wtf!

Are there versions available in languages other than English?

Not yet.

If I record something weird or yucky, will you hear it?

Possibly. We use the submitted data to improve the accuracy of the model. This process involves humans, so there is a good chance a real person will hear what you submit. For this reason, do not record anything you wouldn't want the world to hear. On a related

note, building the audio library is *really* boring, so if you do have anything exciting to submit and you don't care about us hearing it, we'd love to receive it!

What kinds of vehicles is this product meant to help with?

Gasoline and electric passenger cars and light trucks. The model is not trained to categorize sounds from commercial trucks, motorcycles, diesel engines, or off-road machinery; and will often falsely classify normal sounds from these machines as problematic. However, if any results regarding "Engine" problems are disregarded, the model can sometimes provide useful feedback with regard to other categories of problems with commercial vehicles & machines (and we *have* used it for that in a pinch).

Is there an "advanced version" that gives more specific information?

Not yet. We do have the ability to identify, with great precision, the engine subsystem responsible for engine noises- valvetrain, rotating assembly, gas leaks that mimic either of the former- but chose not to invest in automating that process until we get the basic version running smoothly. Email info@solanum-service.com for more information.

I pushed the "record" button inside my house, or at a concert, or whatever; and I got a nonsense result about car problems. Why?

Some noises that are not made by automobiles are very similar to the problems our model is trained to recognize. For example, most music has a mixture of rhythmic and random percussive events. The model usually (falsely) recognizes these as engine and loose suspension problems, respectively. We have also found that some HVAC machinery will be falsely recognized as a wheel bearing noise. TBH, we find it fun to do this and encourage you to do the same, as it will give you a better understanding of not only the common characteristics of everyday sounds, but also the strengths and limitations of the data model used by the carnoise.wtf audio analysis model.

Your site looks terrible. When are you going to fix it!?

On the second Tuesday of each week, call our design department at (555) 555-1212 to provide feedback on the aesthetics of our products.

What does "WTF" in the web address stand for?

Our Web developer picked that name but we've since fired her for stealing a pen, and she took her notes with her. Best we can figure, it stands for "Where's The Fault".

Is carnoise.wtf safe to use?

All joking aside, trying to pay attention to two things while driving is dangerous. Read the User Guide for suggestions on how to use carnoise.wtf without creating more problems than you started with.