Advanced Web Technologies (SET09103)

Coursework 1

Movies catalogue

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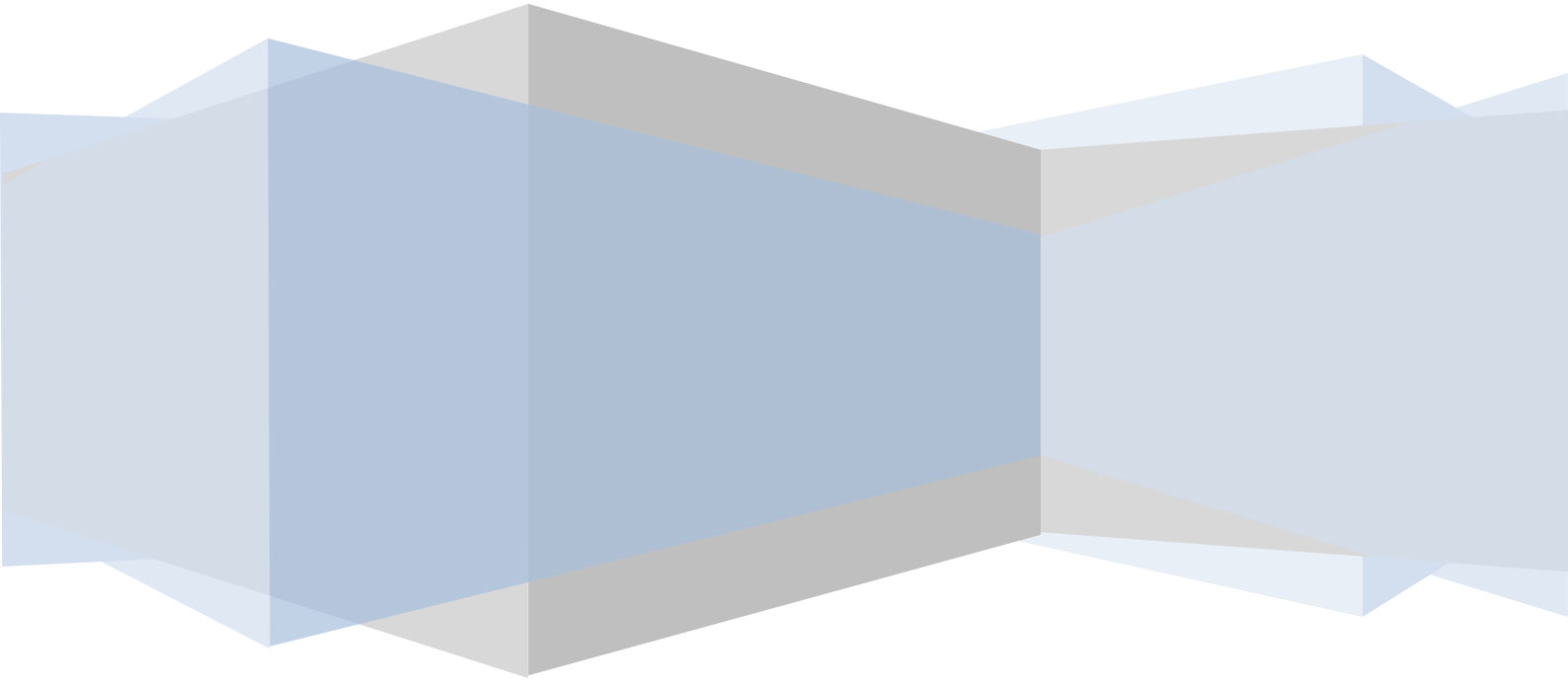

INTRODUCTION

The web-app developed is a catalog of movies, actors and studios. The technologies used for the development of the web were: Python, Flask, Jinja2, html, css and javascript.

The information provided is taken from the movies database of the website www.themoviedb.org. To obtain this information we use the PyTMDB3 library, which communicates with the www.themoviedb.org API. This library is free and his license is in the "src/licenses" folder.

For the web graphic design I based on a free web template from www.chocotemplates.com, which I have subsequently modified to that would fit the needs of the project. The only requirement to use this template was to keep the line at the end of it with the link to their website.

DESIGN

Regarding the web design it consists of three main panels.

First there is a navigation bar at the top of the web, comprising the logo of the page and the main menus (movies, actors, studios and contact).

Secondly, there is another navigation bar where there are direct links to movies that are in theaters, the upcoming releases, the most popular and the most voted movies. In this same bar is the search box, that depending on what main menu we are will look for movies, actors or studios. The search box placeholder will always tell us what we can search, which by default is always movies unless we are on the actors or studios page, where it logically will search only within those categories.

Third, there is an area of variable size in which search results are displayed. Although the size of this area is not fixed, what we do know is that the maximum number of results obtained by a search will always be 15, since we have been truncated the results number to improve the speed of response to queries that are fairly generic.

ENHANCEMENTS

The first feature I would add to the project is to enable URL requests with parameters. So when searching a request is generated with a structure similar to the following: ?search=" The Lord of the Rings"&item="movie" or ?search="George Clooney"&item="actor". Subsequently, this in turn could improve allowing put additional filters as the country where is the movie / actor, the release year, gender, etc.

A new feature that might have the web is having a Home page, in which appeared the latest movies, actors and studios news. In this way the user would be informed of the latest novelties upon entering the web.

Another improvement related to the above would be that when we use the search button from the Home page, a global search of the term were launched, that is, search term you are looking for in the movies database, actors database and studies database.

A very interesting improvement would be that when we click on the names of the actors and studios be redirected to another site with information from them. It would be nice clicking on an actor and be redirected to his biography on Wikipedia or IMDB, and so the user would have much more information; and it would save the cumbersome job of being manually searching the actor's name on the Internet.

Finally, an improvement that would most satisfying user experience is that the search results could be sorted by certain attributes such popularity, the number of votes or the release year. This also could be extended allowing filtering the results obtained in the search by: nationality, number of votes, genre, etc.

CRITICAL EVALUATION

Overall I think that the web application is pretty good, because the web is functional and has a very attractive and intuitive interface. On the negative side I would say perhaps the lack of content or additional functions (search filters, links to additional information of the actors and studios, etc).

If any aspect of the Web application stand out it is its usability and ease of use. Any user with little computer knowledge can use the website correctly, with satisfactory results.

I think if the improvements mentioned in the previous section shall apply, the web itself would improve enough and would become a very complete and useful web application.

PERSONAL EVALUATION

The realization of this project has allowed me to deepen my knowledge of python, since to date I had not developed any real project using this technology. In the same way I learned about the functioning and virtues of Flask for developing web pages.

One of the biggest challenges that I found was using Jinja2 as it is a tool that I was not very familiar. Therefore I had to check several times its documentation, which I learned a lot about its syntax and methods. The truth is that I found a very powerful and versatile tool.

Another of the problems that I have faced has been with the html code. Because despite having some knowledge of html, a long time since I used it and I had to go remembering some things I'd forgotten.

SUMMARY

- Advanced Web Technologies (SET09103), *Notes & Workbook 2015-2016*. http://moodle.napier.ac.uk/mod/resource/view.php?id=653790

- ChocoTemplates, *MovieHunter template*. http://chocotemplates.com/portal/moviehunter/

- *Jinja2 Documentation*. http://jinja.pocoo.org/docs/dev/

- *The movie database*. https://www.themoviedb.org/

- GitHub, *PyTMDB3*. https://github.com/wagnerrp/pytmdb3/

- Anand Chitipothu, *Python Practice Book*. http://anandology.com/python-practice-book/