Criterion C: Development

Word Count: 987

Techniques and packages used

- Frontend technologies
 - o HTML5
 - o CSS
 - o JavaScript version=ES2015¹
 - O Bootstrap version=4.0.0²
 - o Dash version=2.7.0³
 - o Plotly version=5.9.0⁴
- Backend technologies
 - o Python version=3.9.4⁵
 - Framework
 - Flask version=2.2.2⁶
 - Web Server
 - Gunicorn version=20.1.0⁷
 - o Templating language
 - Jinja2 version=3.1.2⁸

¹ https://www.javascript.com/

² https://getbootstrap.com/docs/4.0/getting-started/introduction/

³ https://pypi.org/project/dash/2.7.0/

⁴ https://pypi.org/project/plotly/5.9.0/

⁵ https://www.python.org/downloads/release/python-394/

⁶ https://pvpi.org/project/Flask/2.2.2/

⁷ https://pypi.org/project/gunicorn/20.1.0/

⁸ https://pypi.org/project/Jinja2/3.1.2/

- o Database
 - PostgreSQL⁹
 - Psycopg2 version=2.9.5¹⁰
 - Flask-SQLAlchemy version=3.0.2¹¹
 - Flask-Migrate version=3.1.0¹²
- Authentication and user management
 - Flask-Login version=0.6.2¹³
 - Werkzeug version=2.2.2¹⁴
- HTTP Client
 - Httpx version=0.2.3¹⁵
- o Data Management
 - Pandas version=1.5.1¹⁶
 - Numpy version=1.23.4¹⁷
- Caching system
 - Diskcache version=5.4.0¹⁸

¹ https://www.javascript.com/

² https://getbootstrap.com/docs/4.0/getting-started/introduction/

³ https://pypi.org/project/dash/2.7.0/

⁴ https://pypi.org/project/plotly/5.9.0/

 $^{^{5}\ \}underline{https://www.python.org/downloads/release/python-394/}$

⁶ https://pypi.org/project/Flask/2.2.2/

⁷ https://pypi.org/project/gunicorn/20.1.0/

⁸ https://pypi.org/project/Jinja2/3.1.2/

- Algorithmic thinking
 - Object-Oriented Programming
 - Aggregation
 - Inheritance
 - Encapsulation
 - Method override
 - Dependency Injection
 - SQLAlchemy database queries
 - User authorization
 - Tokens
 - Rerouting based on user authentication status
 - Password hashing
 - Hash comparison
 - o Interface
 - HTML templates
 - Pagination
 - Data validation
 - Form field memory
 - o Data Structures
 - Pandas DataFrame
 - Nested hash tables (nested Python dictionaries)

Structure

The project was developed using the Flask framework's structure as it's the most convenient design structure for website applications enabling easy expansion in the future. This design pattern allows better scalability and makes the project structure less complex.

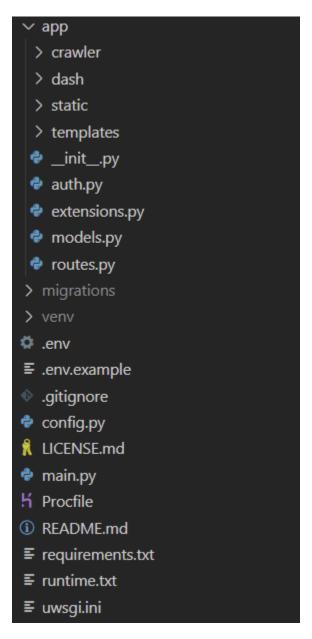


Figure 1. Project Structure

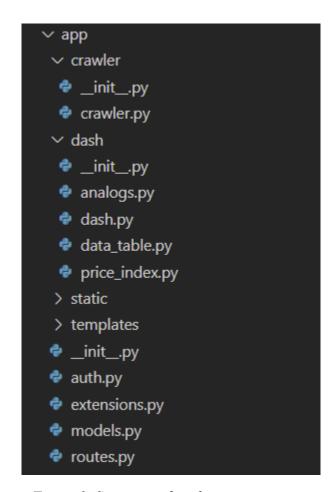


Figure 2. Structure of packages in a project



Figure 3. Structure of static files and HTML templates

The Visual Interface

This is the visual interface of the application. Each page is a different endpoint in the webpage being served from the backend API. Authentication must be passed in order to view other pages to meet SfC 1, 2, 9, 10.



Figure 4. The Design of the login page



Figure 5. The Design of registration page

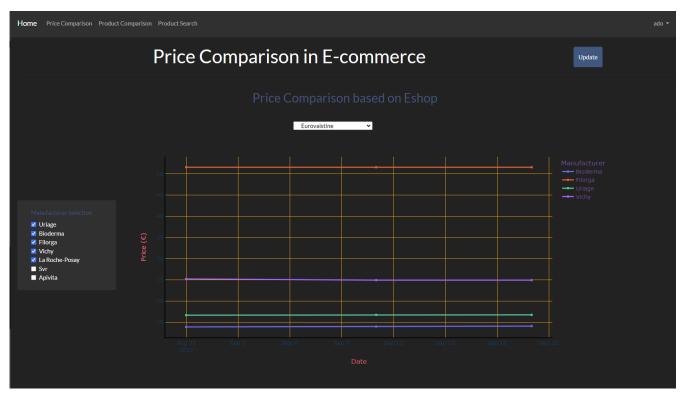


Figure 6. The Design of Price Comparison page based on Eshop



Figure 7. The Design of Price Comparison page based on Manufacturer

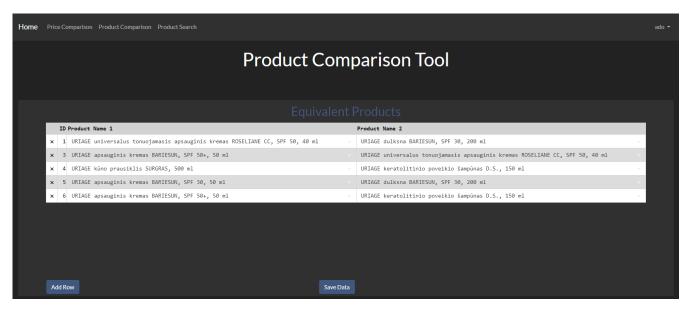


Figure 8. The Design of Product Comparison page

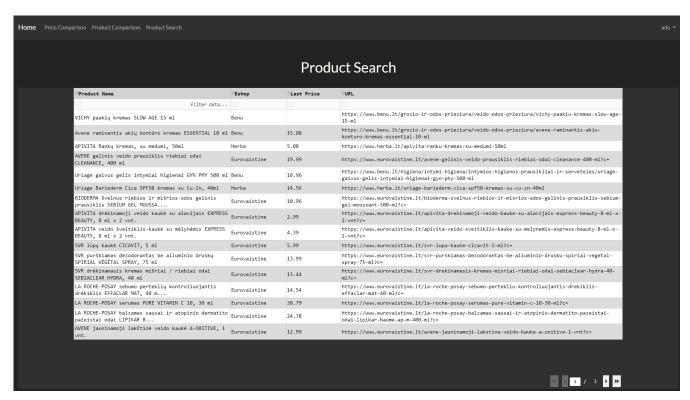


Figure 9. The Design of Product Search page



Figure 10. The Design of Home page

Database

PostgreSQL database was chosen because the client requested to make the database accessible from Cloud as stated in Appendix 1. PostgreSQL is a relational database management system (RDBMS) that stores the data in a server allowing the server to send the data to the client during requests. PostgreSQL offers many features such as custom data types, inheritable tables, locking mechanisms, subqueries, and much more. SQLAlchemy library was used which is an Object Relational Mapper toolkit that converts Python functions into SQL and converts Object classes into relational tables on the PostgreSQL database. An example of User class objects saved in the PostgreSQL table is presented in the figure below.

	id [PK] integer	username character varying (64)	password_hash character varying (128)
1	3	abc	sha256\$jvXmxh1YvB1WSCGu\$ad701bd78929c2e9248e660e511cca27964ae173df024883baec5f83c250
2	5	admin	sha256\$64bZXg1TQDvJDWJ9\$06d237f64ff8d460b323af500e707a97ead3f680c494c882e6c9756638afa
3	6	test1	sha256\$5vhVoGtUiqFLov64\$1c8b1f96e1a03e773d9d632e12da2586408f3c165baf5189f6172f9651bd690fa648f3c165baf518666666666666666666666666666666666666
4	7	test2	sha256\$pF15FJWrQ9Mjsm9Z\$b6576d2858341f8276880c25105c147fc0967210d509b98b73431cb9fbe6a
5	8	test3	sha256\$F6HXQRzPMm5LtxKt\$e32459e896bcd395c2c0b96bc860b98598bcc495c8d67661f516fb325045
6	9	test4	sha256\$j5pPxrM9Wa5ti8ir\$8dd5b4f2ea4f4ba0da4d48756ea068e16cb9006315b381a592e6ca342b173d7e
7	10	test5	sha256\$uYk1TaQWICMIAjAe\$e8e53c307f4645a2bfe5206e39974978daa2fbcbb14e24ce0975645c5a789
8	12	test6	sha256\$K3vG3L0aopMEGSNh\$f5da51391c90e181ae78619a9d8557a0acd311fbd13890191bca59a99b79

Figure 11. User objects saved in **PostgreSQL** database

This database was chosen because it can be deployed in the cloud, which is useful for the server to be run in any place in the world. Additionally, the database in the cloud makes the scalability of the application easier. Furthermore, this database allows to integrate the database management into Python directly, thus, the code is more extensible and has less unnecessary complexity. Similarly, *SQLAlchemy* compiles **SQL** queries used for accessing and editing data in the database when needed in the backend.

Class structure

The object-oriented programming (OOP) model was chosen for this project as it allows to **encapsulation** of variables and functionality into different types of objects which makes the code more extensible and readable. Classes saved in the database were structured as presented in the **UML** diagram in **Criterion B.** These classes define the *PostgreSQL* database tables (as presented in Figure 11) to store objects there instead of creating instances of these objects in memory. All of the classes use **inheritance**, as they inherit *SQLAlchemy Model* class which provides the functionality of accessing, editing, and creating objects tables in the database. *User* class also **inherits** *Flask-login UserMixin* class which allows associating the user with the session and contributes to permission management fulfilling **SfC 4. Inheritance** is implemented in line 1 in the figure below. Variables of the instances saved in the database are defined as class variables as this class creates columns with *SQLAlchemy Column class* in the database table (lines 2 - 4).

```
1 class User(UserMixin, db.Model):
       id = db.Column(db.Integer, primary_key=True)
 2
       username = db.Column(db.String(64), index=True, unique=True)
       password_hash = db.Column(db.String(128))
       def set password(self, password):
           self.password hash = generate password hash(password)
       def check_password(self, password):
           return check_password_hash(self.password_hash, password)
10
11
       def __repr__(self):
12
           return "<User {}>".format(self.username)
13
```

Figure 12. Class User

Store class has a **composition** relationship with *Product* as every entry of a *store* has a *product_id* of every *Product's* object as shown in line 2.

Figure 13. Class Store

Similarly, **composition** relationships are also constructed between *Product* and *Manufacturer*, *Eshop*, *Store*, *Analog* classes as the corresponding *ids* are stored within the class.

```
1 class Product(db.Model):
       id = db.Column(db.Integer, primary_key=True)
       name = db.Column(db.String(256), unique=True, nullable=False)
       url = db.Column(db.String(256), unique=True, nullable=False)
       manufacturer id = db.Column(
           db.Integer, db.ForeignKey("manufacturer.id"), nullable=False
       eshop_id = db.Column(db.Integer, db.ForeignKey("eshop.id"), nullable=False)
       store = db.relationship("Store", backref="product")
       analogs = db.relationship(
           "Analog",
           primaryjoin=lambda: or_(
               Analog.id = foreign(remote(Analog.product_id_1)),
               Analog.id = foreign(remote(Analog.product_id_2)),
           viewonly=True,
       def __repr__(self):
21
           return "<Product {}>".format(self.name)
```

Figure 13. Class Product

User authentication and authorization

To meet the requirements of **SfC 1**, the authentication algorithm outlined in the flowchart in **Criterion B** was implemented.

```
1 # login page route
 2 @auth.route("/login", methods=["GET", "POST"])
 3 def login():
       if current_user.is_authenticated:
           return redirect(url for("routes.index"))
       # checking whether a request is post, to prevent unwanted requests
       if request.method = "POST":
10
11
           # getting data from the form
12
           username = request.form.get("username")
13
           password = request.form.get("password")
           remember = request.form.get("remember")
           if remember = "on":
               remember = True
17
           else:
               remember = False
           user = User.query.filter_by(username=username).first()
21
           # checking whether user exists in the database
22
           if not user:
               flash("Invalid username or password", category="error")
               return redirect(url_for("auth.login"))
           if check_password_hash(user.password_hash, password):
               login_user(user, remember=remember)
               # redirecting to the main page if password matches
29
               return redirect(url_for("routes.index"))
           else:
               flash("Invalid username or password", category="error")
               return redirect(url_for("auth.login"))
       return render_template("login.html")
```

Figure 14. Login Route

To secure the program, password hashing was implemented by comparing the hashes of the original password created during registration and the one used when logging in to verify if the user can access the page. The authentication details are stored in request form Python dictionary, where extraction of the information done. Comparing the hashed passwords was done werkzeug.security.check password hash() function from the Werkzeug package. The password created during registration hashed and then stored database is in the using the werkzeug.security.generate password hash() function as shown below:

```
1 @auth.route("/register", methods=["GET", "POST"])
 2 def register():
       if current_user.is_authenticated:
           return redirect(url_for("routes.index"))
       if request.method = "POST":
           username = request.form.get("username")
           password1 = request.form.get("password1")
           password2 = request.form.get("password2")
           if len(username) < 4:</pre>
               flash(["Username must be at least 4 characters long"], category="error")
           elif len(username) ≥ 15:
               flash(["Username must be at most 15 characters long"], category="error")
           elif password1 \neq password2:
               flash(["Passwords do not match"], category="error")
           elif len(password1) ≤ 5:
               flash(["Password must be at least 5 characters long"], category="error")
           elif len(password1) ≥ 15:
               flash(["Password must be at atmost 15 characters long"], category="error")
           elif not (
               any([x.isupper() for x in password1])
               and any([x.islower() for x in password1])
               and any([x.isdigit() for x in password1])
               flash(
                       "Password must contain:",
                           - at least a single number",
                   ],
                   category="error",
```

```
# new userr is created and added to database

new_user = User(

username=username,

password_hash=generate_password_hash(password1, method="sha256"),

db.session.add(new_user)

db.session.commit()

login_user(new_user)

flash("Registration successful", category="success")

# redirecting to home page

return redirect(url_for("routes.index"))

return render_template("register.html")
```

Figure 15. Registration Route

To fulfill **SfC 2 and 4**, **current user** object is used from **Flask-Login** package, as it allows to store the information of the user in memory instead of retrieving it from the database each time when user authorization or data needs to be accessed reducing the load on the database and make the program more efficient. The **current user** is loaded with the function:

```
1 @login.user_loader
2 def load_user(id):
3    return User.query.get(int(id))
```

Figure 16. Login User Loader

To prevent unauthenticated clients from viewing the contents of the application. The routes to data modeling are protected.

```
1 def _protect_dashviews(dashapp):
2
       for view_func in dashapp.view_functions:
           if view_func.startswith(
               (
                   "/price-index/",
                   "/analogs/",
6
                   "/data-table/",
               )
8
           ):
               dashapp.view_functions[view_func] = login_required(
10
                   dashapp.view_functions[view_func]
11
12
               )
```

Figure 17. Page Protection by Unauthenticated Users

User login is enforced with @login_required. For instance, this was used for viewing the home page with contents.

Figure 18. Home Route

Web application uses **Jinja2** templating engine, which was chosen for its ability to reuse code for many different web pages. Every page **extends** a navigation bar, which is implemented below:

```
1 <nav class="navbar fixed-top navbar-expand-lg navbar-dark bg-dark">
 2 <a class="navbar-brand" href="/">Home</a>
 4 <button class="navbar-toggler" type="button" data-toggle="collapse" data-
   target="#navbarSupportedContent"
            aria-controls="navbarSupportedContent" aria-expanded="false" aria-label="Toggle
  navigation">
      <span class="navbar-toggler-icon"></span>
    </button>
      class="nav-item">
         <a class="nav-link" id="price-index" href="/price-index">Price Comparison</a>
        class="nav-item">
         <a class="nav-link" id="analogs" href="/analogs">Product Comparison</a>
        class="nav-item">
          <a class="nav-link" id="data-table" href="/data-table">Product Search</a>
        <button class="navbar-toggler" type="button" data-toggle="collapse" data-</pre>
  target="#navbarSupportedContent"
            aria-controls="navbarSupportedContent" aria-expanded="false" aria-label="Toggle
  navigation">
      <span class="navbar-toggler-icon"></span>
      </button>
      <div class="collapse navbar-collapse" id="navbarSupportedContent">
          class="nav-item dropdown">
            <a class="nav-link dropdown-toggle" href="#" id="navbarDropdown" role="button" data-</pre>
  toggle="dropdown"
              aria-haspopup="true" aria-expanded="false">
              {% if current_user.is_anonymous %}
38
              User
              {% else %}
              {{ current_user.username }}
```

Figure 19. Navigation Bar

Similarly, every data modeling page extends the *base* and *navbar* to produce a page, however, graphs and tables are transferred from **backend** to **frontend** via *dash* page to meet **SfC 5, 6, 7, 8** as shown in *Figure 19*.

```
1 {% extends 'base.html' %}
 2 {% block meta %}
     {{ super() }}
     {{ metas }}
 5 {% endblock %}
 6 {% block styles %}
     {{ super() }}
     {{ css }}
 9 {% endblock %}
10 {% block title %} Dash App {% endblock %}
11 {% block content %}
     {{ app_entry }}
12
13 {% endblock %}
14 {% block scripts %}
     {{ super() }}
15
     {{ dash_config }}
16
     {{ scripts }}
17
     {{ renderer }}
18
19 {% endblock %}
20
```

Figure 19. Dash Page

Data Mining using Web Crawlers

To fulfil **SfC 8** from **Criterion A** the package **HTTPX** was used to maintain result reliability and provide fast and simple request handling together with **lxml** as it allows *XPath* expressions package for parsing DOMs and obtaining valuable information such as price or names of products from web pages using *XPath* expressions. The **abstract** class defined for crawlers, which are uniquely specialized for different pages is shown in *Figure 20*.

```
• • •
 2 class Crawler:
       def __init__(self):
       def get_link(self, url):
           r = httpx.get(
               url,
               headers={
                   "User-Agent": "Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36
   (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/109.0.0.0 Safari/537.36"
           r.raise\_for\_status() # raise an error if status_code \neq 200
           content = html.fromstring(r.content)
           return content
       def crawl(self):
       def save(self, df):
           with engine.begin() as conn:
               sql_list = [f"('{eshop}')" for eshop in df.eshop.unique()]
               sql_str = ",".join(sql_list)
               conn.execute(
                   VALUES {sql_str}
                   ON CONFLICT (name)
                   DO NOTHING;
               sql list = [
                   f"('{manufacturer}')" for manufacturer in df.manufacturer.unique()
               sql_str = ",".join(sql_list)
               conn.execute(
```

```
VALUES {sql_str}
               ON CONFLICT (name)
               DO NOTHING;
           sql_list = [
               f"""('{title.replace("'", "''")}', '{url.replace("'", "''")}', '{manufacturer}',
'{eshop}')"""
               for title, manufacturer, eshop, url, price in list(
                   df.itertuples(index=False, name=None)
           sql_str = ",".join(sql_list)
           conn.execute(
               text(
                   VALUES {sql_str}
               INSERT INTO product (name, url, manufacturer_id, eshop_id)
               FROM inputvalues as d
               INNER JOIN manufacturer ON manufacturer.name = d.manufacturer
               ON CONFLICT
               DO NOTHING;
           sql_list = [
               f"""((SELECT id FROM product WHERE name='{title.replace("'", "''")}'), {price},
               for title, manufacturer, eshop, url, price in list(
                   df.itertuples(index=False, name=None)
           sql_str = ",".join(sql_list)
           result = conn.execute(
               text(
               WITH inputvalues(id, price, date) AS (
                   VALUES {sql_str}
               SELECT d.id, d.price, d.date
               FROM inputvalues as d
               WHERE d.id IS NOT NULL;
```

Figure 20. Abstract Crawler Class

Crawlers send HTTP requests to a specific URL using get_link(url) function defined in the abstract class, which is **inherited** by all crawlers as there were several of them. **Polymorphism** is used as the functions are **overridden** by each unique crawler's class. HTML of the DOM is then gathered and parsed using the **lxml** package to obtain useful information as shown in lines 32-44. An example of a specific crawler class of the *Benu* website is shown in *Figure 21*.

```
1 class CrawlerBenu(Crawler):
     def crawl(self):
         df = pd.DataFrame(columns=["title", "manufacturer", "eshop", "url", "price"])
         for manufacturer in [
             "uriage",
             "bioderma",
             "la roche-posay",
             "apivita",
             # generating dynamic url for specific manufacturer
             url = f"https://www.benu.lt/{manufacturer.replace(' ', '-')}?vars/pageSize/all"
             print(f"Getting url: {url}")
                 # using abstract's class function to send a HTTP request
                 content = super().get_link(url)
             except httpx.HTTPError as exc:
                 print(f"Error while requesting {exc.request.url!r}. -- {exc}")
             elements = content.xpath('//div[@class="productsList wrap"]/div/div')
             for element in elements:
                     _url = element.xpath(
  'div/div[@class="bnProductCard_top"]/a[@class="bnProductCard_title"]/@href'
                     )[0]
                 except Exception as e:
                 _title = element.xpath(
  'div/div[@class="bnProductCard_top"]/a[@class="bnProductCard_title"]/h3/text()'
                 _title = _title.strip()
                 _manufacturer = manufacturer.capitalize()
                 _price = element.xpath(
                      'div/div[@class="bnProductCard_bottom"]/div[@class="bnProductCard_price
  ']/span/span/span[1]/text()'
                 )[0]
```

```
# validate the data
        _price = (
             _price.strip()
             .replace(",", ".")
            .replace("%nbsp;", "")
.replace("\xa0", "")
             .replace("€", "")
        if not _price:
            print( title)
        price = float( price)
        df = pd.concat(
                 df,
                 pd.DataFrame(
                          "title": [_title],
                          "url": [_url],
                          "price": [_price],
                          "manufacturer": [_manufacturer],
                          "eshop": ["Benu"],
        df = df.drop_duplicates().reset_index(drop=True)
return df
```

Figure 21. Benu Eshop Crawler Class

Benu crawler class uses **nested for loop** as it iterates over manufacturers and **dynamically** generates URLs inside an Eshop for every manufacturer. Similarly, each product on a page is then also looped to obtain information such as price, title, and URL as shown in lines 32-44. The data is **cleaned** from non-Unicode characters to make the data consistent as well as put in the DataFrame in lines 46-70, where it can later be used to efficiently insert into the database. Similar processes happen with other pages, however, *XPath* expressions differ and the processes are altered as each page is unique.

Data Visualization with Interactive Graphs

Since the framework **Dash** was used to model and graph the data in the web pages *responsiveness* and *intractability* were required to meet **SfC 5, 6, 7, 8**. The functionality of adding rows to the table of the product comparison page is described with code in *Figure 22*.

```
• • •
 1 def add_row(n_clicks, rows, columns):
       if rows:
           # getting max id from the list of rows
           max id = max([row["ID"] for row in rows])
       else:
           \max id = 0
       if n_clicks > 0:
           # making a new row
           new_row = {c["id"]: "" for c in columns}
           new_row["ID"] = max_id + 1
10
           rows.append(new row)
11
12
       # updating current table in the page
       update_analog_data(rows)
13
       # returning new rows
14
15
       return rows
```

Figure 22. Add Row Method

Lists are used as they are dynamically appended when needed as the size of rows cannot be determined pre-runtime.

The function responsible for querying data from the database is shown in *Figure 23* as it gathers unique products which were selected as analogs by a **client**. The function is commonly used by other elements of the app as it achieves **encapsulation**.

```
• • •
 1 def get_analogs():
       with engine.connect() as conn:
           df = pd.read_sql_query(
               SELECT DISTINCT ON(analog.id) analog.id, p1.name AS product_1, store_1.price, p2.name
   AS product_2, store_2.price, ROUND(CAST(FLOAT8 (store_1.price - store_2.price) AS NUMERIC), 2) AS
   pdiff, eshop_1.name AS eshop1, eshop_2.name AS eshop2
               FROM analog
               INNER JOIN product AS p1 ON p1.id = analog.product_id_1
               INNER JOIN product AS p2 ON p2.id = analog.product_id_2
               INNER JOIN eshop AS eshop_1 ON p1.eshop_id = eshop_1.id
               INNER JOIN eshop AS eshop_2 ON p2.eshop_id = eshop_2.id
               LEFT JOIN store AS store_1 ON p1.id = store_1.product_id
               LEFT JOIN store AS store_2 ON p2.id = store_2.product_id
               ORDER BY analog.id, store_1.date, store_2.date DESC
               conn,
           df.columns = [
               "Last Price 1",
               "Product Name 2",
               "Price Difference",
           df["Product Name 1"] = df["Eshop 1"] + " " + df["Product Name 1"]
           df["Product Name 2"] = df["Eshop 2"] + " " + df["Product Name 2"]
           df.drop(columns=["Eshop 1", "Eshop 2"], inplace=True)
           return df
```

Figure 23. Querying Analogs Function

Similarly, the tables are updated as the **client** updates or inputs data into it. The function *update_analog_table()* synchronizes the data in the table with the data in the database as the code describes in *Figure 24*.

```
• • •
 1 def update_analog_table(n_clicks, rows, columns):
       global analog_df
       if n_clicks is None or n_clicks < 1:</pre>
           return dash.no_update
       df = pd.DataFrame(rows, columns=[item["name"] for item in columns])
       empty = df[
           (df["Product Name 1"].str.len() = 0) | (df["Product Name 2"].str.len() = 0)
       ]
       with engine.begin() as conn:
           str_list = [
               f"({row['ID']}, (SELECT id FROM product WHERE name='{row['Product Name 1'].split(' ',
   1)[1]}'), (SELECT id FROM product WHERE name='{row['Product Name 2'].split(' ', 1)[1]}'))"
               for index, row in df[~df.index.isin(empty.index.to_list())].iterrows()
           conn.execute(
               WITH inputvalues(id, product_id_1, product_id_2) AS (
                   VALUES {",".join(str_list)}
               INSERT INTO analog(id, product_id_1, product_id_2)
               SELECT d.id, d.product_id_1, d.product_id_2
               FROM inputvalues as d
               WHERE d.product_id_1 IS NOT NULL
               AND d.product_id_2 IS NOT NULL
               AND d.id IS NOT NULL
               ON CONFLICT (id)
                   DO UPDATE SET (product_id_1, product_id_2) = (EXCLUDED.product_id_1,
   EXCLUDED.product_id_2);
       analog_df = get_analogs()
       update analog data(analog df.to dict("records"))
       return analog_df.to_dict("records")
```

Figure 24. Update Analogs Function