

Report

Coursework Assignment #1

Advanced Web Technologies (SET09103)

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Introduction

Description of the web-app

The web app I have developed is aim to be a food blog. However for the coursework, I decided to only only develop the “Recipes” part. I would say my web-app is a collection of recipes, or food-related mini articles.

Design

How I architected my web-app

I have architected my web app in different categories :

1. The first menu includes categories such as : Home, Recipes, Restaurants, Happiness, Fitness. Those aim to be categories where a collection of related articles could be found.
2. Under the category “Recipes”, the second menu is classed by type of meal (Breakfast, Lunch, Snacks, Dinner) but I thought it would also be interesting to have a section “Ingredients” where food would be classed by their food group. The 5 different food groups are : Carbs, Veggies, Fruits, Dairy, Protein and then you have Healthy fats as well.
3. In the Restaurants category, I thought I would class things by cities, so I have architected it like so with the cities I have tested restaurants in so far / or where I am planning to go very soon : Bordeaux, Berlin, NYC, Edinburgh, Amsterdam. However, like I said before I haven’t develop this part.

Other routes not directly related to the web-app and not included in the visible menu:

- /newsletter/ myaccount1 / myaccount2 : an example with **request**, **URL variables** and **URL parameters** (name and e-mail and fake subscription to an imaginary newsletter) and some POST request
- /login/ and /private/ for an example of a **redirect**
- /error404/ for an example of an **error handling**
- Cats : Because “*The Internet is full of cats*”

Enhancements

Features I would add or improve :

- First, I think I would like to take more time to **make things look nicer** : work more with CSS and Javascript to add some nice effects and provide a better User Experience e.g things like a nice hover with a fade effect, highlighting the active menu items ...
- Make the design responsive : maybe see what could be available with Bootstrap ?
- Details : Add a logo, a favicon, some nice icons for the bullet points (strawberries?)
- Better home page with an introduction text, and some links to the other categories
- Implement an **Instagram API** to have the Instagram feed included to the website
- Add a **footer** to the main template (would contain links to **social networks**), which would be reused in all other pages
- Add a clickable **breadcrumb**
- Add way **more content** and write **real articles** → being able to display the latest articles on the home page
- Add a **search bar**
- Organize the static folder properly
- HTML pages content for different cities from “Restaurants” category
- Develop the **other categories** as well
- Figure out a way to dynamically provide the title of the page using the defined URL route, maybe with URL Variables?
- Use a **database** for images
- Add more **appropriate error responses** and design nice / funny pages for them with links to **redirect** users to other pages of the website (e.g. “Sorry, darling, the page you requested couldn’t be found. But you might want to check out this awesome carrot cake recipe or go back to the home page.”)
- Really implement this **Newsletter** subscription and link it to a **Database** to store the users’ names and their e-mails (w/ MailChimp and SQL/phpmyadmin)
- **Sessions** for users : Add possibility for visitors to create an **account** and to log in → which would enable them to save recipes, add restaurants to list e.g. “To Try”, “Love it”, able to write comments ...
- Add more **GET & POST requests** + investigate how to generate **dynamic file names** or let the user choose the name of the picture he is posting
- Make a **Contact page** enabling visitors to send a message through the website
- Make my report look nicer

Critical Evaluation

Critical evaluation of my web-app

I might not have used requests, redirects and responses enough. I must admit I didn't really know how to properly use them according to the purpose of the website (except by eventually add the feature of sessions and a login with for example allowing the person to upload a picture of themselves...)

I think that I have **well designed** the **URL hierarchy** and the **associated routes**. For the category I decided to develop here (Recipes), I provided for each route an **appropriate response** with a **template HTML page**.

To make the web-app more complete, I could have provide appropriate HTML template pages for each of the route that are present in the app (e.g. for the categories Restaurants, Happiness, Fitness ...).

I think I have used the **template inheritance** properly with for example pancakes.html who extends recipes.html. I made use of **Collections** as well by **defining list of ingredients** in python (webapp.py) and passing them within the function render_template.

Personal Evaluation

What I learned, the challenges I faced and the methods I used to overcome them

I think I definitely **improved** my **skills** in using **Python Flask**, **Levinux** and all the tools and **Environment** we had to use to **build the web-app**. I got more **familiar** with it by **practicing**. I now know some **shortcuts** that I think can be really useful (e.g the Copy and Paste, within Levinux, as well as when the copy comes from an external source).

I had a **problem linking my menu** to the different pages of my web-app. I was confused between the links used in HTML and the defined paths URL routes. Method I used to overcome this problem : Sent an e-mail to the teacher who explained me how to do what I wanted to.

I came accross **multiple little mistakes** by building the web-app. Reading the **error messages** and having the **Debug Mode on** helped to overcome them (and sometimes also Google and Stackoverflow helped).

Resources / References

Summary of Resources and List of References

Food related

- GOOGLE :D for some images
- My account on Instagram, @garancerecalde, <https://instagram.com/garancerecalde/>
- [Deliciouslyella.com](https://deliciouslyella.com)
- Blog of [Kaylaitsines.com](https://kaylaitsines.com)
- Pinterest.com
- *Carrot and Butternut squash soup*, Goodtoknow.co.uk
<http://www.goodtoknow.co.uk/recipes/536447/carrot-and-butternut-squash-soup>
- *Coconut mint matcha cake and a matcha gift box giveaway*, Talesofakitchen.com,
<http://talesofakitchen.com/desserts/coconut-mint-matcha-cake-and-a-matcha-gift-box-giveaway/>

Code related

- Example of a menu, Dairy of Daybook @siwells github,
https://github.com/siwells/teaching_set09103/blob/master/case.study/daybook/src/templates/diary.html
- *Raccourcis clavier Vim*, Commentcamarche.net,
<http://www.commentcamarche.net/faq/8400-raccourcis-clavier-vi-m>
- *Un menu horizontal*, Openclassroom.com,
<https://openclassrooms.com/courses/un-menu-horizontal>
- *Les templates*, Créez vos applications web avec Flask, Openclassroom.com,
<https://openclassrooms.com/courses/creez-vos-applications-web-avec-flask/les-templates-4>
- *Vim, l'éditeur de texte du programmeur*, Openclassroom.com,
<https://openclassrooms.com/courses/reprenez-le-contrôle-a-l'aide-de-linux/vim-l-editeur-de-texte-du-programmeur>
- *[VIM] Coller un texte depuis l'extérieur*, Forum Debian-fr.org,
<https://www.debian-fr.org/coller-un-texte-copie-depuis-l-exterieur-t40920.html>
- *Template Designer Documentation*, Jinja.pocoo.org,
<http://jinja.pocoo.org/docs/dev/templates/>
- *Jinja2 if statement in vs equals on dict*, Stackoverflow,
<http://stackoverflow.com/questions/22238265/jinja2-if-statement-in-vs-equals-on-dict>