

Flask (web framework)

Flask is a micro web framework written in Python. It is classified as a microframework because it does not require particular tools or libraries.^[3] It has no database abstraction layer, form validation, or any other components where pre-existing third-party libraries provide common functions. However, Flask supports extensions that can add application features as if they were implemented in Flask itself. Extensions exist for object-relational mappers, form validation, upload handling, various open authentication technologies and several common framework related tools. Extensions are updated far more frequently than the core Flask program.^[4]

Applications that use the Flask framework include Pinterest and LinkedIn.^{[5][6]}

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Flask

	<h1>Flask</h1> <p>web development, one drop at a time</p>
Developer(s)	Armin Ronacher
Initial release	April 1, 2010
Stable release	1.1.1 / July 8, 2019 ^{[1][2]}
Repository	github.com /pallets/flask (https://github.com/pallets/flask)
Written in	Python
Type	Web framework
License	BSD
Website	palletsprojects.com/p/flask/ (https://palletsprojects.com/p/flask/)

History

Flask was created by Armin Ronacher of Pocoo, an international group of Python enthusiasts formed in 2004.^[7] According to Ronacher, the idea was originally an April Fool's joke that was popular enough to make into a serious application.^{[8][9][10]}

When Ronacher and Georg Brandl created a bulletin board system written in Python, the Pocoo projects Werkzeug and Jinja were developed.^[11]

Flask has become popular among Python enthusiasts. As of January 2020, it has more stars on GitHub than any other Python web-development framework,^[12] and was voted the most popular web framework in the Python Developers Survey 2018.^[13]

Components

The microframework Flask is based on the *Pocoo* projects *Werkzeug* and *Jinja2*.

Werkzeug

Werkzeug is a utility library for the Python programming language, in other words a toolkit for Web Server Gateway Interface (WSGI) applications, and is licensed under a BSD License. Werkzeug can realize software objects for request, response, and utility functions. It can be used to build a custom software framework on top of it and supports Python 2.6, 2.7 and 3.3.^[14]

Jinja

Jinja, also by Ronacher, is a template engine for the Python programming language and is licensed under a BSD License. Similar to the Django web framework, it provides that templates are evaluated in a sandbox.

Features

- Development server and debugger
- Integrated support for unit testing
- RESTful request dispatching
- Uses Jinja templating
- Support for secure cookies (client side sessions)
- 100% WSGI 1.0 compliant
- Unicode-based
- Extensive documentation
- Google App Engine compatibility
- Extensions available to enhance features desired

Example

The following code shows a simple web application that displays "Hello World!" when visited:

```
from flask import Flask
app = Flask(__name__)

@app.route("/")
def hello():
    return "Hello World!"

if __name__ == "__main__":
    app.run()
```

See also

- Comparison of web frameworks

References

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5. What challenges has Pinterest encountered with Flask? (<http://www.quora.com/What-challenges-has-Pinterest-encountered-with-Flask/answer/Steve-Cohen?srid=hXZd&share=1>)
6. Rachel Sanders: Developing Flask Extensions - PyCon 2014 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXN3wuHUBP0#t=46>)
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11. "History" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20171119213325/http://www.pocoo.org/history/>). Pocoo Team. Archived from the original (<http://www.pocoo.org:80/history/>) on 2017-11-19. Retrieved 2015-03-25.
12. "Python libraries by GitHub stars" (<https://github.com/search?l=Python&q=stars%3A%3E100&s=stars&type=Repositories>). *Github*. Retrieved 2020-01-27.
13. "Python Developers Survey 2018" (<https://www.jetbrains.com/research/python-developers-survey-2018/>). *www.jetbrains.com*. 2018-11-01.
14. Ronacher, Armin. "Werkzeug The Python WSGI Utility Library" (<https://www.palletsprojects.com/p/werkzeug/>). *palletsprojects.com*. Retrieved 27 May 2018.

External links

- Official website (<https://flask.palletsprojects.com/>) 
- Flask for beginners (<https://overiq.com/flask/0.12/intro-to-flask/>)

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