

Practice with Flask Part 1



Estimated time needed: 20 minutes

Welcome to the first lab of the Capstone course. You will practice working with Flask in this lab. You should know all the concepts you need for this lab from the previous set of videos. Feel free to pause the lab and review the module if you are unclear on how to perform a task or need more information.

Learning Objectives

After completing this lab, you will be able to:

- Create and run a Flask server in development mode
- Return JSON from an endpoint
- Understand the request object

About Skills Network Cloud IDE

Skills Network Cloud IDE (based on Theia and Docker) provides an environment for hands on labs for course and project related labs. Theia is an open source IDE (Integrated Development Environment) that can run on desktop or the cloud. To complete this lab, you will be using the Cloud IDE based on Theia and MongoDB running in a Docker container.

Important Notice about this lab environment

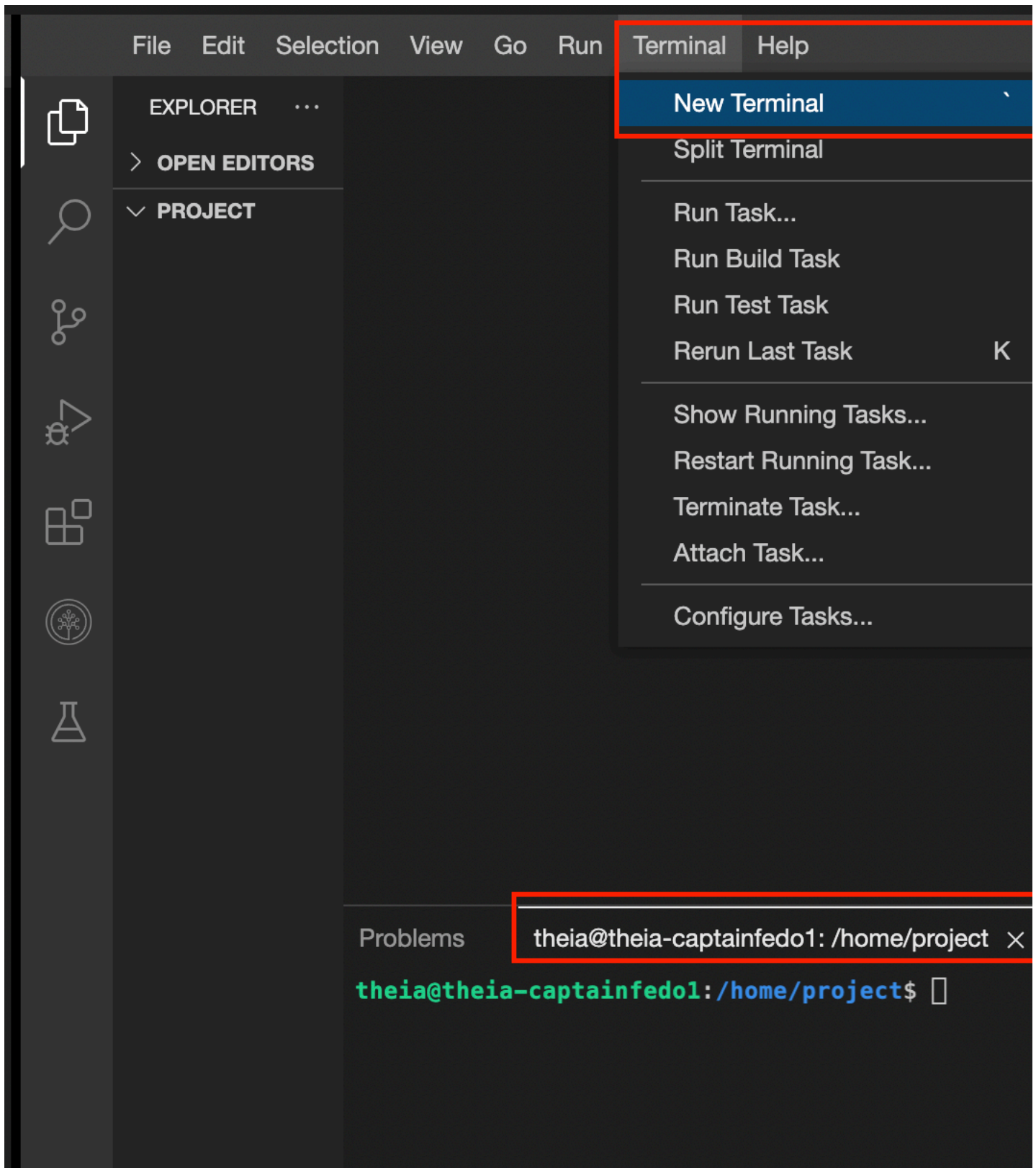
Please be aware that sessions do not persist for this lab environment. Every time you connect to this lab, a new environment is created for you. Any data you save in earlier sessions will be lost. Plan to complete these labs in a single session, to avoid losing your data.

Set Up the Lab Environment

There are some prerequisite preparations required before you start the lab.

Open a Terminal

Open a terminal window using the menu in the editor: **Terminal > New Terminal**.



In the terminal, if you are not in the `/home/project` folder, change to your project folder now.

```
cd /home/project
```

Create the lab directory

You can now create a directory for your server file.

```
mkdir lab
```

Change into the `lab` directory:

```
cd lab
```

Check Python version and install Flask

Use the `python3 --version` command to check the version of python3 in the lab environment. You should see an output as follows:

```
theia@theiadocker-captainfedo1:/home/project/lab$ python3 --version
Python 3.10.12
```

Next, install Flask version 2.2.2 using the following command:

```
pip install "Flask==2.2.2"
```

If Flask is present on the system, you will see the following message:

```
Requirement already satisfied: Flask==2.2.2 in /home/theia/.local/lib/python3.8/site-packages (2.2.2)
Requirement already satisfied:
...
```

You are now ready to start the lab.

Optional

If working in the terminal becomes difficult because the command prompt is long, you can shorten the prompt using the following command:

```
export PS1="\[\033[01;32m\]\u\[\033[00m\]: \[\033[01;34m\]\W\[\033[00m\]\$ "
```

Step 1: Create the Hello World server

Your Tasks

1. Create server.py file.

First, create an empty file called server.py in the terminal or use the file editor menu.

▼ Click here for a hint.

The following command will create the empty file in the right directory.

```
touch /home/project/lab/server.py
```

Open server.py in the editor

Open **server.py** in IDE

If a new tab called Python – Get Started displays after opening this file, you can close it to return to the python file.

2. Import Flask module.

Next, import the Flask module in this file so you can start coding the server.

▼ Click here for a hint.

Import the Flask class in this file by changing the module name.

```
from flask import {insert module name here}
```

3. Create the Flask app

After importing the Flask module, create your Flask application by initializing the Flask class.

▼ Click here for a hint.

Initiate a new application from the Flask class.

```
from flask import {insert module name here}
app = {insert module name here}(__name__)
```

4. Create the main route.

You can now use the app you created in the previous task to create your first route.

▼ Click here for a hint.

Use the app decorator to create the root URL “/”.

```
# Import the Flask class from the flask module
from flask import Flask
# Create an instance of the Flask class, passing in the name of the current module
app = Flask(__name__)
# Define a route for the root URL ("/")
@app.route("/")
def home():
    return "Hello, World!"
```

5. Define the method for the main root URL.

First import Flask in this file.

▼ Click here for a hint.

Start the method definition.

```
# Import the Flask class from the flask module
from flask import Flask
# Create an instance of the Flask class, passing in the name of the current module
app = Flask(__name__)
```

```
# Define a route for the root URL ("/")
@app.route("/")
def home():
    # Function that handles requests to the root URL
    return "Hello, World!"
```

6. Return the "Hello World" message to the client.

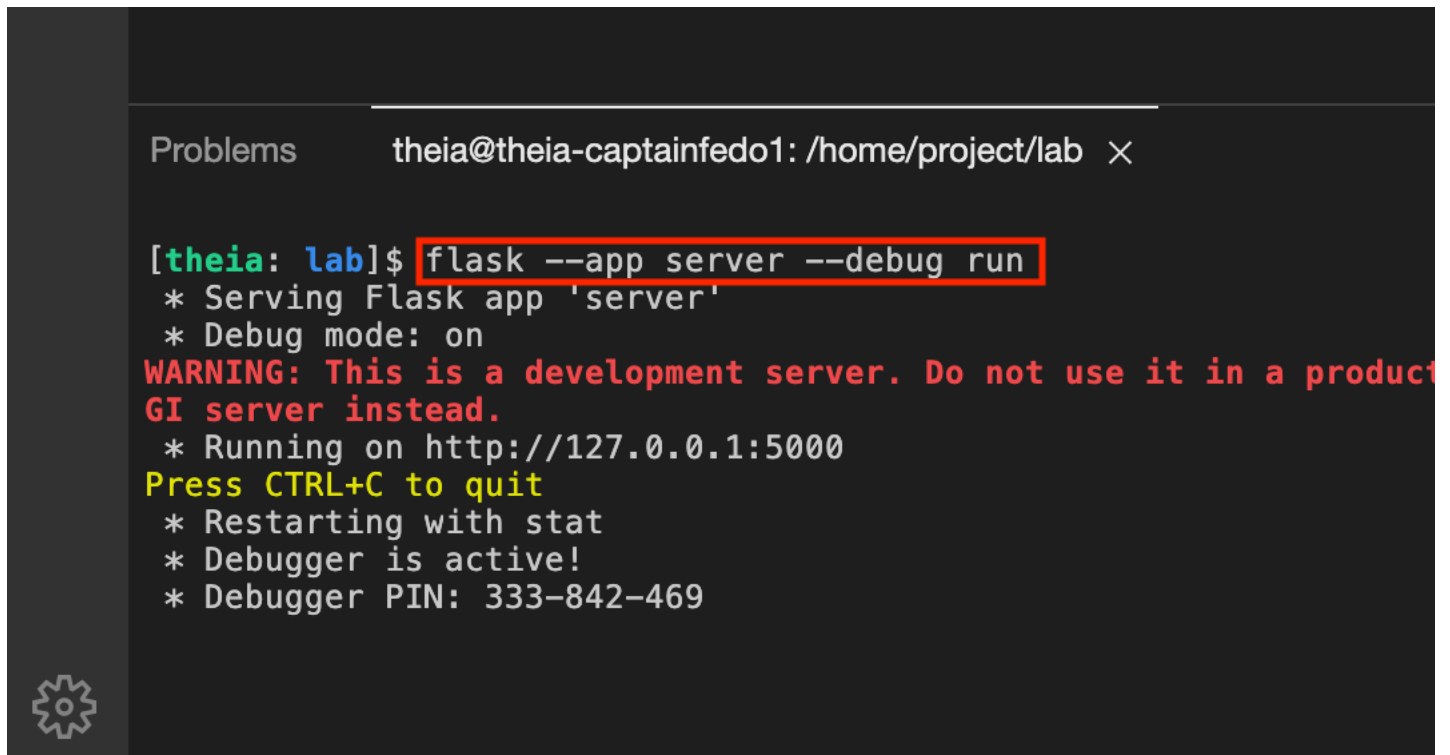
Return the string "Hello World" to the client.

▼ Click here for a hint.

```
# Import the Flask class from the flask module
from flask import Flask
# Create an instance of the Flask class, passing in the name of the current module
app = Flask(__name__)
# Define a route for the root URL ("/")
@app.route("/")
def hello_world():
    # Function that handles requests to the root URL
    return "Hello, World!"
```

You are all set to run the server. Use the following command to run the server from the terminal:

```
flask --app server --debug run
```



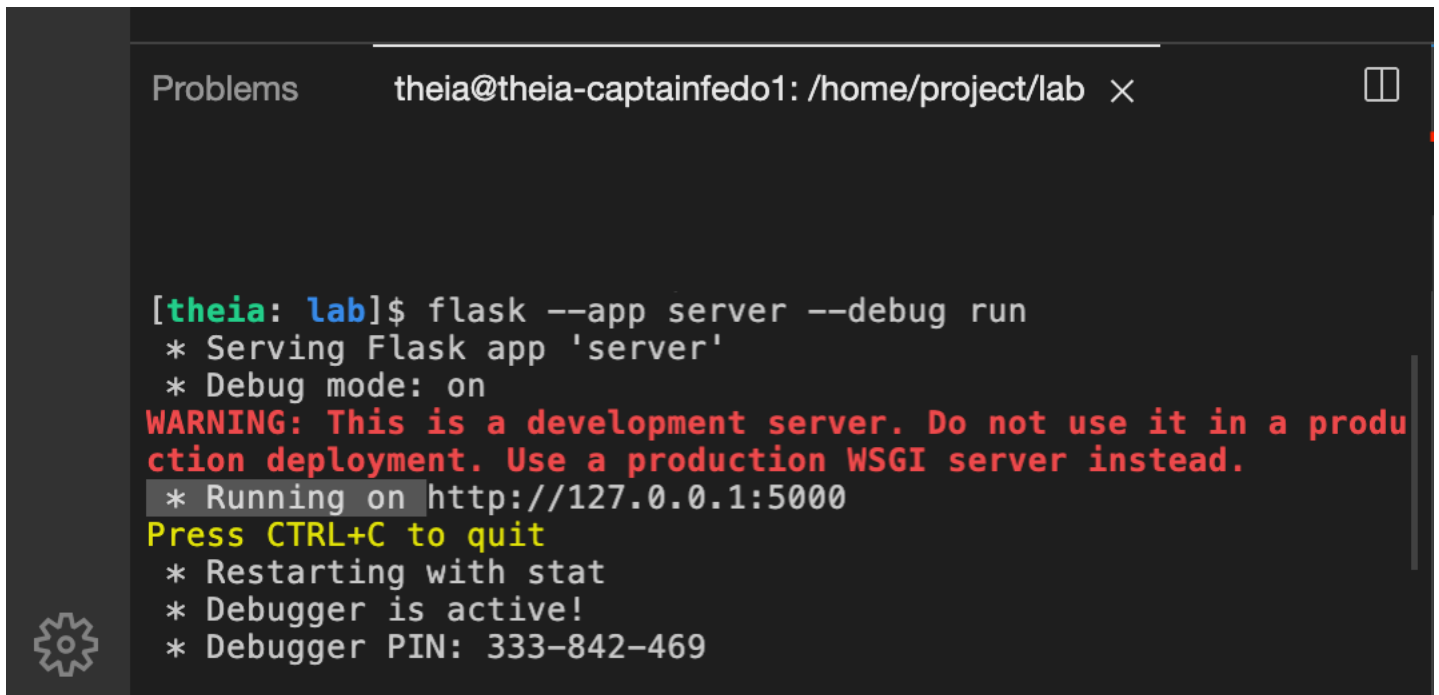
The screenshot shows a terminal window titled 'theia@theia-captainfedo1: /home/project/lab'. The command `flask --app server --debug run` has been executed. The output shows the server starting, serving the Flask app 'server', and entering debug mode. A warning message states: 'WARNING: This is a development server. Do not use it in a production environment. Use a production grade web server instead.' The server is running on `http://127.0.0.1:5000`. The prompt 'Press CTRL+C to quit' is displayed. The terminal also shows 'Restarting with stat', 'Debugger is active!', and 'Debugger PIN: 333-842-469'. A gear icon is visible in the bottom left corner of the terminal window.

You should now be able to use the CURL command on `localhost:5000/`. Note that the terminal is already running the server, you can use the Split Terminal button to split the terminal and run the following command in the second tab.

Note: Kindly verify the presence of the `Server.py` file in the `/home/project/lab` directory to prevent encountering a connection refusal error.

```
curl -X GET -i -w '\n' localhost:5000
```

The `-X` argument specifies the GET command, and the `-i` argument displays the header from the response.



```

[theia: lab]$ flask --app server --debug run
* Serving Flask app 'server'
* Debug mode: on
WARNING: This is a development server. Do not use it in a production deployment. Use a production WSGI server instead.
* Running on http://127.0.0.1:5000
Press CTRL+C to quit
* Restarting with stat
* Debugger is active!
* Debugger PIN: 333-842-469

```

You should see Hello World returned as the output of the CURL command. Note the return status of HTTP 200 OK and the Content-type of text/html. You are asked to return a custom status with JSON instead of plain text in the next part of this lab.

Solution

Double-check that your work matches the solution below.

▼ Click here for the answer.

```

# Import the Flask class from the flask module
from flask import Flask
# Create an instance of the Flask class, passing in the name of the current module
app = Flask(__name__)
# Define a route for the root URL ("/")
@app.route("/")
def hello_world():
    # Function that handles requests to the root URL
    return "Hello, World!"

```

Step 2: Return JSON

Your Task

Congratulations on creating your first route handler in the Flask server. You can return a number of different content types from the `@app.route()` methods. For the purpose of this project, let's return the following JSON instead of the **Hello World** string.

```
"message": "Hello World"
```

Recall from the videos that there are two ways to return a JSON object from the method:

1. Return a Python dictionary
2. Use the `jsonify()` method on a string

You are being asked to use the first method in this lab.

Hint

You can edit the existing `index` method to return the desired JSON message.

▼ Click here for a hint.

Return a dictionary with the Hello World message in the index method.

```

# Import the Flask class from the flask module
from flask import Flask, jsonify
# Create an instance of the Flask class, passing in the name of the current module
app = Flask(__name__)
# Define a route for the root URL ("/")
@app.route("/")
def index():
    return {insert dictionary here}

```

Solution

Double-check that your work matches the following solution.

▼ Click here for the answer.

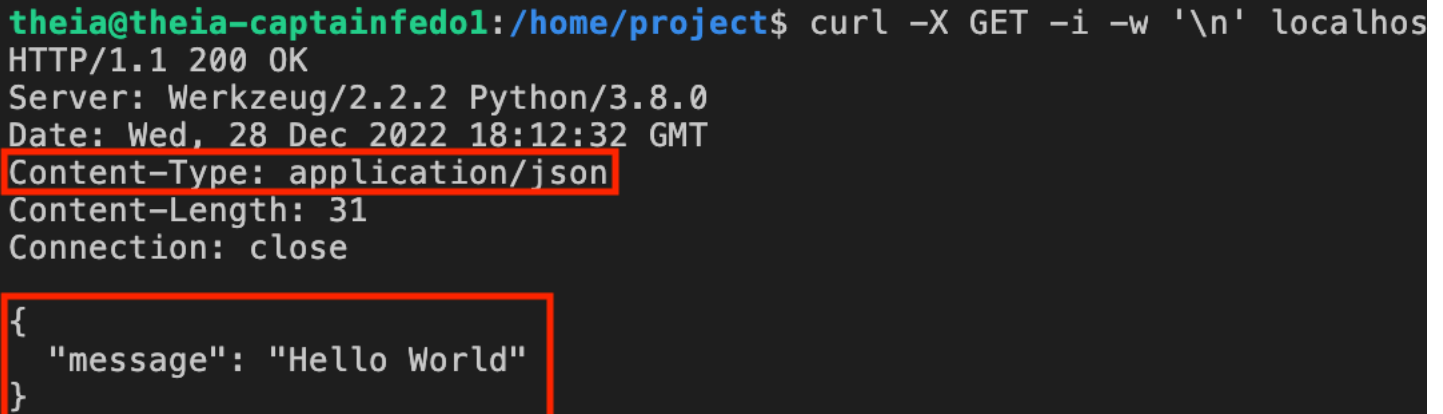
```
# Import the Flask class from the flask module
from flask import Flask
# Create an instance of the Flask class, passing in the name of the current module
app = Flask(__name__)
# Define a route for the root URL ("/")
@app.route("/")
def index():
    # Function that handles requests to the root URL
    # Create a dictionary to return as a response
    return {"message": "Hello World"}
```

If you have the server running, you are good to go. If not, you can run the server with the following command again:

```
flask --app server --debug run
```

You should now be able to use the CURL command with localhost:5000/. Note that the terminal is running the server, you can use the Split Terminal button to split the terminal and run the following command in the second tab.

```
curl -X GET -i -w '\n' localhost:5000
```



```
theia@theia-captainfedo1:/home/project$ curl -X GET -i -w '\n' localhost:5000
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Server: Werkzeug/2.2.2 Python/3.8.0
Date: Wed, 28 Dec 2022 18:12:32 GMT
Content-Type: application/json
Content-Length: 31
Connection: close

{"message": "Hello World"}
```

You should see {"message": "Hello World"} JSON returned as the output of the CURL command. Note the return status of HTTP 200 OK and the Content-type of application/json this time.

Author(s)

CF

© IBM Corporation 2023. All rights reserved.