COURSEWARE

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User Input

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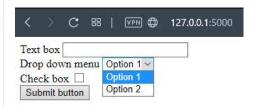
Overview

Most web applications require some form of user interaction or input. This is implemented by using forms. The user interacts with the forms to send any required data to the app for any logic to be implemented.

Forms

To create our forms for user input we are going to be using a Flask extension called WTForms.

While it is possible to implement forms using just HTML, WTForms offers a rich library of validators, fields, and CSRF protection support.



Above is an example of a text box, drop down menu, check box and a submit button created by WTForms.

CSRF Protection

A Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF) attack is when an attacker tricks a web browser into executing an unwanted action.

A successful CSRF attack can lead to *unauthorised transfer of funds*, *changed passwords* and *data theft*.

Luckily, Flask-WTF has built-in protection which you can use, which requires only two things to set up.

- form.hidden_tag() must be included in your front-end html on any page which contains POST method.
- SECRET_KEY a variable defined in your back-end as an app.config, used to encrypt data during transit.

 You can generate the key however you like, but to keep it secret it should be stored as an environment variable.

Once these two things are included, Flask-WTF uses them to provide your app with CSRF Protection.

Tutorial

There is no tutorial for this module.

Exercises

There are no exercises for this module.