

Lightning Talk: Deploying a web app with Heroku

What is Heroku?

- Heroku is a platform to host your web applications
- Heroku: merge of “heroic” and “haiku”
- Like Vagrant, but a virtual machine *in the cloud*
- PaaS: Platform as a Service
 - IaaS: AWS, which hosts Heroku apps (often: datacenters)
 - Service manages Networking and Servers
 - PaaS: Heroku, which hosts *your* apps
 - Service manages Networking, Servers, O/S, and Middleware (e.g., installing Python, Java runtime)
 - SaaS: Google docs, or your web app, running on Heroku (e.g., my compliment app, Hello Gorgeous)
 - Service manages all layers

Why use Heroku?

- Automated deployment
 - You upload code and project files
 - Heroku configures venv, installs requirements
 - Heroku configures DNS (HTTP routing, domain name / URL)
 - Heroku serves app to users
- Easy add-ons like PostGRES, MongoDB (and Heroku Scheduler is like cron)
- Logging and monitoring (error => exit & restart VM and server, error messages in logs, alerts possible)
- Scalability!
- (Free for low-use projects, and costs scale with need starting at \$9/month)

Who uses Heroku?

- I do! Maybe you do! Maybe you will!
- GREAT tool for devs to serve free demonstrations of our code—e.g., our projects!
- Macy’s, Toyota, Soylent, Westfield Mall

How to use Heroku?

- Create a free Heroku account
- Download the Heroku CLI
- Write an app! (Python, Node.js, Ruby, Java, Scala, Clojure, PHP, Go)
 - `pip freeze > requirements.txt`
 - Procfile: command line instructions to run your app (e.g., “web: python server:app”)
 - env file to store environment variables (I recommend heroku-config)
- `git push heroku master`