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Flask Login: TypeError: decoding Unicode is not supported

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I am running flask, pymongo and flask-login as a stack.

My flask app is running fine locally, but once I deploy it with uwsgi on nginx, I get a strange unicode error from flask_login extension.

In short:

```
TypeError: decoding Unicode is not supported
```

Traceback:

```
[pid: 21753|app: 0|req: 5/5] 84.207.253.34 () {38 vars in 600 bytes} [Thu Jun 13 16:51:08 2013] GET / => generated 0 bytes in 4 msecs (HTTP/1.1 500) 0 headers in 0 bytes (0 switches on core 0)
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "/myproject/myproject-env/local/lib/python2.7/site-packages/flask/app.py", line 1836, in __call__
    return self.wsgi_app(environ, start_response)
  File "/myproject/myproject-env/local/lib/python2.7/site-packages/flask/app.py", line 1820, in wsgi_app
    response = self.make_response(self.handle_exception(e))
  File "/myproject/myproject-env/local/lib/python2.7/site-packages/flask/app.py", line 1403, in handle_exception
    reraise(exc_type, exc_value, tb)
  File "/myproject/myproject-env/local/lib/python2.7/site-packages/flask/app.py", line 1817, in wsgi_app
    response = self.full_dispatch_request()
  File "/myproject/myproject-env/local/lib/python2.7/site-packages/flask/app.py", line 1477, in full_dispatch_request
    rv = self.handle_user_exception(e)
  File "/myproject/myproject-env/local/lib/python2.7/site-packages/flask/app.py", line 1381, in handle_user_exception
    reraise(exc_type, exc_value, tb)
  File "/myproject/myproject-env/local/lib/python2.7/site-packages/flask/app.py", line 1473, in full_dispatch_request
    rv = self.preprocess_request()
  File "/myproject/myproject-env/local/lib/python2.7/site-packages/flask/app.py", line 1666, in preprocess_request
    rv = func()
  File "/myproject/myproject-env/local/lib/python2.7/site-packages/flask_login.py", line 311, in _load_user
    deleted = self._session_protection()
  File "/myproject/myproject-env/local/lib/python2.7/site-packages/flask_login.py", line 325, in _session_protection
    ident = _create_identifier()
  File "/myproject/myproject-env/local/lib/python2.7/site-packages/flask_login.py", line 133, in _create_identifier
    request.headers.get("User-Agent")), 'utf8', errors='replace')
TypeError: decoding Unicode is not supported
```

Why is this not happening in dev environment? Hence it must be somehow related to uwsgi on nginx. Any suggestions?
Many Thanks

flask uwsgi flask-login

asked Jun 13 '13 at 16:58



Houman

16.8k 40 134 266

4 Answers

The problem won't be solved by downgrading flask alone, because even installing `flask==0.9` would install the latest dependencies. which is the bad `werkzeug==0.9`. Hence you better install

Need more the latest dependencies, which is the sad thing is that you can't install the following in this order:

```
pip install werkzeug==0.8.3
pip install flask==0.9
pip install Flask-Login==0.1.3
```

flask login, can then be the latest version 0.1.3. No harm done there. This stack works for me.

Hope this helps, until the emergency patch is out.

answered Jun 13 '13 at 22:41



Houman

16.8k 40 134 266

3 In my opinion, this is the best thing to do. – maxcountryman Jun 14 '13 at 1:02

Re: the emergency patch: considering the maintainer of Flask-Login has [said not to expect one](#), I would not expect it to come out. From the looks of it, Flask-Login will not support Flask v0.10 until a cleanup branch. Which, AFAIC, is fine: just don't use Flask 0.10 yet :) – Mark Hildreth Jun 14 '13 at 22:27

Also note this is an upstream bug, [reported here](#). Flask-Login has been updated but cannot address the issue upstream, of course. You may prefer to use the [0.2.x release series](#) now. – maxcountryman Jun 17 '13 at 18:52

Unfortunately, this doesn't work for me, though I suspect it's Flask-OauthLib that is at issue. – tsalaroth Jun 1 '14 at 14:05

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I am having the very same problem on my dev environment, with Flask 0.10 and Flask-Login 0.1.3

looks like flask 0.10 now has unicode request headers so flask-login explodes when trying to encode an already encoded string...

Flask_login people are already working on it: <https://github.com/maxcountryman/flask-login/issues/78>

(EDIT) instant road to temporary happiness (as seen in github twin thread, thx Kofalt & Kave!)

```
pip uninstall flask ; pip uninstall werkzeug ; pip uninstall Flask-Login ; pip
install werkzeug==0.8.3 ; pip install flask==0.9 ; pip install Flask-Login==0.1.3
```

edited Jun 14 '13 at 15:07

answered Jun 13 '13 at 17:48



losu S.

119 8

Thanks for the link. I have now deleted the entire virtual-env and created a new stack. But I still get the same error: Babel==0.9.6 Flask==0.9 Flask-Assets==0.8 Flask-Babel==0.8 Flask-Bcrypt==0.5.2 Flask-Login==0.1.3 Flask-WTF==0.8.3 Jinja2==2.7 MarkupSafe==0.18 WTForms==1.0.4 Werkzeug==0.9 argparse==1.2.1 closure==20121212 cssmin==0.1.4 isodate==0.4.9 jsonschema==2.0.0 py-bcrypt==0.3 pymongo==2.5.2 python-dateutil==1.5 pytz==2013b rauth==0.5.4 requests==1.1.0 speaklater==1.3 webassets==0.8 wsgiref==0.1.2 – Houman Jun 13 '13 at 22:18

Same here Kave, maybe werkzeug has to be downgraded too? a emergency fix for flask-login has been requested however. – Carst Jun 13 '13 at 22:24

Use Flask 0.9 until there is a release or alternatively patch Flask-Login yourself. – maxcountryman Jun 14 '13 at 1:01

This will not work as it'll pull the latest werkzeug .. – rdsoze Jun 14 '13 at 11:23

My fork which fixes this issue:

<https://github.com/jgelens/flask-login/tree/0.1.4>

Install using:

```
pip install https://github.com/jgelens/flask-
login/archive/0f07b8fa783c40d09cb284d442a526f067bab28b.zip#egg=flask-Login
```

edited Jun 14 '13 at 9:28

answered Jun 14 '13 at 7:30



Jeffrey Gelens

47 2

As per losu S., this looks to be a Flask 0.10 problem. Try to install previous version of Flask in your virtual environment using:

```
pip install Flask==0.9
```


edited Jun 13 '13 at 23:00



Mark Hildreth

15.5k 1 50 70

answered Jun 13 '13 at 18:41



marcoseu

2,976 2 7 25

thanks. `pip install Flask==0.9` :-p – [Houman](#) Jun 13 '13 at 21:53

1 `pip install Flask==0.9` don't resolve problem because it will download `werkzeug==0.9` so you must use `pip install flask==0.9 werkzeug==0.8.3` – [tbicr](#) Jun 14 '13 at 11:06