# **Static Files**

## **Objectives:**

* Know what *static content* is in the context of web development
* Know where to put static files in a Flask web application
* Learn how to access our static content in our HTML files

Static content is any content that can be served up to the client without being modified, generated, or processed by the server. Every framework will have its own way of serving static content. Flask serves static content from a directory called **static**. Much like our **templates** directory, **the static directory *must* be called static**. This static folder will be used to serve all of your **stylesheets, images, and JavaScript files**.

Now, say we placed a CSS file, a JavaScript file, and an image directly into our static folder. We can then access them in our HTML templates, like so:

<!-- based on the folder structure on the right --><!-- linking a css style sheet --><link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="{{ url\_for('static', filename='my\_style.css') }}"><!-- linking a javascript file --><script type="text/javascript" src="{{ url\_for('static', filename='my\_script.js') }}"></script><!-- linking an image --><img src="{{ url\_for('static', filename='my\_img.png') }}">

F,{1e80fa87-6d07-4bd9-a4fc-8a42852d88f5}{180},3.125,3.125

**Note:** although Flask knows to look for static files in the static directory, we must tell it when and where to do so, as shown above.

## **Organization**

It is common to create a few more folders to organize our static files into categories according to document type. We can call them **css**, **js**, and **img** and house the corresponding files in the different folders. We can reflect these changes in our previous tags with the following changes in the href/src attributes. Notice the way we change the file name in the url\_for function:

<!-- linking a css style sheet --><link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="{{ url\_for('static', filename='css/my\_style.css') }}"><!-- linking a javascript file --><script type="text/javascript" src="{{ url\_for('static', filename='js/my\_script.js') }}"></script><!-- linking an image --><img src="{{ url\_for('static', filename='img/my\_img.png') }}">

F,{1e80fa87-6d07-4bd9-a4fc-8a42852d88f5}{224},3.125,3.125

**Note: When using static files, your browser will likely cache them. If you are making changes in static files and they don't appear to be updating, do a hard refresh of the page in your browser: ctrl + shift + r (Windows) or cmd + shift + r (Mac).**