

Intro to Flask

Presented by Jeremie Bornais

Sample code available at flask.bornais.ca



A Little About Me

- President of the UWindsor Computer Science Society
- Co-Founder of WinHacks and BorderHacks
- Software developer intern at Publicis Sapient, Assent and Green Shield
- Research & Teaching assistant at UWindsor
- Project Lead at Google Developer Student Club
- 10X Hackathon participant

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Agenda

1. About Flask

- Overview of the framework, what it is, why you should use it

2. Installation

- Simple step by step installation instructions

3. Your First App

- The structure of a Flask app, and getting it up and running

4. Routes and Templates

- Adding new routes to the app, rendering templates, inheriting from templates

5. Next Steps

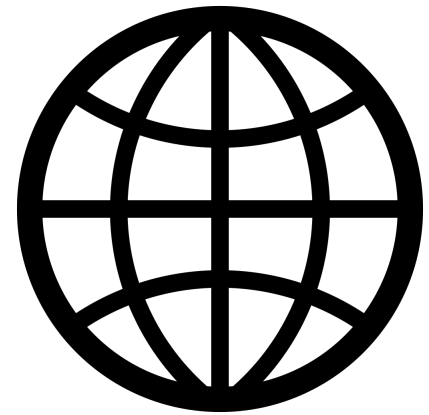
- SQLAlchemy, User Authentication, and other ways to extend your app

6. Interactive Demo

- We'll be making our own Flask app from scratch!

About Flask

What it is and why you should use it



What is Flask?

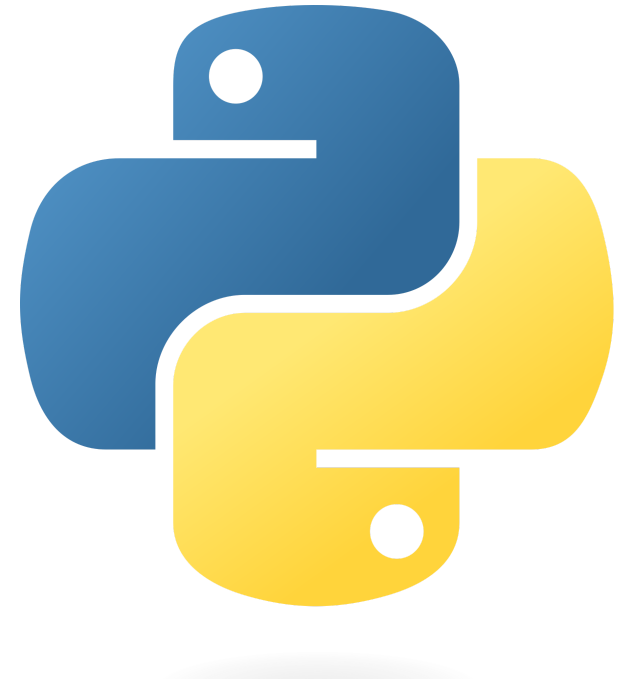
- A micro web framework written in Python
- Used for coding the back end of websites
- Very light by design
- Has many additional addons that can be used in addition to it (WTForms, SQLAlchemy, Flask-Login. etc.)

Why use it?

- Very simple to get started
- Many great addons
- Hackathon-friendly
- Scales well
- More customizable, let's you decide how you want to solve certain problems

Installation

Just a "pip install" away!

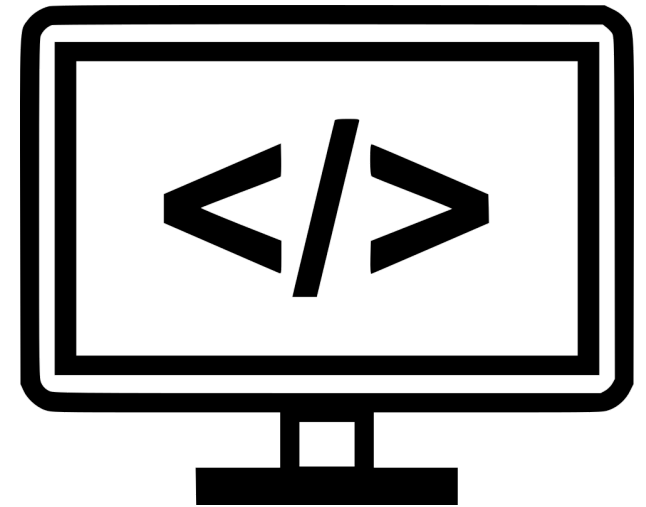


"pip install flask"

- Python 3.5+ is required to install Flask
- Pip must also be installed to be able to install it
- **Venv** is recommended to make handling libraries easier
- Simply run `pip install flask` to install it!
- You may need to use `pip3` instead of `pip` if you're on a Linux or Unix system
- Link to download Python and pip: python.org

Your First App

Boilerplate code to get you started



The Bare Minimum

```
from flask import Flask
app = Flask(__name__)

@app.route('/')
def hello_world():
    return 'Hello, World!'

if __name__ == "__main__":
    app.run(debug=True)
```

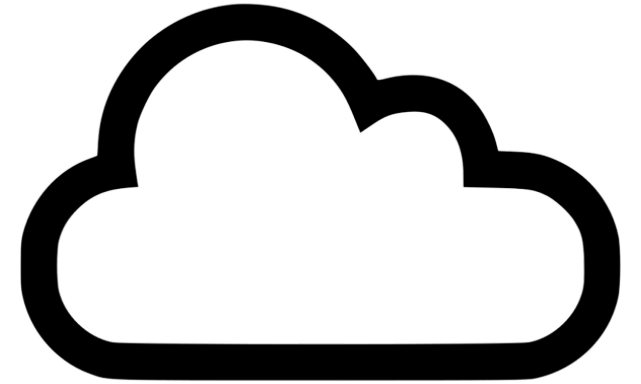
1. Save this file to **app.py**
2. Run `python app.py` (You may need to run `python3 app.py` instead)
3. Go to <http://127.0.0.1:5000/>

Common structure of a Flask app

- app.py
- config.json
- static/
 - style.css
 - script.js
 - ...
- templates/
 - layout.html
 - home.html
 - ...

Routes and Templates

Add pages, use real HTML files



Common Functions

`render_template()`

Used to render an HTML template file in the "templates" folder

`url_for()`

Used to find the URL of a particular route, often used for links and specifying file sources (ex. css files)

`redirect()`

Used to redirect the user to a different URL or route. Often used with `url_for()` to redirect to different routes on the website

Your Own Routes

```
@app.route('/about')
def about():
    return render_template('about.html')

@app.route('/contact')
def contact():
    return render_template('contact.html')
```

Passing Data to Routes

```
@app.route('/posts/<post_id>')
def posts(post_id):
    # do something with post_id
    return render_template('about.html')
```

Linking this route with url_for():

```
<a href="{{ url_for('posts', post_id=4) }}">View Post</a>
```

Templates & Inheritance

In layout.html:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <title>Title</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    {% block content %}{% endblock %}
  </body>
</html>
```

In home.html:

```
{% extends 'layout.html' %}
{% block content %}
<h1>Hello World!</h1>
{% endblock %}
```


More on Templates

Using a for loop:

```
{% for contact in contacts %}  
  <h3>{{ contact }}</h3>  
{% endfor %}
```

Using an if statement:

```
{% if current_user.is_authenticated %}  
  <h3>Welcome User!</h3>  
{% else %}  
  <h3>You Must Login!</h3>  
{% endif %}
```

Next Steps

Extending your app's functionality

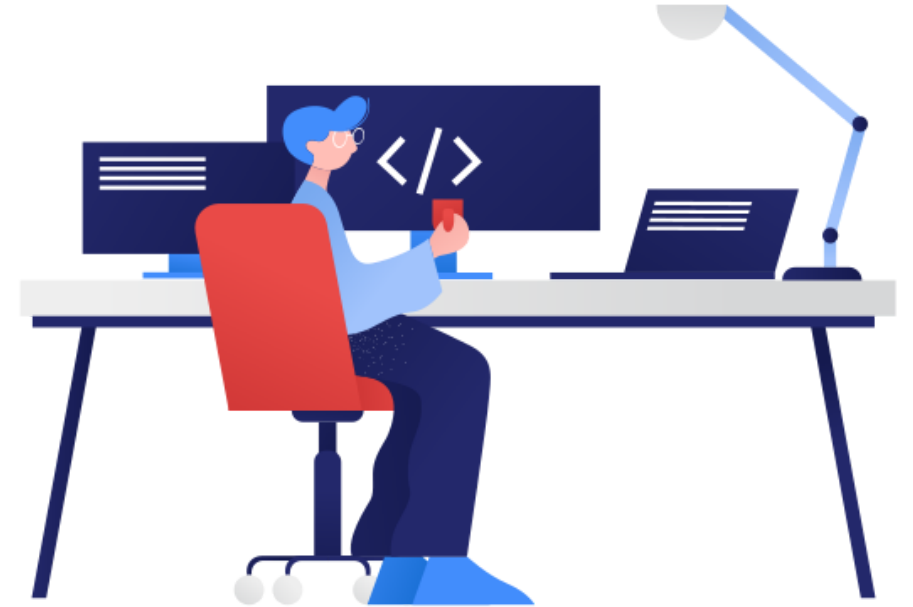


Common packages used with Flask

- Flask-SQLAlchemy
 - Simple extension that allows you to connect to a variety of SQL databases
- Flask-Login
 - Handles user sessions, makes authentication a breeze.
- Gunicorn
 - When used in conjunction with a reverse proxy (like caddy), allows for the easy deployment of the app.
- Flask-Uploads
 - Makes handling user file uploads simple and secure.
- bcrypt
 - Used for hashing and checking passwords, makes authentication more secure.

Interactive Demo

Let's make something!



Questions?

Ask away!



THANK YOU FOR JOINING!

I hope you learned something new 😊

Remember, the source code and these slides can be found here:
github.com/jere-mie/flask-workshop