

Flask – Templates

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It is possible to return the output of a function bound to a certain URL in the form of HTML. For instance, in the following script, **hello()** function will render **'Hello World'** with **<h1>** tag attached to it.

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

@app.route('/')
def index():
    return '<html><body><h1>Hello World</h1></body></html>'

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

However, generating HTML content from Python code is cumbersome, especially when variable data and Python language elements like conditionals or loops need to be put. This would require frequent escaping from HTML.

This is where one can take advantage of **Jinja2** template engine, on which Flask is based. Instead of returning hardcoded HTML from the function, a HTML file can be rendered by the **render_template()** function.

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

@app.route('/')
def index():
    return render_template('hello.html')

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

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The term '**web templating system**' refers to designing an HTML script in which the variable data can be inserted dynamically. A web template system comprises of a template engine, some kind of data source and a template processor.

Flask uses **jinja2** template engine. A web template contains HTML syntax interspersed placeholders for variables and expressions (in these case Python expressions) which are replaced values when the template is rendered.

The following code is saved as **hello.html** in the templates folder.

```
<!doctype html>
<html>
  <body>

    <h1>Hello {{ name }}!</h1>

  </body>
</html>
```

Next, run the following script from Python shell.

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

@app.route('/hello/<user>')
def hello_name(user):
    return render_template('hello.html', name = user)

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

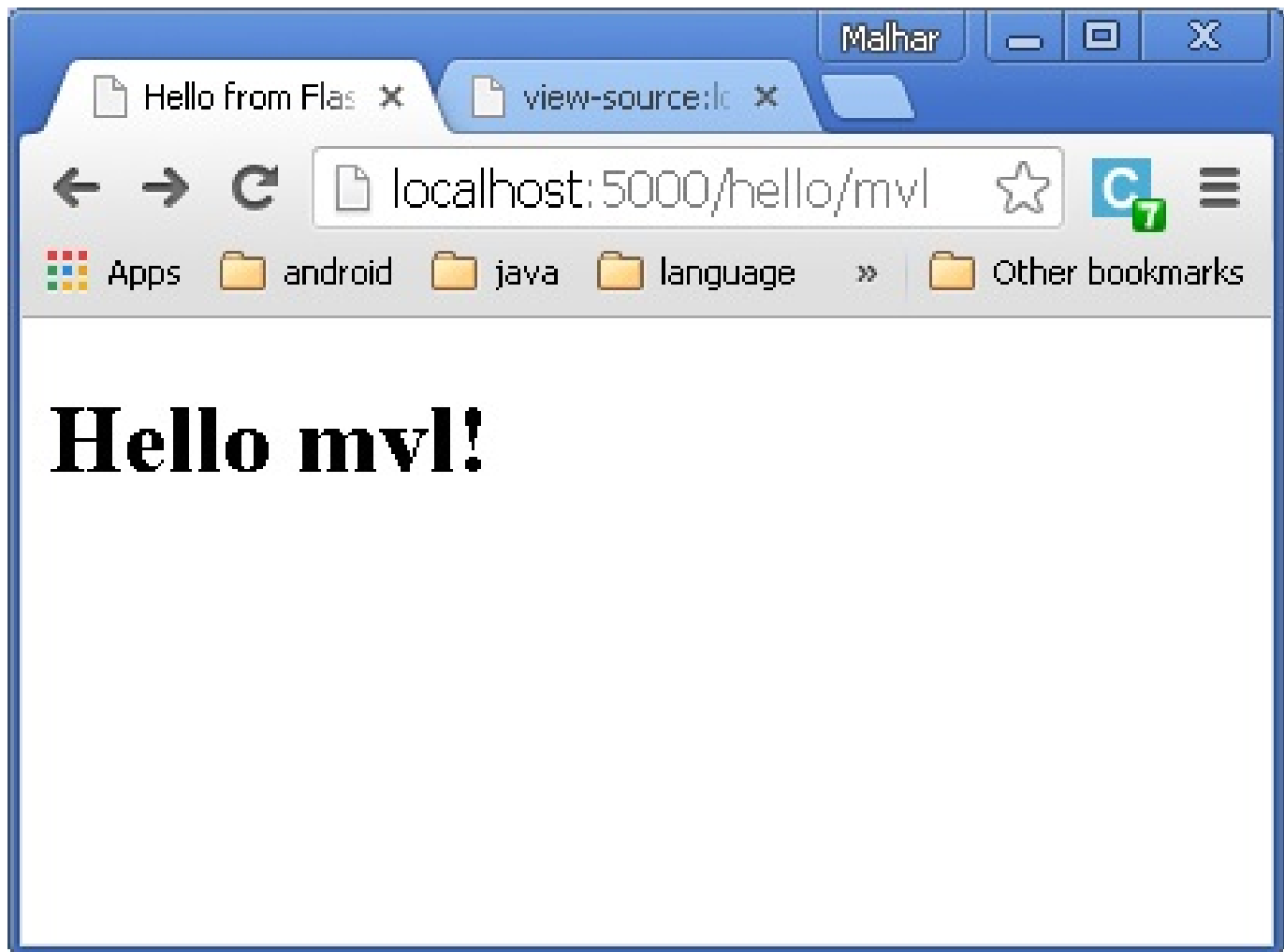
As the development server starts running, open the browser and enter URL as - **http://localhost:5000/hello/mvl**

The **variable** part of URL is inserted at **{{ name }}** place holder.

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The **Jinja2** template engine uses the following delimiters for escaping from HTML.

{% ... %} for Statements

{{ ... }} for Expressions to print to the template output

{# ... #} for Comments not included in the template output

... ## for Line Statements

In the following example, use of conditional statement in the template is demonstrated. The URL rule to the **hello()** function accepts the integer parameter. It is passed to the **hello.html** template. Inside it, the value of number received (marks) is compared (greater or less than 50) and accordingly HTML is conditionally rendered.

The Python Script is as follows –

```
from flask import Flask, render_template
```

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HTML template script of **hello.html** is as follows –

```
<!doctype html>
<html>
  <body>
    {% if marks>50 %}
      <h1> Your result is pass!</h1>
    {% else %}
      <h1>Your result is fail</h1>
    {% endif %}
  </body>
</html>
```

Note that the conditional statements **if-else** and **endif** are enclosed in delimiter **{%..%}**.

Run the Python script and visit URL **http://localhost/hello/60** and then **http://localhost/hello/30** to see the output of HTML changing conditionally.

The Python loop constructs can also be employed inside the template. In the following script, the **result()** function sends a dictionary object to template **results.html** when URL **http://localhost:5000/result** is opened in the browser.

The Template part of **result.html** employs a **for loop** to render key and value pairs of dictionary object **result{}** as cells of an HTML table.

Run the following code from Python shell.

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

@app.route('/result')
def result():
    dict = {'phy':50,'che':60,'maths':70}
    return render_template('result.html', result = dict)

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

Save the following HTML script as **result.html** in the templates folder.

```
<!doctype html>
<html>
  <body>
    <table border = 1>
```

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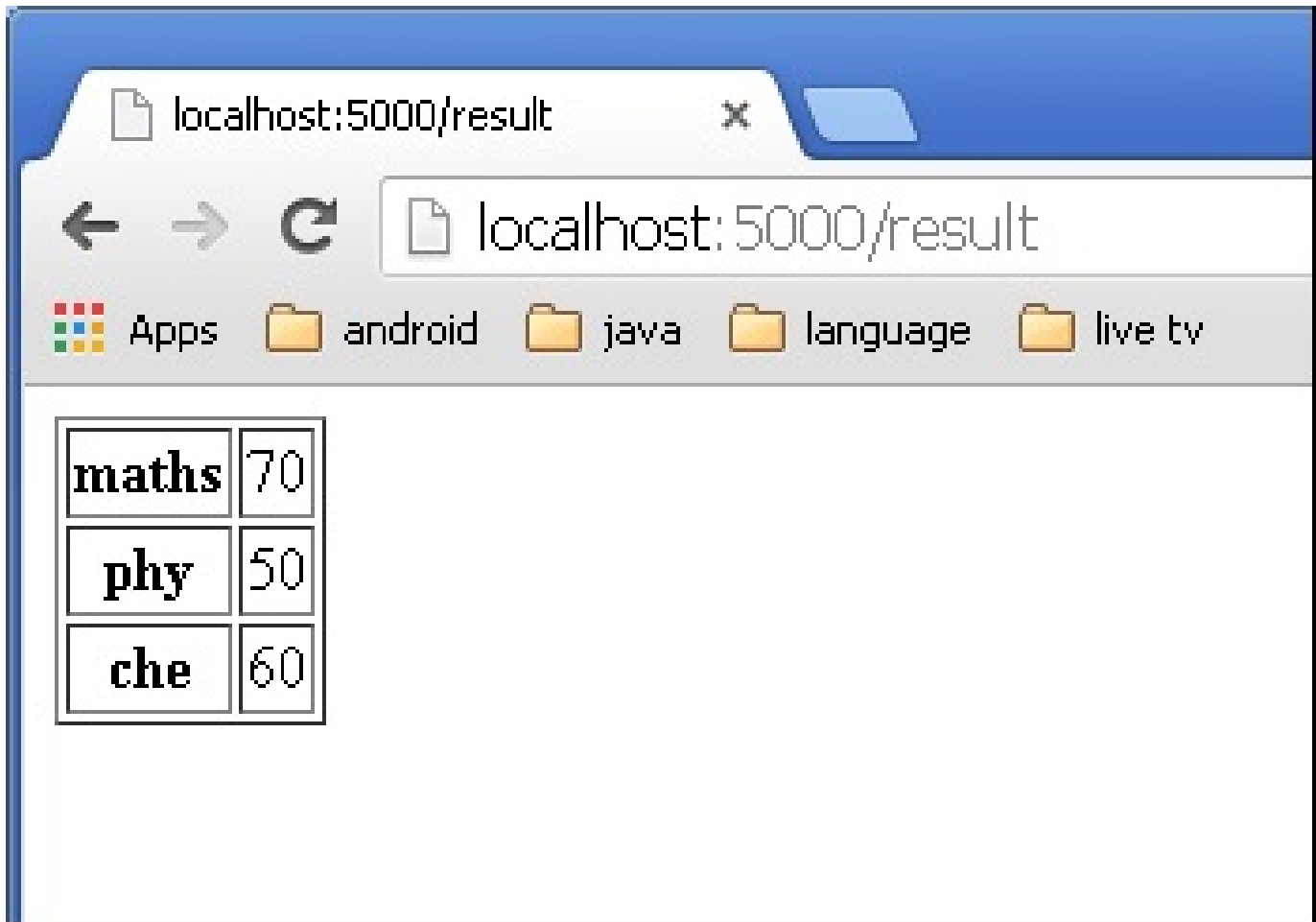
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```
</body>
</html>
```

Here, again the Python statements corresponding to the **For** loop are enclosed in `{%..%}` whereas, the expressions **key and value** are put inside `{{ }}`.

After the development starts running, open **`http://localhost:5000/result`** in the browser to get the following output.

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