CHAPTER 8

Building a Web Interface for Melissa

In this chapter, you build a web interface for Melissa by using some open source JavaScript libraries to record the audio using the user's web browser and saving the file to a `.wav` format. The file is sent to a Python program, which sends it to the Google Speech Recognition API for recognition.

Accessing Melissa through your terminal may seem intimidating to users who are not used to working on the command line. Such an interface doesn't work for many people who are not developers. Your current interface is good for research and development purposes, but it is not a user-facing product. Building a web interface for operating Melissa will help. It isn't the best workflow for operating a virtual assistant like Melissa via the Web, but its simplicity guarantees that you can understand what needs to be done; after grasping the basic concepts, you can improve it.

Operating Workflow

You can build a web interface with the help of Python's `web.py`. The user opens the web site to access Melissa's web interface, clicks a button, starts speaking, and then clicks the same button to stop the recording. Then the user clicks the Save button to save the `.wav` file. They upload the WAV file through the web form, which sends it to the Python server and responds accordingly (see Figure 8-1).

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