

The Scenario

Assume that you have built a model in Python and on top of that, you have built a Flask API. Regarding the UI, you prefer to work with Shiny. So, the scenario is that you want to share your Python Flask API using R Shiny. Let's see how we can do it with a hands-on example.

The Flask API

We have provided an example of a [Flask API for Sentiment Analysis](#). For convenience, we provide the code below:

The `requirements.txt` file is the following:

```
certifi==2020.12.5
chardet==4.0.0
click==7.1.2
Flask==1.1.2
idna==2.10
itsdangerous==1.1.0
Jinja2==2.11.3
MarkupSafe==1.1.1
requests==2.25.1
urllib3==1.26.3
vaderSentiment==3.3.2
Werkzeug==1.0.1
```

The `application.py` file:

```
from flask import Flask, request, jsonify
from vaderSentiment.vaderSentiment import SentimentIntensityAnalyzer

analyzer = SentimentIntensityAnalyzer()

application = Flask(__name__)

def get_sentiment(my_text):
    vs = analyzer.polarity_scores(my_text)

    sentiment = ''
    if vs['compound'] >= 0.05:
        sentiment = 'Positive'
    elif vs['compound'] <= -0.05:
        sentiment = 'Negative'
    else:
        sentiment = 'Neutral'

    return(sentiment)
```

```

@application.route("/endpoint", methods=['GET', 'POST'])
def sentiment_endpoint():
    if request.method == 'POST':
        json_dict = request.get_json()
        if 'my_text' in json_dict:
            result = get_sentiment(json_dict['my_text'])
            return jsonify({'output' : result})
        else:
            return jsonify({
                "status": "failed",
                "message": "parameter 'my_text' is required!"
            })

    if request.method == 'GET':

        my_text = request.args.get('my_text')
        result = get_sentiment(my_text)
        return jsonify({'output' : result})

if __name__ == '__main__':
    application.run()

```

Call an API with R

We will provide an example of how you can call the above Flask API with R. For this example, we run the API locally, that is why the URL is <http://127.0.0.1:5000> and the sentiment analysis, the route is the `endpoint` that is why we will call the <http://127.0.0.1:5000/endpoint> URL.

Let's get the sentiment of the sentence:

What a great experience! I feel really happy 😊

```

library(jsonlite)
library(httr)

url="http://127.0.0.1:5000/endpoint"

body<-list(my_text="What a great experience! I feel really happy :)")

b<-POST(url, body = body, encode = "json")

t1<-content(b, type="application/json")

t1

```

Output:

```
$output
[1] "Positive"
```

As expected, the sentiment of the sentence was **positive**.

Build a Shiny Application

We have provided an example of [How to Share your Machine Learning Models with Shiny](#). It would be helpful to have a look at it since we will apply the same architecture.

The Shiny Application will have two functionalities

- To get a phrase as input and to return the sentiment such as “**positive**”, “**neutral**”, “**negative**”.
- To has an option to **upload** a .txt file, tab-separated with many phrases and to return a .txt file by adding a column of the sentiments.

Let's build the Shiny App:

```
library(shiny)
library(DT)
library(tidyverse)
library(jsonlite)
library(httr)

# Define UI for application that draws a histogram
ui <- fluidPage(

  # Application title
  titlePanel("Sentiment Analysis"),

  # Sidebar with a slider input for number of bins
  sidebarLayout(
    sidebarPanel(

      textInput("caption", label="Enter your text here.",
value="", placeholder = "Phrase to get a Sentiment..."),
      verbatimTextOutput("value"),

      # Input: Select a file ----
      fileInput("file1", "upload csv file here",
        multiple = FALSE,
        accept = c("text/csv",
          "text/comma-separated-values,
text/plain",
          ".csv")),

      # Button
      downloadButton("downloadData", "Download the Predictions")
    ),
```

```

    # Show the table with the predictions
    mainPanel(
      verbatimTextOutput("Sentiment"),
      DT::dataTableOutput("mytable")
    )
  )
)

# Define server logic required to draw a histogram
server <- function(input, output) {

  reactiveDF<-reactive({
    req(input$file1)
    df <- read.csv(input$file1$datapath, sep="\t", stringsAsFactors
= FALSE)

    url="http://127.0.0.1:5000/endpoint"

    fdf<-NULL
    for (i in 1:nrow(df)) {
      body<-list(my_text=df[i,1])
      b<-POST(url, body = body, encode = "json")
      t1<-content(b, type="application/json")
      tmpdf<-data.frame(InputText=df[i,1], Sentiment=t1$output)

      fdf<-rbind(fdf, tmpdf)
    }
    return(fdf)

  })

  output$mytable <- DT::renderDataTable({
    req(input$file1)

    return(DT::datatable(reactiveDF(), options = list(pageLength =
100), filter = c("top")))
  })

  reactiveInput<-reactive({
    req(input$caption)

    url="http://127.0.0.1:5000/endpoint"

    body<-list(my_text=input$caption)

```

```

    b<-POST(url, body = body, encode = "json")

    t1<-content(b, type="application/json")

    df<-data.frame(Sentiment=t1$output)

    return(df)

  })

  output$Sentiment<-renderText({

    req(input$caption)
    reactiveInput()$Sentiment

  })

  # Downloadable csv of selected dataset ----
  output$downloadData <- downloadHandler(
    filename = function() {
      paste("data-", Sys.Date(), ".csv", sep="")
    },
    content = function(file) {
      write.csv(reactiveDF(), file, row.names = FALSE)
    }
  )

}

# Run the application
shinyApp(ui = ui, server = server)

```

Get the Sentiments

Let's see how the Shiny App works.

Get the Sentiment of a document in an interactive way

Let give as input the following input:

kudos! Great job!

As we can see, the Shiny App give us the chance to give the input in and it returns the sentiment in an interactive way

http://127.0.0.1:3642 Open in Browser Publish

Sentiment Analysis

Enter your text here.

kudos! Great Job!

upload csv file here

Browse... No file selected

Download the Predictions

Positive

Get the Sentiment of multiple documents in an interactive way

In case we have many documents, like thousands of reviews, and we want to get the sentiment of each one, the Shiny App gives us the option to upload the data and it also to download them with an extra column of the sentiment score.

The input file

```
1 InputText
2 What a perfect day today! I feel lucky
3 This is a new post from Predictive Hacks
4 I feel frustrated :(
```

Let's upload it to Shiny and get the results:

http://127.0.0.1:3642 Open in Browser Publish

Sentiment Analysis

Enter your text here.

Phrase to get a Sentiment...

upload csv file here

Browse... eg_input.txt

Upload complete

Download the Predictions

Show 100 entries Search:

InputText	Sentiment
What a perfect day today! I feel lucky	Positive
This is a new post from Predictive Hacks	Neutral
I feel frustrated :(Negative

Showing 1 to 3 of 3 entries Previous 1 Next

As we can see, it accepted as input the txt file and it returned the input text with the predicted sentiments. We can also download the file which is the following:

```
1 "InputText","Sentiment"
2 "What a perfect day today! I feel lucky","Positive"
3 "This is a new post from Predictive Hacks","Neutral"
4 "I feel frustrated :(","Negative"
5
```

The Takeaway

The takeaway is that you can work with Python and Flask APIs for the backend part and to work with the Shiny for the front end to share your models as applications. So, let's keep in mind that Shiny can be an alternative to Flask jinja.