Group 6

Analysis- Assignment 3- Architecture Choice

Why Flask

For our web application development we have chosen to use Python’s Flask. The main reason for our choice after discussions of the team members was the familiarity of more than two of the members with Python and the simplicity of Flask. Additionally, the fact that there is an easy to use extension for mySQL which will help us build our relational database. Other advantages of Flask include comprehensible route redirections and URL building with a url\_for() function which may be useful (not sure yet if we’re going to use it but it’s better to know that the option is there and readily available than not). Moreover, Jinja 2 can be used with Flask, which has a configurable syntax and is very easy to debug - thus will save time for us later on. Finally, Flask has support for secure cookies by an object called session which will be very useful for future developments where we plan to get our web app live, as we will need secure sessions. Overall, we believe Flask is a good choice as it is flexible, easily extensible, very English-like and in general suitable for small MVC apps

An alternative we considered was using PHP. We came to the conclusion that this is not our best option as it seemed a lot more complicated and unclear. The magic\_quotes feature seemed to be problematic for PHP 4 or 5. In general although we found a large number of online resources such as tutorials and debugging help forums they seemed to be confusing and controversial. Different versions of PHP even between 4.3 and 4.4 seemed to be incompatible, character-set support is very limited and references are syntactically difficult to follow. Thus due to these limitations, we thought PHP would not be suitable for our project.