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Principles of Programming Language- Final Project Writeup

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I have put a lot of hard work into this project as it was my first time working with Flask for web development. I was really happy that professor liked my idea and couldn’t wait to start working on it. I enjoyed working on it, but to be honest, it wasn’t a smooth ride.

The main aspect of the project is **web scraping**. I used very famous and useful package beautiful soup (along with requests) to scrape the webpages. Not only that, I have used python’s google module to search the web. As I learned more about it, I realized that web scraping is not legal and could result in google blocking your IP. And for that reasons, the code will just produce six results for the searched term.

Not only that, I had a hard time figuring out how to pass values from html to my python function and learned about **AJAX**. Took me two days to figure out how that works. Another thing I learned is **Threading**, that we didn’t do in class as well. I was familiar with the concept but had never used it. I used it to wait for multiple process to finish before executing the next one. This was very critical, as we were adding the data into various (local) databases, as soon as the results come up.

The main idea here is to search for pdf file by just typing the search term and the code should take care of it. Other important features are saving the results, keep a track of history, and viewing details about the searched URLs. Grader should keep in mind that this is not a replacement of any high-profile search engine, but in fact, a simple and fun interpretation and a very simplistic and general-purpose search engine.