GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Flask Basics

Wesley Bosse

8/20/2019

Today's Lesson

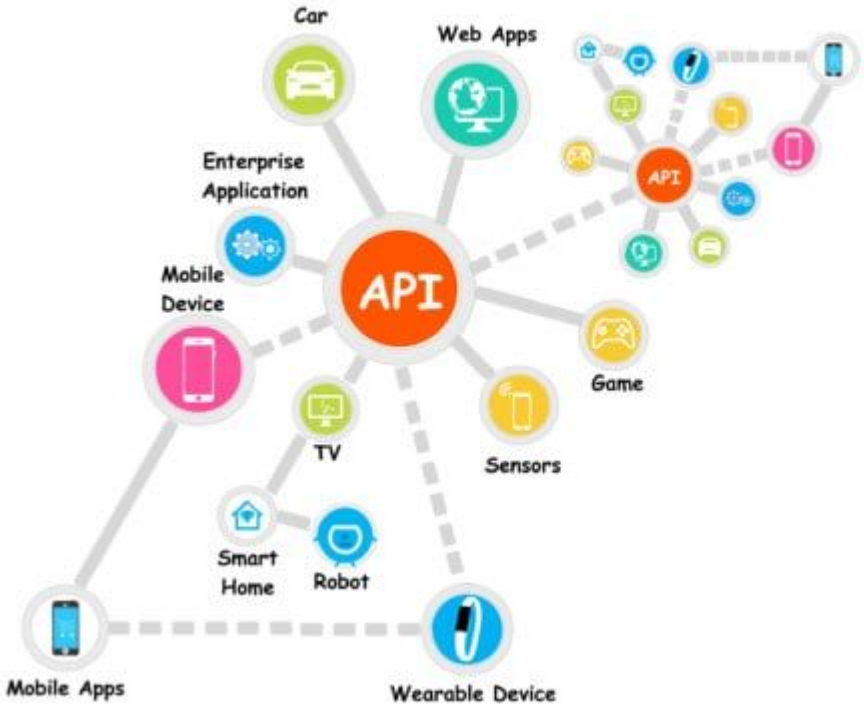
After this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Explain what flask is and what a route is.

2. Spin up a simple web API using the flask framework.

3. Create app routes to perform a variety of tasks, including serving data to or collecting input from our users.

What is Flask?



A library for building web services like websites and APIs

Textbook Definition

Flask is a *lightweight* **web framework** for python.

- **Web Framework**: software development pattern that supports the development of web applications, web APIs, and so on.
- *Lightweight*: Flask does not enforce any outside dependencies while some web frameworks make you use a specific database connector, template engine, etc.

Review: Web APIs

The most common type of API that we interact with is a Web API. These make websites work or allow users to access a database.

Our typical web api usage up to this point:

We make some request:	The API responds to our request:	We do something with the response:
GET www.reddit.com	return some_html	BeautifulSoup(res.content)

How do we know when/how to respond?

Users make requests to a specific URL which can be broken down into two parts: the **base URL** and the **route**.

e.g. https://www.reddit.com/r/BirdsArentReal.json

Base URL: https://www.reddit.com
Route: /r/BirdsArentReal.json

Our job as API developers is to build out each of the routes that we want our users to be able to access.

Bonus: Pickling

- As a part of today's codealong, we will be using a pre-trained model to serve predictions to our user. The pre-trained model is saved to a file in the repo, **model.p**.
- In python, the process of saving/opening an object to/from a file is called **Pickling.** The object is not changed in any way by this process.
- For more on this process or to see the exact code, please refer to the **pickle_flow.ipynb** in this repo. Your local instructor will also be a great resource for additional info.


GA