How to setup environment variables for `flask run` on Windows?

Asked 2 years, 10 months ago   Active 2 months ago   Viewed 40k times

▲

16

▼

🔖

6

🕓

I just started learning flask and I am stuck at setting up the Flask environment variables. I don't know how to setup the environment variables. Whenever I use the `flask run` command, I encounter the following error:

> Error message : Could not locate a Flask application. You did not provide the "FLASK_APP" environment variable, and a "wsgi.py" or "app.py" module was not found in the current directory.

I did a lot of google searches to setup environment variables on Windows but I am unable to find a solution and sometimes I am not able to understand the solution.

How to do this ? How to get the "app.py" or "wsgi.py" ?

```
C:\Users\AK\Desktop\Flask_Blog>set FLASK_APP = flaskblog.py

C:\Users\AK\Desktop\Flask_Blog>flask run
 * Environment: production
   WARNING: Do not use the development server in a production environment.
   Use a production WSGI server instead.
 * Debug mode: off
Usage: flask run [OPTIONS]

Error: Could not locate a Flask application. You did not provide the "FLASK_APP" environment variable, and a "wsgi.py" o
r "app.py" module was not found in the current directory.

C:\Users\AK\Desktop\Flask_Blog>_
```

python   flask   environment-variables

Share Edit Follow

edited Jan 13 at 1:56   asked Jul 1 '18 at 0:16

　🧑 Gino Mempin   🟪 user9818569
　12.1k 19 47 68   **197** 1 1 6

1   You should post the structure of your code, that way people can help you faster. Anyway take a look over here: stackoverflow.com/questions/49238583/flask-run-vs-python – Solaiman Jul 1 '18 at 0:43 ✏️

15 Answers

Active	Oldest	Votes

▲

16

▼

🕓

you need to provide an application environment. So Flask needs to know, the `.py` file to run. Try to run that command

```
export FLASK_APP=application.py
```

where `application.py` - name of your Flask app in my case it is application.py.

after that

```
flask run
```

Share Edit Follow

edited May 31 '19 at 7:30
Tech at The Sparks Foundation
847 2 4 14

answered Aug 7 '18 at 12:50
Vlad Tagunkov
171 3

▲

13

▼

🕓

Windows PowerShell

```
set FLASK_APP=hello.py
$env:FLASK_APP = "hello.py"
flask run
```

Share Edit Follow

edited Feb 23 at 15:41

answered Aug 31 '19 at 6:15
Deepak Gautam
583 6 13

hope this could help someone, first set flask env like this inside the python virtual env (for windows command prompt)

5

```
set FLASK_ENV = development
```

then

```
set FLASK_APP = app.py
```

(app.py should be your flask application file)

Share Edit Follow

edited May 25 '19 at 16:51   answered May 25 '19 at 16:23

vimuth   pl-jay
2,888   13   42   72   **621**   5   19

I used this and it worked because I am doing it in Windows PowerShell.

5

```
$env:FLASK_APP = "app.py"
```

however, `flask run` didn't and gave me could not import application.

Share Edit Follow

edited May 31 '19 at 7:54   answered May 31 '19 at 2:02

Tech at The Sparks   midsuh
Foundation   **51**   1   2
847   2   4   14

I don't think the 'flask run' command is the one which causes the error here. I got the same message error and the problem came from the fact I copied/pasted the `set FLASK_APP` and `$env: FLASK_APP` commands as written in the documentation. I had to add spaces before and after '>' or '=', and then everything worked.

4

Example: this command didn't work `'C:\path\to\app>set FLASK_APP=hello.py'`, but this one did `'C:\path\to\app > set FLASK_APP = hello.py'`.

Maybe it's the same problem you have?

Share Edit Follow

edited May 31 '19 at 8:14

Tech at The Sparks Foundation
847 2 4 14

answered Jul 2 '18 at 14:12

Alice
43 1 3

```
$> set FLASK_APP=application.py
$> flask run
```

1

Share Edit Follow

edited Jan 13 at 1:56

Gino Mempin
12.1k 19 47 68

answered Jun 14 '19 at 18:32

seghair tarek
21 3

Thanks for your answer. Can you provide some additional explanation or resources to improve your answer? – squareskittles Jun 14 '19 at 18:36

Put "set FLASK_APP = app.py" then "flask run" in the cmd command make shore you have installed flask with "pip install flask" – seghair tarek Jun 15 '19 at 23:07

My error was also same but fortunately I was able to resolve it. Here you go,

1

```
D:\Development\Projects\Python_Projects\flask_blog>set FLASK_APP=app.py
D:\Development\Projects\Python_Projects\flask_blog>$env:FLASK_APP = "app.py"
D:\Development\Projects\Python_Projects\flask_blog>python -m  flask run
```

Share Edit Follow

answered Nov 7 '20 at 16:16

Arvind_K
11 2

You need to actually run it from your Windows command line, NOT the built in command line for something like Visual Studio Code. Run those commands from your windows command line, in the proper directory, and everything should work.

1

The reason this creates problems - Visual Studio Code creates a Powershell environment for your command line. You could use the recommended $env:FLASK_APP = "your_app.py" from within the VSC environment and that will work too.

A bit late but I hope this helps others!!!

Share Edit Follow

answered Apr 27 '20 at 8:11

T T_lastname
49 7

If you're using powershell, make sure you add quotations when setting the environment variable:

1

```
$env:FLASK_APP = "app.py
```

Then `flask run` should work.

Share Edit Follow

answered Jul 5 '18 at 20:23

maxcopeland
21 3

A step-wise solution is provided below:

0

1. Go to the folder where you have placed your flask app (on the command line)

2. Create a virtual environment as using the command (`$ py -m venv env`) *here 'venv' is the short form of the virtual environment and 'env' at the end represents the name of the environment which you want* (I have named it as env). Thereafter you can see at from the file explorer that a folder named 'env' is created in the folder stated at point #1 above.

3. Enter the following command (`$env\Scripts\activate`) by pressing enter this will turn on your virtual environment

4. Thereafter, enter the following command (`$set FLASK_APP=<your app name>.py`)

5. Enter the following command (`$flask run`)

Share Edit Follow

edited Mar 21 '20 at 10:21   answered Mar 21 '20 at 6:41

Pragyaditya Das   M Muhammad Adnan
1,220 3 22 37   Farooq

You need to specify the environment of the application. Like this

0

```
export FLASK_APP = application.py
```

after performing this operation

```
flask run
```

But my suggestion is that it will be easier for you to perform these operations there while creating your application, rather than constantly stating this in the terminal. After reviewing the documentation, if you do what I said, it will be enough to come to the terminal and run `python app.py runserver` in terminal.

You can check flask's documentation for that. https://flask.palletsprojects.com/en/1.1.x/patterns/appfactories/

Share Edit Follow

answered Jan 13 at 2:09

Gökay Gök
23   5

The similar error was appearing when I was trying to run the application. I have to change the path. I changed directory to the folder where hello.py was saved.

0

```
(venv) C:\Users\win10\flask-tutorial\myproject>cd venv
(venv) C:\Users\win10\flask-tutorial\myproject\venv>set FLASK_APP=hello.py
(venv) C:\Users\win10\flask-tutorial\myproject\venv>flask run
```

Share Edit Follow

answered May 15 '20 at 10:30

Yastika Kumar
57   6

I just had the same problem on Windows, using the command line. And problem was that I wasn't setting my app as the one that flask needs to run. So, in my case, I turned the debug mode on first (not required but convenient) with:

0

```
set FLASK_ENV=development
```

then:

```
set FLASK_ENV=server.py #where server.py is the name of my "app"
```

and finally ran flask:

```
flask run
```

Share Edit Follow

answered Feb 14 at 12:22

Hélio L
1

Try using app.py instead of different name

0

Share Edit Follow

answered Jan 13 at 0:09

Prasanth M
1   1

1   The question was more about how to properly set the environment variable. – Gino Mempin Jan 13 at 1:53

The `set` command works but to setup the environment, you need to make sure that you are in the right directory where the file is located. For example, if my application is `hello_world.py` and it is located at the `venv\hello\hello_world.py` , you need to make sure
0   that you are in the right directory before setting up `set FLASK_APP=hello_world.py` this is for windows but in another OS, you need to use `export` instead `set`

```
(venv) C:\Users\myProjects\venv\hello\set FLASK_APP=hello_world.py
```

Share Edit Follow

edited Jun 5 '20 at 7:25   answered Jun 5 '20 at 6:52

aminography   sarobidy manana
17.9k   11   51   56   **1**