# Codio Activity

## Developing an API for Distributed Environments

Q1: run the API.py code. Take a screenshot of the terminal output. What command did you use to compile and run the code?

```
codio@change-forest:~/workspace$ 11
total 3272
                                               436 Oct 19 19:24
106 Sep 5 22:32
drwxr-xr-x 1 codio codio
drwxr-xr-x 1 codio codio
-rw-r--r- 1 codio codio 1908 Oct 19 19:24 api.py
-rw-r--r- 1 codio codio 246 Sep 30 2020 .codio
-rw-r--r- 1 codio codio 0 Sep 30 2020 .codio-jupyter
-rw-r--r- 1 codio codio 6576 Sep 28 00:09 CommandLine.ipynb
-rw-r--r- 1 codio codio 72 Sep 30 2020 'Empty Notebook.ipynb'
       r--r-- 1 codio codio 3806 Oct 19 16:17 File_Encryption_RSA.ipynb
-rw-r--r-- 1 codio codio 4874 Oct 19 19:22 Flask_API.ipynb
-rw-r--r-- 1 codio codio 46 Sep 30 2020 .gitignore
drwxr-xr-x 1 codio codio 68 Sep 5 22:32 img/
-rw-r--r-- 1 codio codio 46 Sep 30 2020 .gitignore drwxr-xr-x 1 codio codio 68 Sep 5 22:32 img/ drwxr-xr-x 1 codio codio 386 Oct 19 19:23 .ipynb_checkpoints/
       r--r-- 1 codio codio 37695 Oct 19 19:24 .nbgrader.log
 -rw-r--r-- 1 codio codio 944 Sep 30 2020 README.md
-rw-r--r-- 1 codio codio 1249 Sep 30 2020 .settings
-rw-r--r-- 1 codio codio 3254884 Sep 6 00:31 Towers_of_Hanoi.ipynb
 -rw-r--r-- 1 codio codio 1507 Sep 6 01:35 'UK Postcodes.ipynb'
-rw-r--r-- 1 codio codio 72 Oct 19 19:23 Untitled.ipynb
codio@change-forest:~/workspace$ python api.py
Traceback (most recent call last):
   File "api.py", line 1, in <module>
  from flask import Flask
ImportError: No module named flask
codio@change-forest:~/workspace$
```

To compile and run the code, I issued the command "python api.py". This command then attempted to parse the code from top to bottom and produced an error regarding failure to locate the **flask** modules.

To resolve this compilation error, I issued the command "pip install flask" and also "pip install flask-restful" to obtain the necessary Python packages. However, this resulted in a failure on the virtual environment development box due to insufficient permissions:

```
codio@thange-forest:/workspaceSpip install flask
Collecting flask
Collecting flask
Collecting flask
Collecting flask
Downloading https://files.pythonhosted.org/packages/8f/b6/b4fdcb6d01ee20f9cfe81dcf9d3cd6c2f874b996f186f1c0b898c4a59c04/Fl
ask-2.0.2-py3-none-any.whl (95kh)
Downloading https://files.pythonhosted.org/packages/94/42/d8bca8e99789bcc35dfa9b03acaa8b518720d6e060163745bc2bf2ead842/Ji
nja2-3.0.2-py3-none-any.whl (133kh)
Downloading https://files.pythonhosted.org/packages/48/58/c8aa6a8e62cc75f39fee1092c45d6b6ba684122697d7ce7d53f64f98a129/c1
ick-8.0.3-py3-none-any.whl (27kh)
Downloading https://files.pythonhosted.org/packages/18/58/c8aa6a8e62cc75f39fee1092c45d6b6ba684122697d7ce7d53f64f98a129/c1
ick-8.0.3-py3-none-any.whl (27kh)
Downloading https://files.pythonhosted.org/packages/18/58/13751137805d1b8d97367a8a77cae4a792af14bb7ce58fbd071af294c740cf0/We
rkzeug-2.0.2-py3-none-any.whl (28kh)
Downloading https://files.pythonhosted.org/packages/18/58/c9aa6a8e62cc75f39fee1092c45d6b6ba684122697d7ce7d53f64f98a129/c1
ick-8.0.3-py3-none-any.whl (28kh)
Downloading https://files.pythonhosted.org/packages/18/58/c9aa6a8e62cc75f39fee1092c45d6b6ba684122697d7ce7d53f64f98a129/c1
ick-8.0.3-py3-none-any.whl (28kh)
Downloading https://files.pythonhosted.org/packages/18/68/c69f35afba9cdf140216d5add223a0c465b99d0f112b68a4ca426441019/it
collecting inportlib-metadata; python warsion < "3.6" (from click>=7.1.2->flask)
Downloading https://files.pythonhosted.org/packages/18/c6abf3c5abb6cfa1bbbcefa250182c50441074fdd3f803f6e76451fab43/da
callecting importlib-metadata; python warsion < "3.6" (from Werkeug)=2.0->flask)
Downloading https://files.pythonhosted.org/packages/fa/ca/75fac5856ab5cfa1bbbcefa250182c50441074fdd3f803f6e76451fab43/da
callecting importlib-metadata; python warsion < "3.6" (from Werkeug)=2.0->flask)
Downloading https://files.pythonhosted.org/packages/fa/ca/75fac5856ab5cfa1bbbcefa250182c50441074fdd3f803f6e76451fab43/da
callecting typing-extensions>-3.6.4; python warsion < "3.6" (from flask)
Downloading https://files.python
```

I then reissued the command using "pip install flask -user" to install packages without any root privileges or the need to run the **sudo** command.

```
codischange-forest:/workspaceS pip install flask-restful --user
Collecting flask-restful
Using cached https://files.pythomboted.org/packages/a9/02/Te2la73564fe0d9dla3a4ff478dfc407815c4e2fa46512lbcfc646ba5d15/P
lask_REGFULTO-0.3-pyy2.py3-none-any.whl
Requirement already satisfied: six=1.3.0 in /usr/lib/pythom3/dist-packages (from flask-restful) (1.11.0)
Collecting pytz (from flask-restful)
Using cached https://files.pythomboted.org/packages/d3/d3/d9f046b5dlc94a3aeab15f1867aa414f8ee9d196fae6865f1d6a0ee1a0b/p
ytz-2021.3-py2.py3-none-any.whl
Collecting anisof601-0.2 (from flask-restful)
Using cached https://files.pythomboted.org/packages/8f/b6/b4fdcb6d01ee20f9cfe8ldcf9d3cd6c2f874b996f186f1c0b898c4a59c04/F
lask-2.0.2-py3-none-any.whl
Collecting anisof601-0.2 (from flask-restful)
Using cached https://files.pythomboted.org/packages/8f/04/e97c12dc034791d7b504860acfcdd2963fa2lae6leaca1c9d31245f812c3/a
niss801-9.0 1.1py2-y3/rence-npy.whl
Collecting injac2-3.0 (from Plask-0).8->flask-restful)
Using cached https://files.pythomboted.org/packages/8f/42/d8bca8e99789bcc35dfa9b03acaa8b518720d6e060163745bc2bf2ead842/J
injac2-3.0.2-py3-none-any.whl
Collecting werkzeug-2.0 (from Plask-0.8->flask-restful)
Using cached https://files.pythomboted.org/packages/8f/36/6aa6a8e62cc75f39fee1092c45d6bcba684122697d7ce7d53f64f98a129/c
lick-0.3-py3-none-any.whl
Collecting ichk>7-1.2 (from Plask-0.8->flask-restful)
Using cached https://files.pythomboted.org/packages/8f/56/6aa6a8e62cc75f39fee1092c45d6bcba684122697d7ce7d53f64f98a129/c
lick-0.3-py3-none-any.whl
Collecting ichk>7-1.2 (from Plask>-0.8->flask-restful)
Using cached https://files.pythomboted.org/packages/8f/56/6aa6a8e62cc75f39fee1092c45d6bcba684122697d7ce7d53f64f98a129/c
lick-0.3-py3-none-any.whl
Collecting ichk>7-1.2 (from Plask>-0.8->flask-restful)
Using cached https://files.pythomboted.org/packages/8f/56/6aa6a8e62cc75f39fee1092c45d6bcba684122697d7ce7d53f64f98a129/c
lick-0.3-py3-none-any.whl
Collecting index this pythomboted.org/packages/8f/56/6aa6a8e62cc75f39fee1092c45d6bcba684122697
```

Figure 1 Installing flask-restful module

```
codio@change-forest:~/workspace$ pip install flask --user
Requirement already satisfied: flask in /home/codio/.local/lib/python3.6/site-packages (2.0.2)
Requirement already satisfied: Jinja2>=3.0 in /home/codio/.local/lib/python3.6/site-packages (from flask) (3.0.2)
Requirement already satisfied: click>=7.1.2 in /home/codio/.local/lib/python3.6/site-packages (from flask) (8.0.3)
Requirement already satisfied: itsdangerous>=2.0 in /home/codio/.local/lib/python3.6/site-packages (from flask) (2.0.1)
Requirement already satisfied: Werkzeug>=2.0 in /home/codio/.local/lib/python3.6/site-packages (from flask) (2.0.2)
Requirement already satisfied: MarkupSafe>=2.0 in /home/codio/.local/lib/python3.6/site-packages (from Jinja2>=3.0->flask)
(2.0.1)
Requirement already satisfied: importlib-metadata; python_version < "3.8" in /home/codio/.local/lib/python3.6/site-packages
(from click>=7.1.2->flask) (4.8.1)
Requirement already satisfied: dataclasses; python_version < "3.7" in /home/codio/.local/lib/python3.6/site-packages (from
Werkzeug>=2.0->flask) (0.8)
Requirement already satisfied: zipp>=0.5 in /home/codio/.local/lib/python3.6/site-packages (from importlib-metadata; python
_version < "3.8"->click>=7.1.2->flask) (3.6.0)
Requirement already satisfied: typing-extensions>=3.6.4; python_version < "3.8" in /home/codio/.local/lib/python3.6/site-packages (from importlib-metadata; python_version < "3.8"->click>=7.1.2->flask) (3.10.0.2)
WARNING: You are using pip version 19.1.1, however version 21.3 is available.
You should consider upgrading via the 'pip install --upgrade pip' command.
codio@change-forest:~/workspace$
```

Figure 2 Installing flask module

With the required packages installed, I then reissued the command "python api.py".

```
^Ccodio@change-forest:~/workspace$ python api.py
Traceback (most recent call last):
   File "api.py", line 1, in <module>
      from flask import Flask
ImportError: No module named flask
codio@change-forest:~/workspace$
```

Figure 3 Python v2.7 failed to launch API.py

This command failed. So, I reissued the command using the command "python --version" to note that the version used is "2.7.17".

Next, I attempted to run the command "python3 api.py" and success!

```
codio@change-forest:~/workspace$ python3 api.py
 * Serving Flask app 'api' (lazy loading)
 * Environment: production
    WARNING: This is a development server. Do not use it in a production deployment.
    Use a production WSGI server instead.
 * Debug mode: on
 * Running on http://127.0.0.1:5000/ (Press CTRL+C to quit)
 * Restarting with stat
 * Debugger is active!
 * Debugger PIN: 857-140-786
```

Figure 4 Python 3.6 launches API.py

Q2: run the following command at the terminal prompt: "w3m <a href="http://127.0.0.1:5000/user/Ann">http://127.0.0.1:5000/user/Ann</a>". What happens when this command is run, and why?

The command failed to execute because of a missing package "w3m". To correct for this missing package, one must ensure that the apt list is up to date:

```
* Documentation: https://help.ubuntu.com
                   https://landscape.canonical.com
  Management:
 * Support:
                   https://ubuntu.com/advantage
 * Welcome to the Codio Terminal!
 * https://docs.codio.com/project/ide/boxes/#overview
 * Your Codio Box domain is: change-forest.codio.io
Last login: Tue Oct 19 19:49:59 2021 from 192.168.10.156
codio@change-forest:~/workspace$ node --version
-bash: node: command not found
codio@change-forest:~/workspace$ w3m
-bash: w3m: command not found
codio@change-forest:~/workspace$ sudo apt update
Hit:1 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic InRelease
Get:2 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-updates InRelease [88.7 kB]
Get:3 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security InRelease [88.7 kB]
Get:4 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-updates/main amd64 Packages [2,267 kB]
Get:5 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/main amd64 Packages [1,910 kB]
Get:6 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-updates/main Translation-en [440 kB]
Get:7 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-updates/restricted amd64 Packages [508 kB]
Get:8 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-updates/restricted Translation-en [69.0 kB]
Get:9 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-updates/universe amd64 Packages [1,758 kB]
Get:10 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-updates/universe Translation-en [378 kB]
Get:ll http://us-east-l.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-updates/multiverse amd64 Packages [27.3 kB]
Get:12 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-updates/multiverse Translation-en [6,808 B]
Get:13 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/main Translation-en [346 kB]
Get:14 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/restricted amd64 Packages [474 kB]
Get:15 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/restricted Translation-en [64.0 kB]
Get:16 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/universe amd64 Packages [1,142 kB]
Get:17 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/universe Translation-en [262 kB]
Get:18 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/multiverse amd64 Packages [20.9 kB]
Get:19 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic-security/multiverse Translation-en [4,732 B]
Fetched 9,855 kB in 3s (3,575 kB/s)
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
145 packages can be upgraded. Run 'apt list --upgradable' to see them.
codio@change-forest:~/workspace$
```

Figure 5 Updating apt list

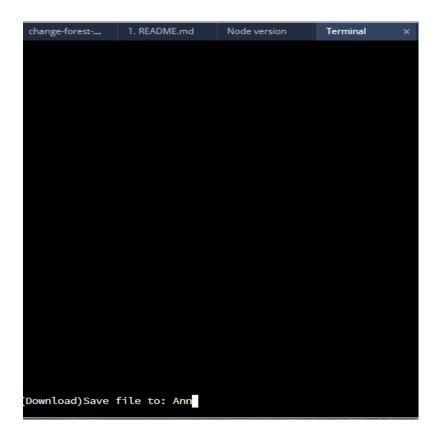
Next, it is necessary to install the w3m package:

```
codio@change-forest:~/workspace$ sudo apt install w3m
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
The following additional packages will be installed:
  libgclc2
 Suggested packages:
  cmigemo dict dict-wn dictd libsixel-bin man-db mpv w3m-el w3m-img xdg-utils xsel
The following NEW packages will be installed:
  libgclc2 w3m
0 upgraded, 2 newly installed, 0 to remove and 145 not upgraded.
Need to get 1,006 kB of archives.
After this operation, 2,939 kB of additional disk space will be used.
Do you want to continue? [Y/n] y
Get:1 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic/main amd64 libgc1c2 amd64 1:7.4.2-8ubuntu1 [81.8 kB]
Get:2 http://us-east-1.ec2.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic/main amd64 w3m amd64 0.5.3-36build1 [924 kB]
Fetched 1,006 kB in ls (1,826 kB/s)
Selecting previously unselected package libgc1c2:amd64.
(Reading database ... 33784 files and directories currently installed.)
Preparing to unpack .../libgclc2_1%3a7.4.2-8ubuntul_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking libgclc2:amd64 (1:7.4.2-8ubuntul) ...
Selecting previously unselected package w3m.
Preparing to unpack .../w3m_0.5.3-36build1_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking w3m (0.5.3-36build1) ..
Setting up libgclc2:amd64 (1:7.4.2-8ubuntul) ...
Setting up w3m (0.5.3-36build1) ...
Processing triggers for libc-bin (2.27-3ubuntu1) ...
Processing triggers for mime-support (3.60ubuntu1) ...
codio@change-forest:~/workspace$
```

Figure 6 Installing 23m package

Now with the required package installed, it's time to run "python3 api.py". This starts up a new instance of the flask web server which we can now connect to at port 5000.

After executing the command "w3m http://127.0.0.1:5000/user/Ann", the user is presented with a screen:

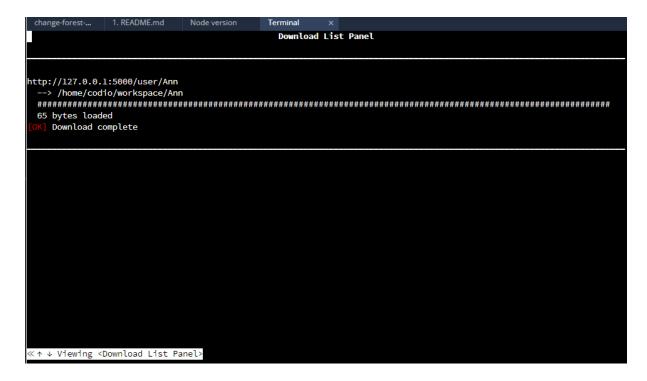


And corresponding, on the flask web server, we can observe that a user has connected to the specified endpoint:

```
odio@change-forest:~/workspace$ python3 api.py
* Serving Flask app 'api' (lazy loading)
* Environment: production
    WARNING: This is a development server. Do not use it in a producti
    Use a production WSGI server instead.
* Debug mode: on
* Running on http://127.0.0.1:5000/ (Press CTRL+C to quit)
* Restarting with stat
* Debugger is active!
* Debugger PIN: 444-847-879
27.0.0.1 - - [19/Oct/2021 19:54:04] "GET /user/Ann HTTP/1.0" 200 -
27.0.0.1 - - [19/Oct/2021 19:55:28] "GET /user/Ann HTTP/1.0" 200 -
```

Figure 7 User connected to flask web server

The user is then presented with an interactive screen where they can use the arrow keys to navigate around the text-based screen.



The w3m command is an open-source text-based web browser which runs within a terminal window. Since it is a text-based browser, all requests received from a server, are processed as local files. In the request above, the result of calling into http://127.0.0.1:5000/user/Ann is stored in a local file called "Ann".

To look at the response data received from the REST endpoint, we simply open the content of the "Ann" file on disk:

```
codio@change-forest:~/workspace$ ll
total 3276
                                    442 Oct 19 19:54
drwxr-xr-x l codio codio
drwxr-xr-x 1 codio codio 144 Oct 19 19:53
 rw-rw-r-- 1 codio codio
                                     65 Oct 19 20:01 Ann
rw-r--r-- 1 codio codio 1908 Oct 19 19:24 api.py
rw-r--r-- 1 codio codio 246 Sep 30 2020 .codio
rw-r--r-- 1 codio codio 0 Sep 30 2020 .codio-jupyter
rw-r--r-- 1 codio codio 6576 Sep 28 00:09 CommandLine.ipynb
rw-r--r-- 1 codio codio 72 Sep 30 2020 'Empty Notebook.ipy
                                     72 Sep 30 2020 'Empty Notebook.ipynb'
 rw-r--r-- 1 codio codio 3806 Oct 19 16:17 File_Encryption_RSA.ipynb
 rw-r--r-- 1 codio codio 4874 Oct 19 19:22 Flask_API.ipynb
       --r-- 1 codio codio 46 Sep 30 2020 .gitignore
lrwxr-xr-x 1 codio codio
                                     68 Sep 5 22:32 img/
drwxr-xr-x 1 codio codio 386 Oct 19 19:23 .ipynb_checkpoints/
 rw-r--r-- 1 codio codio 39225 Oct 19 19:49 .nbgrader.log
rw-r--r-- 1 codio codio 944 Sep 30 2020 README.md
rw-r--r-- 1 codio codio 1249 Sep 30 2020 .settings
rw-r--r-- 1 codio codio 3254884 Sep 6 00:31 Towers_of_Hanoi.ipynb
rw-r--r-- 1 codio codio 1507 Sep 6 01:35 'UK Postcodes.ipynb'
rw-r--r-- 1 codio codio 72 Oct 19 19:23 Untitled.ipynb
codio@change-forest:~/workspace$ cat Ann
    "name": "Ann",
    "age": 32,
    "occupation": "Doctor"
codio@change-forest:~/workspace$
```

Figure 8 REST response in JSON format

Here we can see that the response from the specified webserver is a JSON object containing the properties "name", "age" and "occupation".

Q3: run the following command at the terminal prompt: "w3m <a href="http://127.0.0.1:5000/user/Adam">http://127.0.0.1:5000/user/Adam</a>". What happens when this command is run, and why?

Figure 9 Execute command to load resource at "/Adam"

When we "cat" into the output of the request to the resource specified by "/user/Adam", the result is:

```
codio@change-forest:~/workspace$ cat Adam
"User not found"
codio@change-forest:~/workspace$
```

This error message implies that the specified resource was not found at the address specified. More specifically, consulting the API.py code file, we can see that the following users would be located:

```
]
```

Given that the GET request looks as follows:

```
def get(self, name):
    for user in users:
        if(name == user["name"]):
            return user, 200
    return "User not found", 404
```

It is understandable that a user like "Adam" could not be found.

### Create a new user (POST)

However, the API does expose a P0ST method which we can leverage to create new users. So, we achieve that by defining a file with the data needed for the POST call:

1. Create data file with POST arguments

```
Vim NewUser

age=509&occupation=Beekeeper
:w
:q
```

2. Call w3m with P0ST data

```
W3m -post NewUser <a href="http://127.0.0.1:5000/user/Adam">http://127.0.0.1:5000/user/Adam</a>
```

3. Inspect the result of the call (it should be an HTTP 201 status code)

```
127.0.0.1 - - [19/Oct/2021 20:32:47] "POST /user/Adam HTTP/1.0" 201 -
```

```
codio@change-forest:~/workspace$ cat Adam
{
    "name": "Adam",
    "age": "509",
    "occupation": "BeeKeeper\n\n"
}
codio@change-forest:~/workspace$
```

Figure 10 POST call using w3m succeeded

#### Update an existing user (PUT)

Although the API does expose a PUT operation, the documentation for w3m (<a href="http://w3m.sourceforge.net/MANUAL">http://w3m.sourceforge.net/MANUAL</a>) indicates that it only supports the HTTP verbs GET and POST. Therefore, one would have to use other tools such as Postman or Insomnia to action these verbs.

## Removing a user (DELETE)

Although the API does expose a DELETE operation, the documentation for w3m (<a href="http://w3m.sourceforge.net/MANUAL">http://w3m.sourceforge.net/MANUAL</a>) indicates that it only supports the HTTP verbs GET and POST. Therefore, one would have to use other tools such as Postman or Insomnia to action these verbs.

The flask library acts like a mini web server that exposes one or more REST-based endpoints over a given network address and port. It supports both standard HTTP connections and HTTPS connections when using a command like

According to (<a href="https://www.fullstackpython.com/flask.html">https://www.fullstackpython.com/flask.html</a>), the flask web framework is considered a better alternative to the Django framework because flask is more "explicit" and "easy to get started with as a beginner" due to the lack of excessive boilerplate code to start a web server.

Flask uses the Wekzeug Web Server Gateway Interface (WSGI) toolkit to act as an interface between web servers and web applications. While jinja2 is used as a web template engine (https://pythonbasics.org/what-is-flask-python/)