

Coursework Report

Calum Kirk

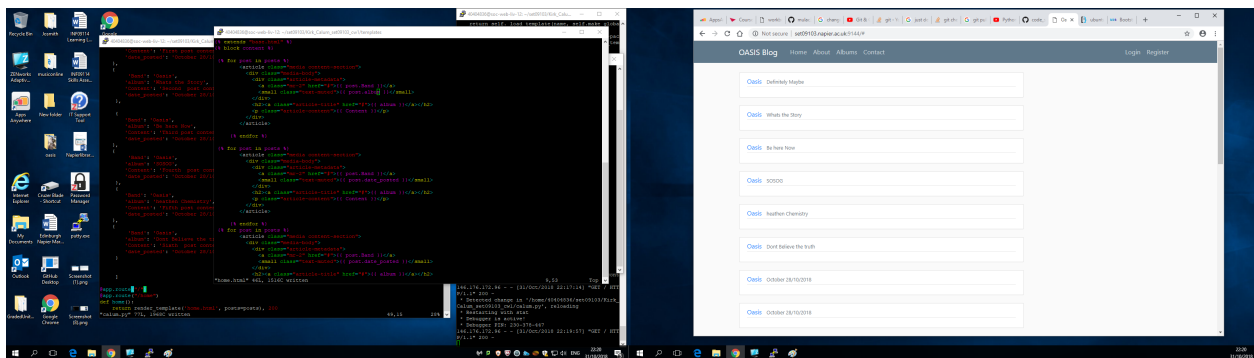
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Edinburgh Napier University – Advanced Web Technologies Set09103

Title

Oasis Blog

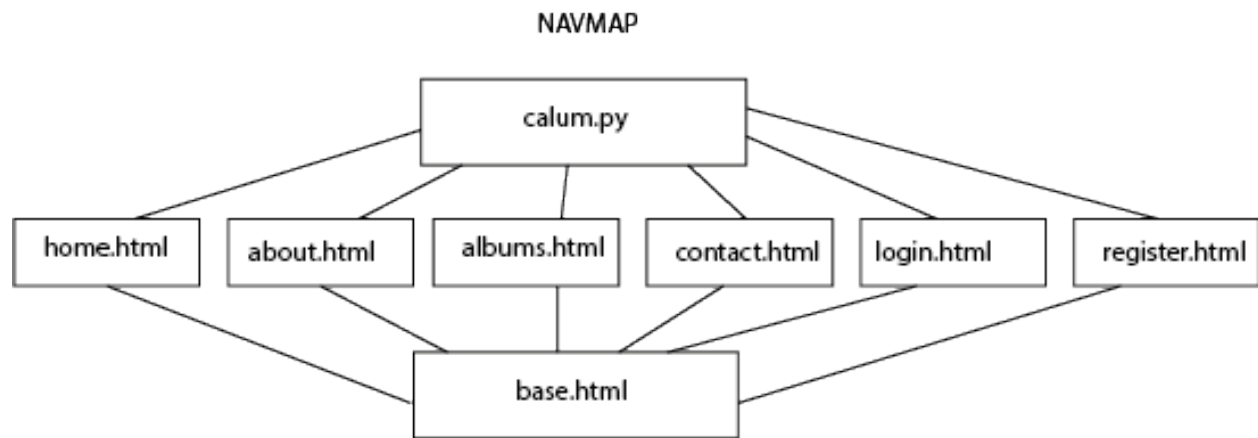
Introduction Describing your web-app and its core features.



Web application made using python flask with rendered HTML templates. The website features a list of blog posts on the home page that were created inside the flask file which display on the home page. In a more developed site these would be created by users but at the level I am currently at I was only able to present these as static objects, however I gained an understanding of the necessary functions to produce this interactive content.

There is a register and login section that was created using the wt-forms component of flask although it is not fully functioning as I did not create a database. There is a contact page with form which has GET and POST enabled in the python app. I also created an about and albums page which provides a brief overview of content for the site.

Design - Explaining how and why your web-app is structured the way it is. This section should include a navigation map for the URL hierarchy of your web-app.



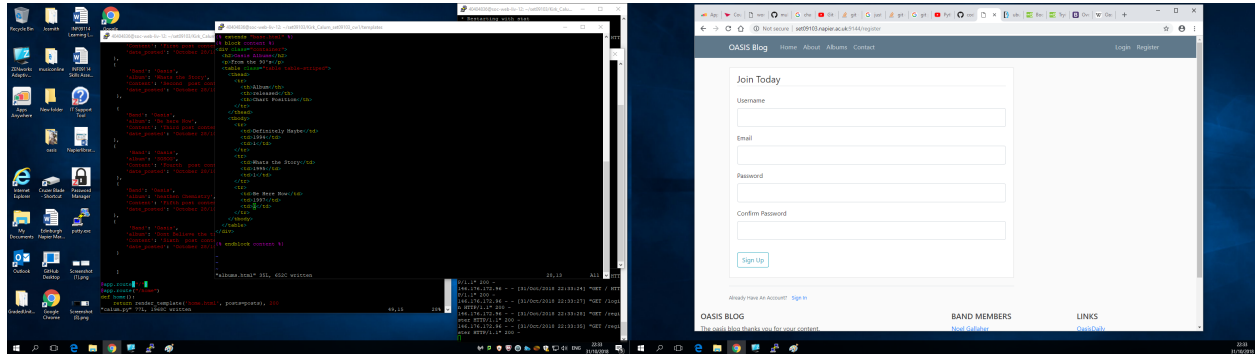
The design of the site is based around a simple routing structure from the flask app. I created one main python file which routes to 7 templates including my base template which operates predominantly as the sites header and footer. This was a useful concept as the template inheritance structure allowed me to create minimal size files for my other templates.

I wanted my sites structure to be simple as I had no prior experience in building an application this way and had a fairly steep learning curve in getting to grips with the technology. The app routes to 6 different pages or templates, the content of these html templates is fairly minimal due to the template inheritance structure which enables me to extract content from my “base” template which doesn’t actually get routed to from the python file. This contains the majority of my HTML, Javascript and Bootstrap files.

I link externally to these and the only static file I have in my ‘static’ directory is my styles.css. I had previously stored Bootstrap and Javascript files here but decided against it in the 2nd duration of my site due to time. Inside my main set09103 directory I keep my 2 python files, my routing file ‘calum.py’ and my forms file ‘forms.py’ which I link to within my routing file using the ‘forms from import’ command. I also have a templates folder which is within my main directory, inside this I keep all my rendered html files which I can access from the ‘calum.py’ routing file.

Generally my set up is as simple and streamlined as possible in the duration of the project that was uploaded. Previously I had a number of different files and examples but due to an issue uploading through Github I was forced to start again and ended up with a much less unnecessary files.

Enhancements - Describing the features that you would add or improve.

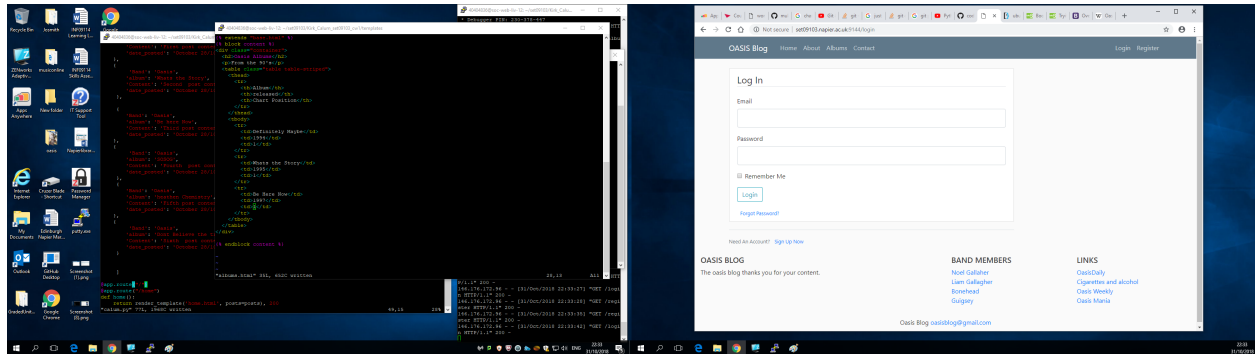


There are many improvements I feel I could make in my next app as this process for me has been a massive learning curve, I was happy to complete an application that presents some functionality although in my next app I would like to add a fully functioning register and login section as I felt I wasn't far away from completing that. I was also disappointed that I could not access images from my directory with the curl tool. I don't know why they would not upload from Github as the image provided in the tutorial managed to upload, I feel that the site could use some imagery to brighten it up but as a blog website it was never going to be image heavy and the process was mainly about learning back end structures.

In order for a Blog site to be fully functioning it was a lot need a lot more user generatable content and functionality, including a database which would be the next steps in developing this project. I would like to learn how to make user accounts which could add optional profile pictures, I covered the upload images section in the workbook but could not find a way to upload images locally onto the server, I assumed it would not be particularly difficult but I was unable to do this.

I feel the sections such as albums and about could be improved with an increase in content although these were mainly a means to an end of what I was learning from the process. There were numerous more aspects of backend technologies that could be implemented in my next project and I would like to look at things like editable articles and more post-able content.

Critical Evaluation This is about *what* you built and should explain the features of the web-app that you feel work well, or work poorly, and why.



What I like about the app is the routing structure and template inheritance technique which I feel is an excellent feature that not only reduces coding but also makes editing the website a lot less time consuming.

This app is streamlined and clean and would be fairly easy to navigate and understand for a user, it is styled in a typical colorscheme for a blog site although this could possibly be improved on in a future edition, I would like to add some images to the layout as well and had in mind to put a banner in the home page although I could not access this.

The app is not fully functioning due to a number of reasons which is something I would like to accomplish in my next project, the forms are layed out and coded correctly but missing some elements which would enable them to function properly, the addition of a database is also something that would improve the application.

Personal Evaluation This is about how *you* performed. You should reflect upon what you learned, the challenges you faced, the methods you used to overcome challenges, and how you feel you performed.

During this process I faced a number of different challenges in building this app. Coming into the course with a background more focused in design I didn't find it easy to learn the technologies and spent a long time even picking up the basics of vim, SSH and Linux. Coupled with some issues with my flat situation and work I felt I was always up against it in this project.

Saying that I feel I now have an understanding of a lot of the concepts mentioned in the workbook, I also found tutorials online which were useful in seeing how some of these examples were put into place in an actual interface, I think without this I would have struggled to even put the app together. Because I had such a scattered approach when

first implementing these technologies I also ran into problems using Github when it came to uploading the final site, in this situation I actually somehow deleted all my files from the server. I was able to recuperate some of the files, luckily my 2 python files were able to be retrieved, but this was actually a useful lesson as I had a clean slate when laying out my directories and was able to grasp things much better without some of the issues I previously had.

Unfortunately though, the site that I uploaded in the end was not as prominent as the original due to some time constraints but I was happy that the process of creating 2nd time around was much less time consuming. In terms of my overall performance I am satisfied with the progress I have made and feel I put in a lot to even get this far, it may not a fantastic app and there were areas of the workbook that I struggled to implement, but I feel that I have taken a lot from this.

References If you have used additional resources then these should be cited. Please acknowledge all sources of help and material. If there is anything included that was not written by you for this module, then you should indicate that within this section.

<http://flask.pocoo.org/docs/0.12/patterns/wtforms/>

<https://getbootstrap.com/docs/4.0/content/tables/>

<https://getbootstrap.com/docs/3.3/components/#navbar>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=addnlzdSQs4>