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4Middleware

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Application Middleware

WSGI applications can be linked together to run one after another. This is a common practice referred to as middleware. Middleware is commonly used to add modularized functionality to a WSGI application.

Instructions

1. Replace the code in the `cloudacademy/playground.py` file with the following.

```
1 # A reference implementation of the WSGI specification.
2 # Not commonly used in production environments.
3 from wsgiref.simple_server import make_server
4
5
6 # A basic WSGI application.
7 def app(environ, start_response):
8     # Begin by sending the HTTP(S) client the response status
9     start_response('200 OK', [('Content-Type', 'text/plain')])
10    # Attempt to locate a key in the environ dictionary named 'greeting'
11    # If it doesn't exist the default value of 'Hello' is used
12    greeting = environ.get('GREETING', 'Hello')
13    # The encode method is used to convert a str object into a bytes object
14    yield f'{greeting}, WSGI!\n'.encode()
15
16
17 if __name__ == '__main__':
18     # Create a server and run the app until the process is terminated
19     server = make_server('', 5000, app)
20     server.serve_forever()
```
2. Restart the WSGI server process.

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2. Restart the WSGI server process.

1. Click anywhere inside the **WSGI terminal** pane to set focus.

2. Press **CTRL+C** to interrupt the process.

3. Start the WSGI server process.

python3 cloudacademy/playground.py

The request body will display **Hello, WSGI!** because the key **GREETING** doesn't yet exist in the **environ** dictionary.

3. Review the updated response body.

curl http://localhost:5000/

Hello, WSGI!

WSGI middleware consists of a WSGI application that wraps another WSGI application. The **__call__** magic method makes the **Middleware** class callable.

4. Add the middleware under the **app** definition.

```
1
2 class Middleware():
3     ''' A callable class used to set a WSGI app when the cl
4         The __call__ magic method makes the instantiated ob
5     '''
6     def __init__(self, wsgi_app):
7         ''' Args:
8             wsgi_app | The WSGI application to call aft
9         '''
10        self.wsgi_app = wsgi_app
11
```

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```
12 def __call__(self, environ, start_response):
13     # Perform middleware functionality here.
14     # This example adds a new key-value-pair to the env
15     # Editing the dictionary allows middleware to pass
16     # WSGI application.
17     environ['GREETING'] = 'Hey'
18     # Call the provided WSGI application passing it the
19     return self.wsgi_app(environ, start_response)
20
```

```
# A basic WSGI application.
def application, start_response):
    # Begin by sending the HTTP(S) (least the response status and headers.
    start_response('200 OK', [('Content-Type', 'text/plain')])
    # Attempts to locate a key in the environ dictionary named 'GREETING'.
    # If it doesn't exist the default value of 'hello' is used.
    greeting = environ.get('GREETING', 'hello')
    # The encode method is used to convert a str object into a bytestring.
    yield f'({greeting}, WSGI/1.0; encode)'

class Middleware():
    """ A callable class used to set a WSGI app when the class is initialized.
    The __call__ magic method makes the instantiated object callable.
    """
    def __init__(self, wsgi_app):
        """ Args:
        wsgi_app | The WSGI application to call after this middleware runs.
        """
        self.wsgi_app = wsgi_app

    def __call__(self, environ, start_response):
        # Perform middleware functionality here.
        # This example adds a new key-value-pair to the environ dictionary.
        # Editing the dictionary allows middleware to pass data to the next
        # WSGI application.
        environ['GREETING'] = 'Hey'
        # Call the provided WSGI application passing it the revised environ dictionary.
        return self.wsgi_app(environ, start_response)
```

When an instance of `Middleware` is called the interpreter calls the `__call__` magic method which matches the required signature of a WSGI application. Wrapping the `Middleware` class around the original WSGI application (`app`) results in the middleware being run first, followed by the original application.

5. Replace the main code block.

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5. Replace the main code block.

```
1 if __name__ == '__main__':
2     # Create a server and run the app until the process is terminated
3     # The WSGI application (app) is passed to the constructor
4     # The WSGI server will call the Middleware object which
5     server = make_server('', 5000, Middleware(app))
6     server.serve_forever()
```

6. Restart the WSGI server process.

The request body will now display **Hey, WSGI!** rather than **Hello, WSGI!** because the key **GREETING** is set when the middleware is called.

7. Review the updated response body.

```
curl http://localhost:5000/
```

Hey, WSGI!

Middleware is commonly used in WSGI applications to provide low level functionality. For example: serving static files, security related tasks, request redirection, etc. Middleware is essentially just another WSGI application. Python web application frameworks commonly chain multiple middleware applications together. Chaining middleware in a specific order enables the middleware to perform its given task and optionally call the next application in the chain.

★ Proceed to the next step ★

✓ Validations

☐ On Track - WSGI Application Middleware

Example: Creating a Custom Middleware

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