

Advanced Programming with Python

HTML and Flask

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Plan for today

- Review homework
- Learn more about HTML
- Using HTML templates



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Homework

So far we have seen only a very simple setup of HTML,

Example 1

Let's create a twitter for dogs website!

Create three routes for it: a homepage, an about page, and a login page.

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Example 1

Let's create a twitter for dogs website!

Create three routes for it: a homepage, an about page, and a login page.
And now let's modify our website and add a footer to all pages.

Question

What problems do you see with this workflow?

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- error prone

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- error prone
- repetitive

Question

What problems do you see with this workflow?

- error prone
- repetitive
- tedious

Templates in Flask provide:

- Separation of concerns
- Code reuse
- A nice way of creating HTML interfaces



Templates

Templates look a lot like normal HTML, but they provide some special markup.

```
<html>
  <head>
    <title>Index</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>Hello {{name}}</h1>

  </body>
</html>
```

Templates

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```
<html>
  <head>
    <title>Index</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>Hello {{name}}</h1>
    <!-- {{ }} are used to interpolate variables -->
  </body>
</html>
```



Templates

We can render templates using the **render_template** function, from **flask**.

```
from flask import render_template
```

```
@app.route("/")
def index():
    return render_template(
        "index.html",
        name="Pepe")
```

Variables for the template are passed as arguments to the **render_template** function. In this case **name="Pepe"**.

Control statements. `if`

Apart from the double curly brackets (`{{ }}`), that will be substituted with the corresponding value, flask templates also support **control statements** using `{% %}` blocks.

We can use the `if` keyword in templates as we would do in Python.

```
{% if name %}  
    <p>the name was {{name}}</p>  
{% else %}  
    <p>We didn't receive any name</p>  
{% endif %}
```

Exercise 1

We have this `logged_in` variable in our `exercises/loggedin.py` server. Depending on the value it has, we want to print either
Welcome to the private area
or
You're not logged in, get out!

Control statements. `for`

Another very useful control statement we can use in Flask is `for`. It has the same behavior as Python's `for`, it allows us to iterate over a list and do something for each element, in our case, render something.

```
{% for name in names %}
```

```
  <p>the name was {{name}}</p>
```

```
{% endfor %}
```

Here we're generating `n p` tags, one per each name in names `{% for ... %}` block!



Exercise 2

In `exercises/beatles.py` we have a list of members of the beatles, make sure that you show them in the webpage.



Template Inheritance

In most websites we're going to have some parts of them that are repeated, such as the navigation menu, the footer, etc.

Template inheritance can help us get rid of repeated code and clean things up.

We will start by creating a base template that has all the common parts of our website

Template inheritance

```
<html>
  <head>
    <title>{{title}}</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <a href="/"><h1>My website</h1></a> <!-- menu -->

    <main>
      {% block main %}{% endblock %} <!-- main -->
    </main>

    <p>All rights reserved :)</p> <!-- footer -->
  </body>
</html>
```



Template inheritance

After we've created our base template we can extend it from others!

```
{% extends "base.html" %}
```

```
{% block main %}
```

```
<p>
```

this is specific to this template, not inherited from the parent

```
</p>
```

```
{% endblock %}
```



Exercise 3

Using template inheritance, fix the **twitter for dogs** example so that we don't repeat ourselves.

I've a YouTube series about Flask, and some other cool things.

https:

[//www.youtube.com/channel/UCIg0tBR2wx7xqneTlpwWSUw/playlists](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIg0tBR2wx7xqneTlpwWSUw/playlists)

You know the drill, smash that subscribe button!

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- Flask templates can use control flow operators such as `{% if ... %}` and `{% for ... %}`
- Flask templates extend other templates and only overwrite needed blocks