Flask Templates

Author: Denis Rinfret

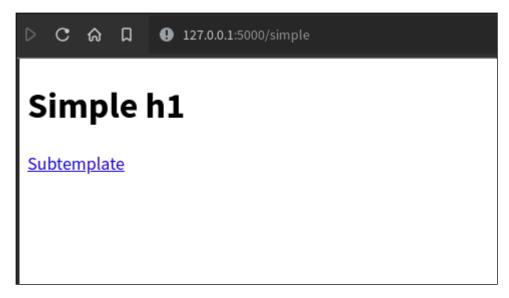
Template Inheritance

- Jinja2 supports template inheritance
 - o create a base template that contains the common blocks of your website, such as
 - the HTML DOCTYPE and the <head> element
 - the web page banner
 - the navigation bar
 - the footer
 - etc...
 - create one template for each page that extends the base template
 - add the page specific contents to the sub-templates
- To facilitate adding page specific contents to each sub-template, define blocks in the base template
- Sub-templates can redefine these blocks
 - use {% block head %} to define the start of a block named head (replace head by whatever is appropriate)
 - use {% endblock %} to mark the end of a block

Simple Template Inheritance Example

- Parent template
 - project 03_flask_templates, file simple.html

```
{% block contents %}
<h1>Simple h1</h1>
{% endblock %}
{% block foot %}
<a href="sub">Subtemplate</a>
{% endblock %}
</body>
</html>
```



Simple

- Child template
 - file sub.html

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

{% block title %}Subtemplate{% endblock %}

{% block contents %}

{{ super() }}

<h3>Subtemplate h3</h3>
{% endblock %}

{% block foot %}

<a href="simple">Simple</a>
{% endblock %}
```

- A new title is defined in the title block
- An h3 is added to the contents block
 - super() is called to keep the parent template's contents
- The foot block is replaced by a new link

• The head block is not modified directly (only the title sub-block is modified)



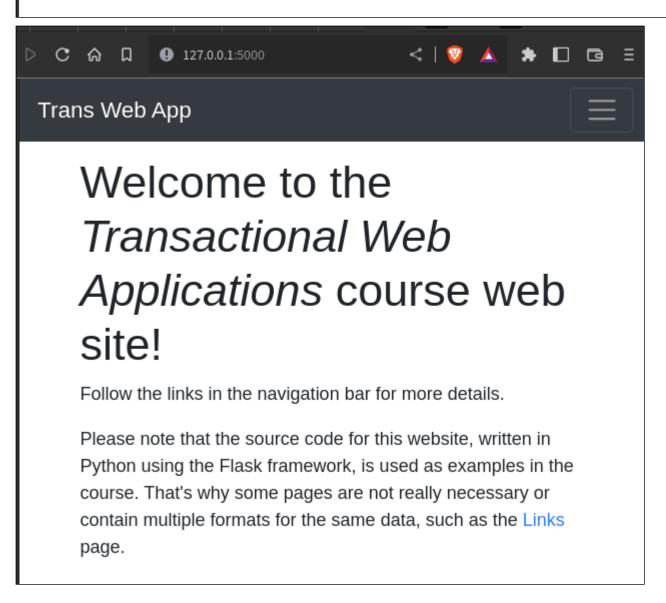
Sub-template

Bootstrap Template Example

File base.html

- This template uses Bootstrap 4
- Almost the same as a previous example (bs4_base.html), but with Jinja2 blocks added



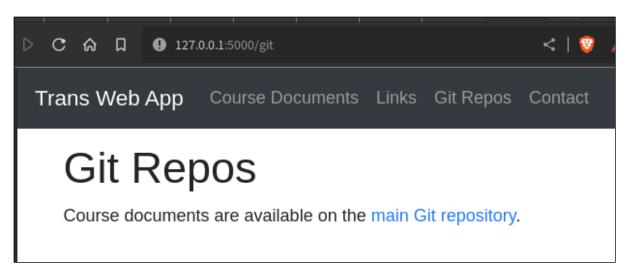


```
<head>
    {% block head %}
       <title>{% block title %}Trans Web App{% endblock %}</title>
       <meta charset="utf-8">
       <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1">
       k rel="stylesheet"
        href="https://cdn.jsdelivr.net/npm/bootstrap@4.6.2/dist/css/bootstrap.min
             integrity="sha384-
        x0olHFLEh07PJGoPkLv1IbcEPTNtaed2xpHsD9ESMhqIYd0nLMwNLD69Npy4HI+N"
             crossorigin="anonymous">
       <script
        src="https://cdn.jsdelivr.net/npm/jquery@3.5.1/dist/jquery.slim.min.js"
               integrity="sha384-
        DfXdz2htPH0lsSSs5nCTpuj/zy4C+OGpamoFVy38MVBnE+IbbVYUew+OrCXaRkfj"
               crossorigin="anonymous"></script>
       <script
        src="https://cdn.jsdelivr.net/npm/bootstrap@4.6.2/dist/js/bootstrap.bundl
               integrity="sha384-
        Fy6S3B9q64WdZWQUiU+q4/2Lc9npb8tCaSX9FK7E8HnRr0Jz8D60P9d05Vg3Q9ct"
               crossorigin="anonymous"></script>
       <style>
           body {
               padding-top: 50px
           }
       </style>
    {% endblock %}
</head>
<body>
{% block navbar %}
    <nav class="navbar navbar-expand-md bg-dark navbar-dark fixed-top">
       <a class="navbar-brand" href="/">Trans Web App</a>
       <button class="navbar-toggler" type="button" data-toggle="collapse"</pre>
        data-target="#collapsibleNavbar">
           <span class="navbar-toggler-icon"></span>
       </button>
       <div class="collapse navbar-collapse" id="collapsibleNavbar">
            class="navbar-nav">
               class="nav-item">
                   <a class="nav-link" href="/documents">Course Documents</a>
               class="nav-item">
                   <a class="nav-link" href="/links">Links</a>
               class="nav-item">
                   <a class="nav-link" href="/git">Git Repos</a>
               class="nav-item">
```

```
<a class="nav-link" href="/contact">Contact</a>
               </div>
   </nav>
{% endblock %}
<br>
{% block content %}
   <div class="container">
       <h1>Welcome to the <em>Transactional Web Applications</em> course web
        site!</h1>
       Follow the links in the navigation bar for more details.
       >Please note that the source code for this website, written in Python
        using the Flask framework, is used
           as examples in the course. That's why some pages are not really
        necessary or contain multiple formats for
           the same data, such as the <a href="/links">Links</a> page.
   </div>
{% endblock %}
</body>
</html>
```

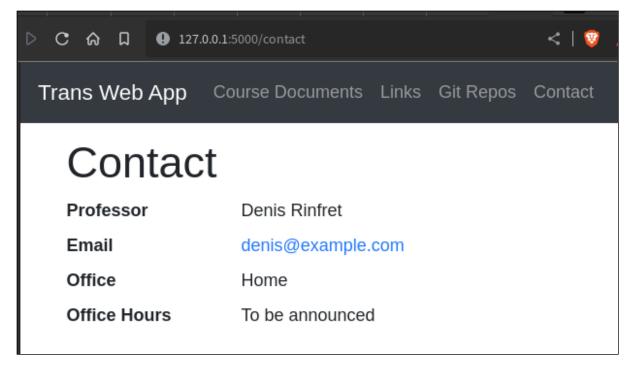
File git.html

- Template rendered by the /git endpoint
 - extends the base template
 - calls super() in the title block and adds a string to it
 - the content block is completely redefined here
 - the other blocks are left as-is



File contact.html

- Template rendered by the /contact endpoint
 - extends the base template
 - it simply lists contact information in a <dl>

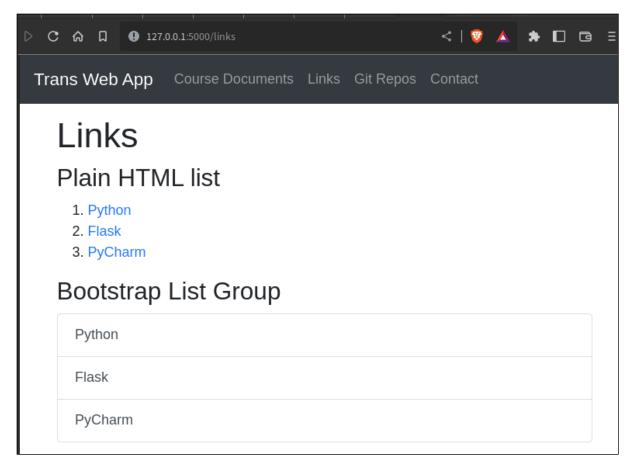


Contact

```
<dt class="col-sm-3">Professor</dt>
<dd class="col-sm-9">Denis Rinfret</dd>
</dd>
</dr>
```

File links.html

- Template rendered by the /links endpoint
 - extends the base template
 - this example shows 2 ways to list a number of files using a for loop
 - o normally, only 1 of the 2 would be used in a page



```
{% extends "base.html" %}
{% block title %}{{ super() }} - Links{% endblock %}
{% block content %}
    <div class="container">
       <h1>Links</h1>
       <h3>Plain HTML list</h3>
       <01>
            {% for link in links_list %}
                <a href="{{ link[1] }}">{{ link[0] }}</a>
            {% endfor %}
       <h3>Bootstrap List Group</h3>
       <div class="list-group">
            {% for link in links_list %}
                <a href="{{ link[1] }}"
                  class="list-group-item list-group-item-action">{{ link[0] }}
        </a>
            {% endfor %}
       </div>
    </div>
{% endblock %} <!-- content -->
```

Generating a Plain HTML List

- links_list is a Python list containing tuples of the form (text, href), where
 - text is the link text to be displayed, and
 - href is the URL
- So we loop over all the tuples in the list with a for loop
- And we build an <a> element using
 - {{ link[1] }} to get the value of href, and
 - {{ link[0] }} to get the text

Generating a Bootstrap List Group

- We use the same for loop as before, except that the loop is located inside a <div class="list-group">
- The <a> element is generated in the same way, except that we need to add a couple
 Bootstrap classes to display each link correctly
 - class="list-group-item list-group-item-action">

The /links Endpoint

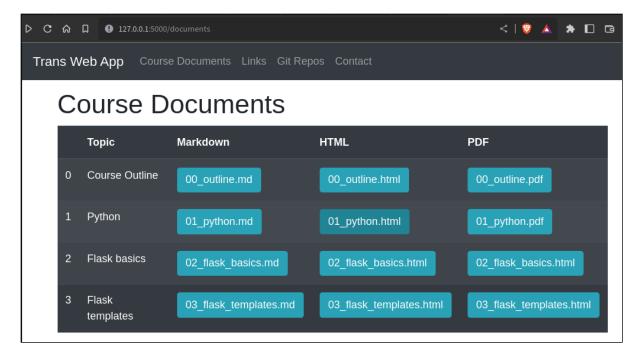
- For now, we build a list of tuples for each slide manually in the endpoint
- In the documents endpoint, the list will be built with data read from a CSV file
- How to read data from a database will be covered later on

Notes

- These files are static files, not executed or processed by Flask in any way
- Static files are usually put inside the static/ folder
- Flask has a special /static/<file_to_be_returned_as_is> endpoint to handle these
- In a live deployment, the web server (not Flask) will serve the static files to get better performance

File documents.html

- Template rendered by the /documents endpoint
 - extends the base template
 - it builds a table from a Python list passed to the template
 - data read from a CSV file is used to build the list
 - the contents of this CSV file is given next
 - the first column is the *id*, the second is the *topic*, followed by 3 file names, one for each format:
 - Markdown
 - HTML
 - PDF
- the endpoint code and CSV files are shown after the screenshot but before the template



Documents

File: documents.csv

```
id, topic, markdown, html, pdf
0, Course Outline.00_outline.md, 00_outline.html, 00_outline.pdf
1, Python, 01_python.md, 01_python.html, 01_python.pdf
2, Flask basics, 02_flask_basics.md, 02_flask_basics.html, 02_flask_basics.html
3, Flask templates, 03_flask_templates.md, 03_flask_templates.html, 03_flask_templates
```

The /documents Endpoint

```
@app.route('/documents')
def documents():
    # TODO: put the prefix in the app config dictionary
    prefix = '/static/'
    with open('data/documents.csv') as f:
        doc_list = list(csv.reader(f))[1:]
    return render_template('documents.html', doc_list=doc_list, prefix=prefix)
```

File documents.html

```
<h1>Course Documents</h1>
      <table class="table table-dark table-striped table-hover table-
      responsive-md">
         <thead>
            Topic
               Markdown
               HTML
               PDF
            </thead>
         {% for doc in doc_list %}
               {% for col in doc[:2] %}
                     {{ col }}
                  {% endfor %}
                  {% for col in doc[2:] %}
                     <a class="btn btn-info" href="{{ prefix }}{{
      col }}">{{ col }}</a>
                  {% endfor %}
               {% endfor %}
         </div>
{% endblock %} <!-- content -->
```