

## 1. Accomplishments so far

- **Project Setup & Initial Configuration**

- Created GitHub repository for backend.
- Cloned repository locally.
- Created virtual environment and activated it.
- Installed Django and necessary dependencies.
- Created initial version of README.md.
- Started the Django project (skillfolio\_backend).

- **Users app creation:** Set up a single **users** app to hold all models (User, Certificate, Project, Goal) to simplify relationships and maintainability.

- **Branching Strategy:**

- feature/user-model
- feature/certificate-model
- feature/project-model
- feature/user-goals

- **Models implemented:**

- **User:** placeholder for future customization.
- **Certificate:** fields include title, issuer, date\_earned, and file\_upload.
- **Project:** fields include title, description, related certificate, date\_created.
- **Goal:** fields include target\_projects, deadline, created\_at.

- **Admin setup:** Registered all models in **admin.py**, tested with **createsuperuser** command, verified admin functionality.

- **API setup with Django REST Framework:** Added **rest\_framework** to **INSTALLED\_APPS**, created serializers, viewsets, and configured URLs using DRF router.

- **Endpoints tested:** `/api/certificates/`, `/api/projects/`, `/api/goals/` for CRUD operations.
- **Documentation:** Updated `README.md` to explain all implemented backend features and branch purposes.

## 2. Challenges faced and solutions

- **Django Version Issue**
  - Initially installed Django v4 which caused issues with starting the project app.
  - Resolved by uninstalling v4 and installing Django v3 to create `skillfolio_backend` successfully.
- **Custom User model:** Initially added a placeholder User model; caused system check errors when extending `AbstractUser`. Solved by keeping it minimal and focusing on backend foundations.
- **Project creation date field confusion:** Expected `date_created` to appear while adding a new project; realized it only shows after saving.
- **DRF TemplateDoesNotExist error:**
  - Occurred when visiting `/api/certificates/`;
  - Fixed by installing `djangorestframework` correctly & adding it to `INSTALLED_APPS`.
- **Git commits & branching:** Confusion on which branches to create and how to push to GitHub; resolved by maintaining one feature branch per model and merging into main.

## 3. What's next?

- **Frontend integration:** Start building the landing page, dashboard, user profile, and forms for adding projects and certificates.
- **Backend enhancements:**
  - Add guided questions and status to Project model.
  - Extend Certificate and Goal models with extra fields or validations as needed.
  - Implement authentication endpoints using JWT.
  - Preparing backend for integration with frontend.
- **Testing and debugging:** Ensure APIs are working correctly with frontend and handle edge cases.
- **Documentation updates:** Keep [README.md](#) and progress notes updated to reflect the latest features and branching strategy.
- Keep following feature-branch workflow for future updates and new models.