Exercise 8: Creating a pages App

25 to 40 minutes

In this exercise, you will create a `pages` app to hold the home page and the about-us page. Remember, the steps for creating a new app are:

1. Create the scaffolding of the app by running:

   ```
   python manage.py startapp app_name
   ```

   where "app_name" is the name of the app.

2. Add the new application to the `INSTALLED_APPS` list.
3. Create one or more views.
4. Configure URLs. Generally, this involves creating a URLConf file in the app and adding a path to the main URLConf file to hand off certain paths to the new app's URLConf file.
5. Create and update any necessary templates. For the `pages` app, you will create two templates:

   `templates/pages/home.html`

   `templates/pages/about_us.html`

   Both templates will extend `_base.html`, and just need minimal HTML in the body (e.g., an `h2` element and a `p` element). You will also want to update the links in the header and footer of `_base.html` to point to the new pages.

Try this on your own before looking at the solution. Test your solution by running the server and visiting the site.

Solution

1. Create the scaffolding:

```
(.venv) …/projects/djangojokes.com> python manage.py startapp pages
```

2. Add the new application to the `INSTALLED_APPS` list in `djangojokes/settings.py`:

```
INSTALLED_APPS = [
    # Built-in Django apps
    'django.contrib.admin',
    'django.contrib.auth',
    'django.contrib.contenttypes',
    'django.contrib.sessions',
    'django.contrib.messages',
    'django.contrib.staticfiles',

    # Local apps
    'pages.apps.PagesConfig',
]
```

3. Create the views:

Exercise Code 8.1: pages/views.py

```
1.  from django.views.generic import TemplateView
2.
3.  class HomePageView(TemplateView):
4.      template_name = 'pages/home.html'
5.
6.
7.  class AboutUsView(TemplateView):
8.      template_name = 'pages/about_us.html'
```

4. Configure the main URLConf:

Exercise Code 8.2: djangojokes/urls.py

```
from django.contrib import admin
from django.urls import path, include

urlpatterns = [
    path('admin/', admin.site.urls),
    path('', include('pages.urls')),
]
```

You can remove the long comment at the beginning of the file or leave it, whichever you prefer.

5. Create a new `urls.py` file in the `pages` folder:

Exercise Code 8.3: pages/urls.py

```
from django.urls import path

from .views import AboutUsView, HomePageView

app_name = 'pages'
urlpatterns = [
    path('', HomePageView.as_view(), name='homepage'),
    path('about-us/', AboutUsView.as_view(), name='about-us'),
]
```

6. Create a `pages` folder in the `templates` folder. Then, create these two templates in that `pages` folder:

Exercise Code 8.4: pages/home.html

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

{% block title %}Home{% endblock %}
{% block main %}
  <h2>Welcome!</h2>
  <p>Ready to laugh?</p>
{% endblock %}
```

Exercise Code 8.5: pages/about_us.html

```
1.   {% extends "_base.html" %}
2.
3.   {% block title %}About Us{% endblock %}
4.   {% block main %}
5.     <h2>About Us</h2>
6.     <p>We tell funny jokes.</p>
7.   {% endblock %}
```

7. Update `templates/_base.html`:

navbar-brand Link in Header

```
<a class="navbar-brand" href="{% url 'pages:homepage' %}">Django Jokes</a>
```

Home Link in Header

```
<li class="nav-item active">
  <a class="nav-link" href="{% url 'pages:homepage' %}">Home
    <span class="sr-only">(current)</span>
  </a>
</li>
```

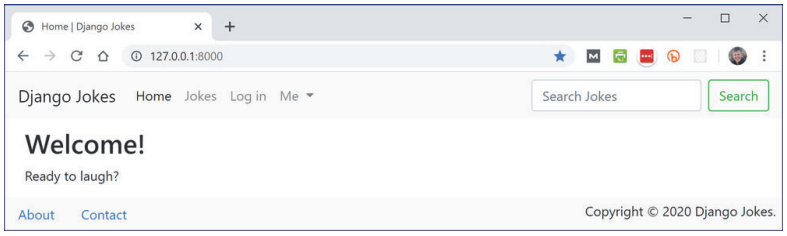
About-Us Link in Footer

```
<li class="nav-item">
  <a class="nav-link" href="{% url 'pages:about-us' %}">About</a>
</li>
```

8. With `djangojokes.com` open in the terminal, run:

```
(.venv) …/projects/djangojokes.com> python manage.py runserver
```

9. In your browser, navigate to `http://127.0.0.1:8000`. The page should look like this:



Click the **About** link in the footer to visit the about-us page.

You can press **Ctrl+C** in the terminal to stop the server, or leave it running and open a new terminal to continue working on the project.

Git Commit

Commit your code to Git.