Python Learning Journal

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About Myself

I'm just a normal Guy. I'm 32 years old, I live in Texas, I love Jesus, and my wife, and good coffee. I took a coding class in college (back in 2017) and it has piqued my interest ever since. Though, only in the last year have I gotten serious about software.

I enjoy the basic full-stack, and I'm a web-content creator for Texas Tech University, but making websites is simple stuff. Diving into packages, frameworks, backends, APIs, and more complex languages is equal parts fun and headache inducing.

1.1: Getting Started With Python

Learning Goals

- Summarize the uses and benefits of Python for web development
- Prepare your developer environment for programming with Python

Okay, starting off my Python journal here. Day one saw me installing Python with the Windows x64 installer. I'm running out of disk space on my laptop. The installer does it's thing, I open a command prompt and initiate python's built in REPL (Read Execute Print Loop) (is that pronounced "repple"?), then type in ```print("Hello World!")``` and just like that, I've mastered Python!

I learned about "environments" which are directories of particular Python packages and files to separate dependencies.

Another critical thing I learned was the *import* keyword, to utilize Python's built-in package management system, e.g., ```import math``` will bring in a package with mathematical functionality.

Similar to *import* is the keyword *pip* which installs packages from the Python Package Inventory. So, ```pip intall xyz``` will install the xyz package in the current directory location from the terminal.

Python is dynamically typed, meaning that a variable can be assigned a string value, then reassigned as an integer value, with no qualms (like JavaScript).

Python lines do not have semicolons...

1.2: Data Types in Python

Learning Goals

- Explain variables and data types in Python
- Summarize the use of objects in Python
- Create a data structure for your Recipe app

Python data types are more fun than riding a jet ski. We all know that Python has data types of string, integer, boolean, tuple, list, dictionary, and noneType (and there are probably others).

It was good to practice the syntax of built-in functions and methods on different data types. How to "slice" properly, sort(), min(), max(), count(), pop(), extend(), append(), copy(), and more.

Apparently, objects in Python are called "dictionaries" allowing for an entity of key/value pairs of different data types.

For the basic data structures of the Achievement's recipe app, I've chosen to store all recipes as a list of dictionaries (each recipe is a "dictionary"). This allows for standardized key/value pairs for all recipes.

1.3: Operators & Functions in Python

Learning Goals

- Implement conditional statements in Python to determine program flow
- Use loops to reduce time and effort in Python programming
- Write functions to organize Python code

Conditional statements execute code based on a boolean value. That's it, that's what they do: they execute a code block based on "True" or "False". Start a conditional statement with the "if" keyword, then a value, then desired comparators, if any, like "AND" or "OR" or "NOT" and another value. End it with a colon. Indent. Now, write a code block to be executed if the statement is truthy. Now, add "elif" or "else" or perhaps *nest* another "if".

The two loops discussed in this chapter were for-loops and while-loops. The for-loop will execute a code block for a certain number of times as specified by an "iterable", which would be

anything with a "length" (array, tuple, string). The while-loop will run the code block FOREVER... until the conditional statement becomes falsy. If you said ```while True: ``` the code block would be executed in an infinite loop, and everyone would laugh and point at how terrible it is, forever.

In a loop, use "break" or "continue" to either exit the loop, or skip an iteration.

Functions are reusable code blocks that can be passed arguments to do or return something. Start a Python function with "def" to define the function, then the function name, then two parentheses "()" and if desired, throw some parameters in those parentheses. Parameters can be assigned default values with the equals sign.

1.4: File Handling in Python

Learning Goals

Use files to store and retrieve data in Python

Using files to store and retrieve data in Python. This was a fresh new concept for me, but obviously a very important topic to create any meaningful Python-based software.

For basic (text) reading and writing, declare a file path and a method flag as arguments of the open function like so ``` file_variable = open('./thing.txt', 'rt') ``` the t is for "text" and it's implied by default. Then use the readlines() method to read the data: ``` print(file_variable.readlines()) ``` to return an array of each line in the text file, and finally, CLOSE the file with the .close() method.

To READ a text file, you would use something like: ``` file_variable = open('./thing.txt', 'w') ``` then the method .writelines(array_name) would write each element of an iterable. But all the items would smoosh together, so be sure to include a newline character "\n" after each iteration.

Okay, now pickles. Use pickles to store more complex data types (dictionaries). First ``` import pickles ```, then, let's say the dictionary is named "my_dictionary", DUMP the dictionary into a .bin file like this: ```file_variable = open('thing.bin', 'wb') ``` then ``` pickle.dump(my_dictionary, file_variable ``` then ``` file_variable.close() ```

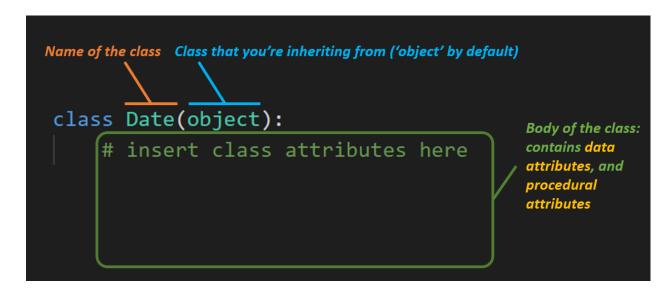
To read pickles, try the following: ``` with open('file_name.bin', 'rb') as file_rb: \n data = pickle.load(file_rb) ```

1.5: Object-Oriented Programming in Python

Learning Goals

Apply object-oriented programming concepts to your Recipe app

What is Object-Oriented Programming? OOP involves abstracting data into objects to keep the code "dry" (don't repeat yourself). "Everything in Python is an object, based on a class." A class is like a template of an object. It is comprised of "data attributes" and "procedural attributes". Data attributes are just stored values, e.g., 'name': 'Bob'. Procedural attributes are methods that perform preconfigured functions.



Defining data attributes:

```
class Date(object):
    def __init__(self, day, month, year):
        self.day = day
        self.month = month
        self.year = year
```

Inheritance:

```
class to inherit properties from

class Height(object):
    def __init__(self, feet, inches):
        self.feet = feet
        self.inches = inches

def __str__(self):
        output = str(self.feet) + " feet, " --

class Person:
```

```
class Person:
    def walk():
        print("Hello, I can walk!")
```

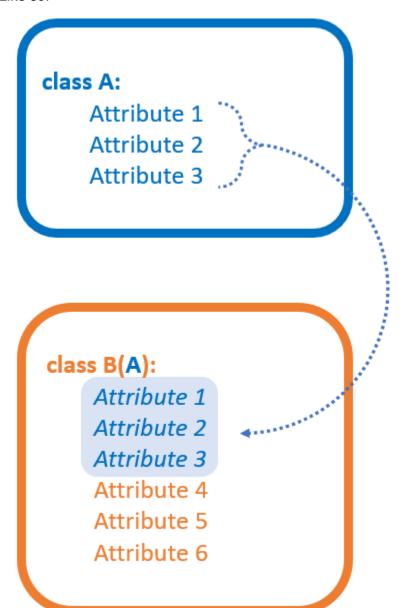
First, note how when building a class for the first time, you don't actually need to specify the object parameter yet (i.e., the class that's being inherited from). You can just enter class followed by the name of the class you're building (e.g., class Height).

Consider Person as your base class, and assume a new class called Athlete. You'll have Athlete inherit all of Person's properties, while defining another method under it, called run():

```
class Athlete(Person):
    def run():
        print("Hey, I can run too!")
```

The above text (directly from CareerFoundry) is important! This shows that you can define a class, then define another class taking the first class as an argument. Which will inherit all of the first class's attributes!

Like so:



1.6: Databases in Python

Learning Goals

Create a MySQL database for your Recipe app

The MySQL database was a free download, with relatively easy setup. Though CareerFoundry introduced me to working with databases by diving into MongoDB (a non-relational database) I have started to warm up to SQL. The syntax is relatively natural, and the CRUD (Create = INSERT, Read = READ, Update = UPDATE, Delete = DELETE) operations are not brain-surgery to interact with.

I love spreadsheets, Excel is great, and SQL captures the charm of columns, rows, and cells when structuring data. Step aside, MongoDB. SQL is great.

Though, it is tricky to enter SQL syntax into Python... two languages at once.

```
(cf-python-base) C:\Users\Guy\Documents\GitHub\Python\Exercise_1.6>ipython recipe_mysql.py
MAIN MENU
Choices:

    Create a new recipe

2. Search for a recipe by ingredient
3. Update an existing recipe
4. Delete a recipe
5. View all recipes
Type "quit" to exit the program.
Your choice: 2
ALL INGREDIENTS
0. cereal
1. milk
2. a spoon
3. melons
4. syrup
5. batter
6. tootsie pops
Which ingredient # would you like to search recipes for?: 6
SEARCH RESULTS FOR RECIPES WITH: "TOOTSIE POPS"
ID: 11
Name: Nachos
Ingredients: melons, syrup, batter, tootsie pops
Cooking Time: 10
Difficulty: Hard
```

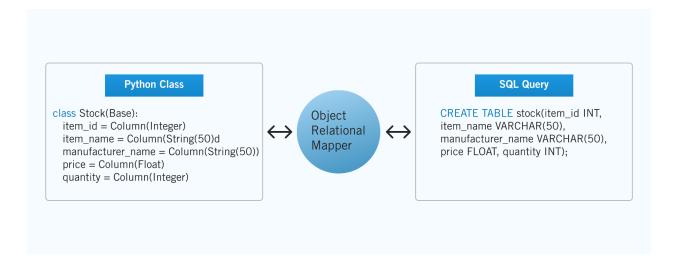
1.7: Object-Relational Mapping in Python

Learning Goals

- Interact with a database using an object-relational mapper
- Build your final command line Recipe application

Here's an example of an item being added to "Stock" with ORM:

```
new_item = Stock(
    item_id = 1,
    item_name = "Water",
    manufacturer_name = "Aquafina",
    price = 10,
    quantity = 20
)
session.add(new_item)
session.commit()
```



Object Relational Mapping allows for interactions with data from a SQL database to be treated as Python objects. This means that instead of using Python, AND SQL syntax, you can just use Python.

2.1: Getting Started with Django

Learning Goals

- Explain MVT architecture and compare it with MVC
- Summarize Django's benefits and drawbacks
- Install and get started with Django

A key concept to grasp is the definition of MVT and how it differs from MVC. MVC is "Model, View, Controller" while MVT is "Model View Template".

With MVC, Model is the Database. View is what renders and collects data in the browser. Controller is the logic between the model and the view.

With MVT, Model is the Database. View is the business logic that fetches from the database and gives to the frontend. Template is the user interface and renders things in the browser.

Pre-Requisite Checks

Python: version 3.8.7

```
(web-dev) C:\Users\Guy>python --version
Python 3.8.7
```

Activated Virtual Environment: named "web-dev"

```
(web-dev) C:\Users\Guy>C:\Users\Guy\Envs\web-dev\Scripts\activate.bat
{(web-dev) C:\Users\Guy>if defined _OLD_VIRTUAL_PYTHONPATH (set "PYTHONPATH=" ) else (set "_OLD_VIRTUAL_PYTHONPATH=" )
```

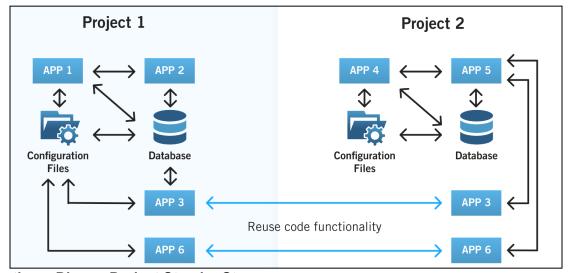
Django installed in the environment:

2.2: Django Project Set Up

Learning Goals

- Describe the basic structure of a Django project
- Summarize the difference between Django projects and apps
- Create a Django project and run it locally
- Create a superuser in the admin interface of a Django web application

In Django a "Project" is the entire application structure. An "App" is a module with specific functionality. Apps are reusable pieces to keep things dry and use in multiple projects.



Creating a Django Project Step-by-Step

mkvirtualenv web-dev

web-dev\Scripts\activate.bat

pip install django

django-admin.exe startproject bookstore

Some possible commands that you can run via manage.py (or django-admin) are:

COMMAND	ACTION
check	Checks the framework for common problems
migrate or makemigrations	Creates/Updates database
runserver	Runs a test server
diffsettings	Checks for differences from default settings
sendtestemail	Sends a test email
startapp	Creates an app
test	Runs tests

Run Migrations:

... > py manage.py migrate

Run Server:

py manage.py runserver

Create an App ("books" app):

...\> py manage.py startapp books

Create superuser:

python manage.py createsuperuser

2.3: Django Models

Learning Goals

- Discuss Django models, the "M" part of Django's MVT architecture
- Create apps and models representing different parts of your web application
- Write and run automated tests

Think of database tables as Django "Models".

"Models are Python objects that Django web applications use to access and manage data from the database. Django models define the structure of the data stored in the database, including field types, default values, the maximum size of the stored data, and so on."

Step-by-Step

Create an App for each database table:

```
...\> py manage.py startapp books
In the settings.py file, look for the INSTALLED_APPS
variable
```

Add each of the created apps to this list like so:

```
INSTALLED_APPS = [
    'django.contrib.admin',
    'django.contrib.auth',
    'django.contrib.contenttypes',
    'django.contrib.sessions',
    'django.contrib.messages',
    'django.contrib.staticfiles',
    #bookstore-related apps
    'books',
    'sales',
    'salespersons',
    'customers',
```

Django Models: Defining, Registering, Migrating, and Running

Define the Django models for the application and then interact with them in
the browser. It's a four-step process:

- 1. Defining the model: In this step, you'll specify the model (i.e., your table as a class).
- Registering the model (class): You need to register your class in the admin.py file in your app. This will allow the class to be accessible from the Django admin.
- 3. Migration: After registration, you'll run commands on your terminal (using Python manage.py) to migrate the models. This will create the tables in the database.
- 4. Run server: Runs the server that you can access via your browser.

Step 1 Defining the Model

Navigate to the customers app in VSCode and open the models.py file.

Customer class code (customers/models.py file) will look as follows:

```
class Customer(models.Model):
   name= models.CharField(max_length=120)
   notes= models.TextField()
```

```
def __str__(self):
    return str(self.name)
```

Step 2: Registering the Model (Class) execute the following command in the admin.py file:

```
from .models import Customer
```

Next, to register, input the following (also in the admin.py file):

```
admin.site.register(Customer)

The admin.py file should now look as follows:

from .models import Customer

# Register your models here.

admin.site.register(Customer)
```

Step 3: Migration

Now, you need to migrate the class. Running migrations conveys any changes made to the model (class) across to the database.

NOTE!

Running migrations must be done each time a change is made to a model.

```
py manage.py makemigrations
py manage.py migrate
```

Step 4: Run Server

To run the server, execute the following command in your terminal:

```
py manage.py runserver
Now, head to Django admin
("http://127.0.0.1:8000/admin/") to see the Customers
section (Figure 8).
Writing Tests
To run tests with Django, go to each app's tests.py file
books/tests.py
You can now create your own class, such as MyTestClass, based on Django's TestCase, as
follows:
class MyTestClass(TestCase):
from .models import Book
class BookModelTest(TestCase):
Your setUpTestData function will look like this:
def setUpTestData():
      # Set up non-modified objects used by all test
methods
       Book.objects.create(name='Pride and Prejudice',
author name='Jane Austen', genre='classic',
book type='hardcover', price='23.71')
Then, in the same directory:
python manage.py test
```

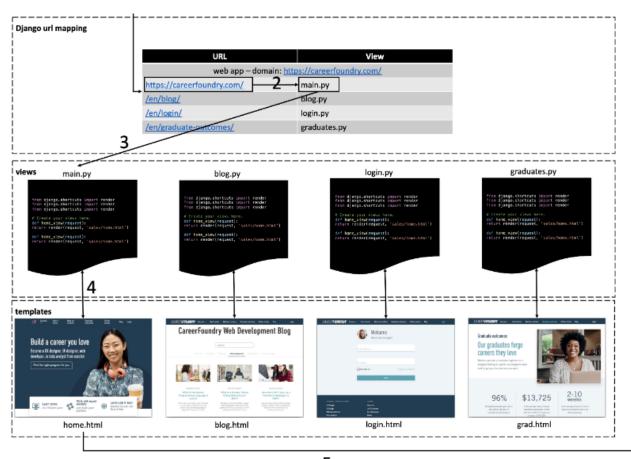
python manage.py test books

2.4: Django Views and Templates

Learning Goals

- Summarize the process of creating views, templates, and URLs
- Explain how the "V" and "T" parts of MVT architecture work
- Create a frontend page for your web application

"A view is the logic that Django runs when a user accesses a URL. Each view is represented as a Python function, or as a method of a Python class that accepts a request, runs Python code, and returns a response. The function can be quite basic, simply accepting a request and returning static information—such as an HTML web page, or JSON data—or the function could be as complex as a class that accepts a request, interacts with the database, accepts user input (sent as requests), and determines what will be returned to the user as a response."



This custom look can be achieved by specifying the views, URLs, and templates in your app and registering them in your application. It's a four-step process:

- 1. Defining the view in the app/views.py file.
- Creating the template(s) in the app/templates/ folder.
- 3. Mapping the URL to view in app/urls.py.
- 4. Registering the URL and view in project/urls.py.

Take careful note of the last three elements in the file structure. It's important to adhere to the following steps:

- 1. Create a folder named templates within your app (sales, in this instance).
- 2. Within the templates folder, create a new folder that is named the same as the app (i.e., sales).
- 3. Create the template pages as needed (e.g., home.html) within the new sales folder.
- 4. Specify the path to sales/home.html in the views.py file. (screenshot)

Nut shell of 2.4

Each "app" has templates and views. The "Template" defines what the user will see in the "View", in this case a simple HTML file named "home.html". It's important to maintain a valid "Django savvy file structure" for things to run smoothly. Then, be sure to include an <app>/urls.py, then specify the url in the project>/urls.py. Run the server and go to the url, Django will generate the "View" linked to that url. Good stuff!

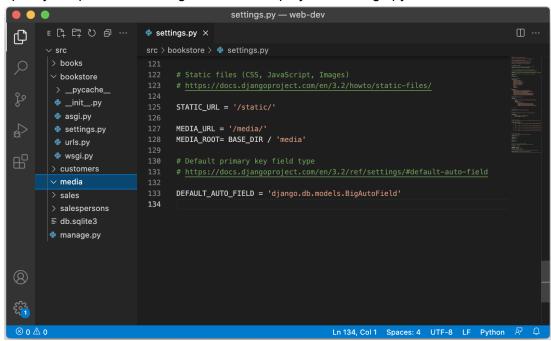
2.5: Django MVT Revisited

Learning Goals

- Add images to the model (database) and display them on the frontend of your application
- Create complex views with access to the model
- Display records with views and templates

The steps for adding images to a Django app are as follows:

- 1. Have a designated folder at the project (application) level where the images will be stored.
- Specify the path to this image folder in the project's settings.py file.



3. Specify URL-View mapping in the project's urls.py file.

```
from django.conf import settings
from django.conf.urls.static import static
```

4. Add the pic attribute to model(s). Update the code in the models.py files of the individual apps to create new fields/columns in the database.

```
$pip install pillow
```

```
from django.db import models

# Create your models here.
class Customer(models.Model):
   name = models.CharField(max_length=120)
   notes = models.TextField()
   pic = models.ImageField(upload_to='customers', default='no_p')

def __str__(self):
    return str(self.name)
```

5. Provide a no-picture.jpg by default that the application can use in case an image isn't available for a certain entity. This step is optional.

Map the url in the "app":

3. Map view to URL: Mapping the URL is done by creating a new file:

books/urls.py

This was already covered in Exercise 2.4. By following the relevant instructions there, you can update books/urls.py

to the following code:

```
from django.urls import path
from .views import BookListView

app_name = 'books'

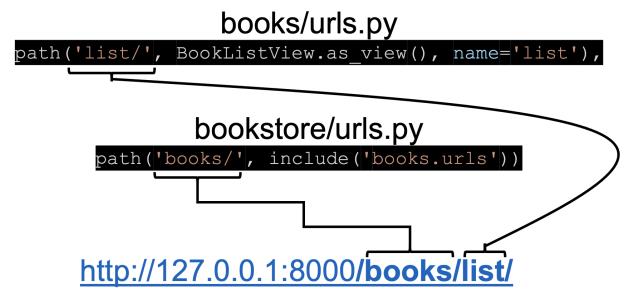
urlpatterns = [
   path('list/', BookListView.as_view(), name='list'),
]
```

Then, register the url in the project:

4. Registering the View: Head over to the **bookstore/urls.py** file and register this file following the same process as in Exercise 2.4. Your updated **urlpatterns** variable in **bookstore/urls.py** should look as follows:

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

This is how the URL will look in the browser:



Okay, now to link between the list view and the detail view:

between the list page (that shows all books) and the details page of one book (specifically, the book that was clicked) This will be done in the <code>books/urls.py</code> file. Here, you add the following parameter to <code>urlpatterns</code>—this time to connect the URL to <code>BookDetailView</code>. Once again, since <code>DetailView</code> is class-based, you need to specify the method <code>as view()</code>.

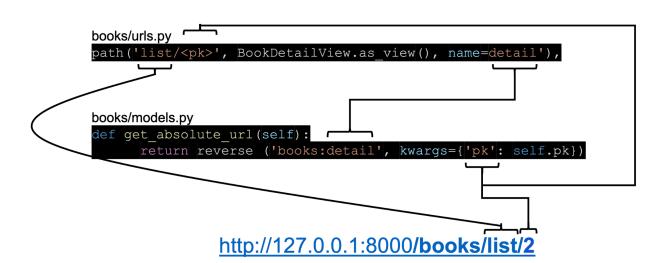
```
path('list/<pk>', BookDetailView.as_view(), name='detail'),
```

Making the book titles clickable and telling Django which book's details must be loaded involves the additional <pk> parameter. This parameter indicates the primary key of the object. You'll look into <pk> now. For this, go to books/models.py and define a function, get_absolute_url(), under the class Book. The get_absolute_url() function will take <pk> as the primary key and generate a URL:

```
def get_absolute_url(self):
    return reverse ('books:detail', kwargs={'pk': self.pk})
```

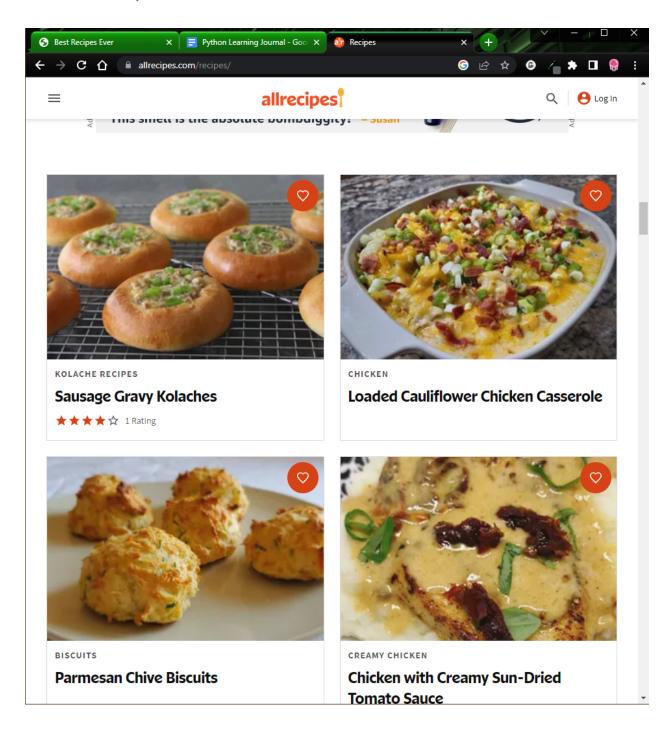
This needs a reverse function that can be imported from Django shortcuts:

from django.shortcuts import reverse



Finally, you need to update your main.html file, but instead of directly printing
the {{object.name}} title, you need to add the following link: <a href ="
{{object.get_absolute_url}}"> {{object.name}} .

Frontend Inspirations



Allrecipes.com is the best recipe website in my opinion. It's super simple. It shows recipes as a list of cards with a prominent image, a "favorite heart", genre, title, and rating. Bam, those are the pieces of info you need.

2.6: User Authentication in Django

Learning Goals

- Learn how to create authentication for your web application
- Become familiar with using GET and POST methods
- Learn how to password protect your web application's views

Here's a great tip from CF:

TIP!

If you forget or lose your username or password, you can return to Django admin via two methods. Before you attempt them, make sure your virtual environment is active and in the src folder.

Number One:

If you still know your username, simply enter the command python
manage.py changepassword <user_name> and your password will be reset.

Number Two:

If you don't know your username, you'll have to create a new superuser using the command python manage.py createsuperuser. From there, you can recover your username by checking the admin dashboard.

To create authentication for a Django application, follow the established pattern:

1. Create a login.html "template" (at the project level make the "templates/auth" folders

```
∨ BEST-RECIPES-EVER
                           src > templates > auth > ♦ login.html > ♦ html
                                 {% load static %}

✓ src

                                 <!DOCTYPE html>
  > media
                                 <html lang="en">

✓ recipe_project

   > _pycache_
   __init__.py
                                 <title>BRE Login</title>
<meta charset="UTF-8">
   asgi.py
                                  <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
   settings.py
                                 <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
   urls.py
                                  <link rel="stylesheet" href="{% static 'recipes/css/draft.css' %}">
   wsgi.py
  > recipes

∨ templates\auth

                                 <div class="banner">
  O login.html
                                    <img src="{% static 'recipes/images/peppers_and_spoon.jpg' %}"</pre>
                                     alt="bell peppers and a spoon of pepper flakes" />
  > users

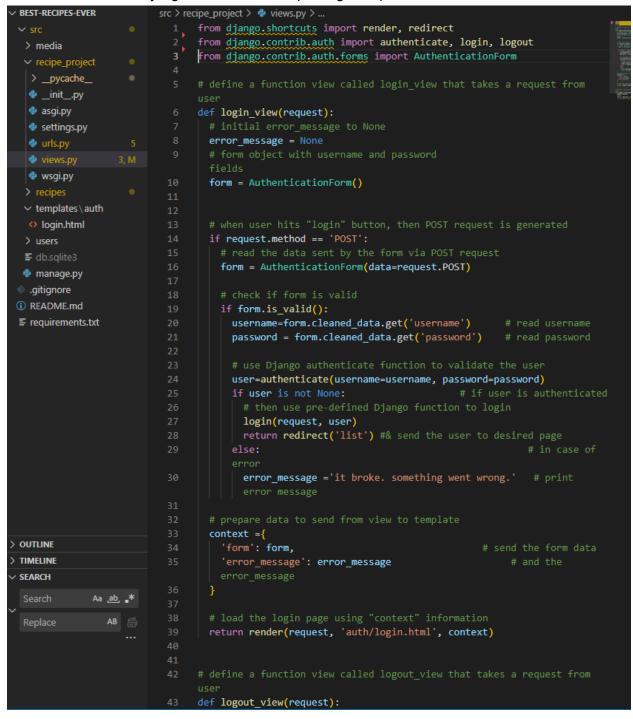
■ db.salite3

                                   <div class="container">
  manage.py
                                    <h1>Best Recipes Ever</h1>
 gitignore
                                     <h2>Login</h2>
(i) README.md
                                     {% comment %} check for error message {% endcomment %}

≡ requirements.txt

                                     {% if error_message %}
                                     {{error_message}}
                                     {% endif %}
                                     {% comment %} print form {% endcomment %}
                                      <form class="login-form" action="" method="POST">
                                       {% comment %} add Django security token {% endcomment %}
                                        {% csrf_token %}
                                        {% comment %} print form received from view {% endcomment %}
                                        {{form}}
                                       {% comment %} add button {% endcomment %}
                                       <button class="button-big" type="submit">Login</button>
OUTLINE
 TIMELINE
✓ SEARCH
              Aa ab *
                            41
```

2. Define the "login view" and "logout_view" (project level "views.py"). In this case, these views are FBVs with Django's authentication packages imported like so:



3. Okay, now hook up the URLs to these views in the project-level "views.py" file like so:

```
∨ BEST-RECIPES-EVER
                          src > recipe_project > 💠 urls.py > ...

✓ src

                                 URL configuration for recipe project project.
  > media

✓ recipe_project

                                 The `urlpatterns` list routes URLs to views. For more information
   > __pycache__
   __init__.py
                                     https://docs.djangoproject.com/en/4.2/topics/http/urls/
   asgi.py
                            6 Examples:
  settings.py

    Add an import: from my_app import views

                                     Add a URL to urlpatterns: path('', views.home, name='home')
  views.py
                                 Class-based views
  wsgi.py
                                     1. Add an import: from other_app.views import Home
                                     2. Add a URL to urlpatterns: path('', Home.as_view(), name='home')

∨ templates\auth

                                 Including another URLconf
                                     1. Import the include() function: from django.urls import include,
  login.html
                                     path
  > users
                                 2. Add a URL to urlpatterns: path('blog/', include('blog.urls'))

■ db.sqlite3

  manage.py
                                 from django.contrib import admin
 .gitignore
                                 from django.urls import path, include
 (i) README.md
                                 from django.conf import settings

≡ requirements.txt

                                 from django.conf.urls.static import static
                                 from .views import login view, logout view
                                 from recipes .views import welcome_view, RecipeListView
                                 urlpatterns = [
                                     path('admin/', admin.site.urls),
                                     path('', include('recipes.urls')),
                                     path('welcome/', welcome view, name='welcome'),
                                     path('list/', RecipeListView.as_view(), name='list'),
                                     path('login/', login_view, name='login'),
                                     path('logout/', logout_view, name='logout')
                                 urlpatterns += static(settings.MEDIA URL, document root=settings.
                                 MEDIA_ROOT)
```

4. Now, go into the (app level) views that you want to require a login to see. For CBVs, import Django's *LoginRequiredMixin* package. For FBVs, import Django's *login_required* package. Add the mixin as the first argument to the CBV class declaration. Or, for an FBV, write @login_required just above the defined view function.

```
∨ BEST-RECIPES-EVER

                          src > recipes > ♥ views.py > ♥ profile_view
                           from django.shortcuts import render
                                from django.views.generic import ListView, DetailView
  > media
                            3 from .models import Recipe

✓ recipe_project

   > __pycache__
                                 from django.contrib.auth.mixins import LoginRequiredMixin
   __init__.py
   asgi.py
                                 from django.contrib.auth.decorators import login_required
   settings.py
   urls.py
                  5, M
   views.py
                                 def welcome view(request):
   wsgi.py
                                 return render(request, 'recipes/welcome.html')
   > _pycache_
                                class RecipeListView(LoginRequiredMixin, ListView):
   > migrations
                                     model = Recipe
   > static
                                     template_name = 'recipes/list.html'
   > templates
   __init__.py
   admin.py
                                 class RecipeDetailView(LoginRequiredMixin, DetailView):
   apps.py
                                     model = Recipe
   models.py
                                     template_name = 'recipes/detail.html'
   tests.py
   urls.py
                                 @login required
   views.py
                                 def profile_view(request):

∨ templates\auth

                           27
                                return render(request, 'recipes/profile.html')
```

And there you go. Now you've got a login form that authenticates with the Django user's credentials, and you can restrict views based on user login.