



## MIT AITI

### Python Software Development

### Lab DJ1:

This lab will help you get Django installed and write your first application.<sup>1</sup>

1. Hopefully by now you all installed Django on your computers. If you didn't, find Louis or Jovana and they will help you get set up. (Especially if you give them some food. We lloooooooveee food.)

2. Create a new project called "webnotes":

```
$ django-admin.py startproject webnotes
```

If this worked you should be able to see a new directory called `webnotes` on your Desktop. If not, let us know!

3. Change to the `webnotes` directory and look at the list of files. You should see another folder named `webnotes` and a file `manage.py`. Change to the `webnotes` subdirectory and look at the list of files. You should see 4 new files in the directory.

```
$ cd webnotes
$ cd webnotes
$ ls
```

4. Make a new directory called `templates`

```
$ mkdir templates
```

5. We are now going to make a base template for our site. Create an html file called "base.html" inside the `templates` folder, and then make a `notes` directory.

```
$ cd templates
$ mkdir notes
$ gedit base.html
```

6. Place the following text into `base.html`

```
<html>
  <head>
```

---

<sup>1</sup> This lab was adapted from: <http://komunitasweb.com/2010/02/django-tutorial-simple-notes-application/>.

```

        <meta http-equiv="Content-type" content="text/html;
charset=utf-8" />
        <title>Webnotes</title>
    </head>
    <body>
        <div id="content">
            {% block content %}
            {% endblock %}
        </div>
    </body>
</html>

```

7. Change into the `notes` directory and add two files: `detail.html` and `list.html`. These files will extend the `base.html` file that you have created, by overriding the content section.

```

$ cd notes
$ gedit detail.html
    {% extends 'base.html' %}
    {% block content %}
        <h2>{{ note.title }}</h2>
        <p>{{ note.content }}</p>
    {% endblock %}

$ gedit list.html
    {% extends 'base.html' %}
    {% block content %}
        {% if note_list %}
        <ul>
            {% for note in note_list %}
                <li><a href="{% url notes_detail note.id
%}">{{ note.title }}</a></li>
            {% endfor %}
        </ul>
        {% else %}
            You don't have webnotes
        {% endif %}
    {% endblock %}

```

8. Edit the `settings.py` file so that django knows where to look for your templates:

```

$ cd ~/Desktop/webnotes/webnotes
$ gedit settings.py

```

- a. At the top of the file, add these two lines:

```

import os # put this at the top of the file
PROJECT_ROOT = os.path.realpath(os.path.dirname(__file__))

```

- b. find the line that starts with "TEMPLATE\_DIRS" and replace it with:

```

TEMPLATE_DIRS = (
    os.path.join(PROJECT_ROOT, 'templates')
)

```

9. Keep `settings.py` open and edit the database configuration, by specifying `sqlite3`.

Find the following two variables and edit them to have these values:

```
'ENGINE': 'django.db.backends.sqlite3',  
'NAME': 'webnotes.db',
```

10. Now start (create) a new application inside the upper `webnotes` folder:

```
$ cd ~/Desktop/webnotes  
$ django-admin.py startapp notes
```

11. The application will be placed in a new folder called “notes”. Navigate into it and look at the list of files.

```
$ ls  
$ cd notes  
$ ls
```

12. Open `models.py` and add a `notes` model

```
$ gedit models.py
```

```
from django.db import models  
class Notes(models.Model):  
    title = models.CharField(max_length=255)  
    content = models.TextField()  
    def __unicode__(self):  
        return self.title
```

13. Open `views.py` and add a list and detail view. These views define what data will be displayed and how it will be displayed.

```
$ gedit views.py
```

```
from django.template import Context, loader  
from django.http import HttpResponse  
from models import Notes  
  
def notes_list(request):  
    note_list = Notes.objects.all()  
    t = loader.get_template('notes/list.html')  
    c = Context({  
        'note_list': note_list,  
    })  
    return HttpResponse(t.render(c))  
  
def notes_detail(request, id):  
    note = Notes.objects.get(pk=id)  
    t = loader.get_template('notes/detail.html')  
    c = Context({  
        'note': note,  
    })  
    return HttpResponse(t.render(c))
```

14. Create a new file called “`urls.py`” and define some URLs that will access your views:

```
$ gedit urls.py
```

```
from django.conf.urls.defaults import *
import views

urlpatterns = patterns('',
    url(r'^list/$', views.notes_list, name='notes_list'),
    url(r'^detail/(?P<id>\d+)/$', views.notes_detail,
        name='notes_detail'),
)
```

15. Create a new file called `admin.py` and register the `notes` application with the built-in admin application

```
$ gedit admin.py
```

```
from notes.models import Notes
from django.contrib import admin

admin.site.register(Notes)
```

16. Navigate up one directory to get back to your project home. Change the directory to `webnotes`. Open the `settings.py` file and go to the `INSTALLED_APPS` section. Add `'notes'` and uncomment the `django.contrib.admin` app.

```
$ cd ../webnotes
$ gedit settings.py
```

```
INSTALLED_APPS = (
    ...
    'notes',
    'django.contrib.admin',
)
```

17. Open the `urls.py` for your project (not the one for the `notes` app). Tell your project `urls.py` that it should include the URLs from your `notes` app. Uncomment the reference to the admin urls.

```
$ gedit urls.py
```

```
...
from django.contrib import admin
admin.autodiscover()

...
urlpatterns = patterns('',
    url(r'^notes/', include('notes.urls')),
    ...
    url(r'^admin/', include(admin.site.urls)),
    ...
)
```

18. Navigate to your project folder. Tell `django` to build a database based on your models.

```
$ cd ~/Desktop/webnotes
$ python manage.py syncdb
```

When asked to make a superuser, say “yes” and enter a username, email, and password. DO NOT FORGET THIS.

19. Run the development server  
`$ python manage.py runserver`
20. visit <http://localhost:8000/admin>, and add a note
21. visit <http://localhost:8000/notes/list> and see if your note is there
22. Once all of this is done, it's time to make a change. Add an author to the notes application and output it in the detail page. Here's how to do it:
  - a. Open models.py  
`$ gedit ~/Desktop/webnotes/notes/models.py`
  - b. Add an author field.  
Hint: it's very similar to the title field.
  - c. Edit the details template  
`$ gedit  
~/Desktop/webnotes/webnotes/templates/notes/detail.html`
  - d. Output the author after the title in an `<h3>` tag
  - e. Go to the terminal where you ran `python manage.py runserver`, press `ctrl+c` to stop it
  - f. Delete all previous data so that you have a clean database.  
`$ python manage.py reset notes`
  - g. Synchronize the database  
`$ python manage.py syncdb`
  - h. Start the server again  
`$ python manage.py runserver`
  - i. If your change worked, you should see an author field when adding notes in the admin interface