# Django

**Documentation** 

# Writing your first Django app, part 2

This tutorial begins where Tutorial 1 left off. We'll setup the database, create your first model, and get a quick introduction to Django's automatically-generated admin site.

## Database setup

Now, open up mysite/settings.py. It's a normal Python module with module-level variables representing Django settings.

By default, the configuration uses SQLite. If you're new to databases, or you're just interested in trying Django, this is the easiest choice. SQLite is included in Python, so you won't need to install anything else to support your database. When starting your first real project, however, you may want to use a more robust database like PostgreSQL, to avoid database-switching headaches down the road.

If you wish to use another database, install the appropriate database bindings and change the following keys in the **DATABASES** 'default' item to match your database connection settings:

- ENGINE Either 'django.db.backends.sqlite3', 'django.db.backends.postgresql', 'django.db.backends.mysql', or 'django.db.backends.oracle'. Other backends are also available.
- NAME The name of your database. If you're using SQLite, the database will be a file on your computer; in that case, NAME should be the full absolute path, including filename, of that file. The default value, os.path.join(BASE\_DIR, 'db.sqlite3'), will store the file in your project directory.

If you are not using SQLite as your database, additional settings such as **USER, PASSWORD**, and **HOST** must be added. For more details, see the reference documentation for **DATABASES**.



#### For databases other than SQLite

If you're using a database besides SQLite, make sure you've created a database by this point. Do that with "CREATE DATABASE database\_name;" within your database's interactive prompt.

Also make sure that the database user provided in **mysite/settings.py** has "create database" privileges. This allows automatic creation of a <u>test</u> database which will be needed in a later tutorial.

If you're using SQLite, you don't need to create anything beforehand - the database file will be created automatically when it is needed.

While you're editing mysite/settings.py, set TIME\_ZONE to your time zone.

Also, note the **INSTALLED\_APPS** setting at the top of the file. That holds the names of all Django applications that are activated in this Django instance. Apps can be used in multiple projects, and you can package and distribute them for use by others in their projects.

By default, **INSTALLED\_APPS** contains the following apps, all of which come with Django:

- django.contrib.admin The admin site. You'll use it shortly.
- django.contrib.auth An authentication system.
- django.contrib.contenttypes A framework for content types.
- django.contrib.sessions A session framework.
- django.contrib.messages A messaging framework.
- django.contrib.staticfiles A framework for managing static files.

These applications are included by default as a convenience for the common case.

Some of these applications make use of at least one database table, though, so we need to create the tables in the database before we can use them. To do that, run the following command:

\$ python manage.py migrate

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The migrate command looks at the INSTALLED\_APPS settings and creates any necessary database tables according to the database settings in your mysite/settings.py file and the database migrations shipped with the app (we'll cover those later). You'll see a message for each migration it applies. If you're interested try the company of the database and type \dt (PostgreSQL), SHOW TABLES; (MySQL), .schema (SQLite), or SELECT TABLE\_NAME FROM USER\_TABLES; (Oracle) to display the tables of any or created



Like we said above, the default applications are included for the common case, but not everybody needs them. If you don't need any or all of them, feel free to comment-out or delete the appropriate line(s) from INSTALLED\_APPS before running migrate. The migrate command will only run migrations for apps in INSTALLED\_APPS.

## Creating models

Now we'll define your models - essentially, your database layout, with additional metadata.



#### Philosophy

A model is the single, definitive source of truth about your data. It contains the essential fields and behaviors of the data you're storing. Django follows the DRY Principle. The goal is to define your data model in one place and automatically derive things from it.

This includes the migrations - unlike in Ruby On Rails, for example, migrations are entirely derived from your models file, and are essentially just a history that Django can roll through to update your database schema to match your current models.

In our simple poll app, we'll create two models: Question and Choice. A Question has a question and a publication date. A Choice has two fields: the text of the choice and a vote tally. Each Choice is associated with a Ouestion.

These concepts are represented by simple Python classes. Edit the polls/models.py file so it looks like this:

polls/models.py

```
from django.db import models
class Question(models.Model):
    question_text = models.CharField(max_length=200)
    pub_date = models.DateTimeField('date published')
class Choice(models.Model):
   question = models.ForeignKey(Question, on_delete=models.CASCADE)
   choice text = models.CharField(max length=200)
    votes = models.IntegerField(default=0)
```

The code is straightforward. Each model is represented by a class that subclasses django.db.models.Model. Each model has a number of class variables, each of which represents a database field in the model.

Each field is represented by an instance of a Field class - e.g., CharField for character fields and DateTimeField for datetimes. This tells Django what type of data each field holds

The name of each Field instance (e.g. question\_text or pub\_date) is the field's name, in machine-friendly format. You'll use this value in your Python code, and your database will use it as the column name.

You can use an optional first positional argument to a Field to designate a human-readable name. That's used in a couple of introspective parts of Django, and it doubles as documentation. If this field isn't provided, Django will use the machine-readable name. In this example, we've only defined a human-readable name for Question.pub\_date. For all other fields in this model, the field's machine-readable name will suffice as its human-readable name.

Some Field classes have required arguments. CharField, for example, requires that you give it a max\_length. That's used not only in the database schema, but in validation, as we'll soon see.

A Field can also have various optional arguments; in this case, we've set the default value of votes to 0.

Finally, note a relationship is defined, using ForeignKey. That tells Django each Choice is related to a single Question. Django supports all the common database relationships: many-to-one, many-to-many, and one-to-one.

## Activating models

That small bit of model code gives Django a lot of information. With it, Django is able to:

• Create a database schema (CREATE TABLE statements) for this app.

 $2\inf_{\mathbf{C}} 12$  Create a Python database-access API for accessing **Question** and **Choice** objects.

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But first we need to tell our project that the polls app is installed.



Django apps are "pluggable": You can use an app in multiple projects, and you can distribute apps, because they don't have to be tied to a given Django installation

Edit the mysite/settings.py file again, and change the INSTALLED\_APPS setting to include the string 'polls.apps.PollsConfig'. It'll look like this:

mysite/settings.py

```
INSTALLED_APPS = [
    'polls.apps.PollsConfig',
    'django.contrib.admin',
    'django.contrib.auth',
    'django.contrib.contenttypes',
    'django.contrib.sessions',
    'django.contrib.messages',
    'django.contrib.staticfiles',
]
```

Now Django knows to include the  ${\bf polls}$  app. Let's run another command:

```
$ python manage.py makemigrations polls
```

You should see something similar to the following:

```
Migrations for 'polls':

0001_initial.py:

- Create model Choice

- Create model Question

- Add field question to choice
```

By running makemigrations, you're telling Django that you've made some changes to your models (in this case, you've made new ones) and that you'd like the changes to be stored as a migration.

Migrations are how Django stores changes to your models (and thus your database schema) - they're just files on disk. You can read the migration for your new model if you like; it's the file **polls/migrations/0001\_initial.py**. Don't worry, you're not expected to read them every time Django makes one, but they're designed to be human-editable in case you want to manually tweak how Django changes things.

There's a command that will run the migrations for you and manage your database schema automatically - that's called **migrate**, and we'll come to it in a moment - but first, let's see what SQL that migration would run. The **sqlmigrate** command takes migration names and returns their SQL:

\$ python manage.py sqlmigrate polls 0001

You should see something similar to the following (we've reformatted it for readability):

```
- Create model Choice
CREATE TABLE "polls_choice" (
    "id" serial NOT NULL PRIMARY KEY,
    "choice_text" varchar(200) NOT NULL,
    "votes" integer NOT NULL
);
-- Create model Question
CREATE TABLE "polls question" (
    "id" serial NOT NULL PRIMARY KEY,
    "question text" varchar(200) NOT NULL,
    "pub_date" timestamp with time zone NOT NULL
1);
-- Add field question to choice
ALTER TABLE "polls_choice" ADD COLUMN "question_id" integer NOT NULL;
ALTER TABLE "polls_choice" ALTER COLUMN "question_id" DROP DEFAULT;
CREATE INDEX "polls_choice_7aa0f6ee" ON "polls_choice" ("question_id");
ALTER TABLE "polls_choice"
  ADD CONSTRAINT "polls_choice_question_id_246c99a640fbbd72_fk_polls_question_id"
    FOREIGN KEY ("question_id")
    REFERENCES "polls_question" ("id")
    DEFERRABLE INITIALLY DEFERRED;
COMMIT:
```

Note the following:

- The exact output will vary depending on the database you are using. The example above is generated for PostgreSQL.
- Table names are automatically generated by combining the name of the app (polls) and the lowercase name of the model question and choice. (You can override this behavior.)
- Primary keys (IDs) are added automatically. (You can override this, too.)
- By convention, Django appends "\_id" to the foreign key field name. (Yes, you can override this, as well.)
- The foreign key relationship is made explicit by a **FOREIGN KEY** constraint. Don't worry about the **DEFERRABLE** parts; that's just telling PostgreSQL to not enforce the foreign key until the end of the transaction.
- It's tailored to the database you're using, so database-specific field types such as auto\_increment (MySQL), serial (PostgreSQL), or integer primary key
  autoincrement (SQLite) are handled for you automatically. Same goes for the quoting of field names e.g., using double quotes or single quotes.
- The sqlmigrate command doesn't actually run the migration on your database it just prints it to the screen so that you can see what SQL Django thinks is required. It's useful for checking what Django is going to do or if you have database administrators who require SQL scripts for changes.

If you're interested, you can also run python manage.py check; this checks for any problems in your project without making migrations or touching the database.

Now, run **migrate** again to create those model tables in your database:

```
$ python manage.py migrate
Operations to perform:
   Apply all migrations: admin, contenttypes, polls, auth, sessions
Running migrations:
   Rendering model states... DONE
   Applying polls.0001_initial... OK
```

The migrate command takes all the migrations that haven't been applied (Django tracks which ones are applied using a special table in your database called django\_migrations) and runs them against your database - essentially, synchronizing the changes you made to your models with the schema in the database.

Migrations are very powerful and let you change your models over time, as you develop your project, without the need to delete your database or tables and make new ones - it specializes in upgrading your database live, without losing data. We'll cover them in more depth in a later part of the tutorial, but for now, remember the three-step guide to making model changes:

- Change your models (in models.py).
- $\bullet$  Run  $\underline{\textbf{python}}$   $\underline{\textbf{manage.py}}$   $\underline{\textbf{makemigrations}}$  to create migrations for those changes

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4 of Ranpython manage.py migrate to apply those changes to the database.

# Playing with the API

Now, let's hop into the interactive Python shell and play around with the free API Django gives you. To invoke the Python shell, use this command:

\$ python manage.py shell

We're using this instead of simply typing "python", because **manage.py** sets the **DJANGO\_SETTINGS\_MODULE** environment variable, which gives Django the Python import path to your **mysite/settings.py** file.



#### Bypassing manage.py

If you'd rather not use **manage.py**, no problem. Just set the **DJANGO\_SETTINGS\_MODULE** environment variable to **mysite.settings**, start a plain Python shell, and set up Django:

>>> import django
>>> django.setup()

If this raises an **AttributeError**, you're probably using a version of Django that doesn't match this tutorial version. You'll want to either switch to the older tutorial or the newer Django version.

You must run python from the same directory manage.py is in, or ensure that directory is on the Python path, so that import mysite works.

For more information on all of this, see the django-admin documentation.

Once you're in the shell, explore the database API:

```
Writing your first Diango app, part 2 | Diango d... https://docs.dia >>> from polls.models import Question, Choice # Import the model classes we just wrote.
                                                                              https://docs.djangoproject.com/en/1.9/intro/tutor...
     # No questions are in the system yet.
     >>> Question.objects.all()
     []
     # Create a new Question.
     # Support for time zones is enabled in the default settings file, so
     # Django expects a datetime with tzinfo for pub_date. Use timezone.now()
     # instead of datetime.datetime.now() and it will do the right thing.
     >>> from django.utils import timezone
     >>> q = Question(question_text="What's new?", pub_date=timezone.now())
     # Save the object into the database. You have to call save() explicitly.
     >>> q.save()
     # Now it has an ID. Note that this might say "1L" instead of "1", depending
     # on which database you're using. That's no biggie; it just means your
     # database backend prefers to return integers as Python long integer
     # objects.
     >>> q.id
     # Access model field values via Python attributes.
     >>> q.question_text
     "What's new?"
     >>> q.pub_date
     datetime.datetime(2012, 2, 26, 13, 0, 0, 775217, tzinfo=<UTC>)
     # Change values by changing the attributes, then calling save().
     >>> q.question_text = "What's up?"
     >>> q.save()
     # objects.all() displays all the questions in the database.
     >>> Question.objects.all()
     [<Question: Question object>]
```

Wait a minute. < Question: Question object > is, utterly, an unhelpful representation of this object. Let's fix that by editing the Question model (in the polls/models.py file) and adding a \_\_str\_\_() method to both Question and Choice:

polls/models.py

```
from django.db import models
from django.utils.encoding import python_2_unicode_compatible

@python_2_unicode_compatible # only if you need to support Python 2
class Question(models.Model):
    # ...
    def __str__(self):
        return self.question_text

@python_2_unicode_compatible # only if you need to support Python 2
class Choice(models.Model):
    # ...
    def __str__(self):
        return self.choice_text
```

It's important to add \_str\_() methods to your models, not only for your own convenience when dealing with the interactive prompt, but also because objects' representations are used throughout Django's automatically-generated admin.

Note these are normal Python methods. Let's add a custom method, just for demonstration:

polls/models.py

```
Writing your first Django app, part 2 | Django d... https://docs.djangoproject.com/en/1.9/intro/tutor...
from django.db import models
from django.utils import timezone

class Question(models.Model):
    # ...
    def was_published_recently(self):
        return self.pub_date >= timezone.now() - datetime.timedelta(days=1)
```

Note the addition of **import datetime** and **from django.utils import timezone**, to reference Python's standard **datetime** module and Django's time-zone-related utilities in **django.utils.timezone**, respectively. If you aren't familiar with time zone handling in Python, you can learn more in the time zone support docs.

Save these changes and start a new Python interactive shell by running **python manage.py shell** again:

```
# Make sure our __str__() addition worked.
>>> Question.objects.all()
[<Question: What's up?>]
# Django provides a rich database lookup API that's entirely driven by
# kevword arguments.
>>> Question.objects.filter(id=1)
[<Ouestion: What's up?>]
>>> Question.objects.filter(question_text__startswith='What')
[<Question: What's up?>]
# Get the question that was published this year.
>>> from diango.utils import timezone
>>> current_year = timezone.now().year
>>> Question.objects.get(pub_date__year=current_year)
<Question: What's up?>
# Request an ID that doesn't exist, this will raise an exception.
>>> Question.objects.get(id=2)
Traceback (most recent call last):
DoesNotExist: Question matching query does not exist.
# Lookup by a primary key is the most common case, so Django provides a
# shortcut for primary-key exact lookups.
# The following is identical to Question.objects.get(id=1).
>>> Question.objects.get(pk=1)
<Ouestion: What's up?>
# Make sure our custom method worked.
>>> q = Question.objects.get(pk=1)
>>> q.was_published_recently()
True
# Give the Question a couple of Choices. The create call constructs a new
# Choice object, does the INSERT statement, adds the choice to the set
# of available choices and returns the new Choice object. Django creates
# a set to hold the "other side" of a ForeignKey relation
# (e.g. a question's choice) which can be accessed via the API.
>>> q = Question.objects.get(pk=1)
# Display any choices from the related object set -- none so far.
>>> q.choice_set.all()
[]
# Create three choices.
>>> q.choice_set.create(choice_text='Not much', votes=0)
<Choice: Not much>
>>> q.choice_set.create(choice_text='The sky', votes=0)
<Choice: The skv>
>>> c = q.choice_set.create(choice_text='Just hacking again', votes=0)
# Choice objects have API access to their related Question objects.
>>> c.question
<Ouestion: What's up?>
# And vice versa: Question objects get access to Choice objects.
>>> q.choice set.all()
[<Choice: Not much>, <Choice: The sky>, <Choice: Just hacking again>]
>>> q.choice_set.count()
# The API automatically follows relationships as far as you need.
# Use double underscores to separate relationships.
# This works as many levels deep as you want; there's no limit.
# Find all Choices for any question whose pub_date is in this year
# (reusing the 'current_year' variable we created above).
>>> Choice.objects.filter(question__pub_date__year=current_year)
[<Choice: Not much>, <Choice: The sky>, <Choice: Just hacking again>]
# Let's delete one of the choices. Use delete() for that.
>>> c = q.choice_set.filter(choice_text__startswith='Just hacking')
>>> c.delete()
                                                                                                                         Language: en
```



#### Philosophy

Generating admin sites for your staff or clients to add, change, and delete content is tedious work that doesn't require much creativity. For that reason, Django entirely automates creation of admin interfaces for models.

Django was written in a newsroom environment, with a very clear separation between "content publishers" and the "public" site. Site managers use the system to add news stories, events, sports scores, etc., and that content is displayed on the public site. Django solves the problem of creating a unified interface for site administrators to edit content.

The admin isn't intended to be used by site visitors. It's for site managers.

### Creating an admin user

Username: admin

First we'll need to create a user who can login to the admin site. Run the following command:

\$ python manage.py createsuperuser

Enter your desired username and press enter.

You will then be prompted for your desired email address:

Email address: admin@example.com

The final step is to enter your password. You will be asked to enter your password twice, the second time as a confirmation of the first.

Password: \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*
Password (again): \*\*\*\*\*\*\*
Superuser created successfully.

### Start the development server

The Django admin site is activated by default. Let's start the development server and explore it.

If the server is not running start it like so:

\$ python manage.py runserver

Now, open a Web browser and go to "/admin/" on your local domain - e.g., http://127.0.0.1:8000/admin/. You should see the admin's login screen:

# Django administration

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Username:

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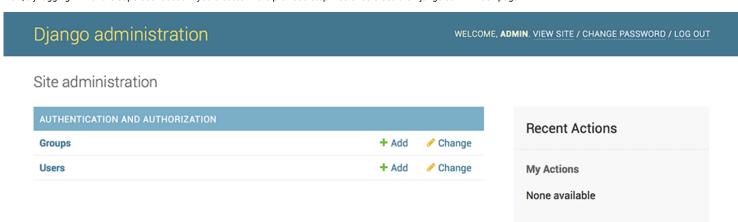
Password:

Log in

Since translation is turned on by default, the login screen may be displayed in your own language, depending on your browser's settings and if Django has a translation for this language.

#### Enter the admin site

Now, try logging in with the superuser account you created in the previous step. You should see the Django admin index page:



You should see a few types of editable content: groups and users. They are provided by django.contrib.auth, the authentication framework shipped by Django.

## Make the poll app modifiable in the admin

But where's our poll app? It's not displayed on the admin index page.

Just one thing to do: we need to tell the admin that Question objects have an admin interface. To do this, open the polls/admin.py file, and edit it to look like this:

polls/admin.py

```
from django.contrib import admin

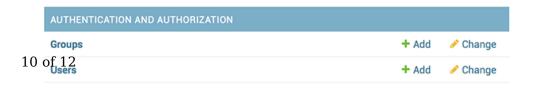
from .models import Question

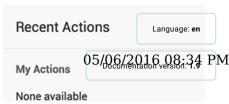
admin.site.register(Question)
```

## **Explore the free admin functionality**

Now that we've registered **Question**, Django knows that it should be displayed on the admin index page:

## Site administration



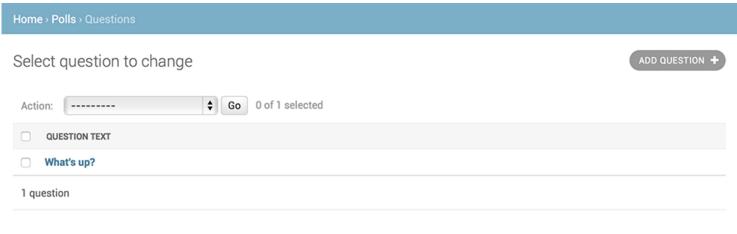


Ouestions

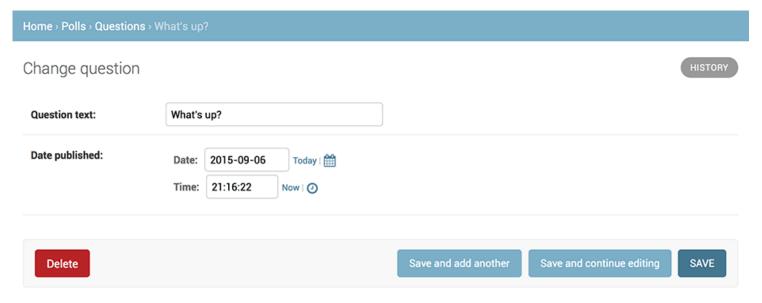
+ Add

Change

Click "Questions". Now you're at the "change list" page for questions. This page displays all the questions in the database and lets you choose one to change it. There's the "What's up?" question we created earlier:



Click the "What's up?" question to edit it:



#### Things to note here:

- The form is automatically generated from the **Question** model.
- The different model field types (DateTimeField, CharField) correspond to the appropriate HTML input widget. Each type of field knows how to display itself in the Django admin.
- Each **DateTimeField** gets free JavaScript shortcuts. Dates get a "Today" shortcut and calendar popup, and times get a "Now" shortcut and a convenient popup that lists commonly entered times.

The bottom part of the page gives you a couple of options:

- Save Saves changes and returns to the change-list page for this type of object.
- Save and continue editing Saves changes and reloads the admin page for this object.
- Save and add another Saves changes and loads a new, blank form for this type of object.
- Delete Displays a delete confirmation page.

If the value of "Date published" doesn't match the time when you created the question in <u>Tutorial 1</u>, it probably means you forgot to set the correct value for the <u>TIME\_ZONE</u> setting. Change it, reload the page and check that the correct value appears.

Change the "Date published" by clicking the "Today" and "Now" shortcuts. Then click "Save and continue editing." Then click "History" in the upper right. You'll see a page listing all changes made to this object via the Django admin, with the timestamp and username of the person who made the change:

Home > Polls > Questions > What's up? > History

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11Change history: What's up?

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When you're comfortable with the models API and have familiarized yourself with the admin site, read part 3 of this tutorial to learn about how to add more views to our polls app.	
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