***Getting Started with Django - first steps***

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The prerequisites for ***Django***, a python-based web framework widely gaining popularity, are having experience in Python (basic syntax, data types, writing functions, built-in libraries), a basic understanding of Object-Oriented Programming.

Downloading pip, setting up a virtual environment, and downloading the required dependencies will be the next steps to get started with exploring Django.

A ***virtual environment*** is a tool that helps to keep dependencies required by different projects separate by creating isolated environments for them. It is recommended to use a new virtual environment whenever you work on any Python-based project to ensure that updating the version of any dependency on your system doesn’t affect existing projects.

***Pip*** is a standard package manager for python. It allows users to install additional packages that are not included in the Python Standard Library. Once pip is installed, additional required packages can be easily installed in a single command. Django is installed through the pip command.

Once Django is installed, a new project can be created with a simple command which will create a project folder in the current directory. Once you open the project folder, you will see the files that Django automatically creates!

As overwhelming as the directory structure may look, it is quite simple to understand. Note that when you’re getting started with Django it’s always recommended to refer to the official Django documentation available in <https://www.djangoproject.com/>. This documentation provides a clear, detailed use of every file and the process of getting started with creating your first Django project.

Once the required dependencies are downloaded and the virtual environment is set up and the main project is created, add your code in the required files as guided by the documentation and once you deploy the server, you have yourself a sophisticated web application with enough practice!