

Research Answers – Sticky Notes (Part 1)

1) HTTP state, auth, sessions

HTTP is stateless; continuity is added with cookies and server-side sessions. On login, the server issues a signed session ID stored in a cookie. Each request includes the cookie, allowing the server to load session data (user id, expiry, CSRF token). Django provides `request.user` and `request.session` via middleware. Security practices: HTTPS-only, HttpOnly, SameSite, CSRF tokens, short lifetimes, rotating session identifiers after privilege changes.

2) Migrations to MariaDB

Install a MariaDB server and create a database & user. In your venv install `mysqlclient` (or `mariadb`). Configure `DATABASES` with `ENGINE='django.db.backends.mysql'`, and set `NAME`, `USER`, `PASSWORD`, `HOST`, `PORT`, `OPTIONS` (`charset utf8mb4`). Run `makemigrations` and `migrate`. For existing data, `dumpdata/loaddata` or database-native export/import. Ensure backups, CI for migrations, correct time zone and character set, and connection pooling as needed.