**1. GitHub Repository**

Link : https://github.com/Shibin-P-Shaji/diyblog.git

**2. Customization Details**

**Implemented Features:**

1. **User Profiles:**

Users can create profiles with bios and profile pictures.

1. **Comments Section:**

Users can leave comments on blog posts to engage with content.

1. **Like Button:**

Users can like posts to show appreciation.

1. **Text-to-Speech Button:**

Allows users to listen to blog content instead of reading.

1. **Search Feature:**

Enables users to search for specific authors or blog posts efficiently.

**3. Screenshots**

* **Screenshot 1:** User profile with bio and profile picture

A screenshot of a computer

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

* **Screenshot 2:** Comments section on a blog post

A screenshot of a computer

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

* **Screenshot 3:** Like button in action

A screenshot of a computer

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

* **Screenshot 4:** Text-to-speech functionality

A screenshot of a computer

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

* **Screenshot 5:** Search results displaying authors or blog posts

A screenshot of a computer

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**4. Challenges & Learnings**

1. **Database Migration Issues**

* **Challenge**: We encountered several database migration errors, particularly when adding new models like Like and updating existing models.
* **Solution**:
* Carefully created and applied migrations in the correct order
* Used makemigrations and migrate commands in the proper directory
* Ensured we were in the blog directory when running Django commands

1. **File Handling for Text-to-Speech**

* **Challenge**: File access errors when implementing the text-to-speech feature, particularly with temporary file cleanup.
* **Solution**:
* Implemented proper file cleanup using response hooks
* Used Path from pathlib for better file path handling
* Added error handling and sanitized filenames
* Created dedicated media directories for audio files

1. **User Authentication and Authorization**

* **Challenge**: Managing user roles, permissions, and profile functionality.
* **Solution**:
* Implemented LoginRequiredMixin for protected views
* Created custom user profile model (Author)
* Added proper checks for user permissions (e.g., only authors can delete their own posts)
* Used Django's built-in authentication system with customizations

1. **Image Handling**

* **Challenge**: Profile picture uploads and storage.
* **Solution**:
* Used Django's ImageField
* Implemented proper media file configurations
* Added image validation and processing
* Created dedicated media directories

1. **AJAX and Real-time Updates**

* **Challenge**: Implementing like functionality without page refresh.
* **Solution**:
* Used JavaScript fetch API for AJAX requests
* Implemented proper CSRF token handling
* Added real-time UI updates
* Created JSON response views

1. **Search Functionality**

* **Challenge**: Implementing efficient and user-friendly search.
* **Solution**:
* Used Django's Q objects for complex queries
* Implemented search across multiple fields (title, content, author)
* Added proper indexing for better performance
* Maintained search state in pagination

1. **UI/UX Design**

* **Challenge**: Creating a responsive and modern interface.
* **Solution**:
* Used Bootstrap for responsive design
* Implemented custom CSS for enhanced styling
* Added interactive elements (hover effects, transitions)
* Ensured consistent design across all pages

1. **Code Organization**

* **Challenge**: Maintaining clean and maintainable code structure.
* **Solution**:
* Followed Django's MVT pattern strictly
* Separated concerns (models, views, templates)
* Used class-based views where appropriate
* Implemented reusable templates and components

1. **Error Handling**

* **Challenge**: Graceful error handling and user feedback.
* **Solution**:
* Added comprehensive try-except blocks
* Implemented user-friendly error messages
* Used Django's message framework
* Added proper HTTP response codes

1. **Performance Optimization**

* **Challenge**: Ensuring fast page loads and efficient database queries.
* **Solution**:
* Used select\_related for reducing database queries
* Implemented pagination
* Added proper indexing
* Optimized media file handling

1. **Directory Structure Issues**

* **Challenge**: Running Django commands in the correct directory.
* **Solution**:
* Maintained proper project structure
* Ensured commands are run from the correct directory (blog/)
* Added clear documentation for project setup
* Used absolute imports

These challenges helped us learn:

1. The importance of proper project structure
2. Best practices for file handling and media management
3. Effective error handling strategies
4. User experience considerations
5. Performance optimization techniques
6. The value of clean code and documentation

The solutions we implemented have made the blog application more robust, user-friendly, and maintainable.