Exercise 2.1: Getting Started with Django

Pre-Work: Before Starting Achievement 2 :

- *Was your study routine effective during Achievement 1? If not, what will you do differently during Achievement 2?*

  - Yes. While I would have to take liberties with the context involved with calling it a "routine", I can say that my study processes were ultimately successful. My current life situation make it impossible to have a consistent routine, due to the many other responsibilities that I have that have to change in their daily scheduling. My "routine" is to plan each day according to the schedule imposed upon me. I have done very well with this, and it is resulting in me having a real chance at finishing the course on time (something I have doubted I could pull off at many point along the way).

- *Reflect on your learning and project work for Achievement 1. What were you most proud of? How will you repeat or build on this in Achievement 2?*

  - I was most proud being able to dedicate enough time to each Task assignment to get the submitted work thoroughly completed, polished, and double (sometimes triple) checked. This resulted in my tasks being approved on the first submissions. This is particularly efficient because it saves the additional turnaround time of receiving the feedback from the mentor, making the fixes/improvements, re-submitting, and then waiting for feedback again. This has been crucial in my rush to get the course done by the dead line. I plan to maintain this system of flexing to create each day's schedule as the days present their respective time challenges.

- *What difficulties did you encounter in the last Achievement? How did you deal with them? How could this experience prepare you for difficulties in Achievement 2?*

  - The main difficulty that caused problems for me was in having to pause my

work on a particular assignment without it being finished, and not always being able to return to it within a day or two. By the third day away from the work, it would cause an additional layer of re-orientation to the project, and what specific piece I was working on. This was very costly to time, and cause a lot of frustration. Going forward, I have made some adjustments to how I am delegating the burden of childcare to those who are helping me with that. I am now at a point where I can't really afford to have any more of those kinds of major hangups, if I hope to finish the course by the deadline. Some additional sacrifices to my family life will have to be made in December and January to free up a little extra time, and ultimately succeed in this goal.

Reflection Questions :

- *Suppose you're a web developer in a company and need to decide if you'll use vanilla (plain) Python for a project, or a framework like Django instead. What are the advantages and drawbacks of each?*

    - **A:**   Django will be a great option for developing web applications. If the application being made does not require a backend database and/or it doesn't run on the web, then Django is not needed, and would only act as extra unnecessary mechanics that would hinder development without benefit. As well, Django, being based in MVT (Model-View-Template) architecture, it is highly beneficial in environment of a lot of change, that may require a lot of prototyping, and/or has many developers working together on the project. What you may lose in control, you gain in congruence in collaboration. If the app is going to be simple and/or built by one (or few) people, it could be beneficial to stay with vanilla Python.

- *In your own words, what is the most significant advantage of Model View Template (MVT) architecture over Model View Controller (MVC) architecture?*

    - **A:**   Saving time and effort is the most notable distinction of MVT to MVC. MVT offers automation of fetching of data from backend, eliminating the time-intensive process of mapping to URL's that may also cause additional work from human error.

- *Now that you've had an introduction to the Django framework, write down three goals you have for yourself and your learning process during this Achievement. You can reflect on the following questions if it helps:*

  - *What do you want to learn about Django?*
    - A: I want to learn the things that will take what I've seen from vanilla Python (simple locally-run scripts), and brings it to a user experience that includes modern UI and interactivity.

  - *What do you want to get out of this Achievement?*
    - A: I want to be able to go forward from the completion of this Achievement with confidence and knowledge enough to create functioning applications. I hope to be approaching a development skill level that includes applying creating logical thinking. I have yet to arrive at the skill level or working scenarios that require creation; rather, just re-creation and customization of things that have once been created by others is all I've experienced so far. I hope to enter into that arena, albeit gradually.

  - *Where or what do you see yourself working on after you complete this Achievement?*
    - A: I have a few ideas for simple gaming apps that could be started, with a team of personal friends who work in the field. I think python could handle certain aspects of the game mechanics: The logic and response to data being rapidly changed by constant user input.