

Exercise 2.8: Deploying a Django Project

Learning Goals

- Enhance user experience and look and feel of your web application using CSS and JS
- Deploy your Django web application on a web server
- Curate project deliverables for your portfolio

Reflection Questions

1. Explain how you can use CSS and JavaScript in your Django web application.

By organizing the CSS and JS files under static files and adding the path to the static folders in the settings. Static files can be included in the template by `{% load static %}`. And all the static files will be collected for production under staticfiles folder by command: `'python manage.py collectstatic'`.

2. In your own words, explain the steps you'd need to take to deploy your Django web application.

Step 1: After finishing the app, organize static files and collect statics and migrate any changes.

Step 2: Change the settings for production. Keep the secret key in an `.env` file for security. Turn the `DEBUG` to `False`. And use a storage for static and media files.

Step 3: Use a storage for static and media files. Ex: `whitenoise`, `AWS s3`, `Cloudinary`

Step 4: Build an online Postgres database and load your `sqlite` schema into it.

Step 5: Take the database credentials and configure it in Django settings.

Step 5: Deploy the app on a platform as a service or any other service.

3. (Optional) Connect with a few Django web developers through LinkedIn or any other network. Ask them for their tips on creating a portfolio to showcase Python programming and Django skills. Think about which tips could help you improve your portfolio.

4. You've now finished Achievement 2 and, with it, the whole course! Take a moment to reflect on your learning:

- a. What went well during this Achievement?

Successfully getting the app work the way I wanted.

- b. What's something you're proud of?

Configuring the app for deployment and deploying the app was challenging and I was getting errors for deploying, but I was able to finish it only with reading and watching videos and going through stack overflow.

- c. What was the most challenging aspect of this Achievement?

Deployment, figuring out how to convert my SQLite data to Postgres. Making sure static files are responding correctly. I was getting errors during deployment and the logs didn't have much details. After deploying the app, I was getting server errors for different reasons. Then media files where not loading.

- d. Did this Achievement meet your expectations? Did it give you the confidence to start working with your new Django skills?

Yes, the last step of the process was not explained well in instructions and basically, I had to figure out how to work with Postgres instead of Sqlit, how to manage media files, what platform to use all by myself. And it made me confident on my problem-solving skills.

Well done—you've now completed the Learning Journal for the whole course.