

Exercise 2.1: Getting Started with Django

Learning Goals

- Explain MVT architecture and compare it with MVC
- Summarize Django's benefits and drawbacks
- Install and get started with Django

Reflection Questions

1. 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 lot will depend on how you want the final project to exist. Advantages of using Django over vanilla Python are its quick development, scalability, excellent documentation and community support, copious available third party libraries and other resources. Its limitations are that it does have a steeper learning curve, its fairly large size, and if the project requirements don't line up with the "Django way", you may just be out of luck. Plain Python, on the other hand, can be lightweight, have a good bit of flexibility and an easier learning curve. Drawbacks are higher development times and long lasting maintainability.

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

The most significant advantage of MVT over MVC is decoupling – it keeps the data, logic and format to remain separate while with MVC the controller links the model and the view.

3. 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?
 - What do you want to get out of this Achievement?
 - Where or what do you see yourself working on after you complete this Achievement?

I would like to be able to add another tool to my toolbox - particularly one that is used so widely throughout the tech community. A lot of where I see myself working, working on, working with following this achievement will depend on what kind of job I manage to get. I would like to play around a bit more with how all of these things can play together – see what I might be able to create for myself.