
django-email-auth Documentation

Release 1.0

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September 24, 2010

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When asked to log a user in, [Django](#) uses one or more authentication backend classes to perform the authentication. The default backend requires a username and password. This project provides an email authentication backend, thus allowing users to log in with their email address and password.

This documentation describes how to obtain and install django-email-auth on your own Django-based website. You may also want to see the [django-admin-loginpatches](#) [project](#) to provide better integration of the email authentication backend into Django's administration system.

CONTENTS:

1.1 Obtaining the code

The source code for django-email-auth is tracked using the [Git](#) version control system, and is hosted on [GitHub](#) at the URL <http://github.com/blairbonnett/django-email-auth/>.

1.1.1 Development version

In general, the development version should be perfectly usable, although it may contain bugs. It can be obtained by cloning the repository located at `git://github.com/blairbonnett/django-email-auth.git` with Git. If you use the Git command line interface, this can be done with the command:

```
git clone git://github.com/blairbonnett/django-email-auth.git
```

Alternatively, you can download the latest version of the code [here](#).

1.2 Installation

1.2.1 Basic installation

1. Copy the `email_auth` folder to your project.
2. Add `email_auth.backends.EmailBackend` to the `AUTHENTICATION_BACKENDS` list in your settings. Note that Django tries the backends in the order specified in the settings. So if you want to try the email backend and fall back to the default (username) backend, you would specify the backends as:

```
AUTHENTICATION_BACKENDS = (  
    'email_auth.backends.EmailBackend',  
    'django.contrib.auth.backends.ModelBackend',  
)
```

Note that there is no requirement to have the `ModelBackend` backend i.e., you can have the email backend as the only login method. For more details on how to specify the backends, see the [User authentication in Django](#) document.

1.2.2 Default domains

Emails are given in the form `<username>@<domain>`. If many of your users will be logging in with email address with a common domain, you can specify a set of default domains through the `EMAIL_AUTH_DEFAULT_DOMAINS` setting. If the user enters a username without a domain, the backend will then try the default domains (in order) to see if one successfully authenticates.

For example, suppose the default domains are:

```
EMAIL_AUTH_DEFAULT_DOMAINS = (  
    'example.com',  
    'mysite.org',  
)
```

If the user enters the username `bob`, the backend will try to authenticate them as `bob@example.com` and then, if that fails, as `bob@mysite.org`.

1.2.3 Multiple accounts

If multiple accounts exist for the email address being checked, the backend will try them in the order they are retrieved from the database. Once an account is found for which the password matches, the backend will assume that is the correct user and not check any further accounts.

As the `django.contrib.auth.models.User` model does not specify a default order, the order they will be returned in is undefined and hence unpredictable. If you require them to be tested in a particular order, you can set the fields to order them by in the `EMAIL_AUTH_ORDERING` setting. For example, to sort the user by first name and then the date of their last login:

```
EMAIL_AUTH_ORDERING = (  
    'first_name',  
    'last_login',  
)
```

For more details on specifying ordering in Django, see the [QuerySet API documentation](#).

1.2.4 Custom forms

The default Django authentication form (`django.contrib.auth.forms.AuthenticationForm`) prompts the user for a username and password which is confusing when an email and password is required. Additionally, the error messages are tailored for the username-and-password situation, another point of confusion.

To better integrate the backend with your user interface, your login views should use a form designed to work with an email login. To this end, a suitable form (`email_auth.forms.AuthenticationForm`) for use with the backend is included. For more specialised situations (for example, if you have more than one backend in use), you will need to create your own forms to suit.

In Django 1.2 and later, the login view provided by the authentication module (`django.contrib.auth.views.login`) takes an optional parameter, `authentication_form`, specifying the form to use in the view. This allows you to customise the form displayed to the user without having to duplicate the view code. To tell it which form to use, write your URLconf along the following lines:

```
from email_auth.forms import AuthenticationForm  
  
urlpatterns = patterns('',  
    ....  
    (r'^accounts/login$', 'django.contrib.auth.views.login',  
     {'authentication_form': AuthenticationForm}),  
    ....  
)
```

See the [Django authentication documentation](#) for details of the login view, or the [URL dispatcher documentation](#) for details on how to write URLconfs.

1.3 Settings

1.3.1 EMAIL_AUTH_DEFAULT_DOMAINS

Default: `None`

A string, or tuple of strings, defining the domain(s) to try if the user enters a username without a domain. If it is set to `None`, then only the value the user enters will be used in the authentication attempt.

1.3.2 EMAIL_AUTH_ORDERING

Default: `None`

A tuple of strings defining the order in which to sort user accounts when more than one exists for a given email address. If `None`, no sorting is performed. For details on how to specify ordering in Django, see the [QuerySet API documentation](#).

1.4 Backends

The Django authentication module (`django.contrib.auth`) delegates the handling of logins and permission checking to separate authentication backend classes. This allows authentication methods besides the default username and password method to be easily integrated into the system.

See the [User authentication in Django](#) document for more details on how Django authentication works.

1.4.1 EmailBackend

class `email_auth.backends.EmailBackend`

Allow authentication via email address and password. To use this, add it to the `AUTHENTICATION_BACKENDS` list in your settings file.

This backend inherits from the default backend - `django.contrib.auth.backends.ModelBackend` - and all the permission lookup methods (such as `has_perm()`) are left unchanged i.e., permissions are determined in the same way as the default backend.

authenticate (*email=None, password=None*)

Attempt to authenticate a user from their email and password. If the authentication is successful, it returns the corresponding `django.contrib.auth.models.User` instance. If it is unsuccessful, it returns `None`.

If the email address is specified without a domain (i.e., just a username such as `bob`), then any default domains given in the `EMAIL_AUTH_DEFAULT_DOMAINS` setting will be added to the username when attempting to authenticate.

If multiple user accounts are found for a given email address, they are tested in the order they are returned from the database until one is found for which the password matches. If necessary, this order can be specified through the `EMAIL_AUTH_ORDERING` setting.

get_users_from_email (*email, ordering=None*)

Get a list of users (instances of the `django.contrib.auth.models.User` class) which have the given email address. If there is no user with the email address, an empty list is returned. If the `ordering` parameter is not `None`, the list is sorted by the fields specified in the parameter.

1.5 Forms

1.5.1 AuthenticationForm

class `email_auth.forms.AuthenticationForm`

A form to show an authentication form for users attempting to login via email address and password. This is designed as a direct replacement for the `django.contrib.auth.forms.AuthenticationForm` form.

In Django 1.2 or later, you can specify the form to be used with the login view when configuring your URLconf. To use this form for logins, pass it as the value for the `authentication_form` argument to the `django.contrib.auth.views.login` view:

```
from email_auth.forms import AuthenticationForm

urlpatterns = patterns('',
    ...
    (r'^accounts/login', 'django.contrib.auth.views.login',
     {'authentication_form': AuthenticationForm}),
    ...
)
```

See the [Django authentication documentation](#) for details of the login view, or the [URL dispatcher documentation](#) for details on how to write URLconfs.

If you are designing templates specifically for this form, note that the email address is entered in a field called `username`. This is in order to allow templates designed for the default login form to work seamlessly with this form.

clean()

Process the form and attempt to log the user in with the details they provided. If the login was successful, the form data is returned. If the login is unsuccessful, a `django.forms.ValidationError` is raised with a message explaining why it did not succeed.

get_user_id()

Get the user ID of the user logged in by the form. If no user was logged in, this function returns `None`.

get_user()

Get the user object (an instance of `django.contrib.auth.models.User`) corresponding to the user logged in by the form. If no user was logged in, this function returns `None`.

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Version 3, 29 June 2007

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```
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```

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