Django Tutorial

# Introduction

This is a tutorial that follows Corey Schafer’s Django series videos.

Video series: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UmljXZIypDc&list=PL-osiE80TeTtoQCKZ03TU5fNfx2UY6U4p>

Youtube Channel : <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCezIgC97PvUuR4_gbFUs5g>

Code snippets : <https://github.com/CoreyMSchafer/code_snippets/tree/master/Django_Blog/snippets>

# Basics

## Basic Django start commands:

django-admin startproject projectname # creates new project

python manage.py runserver # runs the server

python manage.py migrate # creates a a SQlite3 database for your project.

This will create a new django project.

Making a new app within our django project.

A app basically means a part of our site . For eg. I created a blog app that represent the blog part of our website:

We create a new app with the following way:

We navigate to our project root folder and type in:

**python manage.py startapp blog**



## How do we add paths to our website :

We navigate to our newly created app ‘views.py’ module and add the following:

Think of views as a module that represents what will be shown when you use the functions from it.

from django.shortcuts import render  
from django.http import HttpResponse

def home(request):  
 return HttpResponse('<h1>Blog Home Page</h1>')  
  
def about(request):  
 return HttpResponse('<h1>About Page</

These are functions that will run when we got on home and about page (if we assign those functions to them)

Next step is making a new .py module called ‘urls’ which will contain the path and the functions to the pages.

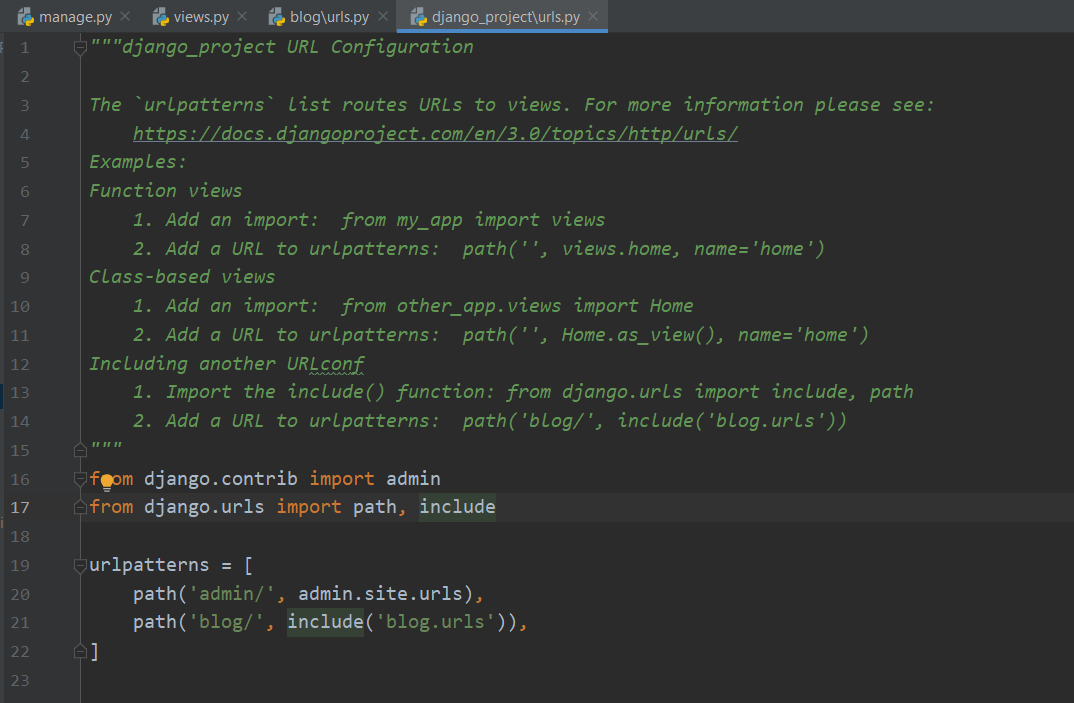
from django.urls import path # path function from django.urls  
from . import views # '.' means from current folder  
  
urlpatterns = [  
 path('', views.home, name='blog-home'),  
 path('about/', views.about, name='home-about')  
]

The upper code basically makes our website have two more ‘pages’:

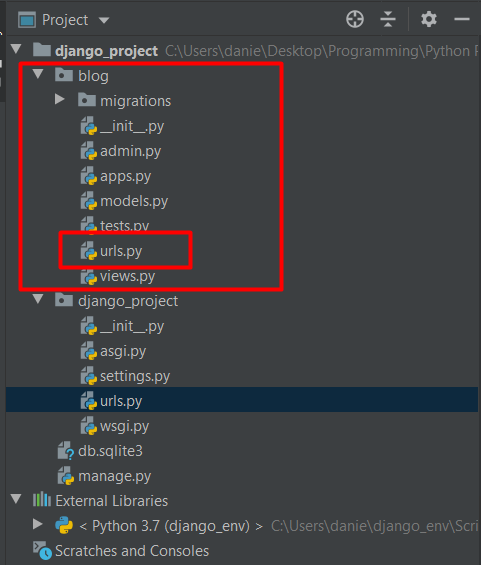
/blog/ # when it’s on blog homepage it will execute views.home function

/blog/about # when it’s on the about page it will execute views.about function

To make it work we have to add this path to the main project URL Module:



from django.contrib import admin  
from django.urls import path, include  
# The include() function basically references a python module in our case called blogs.url or in other words it MAPS it to our blogs.urls  
urlpatterns = [  
 path('admin/', admin.site.urls),  
 path('blog/', include('blog.urls')),  
]



# Templates

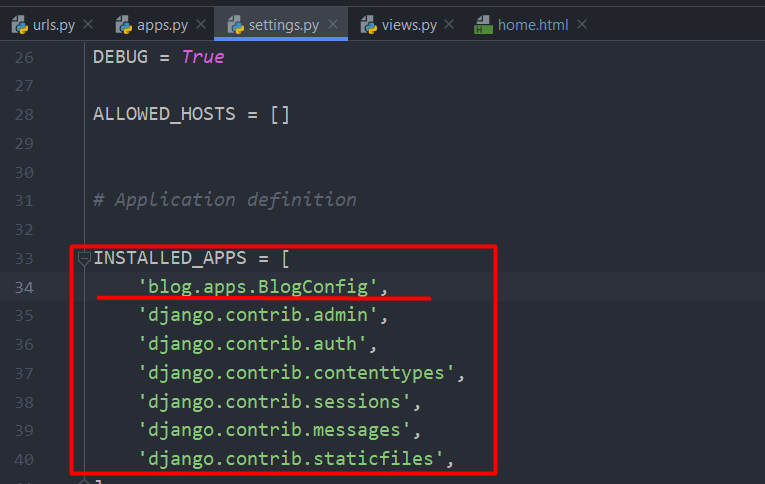
## Adding our app config class to the main projects settings module

First we need to add our apps config class to the main project settings.py module.

myapp/apps.py , down below is our class config file

*class* BlogConfig(AppConfig):  
 name = 'blog'

Now we add this to our main project settings.py module



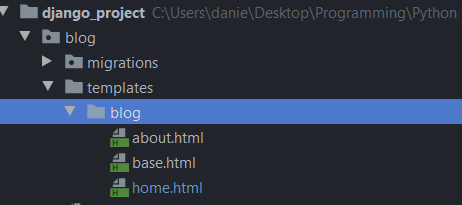
## Making templates

In order to make templates work , we have to add a templates folder inside the app we want to use the templates in our case ‘Blog’ and it should look something like this

eg. desiredapp/templates/desiredapp/

# Note : We have to make another folder in there with our apps name.

Here we are going to add the templates we want to use



Next we go to our views.py folder and make sure that we use render() on these templates

## Django render() function:

*from* django.shortcuts *import* render

*from* django.http *import* HttpResponse

*def* about(request):  
 *return* render(request, 'blog/about.html')

# Render includes HttpResponse in it’s function

# Basically here when we the user navigates to our blog page this function will handle the request and load about.html file

## Adding dummy data and using it in our templates:

Below we add some dummy data and use it in our blog/templates/blog/home.html file

*from* django.shortcuts *import* render  
*from* django.http *import* HttpResponse  
  
posts=[  
 {  
 'author': 'Ghirasim Daniel',  
 'title': 'Blog Post 1',  
 'content': 'First post content',  
 'date\_posted': '31 December, 2019'  
 },  
 {  
 'author': 'Jane Doe',  
 'title': 'Blog Post 2',  
 'content': 'Second post content',  
 'date\_posted': '01 January, 2020'  
 },  
  
]  
  
*def* home(request):  
 context = {  
 'posts': posts  
 }  
 *return* render(request, 'blog/home.html', context)

Breaking it down in steps:

1. We make a list of dictionaries containing some dummy data
2. We go into our home function and make a new dictionary called context where we make a key called ‘posts’ and the value we assign to it is our posts list of dictionaries
3. Then we add the context dict as an argument to our return statement

## Accessing data in our templates .html files:

This is how our home.html file looks:

<!DOCTYPE html>  
<html>  
<head>  
 <title>Title</title>  
</head>  
<body>  
 {% for post in posts%}  
 <h1>{{post.title}}</h1>  
 <p>By {{post.author}} on {{post.date\_posted}}</p>  
 <p>{{post.content}}</p>  
 {% endfor %}  
</body>  
</html>

### Code blocks in Django:

Code blocks in Django are represented like this :

{% %} – This means we are writing a code in the HTML file

### FOR LOOP in Django:

A Django for loop looks like this:

{% for post in posts%}

{% endfor %}

### VARIABLES in Django:

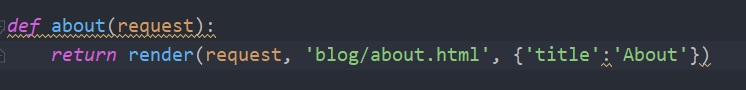
<h1>{{post.title}}</h1>

The double curly braces means that we want to access a variable

### IF ELSE statements in Django:

<head>  
 {% if title %}  
 <title>Django blog - {{ title }}</title>  
 {% else %}  
 <title>Django Blog</title>  
 {% endif %}  
</head>

We define title in our views.py:



With the IF ELSE statement we say:

If we have a title print ‘Django Blog – {title}’ else print ‘Django Blog’

And it will look like this if we have a title:



and if we don’t have one:



## Template Inheritance - Base Template – Making our life easier

Making a base template helps us reduce the amount of code we have to write . We can make a base.html file from which our other .html **will inherit from** so if we modify the base.html file the other ones will automatically get modified.

We add to this base.html file all the things that are going to be constant troughout all of our .html files for eg:

<head>  
 {% if title %}  
 <title>Django blog - {{ title }}</title>  
 {% else %}  
 <title>Django Blog</title>  
 {% endif %}  
</head>

We want this if statement for all of our website.

### How does a base template work

This is how our base.html looks after some editing:

<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01 Transitional//EN"  
 "http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/loose.dtd">  
<html>  
<head>  
 {% if title %}  
 <title>Django blog - {{ title }}</title>  
 {% else %}  
 <title>Django Blog</title>  
 {% endif %}  
</head>  
<body>  
 {% block content %}{% endblock %}  
</body>  
</html>

Between the block content code we are going to set each or .html files information.

for eg. home.html will look like this:

{% extends 'blog/base.html' %}   
{% block content %}  
 {% for post in posts%}  
 <h1>{{post.title}}</h1>  
 <p>By {{post.author}} on {{post.date\_posted}}</p>  
 <p>{{post.content}}</p>  
 {% endfor %}  
{% endblock content %}

We deleted everything that is found in base.html and are that we are left with is the actual code we want to run on the page.

{% extends 'blog/base.html' %}

This tells our home.html file that it **extends** base.html and after that we add:

{% block content %}  
 # We add our home.html code here  
{% endblock content

{% block content %} this refers to the CONTENT BLOCK we can have several blocks in a template file.

like {% block posts %} {% block pictures %} (have to verify this).

This is how our about page looks.

{% extends 'blog/base.html' %}  
{% block content %}  
 <h1>About Page!</h1>  
{% endblock content %}

Notice we reduced the code drastically by using template inheritance.

## Bootstrap

Bootstrap is a extremely popular library which makes it easy to add some nice styles to your website.

Basically we drag and drop the Bootstrap starter template into our base.html file . (It does some magic and it works).

#### Starter template:

<!doctype html>

<html lang="en">

<head>

<!-- Required meta tags -->

<meta charset="utf-8">

<meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1, shrink-to-fit=no">

<!-- Bootstrap CSS -->

<link rel="stylesheet" href="https://stackpath.bootstrapcdn.com/bootstrap/4.3.1/css/bootstrap.min.css" integrity="sha384-ggOyR0iXCbMQv3Xipma34MD+dH/1fQ784/j6cY/iJTQUOhcWr7x9JvoRxT2MZw1T" crossorigin="anonymous">

<title>Hello, world!</title>

</head>

<body>

<h1>Hello, world!</h1>

<!-- Optional JavaScript -->

<!-- jQuery first, then Popper.js, then Bootstrap JS -->

<script src="https://code.jquery.com/jquery-3.3.1.slim.min.js" integrity="sha384-q8i/X+965DzO0rT7abK41JStQIAqVgRVzpbzo5smXKp4YfRvH+8abtTE1Pi6jizo" crossorigin="anonymous"></script>

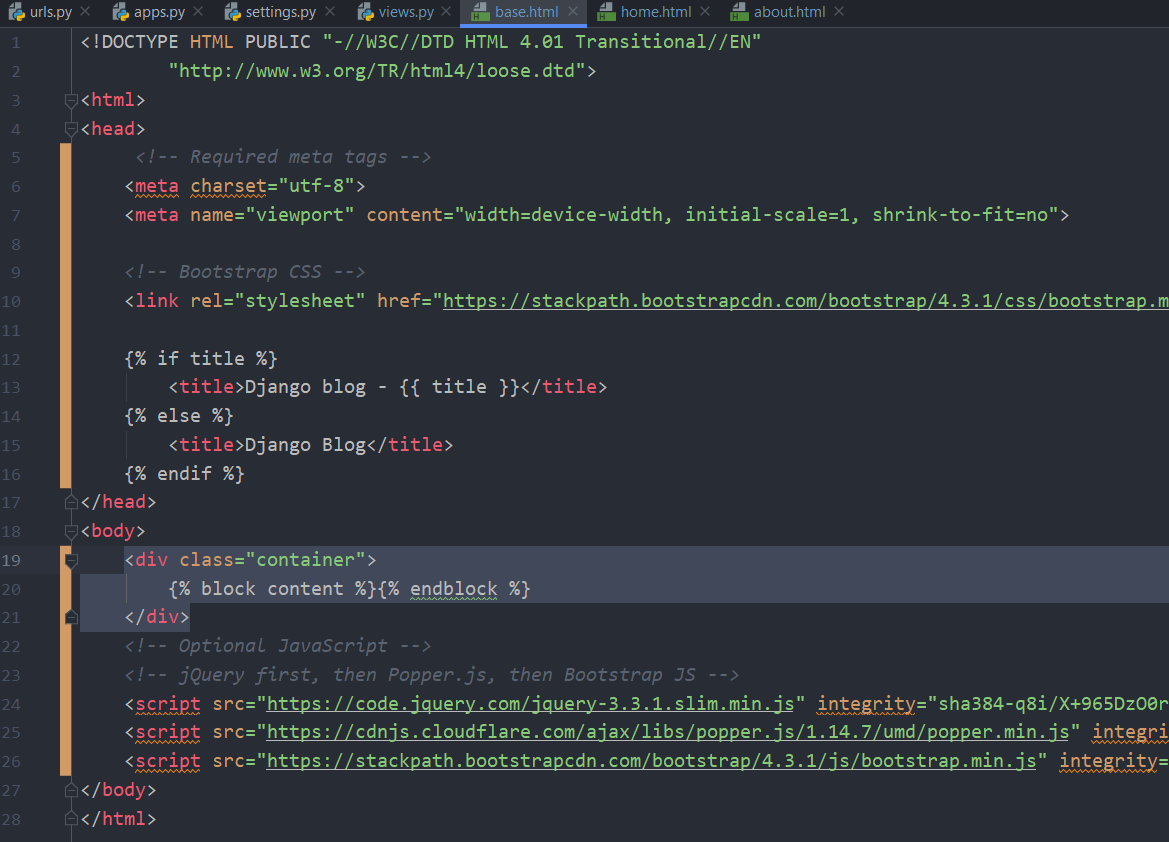
<script src="https://cdnjs.cloudflare.com/ajax/libs/popper.js/1.14.7/umd/popper.min.js" integrity="sha384-UO2eT0CpHqdSJQ6hJty5KVphtPhzWj9WO1clHTMGa3JDZwrnQq4sF86dIHNDz0W1" crossorigin="anonymous"></script>

<script src="https://stackpath.bootstrapcdn.com/bootstrap/4.3.1/js/bootstrap.min.js" integrity="sha384-JjSmVgyd0p3pXB1rRibZUAYoIIy6OrQ6VrjIEaFf/nJGzIxFDsf4x0xIM+B07jRM" crossorigin="anonymous"></script>

</body>

</html>

#### Adding bootstrap to our base.html



Notice we added our block content between <div> tags . I don’t really know the magic behind this but after the first div tag we add a class called ‘class=”container”’ (This gives our content some good padding and spacing)

After adding this I noticed the text moves slightly to the right.

## Adding a navigation bar

This is the template for a navigation bar:Top of Form

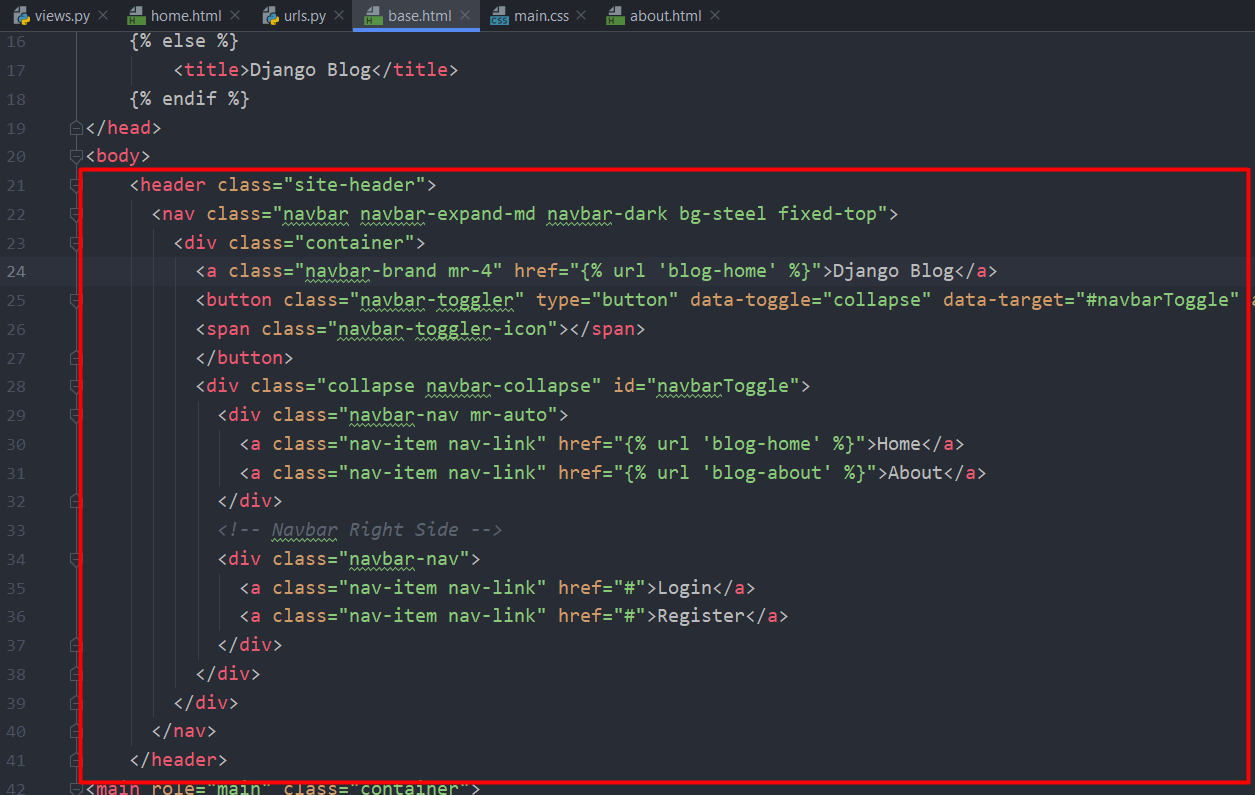
Bottom of Form

Top of Form

Bottom of Form

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | <header class="site-header"> |
|  | <nav class="navbar navbar-expand-md navbar-dark bg-steel fixed-top"> |
|  | <div class="container"> |
|  | <a class="navbar-brand mr-4" href="/">Django Blog</a> |
|  | <button class="navbar-toggler" type="button" data-toggle="collapse" data-target="#navbarToggle" aria-controls="navbarToggle" aria-expanded="false" aria-label="Toggle navigation"> |
|  | <span class="navbar-toggler-icon"></span> |
|  | </button> |
|  | <div class="collapse navbar-collapse" id="navbarToggle"> |
|  | <div class="navbar-nav mr-auto"> |
|  | <a class="nav-item nav-link" href="/">Home</a> |
|  | <a class="nav-item nav-link" href="/about">About</a> |
|  | </div> |
|  | <!-- Navbar Right Side --> |
|  | <div class="navbar-nav"> |
|  | <a class="nav-item nav-link" href="#">Login</a> |
|  | <a class="nav-item nav-link" href="#">Register</a> |
|  | </div> |
|  | </div> |
|  | </div> |
|  | </nav> |
|  | </header> |

We are going to add this to the base.html file , we are going this between the body tags of our base.html

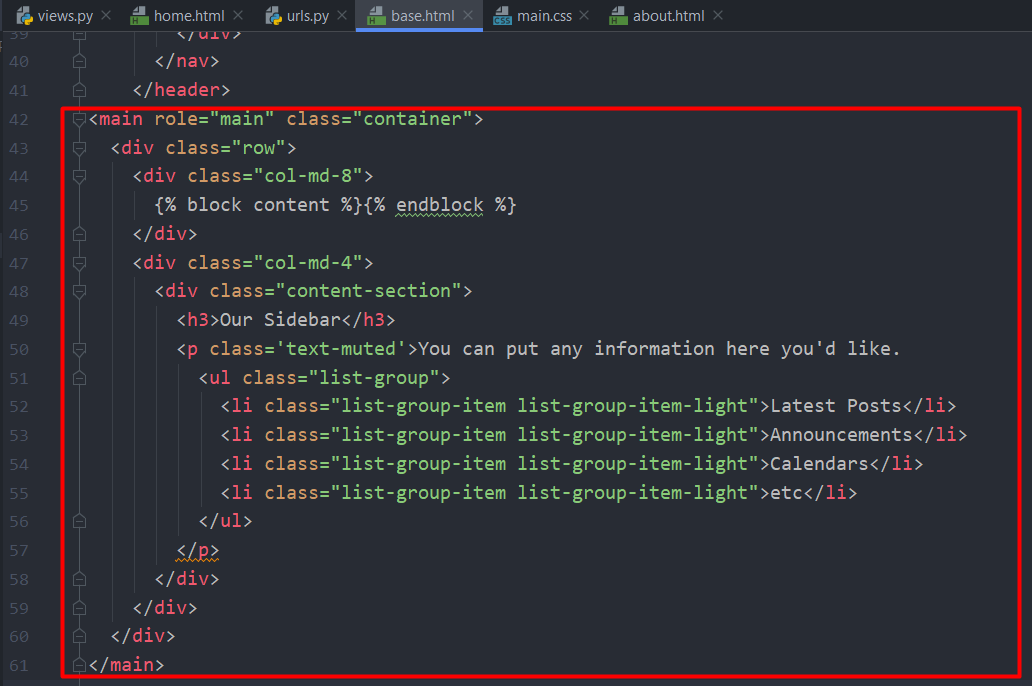


## Content Block Styling – Adding a main section for content block styling.

We are going to replace our content block section of base.html with some prewritten code to make it look nicer :

|  |
| --- |
| <main role="main" class="container"> |
|  | <div class="row"> |
|  | <div class="col-md-8"> |
|  | {% block content %}{% endblock %} |
|  | </div> |
|  | <div class="col-md-4"> |
|  | <div class="content-section"> |
|  | <h3>Our Sidebar</h3> |
|  | <p class='text-muted'>You can put any information here you'd like. |
|  | <ul class="list-group"> |
|  | <li class="list-group-item list-group-item-light">Latest Posts</li> |
|  | <li class="list-group-item list-group-item-light">Announcements</li> |
|  | <li class="list-group-item list-group-item-light">Calendars</li> |
|  | <li class="list-group-item list-group-item-light">etc</li> |
|  | </ul> |
|  | </p> |
|  | </div> |
|  | </div> |
|  | </div> |
|  | </main> |

Our newly modified base.html should look something like this

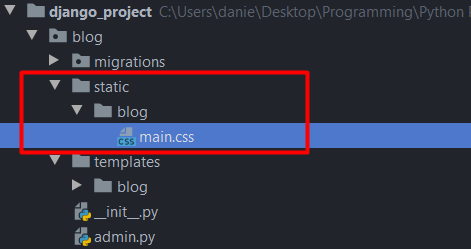


Notice we added {% block content %} {% endblock %} in a <div> tag

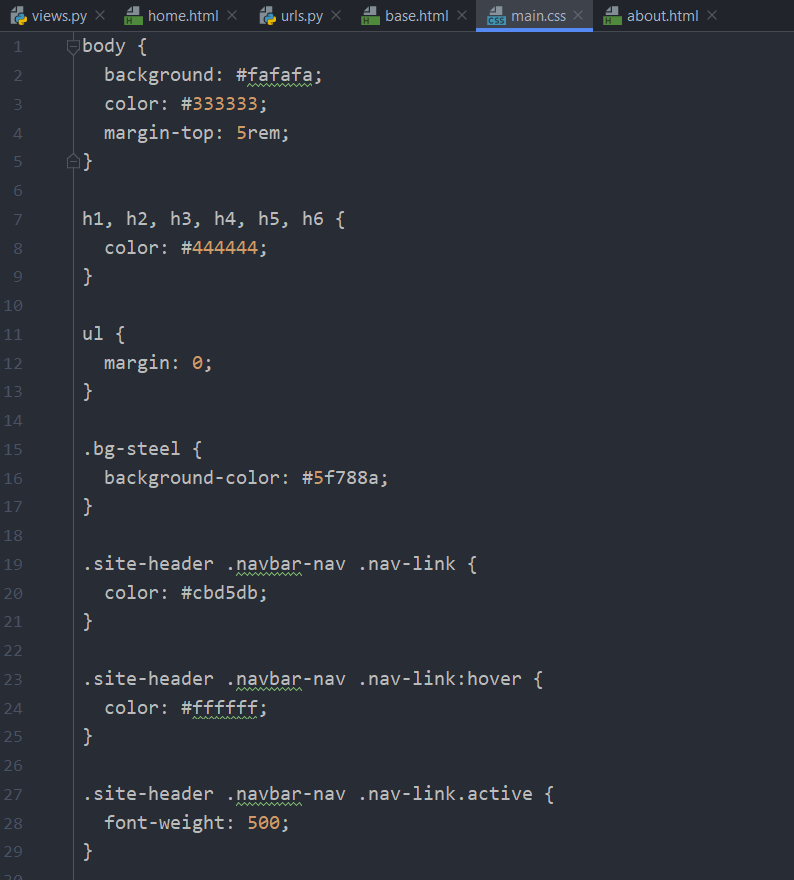
## Adding CSS files

In django , static files like .CSS and .JAVASCRIPT have to be located in a static directory within our app

eg. myapp/static/myapp/



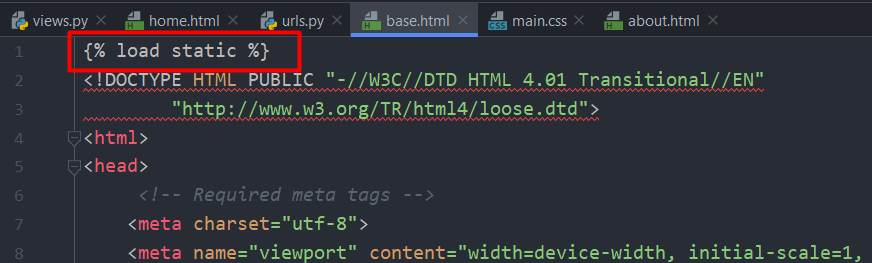
The main.css file looks like this:



### How to include .CSS file

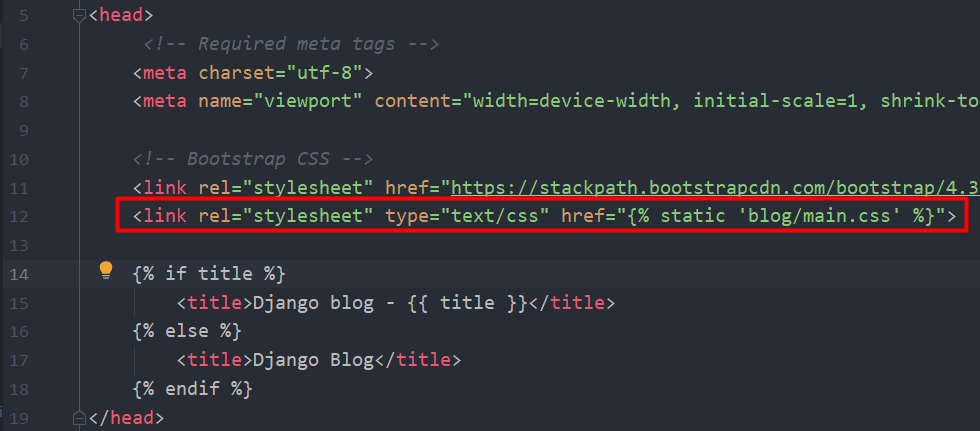
1. We load in our .CSS file from our static directory by adding

{% load static %} to the top of our base.HTML file.



1. We add the next line of code:

<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="{% static 'blog/main.css' %}">



This basically gives style to our base.html file

### Styling the articles with our new .CSS file

Our new .CSS file has styling for each article posted on our blog we just need to add the functionality to our page.



We are going to add this line within our for loop. Note that it has the second part of our for loop code already inserted

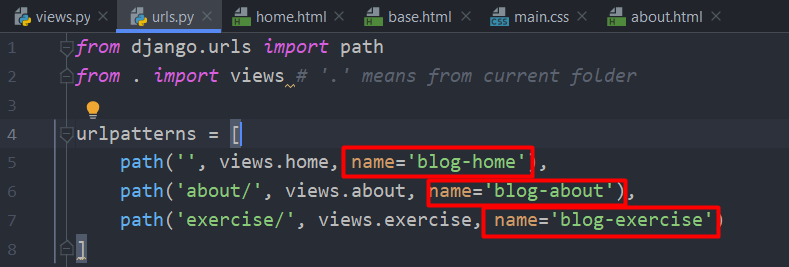
{% extends 'blog/base.html' %}  
{% block content %}  
 {% for post in posts%}  
 <article class="media content-section">  
 <div class="media-body">  
 <div class="article-metadata">  
 <a class="mr-2" href="#">{{ post.author }}</a>  
 <small class="text-muted">{{ post.date\_posted }}</small>  
 </div>  
 <h2><a class="article-title" href="#">{{ post.title }}</a></h2>  
 <p class="article-content">{{ post.content }}</p>  
 </div>  
 </article>  
 {% endfor %}  
{% endblock content %}

## Making our templates more flexible

We are going to edit some “href=” variables in the navigation part of our base.html code in order to make site navigation much easer if we change the paths of our website in the future.



We modified the “href” to link us to the page name not the page path so in the future if we want to move Django blog to a different path we won’t have to manually modify the path because we give it it’s name. Example below:



So basically we are referecing the name of the page not the path. Django will handle the hardwork.

## Adding a HYPER-LINK (Clickable thingie magic)

So if you want to add a new Hyperlink to your website like : Login , Register etc. Just do the following.

<a class="nav-item nav-link" href="#">Login</a>  
<a class="nav-item nav-link" href="#">Register</a>  
<a class="nav-item nav-link" href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQw4w9WgXcQ">Magic</a>

I don’t know exactly how it works , it might be some Bootstrap or CSS magic. But basically you add another <a> </a> tag (which is a hyperlink tag according to the interwebs) and add your stuff.

On the HREF I added a link to a very special youtube video.

# Creating the database

In order to advance we have to create a database by writing the following commands into the CMD prompt or terminal.

python manage.py migrate

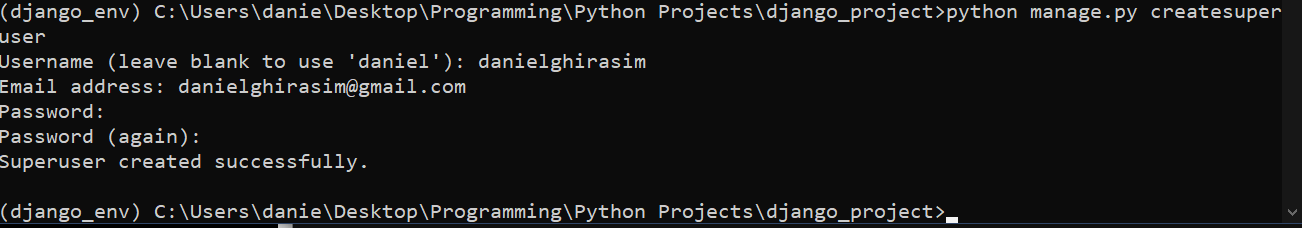
This command basically creates an SQlite3 database for us (more on that later)

# Admin Page

## Creating an admin user

First we have to create an admin user using CMD prompt or terminal.

python manage.py createsuperuser



After this you can access the admin page by going to:

localhost:8000/admin/ - And typing in the admin account you just created

# Working with Databases in Django

## Some information

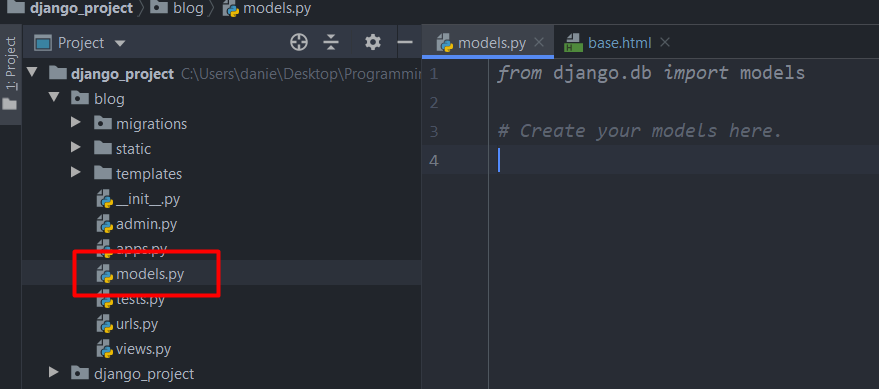
Django has it’s own built in ORM (Object Relational Mapper) which basically allows you to access the database data in an object oriented manner.

What’s cool about this is that it allows you to use different databases without changing your code

Django supported databases:

* [PostgreSQL](https://docs.djangoproject.com/en/3.0/ref/databases/#postgresql-notes)
* [MariaDB](https://docs.djangoproject.com/en/3.0/ref/databases/#mariadb-notes)
* [MySQL](https://docs.djangoproject.com/en/3.0/ref/databases/#mysql-notes)
* [Oracle](https://docs.djangoproject.com/en/3.0/ref/databases/#oracle-notes)
* [SQLite](https://docs.djangoproject.com/en/3.0/ref/databases/#sqlite-notes)

We can represent our databases as classes but in Django we call the **models .** We can have a look at our models.py module here :



Here we are going to make a post model (basically a post class) which will inherit from django.Model class

**Each class is going to be it’s own table in the DATABASE and each attribute will be a different field in the database.**

## Adding databases

We refer to databases as models in Django .

Creating a database is as easy as adding a new class in models.py that inherits from django.models and it should look something like this

*from* django.db *import* models  
*from* django.utils *import* timezone  
  
*# Create your models here.*"""Each class is going to be a table in our database"""  
*class* Post(models.Model):  
 *"""Each attribute is a field in the database"""* title = models.CharField(max\_length=100)

content = models.TextField()  
 date\_posted = models.DateTimeField(default=timezone.now)

#max\_lenght = length of charfield

# date\_posted = models.DateTimeField(auto\_now=*True*) auto\_now = True sets our date\_posted to the time it was posted but we are going to use the upper example because we want to store the timezone aswell . timezone.now is a function but we didn’t put () yet because we don’t want to execute it just yet.

We are also going to create a user attribute but since we already have a user database we are going to import that in this file.

Users and Posts are going to have a relationship , specifically this **will be called a 1 to many relationship** because a User can have multiple post and a post can’t have multiple users (here atleast) and to do this in django we use a **Foreign Key**

We are going to import Users since it already has a database created by django . The import location is :

*from* django.contrib.auth.models *import* User

After that we are going to add:

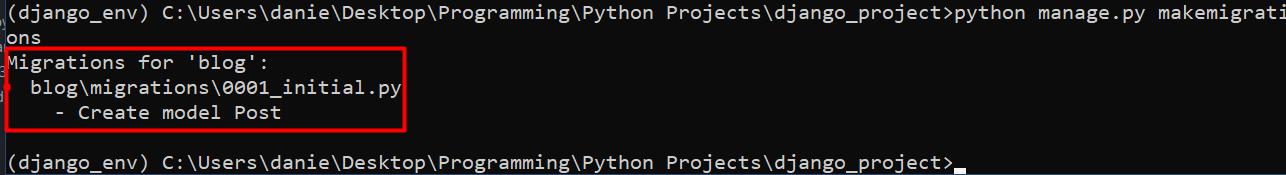
author = models.ForeignKey(User, on\_delete=models.CASCADE())

# on\_delete = models.CASCADE() means that when you delete a USER it will delete all his posts.

In the end our models.py should look something like this” *from* django.db *import* models  
*from* django.utils *import* timezone  
*from* django.contrib.auth.models *import* User  
  
*# Create your models here.*"""Each class is going to be a table in our database"""  
*class* Post(models.Model):  
 *"""Each attribute is a field in the database"""* title = models.CharField(max\_length=100)  
 content = models.TextField()  
 date\_posted = models.DateTimeField(default=timezone.now)  
 author = models.ForeignKey(User, on\_delete=models.CASCADE)

After all this to make the changes we have to make migrations (Update the database).

We do this by entering python manage.py makemigrations into the terminal or command prompt and it should look something like this :

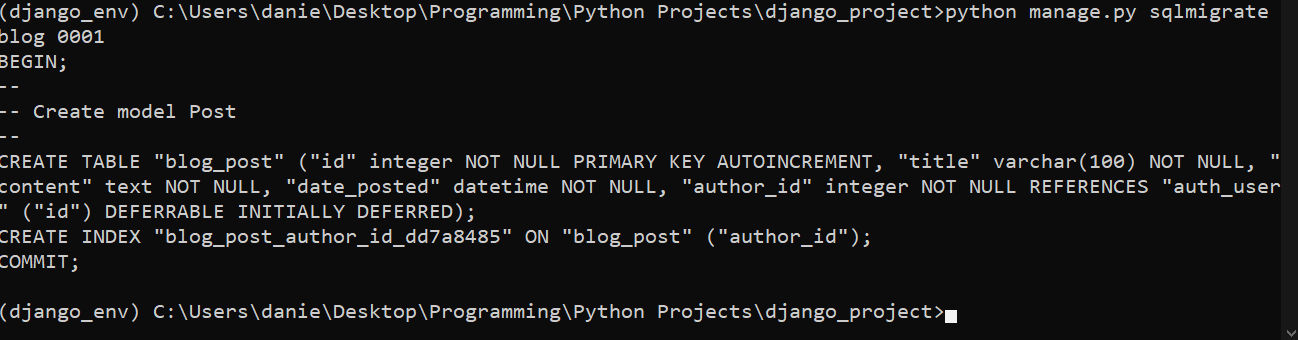


## SQL Code command (views the actualy SQL CODE)

To view the actual SQL code that is run we have to type :

python manage.py sqlmigrate blog 0001

It should look something like this:



Django actually takes the information we entered and runs the command in SQlite 3 to make a table and field for our class , which makes our life much easier.

## Using CMD prompt to access databases

To access various information about our databases we can enter the next line into the command prompt:

**python manage.py shell**

**to exit the shell type : exit()**

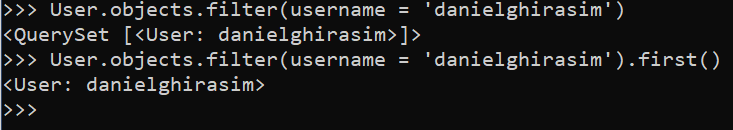
This will open a python shell in our command prompt where we can enter commands:

from djang.contrib.auth.models import User (this imports our user database)

**User.objects.all() – Will list the contents of our User database**

**User.objects.first() – or last() will list the first or last entry in our database**

**User.objects.filter(username=’user’) – will filter for entered username**



We can also use:

User.objects.filter(username=’danielghirasim) and it will give us a querry set . If we add first() to the end of the function it will give us the first username

We can set the upper mentioned function to a variable and then we can access more information from it ex:



Some commands we can run on this:

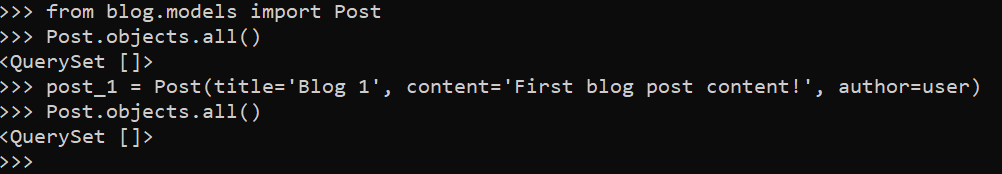
user.id – shows id

user.pk – shows primary key (id)

## Creating a post from Terminal

First we import our Post class that we just made .

from blog.models import Post



So in the picture above we created a post . Notice that we haven’t filled anything to our date\_created field but since we set it to timezone.now, this should automatically get the time we created post\_1.

After that we querry the Post database again and we can see we that the querry is still empty, this is because we have to migrate our post\_1 to the database by using the following command.

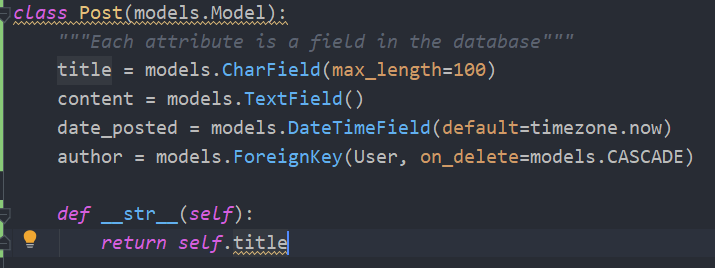


After that we querry the DB again and we should see that it was added.



### Getting more descriptive querries

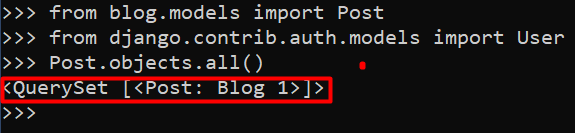
To get more descriptive querries we have to add some code to our Post class we created before.



This dunder method basically applies the \_\_str\_\_ method to the Post class (self = Post class) and returns self.title

So it basically returns a string of Post.title.

After that we have to restart the shell by using exit() and reentering the imports and the commands and the querry should look like this



To acess all of our Post content we are going to set the post to a variable:

**post = Post.objects.first() – gives us the first post**

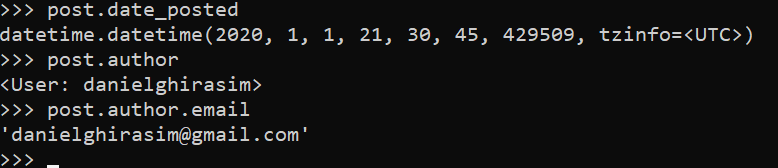
**post.content – prints content**

**post.title – prints title**

**post.author – prints author**

We can even access author data from here with the example below.

**post.author.email – this is gonna print the authors email so we don’t have to run a separate command for that aswell.**



### Getting all USER posts with a simple command

We can get all the posts that a user posted by doing the following:

user = User.objects.get(username=’username’)

user.post\_set.all() 🡪 This command will show all the posts created by the user we choose

We can also create posts while we have this user as a variable by using the following command line:



Using this method we don’t have to run the save function anymore and we don’t have to exit out of the shell. Also notice we didn’t enter the user in the function parameters since we already have the user defined.

## Connecting our Post database to our website

Here we are going to replace our dummy data with our data within our database.

We are going to do this the following way:

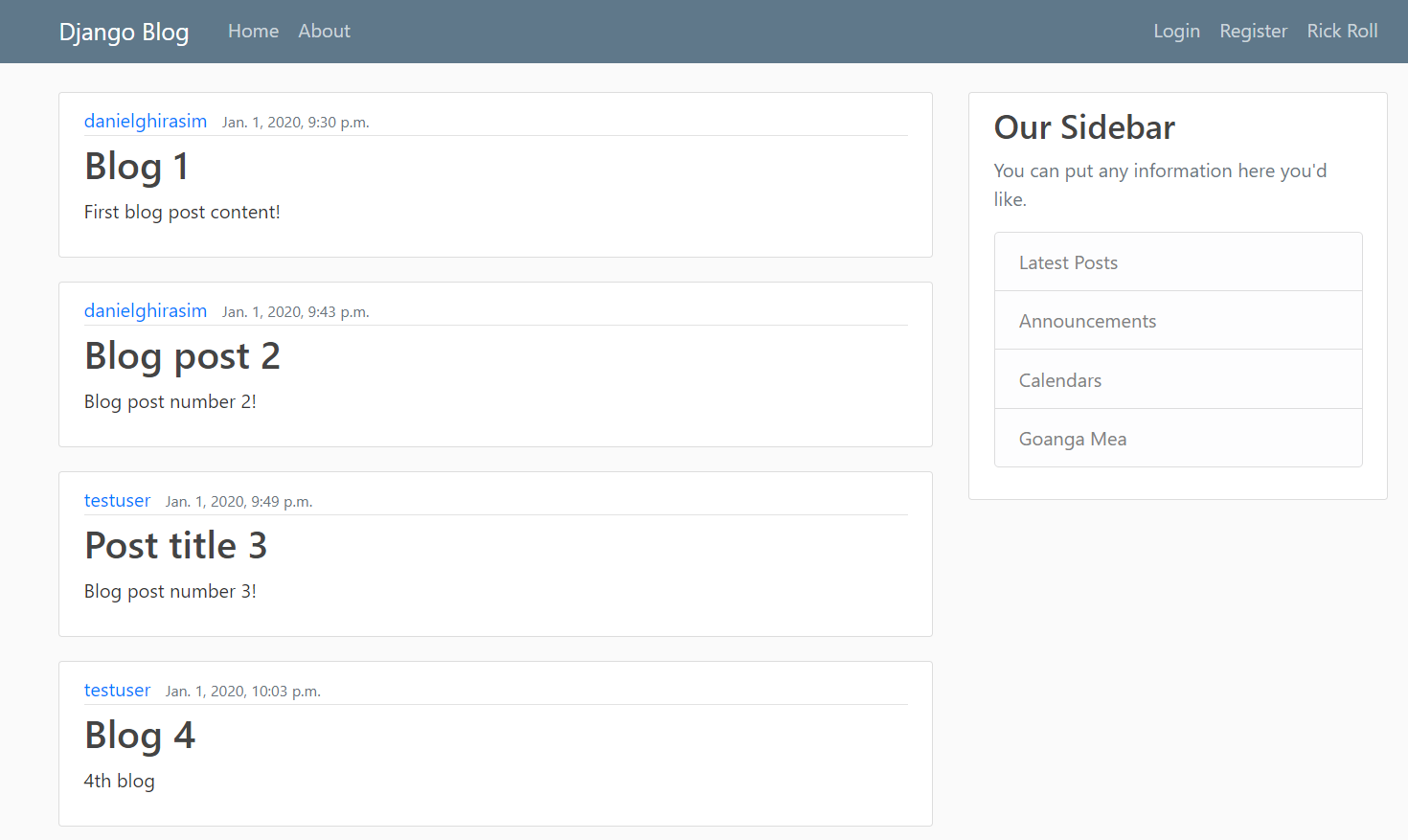
1. We are going to import our Post database into our views.py module

*from* .models *import* Post

*def* home(request):  
 context = {  
 'posts': Post.objects.all()  
 }  
 *return* render(request, 'blog/home.html', context)

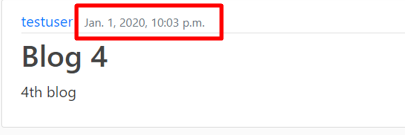
As long as our dummy data’s dictionary keys were the same as our database fields everything should work fine without having to modify anything in our home.html file . If they are different we just have to go into our home.html and modify the FOR LOOP.

Aaaaaand it works !!!



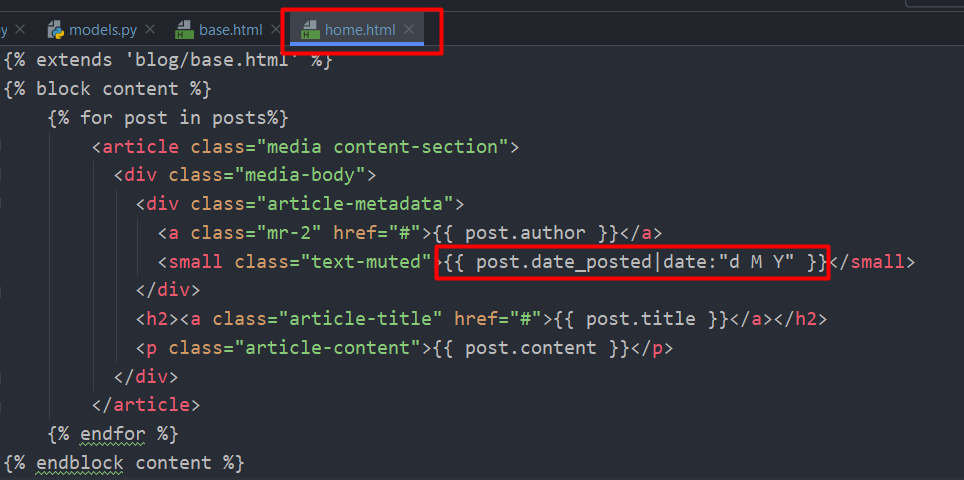
## Changing how our Date Time looks

We are going to change how our date time looks to make it a little bit neater.



To do this we have to go to our home.html file and modify a bit of code by using Django documentation of dates as a reference (<https://docs.djangoproject.com/en/3.0/ref/templates/builtins/#date>):

The code should look like this:



After we modified it , it should look something like this :

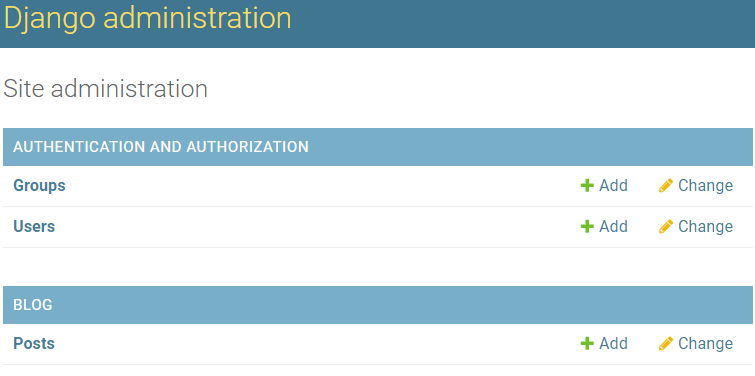


## Registering Databases (models) to the admin page

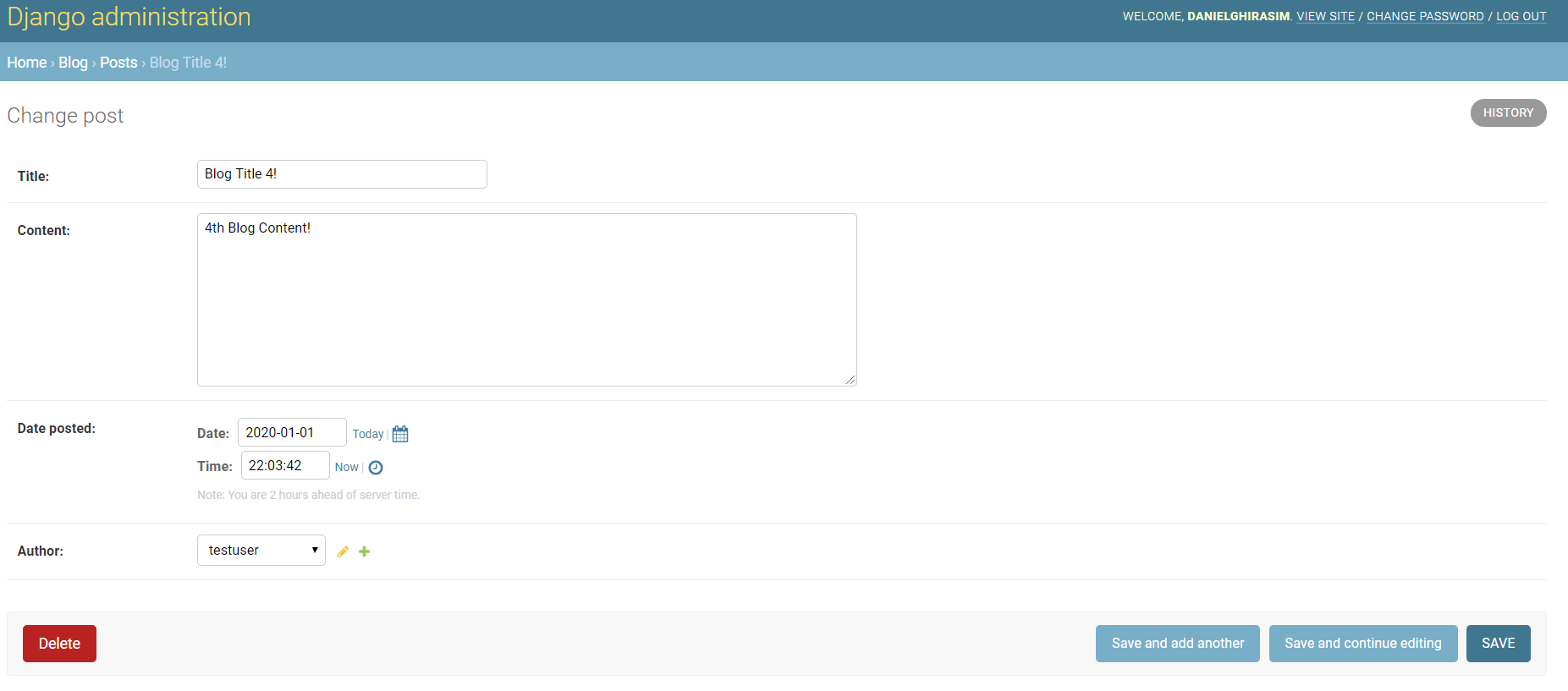
So when we enter the admin page we want to register our Post database in order to modify it . This is a very simple process thanks to Django is as easy as going into the admin.py module and entering a few lines of code.

*from* django.contrib *import* admin  
*from* .models *import* Post  
  
admin.site.register(Post)

This will add an editable Post section to our admin page and it’s freakin’ cool how easy it is.



The editing section looks like this:

s

# User Registration

In this part we are going to learn how to make forms and validate user input to make a user registration page.

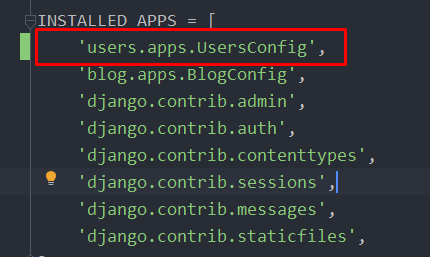
The best thing to do is to create a new app inside of our project for this.

## Making a new app for users

So we are going to go into our terminal and write:

Python manage.py startapp users

This will create a users app for us and we have to put the config class into our main folders settings.py.



**Don’t forget the comma since this is a list.**

## Adding a new path for register.html

We are going to add path to our register page in our main directory in the urls.py file but this time we are going to directly import the views.py module from our newly made app

*from* django.contrib *import* admin  
*from* django.urls *import* path, include  
*from* users *import* views *as* user\_views  
  
urlpatterns = [  
 path('admin/', admin.site.urls),  
 path('register/', user\_views.register, name='register'),  
 path('', include('blog.urls')),  
]

This tells the website that whenever somebody accesses mysite.com/register, the website needs to run our register function from users.views

## Creating a submission form

Luckily we don’t have to reinvent the wheel. Django already has a registration form premade for us with all the bells and whistles regarding security.

We are going to navigate to our users/views.py and do the following

*from* django.shortcuts *import* render  
*from* django.contrib.auth.forms *import* UserCreationForm  
*# UserCreationForm is a premade Django creation form class.  
  
def* register(request):  
 form = UserCreationForm() *# We are gonna make an instance for the class we just imported  
 return* render(request, 'users/register.html', {'form': form})

We made an instance of the UserCreationForm class and assigned it to a variable inside our register function.

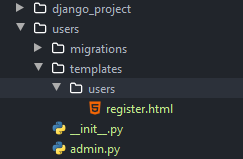
And within the function we make a dictionary with a key called ‘form’ and the value is the instance of our class.

.

Next we have to take care of our 'users/register.html' which is not yet defined.

## Creating a user template

We are going to do the same thing as we did in our blog app . We are going to a create a folder within our Users app called template and within that folder another folder called users (this is the Django convetion). It should look something like this:



Next we are going to work on register.html

## Register.html

Here we are going to edit our register.html.

In order to make our lives easier we are going to copy our code from the about.html (from blog app) which extends our base.html

A nice thing about Django framework is that we can use the base.html file from other apps as well like we are going to do below.

{% extends 'blog/base.html' %}  
{% block content %}  
 <h1>About Page!</h1>  
{% endblock content %}

We are going to edit this piece of code until we get what we desire from the register.html page.

Our modified code should look something like this

{% extends 'blog/base.html' %}  
{% block content %}  
 <div class="content-section">  
 <form method="POST"> # We will come back to this later  
 {% csrf\_token %}  
 <fieldset class="form-group">  
 <legend class="border-bottom mb-4">Join Today</legend>  
 {{ form }}  
 </fieldset>  
 <div class="form-grou">  
 <button class="btn btn-outline-info" type="submit" >Sign Up</button>  
 </div>  
 </form>  
 <div class="border-top pt-3">  
 <small class="text-muted">  
 Already Have an Account? <a class="ml-2" href="#"> Sign in </a>  
 </small>  
 </div>  
 </div>  
{% endblock content %}

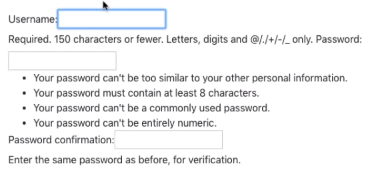
### {% csrf\_token %} - Security

This is a Django security must. Basically this line of code prevents us from some sort of online attack that can be run on registration pages (don’t really have details on it). Without this our form will not work.

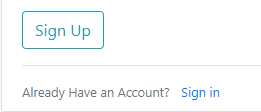
### Register page code meaning

The classes you see in each tag come from **BOOTSTRAP** it’s pretty cool (it basically magic autoformats your stuff.)

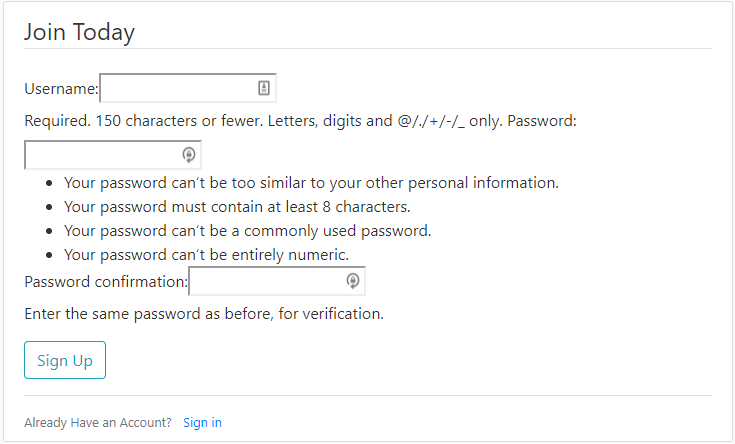
{{ form }} – This makes our form look like this:



Our Sign-Up and already have an account? Button look like this:

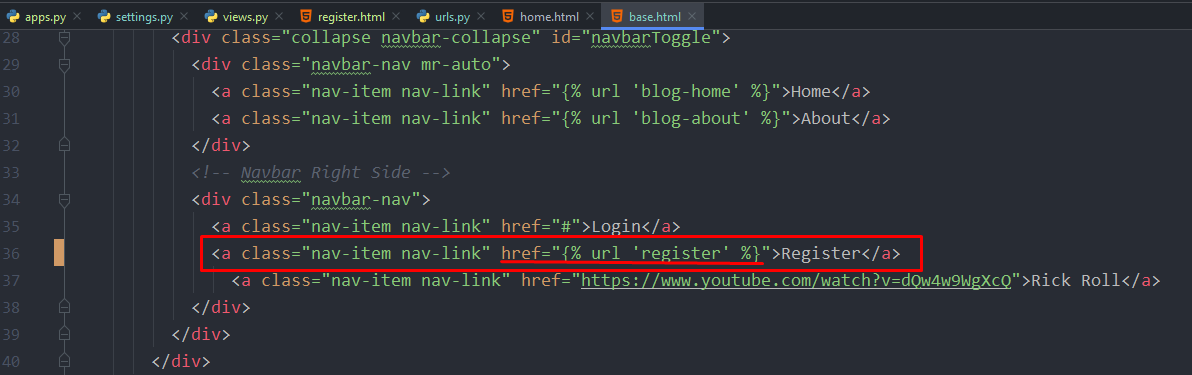


And our overall register page looks like this (for now):



### Adding register.html to our base.html as a ref

Next we will add our register.html url to the base.html file so whenever we click on the register button on our homepage it will redirect us to the register.html website.



This is as simple as adding {% url ‘register.html’ %} at href.

### Explaining register.html

Register.html

{% extends 'blog/base.html' %}  
{% block content %}  
 **<**div class="content-section"**>  
 <**form method="POST"**>** {% csrf\_token %}  
 **<**fieldset class="form-group"**>  
 <**legend class="border-bottom mb-4"**>**Join Today**</**legend**>** {{ form.as\_p }}  
 **</**fieldset**>  
 <**div class="form-group"**>  
 <**button class="btn btn-outline-info" type="submit" **>**Sign Up**</**button**>  
 </**div**>  
 </**form**>  
 <**div class="border-top pt-3"**>  
 <**small class="text-muted"**>** Already Have an Account? **<**a class="ml-2" href="#"**>** Sign in **</**a**>  
 </**small**>  
 </**div**>  
 </**div**>**{% endblock content %}

Explained:

1. We extend this from our base.html file . A cool thing in Django is that we can extend from other apps like we did here, we extended from our blog/base.html.
2. After that we are going make a new div with some custom bootstrap classes. Within that div we are going to make a <form> tag with method=’POST’. This refers to the http.post method which is a way of sending information to the website. (request is when we get information, post is when we send information)
3. Next we add our csrf\_token which is a django security measure for each form. Our website will not run without this.
4. We add a fieldset tag, add some bootstrap formatting to it then we pass in our form variable. Notice we added {{ form.as\_p }} this basically formats our fieldset a bit nicer. (We will further improve on this with crispy forms later on)

## Creating a register view function

Here we are going to create a function that will render us a user registration page. We don’t have to reinvent the wheel here so we are going to use a built-in form from Django.

from django.shortcuts import render  
from django.contrib.auth.forms import UserCreationForm  
*# UserCreationForm is a premade Django creation form class.*def register**(**request**)**:  
 form = UserCreationForm**()** *# We are gonna make an instance for the class we just imported* return render**(**request, **'users/register.html'**, **{'form'**: form**})**

We don’t have our register.html template created yet and also we are going to pass in our form to a dictionary so we can access it within our register.html.

Now we are going to make the register.html template. As by Django convention we are going to create the following directory tree:

Users>templates>users>register.html

## Setting the path to our register page

We could have created another urls.py module in our Users app like we did with our blog and then include() in the Django\_project/urls.py but we are going to do it another way for flexibility.

We are going to navigate to our Django\_project/urls.py and import our users/views.py

from users import views as user\_views

We imported this as user\_views in order to avoid future conflicts if we import another views module.

After this we are going to include this in our urlpatterns list.

urlpatterns = **[** path**('admin/'**, admin.site.urls**)**,  
 **path('register/', user\_views.register, name='register'),**  
 path**(''**, include**('blog.urls'))**,  
**]**

## Taking a look at our current register() function

def register**(**request**)**:  
 form = UserCreationForm**()** *# We are gonna make an instance for the class we just imported* return render**(**request, **'users/register.html'**, **{'form'**: form**})**

So the problem with our current register method is that every time someone makes a request to our register page they will get a empty UserCreationForm and when they press sign-up nothing happens.

There are different type of http requests we can have, the most common we used until now are get() request which just “get” the information from the website. The one we are going to use now is the POST request . Remember we typed method=POST in our register.html page this means that the method we want to use for those fields is post and since we didn’t specify where we want to post that data, it actually just posts it back to this route.

So what are we going to do now is add some conditional statements so when we receive a post request it validates that data and if it’s a get request then it displays our register page.

if request.method == **'POST'**:  
 form = UserCreationForm**(**request.POST**)**else:  
 form = UserCreationForm**()** *# We are gonna make an instance for the class we just imported*return render**(**request, **'users/register.html'**, **{'form'**: form**})**

So once again. If we get a POST request then it instantiates a UserCreationForm with that post data and if we get any other type of request it just instantiates an empty form. The next step is validating our usercreationform

## Validating our user creating form

def register**(**request**)**:  
 if request.method == **'POST'**:  
 form = UserCreationForm**(**request.POST**)** if form.is\_valid**()**:  
 username = form.cleaned\_data.get**('username')**

**# more to add** else:  
 form = UserCreationForm**()** *# We are gonna make an instance for the class we just imported* return render**(**request, **'users/register.html'**, **{'form'**: form**})**

In order to validate our user data we are going to use the is\_valid() function which basically tells us if our form is valid then we are going to grab that data. To do this we simply type username = form.cleaned\_data.get(‘username’) and our validated form data will be in form.cleaned\_data DICTIONARY and this will convert the data nicely to python for us.

## Flash messages

Flash messages are printed out messages in our website that tells us if something was successful, unsuccessful etc.

First thing is to import messages

from django.contrib import messages

Types of flash messages:

Messages.debug

Messages.info

Messages.success

Messages.warning

Messages.error

Since we are going to display a message if our form is valid we are going to use the success message

def register**(**request**)**:  
 if request.method == **'POST'**:  
 form = UserCreationForm**(**request.POST**)** if form.is\_valid**()**:  
 username = form.cleaned\_data.get**('username')** messages.success**(**request, **f'Account {**username**} created succesfully.')  
 # more to add** else:  
 form = UserCreationForm**()** *# We are gonna make an instance for the class we just imported* return render**(**request, **'users/register.html'**, **{'form'**: form**})**

Our messages take in a request parameter and we can also add a message.

## Redirect function

If our uservalidation went ok we are going to redirect our users to the homepage. To do this we want to import the redirect function from Django by :

from django.shortcuts import render, redirect

def register**(**request**)**:  
 if request.method == **'POST'**:  
 form = UserCreationForm**(**request.POST**)** if form.is\_valid**()**:  
 username = form.cleaned\_data.get**('username')** messages.success**(**request, **f'Account {**username**} created succesfully.')** return redirect**('blog-home')** else:  
 form = UserCreationForm**()** *# We are gonna make an instance for the class we just imported* return render**(**request, **'users/register.html'**, **{'form'**: form**})**

This should all work but we have to update our template to work with our flash messages. We are going to add this to our base template so any flash messages appear on every page that inherits from base.

## Adding flash messages to our base.html

In order to display the flash messages we have to add the functionality to our base.html.

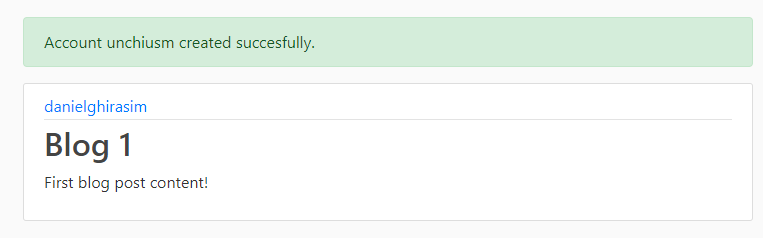
**<**main role="main" class="container"**>  
 <**div class="row"**>  
 <**div class="col-md-8"**>** {% if messages %}  
 {% for message in messages %}  
 **<**div class="alert alert-{{ message.tags }}"**>** {{ message }}  
 **</**div**>** {% endfor %}  
 {% endif %}  
 {% block content %}{% endblock %}  
 **</**div**>  
 <**div class="col-md-4"**>  
 <**div class="content-section"**>  
 <**h3**>**Our Sidebar**</**h3**>**

A good place to place these flash messages are just above our content. A nice thing about Django that the message names coincide with bootstrap message formats. Se we can type the following:

**<**div class="alert alert-{{ message.tags }}"**>**

And bootstrap will automatically recognize it if it’s a success or failure message.

This is how a success method looks with BOOTSTRAP formatting.



Notice we got redirected back to the homepage with a neat little message.

We didn’t actually create a new user yet we are going to that below. Here we just tested if our uservalidation works and we know that our forms are validating correctly.

## Saving the user if the form validates

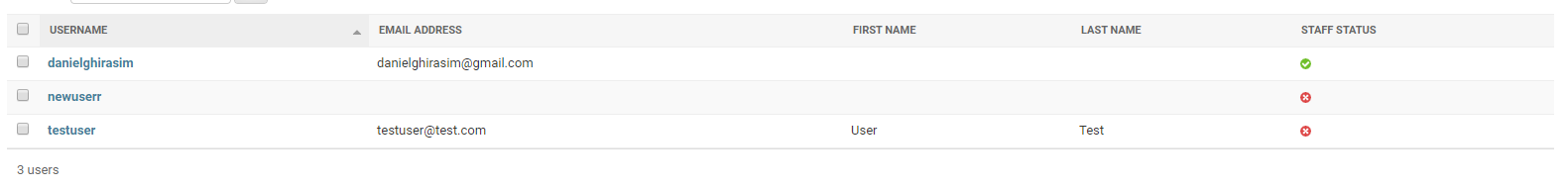
Next we want to save the form if the data validates.

Saving the user it’s just as simply as adding:

Form.save() # this will automatically hash the password for us and all the other background stuff.

def register**(**request**)**:  
 if request.method == **'POST'**:  
 form = UserCreationForm**(**request.POST**)** if form.is\_valid**()**:  
 form.save**()** username = form.cleaned\_data.get**('username')** messages.success**(**request, **f'Account {**username**} created succesfully.')** return redirect**('blog-home')** else:  
 form = UserCreationForm**()** *# We are gonna make an instance for the class we just imported* return render**(**request, **'users/register.html'**, **{'form'**: form**})**

And now the user was created. We can check in the admin panel too.



## Adding E-mail field to our registration field

In order to do this we are going to have to make a new user registration form within our Users app.