

Django Request and Response cycle – HttpRequest and HttpResponse Objects

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Prerequisite – Views In Django | Python

Before we jump into using convenience methods that views come with, Let's talk about the Request and Response cycle. So, when a Request happens to a Django server, a couple of things go on. One of them is Middleware.

Middleware

Middleware is like a middle ground between a request and response. It is like a window through which data passes. As in a window, light passes in and out of the house. Similarly, when a request is made it moves through middlewares to views, and data is passed through middleware as a response.

Here are the default middlewares installed in Django.

```
MIDDLEWARE = [
    'django.middleware.security.SecurityMiddleware',
    'django.contrib.sessions.middleware.SessionMiddleware',
    'django.middleware.common.CommonMiddleware',
    'django.middleware.csrf.CsrfViewMiddleware',
    'django.contrib.auth.middleware.AuthenticationMiddleware',
    'django.contrib.messages.middleware.MessageMiddleware',
    'django.middleware.clickjacking.XFrameOptionsMiddleware',
]
```

You can add your middlewares. We will be discussing that in the next articles.

Request and Response Objects:

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Django uses request and response objects to pass state through the system.

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metadata about the request. Then Django loads the appropriate view, passing the HttpRequest as the first argument to the view function. Each view is responsible for returning an HttpResponse object.

HttpRequest and HttpResponse object Example

• To explain these objects let's create a view home as below in views.py

Python3

```
# importing HttResponse from library
from django.http import HttpResponse

def home(request):
    # request is handled using HttpResponse object
    return HttpResponse("Any kind of HTML Here")
```

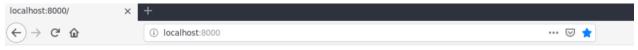
To handle the request let us map a URL to this view in urls.py

Python3

```
# importing view from views.py
from .views import home

urlpatterns = [
   path('', home),
```

• Now you can run the server to see the following in the browser



Any kind of HTML Here

HttpRequest Attributes - Django

You can use the following attributes with HttpRequest for advanced manipulation

Attribute	Description
HttpRequest.scheme	A string representing the scheme of the request (HTTP or HTTPS usually).
HttpRequest.body	It returns the raw HTTP request body as a byte string.
HttpRequest.path	It returns the full path to the requested page does not include the scheme or domain.
HttpRequest.path_info	It shows path info portion of the path.
HttpRequest.method	It shows the HTTP method used in the request.
HttpRequest.encoding	It shows the current encoding used to decode form submission data.
HttpRequest.content_type	It shows the MIME type of the request, parsed from the CONTENT_TYPE header.

Attribute	Description
HttpRequest.content_params	It returns a dictionary of key/value parameters included in the CONTENT_TYPE header.
HttpRequest.GET	It returns a dictionary-like object containing all given HTTP GET parameters.
HttpRequest.POST	It is a dictionary-like object containing all given HTTP POST parameters.
HttpRequest.COOKIES	It returns all cookies available.
HttpRequest.FILES	It contains all uploaded files.
HttpRequest.META	It shows all available Http headers.
HttpRequest.resolver_match	It contains an instance of ResolverMatch representing the resolved URL.

HttpRequest Methods – Django

You can use the following methods with HttpRequest for advanced manipulation

Attribute	Description
HttpRequest.get_host()	It returns the original host of the request.
HttpRequest.get_port()	It returns the originating port of the request.
HttpRequest.get_full_path()	It returns the path, plus an appended query string, if applicable.

Attribute	Description
HttpRequest.build_absolute_uri (location)	It returns the absolute URI form of location.
HttpRequest.get_signed_cookie (key, default=RAISE_ERROR, salt=", max_age=None)	It returns a cookie value for a signed cookie, or raises a django.core.signing.BadSignature exception if the signature is no longer valid.
HttpRequest.is_secure()	It returns True if the request is secure; that is, if it was made with HTTPS.
HttpRequest.is_ajax()	It returns True if the request was made via an XMLHttpRequest.

HttpResponse Attributes – Django

You can use the following attributes with HttpResponse for advanced manipulation

Attribute	Description
HttpResponse.content	A bytestring representing the content, encoded from a string if necessary.
HttpResponse.charset	It is a string denoting the charset in which the response will be encoded.
HttpResponse.status_code	It is an HTTP status code for the response.
HttpResponse.reason_phrase	The HTTP reason phrase for the response.
HttpResponse.streaming	It is false by default.

Attribute	Description
HttpResponse.closed	It is True if the response has been closed.

HttpResponse Methods – Django

You can use the following methods with HttpResponse for advanced manipulation

Method	Description
HttpResponseinit(content=", content_type=None, status=200, reason=None, charset=None)	It is used to instantiate an HttpResponse object with the given page content and content type.
HttpResponsesetitem(header, value)	It is used to set the given header name to the given value.
HttpResponsedelitem <i>(header)</i>	It deletes the header with the given name.
HttpResponsegetitem(header)	It returns the value for the given header name.
HttpResponse.has_header(header)	It returns either True or False based on a case-insensitive check for a header with the provided name.
HttpResponse.setdefault <i>(header, value)</i>	It is used to set default header.
HttpResponse.write <i>(content)</i>	It is used to create response object of file-like object.

Method	Description
HttpResponse.flush()	It is used to flush the response object.
HttpResponse.tell()	This method makes an HttpResponse instance a file-like object.
HttpResponse.getvalue()	It is used to get the value of HttpResponse.content.
HttpResponse.readable()	This method is used to create stream-like object of HttpResponse class.
HttpResponse.seekable()	It is used to make response object seekable.

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