

Django – Level 2

Time to level up your learning!



- Now that you've reached Level Two, let's quickly review the previous topics:
 - Setting up Projects and Applications
 - Creating Views and Mapping URLs
 - Using simple Templates and tags
 - Serving static media files



- In Level Two we will begin to discuss Models and Databases and how to use them with Django!
- Then we will also discuss how to use the admin interface!

Let's get started!

Django - Models





• An essential part of any website is the ability to accept information from a user and input it into a database and retrieve information from a database and use it to generate content for the user.



- We use Models to incorporate a database into a Django Project.
- Opinion of the property of
- SQLite will work for our simple examples, but Django can connect to a variety of SQL engine backends!



- In the settings.py file you can edit the ENGINE parameter used for DATABASES
- To create an actual model, we use a class structure inside of the relevant applications models.py file



- This class object will be a subclass of Django's built-in class:
 - django.db.models.Model
- Then each attribute of the class represents a field, which is just like a column name with constraints in SQL

This will all feel very natural if you have some SQL experience, but in case you don't let's quickly review what a SQL database is like!



SQL operates like a giant table, with each column representing a field, and each row representing an entry.

WebsiteId	WebSiteName	URL
1	Google	www.google.com
2	Facebook	www.facebook.com



- Each column has a type of field, such as a CharField, IntegerField, DateField, etc.
- Each field can also have constraints

WebsiteId	WebSiteName	URL
1	Google	www.google.com
2	Facebook	www.facebook.com



 For example, a CharField should have a max_length constraint, indicating the maximum number of characters allowed

WebsiteId	WebSiteName	URL
1	Google	www.google.com
2	Facebook	www.facebook.com



- The last thing to note is table (or models) relationships.
- Often models will reference each other

WebsiteId	WebSiteName	URL
1	Google	www.google.com
2	Facebook	www.facebook.com



 For this referencing to work we use the concepts of Foreign Keys and Primary Keys.

WebsiteId	WebSiteName	URL
1	Google	www.google.com
2	Facebook	www.facebook.com



- Imagine we now have two models.
- One to store website information, another to store date information

WebsiteId	WebSiteName	URL
1	Google	www.google.com
2	Facebook	www.facebook.com

WebsiteId	Date Accessed
1	2018-01-01
2	2018-02-03



 We could say that the WebsiteId column is a primary key in the left table and foreign key in the right table

WebsiteId	WebSiteName	URL
1	Google	www.google.com
2	Facebook	www.facebook.com

WebsiteId	Date Accessed
1	2018-01-01
2	2018-02-03



A primary key is a unique identifier for each row in a table

WebsiteId	WebSiteName	URL
1	Google	www.google.com
2	Facebook	www.facebook.com

WebsiteId	Date Accessed
1	2018-01-01
2	2018-02-03



A foreign key just denotes that the column coincides with a primary key of another table

WebsiteId	WebSiteName	URL
1	Google	www.google.com
2	Facebook	www.facebook.com

WebsiteId	Date Accessed
1	2018-01-01
2	2018-02-03



Later on we will move on to discuss One-toone or Many-to-many relationships

WebsiteId	WebSiteName	URL
1	Google	www.google.com
2	Facebook	www.facebook.com

WebsiteId	Date Accessed
1	2018-01-01
2	2018-02-03



- That should be enough for our understanding of models in Django
- Now let's show an example of the models class that would go into the models.py file of your application

```
class Topic(models.Model):
       top_name = models.CharField(max_length=264,
unique=True)
class Webpage(models.Model):
       category = models.ForeignKey(Topic)
       name = models.CharField(max_length=264)
       url = models.URLField()
```

```
class AccessRecord(models.Model):
    name = models.ForeignKey(Webpage)
    date = models.DateField()

def __str__(self):
    return str(self.date)
```



- After we've set up the models we can migrate the database
- This basically let's Django do the heavy lifting of creating SQL databases that correspond to the models we created



- Opinion Django can do this entire process with a simple command:
 - python manage.py migrate
- Then register the changes to your app, shown here with some generic "app1":
 - python manage.py makemigrations app1



- Then migrate the database one more time:
 - python manage.py migrate
- We can then later on use the shell from the manage.py file to play around with the models

• In order to use the more convenient Admin interface with the models however, we need to register them to our application's admin.py file.



- We can do this with this code:
 - from django.contrib import admin from app.models import Model1, Model2 admin.site.register(Model1) admin.site.register(Model2)



- Then with the models and database created, we can use Django's fantastic Admin interface to interact with the database.
- This Admin interface is one of the key features of Django!



- In order to fully use the database and the Admin, we will need to create a "superuser"
- We can do this with the following:
 - python manage.py createsuperuser



- In order to fully use the database and the Admin, we will need to create a "superuser"
- Providing a name, email, and password



- Once we've set up the models, it's always good idea to populate them with some test data
- We will use a library to help with this called Faker and create a script to do this.



- Okay, we've discussed a lot already!
- In the next lecture we will code through an example of all of this to help your understanding!

Creating Models





- We covered a lot of concepts in the previous lecture, so let's implement them!
- We will continue working with the two project folders from Django Level One, let's start making some models!

Populating Models





- It is usually a good idea to create a script that will populate your models with some "dummy" data.
- Let's show you how to use the Faker library to create this script!

Django - MTV

Learn about the Models-Templates-Views paradigm!



- Django operates on what is known as Models-Templates-Views
- This is also called "MTV" and encompasses the idea of how to connect everything we've talked about so far: models, templates, and views



- There are a few basics steps to achieving the goal of serving dynamic content to a user based off the connection of the models, views, and templates.
- Let's walk through these.



- First: In the views.py file we import any models that we will need to use.
- Second: Use the view to query the model for data that we will need
- Third: Pass results from the model to the template



- Fourth: Edit the template so that it is ready to accept and display the data from the model.
- Fifth: Map a URL to the view.



- We can practice this methodology by changing what we display on the front index page.
- To begin our understanding of this process we will start by generating a table.



- The table will display all the webpages and access records from the AccessRecord database we created and populated.
- We will use template tagging to connect the model to the html page.



- This entire process will introduce a lot of new things, so don't be intimidated!
- The template tagging can seem especially confusing at first, don't worry, just follow along, we will be getting tons of practice with this later on!



- After we walk through all of this with some code, you will have a challenge to practice your basic MTV skills.
- Next we will focus on expanding this idea of MTV and the Mapping URL step (which we haven't really dived into yet)



Alright! Let's get started!

Django Level Two Project Exercise



- We've learned a lot about setting up Models-Templates-Views
- It's time for you to get some practice!
- We will be using the same ProTwo from Django Level One



- Here is what you have to do:
 - Add a new model called User
 - It should have these fields:
 - First Name
 - Last Name
 - Email



- Make sure to make the migrations!
- Then create a script that will populate your database with fake Users.
- Then confirm the populating through the Admin interface.



- Then create a view for your website for the domain extension /users
- This /users page will be an HTML list of the user names and emails
- You will use template tags to generate this content from the User model.



- Remember to change your urls.py files to deal with the changes to the /users extension!
- Let's get a quick look at what the final page should look like!

Django Level Two Project Exercise Solutions