Exercise 2.6: User Authentication in Django

Learning Goals

- Create authentication for your web application
- Use GET and POST methods
- Password protect your web application's views

Reflection Questions

1. In your own words, write down the importance of incorporating authentication into an application. You can take an example application to explain your answer.

Authentication is important because it allows the user to verify their identity every time they are trying to get into their account on a web page. Without authentication, every user would deal with other users hijacking their account, which is very dangerous especially when users save personal information. An example could be when someone is trying to login to their banks application. If they didn't have authentication, anybody could get into their account to see and maybe steal from them.

2. In your own words, explain the steps you should take to create a login for your Django web application.

You have to first create the view. You do this by going to your views.py file, and from their you can create your function-based view the login_view. In this view, you will build your Authentication form and use the authenticate() function. From there, you will build your template folders that will have your login.html file and specify your urls. This will give you a page that the user can have the ability to use the login form.

3. Look up the following three Django functions on Django's official documentation and/or other trusted sources and write a brief description of each.

Function	Description
authenticate()	This is a tool used for handling user authentication. It is usually used with login and logout functions. It is called with a request, username, and password arguments.
redirect()	This is used to redirect a user to a different URL or view. This controls the flow of user requests.

include()	This function is good for managing the URL routing in your project. This takes a single argument, which is an URL pattern that can be included. You can specify on url patterns list.