

Using Templates

Until now we have been returning html directly from our views function, but what happens when we want to return an entire page or some complex structures like forms ?

We can use templates in our views function, Django ships with a built-in templating engine which we will be using in our application.

Adding templates

There are two main methods by which you can add templates.

1. By convention you need to create a folder 'templates' inside our 'pages' app, and then one more folder 'pages' inside the 'templates' folder.

```
pages/templates/pages/index.html
```

Or

2. You can create a global 'templates' folder and places all your html here. We need to add the path for templates in our 'setting.py'

Add the following -

```
TEMPLATES = [  
    {  
        'BACKEND': 'django.template.backends.django.DjangoTemplates',  
        'DIRS': [os.path.join(BASE_DIR, 'templates')], # new  
        'APP_DIRS': True,  
        'OPTIONS': {  
            'context_processors': [  
                'django.template.context_processors.debug',  
                'django.template.context_processors.request',  
                'django.contrib.auth.context_processors.auth',  
                'django.contrib.messages.context_processors.messages',  
            ],  
        },  
    ],  
]
```

Updating Views

And finally we need to update our views so that they point to the templates

```
pages/views.py
```

```
from django.shortcuts import render

def home_page(request):
    return render(request, 'pages/index.html') # new
```