

CORS, CSRF, and Session Configuration in Django (dj-rest-auth)

Steps followed to configure CORS in a Django project (for this project frontend is Angular)

1. Installed CORS package in the project with the command.

- `pipenv install django-cors-headers`

2. Added corsheader in INSTALLED_APPS

- ```
INSTALLED_APPS = [
 ...,
 "corsheaders",
 ...,
]
```

3. Added `corsheaders.middleware.CorsMiddleware` in the middlewares list in `settings.py` just above the `django.middleware.common.CommonMiddleware`

- ```
MIDDLEWARE = [
    ...,
    "corsheaders.middleware.CorsMiddleware",
    "django.middleware.common.CommonMiddleware",
    ...,
]
```

4. Added a list of allowed origins in `settings.py` to specify which origins' requests will be served.

- ```
CORS_ALLOWED_ORIGINS= [
 "http://localhost:4200",
 "http://127.0.0.1:4200",
 "http://localhost:80",
 "http://67.207.93.188:8081"
]
```

5. Set the following values in `settings.py` to configure CORS settings and Session and CSRF cookies.

- `CORS_ALLOW_CREDENTIALS = True`  
So the browser can send cookies in its request to our domain, and subsequently, the browser can store cookies returned in the response.
- `CORS_ORIGIN_ALLOW_ALL = False`  
Every origin shall not be entertained/served and if this is set to `True` then the list we defined in Step# 04 is unnecessary

- `SESSION_COOKIE_SAMESITE = 'None'`  
`CSRF_COOKIE_SAMESITE = 'None'`  
The browser will not check if a request is from the same site or not, this header prevents requests from malicious sites if the CSRF or session ID has been compromised
- `CSRF_COOKIE_HTTPONLY = False`  
`SESSION_COOKIE_HTTPONLY = True`  
If this is set to `True`, client-side JavaScript will not be able to access the Session and CSRF cookies. And if this is set to `False`, it's vice-versa.
- `CSRF_COOKIE_SECURE = False`  
`SESSION_COOKIE_SECURE = False`  
If this is set to `True`, the cookie will be marked as “secure”, which means browsers may ensure that the cookie is only sent under an HTTPS connection. For development settings, keep it `False`, so you may serve your application over HTTP instead of HTTPS. If you're in production, you should serve your website over HTTPS and enable `CSRF_COOKIE_SECURE` and `SESSION_COOKIE_SECURE`, which will only allow the cookies to be sent over HTTPS.