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what is reverse() in Django

When I read django code sometimes, I see in some templates `reverse()`. I am not quite sure what this is but it is used together with `HttpResponseRedirect`. How and when is this `reverse()` supposed to be used?

62



It would nice if someone gave an answer with some examples...


[django](#)

20

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asked Jun 28 '12 at 9:26



[lakesh](#)

12.1k ● 24 ● 94 ● 176

4 Answers

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<https://docs.djangoproject.com/en/stable/ref/urllib3/#reverse>

in your `urls.py` define this:

120



```
url(r'^foo$', some_view, name='url_name'),
```



in a template you can then refer to this url as:

```
<!-- django <= 1.4 -->
<a href="{% url url_name %}">link which calls some_view</a>

<!-- django >= 1.5 or with {% load url from future %} in your template -->
<a href="{% url 'url_name' %}">link which calls some_view</a>
```

this will be rendered as

```
<a href="/foo/">link which calls some_view</a>
```

now say you want to do something similar in your `views.py` - e.g. you are handling some other url (not `/foo/`) in some other view (not `some_view`) and you want to redirect the user to `/foo/` (often the case on successful form submission)

you could just do

```
return HttpResponseRedirect('/foo/')
```

but what if you want to change the url in future - you'd have to update your `urls.py` and all references to it in your code. This violates DRY (google it).

instead you can say

```
from django.core.urlresolvers import reverse
return HttpResponseRedirect(reverse('url_name'))
```

This looks through all urls defined in your project for the url defined with the name `url_name` and returns the actual url `/foo/`.

this means that you refer to the url only by its `name` attribute - if you want to change the url itself or the view it refers to you can do this by editing one place only - `urls.py`. This whole idea of editing one place only is referred to as "Don't Repeat Yourself" and is something to strive for.

asked 3 years ago

viewed 19578 times

active 10 days ago



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I don't know when to use `reverse()` in `django.core.urlresolvers` module

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edited Jan 6 at 10:02



Flimm

20.4k ● 8 ● 60 ● 69

answered Jun 28 '12 at 9:43



scytale

5,016 ● 2 ● 14 ● 30

10 wonderful explanation! thank you on behalf of lakesh! :) – doniyor Jun 28 '12 at 10:06

thanks @scytale... – lakesh Jun 28 '12 at 10:52

1 FYI, `{{ url 'url_name' }}` should be `{% url url_name %}` in Django 1.4 or earlier. This will be changing in the next Django release (1.5) and should then be `{% url 'url_name' %}`. The docs for the [url templatetag](#) give some good info if you scroll down a bit to the "forwards compatibility" section – j_syk Jun 28 '12 at 14:58

j_syk thanks - i've been doing `@load url` from future@ since 1.3 came out and forgot that it's not yet the default. I'll update my answer so it doesn't trip up the inexperienced. – scytale Jun 28 '12 at 15:58

not to be too critical, and to continue on the theme of not tripping up the inexperienced, but it should be block tags `{% %}` not variable tags `{{ }}` for the url tag :) – j_syk Jun 28 '12 at 16:53

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There is a doc for that

1

<https://docs.djangoproject.com/en/dev/topics/http/urls/#reverse>

it can be used to generate an URL for a given view

main advantage is that you do not hard code routes in your code.

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answered Jun 28 '12 at 9:35



Pierre

1,292 ● 9 ● 21

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The `reverse()` is used to adhere the django DRY principle i.e if you change the url in future then you can reference that url using `reverse(urlname)`.

0

share improve this answer

answered Dec 2 '14 at 17:53



Deshraj

26 ● 3

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The function supports the dry principle - ensuring that you don't hard code urls throughout your app. A url should be defined in one place, and only one place - your url conf. After that you're really just referencing that info.

0

Use `reverse()` to give you the url of a page, given either the path to the view, or the `page_name` parameter from your url conf. You would use it in cases where it doesn't make sense to do it in the template with `{% url 'my-page' %}`.

There are lots of possible places you might use this functionality. One place I've found I use it is when redirecting users in a view (often after the successful processing of a form)-

```
return HttpResponseRedirect(reverse('thanks-we-got-your-form-page'))
```

You might also use it when writing template tags.

Another time I used `reverse()` was with model inheritance. I had a `ListView` on a parent model, but wanted to get from any one of those parent objects to the `DetailView` of it's associated child object. I attached a `get_child_url()` function to the parent which identified the existence of a child and returned the url of it's `DetailView` using `reverse()`.

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answered Apr 9 at 2:25



Ashish

18 ● 4

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