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When and how to use Django TemplateView

When to use Template View?

Django provides several class based generic views to accomplish common tasks. Simplest among them is TemplateView.

TemplateView **should be used** when you want to present some information in a html page.

TemplateView **shouldn't be used** when your page has forms and does creation or update of objects. In such cases FormView, CreateView or UpdateView is a better option.

TemplateView is most suitable in following cases:

— Showing 'about us' like pages which are static and hardly needs any context. Though it is easy to use context variables with TemplateView.

— Showing pages which work with GET requests and don't have forms in it.

Let's write a view using base class view **View** and then modify it to use TemplateView. TemplateView would help us avoid several lines of code.

Vanilla view

An 'about us' page with **View**.

```
from django.views.generic.base import View
from django.shortcuts import render


class AboutUs(View):
```

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With vanilla View we need to provide a get() implementation and must return a HttpResponse() object from get().

TemplateView

The same functionality can be achieved with **TemplateView** in following way:

```
from django.views.generic.base import TemplateView


class AboutUs(TemplateView):
        template_name = 'about-us.html'
```

As you can notice, we didn't have to provide a get() implementation while using TemplateView. TemplateView has it's own get(). TemplateView.get() also encapsulates the creation of HttpResponse/TemplateResponse object and returning the response object.

We only had to specify the template_name while using TemplateView.

An 'about us' page with `context` using a vanilla **View**.

```
class AboutUs(View):
        def get(self, request, *args, **kwargs):
                context = {'name': 'Gryffindor'}
                return render(request, "about-us.html", context=context)
```

TemplateView with context variables

An 'about us' page with `context` using a **TemplateView**.

```
class AboutUs(TemplateView):
        template_name = 'about-us.html'

        def get_context_data(self, *args, **kwargs):
                context = super(AboutUs, self).get_context_data(*args, **kwarg
```

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TemplateView has a better separation of defining context variables and defining template name.

Essentially a TemplateView helps you avoid boilerplate code like:

— providing a GET() implementation.

— creating and returning a HttpResponse() or a subclass of HttpResponse() object.

A `template_name` attribute **must be** supplied while using TemplateView.

Our other posts on generic class views

— ListView

— DetailView

— FormView

— CreateView

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João Sizílio • 2 years ago

Hello! Thanks for this article, was really interesting.
You said that "TemplateView shouldn't be used when your page has forms and does creation or update of objects.". About that... I have used form in my TemplateViews, cause I'm not a expert yet. How can I make a page with form without using a TemplateView?
Cheers!

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