Django Adventures – How to create file download links in Django?

How to create file download links in Django?



In order to create a download link, we need to create a Django view that would serve the files:

```
# views.py

import mimetypes

...

def download_file(request):
    # fill these variables with real values
    fl_path = '/file/path'
    filename = 'downloaded_file_name.extension'

fl = open(fl_path, 'r')
    mime_type, _ = mimetypes.guess_type(fl_path)
    response = HttpResponse(fl, content_type=mime_type)
    response['Content-Disposition'] = "attachment; filename=%s" % filename
        return response
...
```

Django Adventures – How to create file download links in Django?

Once you've done this, add a line to urlpatterns in urls.py, which references the view.

```
# urls.py
...
path('<str:filepath>/', views.download_file)
...
```

How it works?

It works because we send the following HTTP header to a browser:

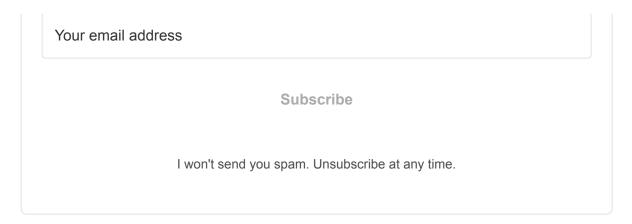
```
Content-Disposition: attachment; filename
```

It tells a browser to treat a response as a downloadable file. Have you noticed that we also include <code>content-Type</code> header? This one tells what kind of file we are sending to the browser or in other words its *mime type*. If the header is not set Django will set it to <code>text/html</code>. <code>mimetypes.guess_type</code> is a handy function which tries to guess the mime type of the file, however if you know the mime type of your file(s) beforehand, it is better to set this manually.

Want to get better at Django development?

Subscribe to get new Django tutorials.

Django Adventures – How to create file download links in Django?



Why should I use Django ORM when I know SQL?

The main benefits of using Django ORM instead of SQL is a huge improvement in development speed, code maintenance, security and ease of development in general. Let's talk about these in detail. Development speedDjango ORM comes with a lot of built-in tools that



JavaScript, Django and PostgreSQL timezone handling

Please have a look at the first part, which covers date, time and time zone basics in detail. This is a post about timezones issue I've been working on at DjaoDjin. Imagine there is a company with multiple teams distributed across the globe.



Django Adventures © 2020 Latest Posts Twitter