Lab 4 Questions

By Sandy Huang

**Question 1**: What is the link to your github repository for this lab?

<https://github.com/shearpaladin/CMPUT404-LAB4>

**Question 2**: After starting a brand new Django application and running the runserver command, what does the browser show you?

**The browser shows me a webpage stating “The install worked successfully! Congratulations!” It also says i’m seeing this page because “DEBUG=True” in my settings file and URLs haven’t been configured. There are also links to Django documentation, a tutorial on the polling app, and a Django community link.**

**Question 3**: After creating the first view within polls, what does the browser show you when navigating to / and to /polls respectively?

**When navigating to ‘/’ it gave me a “Page not found (404)” and showing two other url paths “/polls” and “/admin”. Navigating to “/polls” displays the text “**Hello, world. You're at the polls index.”

**Question 4**: What is a Django migration and why do we need them?

**Migrations are how Django stores and changes your models and your database schema. This way we can reconstruct/reformat our fields to our preference, so the data remains consistent. One example I could think of would be updating a legacy system into a new modern system and deciding what information is essential to keep.**

**Question 5**: What do you see after you log into the Django adminstration site? From a high level, how do you get custom models to appear in the Django admin page?

**I see an “Authentication and Authorization” section containing “Groups” and “Users” that can be added or changed. A “Polls” section containing “Choices” and “Questions” that can added or changed as well. And finally a “Recent Actions” section displaying the recent actions taken by super users.**

**If your custom models exists in the models.py file you can add them by registering them in admin.py**

**Question 6**: What do you see when you go to /polls/38/ in your browser? What about /polls/38/results and /polls/38/vote? What happens when you don’t put a number, and instead use a string? How would you modify the *urls.py* file to allow arbitrary alphabetic characters?

**When I go to “/polls/38/” it shows: “Your looking at a question 38.”**

**When I go to “/polls/38/results” it shows: “Your looking at the results of question 38.”**

**When I go to “/polls/38/vote” it shows: “Your voting on question 38.”**

**When you use a “string” instead of a number for example “/polls/a/” it leads to a “Page not found (404)”.**

**By changing the path from “<int:question\_id>” to “<str:question\_id>” this would allow string elements instead of numbers.**

**Question 7**: Why is it a bad idea to hardcode urls into the templates?

**Because it defeats the whole purpose of using a template. Templates should be reusable for a variety of urls. Also it makes changing urls much harder and makes it much easier to link to the wrong page.**

**Question 8**: What are the benefits of using Django's generic views over writing views 'the hard way'? When should you use a generic view and when shouldn't you use a generic view?

**Generic views allow you to quickly generate a view/render an html page without going through the trouble of writing an HTML page every time.**

**You should use generic views when you are using the same elements/format every time on multiple pages, an example would be writing multiple ‘About pages’.**

**You shouldn’t use generic views for pages with a lot of custom code or personalized pages.**