

## Python for Web Developers: Achievement 2 Learning Journal

### Pre-work

1. **Was your study routine effective during Achievement 1? If not, what will you do differently during Achievement 2?**

I tend to be a little loose with my study routine. I try to get an exercise reading and the chapter quiz done each day every couple of days, and if time allows, I'll either get started on taking notes from the reading or doing the task; if time does not allow, I will try to get both done the next day. If I fall behind during the week, I will try to work on the remaining content over the weekend if I don't already have prior obligations or plans. I often have to go to the chiropractor during the week, at least twice weekly, to continue attempting to treat my back injury, so that eats into some of my time from day to day. Additionally, sometimes I'm in so much pain, I can't sit at the desktop to do coding work since that's where I do all of it. This, coupled with the amount of notes I write per chapter, tends to set me back in my course timeline.

2. **Reflect on your learning and project work for Achievement 1. What were you most proud of? How will you repeat or build on this in Achievement 2?**

I'm proud of my code structure and commenting skills, and I will continue to improve on both of these through Achievement 2 and beyond. I feel like I've also gotten better at working with ChatGPT when using it to assist with coding.

3. **What difficulties did you encounter in the last Achievement? How did you deal with them? How could this experience prepare you for difficulties in Achievement 2?**

My main difficulties during last Achievement revolved around applying previous exercise's content to the next exercise's task coding. Sometimes, it was tricky knowing where to start when writing certain things like try-except blocks or the utilization of certain functions like `.join()` or `.split()`. Given more time spent reviewing the chapter readings, my notes, other students' submissions, and working with ChatGPT, I eventually got a better feel for these concepts. If I get stuck with anything in Django, I hope I can reach out to my mentor, other students, or the community online.

## **Achievement 2: Web Development & Django**

### **Exercise 2.1: Getting Started with Django**

- 1. Suppose you're a web developer in a company and need to decide if you'll use vanilla (plain) Python for a project, or a framework like Django instead. What are the advantages and drawbacks of each?**

Vanilla Python is better suited for smaller projects with minimal functionality and allows for more control over every aspect of an app, avoiding the constraints of frameworks like Django. However, development can be slower because the main features of the app, like routing and security, have to be built from scratch, rather than being included with a framework.

Frameworks like Django can be useful for larger, more complex projects as they usually come with built-in features that can handle things like routing, security, functionality, and scalability, cutting down on development time. However, some frameworks, like Django, can have a steep learning curve and be more challenging to work with for those less familiar with them. Additionally, their built-in features can add much additional overhead to the app, resulting in reduced performance. Also, in the case of Django, the app would have to be built the "Django Way", so it would have to follow a specific ruleset to be developed properly.

- 2. In your own words, what is the most significant advantage of Model View Template (MVT) architecture over Model View Controller (MVC) architecture?**

MVT has a significant advantage over MVC because it relies on an integrated templating system. It simplifies rendering HTML content and allows devs to embed content into their templates.

- 3. Now that you've had an introduction to the Django framework, write down three goals you have for yourself and your learning process during this Achievement.**

I would like to learn more about what Django can really do on the backend for an app that uses a database, as well as how it renders content on the frontend. I want to add Django as another tool to my skillset that I can use in future projects. After this achievement, I will be working on finishing the Job Prep course and getting ready to go on the hunt.

**Exercise 2.2: Django Project Setup**

Coming Soon