# **Learning Objectives: Preparing for Production**

Learners will be able to...

- Create a Django Project
- · Add a form to post information to the database
- Test the form

info

#### **Make Sure You Know**

You should be comfortable with Python, specifically classes and inheritance.

#### Limitations

This project adds a form to post information to the database. Features such as editing or deleting information with additional forms is not covered. This project does not use authentication; any user can add whatever they want to the database.

# Create a Django Project

## **Capital Cities Project**

In this project, we are going to create a simple website that has a list of capital cities by country. The big difference with this project is the inclusion of a form so you can add cities to the list. This project is simple in nature, and there are many things missing from the website (like authentication, etc.). However, we are going to use this project and learn how to prepare Django for a production environment.

## **Installing Django**

Start by creating the django virtual environment.

```
conda create --name django -y
```

Then activate the newly created environment.

```
conda activate django
```

Install Django as well as Black. <u>Black</u> is a Python code formatter. The project describes itself as being uncompromising, which means it is going to make changes to the code that might seem unusual. For instance, Black defaults to double quotes over single quotes. You can read more about the Black code style <u>here</u>. Black is very popular in the Django community, so we will be using this tool to format our code. Both packages are installed from the Conda Forge channel to get their latest versions.

```
conda install -c conda-forge django black -y
```

## Starting Our Django Project

Now that we have a virtual environment and Django installed, it is time to create our project. Run the following command to create our Django project. We are going to name it capital\_cities.

```
django-admin startproject capital_cities .
```

Use the tree command to print a graphical representation of our current directory.

```
tree
```

What was once an empty directory is now contains the directory capital\_cities, which itself contains five files. We also have a manage.py file. This is the benefit of using a framework. It knows that you need these directories and files for a proper Django project, so it creates them for you.

Each file in the capital\_cities directory serves a specific purpose:

- asgi.py this is an optional file used with an asynchronous server gateway interface.
- \_\_init\_\_.py- this indicates the directory is part of a Python package.
- settings.py this file controls the settings for our Django project.
- urls.py this file tells Django which page to load when a user visits our site
- wsgi.py the web server gateway interface is used when we host our site on a production server.

The manage.py file is not technically part of the Django project since it is outside the capital\_cities directory. However, this file is very important. We will use it when we need to make migrations to the database, run our development server, etc.

If we activated the django virtual environment at the beginning of a page, we want to get into the habit of deactivating it at the end of a page.

# **Codio-Specific Settings**

## **Running Django On Codio**

info

#### **Django and Codio**

The changes on this page are done to allow Django to run on the Codio platform. By default, Django has strict security features that keep Codio from embedding Django.

The code samples below **only** apply for Codio. You **would not** make these changes when running Django outside of Codio. If this module is about production-ready code, why make these changes? We want to verify that the site is working as expected first. We will undo these changes later on.

Before setting up Django to run on Codio, you first need to import the os module.

```
import os
```

The two biggest obstacles in getting Django to run inside Codio are recognizing the unique host name for each Codio project and cookies. The changes below will tell Django the exact host name of the Codio project and alter how Django handles cookies. Make sure your settings match the ones below.

Scroll down a bit and look for the definition of the variable MIDDLEWARE. Comment out the two lines that refer to csrf. CSRF stands for cross-site request forgery, which is a way for a malicious actor to force a user to perform an unintended action. Django normally has CSRF protections in place, but we need to disable them. There are serious security implications to doing so, however your project on Codio is not publicly available on the internet. Comment out the two lines in the MIDDLEWARE setting as shown below.

```
MIDDLEWARE = [
    'django.middleware.security.SecurityMiddleware',
    'django.contrib.sessions.middleware.SessionMiddleware',
    'django.middleware.common.CommonMiddleware',
    'django.middleware.csrf.CsrfViewMiddleware',
    'django.contrib.auth.middleware.AuthenticationMiddleware',
    'django.contrib.messages.middleware.MessageMiddleware',
    'django.middleware.clickjacking.XFrameOptionsMiddleware',
]
```

#### Starting the Server

Once you finish making the changes to the settings.py file, we want to enforce the Black style guide. Start by opening the terminal with the link below. Then activate the django virtual environment.

```
conda activate django
```

Now run Black on the settings py file. If you were to click on the tab for the settings file, you would see the newly formatted settings.

```
black capital_cities/settings.py
```

Use the manage.py file to run the development server. We are going to specify 0.0.0.0 for the address of localhost and port 8000.

```
python manage.py runserver 0.0.0.0:8000
```

Finally, open the preview of Django running on the development server with the link below. You should see the default success message from Django. We see this message because all we did was start a Django project and change a few settings. There is no website to show, so we get the success message instead.

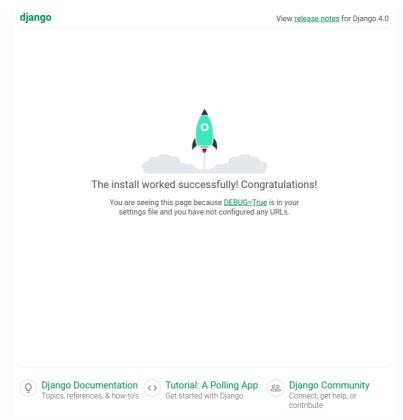


Image depicts the success message from Django that the install is working.

**Reminder:** these changes only apply to working with Django on Codio. **Do not** make these changes to a project you plan on making available on the internet.

Open the terminal and stop the Django server by pressing  ${\tt Ctrl} + {\tt C}.$  Then deactivate the virtual environment.

# **Django Apps**

## **Creating a Django App**

We have the skeleton of a Django project. A project is comprised of several Django apps. Each app should perform a specific function of the overall project. Combine all the apps together, and you have a Django project.

Start by activating the django virtual environment.

conda activate django

To add an app to a Django project, use the manage.py file with the startapp argument. In addition, give this new app a name.

python manage.py startapp capitals

Next, let's create our initial database with the migrate command. We have not yet declared our model (which controls the database's structure), so the database will use Django's default settings.

python manage.py migrate

If you enter the tree command in the terminal, you will see the new structure of our Django project. The db.sqlite3 is our database, which is new. In addition to the capital\_cities directory, we now have the capitals directory. This new directory is our app.

```
capital_cities
 ├─ asgi.py
   - __init__.py
    __pycache__
     ___init__.cpython-310.pyc
     ├─ settings.cpython-310.pyc
       — urls.cpython-310.pyc
     └─wsgi.cpython-310.pyc
   settings.py
   - urls.py
   wsqi.py
 capitals
  — admin.py
   — apps.py
    - __init__.py
   — migrations
     ___init__.py
   models.py
   tests.py
 └─ views.py
- db.sqlite3
manage.py
```

Django automatically creates any files needed by the app. Each file has a specific purpose:

- admin.py handles configuration of the built-in Django Admin feature
- apps.py handles configuration for the app itself
- migrations this directory keeps track of changes to models so the database stays in sync
- models.py handles the definition of database models
- tests.py handles any tests specific to the app
- views.py handles any HTTP requests and responses for the app

## Adding the App

Django makes it really easy to add an app to a project. The problem, however, is that the project "does not know" about the newly created app. We need to add our capitals app to the list of installed apps for the Django project. Open settings .py (the project settings) with the link below. Then add our languages app to the end of the list.

```
INSTALLED_APPS = [
    "django.contrib.admin",
    "django.contrib.auth",
    "django.contrib.contenttypes",
    "django.contrib.sessions",
    "django.contrib.messages",
    "django.contrib.staticfiles",
    'capitals.apps.CapitalsConfig',
]
```

CapitalsConfig is a class in the apps.pyfile inside the reviews directory (our new Django app). Django created this file and its contents during the app creation process. We do not need to make any changes to this file. We just need to make our Django project aware of it.

Open the terminal and run the Black formatter to make sure our code has a consistent style.

```
black capital_cities/settings.py
```

Deactivate the virtual environment.

#### Model

#### **Movie Fields**

Start by activating the django virtual environment.

```
conda activate django
```

Open the models.py file.

Our database needs a model, which represents the information stored. Since this is such a simple project, we only need two fields:

- City short-form text with a max length of 100 characters
- Country short-form text with a max length of 100 characters

Since each field is short-form text, we are going to use a CharField. We are also going to limit the length of the text to 100 characters.

```
from django.db import models

class Capital(models.Model):
    city = models.CharField(max_length=100)
    country = models.CharField(max_length=100)
```

We also want to create the \_\_str\_\_ method to provide a human-readable version of the model in the Django Admin. Use an f-string to return the city and country values separated by a comma.

```
from django.db import models

class Capital(models.Model):
    city = models.CharField(max_length=100)
    country = models.CharField(max_length=100)

def __str__(self):
    return f'{self.city}, {self.country}'
```

The final thing we need to do is create the canonical URL for our model. Basically, Django will redirect our website to the homepage after entering a new city and country. Start by importing the reverse function from

django.urls. Then create the get\_absolute\_url method that returns the homepage.

```
from django.db import models
from django.urls import reverse

class Capital(models.Model):
    city = models.CharField(max_length=100)
    country = models.CharField(max_length=100)

def __str__(self):
    return f'{self.city}, {self.country}'

def get_absolute_url(self):
    return reverse("home")
```

Open the terminal and run the Black formatter to make sure our code has a consistent style.

```
black capitals/models.py
```

## **Activating the Database**

Because our website is so simple, this is all we need for our model. Before we use it, we need to activate the new model. This is a two-step process and should performed whenever the model changes. The first step is to create a migrations file. These files keep track of all of the changes made to the model over time.

```
python manage.py makemigrations capitals
```

#### **▼** Did you notice?

We specified the capitals app with the makemigrations command. This is optional. If you do not specify the app, Django will make migration files for all apps in the project.

Next, use the migrate command to sync the database to the model. We have already seen this command once before when we first activated the database with the Django defaults.

```
python manage.py migrate
```

Our database is ready to go. Next, we'll take a look at how to view and modify the database using the powerful, built-in tool called Django Admin.

Deactivate the virtual environment.

#### **Views**

#### List View

Start by activating the django virtual environment.

```
conda activate django
```

This project will list out the capital cities and their countries from the database. That means we need to use a ListView. This view is a list of every record in the database. This makes it easy to iterate over the list and place the information in an HTML document.

Open the views.py file from the Django app. Import the ListView generic class-based view. We also need to import the Capital model used in our database. Name the view HomePageView and inherit from ListView.

```
from django.views.generic import ListView
from .models import Review

class HomePageView(ListView):
```

Create the variable template\_name and assign it an HTML file. In this case, the file is called home.html. In addition, we need to create the variable model and assign it our model Capital.

```
from django.views.generic import ListView
from .models import Capital

class HomePageView(ListView):
    template_name = 'home.html'
    model = Capital
```

#### **Create View**

We also need to make a view for adding a new capital city to the list. This is going to use a form where a user can enter a new city and country into the database of capital cities. To do this, we need to import the generic class CreateView.

```
from django.views.generic import ListView
from django.views.generic.edit import CreateView
from .models import Capital
```

Next create the NewCapitalView class and inherit from CreateView. This view uses the capital\_new.html template and it also uses the same Capital model.

```
class NewCapitalView(CreateView):
   template_name = 'capital_new.html'
   model = Capital
   fields = ['city', 'country']
```

The fields attribute exposes the database fields we want in the form. Note, you can expose as many or as few fields as you want. Our simple database only has two fields, and we want to expose them both.

#### **▼** Code

The code for the views.py page should look like this:

```
from django.views.generic import ListView
from django.views.generic.edit import CreateView
from .models import Capital

class HomePageView(ListView):
    template_name = 'home.html'
    model = Capital

class NewCapitalView(CreateView):
    template_name = 'capital_new.html'
    model = Capital
    fields = ['city', 'country']
```

Open the terminal and run the Black formatter to make sure our code has a consistent style.

```
black capitals/views.py
```

Deactivate the virtual environment.

```
conda deactivate
```



# **Templates**

## **Templates**

Start by activating the django virtual environment.

```
conda activate django
```

We are going to store all our templates in a single templates directory. In the terminal, enter the following command to create this directory.

```
mkdir templates
```

We need to update the settings.py file since we want to use our own directory for the templates. Look for the variable TEMPLATES which should be around line 65. Look for the key "DIRS", whose value is an empty list. Update this value to the one below.

```
"DIRS": [BASE_DIR / 'templates'],
```

Open the terminal and run the Black formatter to make sure our code has a consistent style.

```
black capital_cities/settings.py
```

We are going to start with a base.html template that will serve as a parent for the list of capital cities and the form for adding a new capital. Create the base.html file as well as the home.html and capital\_new.html files inside of the templates directory with the command below.

```
touch templates/base.html templates/home.html
    templates/capital_new.html
```

Let's start with the base.html template. We are going to create a header to be used on all pages and then create a content block that the children templates can override. The header has the name of the site and a link to add a new capital to the list.

```
<html>
  <head>
    <title>Capital Cities</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <div>
      <header>
        <div>
          <h1><a href="{% url 'home' %}">Capital Cities</a></h1>
        </div>
        <div>
          <a href="{% url 'capital_new' %}">+ New Capital</a>
        </div>
      </header>
      {% block content %}
      {% endblock content %}
    </div>
  </body>
</html>
```

Open home.html. Inherit from the parent template and override the block named content. We want to display a sentence that has the capital and country for each record in the database. Django has a for template tag that iterates over a list. We are going to use capital\_list as the list. This is a list of every record in our database. The name of the list is derived from the name of the model (all lowercase) followed by \_list. We are able to do this thanks to the ListView generic class-based view. The for loop function almost identically to a traditional for look in Python. When using the loop variable, be sure to surround with {{}} to differentiate it from HTML. We also need to end the for template tag.

Open capital\_new.html. Inherit from the parent template and override the block named content. Create a form with "post" as the method. We do this because we are sending data to the website. We also include the {% csrf\_token %} to prevent cross-site request forgeries. The form template tag ({{ for.as\_p }}) means that each field in our form is rendered in its own paragraph tag. Finally, we have a save button.

```
{% extends "base.html" %}
{% block content %}
<h2>Add a New Capital to the List</h2>
<form action="" method="post">{% csrf_token %}
    {{ form.as_p }}
    <input type="submit" value="Save">
</form>
{% endblock content %}
```

Since we did not edit any Python code, we do not need to run the Black formatter. Unfortunately, we cannot yet look at our website until we address the URL patterns.

Deactivate the virtual environment.

```
conda deactivate
```

## **URL Patterns**

#### **Creating the Patterns**

Start by activating the django virtual environment.

```
conda activate django
```

The first URL pattern will be for the Django project. We want to include the urls.py file in the reviews app. Add this to the list after the URL pattern for the Django Admin.

```
from django.contrib import admin
from django.urls import path, include

urlpatterns = [
    path("admin/", admin.site.urls),
    path("", include('capitals.urls')),
]
```

Open the terminal and run the Black formatter to make sure our code has a consistent style.

```
black capital_cities/urls.py
```

Currently, the urls.py file for the capitals app does not exist. Enter the following command to create it. Then click the link to open the file.

```
touch capitals/urls.py
```

Import path from django.urls and import our HomePageView from the views.py file. Create a pattern for the root of our website which renders HomePageView. Because this is a class-based view, we need to use the as\_view() method. Give this pattern the name home.

```
from django.urls import path
from .views import HomePageView, NewCapitalView

urlpatterns = [
    path('', HomePageView.as_view(), name='home'),
    path('new/', NewCapitalView.as_view(), name='capital_new')
]
```

Open the terminal and run the Black formatter to make sure our code has a consistent style.

```
black capitals/urls.py
```

#### **Testing our Site**

We are finally ready to display information from the database to our Django website. Run the dev server and open the website. We should only see the title and a link to add a new captial. There is no information in the database, so there is no list of capitals.

```
python manage.py runserver 0.0.0.0:8000
```

#### **Capital Cities**

#### + New Capital

This image depicts the homepage. There is the title "Capital Cities". Below that is a link that says "+ New Capital". There is nothing else on the page.

Click on the link to add a new capital. You should see a form that allows you to enter a city, a country, and the save this by clicking a button. Enter Paris and France for the respective fields and click the save button.

<b>Capital Cities</b>
+ New Capital
Add a New Capital to the Lis
City:
Country:
Save

The image depicts the

page to add a new capital. There is a form with fields for "City" and "Country" as well as a save button.

Django automatically redirects you to the homepage. This time, however, you should see the text:

Paris is the capital of France

#### **Capital Cities**

+ New Capital

Paris is the capital of France

The image depicts the homepage with the sentence "Paris is the capital of France".

challenge

## Try this variation:

- Add more capitals to the database:
  - o Ottawa and Canada
  - Cairo and Egypt
  - Rome and Italy

Switch back to the terminal and stop the dev server with Ctrl+C on the keyboard. Then deactivate the virtual environment.

## **Bootstrap**

#### **Adding Bootstrap**

Start by activating the django virtual environment.

```
conda activate django
```

Instead of using traditional CSS to style our Django project, we are going to use the <u>Bootstrap</u> CSS framework. Like Django, Bootstrap abstract away many of the details of styling. Before we can use it, we first need to install the framework in our base.html file.

In the <head> tag, add the link to content delivery network (CDN) that hosts the Bootstrap framework. Also add a <meta> tag to indicate that our site is using the UTF-8 character set.

Bootstrap relies on JavaScript to properly work. Because of this, we need to add the Bootstrap <script> tag in the body after the block template tag.

```
<body>
  <div>
    <header>
         <h1><a href="{% url 'home' %}">Capital Cities</a></h1>
       </div>
       <div>
         <a href="{% url 'capital_new' %}">+ New Capital</a>
       </div>
    </header>
    {% block content %}
    {% endblock content %}
       src="https://cdn.jsdelivr.net/npm/bootstrap@5.1.3/dist/js/bootstrap.bundle">src="https://cdn.jsdelivr.net/npm/bootstrap@5.1.3/dist/js/bootstrap.bundle"
       js" integrity="sha384-
       ka7Sk0Gln4gmtz2MlQnikT1wXgYs0g+0MhuP+IlRH9sENB00LRn5q+8nbTov4+1p"
       crossorigin="anonymous"></script>
  </div>
</body>
```

#### Styling the Site

We are going to start by styling the <code>div></code> inside the body as a container for our content. The container will provide some margins on the left and right. We are also going to add some a margin to the top and bottom of the container. Give the <code>div></code> a bottom border. We also want to use flexbox to position the <code>div></code> elements in the center (vertically speaking) of the header.

```
<div class="container my-3">
    <header class="border-bottom border-secondary pb-1 d-flex
    align-items-center">
```

Next we are going to style the two <code>div></code> tags in the header. The first <code>div></code> should take up 75% of the width (col 9) and use a display heading that is unique to Bootstrap. The second <code>div></code> should take the column class. The link should now be a blue button with an outline instead of a solid color.

Next, we are going to style the home.html template. All we need to do is provide a bit of space between the list of capital cities and the border in the header and change the typography of the list. Add a <div> around name of the city and country. Add the my-2 class, which adds a small margin at the top and bottom of the list. Use the display-6 class to style the text.

```
<div class="my-2">
  <h3 class="display-6">{{ capital.city }} is the capital of {{
      capital.country }}</h3>
  </div>
```

Update the capital\_new.html template so that a <div> surrounds the title and form. Again, we are going to provide a small margin on the top and bottom. Change the title to use the display-6 class. Finally, use a blue button with an outline to match the other button on the page.

```
<div class="my-2">
  <h2 class="display-6">Add a New Capital to the List</h2>
  <form action="" method="post">{% csrf_token %}
  {{ form.as_p }}
  <input type="submit" value="Save" class="btn btn-outline-primary">
  </form>
  </div>
```

#### Viewing the Changes

Open the terminal and run the dev server. Then open the website. You should see the styling added to our site.

python manage.py runserver 0.0.0.0:8000

The home.html template should now render like the image below.

# **Capital Cities**

+ New Capital

Paris is the capital of France
Ottawa is the capital of Canada
Cairo is the capital of Egypt
Rome is the capital of Italy

The image depicts the style homepage. The title is blue and larger. There is a blue button to the right to add a new capital. The header has a border on the bottom. Finally, the text for the capitals is taller and skinnier.

Click on the button to add a new capital to the list. Your page should now look like this:

# <u>Capital Cities</u>

+ New Capital

Add a New Capital to the List

City: Country: Save

The image depicts the page with the form to add a new capital city. You have the same revised header as before. The text to add a new city and country is taller and skinnier.

warning

#### No Authentication

This project uses a form without any authorization. That means anyone who visits your site can enter whatever information they want in the form and it will appear on the site. This is not a safe. A better solution would be to grant access to the form to authorized users. This project is only for demonstration.

Switch back to the terminal and stop the dev server with Ctrl+C on the keyboard. Then deactivate the virtual environment.

# **Testing**

## **Testing the Homepage**

Start by activating the django virtual environment.

```
conda activate django
```

The last step in our Django project is writing tests. We are going to test the homepage, the form, and the database. Open the test file for the capitals Django app.

Begin the test by importing the Capital model and the reverse function. In addition, create the CapitalTests class which inherits from TestCase. We inherit from TestCase since we are testing the database.

```
from django.test import TestCase
from .models import Capital
from django.urls import reverse

class CapitalTests(TestCase):
```

Create the test\_home\_page method. This method will fetch the template associated with the name home. It then checks that the status code is 200, that the template used is home.html, and that the page contains the text Capital Cities.

```
def test_home_page(self):
    response = self.client.get(reverse('home'))
    self.assertEqual(response.status_code, 200)
    self.assertTemplateUsed(response, 'home.html')
    self.assertContains(response, 'Capital Cities')
```

## Testing the form

Many Django tests create a response variable that uses self.client.get. The post method is used by forms to send information to the database. We need to use self.client.post when testing the form. Start by creating the

test\_capital\_createview method. Create the response variable by posting a JSON object that has New Delhi as the city and 'India' as the country. The JSON should be posted to the template with the name 'capital\_new'.

```
def test_capital_createview(self):
    response = self.client.post(
        reverse('capital_new'),
        {
             'city' : 'New Delhi',
             'country' : 'India'
        }
    )
    self.assertEqual(response.status_code, 302)
    self.assertEqual(Capital.objects.last().city, 'New Delhi')
    self.assertEqual(Capital.objects.last().country,
        'India')
```

Assert that the page has a 302 redirect status code, that the city field for the last object is 'New Delhi', and that country field for the last object is 'India'.

#### **Testing the Database**

Django creates a special testing database used for the tests. Afterwards, it is deleted. Create the setUpTestData as a class method. Create a Capital object that has 'Riga' as the city and 'Latvia' as the country.

```
@classmethod
def setUpTestData(cls):
    cls.capital = Capital.objects.create(city='Riga',
    country='Latvia')
```

Once the dummy database is complete, we can run tests against it. Assert that the value of the city field is Riga and that the value of the country field is Latvia.

```
def test_capital_city(self):
    self.assertEqual(self.capital.city, 'Riga')

def test_capital_country(self):
    self.assertEqual(self.capital.country, 'Latvia')
```

## **Running the Tests**

Open the terminal and run the Black formatter to make sure our code has a consistent style.

```
black capitals/tests.py
```

Once all the tests are done, run the test file with the command below.

```
python manage.py test
```

If all tests pass, you should see the following output:

```
Found 4 test(s).

Creating test database for alias 'default'...

System check identified no issues (0 silenced).
....

Ran 4 tests in 0.023s

OK

Destroying test database for alias 'default'...
```

Deactivate the virtual environment.

```
conda deactivate
```