

Exercise 2.8: Deploying a Django Project

Learning Goals

- Enhance user experience and look and feel of your web application using CSS and JS
- Deploy your Django web application on a web server
- Curate project deliverables for your portfolio

Reflection Questions

1. Explain how you can use CSS and JavaScript in your Django web application.
 - a. CSS and JS files can be written as standard ones in a Django app.
 - b. They need to be placed in a static folder either at the project level or at an app level.
 - c. Then they are referenced from the respective templates using {% load static %} and respective static url syntax in the <link></link> or <script></script> tag as usual when referencing CSS and JS.
2. In your own words, explain the steps you'd need to take to deploy your Django web application.
 - a. App structure has to be updated to move all from src to the main folder.
 - b. Further settings are created in settings.py in terms of configuring database connection, secret key, debug value, and static root value to make sure staticfiles are served from a CDN when deployed on a server.
 - c. Procfile also has to be created to indicate the entry point for the application.
 - d. Also it is required to install a few packages in the virtual environment, such as unicorn, dj-database-url, whitenoise, all important to run the app on a server.
 - e. Requirements.txt has to be generated with the list of required packages, and psycopg2-binary with its respective version should be listed unless installed as well.
 - f. Push the updated app to github
 - g. Then in terms of deploying on Heroku,
 - i. Install Heroku on your host
 - ii. Login
 - iii. Push the main branch to Heroku
 - iv. Run migrations
 - v. Create a superuser
3. (Optional) Connect with a few Django web developers through LinkedIn or any other network. Ask them for their tips on creating a portfolio to showcase Python programming and Django skills. Think about which tips could help you improve your portfolio.
 - a. Will do after finishing the course.

4. You've now finished Achievement 2 and, with it, the whole course! Take a moment to reflect on your learning:
 - a. What went well during this Achievement?
 - i. Except for the last 2 tasks, everything went quite well, instructions were mostly clear and it was quite easy to understand the basics of Django. Even the logic between templates, views, and models is clearer after creating many views, etc.
 - b. What's something you're proud of?
 - i. How the app looks and works.
 - c. What was the most challenging aspect of this Achievement?
 - i. I needed to add further functionality for editing, deleting, and adding recipes while how this exactly should work wasn't explained in the material at all, so it was mostly self-study and took much more time than estimated. However, still a worthwhile practice.
 - d. Did this Achievement meet your expectations? Did it give you the confidence to start working with your new Django skills?
 - i. I'd say I have to build more with Django to feel fully comfortable with it (or at least practically comfortable) and don't much like how Django works but I am generally open to working with Django or other frameworks.