yimatt/resources · Django

Getting started with Django

by yimatt.com · 2 min · updated 2026-10-28 · intermediate

What you'll do

In this guide you will set up a clean, reproducible Django workflow from the official documentation, verify your local configuration, and run a minimal working check so you can build with confidence.

Prerequisites

- Access to the official documentation at Django (https://www.djangoproject.com).
- A terminal and a modern code editor such as VS Code or Neovim.
- Basic familiarity with command-line navigation and version control with Git.

Step-by-step setup

1. Verify the official source and release channel. Open Django Documentation and confirm you are reading the current stable release notes rather than outdated third-party blog posts.
2. Initialize a minimal workspace. Create a dedicated directory for testing Django in isolation before integrating it into a larger repository:

code

```
mkdir -p ~/projects/django-starter
cd ~/projects/django-starter
git init
```

> TIP
>
> Keep a small `README.md` in your starter folder recording the exact version and flags you used so future projects can copy a known-good baseline.

3. Configure strict defaults early. Create your baseline configuration file and commit it before adding optional plugins or third-party dependencies:

code

```
{
  "resource": "django",
  "type": "framework",
  "strict": true,
  "verified": "2026-10-28"
}
```

4. Run a smoke check. Execute the minimal build, query, or verification step described in Django Documentation and confirm zero warnings in your terminal output.

> NOTE
>
> When a project needs relational models, permissions, migrations, and a trustworthy admin back-office on day one, Django still beats assembling ten micro-libraries.

Common mistakes

> COMMON MISTAKE
>
> Copy-pasting unpinned snippets from older tutorials. Always check the version selector in Django Documentation first. Major releases frequently simplify configuration and deprecate legacy flags.

> WARNING
>
> Avoid installing five companion libraries or extensions on day one. Run Django with its built-in defaults for a full day before adding abstractions.

Next steps

- Bookmark Django Documentation for daily API lookups.
- Return to the Django resource page to watch the curated explainers or explore paired tools.

A note from yimatt.com

Field notes from using Django in production projects.

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