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# **django-helpdesk Documentation**

*Release 0.1*

**Ross Poulton + Contributors**

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django-helpdesk is a Django application to manage helpdesk tickets for your internal helpdesk. It was formerly known as Jutda Helpdesk.



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- jQuery UI screen structure and presentation
- This CSS file was generated by ThemeRoller, a Filament Group Project for jQuery UI
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## Installation

django-helpdesk installation isn't difficult, but it requires you have a bit of existing know-how about Django.

### Getting The Code

#### Installing using PIP

Try using `pip install django-helpdesk`. Go and have a beer to celebrate Python packaging.

#### GIT Checkout (Cutting Edge)

If you're planning on editing the code or just want to get whatever is the latest and greatest, you can clone the official Git repository with `git clone git://github.com/django-helpdesk/django-helpdesk.git`

Copy the `helpdesk` folder into your `PYTHONPATH`.

#### I just want a .tar.gz!

You can download the latest PyPi package from <http://pypi.python.org/pypi/django-helpdesk/>

Download, extract, and drop `helpdesk` into your `PYTHONPATH`

## Adding To Your Django Project

1. Edit your `settings.py` file and add `helpdesk` to the `INSTALLED_APPS` setting. You also need `django.contrib.admin` in `INSTALLED_APPS` if you haven't already added it. eg:

```
INSTALLED_APPS = (  
    'django.contrib.auth',  
    'django.contrib.contenttypes',  
    'django.contrib.sessions',  
    'django.contrib.sites', # Required for determining domain url for use in emails  
    'django.contrib.admin', # Required for helpdesk admin/maintenance  
    'django.contrib.humanize', # Required for elapsed time formatting  
    'markdown_deux', # Required for Knowledgebase item formatting  
    'bootstrapform', # Required for nicer formatting of forms with the default_  
→templates  
    'helpdesk', # This is us!  
)
```

2. Make sure `django-helpdesk` is accessible via `urls.py`. Add the following line to `urls.py`:

```
url(r'helpdesk/', include('helpdesk.urls')),
```

Note that you can change `'helpdesk/'` to anything you like, such as `'support/'` or `'help/'`. If you want `django-helpdesk` to be available at the root of your site (for example at <http://support.mysite.tld/>) then the line will be as follows:

```
url(r'', include('helpdesk.urls')),
```

This line will have to come *after* any other lines in your `urls.py` such as those used by the Django admin.

3. Create the required database tables.

Migrate using Django migrations:

```
./manage.py migrate helpdesk
```

4. Include your static files in your public web path:

```
python manage.py collectstatic
```

5. Inside your `MEDIA_ROOT` folder, inside the `helpdesk` folder, is a folder called `attachments`. Ensure your web server software can write to this folder - something like this should do the trick:

```
chown www-data:www-data attachments/  
chmod 700 attachments
```

(substitute `www-data` for the user / group that your web server runs as, eg `'apache'` or `'httpd'`)

If all else fails ensure all users can write to it:

```
chmod 777 attachments/
```

This is NOT recommended, especially if you're on a shared server.

6. Ensure that your `attachments` folder has directory listings turned off, to ensure users don't download files that they are not specifically linked to from their tickets.

If you are using Apache, put a `.htaccess` file in the `attachments` folder with the following content:

```
Options -Indexes
```

You will also have to make sure that `.htaccess` files aren't being ignored.

Ideally, accessing `http://MEDIA_URL/helpdesk/attachments/` will give you a 403 access denied error.

7. If it's not already installed, install `django-markdown-deux` and ensure it's in your `INSTALLED_APPS`:

```
pip install django-markdown-deux
```

8. If you already have a view handling your logins, then great! If not, add the following to `settings.py` to get your Django installation to use the login view included in `django-helpdesk`:

```
LOGIN_URL = '/helpdesk/login/'
```

Alter the URL to suit your installation path.

9. Load initial e-mail templates, otherwise you will not be able to send e-mail:

```
python manage.py loaddata emailtemplate.json
```

## Configuration

Before `django-helpdesk` will be much use, you need to do some basic configuration. Most of this is done via the Django admin screens.

1. Visit `http://yoursite/admin/` and add a Helpdesk Queue. If you wish, enter your POP3 or IMAP server details.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Any tickets created via POP3 or IMAP mailboxes will DELETE the original e-mail from the mail server.

2. Visit `http://yoursite/helpdesk/` (or whatever path as defined in your `urls.py`)
3. If you wish to automatically create tickets from the contents of an e-mail inbox, set up a cronjob to run the management command on a regular basis.

Don't forget to set the relevant Django environment variables in your crontab:

```
*/5 * * * * /path/to/helpdesksite/manage.py get_email
```

This will run the e-mail import every 5 minutes

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Any tickets created via POP3 or IMAP mailboxes will DELETE the original e-mail from the mail server.

4. If you wish to automatically escalate tickets based on their age, set up a cronjob to run the escalation command on a regular basis:

```
0 * * * * /path/to/helpdesksite/manage.py escalate_tickets
```

This will run the escalation process hourly, using the 'Escalation Days' setting for each queue to determine which tickets to escalate.

5. If you wish to exclude some days (eg, weekends) from escalation calculations, enter the dates manually via the Admin, or setup a cronjob to run a management command on a regular basis:

```
0 0 * * 0 /path/to/helpdesksite/manage.py create_escalation_exclusions --days_↵
↵saturday,sunday --escalate-verbosely
```

This will, on a weekly basis, create exclusions for the coming weekend.

6. Log in to your Django admin screen, and go to the ‘Sites’ module. If the site `example.com` is listed, click it and update the details so they are relevant for your website.
7. If you do not send mail directly from your web server (eg, you need to use an SMTP server) then edit your `settings.py` file so it contains your mail server details:

```
EMAIL_HOST = 'XXXXX'
EMAIL_HOST_USER = 'YYYYYY@ZZZZ.PPP'
EMAIL_HOST_PASSWORD = '123456'
```

8. If you wish to use SOCKS4/5 proxy with Helpdesk Queue email operations, install PySocks manually.

You’re now up and running! Happy ticketing.

## Settings

First, django-helpdesk needs `django.core.context_processors.request` activated, so you must add it to the `settings.py`. For Django 1.7, add:

```
from django.conf import global_settings
TEMPLATE_CONTEXT_PROCESSORS = (
    global_settings.TEMPLATE_CONTEXT_PROCESSORS +
    ('django.core.context_processors.request',)
)
```

For Django 1.8 and onwards, the settings are located in the `TEMPLATES`, and the `request` module has moved. Add the following instead:

```
TEMPLATES = [
    {
        'BACKEND': 'django.template.backends.django.DjangoTemplates',
        ...
        'OPTIONS': {
            ...
            'context_processors': (
                # Default ones first
                ...
                # The one django-helpdesk requires:
                "django.template.context_processors.request",
            ),
        },
    ],
]
```

The following settings can be changed in your `settings.py` file to help change the way django-helpdesk operates. There are quite a few settings available to toggle functionality within django-helpdesk.

## HELPDESK\_DEFAULT\_SETTINGS

django-helpdesk has a built in `UserSettings` entity with per-user options that they will want to configure themselves. When you create a new user, a set of options is automatically created for them which they can then change themselves.

If you want to override the default settings for your users, create `HELPDESK_DEFAULT_SETTINGS` as a dictionary in `settings.py`. The default is below:

```
HELPDESK_DEFAULT_SETTINGS = {
    'use_email_as_submitter': True,
    'email_on_ticket_assign': True,
    'email_on_ticket_change': True,
    'login_view_ticketlist': True,
    'email_on_ticket_apichange': True,
    'tickets_per_page': 25
}
```

## Generic Options

These changes are visible throughout django-helpdesk

- **HELPDESK\_REDIRECT\_TO\_LOGIN\_BY\_DEFAULT** When a user visits “/”, should we redirect to the login page instead of the default homepage?  
**Default:** `HELPDESK_REDIRECT_TO_LOGIN_BY_DEFAULT = False`
- **HELPDESK\_KB\_ENABLED** show knowledgebase links?  
**Default:** `HELPDESK_KB_ENABLED = True`
- **HELPDESK\_NAVIGATION\_ENABLED** Show extended navigation by default, to all users, irrespective of staff status?  
**Default:** `HELPDESK_NAVIGATION_ENABLED = False`
- **HELPDESK\_TRANSLATE\_TICKET\_COMMENTS** Show dropdown list of languages that ticket comments can be translated into via Google Translate?  
**Default:** `HELPDESK_TRANSLATE_TICKET_COMMENTS = False`
- **HELPDESK\_TRANSLATE\_TICKET\_COMMENTS\_LANG** List of languages to offer. If set to false, all default google translate languages will be shown.  
**Default:** `HELPDESK_TRANSLATE_TICKET_COMMENTS_LANG = ["en", "de", "fr", "it", "ru"]`
- **HELPDESK\_SHOW\_CHANGE\_PASSWORD** Show link to ‘change password’ on ‘User Settings’ page?  
**Default:** `HELPDESK_SHOW_CHANGE_PASSWORD = False`
- **HELPDESK\_FOLLOWUP\_MOD** Allow user to override default layout for ‘followups’ (work in progress)  
**Default:** `HELPDESK_FOLLOWUP_MOD = False`
- **HELPDESK\_AUTO\_SUBSCRIBE\_ON\_TICKET\_RESPONSE** Auto-subscribe user to ticket as a ‘CC’ if (s)he responds to a ticket?  
**Default:** `HELPDESK_AUTO_SUBSCRIBE_ON_TICKET_RESPONSE = False`
- **HELPDESK\_EMAIL\_SUBJECT\_TEMPLATE** Subject template for templated emails. `%(subject)s` represents the subject wording from the email template (e.g. “(Closed)”).  
**Default:** `HELPDESK_EMAIL_SUBJECT_TEMPLATE = "{{ ticket.ticket }} {{ ticket.title|safe }}"`
- **HELPDESK\_EMAIL\_FALLBACK\_LOCALE** Fallback locale for templated emails when queue locale not found

**Default:** `HELPDESK_EMAIL_FALLBACK_LOCALE= "en"`

## Options shown on public pages

These options only change display of items on public-facing pages, not staff pages.

- **HELPDESK\_VIEW\_A\_TICKET\_PUBLIC** Show ‘View a Ticket’ section on public page?  
**Default:** `HELPDESK_VIEW_A_TICKET_PUBLIC = True`
- **HELPDESK\_SUBMIT\_A\_TICKET\_PUBLIC** Show ‘submit a ticket’ section & form on public page?  
**Default:** `HELPDESK_SUBMIT_A_TICKET_PUBLIC = True`

## Options that change ticket updates

- **HELPDESK\_ALLOW\_NON\_STAFF\_TICKET\_UPDATE** Allow non-staff users to interact with tickets? This will also change how ‘staff\_member\_required’ in staff.py will be defined.  
**Default:** `HELPDESK_ALLOW_NON_STAFF_TICKET_UPDATE = False`
- **HELPDESK\_SHOW\_EDIT\_BUTTON\_FOLLOW\_UP** Show edit buttons in ticket follow ups?  
**Default:** `HELPDESK_SHOW_EDIT_BUTTON_FOLLOW_UP = True`
- **HELPDESK\_SHOW\_DELETE\_BUTTON\_SUPERUSER\_FOLLOW\_UP** Show delete buttons in ticket follow ups if user is ‘superuser’?  
**Default:** `HELPDESK_SHOW_DELETE_BUTTON_SUPERUSER_FOLLOW_UP = False`
- **HELPDESK\_UPDATE\_PUBLIC\_DEFAULT** Make all updates public by default? This will hide the ‘is this update public’ checkbox.  
**Default:** `HELPDESK_UPDATE_PUBLIC_DEFAULT = False`
- **HELPDESK\_STAFF\_ONLY\_TICKET\_OWNERS** Only show staff users in ticket owner drop-downs?  
**Default:** `HELPDESK_STAFF_ONLY_TICKET_OWNERS = False`
- **HELPDESK\_STAFF\_ONLY\_TICKET\_CC** Only show staff users in ticket cc drop-down?  
**Default:** `HELPDESK_STAFF_ONLY_TICKET_CC = False`

## Staff Ticket Creation Settings

- **HELPDESK\_CREATE\_TICKET\_HIDE\_ASSIGNED\_TO** Hide the ‘assigned to’ / ‘Case owner’ field from the ‘create\_ticket’ view? It’ll still show on the ticket detail/edit form.  
**Default:** `HELPDESK_CREATE_TICKET_HIDE_ASSIGNED_TO = False`

## Staff Ticket View Settings

- **HELPDESK\_ENABLE\_PER\_QUEUE\_PERMISSION** If `True`, logged in staff users only see queues and tickets to which they have specifically been granted access - this holds for the dashboard, ticket query, and ticket report views. User assignment is done through the standard `django.admin.admin` permissions. *Note:* Staff with access to admin interface will be able to see the full list of tickets, but won’t have access to details and could not modify them. This setting does not prevent staff users from creating tickets for all queues. Also, superuser accounts have full access to all queues, regardless of whatever queue memberships they have been granted.

**Default:** `HELPDESK_ENABLE_PER_QUEUE_PERMISSION = False`

## Default E-Mail Settings

The following settings default to `None` but can be set as defaults, rather than setting them per-queue.

- `QUEUE_EMAIL_BOX_TYPE`
- `QUEUE_EMAIL_BOX_SSL`
- `QUEUE_EMAIL_BOX_HOST` ``
- `QUEUE_EMAIL_BOX_USER`
- `QUEUE_EMAIL_BOX_PASSWORD`

## Discontinued Settings

The following settings were defined in previous versions and are no longer supported.

- **HELPDESK\_CUSTOM\_WELCOME**
- **HELDPESEK\_KB\_ENABLED\_STAFF** Now always `True`
- **HELPDESK\_NAVIGATION\_STATS\_ENABLED** Now always `True`
- **HELPDESK\_PREPEND\_ORG\_NAME** Please customise your local *helpdesk/base.html* template if needed
- **HELPDESK\_SHOW\_DELETE\_BUTTON\_TICKET\_TOP** Button is always shown
- **HELPDESK\_SHOW\_EDIT\_BUTTON\_TICKET\_TOP** Button is always shown
- **HELPDESK\_SHOW\_HOLD\_BUTTON\_TICKET\_TOP** Button is always shown
- **HELPDESK\_SHOW\_KB\_ON\_HOMEPAGE** KB categories are always shown on the homepage
- **HELPDESK\_SUPPORT\_PERSON** Please customise your local *helpdesk/attribution.html* template if needed
- **HELPDESK\_DASHBOARD\_SHOW\_DELETE\_UNASSIGNED** Button is always shown
- **HELPDESK\_DASHBOARD\_HIDE\_EMPTY\_QUEUES** Empty queues are always hidden
- **HELPDESK\_DASHBOARD\_BASIC\_TICKET\_STATS** Stats are always shown
- **HELPDESK\_FOOTER\_SHOW\_API\_LINK** Link to API documentation is always shown. Edit your local *helpdesk/base.html* template if needed.
- **HELPDESK\_FOOTER\_SHOW\_CHANGE\_LANGUAGE\_LINK** Is never shown. Use your own template if required.
- **HELPDESK\_ENABLE\_PER\_QUEUE\_MEMBERSHIP** Discontinued in favor of `HELPDESK_ENABLE_PER_QUEUE_PERMISSION`.

## Spam Filtering

django-helpdesk includes a copy of `akismet.py` by Michael Foord, which lets incoming ticket submissions be automatically checked against either the [Akismet](#) or [TypePad Anti-Spam](#) services.

To enable this functionality, sign up for an API key with one of these two services.

## Akismet

- Sign up at <http://akismet.com/>
- Save your API key in `settings.py` as `AKISMET_API_KEY`

**Note:** Akismet is only free for personal use. Paid commercial accounts are available.

## TypePad AntiSpam

- Sign up at <http://antispam.typepad.com/>
- Save your API key in `settings.py` as `TYPEPAD_ANTISPAM_API_KEY`

This service is free to use, within their terms and conditions.

If you have either of these settings enabled, the spam filtering will be done automatically. If you have *both* settings configured, TypePad will be used instead of Akismet.

## Example

A sample configuration in `settings.py` may be:

```
TYPEPAD_ANTISPAM_API_KEY = 'abc123'
```

## Custom Fields

django-helpdesk supports custom fields on the `Ticket` model. These fields are created by using the Django administration tool, and are shown on both the public and staff submission forms. You can use most Django field types including text, integer, boolean, and list.

The demo at <http://django-helpdesk-demo.herokuapp.com> contains an example of each type of custom field, including a mix of mandatory and optional fields.

Custom fields are relatively inefficient, and you cannot search by them. They can be useful for tracking extra information that your organisation needs but that isn't supported out of the box.

## Ticket API

*Warning:* The django-helpdesk API is deprecated, and no longer maintained. See <https://github.com/django-helpdesk/django-helpdesk/issues/198> for more details.

The API will be removed in January 2016 - you should instead build an integration with eg `django-rest-framework`.

For details on the current API including usage instructions and command syntax, see the file `templates/helpdesk/api_help.html`, or visit <http://helpdesk/api/help/>.

## Contributing

django-helpdesk is an open-source project and as such contributions from the community are welcomed and encouraged.



## Licensing

All contributions to django-helpdesk must be under the BSD license documented in our [License](#) page. All code submitted (in any way: via e-mail, via GitHub forks, attachments, etc) are assumed to be open-source and licensed under the BSD license.

If you or your organisation does not accept these license terms then we cannot accept your contribution. Please reconsider!

## Translations

Although django-helpdesk has originally been written for the English language, there are already multiple translations to Spanish, Polish, and German and more translations are welcomed.

Translations are handled using the excellent Transifex service which is much easier for most users than manually editing .po files. It also allows collaborative translation. If you want to help translate django-helpdesk into languages other than English, we encourage you to make use of our Transifex project:

<http://www.transifex.net/projects/p/django-helpdesk/resource/core/>

Once you have translated content via Transifex, please raise an issue on the project Github page to let us know it's ready to import.

## Code changes

Please fork the project on GitHub, make your changes, and log a pull request to get the changes pulled back into my repository.

Wherever possible please break git commits up into small chunks that are specific to a single bit of functionality. For example, a commit should not contain both new functionality *and* a bugfix; the new function and the bugfix should be separate commits wherever possible.

Commit messages should also explain *what*, precisely, has been changed.

If you have any questions, please start a discussion on the GitHub issue tracker at <https://github.com/django-helpdesk/django-helpdesk/issues>

## Tests

Currently, test coverage is very low. We're working on increasing this, and to make life easier we are using [Travis CI](#) for continuous integration. This means that the test suite is run every time a code change is made, so we can try and make sure we avoid basic bugs and other regressions.

Please include tests in the `tests/` folder when committing code changes.

## Database schema changes

As well as making your normal code changes to `models.py`, please generate a Django migration file and commit it with your code. You will want to use a command similar to the following:

```
./manage.py migrate helpdesk --auto [migration_name]
```

Make sure that `migration_name` is a sensible single-string explanation of what this migration does, such as *add\_priority\_options* or *add\_basket\_table*

This will add a file to the `migrations/` folder, which must be committed to git with your other code changes.

## CHAPTER 2

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### How Does It Look?

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You can see a demo installation at <http://django-helpdesk-demo.herokuapp.com/>



## CHAPTER 3

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### Quick Start

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django-helpdesk is just a Django application with models, views, templates, and some media. If you're comfortable with Django just try `pip install django-helpdesk`. If not, continue to read the Installation document.



django-helpdesk has been designed for small businesses who need to receive, manage and respond to requests for help from customers. In this context ‘customers’ may be external users, or other people within your company.

- Tickets can be opened via email
- Multiple queues / categories of tickets
- Integrated FAQ / knowledgebase

## Customer-facing Capabilities

Customers (who are not ‘staff’ users in Django) can:

1. Browse your knowledgebase / FAQ
2. Submit support requests via web/email
3. Review open and closed requests they submitted

## Staff Capabilities

If a user is a staff member, they get general helpdesk access, including:

1. See the ticket dashboard showing unassigned tickets and basic status of the helpdesk
2. Review the tickets assigned to them
3. Search through all tickets, open and closed
4. Save their searches for future use
5. Follow up or respond to tickets
6. Assign tickets to themselves or other staff members

#### 7. Resolve tickets

Optionally, their access to view tickets, both on the dashboard and through searches and reports, may be restricted by a list of queues to which they have been granted membership. Create and update permissions for individual tickets are not limited by this optional restriction.



## CHAPTER 5

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### Licensing

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django-helpdesk is released under the BSD license, however it packages 3rd party applications which may be using a different license. More details can be found in the [License](#) documentation.



## CHAPTER 6

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### Dependencies

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1. Python 2.7+ (or 3.3+)
2. Django (1.7 or newer)
3. An existing **working** Django project with database etc. If you cannot log into the Admin, you won't get this product working! This means you **must** run *syncdb* **before** you add `helpdesk` to your `INSTALLED_APPS`.