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# **django-rechat Documentation**

*Release 0.1*

**synw**

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Contents:



### Websockets server

Install Django Instant .

Instructions are here

```
pip install redis
```

Add 'rechat', to INSTALLED\_APPS and the urls:

```
url('^chat/', include('rechat.urls')),
```

### Settings

```
# 1. Required
SITE_SLUG = "mysite"

# 2. Optional general settings:
# rechat database: default is SITE_SLUG
RECHAT_DB = "rechat"
# rechat table: default is "chat"
RECHAT_TABLE = "mychattable"

# 3. Persistence
# default: True
USE_CACHE = False
# default: 30
RECHAT_CACHE_ITEMS = 20
# default: 60*60*12 (12 hours)
```

```
CHAT_CACHE_TTL = 60*60
# default: localhost
RECHAT_REDIS_HOST = 'ip_here'
# default: 6379
RECHAT_REDIS_PORT = 4867
# default: 0
RECHAT_REDIS_DB = 1

# 4. History
USE_HISTORY = True
```

You will need Redis to be installed to use persistence.

If you use history create the database and table in Rethinkdb, and add a secondary index set to timestamp to the table.

By default only the logged in users can chat. To enable the anonymous users in the chat: in settings.py:

```
RECHAT_ALLOW_ANONYMOUS = True
```

You will also have to configure Centrifugo for this: in config.json:

```
{
"secret": "70b651f6-775a-4949-982b-b387b31c1d84",
"anonymous": true
}
```

## Templates

Create a templates/instant/extra\_clients.js with this content:

```
{% include "rechat/js/client.js" %}
```



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### Cache management

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By default the cache is enabled. You have to install and run Redis.

Optional: in settings.py:

```
# Redis host: default is localhost
RECHAT_REDIS_HOST = 'ip_here'
# Redis port: default is 6379
RECHAT_REDIS_PORT = 5555
# Redis db: default is 0
RECHAT_REDIS_DB = 1

# number of cached items: default is 30
RECHAT_CACHE = 20
# cache time to live in seconds: default is 60*60*12
RECHAT_CACHE_TTL = 60*60
```

The cache is used to load the last messages when a user reloads a page. The cache can be disabled so that the messages are only broadcasted to the socket, not stored. To disable the cache in settings.py:

```
RECHAT_USE_CACHE = False
```



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## History management

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### Install

The chat messages can be stored in Rethinkdb. You have to enable it in settings.py

```
RECHAT_USE_HISTORY = True
CHANGEFEED_HANDLERS = ['rechat.r_handlers']
```

Install Rethinkdb, Celery and Django Changefeed: [instructions here](#)

Celery is used to push the documents in Rethinkdb in an asynchronous way.

### Why use Rethinkdb for history?

There are 2 main reasons:

- Rethinkdb is good for storing mass amounts of data that do not have many relations between them
- Ability to use the Rethinkdb changefeed: for example to retrieve the chat data from another app



## CHAPTER 4

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### Activity widget

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To use the graphical activity monitoring widget add this content in `templates/instant/extra_clients.js`:

```
{% include "rechat/js/activity_client.js" %}
```

Be sure to load `<script type="text/javascript" src="{% static 'rechat/js/smoothie.js' %}"></script>` before including the client.

Then you can use it in your templates:

```
<canvas id="chart" width="600" height="100"></canvas>
```