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# django-rechat Documentation

*Release 0.1*

**synw**

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<b>1</b>	<b>Install</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1	Websockets server . . . . .	3
1.2	Settings . . . . .	3
1.3	Templates . . . . .	4
<b>2</b>	<b>Cache management</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>History management</b>	<b>7</b>
3.1	Install . . . . .	7
3.2	Why use Rethinkdb for history? . . . . .	7
<b>4</b>	<b>Activity widget</b>	<b>9</b>



Contents:



## 1.1 Websockets server

Install Centrifugo and Django Instant .

Instructions are [here](#)

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

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

## 1.2 Settings

```
# 1. Required for django-changefeed
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
}
```

## 1.3 Templates

Create a `templates/instant/extra_handlers.js` with this content:

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

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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### 3.1 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.

### 3.2 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



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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>
```