

Topic: Custom Management Command Part 6: Adding Comments or Messages

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Django has built-in MESSAGES FRAMEWORK that we can use to show ERROR OR SUCCESS MESSAGES. [See Django's documentation.](#)

SETTINGS.PY has already the configurations needed to support the messages.

1. So, we just need to include the following in our SETTINGS.PY.

From Django documentation, we copy this and modify based on our needs.

```
from django.contrib.messages import constants as messages

MESSAGE_TAGS = {
    messages.INFO: "",
    50: "critical",
}
```

in our SETTINGS.PY, we modify it to where 'danger' is a bootstrap name.

A screenshot of a code editor interface. The Explorer panel on the left shows a project structure with a folder named 'AUTOMATINGCOMMONTASKS' containing several files, including 'settings.py' which is highlighted with a red box. The main editor area shows the contents of 'settings.py', with the following code snippet highlighted in a red box:

```
125
126 DEFAULT_AUTO_FIELD = 'django.db.models.BigAutoField'
127
128 # Media file Configuration
129 # this saves to our current root directory
130 MEDIA_URL = '/media/'
131 MEDIA_ROOT = BASE_DIR / 'media'
132
133 # Message configuration for INFO, ERROR or SUCCESS messages
134 MESSAGE_TAGS = {
135     messages.ERROR: "danger",
136     50: "critical",
137 }
```

2. Then in the TEMPLATES FOLDER, create a new HTML, ALERT.HTML and design as:

from our documentation:

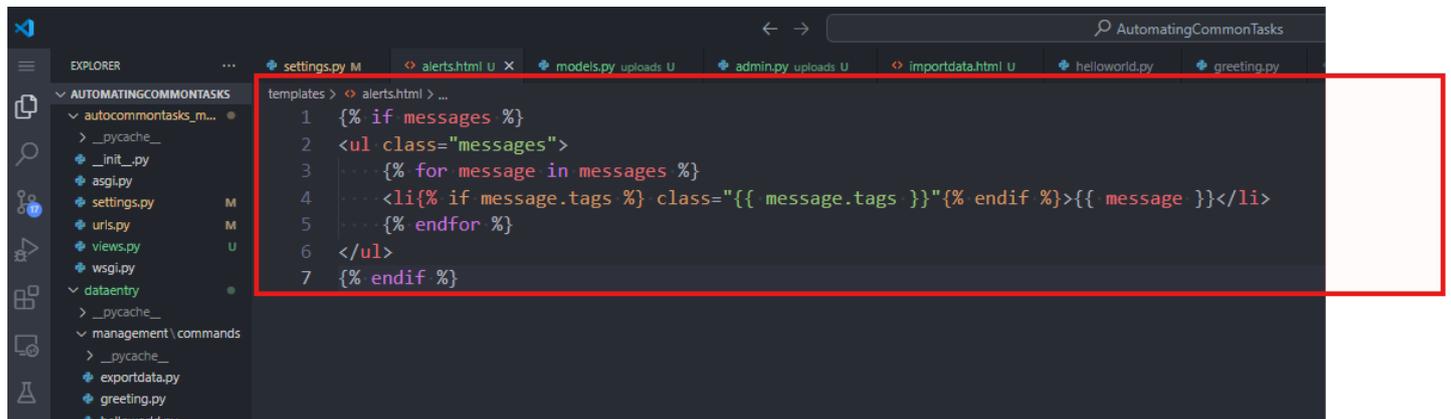
Displaying messages 📌

`get_messages(request)[source]` 📌

In your template, use something like:

```
{% if messages %}
<ul class="messages">
  {% for message in messages %}
  <li{% if message.tags %} class="{ { message.tags } }"{%
endif %}>{{ message }}</li>
  {% endfor %}
</ul>
{% endif %}
```

So, in our ALERTS.HTML, we add the same code:



The screenshot shows a code editor with a dark theme. The Explorer sidebar on the left shows a project named 'AUTOMATINGCOMMONTASKS' with various files and folders. The main editor area shows the 'alerts.html' template file. The code in the editor is as follows:

```
1 {% if messages %}
2 <ul class="messages">
3     {% for message in messages %}
4     <li{% if message.tags %} class="{ { message.tags } }"{% endif %}>{{ message }}</li>
5     {% endfor %}
6 </ul>
7 {% endif %}
```

The code is highlighted in a red box.

3. Now you can call this ALERTS.HTML in ANY HTML that will require messages or comments.

So, in DATAENTRY\IMPORTDATA.HTML, we add

```
<div class="container">
  <h3 class="text-center">Import Data From CSV File to Database Tables</h3>
  <form action="{% url 'import_data' %}" method="POST" enctype="multipart/form-d
  style="max-width: 600px;margin:auto;padding-top: 50px; ">
    {% csrf_token %}
    <div class="form-group">
      <label for="file_path">Upload CSV File</label>
      <input type="file" name="file_path" class="form-control" required>
    </div>

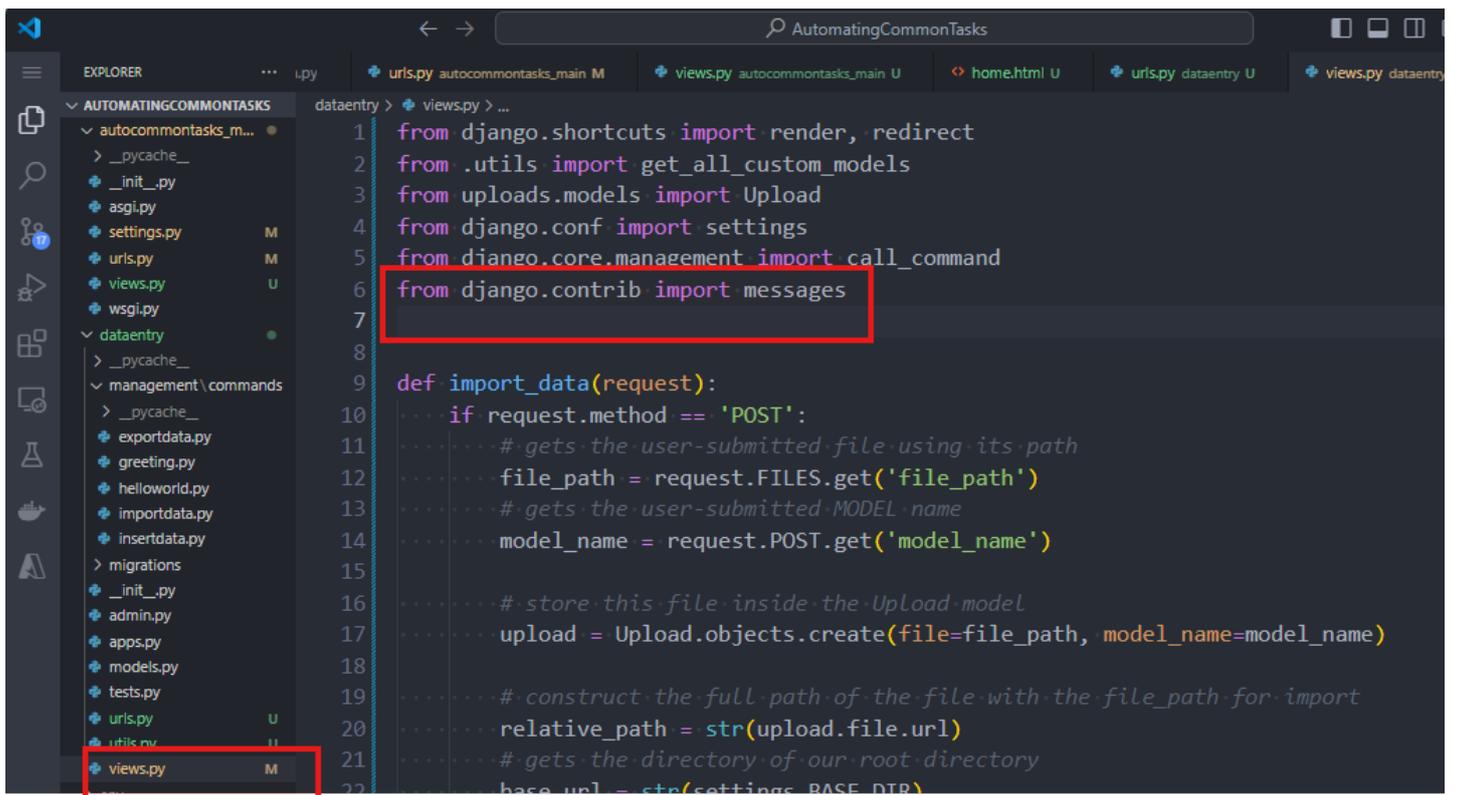
    <div class="form-group">
      <label for="model_name">Select Database Table</label>
      <select name="model_name" class="form-control" required>
        <option value="" disabled selected>Select</option>
        {% for model in custom_models %}
        <option value="{{model}}">{{model}}</option>
        {% endfor %}
      </select>
    </div>

    <input type="submit" value="Import Data" class="btn btn-primary">

    <!-- insert our custom alert messages -->
    {% include 'alerts.html' %}

  </form>
```

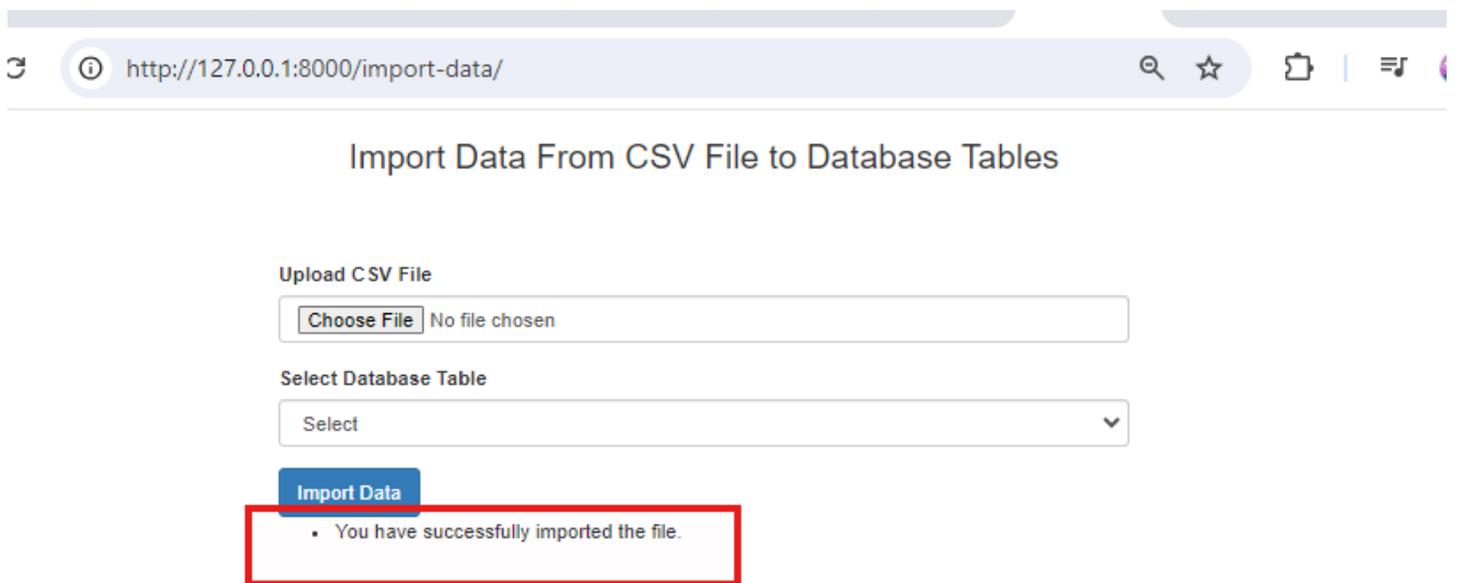
4. To add our custom messages, we go to DATAENTRY/VIEWS.PY



```
dataentry > views.py > ...
1 from django.shortcuts import render, redirect
2 from .utils import get_all_custom_models
3 from uploads.models import Upload
4 from django.conf import settings
5 from django.core.management import call_command
6 from django.contrib import messages
7
8
9 def import_data(request):
10     if request.method == 'POST':
11         # gets the user-submitted file using its path
12         file_path = request.FILES.get('file_path')
13         # gets the user-submitted MODEL name
14         model_name = request.POST.get('model_name')
15
16         # store this file inside the Upload model
17         upload = Upload.objects.create(file=file_path, model_name=model_name)
18
19         # construct the full path of the file with the file_path for import
20         relative_path = str(upload.file.url)
21         # gets the directory of our root directory
22         base_url = str(settings.BASE_DIR)
```

```
def import_data(request):
    20     ...relative_path = str(upload.file.url)
    21     ...# gets the directory of our root directory
    22     ...base_url = str(settings.BASE_DIR)
    23
    24     ...file_path = base_url + relative_path # absolute path of the file
    25
    26     ...# trigger the custom-management import data command
    27     ...try:
    28     ...    call_command('importdata', file_path, model_name)
    29     ...    # passes this custom-made message to our web page
    30     ...    messages.success(
    31     ...        request, 'You have successfully imported the file.')
    32     ...    except Exception as e:
    33     ...        # raise e
    34     ...        # passes this error type to our web page
    35     ...        messages.error(request, str(e))
    36
    37     ...return redirect('import_data')
    38
    39     ...else:
    40     ...    # calls our dataentry\utils.py to extract only user-created models
    41     ...    custom_models = get_all_custom_models()
    42     ...    # print(custom_models)
    43     ...    context = {
    44     ...        'custom_models': custom_models,
    45     ...    }
    46     ...    return render(request, 'dataentry/importdata.html', context)
```

5. Now when you add a CSV file again, you should be able to see an error message.



6. Now to make the style of the message that follows the bootstrap style, go to this [BOOTSTRAP ALERT documentation](#).

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Examples

Alerts are available for any length of text, as well as an optional dismiss button. For proper styling, use one of the eight **required** contextual classes (e.g., `.alert-success`). For inline dismissal, use the [alerts jQuery plugin](#).

This is a primary alert—check it out!

This is a secondary alert—check it out!

This is a success alert—check it out!

This is a danger alert—check it out!

This is a warning alert—check it out!

This is a info alert—check it out!

This is a light alert—check it out!

This is a dark alert—check it out!

```
<div class="alert alert-primary" role="alert">
  This is a primary alert-check it out!
</div>
<div class="alert alert-secondary" role="alert">
  This is a secondary alert-check it out!
</div>
<div class="alert alert-success" role="alert">
  This is a success alert-check it out!
</div>
<div class="alert alert-danger" role="alert">
  This is a danger alert-check it out!
</div>
<div class="alert alert-warning" role="alert">
  This is a warning alert-check it out!
</div>
```

ALERTS.HTML BEFORE:

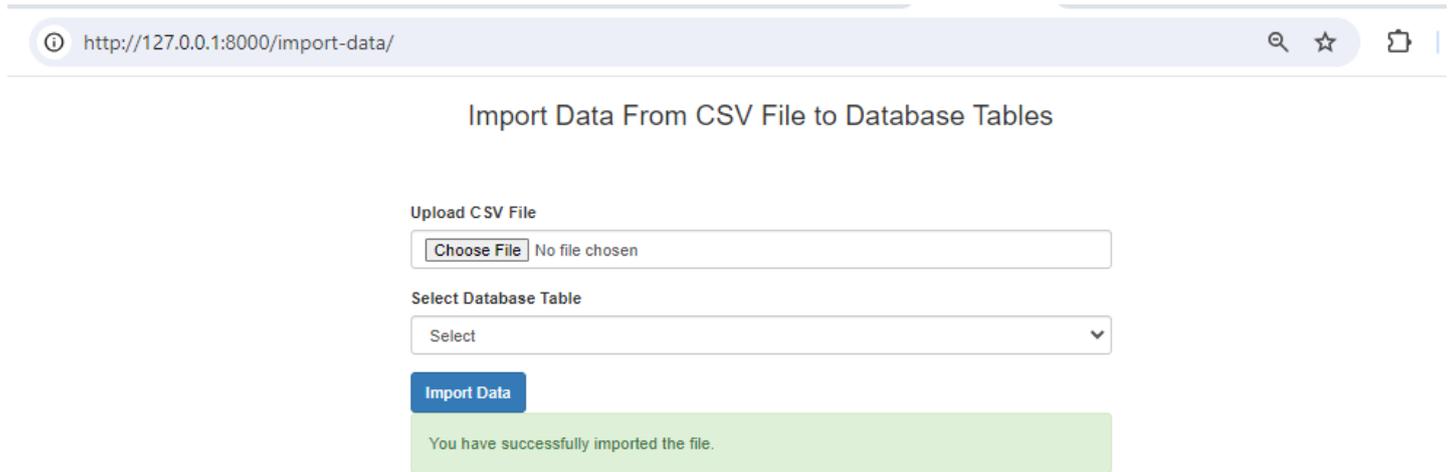
```
AutomatingCommonTasks
alerts.html U X models.py uploads U admin.py uploads U importdata.html U helloworld.py greeting.py .gitignore ins
templates > alerts.html > ...
1 {% if messages %}
2 <ul class="messages">
3   ...{% for message in messages %}
4   ...<li{% if message.tags %} class="{ { message.tags } }"% endif %}>{{ message }}</li>
5   ...{% endfor %}
6 </ul>
7 {% endif %}
```

ALERTS.HTML AFTER:

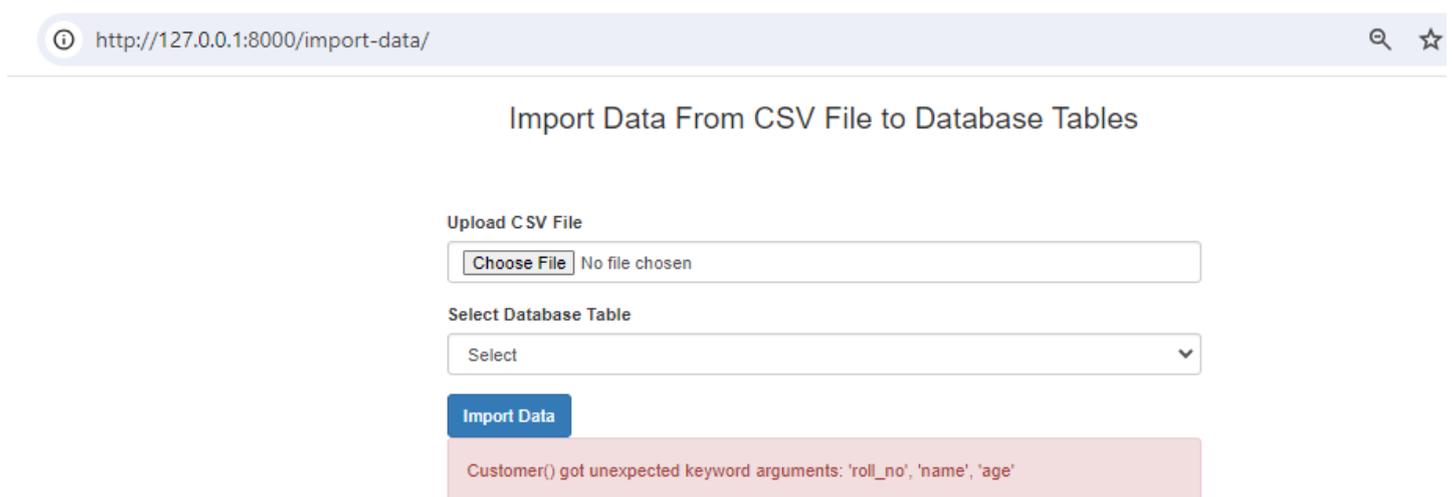
```
templates > alerts.html > ...
1  {% if messages %}
2  <div class="messages">
3  ...{% for message in messages %}
4  ...<div
5  ...  {% if message.tags %} class=" alert alert-{{ message.tags }}" {% endif %}>{{ message }}
6  ...</div>
7  ...{% endfor %}
8  </div>
9  {% endif %}
```

7. Run the server again and check the message shown.

Saving Student.CSV to Student Model.



Saving Student.CSV to Customer Model



Or a different file to CUSTOMER model.

8. To modify the error message into something user-friendly especially the user has used a different file with a different model, we update our IMPORTDATA.PY

To get the fields of our model, in our IMPORTDATA.PY, we add this:

```
# compare CSV header with the model's field names and throw appropriate message
# get all the field names of the model that we found
model_fields = [field.name for field in target_model._meta.fields]
print(model_fields)
```

So, when we upload our STUDENT.CSV FILE, we see this in our terminal:

```
[11/Aug/2024 15:41:11] "GET /import-data/ HTTP/1.1" 200 1907
['id', 'roll_no', 'name', 'age']
Data imported from the CSV file successfully.
```

CUSTOMER MODEL:

```
Django version 4.2.14, using settings 'autocommontasks_main.settings'
Starting development server at http://127.0.0.1:8000/
Quit the server with CTRL-BREAK.

['id', 'customer_name', 'country']
[11/Aug/2024 16:07:29] "POST /import-data/ HTTP/1.1" 302 0
[11/Aug/2024 16:07:29] "GET /import-data/ HTTP/1.1" 200 2251
```

So, when we import a different file like EMPLOYEE.CSV into CUSTOMER Model, we get this user- friendly message:

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar containing `http://127.0.0.1:8000/import-data/`. The page title is "Import Data From CSV File to Database Tables". The form contains the following elements:

- Upload CSV File:** A text input field with a "Choose File" button and the text "No file chosen".
- Select Database Table:** A dropdown menu with "Select" as the current selection.
- Import Data:** A blue button.
- Error Message:** A red-bordered box containing the text "CSV file does not match with the Customer table fields".

Instead of this:

Import Data From CSV File to Database Tables

Upload CSV File

Choose File No file chosen

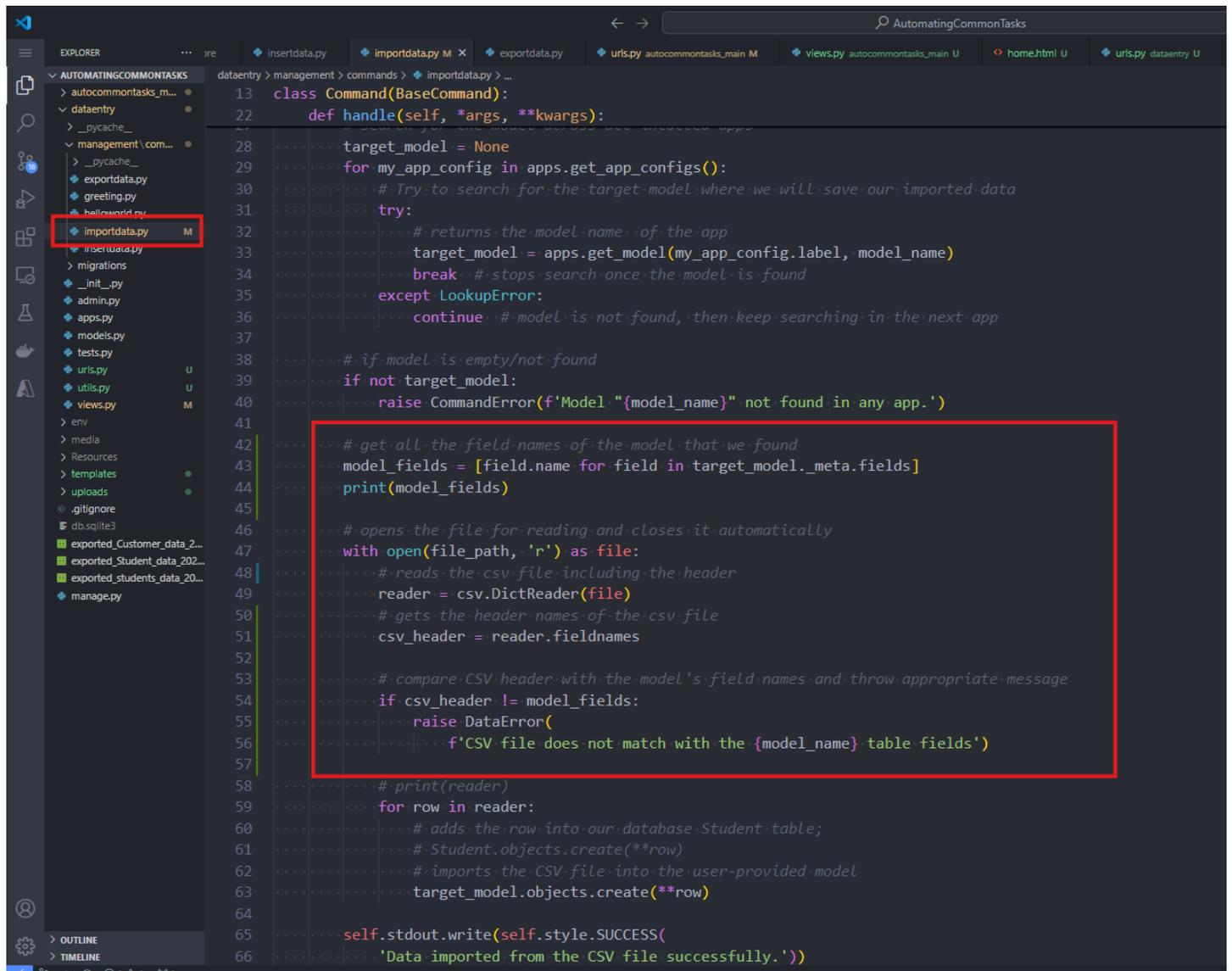
Select Database Table

Select

Import Data

Customer() got unexpected keyword arguments: 'employee_id', 'employee_name', 'designation', 'salary', 'retirement', 'other_benefits', 'total_benefits', 'total_compensation'

9. Your IMPORTDATA.PY should be:



```
class Command(BaseCommand):
    def handle(self, *args, **kwargs):
        target_model = None
        for my_app_config in apps.get_app_configs():
            # Try to search for the target model where we will save our imported data
            try:
                # returns the model name of the app
                target_model = apps.get_model(my_app_config.label, model_name)
                break # stops search once the model is found
            except LookupError:
                continue # model is not found, then keep searching in the next app
        # if model is empty/not found
        if not target_model:
            raise CommandError(f'Model "{model_name}" not found in any app.')
        # get all the field names of the model that we found
        model_fields = [field.name for field in target_model._meta.fields]
        print(model_fields)
        # opens the file for reading and closes it automatically
        with open(file_path, 'r') as file:
            # reads the csv file including the header
            reader = csv.DictReader(file)
            # gets the header names of the csv file
            csv_header = reader.fieldnames
            # compare CSV header with the model's field names and throw appropriate message
            if csv_header != model_fields:
                raise DataError(
                    f'CSV file does not match with the {model_name} table fields')
            # print(reader)
            for row in reader:
                # adds the row into our database Student table;
                # Student.objects.create(**row)
                # imports the CSV file into the user-provided model
                target_model.objects.create(**row)
        self.stdout.write(self.style.SUCCESS(
            'Data imported from the CSV file successfully.'))
```

10. But this will give us an error message since we have the the field 'ID' in our table but not in our CSV file, so we update our IMPORTDATA.PY as

```
..# get all the field names of the model that we found EXCEPT THE PK or ID
model_fields = [field.name for field in target_model._meta.fields if field.name !=
.....'id']
print(model_fields)

..# opens the file for reading and closes it automatically
with open(file_path, 'r') as file:
.....# reads the csv file including the header
.....reader = csv.DictReader(file)
.....# gets the header names of the csv file
.....csv_header = reader.fieldnames

.....# compare CSV header with the model's field names and throw appropriate message
.....if csv_header != model_fields:
.....    raise DataError(
.....        f'CSV file does not match with the {model_name} table fields')
```

11. IF WE WANT TO HIDE THE ERROR MESSAGES RIGHT AWAY AFTER IT WAS DISPLAYED, we create a JAVASCRIPT. But we need to update our SETTINGS.PY STATIC FILES.

FROM:

```
..# Static files (CSS, JavaScript, Images)
..# https://docs.djangoproject.com/en/4.2/howto/static-files/

STATIC_URL = 'static/'
```

TO:

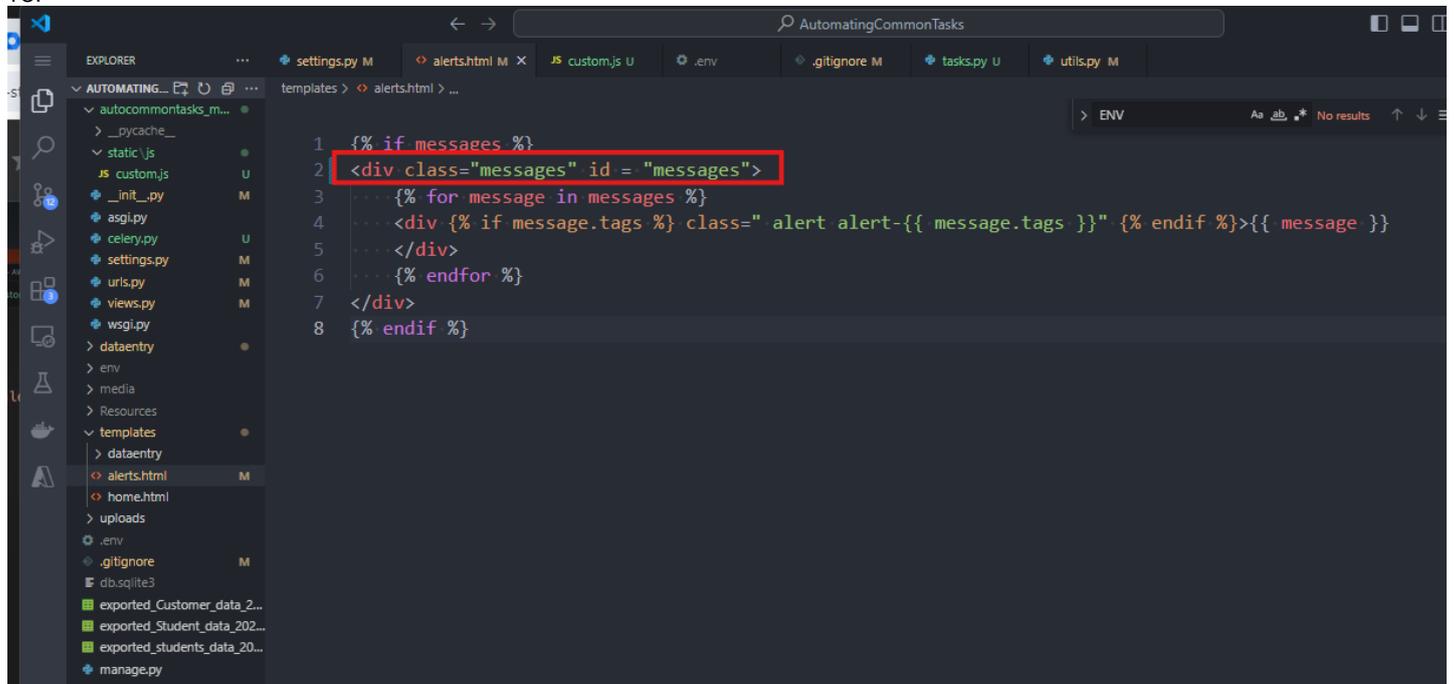
```
STATIC_URL = 'static/'
STATICFILES_DIRS = ['autocommontasks_main/static'] ..# this is the source folder
..# this is the destination folder after COLLECTSTATIC command
STATIC_ROOT = BASE_DIR / 'static'
```

12. Create an ID FOR YOUR ALERTS.HTML

FROM:

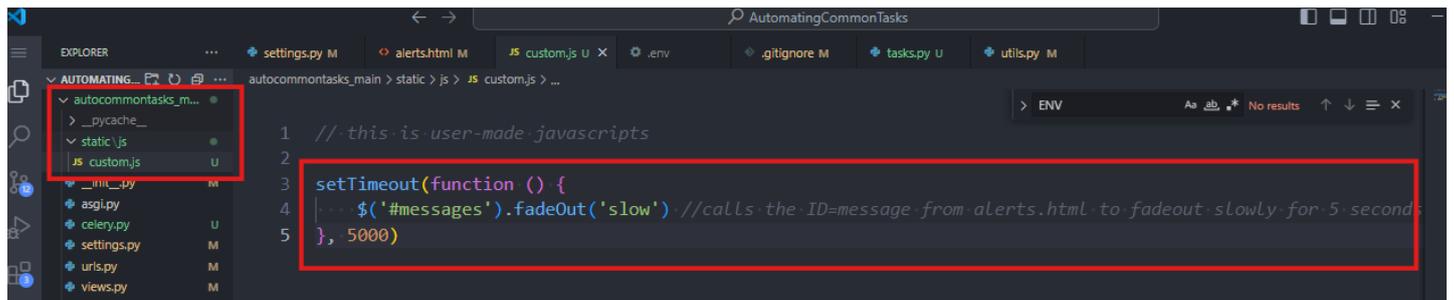
```
1 {% if messages %}
2 <div class="messages">
3 ...{% for message in messages %}
4 ...<div {% if message.tags %} class=" alert alert-{{ message.tags }}" {% endif %}>{{ message }}
5 ...</div>
6 ...{% endfor %}
7 </div>
8 {% endif %}
```

TO:



```
1 {% if messages %}
2 <div class="messages" id = "messages">
3     {% for message in messages %}
4     <div {% if message.tags %} class=" alert alert-{{ message.tags }}" {% endif %}>{{ message }}
5     </div>
6     {% endfor %}
7 </div>
8 {% endif %}
```

13. In our main project, we create a new folder and JS file, so in AUTOCOMMONTASKS_MAIN\STATIC\JSCUSTOM.JS



```
1 // this is user-made javascripts
2
3 setTimeout(function () {
4     $('#messages').fadeOut('slow') //calls the ID=message from alerts.html to fadeout slowly for 5 seconds
5 }, 5000)
```

14. Since we have our own static files like CUSTOM.JS, we need to run COLLECTSTATIC COMMAND in our DJANGO-SERVER bash terminal. This will create a new folder STATIC in the root directory.

The image shows a VS Code editor with the Django settings.py file open. The settings for static files are highlighted in a red box:

```

110 # https://docs.djangoproject.com/en/4.2/topics/i18n/
111
112 LANGUAGE_CODE = 'en-us'
113
114 TIME_ZONE = 'UTC'
115
116 USE_I18N = True
117
118 USE_TZ = True
119
120
121 # Static files (CSS, JavaScript, Images)
122 # https://docs.djangoproject.com/en/4.2/howto/static-files/
123
124 STATIC_URL = 'static/'
125 STATICFILES_DIRS = ['autocommtasks_main/static'] # this is the source folder
126 # this is the destination folder after COLLECTSTATIC command
127 STATIC_ROOT = BASE_DIR / 'static'
128
129 # Default primary key field type
130 # https://docs.djangoproject.com/en/4.2/ref/settings/#default-auto-field
131
132 DEFAULT_AUTO_FIELD = 'django.db.models.BigAutoField'
133
134 # Media file Configuration
135 # this saves to our current root directory
136 MEDIA_URL = '/media/'
137 MEDIA_ROOT = BASE_DIR / 'media'
138
139 # Message configuration for INFO, ERROR or SUCCESS messages

```

The terminal window at the bottom shows the command and output:

```

Roslie@DELL MINGW64 ~/OneDrive/Desktop/LEARNING DJANGO PROJECTS/AutomatingCommonTasks (main)
$ python manage.py collectstatic

126 static files copied to 'C:\Users\Roslie\OneDrive\Desktop\LEARNING DJANGO PROJECTS\AutomatingCommonTasks\static'.

```

```

Roslie@DELL MINGW64 ~/OneDrive/Desktop/LEARNING DJANGO PROJECTS/AutomatingCommonTasks (main)
$ python manage.py collectstatic

126 static files copied to 'C:\Users\Roslie\OneDrive\Desktop\LEARNING DJANGO PROJECTS\AutomatingCommonTasks\static'.

```

15. Include this CUSTOM.JS JAVASCRIPT FILE in our DATAENTRY.HTML

The image shows the VS Code editor with the importdata.html file open. The script tag for custom.js is highlighted in a red box:

```

1 {% load static %}
2 <!DOCTYPE html>
3 <html lang="en">
4
5 <head>
6 <<meta charset="UTF-8">
7 <<meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
8 <<title>Automate The Common Boring Stuffs Using Django</title>
9
10 <<!-- Latest compiled and minified CSS -->
11 <<link rel="stylesheet" href="https://maxcdn.bootstrapcdn.com/bootstrap/3.4.1/css/bootstrap.min.css">
12 <<!-- jQuery Library -->
13 <<script src="https://ajax.googleapis.com/ajax/libs/jquery/3.7.1/jquery.min.js"></script>
14 <<!-- Latest compiled JavaScript -->
15 <<script src="https://maxcdn.bootstrapcdn.com/bootstrap/3.4.1/js/bootstrap.min.js"></script>
16 <<script src="{% static 'js/custom.js' %}"></script>
17 </head>
18

```

16. Run the Django server again for testing. After 5 seconds, your alert message should disappear.

ⓘ http://127.0.0.1:8000/import-data/

Import Data From CSV File to Database Tables

Upload CSV File

No file chosen

Select Database Table

Select ▼

Push all changes to Github.

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