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Django DisallowedHost, CSRF failed and missing static files: the fixes

Python & Other Languages

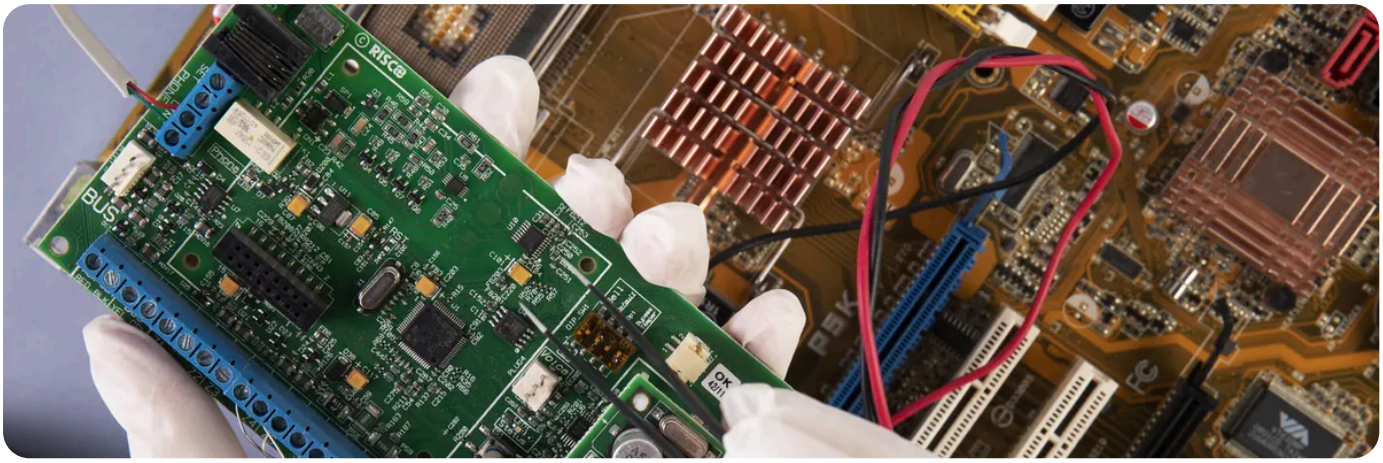
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Django DisallowedHost, CSRF failed and missing static files: the fixes

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You put Django online and three errors show up that nearly everyone meets: **DisallowedHost**, **CSRF verification failed** and the page with no styles (static files give a 404). They have one thing in common: on your computer it worked because `DEBUG` was on and the address was `localhost`. **The short answer:** they are three `settings.py` values that have to know the real domain. To get Django running in the first place, see **the base article** first.

The three errors, one line each

Error	Cause	Fix in settings.py
`DisallowedHost: Invalid HTTP_HOST header`	The domain you opened the site with is not in the list of allowed hosts.	`ALLOWED_HOSTS = ["yourcompany.com", "www.yourcompany.com"]` . Include every name the site opens with.
`CSRF verification failed` **(403) when submitting a form**	Behind HTTPS, Django does not trust the form's origin.	`CSRF_TRUSTED_ORIGINS = ["https://yourcompany.com", "https://www.yourcompany.com"]` . Since Django 4.0 it must include the protocol.
Page with no styles; files under `/static/` **give a 404**	With `DEBUG = False` Django stops serving static files.	Set `STATIC_ROOT` , run `python manage.py collectstatic` and serve that folder through the web server (see below).

Static files, step by step

1. **Set the two lines in settings.py:**

```
STATIC_URL = "/static/"
STATIC_ROOT = BASE_DIR / "staticfiles"
```

2 **Gather everything in one folder**, inside the application's environment:

```
python manage.py collectstatic
```

Repeat after every update that touches static files.

3 **Make the web server serve that folder.** In cPanel, the simple way is to copy (or link) the contents of `staticfiles` to a folder inside the domain's public folder, at the path `STATIC_URL` gives. On a VPS, nginx serves it with a `location /static/` block and an `alias`.

4 **Restart the application** and reload without cache (Ctrl+F5).

There is an alternative that skips step 3: the `whitenoise` package, which lets Django itself serve static files efficiently. Follow its documentation: you install it with pip and add it to `MIDDLEWARE`.

Do not fix it by leaving `DEBUG = True` on.
With it on, any error shows visitors your paths, settings and sometimes credentials. Django requires `ALLOWED_HOSTS` precisely when `DEBUG` is off. And never use `ALLOWED_HOSTS = ["*"]` in production.

Behind an HTTPS proxy
(nginx on a VPS), tell Django the original request was secure, or CSRF and redirects fail: `SECURE_PROXY_SSL_HEADER = ("HTTP_X_FORWARDED_PROTO", "https")`, and only if the proxy sends that header and clears it on requests coming from outside. See **gunicorn and systemd on a VPS**. For passwords and the secret key: **environment variables and secrets**.

NEED A HAND?

Adjusted settings.py and the error is still there? Send us the domain and the last lines of the application log.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

- Getting a Django application running →
- Environment variables and secrets for your application →
- Where console.log and print output goes, and how to read your app logs →

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