What are Cookies?

Cookies are small pieces of data stored on the **client-side** (**browser**) by the web server. They are used to remember information between requests.

W Key Characteristics:

- Stored in the user's browser.
- Sent along with every request to the same origin (domain).
- Can hold session IDs, auth tokens, or user preferences.

Use Cases:

- Login sessions
- Remembering user preferences (dark/light theme)
- Shopping cart persistence

▲ Security:

- Set HttpOnly to prevent access from JavaScript.
- Use Secure to allow only over HTTPS.
- Use SameSite to prevent CSRF.

丛 What is a Response?

A **response** is the data sent **from the server to the client** after processing a request.

Example:

```
js
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res.send("Hello, User");
res.json({ success: true });
res.redirect("/home");
res.cookie("uid", token);
```

★ In Express.js:

- res.send(): Send text or HTML
- res.json(): Send JSON data
- res.status(): Set HTTP status code
- res.cookie(): Set a cookie in browser

Token-Based Login (Stateless Authentication)

Token-based login uses a digitally signed token (usually JWT) that the client stores and sends with every request.

✓ Flow:

- 1. User logs in with credentials.
- 2. Server validates and sends a JWT (JSON Web Token).
- 3. Client stores the token (usually in localStorage or memory).
- 4. For each request, token is sent in the **Authorization Header**.
- 5. Server verifies token, no session is stored on the server.

△ Security Tips:

- Always use HTTPS.
- Don't store JWT in localStorage (XSS risk); use HttpOnly cookies if possible.

***** Example:

```
http
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Authorization: Bearer <your_token_here>
```

☐ Pros:

- Scalable (no session data on server)
- Works well with APIs and microservices

⚠ Cons:

- Token revocation is harder
- Vulnerable if stored in localStorage (XSS)

☐ Cookie-Based Login (Stateful Authentication)

Cookie-based login uses a session ID stored in a cookie. Server keeps a session record (usually in memory or database).

♦ Flow:

- 1. User logs in.
- 2. Server generates a **session ID** and stores it.
- 3. Session ID is sent to the client via cookie.
- 4. Client sends cookie with every request.
- 5. Server checks session data from its store.

***** Example:

```
js
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res.cookie("session_id", "abc123", { httpOnly: true });
```

☐ Pros:

- Easy session management (server controls it)
- Can easily invalidate sessions

⚠ Cons:

- Not stateless (needs session store)
- Less scalable unless using distributed sessions

Token vs Cookie Authentication

Feature	Token-Based Login	Cookie-Based Login
Storage	LocalStorage/Memory	Browser Cookie
Server-side session	X No	∜ Yes
Stateless	∜ Yes	X No
CSRF Protection	✓ Not needed (header-based)	X Needs SameSite cookie
XSS Risk	∜ (if not HttpOnly)	∜ (if not HttpOnly)
Scalability	⊘ Good	X Needs sticky sessions
API Friendly	∜ Yes	⚠ Needs extra config

■ What is Responsiveness?

Responsiveness refers to how a web page **adjusts and looks good** on different screen sizes: mobile, tablet, desktop.

© Goals:

- UI adapts to all device sizes
- Consistent layout and usability
- No horizontal scroll

W Key Features:

- Uses **media queries** in CSS
- Leverages flexbox/grid layouts
- Often uses frameworks like **Tailwind CSS**, **Bootstrap**, or **CSS Modules**

Example (Tailwind CSS):

```
html
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<div class="text-sm sm:text-lg md:text-xl lg:text-2xl">
   Responsive Text
</div>
```

Summary Key Notes

Cookies:

- Small data saved in browser, sent with every request.
- Used for sessions, preferences, tokens.

Response:

• Server reply to client request (HTML, JSON, status, etc).

Token-Based Login:

- Sends JWT in headers.
- Stateless, scalable, ideal for APIs.

Cookie-Based Login:

- Stores session ID in cookies.
- Easier invalidation, server-side session storage.

Responsiveness:

- Design technique for UI to adjust to all screen sizes.
- Uses media queries, flexbox, grid, etc.

\square Real-world Example:

```
js
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// Cookie login - Node.js (Express)
res.cookie("uid", token, {
  httpOnly: true,
  secure: true,
  sameSite: "lax",
});
js
CopyEdit
// Token-based login - Send token in frontend
fetch("/api/protected", {
  headers: {
    Authorization: `Bearer ${token}`,
  },
});
```