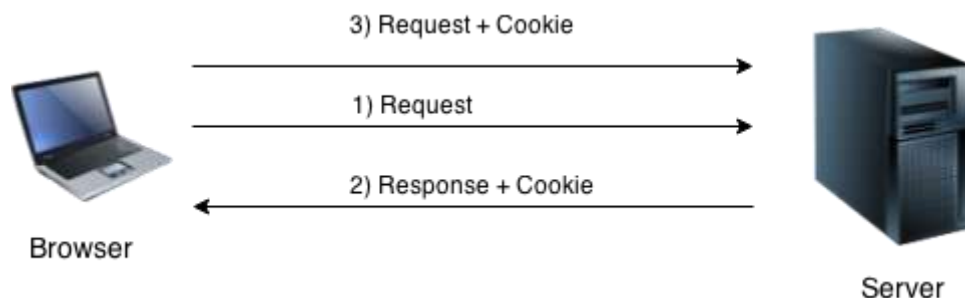


PHP cookies

PHP cookie is a small piece of information which is stored at client browser. It is used to recognize the user.

Cookie is created at server side and saved to client browser. Each time when client sends request to the server, cookie is embedded with request. Such way, cookie can be received at the server side.



Uses of cookie:

- **Session management:** Cookies are widely used to manage user sessions. For example, when you use an online shopping cart, you keep adding items in the cart and finally when you checkout, all of those items are added to the list of items you have purchased. This can be achieved using cookies.
- **User identification:** Once a user visits a webpage, using cookies, that user can be remembered. And later on, depending upon the search/visit pattern of the user, content which the user likely to be visited is served. A good example of this is 'Retargeting'. A concept used in online marketing, where depending upon the user's choice of content, advertisements of the relevant product, which the user may buy, are served.
- **Tracking / Analytics:** Cookies are used to track the user which is used to analyze and serve various kinds of data of great value, like location, technologies (e.g. browser, OS) form where the user visited, how long user stayed on various pages etc.

How to create a cookie in PHP?

- PHP `setcookie()` function is used to set/create cookie with HTTP response.
- **Syntax:**

`setcookie(name, value, expire, path, domain, secure, httponly)`

Parameter	Description	Data Type
name	Name of the cookie.	String
value	Value of the cookie, stored in client's computer.	String
expire	Unix timestamp, i.e. number of seconds since January 1st, 1970 (called as Unix Epoch).	Integer
path	Server path in which the cookie will be available.	String
domain	To which domain the cookie is available.	String
secure	If set true, the cookie is available over a secure connection only.	Boolean
httponly	If set true, the cookie is available over HTTP protocol only. Scripting languages like JavaScript won't be able to access the cookie.	Boolean

Example:

```
<?php
setcookie('username','RVM',time()+3600);
?>
```

- setcookie() returns boolean.
- PHP Cookie must be used before <html> tag.
- Once cookie is set, you can access it by \$_COOKIE superglobal variable.

```
echo "User " . $_COOKIE['username'];
```

- If you wish to retrieve all the cookies, you may use the following command

```
<?php
print_r($_COOKIE);

?>
```

How to delete a cookie?

- To delete a cookie value, you may set the expiry time of the cookie in the past.
- In the following code snippet, cookie expiry time is set one hour before.

```
<?php
setcookie('username','RVM',time()-3600);

?>
```

Test cookies:

- Use isset() to test cookie is set or not.

```
if(isset($_COOKIE['username']))
{
    echo "User " . $_COOKIE['username'] . " is set";
}
else
{
    echo "Not set";
}
```

```
}
```

Example:

C1.php

```
<?php
if(isset($_POST['submit']))
{
    setcookie('username',$_POST['uname'],time()+3600);
    header('Location:c2.php');
}
?>
<html>
    <body>
        <form method="post" >
            <input type="text" name="uname" placeholder="Enter
username"/>
            <input type="submit" name="submit" value="submit"/>
        </form>
    </body>
</html>
```

C2.php

```
<?php
if(isset($_COOKIE['username']))
{
    echo "User ".$_COOKIE['username']." is set";
}
else
{
    echo "Not set";
}
?>
```