

Introduction to Cookies and Session

- * Cookies : A cookie is a small file that the server embeds on the user's computer.
- Cookies are text files stored on the client computer.
 - It is used for tracking purpose.
 - When a user request a page with browser, it will send the cookie too.
 - With PHP user can both create and retrieve cookies.
 - A cookie can only be read from the domain that it has been created.

Exq :- A cookie set using the domain `www.gmail.com` can not be read from the domain `www.facebook.com`.

"The websites on the internet display elements from other domains such as advertising," it is called third party cookies.

* Why and When to use Cookies:

- Cookies allow us to track the state of the application using small files stored on the user's computer.
- The path of cookies are stored depends on the browser.
- Tracking the pages visited by a user.

* Creating Cookies with PHP :

Syntax : `setcookie (cookie_name, cookie_value, expire_time, path, domain, secure, httponly);`

- `setcookie()` is the PHP function used to create the cookie.
- "cookie_name" is the name of the cookie that the server will use, `$_COOKIE` array variable is used to retrieving its value. It's Mandatory

→ "expiry_time" is optional. it is used to set the expiry time for the cookie. The time is set using time() function.

→ "cookie_path" is optional. It can be used to set the cookie path on the server. "/" means that the cookie will be made available on the entire domain.

"domain" is an optional. It can be used to define the cookie access hierarchy.

"secure" is optional, It is used to determine whether the cookie is sent via http or not.

"HttpOnly" is optional, if it is set to true then only client side scripting languages.

program to create a cookie.

```
<?php
```

```
setcookie("name", "mohan", time() + 60, '/');
```

```
echo "the cookie has been set for 60 seconds";
```

```
?>
```

Above program creates a cookie name called mohan and expires after 60 seconds.

```
<?php
```

```
print_r($_COOKIE);
```

```
?>
```

It displays the result of cookie.

o/p

Array ([name] => mohan)

NOTE: It expires after 60 seconds.

Delete cookies :

If user want to destroy a cookie before it expiry time, user can set the expiry time using `-`

```
<?php
```

```
setcookie ("name", "mohan", time() - 360, '/');
```

```
?>
```

If this program executes, the cookie mohan expires before 60 sec.

* Session : A session is a way to store information (in variables) to be used across multiple pages.

A session is a global variable stored on the server. Each session is assigned a unique id which is used to retrieve stored values.

→ Sessions have the capacity to store large data compared to cookies.

→ Whenever the session is created, a cookie containing the unique session id is stored on the user's computer and returned with every request to the server.

→ The session values are automatically deleted when the browser is closed.

→ If user want to store the values permanently, then it store in the database.

→ Session variables are stored in `$_SESSION` array variable.

→ cookies & session must be started before any HTML pages.

* Creating a session :

session_start() function is used to create a session, and then store the values in the \$_SESSION array variable.

The following code shows how to create and retrieve values from sessions.

If user want to know the number of times that a page has been loaded, user can use session.

```
<?php
session_start();
if (isset($_SESSION['pagecount']))
{
    $_SESSION['page_count'] += 1;
}
else
{
    $_SESSION['pagecount'] = 1;
}
echo "you are visitor number", $_SESSION['pagecount'];
?>
```

O/p.

you are visitor number 1.

it increase the visitor number every time refresh

Destroying Session variables

- The `session_destroy()` function is used to destroy the whole session variables, including cookies associated with the session.
- `unset()` function is used to destroy only a single session item.

```
<?php  
session_destroy();  
?>
```

} it destroy entire session.

```
<?php  
unset($_SESSION['product']);  
?>
```

} It destroy only 'product' session