

PHP Sessions

A session is a way to store information (in variables) to be used across multiple pages. Unlike a cookie, the information is not stored on the user's computer.

By default, session variables last until the user closes the browser.

Start a PHP Session

A session is started with the `session_start()` function.

Session variables are set with the PHP global variable: `$_SESSION`.

Get and Set PHP Session Variable Values

Example 1:

First, create the following PHP File:

mypage.php

```
<?php
// this starts the session
session_start();

// this sets variables in the session
$_SESSION['color']='red';
$_SESSION['size']='small';
$_SESSION['shape']='round';

?>
```

Now we are going to make a second page. We again will start with `session_start()` (we need this on every page) - and we will access the session information we set on our first page. Notice we aren't passing any variable; they are all stored in the session.

mypage2.php

```
<?php

session_start();

echo "Our color value is " . $_SESSION['color'];
echo " Our size value is " . $_SESSION['size'];
echo " Our shape value is " . $_SESSION['shape'];

?>
```

Example2

In the example below, we will create a simple page-views counter. The `isset()` function checks if the "views" variable has already been set. If "views" has been set, we can increment our counter. If "views" doesn't exist, we create a "views" variable, and set it to 1:

vv.php

```
<?php
    session_start();

    if(isset($_SESSION['views']))
        $_SESSION['views']= $_SESSION['views']+1;
    else
        $_SESSION['views']= 1;

    echo "Views=". $_SESSION['views'];
?>
<html>
    <body>Hello there</body>
</html>
```

The first time you run this script on a freshly opened browser the if statement will fail because no session variable views would have been stored yet. However, if you refreshed the page the if statement would be true and the counter would increment by one. Each time you reran this script you would see an increase in views by one.

Example3

You can also store an array within the session array. Go back to our mypage.php file and edit it slightly to do this:

```
<?php
session_start();

// makes an array
$product=array('T-shirt', 'yellow', '44');

// adds it to our session
$_SESSION['pro']=$product;
$_SESSION['size']='small';

?>
```

Now run this on mypage2.php to show our new information:

```
<?php
session_start();

//echo a single entry from the array
echo $_SESSION['pro'][2]; ?> → output: 44
```

Destroy a PHP Session

1. //you can remove a single variable in the session

```
unset($_SESSION['shape']);
```

2.// or this would remove all the variables in the session, but not the session //itself

```
session_unset();
```

3.// this would destroy the session variables

```
session_destroy();
```

Notes

// you have to open the session to be able to modify or remove it

```
session_start();
```

// to change a variable, just overwrite it

```
$_SESSION['size']='large';
```

// By default, a session lasts until the user closes the browser.