

sessions

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- * Sessions in PHP is way of Temporarily storing and making data accessible to all pages inside website.
- * Session is temporary file that store session variable and their values.
- * It will be destroyed automatically when website is closed.
- * With the help of it one can access the information of user from all pages of website.
- * Session variable stored information of single user and is available to all pages in one application.
- * When one start the application and end the application computer knows who you are but because of stateless nature of HTTP protocol, webserver doesn't remember who you are and what you do. So, this situation is handled by using sessions.
- * What Happens when session is started:-
 - (a) It creates a random 32 digit Hexadecimal value as an identifier (session id) for that particular session.
 - (b) It sends a cookie name PHPSESSID to the user's system. This cookie will store the unique session id for that session.
 - (c) A temporary file gets created on the server and stored in specified directory. It names the file on Hexadecimal digit prefixed with session id.
 - (d) PHP will access the PHPSESSID cookie and get the unique session id string to get session variable value. It will search into its directory for the file name with that string.
- * It is always recommended to put the `session_start()` as the first line in code before any HTML tag.
- * One can access the session variable value using the global variable `$_SESSION`.
- * Although the web server will terminate the session by default upon closing the browser, one can also destroy it manually.
 - (A) `session_destroy()`: calling this function will eliminate all the session variables.
 - (B) `unset()`: calling this function will kill only the specified session variable.

Example :- session1.php

```
<?php
// start the session
session_start();

?>

<html>
<body>
<?php
// set the session variables
$_SESSION["favcolor"] = "green";
$_SESSION["favanimal"] = "cat";
echo "session variables are set";

?>
</body>
</html>
```

session2.php

```
<?php session_start();

?>

<html>
<body>
<?php
// echo session variable that were set on session1.php
echo "favorite color is", $_SESSION["favcolor"], "<br>";
echo "favorite animal is", $_SESSION["favanimal"], ".";

?>

</body>
</html>
```



```
<?php
```

```
session_start();
```

```
?>
```

```
</html>
```

```
</body>
```

```
<?php
```

```
// remove all session variables
```

```
session_unset();
```

```
// destroy the session
```

```
session_destroy();
```

```
echo "All session variable are removed and  
the session is destroyed";
```

```
?>
```

```
</body>
```

```
</html>
```

* How sessions are better than cookies?

Although cookies are used to store user data, they have serious security issues because cookies are stored on the user's computer and open for attackers to modify the content of the cookie. Also, cookie send data every time a user views a page. Every time a browser requests a URL to the server, all the cookie data for that website is automatically sent to the server within the request.

* The `session_regenerate_id()` function generates a new session id and updates the current one with the newly created one.