

PHP SESSIONS

By
Michele Cope

WHAT IS A PHP SESSION

- A session is similar to using an application like Word on your computer, you open a new document, you add new information and you close it, you can save that information to that document and the computer will recognize all of that information should be kept together.
- The internet does not store information this way. A session is used to store information that will be used across multiple pages, like a username on Facebook, because you have entered your username, Facebook loads information pertinent to you.
- Sessions typically stay open until you log-out, a certain time limit has been reached or you close your browser.

HOW TO START A PHP SESSION

- Start a session in PHP by using the `session_start();` function.
- Session variables are set using the PHP global variable `$_SESSION`.

```
<body>
<?php
// Start the session
session_start();
?>
<html>
<body>
```

```
<?php
// Set session variables
$_SESSION["favcolor"] = "green";
echo "Session variables are set.";
?>
```

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

HOW TO GET PHP SESSION VARIABLES

- Create another page to retrieve PHP session variables.
- PHP variables are not passed in individually. They are retrieved from `session_start()`; function at the beginning of each page.

```
<?php
session_start();
?>
<html>
<body>
```

```
<?php
// Echo session variables that were set on previous page
echo "Favorite color is " . $_SESSION["favcolor"] . "<br>";
echo "Favorite animal is " . $_SESSION["favanimal"] . ".";
?>
```

```
<?php
// or print session variables
print_r($_SESSION);
?>
```

HOW TO CHANGE A SESSION VARIABLE

- To change a session variable, just overwrite the previous variable.

```
<?php
session_start();
?>
<html>
<body>
```

```
<?php
// to change a session variable, just overwrite it
$_SESSION["favcolor"] = "yellow";
print_r($_SESSION);
?>
```

TO END A PHP SESSION

- To end a session, you must destroy it so you can remove all previously set Global session variables.
- Use function `session_unset()`; to remove variables.
- Use function `session_destroy()`; to end a session.

```
<?php  
session_start();  
?>  
<html>  
<body>
```

```
<?php  
// remove all session variables  
session_unset();
```

```
// destroy the session  
session_destroy();  
?>
```

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

- All information used in this presentation was found on W3Schools.com
- http://www.w3schools.com/php/php_sessions.asp

CREDITS