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Session Handling

Topics

- Sessions

- Session Variables

- Site Properties

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Sessions

Web requests are stateless
- Each request to the server is not aware of the previous ones

Sessions are a mechanism that can be used to store state between requests

A session keeps the context of the end-user interactions with the application
- Session data is stored in the database

A session is created on the first end-user request to the server
- Session data is retrieved by the server in every browser request
- It times out after a period of inactivity and session data is discarded

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Session Data

OutSystems supports two types of cross-request data

User **Session Variables**
- Available while a user is using the application
- Values are stored per user
- Values expire when session times out

Cross-session **(Site) Properties**
- Always available to all users
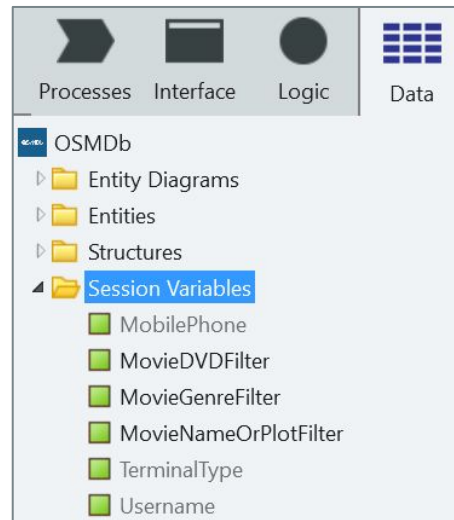- Values are shared between all user sessions
- Values never time out

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Session Variables

Data Types
- Basic Types
- Entity Identifiers
- All others should be avoided

Value
- Can be assigned in any action
- Persists across requests
- Is reset to its default value when:
  - The session ends (Timeout)
  - The users log out

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User Session Start and End
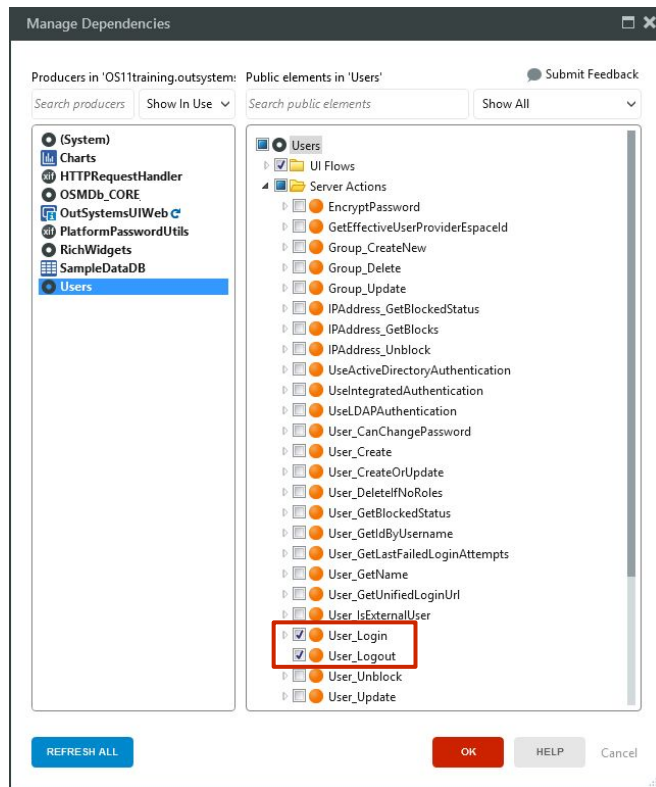
Session starts automatically on first access
- Anonymous session

Session ends automatically after a timeout
- Usually 20 min

The same session id is kept after login (User_Login) or logout (User_Logout)
- Values of session variables are:
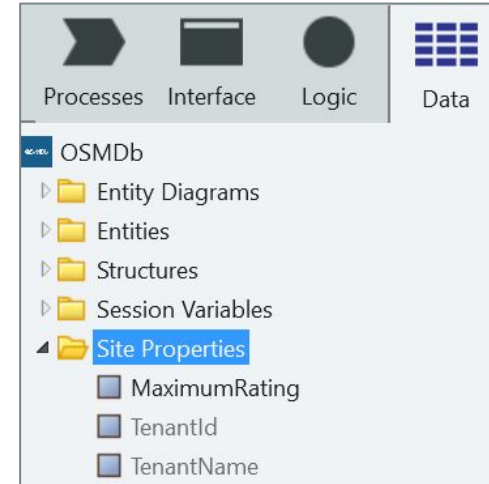 - kept after login
  - reset after logout

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Site Properties

Data Types
- Basic Types
- Entity Identifiers

Value
- Can be assigned in any action
  - Should be avoided for performance issues
- Can be modified in Service Center
- Persists across requests and sessions
- Is *never* reset

Summary

- Sessions

- Session Variables

- Site Properties

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Thank You!