COURSEWARE

Cookies

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Overview

Cookies let you store user information in web pages.

What are cookies

Cookies are data, stored in small text files, on our computers.

When a web server has sent a web page to a browser, the connection is shut down, and the server forgets everything about the user.

Cookies were invented to solve the problem of "how to remember information about the user":

- When a user visits a web page, his/her name can be stored in a cookie.
- Next time the user visits the page, the cookie "remembers" his/her name.
- However this information can only be stored if provided by the user - websites can not gain access to information you didn't provide to them.

Name is just one example but cookies can store lots of information on a user such as address, email address, phone number

Tutorial

Cookies are saved in **name-value** pairs for instance:

```
username = "Donald Tramp";
```

Creating a cookie with JavaScript

JavaScript has the ability to **Create**, **Read** and **Delete** cookies with the `document.cookie` property

To create a cookie it can be done like so:

```
document.cookie = "username=Donald Tramp";
```

We can also add an expiry date in UTC (Coordinated Universal Time)

By default the cookie is deleted when the browser is closed.

```
document.cookie = "username=Donald Tramp; expires=Thu, 18 Dec 2013 12:00:00 UTC";
```

Finally we can also add a path parameter, which tells the browser which path the cookie belongs to.

By default the cookie belongs to the current page.

```
document.cookie = "username=Donald Tramp; expires=Thu, 18 Dec 2013 12:00:00 UTC;
path=/";
```

Reading a cookie with JavaScript

Reading cookies in JavaScript is really simple we can do this by:

```
let myCookie = document.cookie;
```

Change a cookie with JavaScript

A cookie can be changaed the same it was as when we create it.

```
document.cookie = "username=Donald Tramp; expires=Thu, 18 Dec 2013 12:00:00 UTC;
path=/";
```

Deleting a cookie with JavaScript

- Deleting cookies in JavaScript is very simple, we dont have to specify a cookie value when we delete a cookie.
- We just the **expires parameter** to a passed date.

```
    document.cookie = "username=; expires=Thu, 01 Jan 1970 00:00:00 UTC;
path=/;";
```

Function to set cookie

We first create a function that stores the name of the visitor in a cookie variable.

```
let setCookie = (nameOfCookie, cookievalue, exdays) => {
  let date = new Date();
  date.setTime(date.getTime() + (exdays*24*60*60*1000));
  let expires = "expires="+ d.toUTCString();
  document.cookie = nameOfCookie + "=" +"name:" + cookievalue + ";" + expires +
";path=/";
}

//We call it as so
setCookie("myYummyCookie","Donald Tramp", "2");
```

To check the cookie has been created.

- Open chrome
- Navigate to the web-page where tha JavaScript code is running.
- Open developer options (`ctrl`+`shift`+`i`).
- Navigate to `Application`
- Click the dropdown on cookies on the left hand side.
- Check for a cookie named `"myYummyCookie"`

Exercises

1. Create a function called `makeCookie` with a name `myCookie` and have the values `username` with your name and an `email` which has your email address stored, also include an expiry.

   Expiry code:

   ```
   let date = new Date();
   date.setTime(date.getTime() + (exdays*24*60*60*1000));
   ```

   ▶ Solution