SOEN 287

Tutorial 09 – PHP Basics

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PHP Sessions

➢ HTTP is stateless, any data is forgotten when the connection is closed.

➢ A PHP session variable holds information about one single user, and are available to all pages in one application. It allows you to store user information on the server for later use .

➢ Sessions can be destroyed by PHP pages. Sessions expire after a time of inactivity.

Start a session

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

<html>
        <body>
                . . . .
        </body>
</html>
```
Note: The session_start() function must appear BEFORE the <html> tag.

Store session data

store data into a session

```
$_SESSION['user name'] = 'jimmy';
```

Retrieving session data

You can retrieve session data as well. Again, you have to start the session first.

```
session_start();

if(isset($_SESSION['user name ']))
            .  .  .  .
```

Destroy a session

The unset() function is used to free the specified session variable

```php
<?php
session_start();
if(isset($_SESSION['user name']))
        unset($_SESSION['user name']);
?>
```

The session_destroy() is used to destroy all your stored session data.

```php
<?php
        session_destroy();
?>
```

PHP Cookies

➢ A cookie is used to identify a user.

➢ A cookie is a small file that the server embeds on the user's computer.

➢ Each time the same computer requests a page with a browser, it will send the cookie too.

PHP Cookies

Create a Cookie:
```php
<?php
setcookie("user", "Alex Porter", time()+3600);
?>
```

Retrieve a Cookie Value:
```php
if (isset($_COOKIE["user"]))
```

Delete a Cookie:
```php
setcookie("user", "", time()-3600);
```

Cookies vs. Sessions

- Cookies are stored on the client
- web browsers have a limit on how big cookies

- Sessions are stored on the server
- sessions can be any size you want

PHP session actually stores the Session ID by cookie

PHP fwrite() Function

The fwrite() writes to an open file

- **Syntax**

    optional

    fwrite(file,string,length)

- **Example**

<?php

    $file = fopen("test.txt","w");

    echo fwrite($file,"Hello World. Testing!");

    fclose($file);

?>

PHP readfile() Function

The readfile() function reads a file and writes it to the output buffer.

Syntax

optional

readfile(filename,include_path,context)
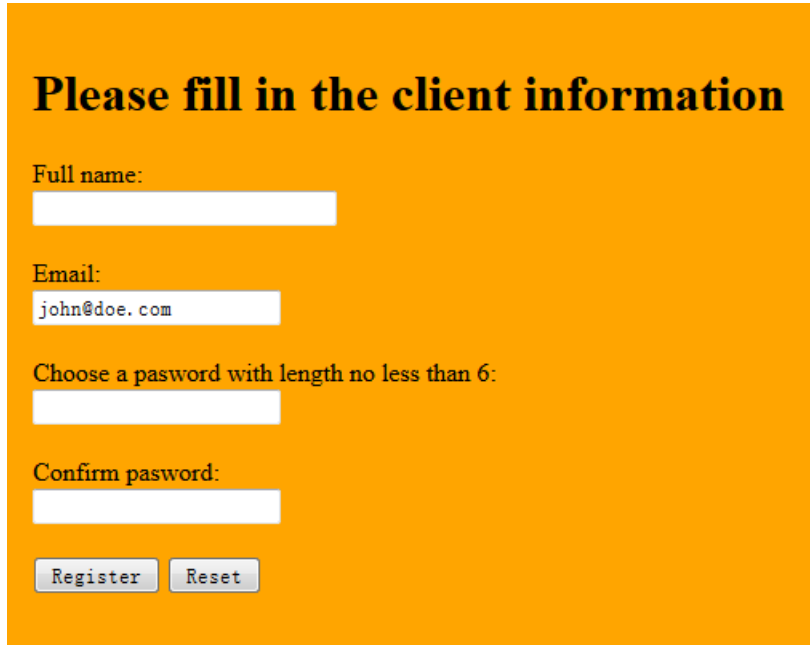
Example

<?php

echo readfile("test.txt");

?>

Practice 1

- Create a new php page, use session to track.

- If the session['views'] is not exist, create the session. If the session exists, count and show how many times the user visits this page.

- If the session has been visited more than 10 times, clear the session.

Practice 2 PHP Form Handling

1) The user is asked to fill out the client information form and clicks the register button, the form data is sent for processing to a PHP file named "validation.php".

2) The form data is sent with the HTTP POST method.

Please fill in the client information

Full name:

Email:
john@doe.com

Choose a pasword with length no less than 6:

Confirm pasword:

Register   Reset