SERVLET TECHNOLOGY

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Using Hidden Form Field for Session Management

Hidden form field can also be used to store session information for a particular client. In case of hidden form field a hidden field is used to store client state. In this case user information is stored in hidden field value and retrieved from another servlet.
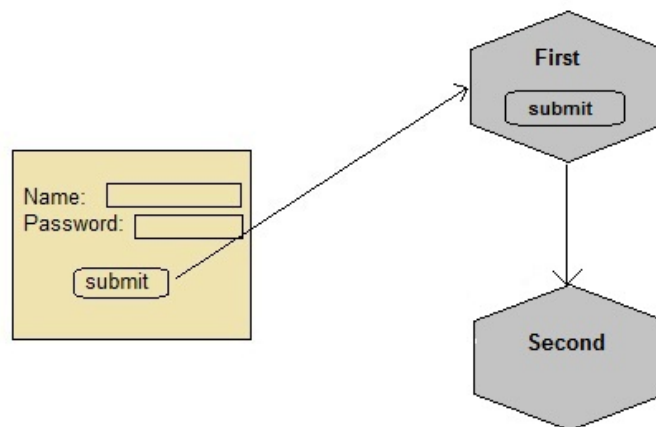
Advantages :

- Does not have to depend on browser whether the cookie is disabled or not.
- Inserting a simple HTML Input field of type hidden is required. Hence, its easier to implement.

Disadvantage :

- Extra form submission is required on every page. This is a big overhead.

Example demonstrating usage of Hidden Form Field for Session

Below mentioned files are required for the example:

index.html

```
<form method="post" action="validate">
  Name:<input type="text" name="user" /><br/>
  Password:<input type="text" name="pass" ><br/>
  <input type="submit" value="submit">
</form>
```

web.xml

```
<web-app...>

    <servlet>
        <servlet-name>First</servlet-name>
        <servlet-class>First</servlet-class>
    </servlet>
    <servlet-mapping>
        <servlet-name>First</servlet-name>
        <url-pattern>/First</url-pattern>
    </servlet-mapping>

    <servlet>
        <servlet-name>Second</servlet-name>
        <servlet-class>Second</servlet-class>
    </servlet>
    <servlet-mapping>
        <servlet-name>Second</servlet-name>
        <url-pattern>/Second</url-pattern>
    </servlet-mapping>

    <welcome-file-list>
        <welcome-file>index.html</welcome-file>
    </welcome-file-list>

</web-app>
```

First.java

```
import java.io.*;
import javax.servlet.*;
import javax.servlet.http.*;

public class First extends HttpServlet {

  protected void doPost(HttpServletRequest request, HttpServletResponse response)
          throws ServletException, IOException {
      response.setContentType("text/html;charset=UTF-8");
      PrintWriter out = response.getWriter();

      //getting value submitted in form from HTML file
      String user = request.getParameter("user");

      //creating a new hidden form field
      out.println("<form action='Second'>");
      out.println("<input type='hidden' name='user' value='"+user+"'>");
      out.println("<input type='submit' value='submit' >");
      out.println("</form>");
  }
}
```

Second.java

```java
import java.io.*;
import javax.servlet.*;
import javax.servlet.http.*;

public class Second extends HttpServlet {

  protected void doGet(HttpServletRequest request, HttpServletResponse response)
          throws ServletException, IOException {
      response.setContentType("text/html;charset=UTF-8");
      PrintWriter out = response.getWriter();

      //getting parameter from the hidden field
      String user = request.getParameter("user");
      out.println("Welcome "+user);
    }
}
```

Like we created a hidden field in **First** Servlet, populated the value of user, and sent it to the **Second** Servlet, now Second servlet also has the user information. Similarly we will have to keep sending this information, wherever we need this, using hidden fields.