Java Servlet Cookies Handling

Cookies are small text files stored in a computer’s non-volatile storage for tracking information. Cookies are supported in Java Servlets.

The cookies are used in 3 steps:

1. The server script sends cookies to a client (browser);
2. Cookies are stored in the computer by the browser.
3. If the browser send a request to the server next time around the client will now send the cookies to the server which the server will use to identify the user.

Anatomy of a Cookie

Cookies are set in an HTTP header in a Java Servlet.

Sample Cookie

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

Date: ***Date***

Server: ***Server***

Set-Cookie: name = ***name***; expires = ***expiring date***;

path = ***where the cookie will be placed***; domain = ***website domain name***

Connection: close

Content-Type: text/html

Cookies Methods

1. setDomain(String domainName)
2. getDomain()
3. setMaxAge(int expiresAfterHowManySeconds)
4. getMaxAge()
   * -1 if the cookie will last till the browser shuts down
5. getName()
6. setValue(String newValue)
7. getValue()
8. setPath(String uri)
9. getPath()
10. setSecure(boolean flag)
11. setComment(String purpose)
12. getComment()

To create a cookie use the Cookie constructor, example:

Cookie cookie1 = new Cookie("key","value");

To send a cookie to a client use:

response.addCookie(cookie1);

References

Tutorials Point. (2018, January 08). Servlets Cookies Handling. Retrieved from <https://www.tutorialspoint.com/servlets/servlets-cookies-handling.htm>

What is a cookie? (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.allaboutcookies.org/cookies/>