Safari | ProQuest

Entire Site

Library
Help
Delaware County Community C...
Personal Sign In

< Return to Search Results ☒

PHP Solution 9-4: Restricting Access to a Page with a Session
URL ☑ SHOW SEARCH TERMS

PHP Solution 9-4: Restricting Access to a Page with a Session

This PHP solution demonstrates how to restrict access to a page by checking for the existence of a session variable that indicates the user's credentials have been authenticated. If the variable hasn't been set, the `header()` function redirects the user to the login page.

1. Create two pages in the `sessions` folder called `menu.php` and `secretpage.php`. It doesn't matter what they contain, as long as they link to each other. Alternatively, use `menu_01.php` and `secretpage_01.php` in the `ch09` folder.

2. Protect access to each page by inserting the following above the `DOCTYPE` declaration:

```
<?php
session_start();
// if session variable not set, redirect to login page
if (!isset($_SESSION['authenticated'])) {
    header('Location: http://localhost/phpsols/sessions/login.php');
    exit;
}
?>
```

   After starting the session, the script checks if `$_SESSION['authenticated']` has been set. If it hasn't been, it redirects the user to `login.php` and exits. That's all there is to it! The script doesn't need to know the value of `$_SESSION['authenticated']`, although you could make doubly sure by amending line 4 like this:

```
if (!isset($_SESSION['authenticated']) || $_SESSION['authenticated']
    != 'Jethro Tull')  {
```

   This now also rejects a visitor if `$_SESSION['authenticated']` has the wrong value.

3. Save `menu.php` and `secretpage.php`, then try to load either of them into a browser. You should always be redirected to `login.php`.

4. Enter a valid username and password from `users.csv` (the values are case-sensitive) in `login.php`, and then click `Log in`. You should be redirected immediately to `menu.php`, and the link to `secretpage.php` should also work.

   You can check your code against `menu_02.php` and `secretpage_02.php` in the `ch09` folder.

   ■ **Tip** The login might fail if you create your own version of `users.csv` on Mac OS X. If that happens, add the following line at the top of `authenticate.php`, as described in "CSV files created on Mac OS" in Chapter 7:

```
ini_set('auto_detect_line_endings', true);
```

   All you need to do to protect any page on your site is to add the eight lines of code in step 2 above the `DOCTYPE` declaration.