

Cookie

A cookie is often used to identify a user.

Cookie is a small piece of information which is stored at client browser.

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

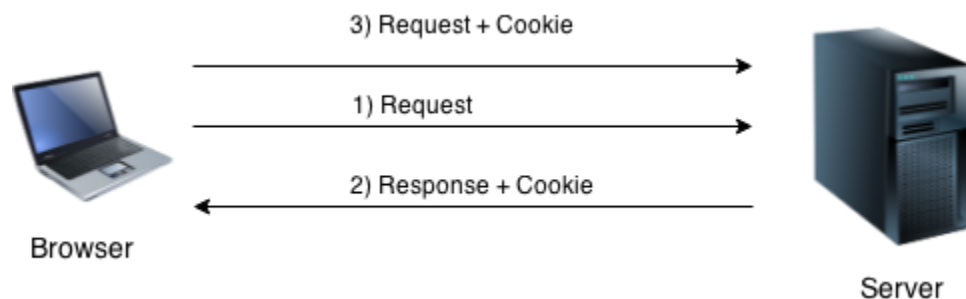
Such way, cookie can be received at the server side.

It is used to recognize the user.

Cookie is created at server side and saved to client browser.

In other words

A cookie is a small file with the maximum size of 4KB that the web server stores on the client computer. They are typically used to keep track of information such as a username that the site can retrieve to personalize the page when the user visits the website next time. A cookie can only be read from the domain that it has been issued from. Cookies are usually set in an HTTP header but JavaScript can also set a cookie directly on a browser.



In short, cookie can be created, sent and received at server end.

Types of Internet Cookies

Session Cookies: A session cookie only lasts for the duration of users using the website.

A web browser normally deletes session cookies when it quits.

A session cookie expires if the user does not access the website for a period of time chosen by the server(idle timeout).

They only last for the duration of time we are on the site.

If someone comes and uses our computer, they would not be able to see anything on the sites that use session cookies, because they need to enter the username and password again.

Persistent Cookies: A persistent cookie outlast user sessions.

If a persistent cookie has its maximum age 1 year, then within a year, the initial value set in the cookie would be sent back to the server every time the user visits the server.

This could be used to record a vital piece of information such as how the user initially came to the website. For this reason, persistent cookies are also called tracking cookies.

These are kind of cookies are used on websites that need to know who we are but offer us the ability to "remember me" when you enter username and password.

Example: Gmail.

Third-party cookies: Third party cookies are the cookies being set with the different domain than the one shown in the address bar.

For example, if you were to visit Sendflowers.com, it may set the cookie for the address of SomeAdvertiser.com. Later, when you visit RebuildEngines.com it may set the cookie for SomeAdvertiser.com.

Both of these cookies will be used by SomeAdvertiser.com to ascertain that you are a person who sends flowers and works on cars.

These are used by advertising agencies who have clients that pay for displaying ads for products and services but don't want to waste money displaying them to people who aren't going to be a customer.

Setting Cookie In PHP:

To set a cookie in PHP, the **setcookie()** function is used.

The setcookie() function needs to be called prior to any output generated by the script otherwise the cookie will not be set.

Syntax :

```
setcookie(name, value, expire, path, domain, security);
```

Parameters: The setcookie() function requires six arguments in general which are:

1. **Name:** It is used to set the name of the cookie.
2. **Value:** It is used to set the value of the cookie.
3. **Expire:** It is used to set the expiry timestamp of the cookie after which the cookie can't be accessed.
4. **Path:** It is used to specify the path on the server for which the cookie will be available.
5. **Domain:** It is used to specify the domain for which the cookie is available.
6. **Security:** It is used to indicate that the cookie should be sent only if a secure HTTPS connection exists.

Creating Cookies:

Below are some operations that can be performed on Cookies in PHP:

The following example creates a cookie named "user" with the value "Students". The cookie will expire after 30 days (86400 * 30).

The "/" means that the cookie is available in entire website (otherwise, select the directory you prefer).

We then retrieve the value of the cookie "user" (using the global variable \$_COOKIE). We also use the **isset()** function to find out if the cookie is set:

Save as : Cookie1.php

```
<?php
$cookie_name = "user";
$cookie_value = "Students";
setcookie($cookie_name, $cookie_value, time() + (86400 * 30), "/");
// 86400 = 1 day
?>
<html>
<body>
<?php
if(!isset($_COOKIE[$cookie_name]))
{
echo "Cookie named " . $cookie_name . " is not set!";
}
else
{
    echo "Cookie " . $cookie_name . " is set!<br>";
    echo "Value is: " . $_COOKIE[$cookie_name];
}
?>
</body>
</html>
```

Notes : Before run the above file make ensure that xamp control panel is open and Apache Server should be on.

How to Run: localhost/Cookie1.php

After Running no user name will be displayed.

In Second time will show user name --- Students

The `setcookie()` function must appear BEFORE the `<html>` tag.