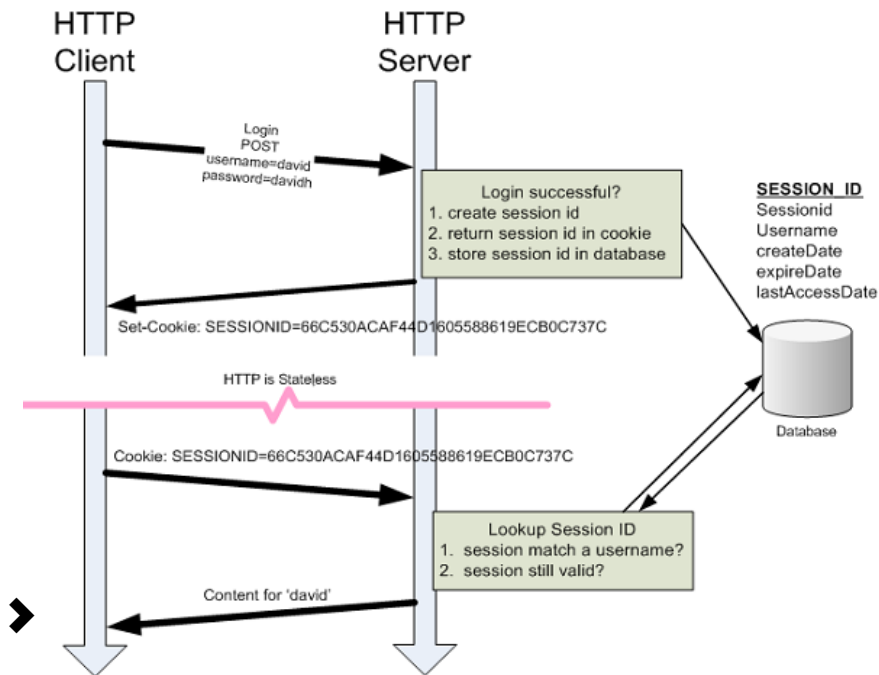


# Session VS Cookies



Home (/) / Intermediate (/php-intermediate) / Session and Cookies (<http://www.phpcubes.com/what-is-session-and-cookies.html>)



1 Sessions are **server-side** files that contain user information

Cookies are **client-side** files that contain user information

2 Session Max life time is 1440 Seconds(24 Minutes) as defined in php.ini file

in php.ini on line 1604 you can find You can edit this value if

```
; http://php.net/session.gc-maxlifetime
session.gc_maxlifetime = 1440
```

Copy Code

you need custom session life.

We have to set cookie max life time manually with php code with setcookie function. In

```
setcookie("email", 'test@example.com',
time()+3600); /* expire in 1 hour */
```

Copy Code

above example

Cookie Name : email

Cookie Value : test@example.com

(mailto:test@example.com)Expire time : 1 hour after current time (1 Hour = 3600 Seconds)

3 In php `$_SESSION` super global variable is used to manage session.

In php `$_COOKIE` super global variable is used to manage cookie.

4 Before using `$_SESSION`, you have to write `session_start();`  
In that way session will start and you can access `$_SESSION` variable on that page.

You don't need to start Cookie as It is stored in your local machine.

5 You can store as much data as you like within in sessions.The only limits you can reach is the maximum memory a script can consume at one time, which by default is 128MB.

Official MAX Cookie size is 4KB

php.ini line 479

```
; http://php.net/memory-limit
memory_limit = 128M
```

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- 6 Session is dependent on COOKIE.  
Because when you start session with `session_start()` then SESSIONID named key will be set in COOKIE with Unique Identifier Value for your system.

So that when you communicate with server next time then with this saved SESSIONID, Server will identify **who you are?**

- 7 `session_destroy();` is used to "**Destroys all data registered to a session**", and if you want to unset some key's of SESSION then use `unset()` function.

```
unset($_SESSION["key1"], $_SESSION["key2"])
```

There is no function named `unsetcookie()` ,

Although if you need to delete cookie then you have set cookie in any previous date, so that cookie will automatically disabled/deleted. In that way you unset cookie(Set cookie in

```
setcookie('email', 'test@example.com', time()-3600); //expire before 1 hour
```

[Copy Code](#)

previous time)

- 8 Session ends when user close his browser.

Cookie ends depends on the life time you set for it.

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## Session VS Cookies (<http://www.phpcubes.com/what-is-the-difference-between-session-and-cookies.html>)



What is the difference between Session and Cookie

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