



University of
Sheffield

COM1001 SPRING SEMESTER

Professor Phil McMinn

p.mcminn@sheffield.ac.uk

Sessions

Web Application State

Forms allow users to input values for web pages to process in a user-friendly way.

But how can a web application “remember” these values when the user progresses to another page, without the user having to re-enter them each time?

For example, how can a web application remember the fact a user is logged in, or has certain items in their shopping basket?

We could use a database (next week), but a database is a general store of data, not linked to a particular session of using the web application.

Sessions

Similar to `params`, Sinatra has the `session` hash, which stores key-value pairs. **However session differs from params in that we can assign to it as well as read from it, and it maintains its state across different routes of the application.**

We need to use the Ruby line of code `enable: sessions` in the main `app.rb` to enable its usage.



Live Demonstration:

the `login` example

(from the `com1001-examples` GitHub repository)

Featuring:

- Initialising the use of a session with `enable: sessions` in `app.rb`
- Adding and reading key-value pairs from the `session` hash
- Clearing the session
- Using a session to control access to a private login area of a website