

PHP Cookies

1. Definition

Cookies are small files created by the server and stored in the client's browser.

They help in maintaining user-specific data like login sessions and preferences across multiple web pages.

2. Types / Methods in Cookies

1. `setcookie()` – Set or modify a cookie
2. `$_COOKIE[]` – Retrieve cookie value
3. `isset()` – Check if a cookie exists
4. **Modify Cookie** – Reset the cookie with a new value
5. **Delete Cookie** – Remove a cookie by setting past expiry
6. `print_r($_COOKIE)` – Print all cookies

1. setcookie() – Set a cookie

Used to create a new cookie by specifying its name, value, expiry time, and path.

The cookie is stored in the user's browser and available on the next page load.

Syntax:

php

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

Example:

php

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```
setcookie("user", "Alice", time() + 3600, "/");
```

2. \$_COOKIE[] – Retrieve a cookie

Accesses the value of a cookie that was previously set.

The cookie value is fetched using its name key.

Syntax:

php

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```
$_COOKIE[ 'name' ];
```

Example:

php

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```
echo $_COOKIE[ "user" ];
```

3. isset() – Check if cookie exists

Checks if the specified cookie has been set or not.

Returns true if the cookie exists, otherwise false.

Syntax:

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```
isset($_COOKIE['name']);
```

Example:

php

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```
if(isset($_COOKIE["user"])) { echo "Cookie exists"; }
```

4. Modify Cookie – Update a cookie

Update a cookie by setting the same name with a new value and expiry. The new value will overwrite the old value on next load.

Syntax:

php

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```
setcookie(name, newvalue, expire, path);
```

Example:

php

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```
setcookie("user", "Bob", time() + 3600, "/");
```

5. Delete Cookie – Remove a cookie

Deletes a cookie by setting its expiry time to a past value.

This makes the browser remove the cookie instantly.

Syntax:

php

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```
setcookie(name, "", time() - 3600, path);
```

Example:

php

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```
setcookie("user", "", time() - 3600, "/");
```

4. PHP Code with All Execution

php

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```
<?php
setcookie("user", "Alice", time() + 3600, "/");

if(isset($_COOKIE["user"])) {
    echo "Welcome " . $_COOKIE["user"] . "<br>";
} else {
    echo "Cookie not set yet!<br>";
}

setcookie("user", "Bob", time() + 3600, "/");

if(isset($_COOKIE["user"])) {
    echo "Modified user is " . $_COOKIE["user"] . "<br>";
}

setcookie("user", "", time() - 3600, "/");
echo "Cookie deleted.<br>";
?>
```



Output

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Welcome Alice

Modified **user is** Alice

Cookie deleted.