

COOKIES

-BY YUVRAJ AGARKAR

WHAT ARE COOKIES ACTUALLY ?

- Cookies are **files created by websites you visit**. They make your online experience easier by saving browsing information. With cookies, sites can keep you signed in, remember your site preferences, and give you locally relevant content
- In a nutshell cookies are just like fortune 🍪 cookies you eat , all they do is hold some data so that next time when you visit the website they can remember you ,and track your activities
- In theory a cookie is a key and value pair data stored on your browser which is used by the server when you visit it , so that they(server) can use it to their needs and serve you accordingly , for eg: Ever experienced you can add items to your bucket without even logging in to amazon.com and on your next visit you still have that items ,Youtube settings etc

WHY DO WE NEED COOKIES ?



- So cookies are not alternative to local databases , it's just a simple way to store some information on user's browser ,the maximum size of cookie is 4kb
- Whenever you visit websites they tend to store some data on your browser in form of cookies the data can be anything a session-id whenever you login , your last watched video details from youtube , your selected products from any ecommerce website etc
- Whenever you visit the same site again the cookies are sent to server so that they can recognize you and serve you accordingly

HOW TO CREATE A COOKIE ?

- Its easy to create a cookie , all you need to do is run ``` document.cookie="key=value" ``` cookies are stored in key and value pairs you can see them in chrome application tab (right click and choose inspect on the chrome) ,Application => Cookies => select current URL
- Cookies created in the above way will automatically get deleted when the browser gets closed , to save them you need to specify the ``` expires ``` options while creating them which takes a Date object
- ``` document.cookie = "username=John Doe; expires=Thu, 18 Dec 2013 12:00:00 UTC"; ```

HOW TO DELETE & UPDATE A COOKIE ?

- Cookies have a life just like normal living people do , the **expires** options decides when a cookie dies and for how much time it lives , setting the date on **expires** option to past time will delete the cookie and setting it to future will save it till that time in your browser
- Update the cookie the same way you created it use the same key with new value to update the cookie

```
``` document.cookie = "username=John Doe; expires=Thu, 18 Dec 2013 12:00:00 UTC";  
```
```
- You can update the value here or the expires property to depending on your needs

HOW TO READ A COOKIE ?

- You can easily read a cookie using javascript ``` document.cookie ``` which will return a string with all cookies in it separated by a semi-colon `‘ ; ’`
- We can destructure the cookie string with javascript methods like `split()` that we learnt
- The `split()` method splits a string into an array of substrings.

THANK YOU ...

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