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Sessions

Hey, Philipp here!

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Sessions

This example will show how to store data in session cookies using the popular `gorilla/sessions` package in Go.

Cookies are small pieces of data stored in the browser of a user and are sent to our server on each request. In them, we can store e.g. whether or not a user is logged in into our website and figure out who he actually is (in our system).

In this example we will only allow authenticated users to view our secret message on the `/secret` page. To get access to it, the will first have to visit `/login` to get a valid session cookie, which logs him in. Additionally he can visit `/logout` to revoke his access to our secret message.

```
// sessions.go
package main
```

```
import (  
    "fmt"  
    "net/http"  
  
    "github.com/gorilla/sessions"  
)  
  
var (  
    // key must be 16, 24 or 32 bytes long (AES-128, AES-192 or AES-256)  
    key = []byte("super-secret-key")  
    store = sessions.NewCookieStore(key)  
)  
  
func secret(w http.ResponseWriter, r *http.Request) {  
    session, _ := store.Get(r, "cookie-name")  
  
    // Check if user is authenticated  
    if auth, ok := session.Values["authenticated"].(bool); !ok || !auth {  
        http.Error(w, "Forbidden", http.StatusForbidden)  
        return  
    }  
  
    // Print secret message  
    fmt.Fprintln(w, "The cake is a lie!")  
}  
  
func login(w http.ResponseWriter, r *http.Request) {  
    session, _ := store.Get(r, "cookie-name")  
  
    // Authentication goes here  
    // ...  
  
    // Set user as authenticated  
    session.Values["authenticated"] = true  
    session.Save(r, w)  
}  
  
func logout(w http.ResponseWriter, r *http.Request) {  
    session, _ := store.Get(r, "cookie-name")  
  
    // Revoke users authentication  
    session.Values["authenticated"] = false  
    session.Save(r, w)  
}
```

```
func main() {  
    http.HandleFunc("/secret", secret)  
    http.HandleFunc("/login", login)  
    http.HandleFunc("/logout", logout)  
  
    http.ListenAndServe(":8080", nil)  
}
```

```
$ go run sessions.go
```

```
$ curl -s http://localhost:8080/secret  
Forbidden
```

```
$ curl -s -I http://localhost:8080/login  
Set-Cookie: cookie-name=MTQ4NzE5Mz...
```

```
$ curl -s --cookie "cookie-name=MTQ4NzE5Mz..." http://localhost:8080/secret  
The cake is a lie!
```

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