

## **Lab 3: Multi-step Job Application Form for a Recruitment Website with Authentication and Cookies**

### **Lab Overview**

In this lab, you will create a basic multi-step job application form for a recruitment website using HTML, PHP, sessions, and cookies. The lab will include a simple user authentication system that requires users to log in before accessing the job application form. You will also implement cookies to remember the user login details for subsequent visits. This lab is an individual assignment and must be completed and submitted by the next day. The tasks are structured to focus on essential aspects of multi-step form handling, session and cookie management, and user authentication.

### **Learning Objectives**

By the end of this lab, you will be able to:

1. Design a multi-step HTML form to collect user data in a structured manner.
2. Implement user authentication with PHP sessions and cookies.
3. Use PHP session management to save and retrieve form data across multiple steps.
4. Use cookies to remember user login information.
5. Validate and sanitize user input using PHP.

### **Lab Tasks**

#### **Task 1: User Authentication System**

##### **1. Create a User Registration Form:**

- Design an HTML form for user registration that collects the following details:
  - Username
  - Email
  - Password
- Validate the form inputs using PHP and store the user information in a JSON file named `users.json`. Passwords should be hashed using PHP's `password_hash()` function before storage.

##### **2. Create a Login Form:**

- Implement an HTML form for user login that collects the username and password.
- Validate the login credentials against the data stored in `users.json`.
- If the credentials are correct, start a PHP session for the user and redirect them to the job application form. If incorrect, display an error message.

### **3. Implement “Remember Me” Feature Using Cookies:**

- Add a “Remember Me” checkbox to the login form.
- If selected, store the user’s username in a cookie that expires in 7 days.
- Check for the presence of this cookie on the login page and pre-fill the username field if it exists.

## **Task 2: Multi-step Job Application Form**

### **1. Step 1: Personal Information Form:**

- Design the first step of the job application form using HTML to collect personal information:
  - Full Name
  - Email Address (pre-filled using session data)
  - Phone Number
- Implement PHP validation and sanitization for these inputs.
- Use PHP sessions to store the collected data and provide a message indicating that the information has been saved.

### **2. Step 2: Educational Background Form:**

- Design the second step of the form to collect educational details:
  - Highest Degree Obtained
  - Field of Study
  - Name of Institution
  - Year of Graduation
- Validate and sanitize the inputs using PHP and store them in the session.

### **3. Step 3: Work Experience Form:**

- Create a third step of the form to collect work experience details:
  - Previous Job Title
  - Company Name
  - Years of Experience
  - Key Responsibilities

- Validate and store these inputs in the PHP session.

#### **4. Navigation and Session Management:**

- Implement “Previous” and “Next” buttons to navigate between form steps.
- Display a progress indicator to show the user’s current step.
- Ensure that all data is stored in sessions as the user navigates between steps.

### **Task 3: Review and Submit**

#### **1. Review Page:**

- Create a review page that displays all collected information using session data.
- Allow users to navigate back to any step to edit their information before final submission.

#### **2. Final Submission:**

- On final submission, store the entire application in a JSON file named applications.json.
- Display a confirmation message and send a confirmation email (simulated) to the user with the application details.

### **Task 4: Logout and Session Management**

#### **1. Logout Functionality:**

- Implement a “Logout” button that ends the session and redirects the user to the login page.
- Clear any cookies set for the “Remember Me” feature on logout.

### **Submission Guidelines**

#### **1. Project Folder:**

- Submit the entire project folder, including all PHP, HTML, CSS files, and the applications.json and users.json files.

#### **2. GitHub Repository:**

- Upload the project to a GitHub repository and submit the repository link.

#### **3. Deadline:**

- Submit the project and the GitHub repository link by the end of the next day through the Blackboard.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

### **1. User Authentication (30%):**

- Implementation of user registration and login.
- Proper use of PHP sessions and cookies for authentication.
- Functionality of the “Remember Me” feature.

### **2. Form Design and Functionality (30%):**

- The multi-step form is well-structured and functional.
- Navigation between steps and data persistence using sessions works as expected.

### **3. Data Validation and Security (20%):**

- Form inputs are validated and sanitized.
- Secure handling of user authentication and session data.

### **4. Code Quality and Documentation (20%):**

- Code is clean, well-commented, and follows best practices.
- Project structure is organized and easy to navigate.

## **Additional Notes**

### **1. Academic Integrity:**

- This is an individual assignment. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and may result in academic penalties.

### **2. Clarifications:**

- For any questions or clarifications, please reach out to the instructor during office hours or via email.

### **3. Resources:**

- Refer to course materials and online documentation for help with PHP sessions, cookies, and authentication handling.