What is the best practice for passing variables from one HTML page to another?

Asked 16 years, 2 months ago   Modified 16 years, 2 months ago

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6

I'm relatively new to web application programming so I hope this question isn't too basic for everyone.

I created a HTML page with a FORM containing a dojox datagrid (v1.2) filled with rows of descriptions for different grocery items. After the user selects the item he's interested in, he will click on the "Submit" button.

At this point, I can get the javascript function to store the item ID number as a javascript variable BUT I don't know how to pass this ID onto the subsequent HTML page.

Should I just pass the ID as an URL query string parameter? Are there any other better ways?

EDIT: The overall process is like a shopping cart. The user will select the item from the grid and then on the next page the user will fill out some details and then checkout.

I should also mention that I'm using grails so this is happening in a GSP page but currently it only contains

HTML.

javascript   html   grails   dojo

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What's the overall process you are trying to accomplish?
– Pistos Oct 19, 2008 at 15:39

7 Answers

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4

You could just use a hidden input field; that gets transmitted as part of the form.

```html
<html>
  <head>
  </head>
  <body>
    <script type="text/javascript">
      function updateSelectedItemId() {
        document.myForm.selectedItemId.value = 2;
        alert(document.myForm.selectedItemId.value);

        // For you this would place the selected item i
        // field in stead of 2, and submit the form in
      }
```

```
        </script>

    Your grid comes here; it need not be in the form

    <form name="myForm">
      <input type="hidden" name="selectedItemId" value
      The submit button must be in the form.
      <input type="button" value="changeSelectedItem"
 onClick="updateSelectedItemId()">
    </form>
  </body>
</html>
```

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answered Oct 19, 2008 at 18:36

extraneon
23.9k ● 2 ● 49 ● 51

Forgot to say, a button which calls
document.myForm.submit() may also be out of the form. Only
a type=submit must be IN the form itself. – extraneon Oct 20,
2008 at 4:47

Thanks everyone! I'll go with this solution since it works well
and easy and straightforward to implement. – Kevin Oct 21,
2008 at 4:08

It's good one, but better is to use some script language such as JSP,PHP, ASP....and you can use simple POST and GET methods.

2

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answered Oct 19, 2008 at 15:32

vaske
9,542 • 11 • 52 • 70

The best method (imho) is to include it in the URL

2

href="http://NewPage.htm?var=value";

encodeUriComponent a string Value

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answered Oct 19, 2008 at 15:47

pkario
2,220 • 6 • 28 • 30

One way to send over variables using POST to another page is to make the link to the subsequent page a submit input on a form where the action attribute is your target page. For every variable you have, you can include using inputs of attribute type "hidden" in this form, making only the button visible.

1

Another option is to dynamically generate links on the page with something like PHP where you basically repopulate the current GET queries.

Finally, you can always store this information in the PHP $_SESSION array and not have to worry about continually passing these variables through site navigation.

Your choice will depend on how many navigational options there are where you'd like to keep the same variables. It will also depend on how secure you'd like your back end to be and the amount you'd like to disclose to the advanced web user.

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answered Oct 19, 2008 at 15:48

Robert Elwell
6,668 ● 1 ● 30 ● 32

If you are only going to need the ID on the subsequent pages, then you can pass the id as a query string parameter.
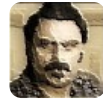
But there will be times when you need to relay more information and passing a variety of parameters to different pages and having to maintain different sets of parameters for different pages can get a little hairy. When this is the case I'd suggest that you keep a hidden field on the form and create an argument object that stores each of your parameters. Serialize the argument object with JSON and store this in you hidden field. Post the form back to the server. When the next page loads, deserialize the object and retrieve the values you need.

answered Oct 19, 2008 at 19:12

David Robbins

10k ● 7 ● 54 ● 83

Assuming that you are limited to using html pages, I think the best approach would be to pass the id along on the query string to the next page. It is relatively easy to pull that value back off the query string on the next page. If you need to be a little more stealthy about passing the variable (or you need the variable to persist for more than one page), you could also set a cookie and retrieve it on the next page.

answered Oct 19, 2008 at 15:50

Mitch

239 ● 2 ● 8

0

Since you are trying to do this in a Grails application you do have a choice of using Flash scope. This might not make any sense if you want to go directly from one HTML page to the next as the scope would be defined in a controller. If you do not need to do any sort of processing between requests, I'd suggest using a hidden form field to keep it simple.

http://grails.org/Controllers+-+Controller+Scopes

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answered Oct 20, 2008 at 17:10

Ed.T
1,695 ● 2 ● 15 ● 19