**What is a PHP Session?**

A session is a way to store information (in variables) to be used across multiple pages.

Unlike a cookie, the information is not stored on the users computer.

When you work with an application, you open it, do some changes, and then you close it. This is much like a Session. The computer knows who you are. It knows when you start the application and when you end. But on the internet there is one problem: the web server does not know who you are or what you do, because the HTTP address doesn't maintain state.

Session variables solve this problem by storing user information to be used across multiple pages (e.g. username, favorite color, etc). By default, session variables last until the user closes the browser.

So; Session variables hold information about one single user, and are available to all pages in one application.

**Start a PHP Session**

A session is started with the session\_start() function. Session variables are set with the PHP global variable: $\_SESSION. Now, let's create a new page called "demo\_session1.php". In this page, we start a new PHP session and set some session variables:

<?php  
session\_start();  
?>  
<html>  
<body>  
<?php  
// Set session variables  
$\_SESSION["favcolor"] = "red";  
$\_SESSION["favanimal"] = "dog";  
echo "Session variables are set.";  
?>  
</body>  
</html>

**Get Session Variable**

<?php  
session\_start();  
?>  
<html>  
<body>  
<?php  
// Echo session variables that were set on previous page  
echo "Favorite color is " . $\_SESSION["favcolor"] . ".<br>";  
echo "Favorite animal is " . $\_SESSION["favanimal"] . ".";  
?>  
</body>  
</html>

**Another Example**

<?php  
session\_start();  
?>  
<html>  
<body>  
<?php  
// to change a session variable, just overwrite it   
$\_SESSION["favcolor"] = "yellow";  
print\_r($\_SESSION);  
?>  
</body>  
</html>

**Remove and Destroy the Session**

<?php  
session\_start();  
?>  
<html>  
<body>  
<?php  
// remove all session variables  
session\_unset();   
  
// destroy the session   
session\_destroy();  
  
echo "All session variables are now removed, and the session is destroyed."   
?>  
</body>  
</html>

## What is Cookie

A cookie is often used to identify a user. A cookie is a small file that the server embeds on the user's computer. Each time the same computer requests a page with a browser, it will send the cookie too. With PHP, you can both create and retrieve cookie values.

## Create Cookies With PHP

A cookie is created with the setcookie() function.

### Syntax

setcookie(*name, value, expire*);

name=cookie name

value=cookie value

expire=The time the cookie expires. This is a Unix timestamp so is in number of seconds since the epoch. In other words, you'll most likely set this with the [time()](http://php.net/manual/en/function.time.php) function plus the number of seconds before you want it to expire.

Get Cookies values

$\_COOKIE[‘cookie name’];

Cookie is also used to transfer data from one page to another page