Table of Contents

This slide deck consists of slides used in 7 lecture videos in Week 4. Below is a list of shortcut hyperlinks for you to jump into specific sections.

- (page 2) Week 4: Forms, GET, POST, and HTTP
- (page 10) Week 4: Building HTML Forms
- (page 21) Week 4: Forms and Cross Site Request Forgery (CSRF)
- (page 30) Week 4: CSRF Support in Django
- (page 44) Week 4: The POST Refresh Pattern
- (page 49) Week 4: Implementing POST Redirect in Django

Charles Severance www.dj4e.com

Form Processing

https://samples.dj4e.com/getpost/ https://samples.dj4e.com/form/



Forms gather data and send it to the server



Forms GET vs. POST

Two ways the browser can send parameters to the web server

- GET Parameters are placed on the URL which is retrieved.
- POST The URL is retrieved and parameters are appended to the request in the the HTTP connection.

Utility Code – Dump a Dictionary

```
# Call as dumpdata('GET', request.GET)

def dumpdata(place, data) :
    retval = ""
    if len(data) > 0 :
        retval += 'Incoming '+place+' data:<br/>
        for key, value in data.items():
            retval += html.escape(key) + '=' + html.escape(value) + '</br>
    retval += '
    retval += '
```

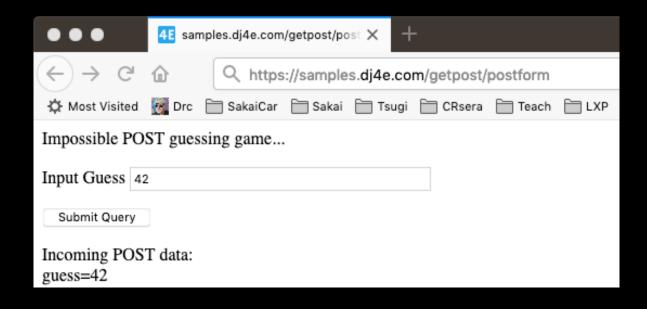
dj4e-samples/getpost/views.py

dj4e-samples/getpost/views.py



https://samples.dj4e.com/getpost/getform

dj4e-samples/getpost/views.py



https://samples.dj4e.com/getpost/postform

Passing Parameters to The Server

```
GET /form/getform?guess=42
                           Accept: text/html
   Web Server
                           User-Agent: Lynx/2.4 libwww/2.14
HTTP
                       POST /form/postform
Request
                       Accept: text/html
                       User-Agent: Lynx/2.4 libwww/2.14
                       Content-type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
                       Content-length: 13
                       quess=42
```

<input type="text" name="guess" id="yourid" />

Rules of the POST/GET Choice

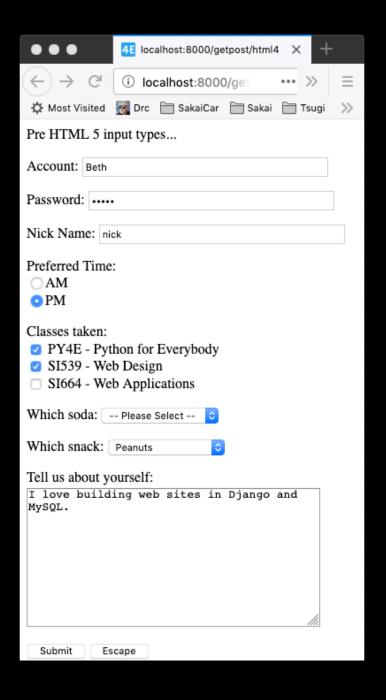
- POST is used when data is being created or modified.
- GET is used when your are reading or searching things.
- GET should never be used to insert, modify or delete data.
- Web search spiders will follow GET URLs but generally not POST URLs.
- GET URLs should be "idempotent" the same URL should give the "same thing" each time you access it. (i.e. bookmarkable)
- GET has an upper limit of the number of bytes of parameters and values (think about 2K).

FORMS in HTML

Pre HTML5 Input Types

- Text
- Password
- Radio Button
- Check Box
- Select / Drop-Down
- Textarea

https://samples.dj4e.com/getpost/html4
dj4e-samples/getpost/templates/getpost/html4.html



Account: Beth

Password:

Nick Name: nick

Incoming POST data:
account=Beth
pw=12345
nick=nick
when=pm

• • •

```
Preferred Time:<br/>
<input type="radio" name="when" value="am">AM<br>
<input type="radio" name="when" value="pm" checked>PM
```

Preferred Time:

- \bigcirc AM
- OPM

Classes taken:

- PY4E Python for Everybody
- SI539 Web Design
- SI664 Web Applications

Incoming POST data:

• • •

when=pm

class1=on

class2=si539

• • •

```
Preferred Time:
AM
PM

Classes taken:
PY4E - Python for Everybody
SI539 - Web Design
SI664 - Web Applications
```

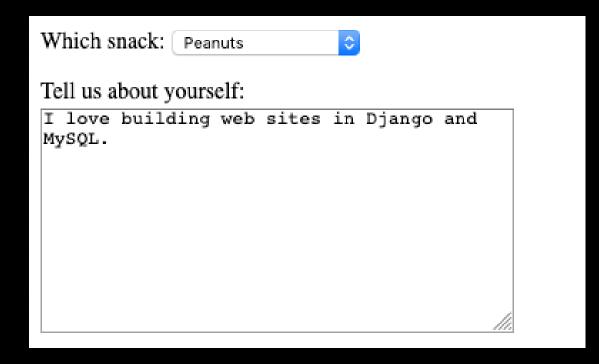
```
Incoming POST data:
...
when=pm
class1=on
class2=si539
```



```
Incoming POST data:
...
soda=0
snack=peanuts
```



```
Incoming POST data:
...
soda=0
snack=peanuts
```



Incoming POST data:
...
snack=peanuts
about=I love building
web sites in Django and
MySQL.
dopost=Submit

```
<input type="submit" name="dopost" value="Submit"/>
<input type="button"
  onclick="location.href='http://www.dj4e.com/'; return false;"
  value="Escape">
```



Incoming POST data:
...
snack=peanuts
about=I love building
web sites in Django and
MySQL.
dopost=Submit

HTML5 Input Types

- HTML5 defined new input types
- Not all browsers support all input types
- They fall back to type="text"

```
https://samples.dj4e.com/getpost/html5
dj4e-samples/getpost/templates/getpost/html5.html
http://www.w3schools.com/html/html5_form_input_types.asp
```

```
Select your favorite color:
<input type="color" name="favcolor" value="#0000ff"><br/>
Birthday:
<input type="date" name="bday" value="2003-09-02"><br/>>
E-mail:
<input type="email" name="email"><br/>>
Quantity (between 1 and 5):
<input type="number" name="quantity"</pre>
   min="1" max="5"><br/>
Add your homepage:
<input type="url" name="homepage"><br>
Transportation:
<input type="flying" name="saucer"><br>
            In-browser validation happens
               when you press submit.
```

https://samples.dj4e.com/getpost/html5



Cross-Site-Request-Forgery (CSRF)

Security

CSRF Attack

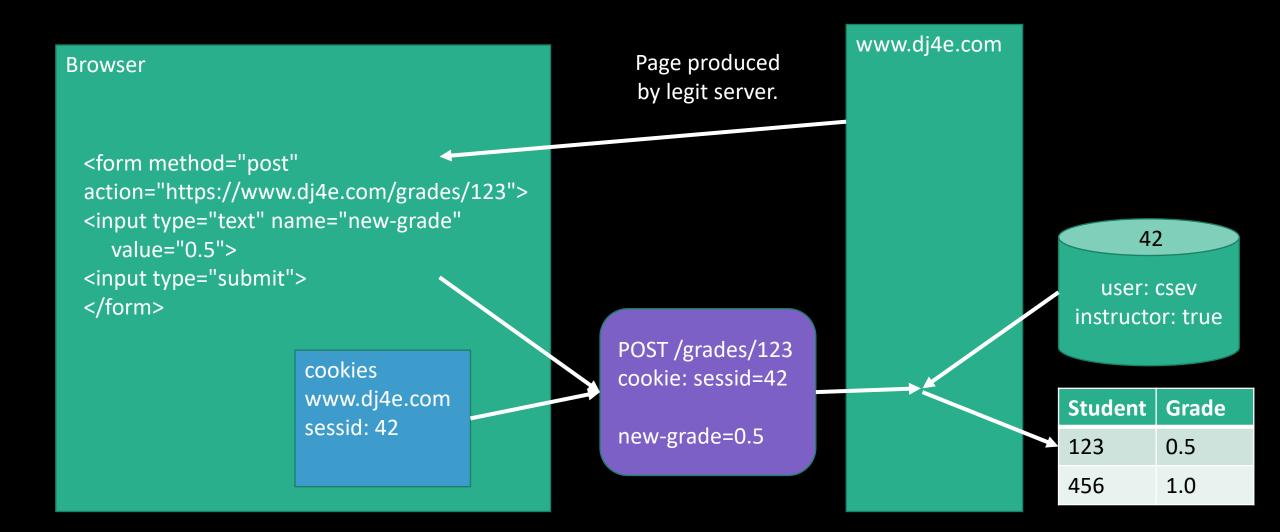
- A rogue site generates a page that includes form that posts data to a legitimate site where the user is logged in via a session cookie
- The form is submitted to the legitimate site and the cookie is included
- The legitimate site accepts the request because of the cookie value

 Note that the rogue site does not need to know the cookie value – it just knows that the cookie will be sent on requests to the legitimate site

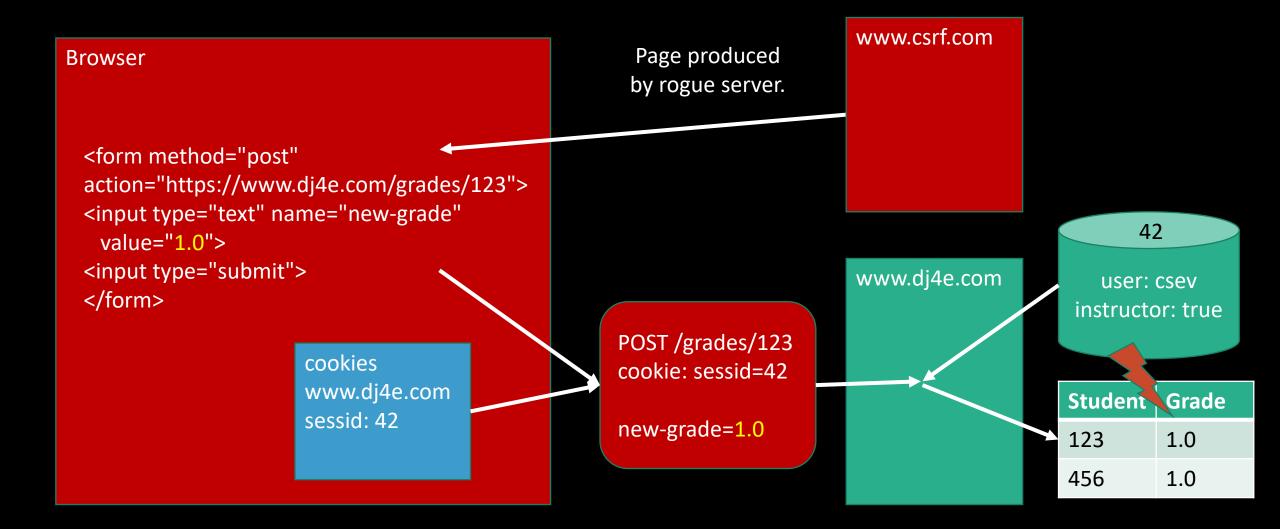
CSRF Defense

- The legitimate site chooses a large random number (the CSRF Token) and puts it in the session
- When the legitimate site generates a POST form, it includes the CSRF Token as a hidden input field
- When the form is submitted the CSRF Token is sent as well as the cookie
- The site looks up the session and rejects the request if the incoming CSRF Token does not match the session's CSRF Token

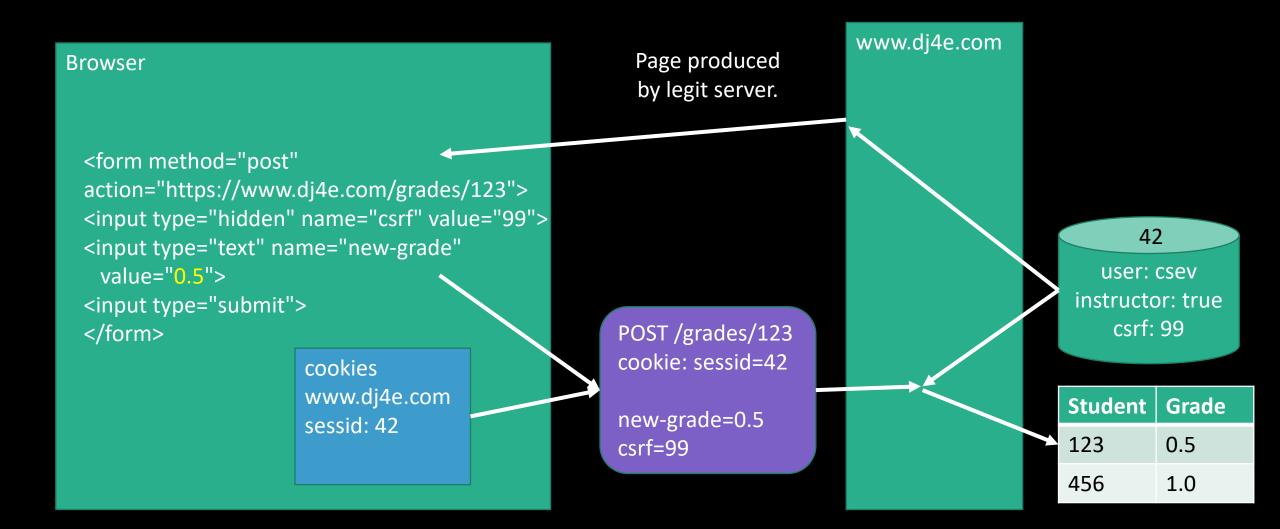
Scenario: Time to Change a Student Grade



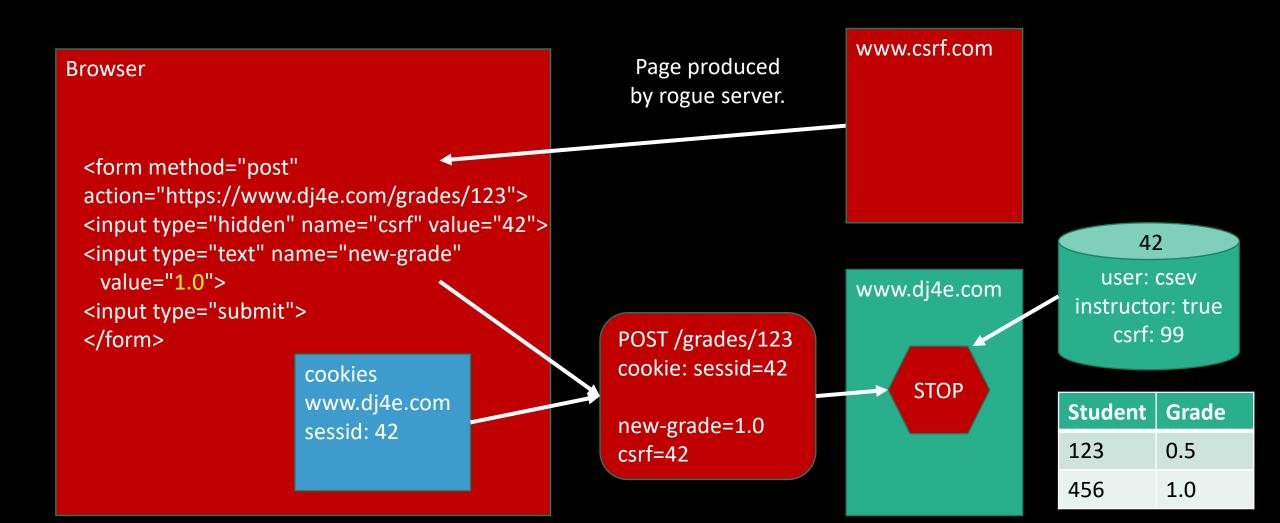
Attack (without CSRF)

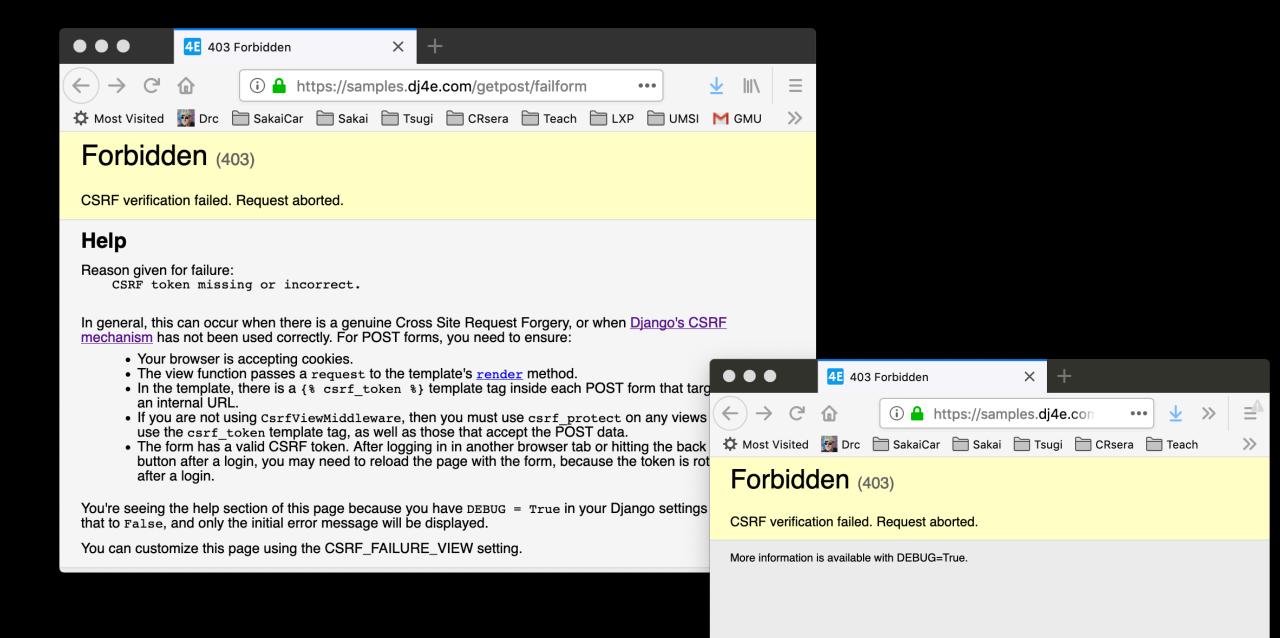


With CSRF



CSRF Attack Blocked





Enabling CSRF defense in Django

- Django has built in support to generate, use, and check CSRF Tokens
- Activated by default in settings.py

```
MIDDLEWARE = [
    'django.middleware.security.SecurityMiddleware',
    'django.contrib.sessions.middleware.SessionMiddleware',
    'django.middleware.common.CommonMiddleware',
    'django.middleware.csrf.CsrfViewMiddleware',
    'django.contrib.auth.middleware.AuthenticationMiddleware',
    'django.contrib.messages.middleware.MessageMiddleware',
    'django.middleware.clickjacking.XFrameOptionsMiddleware',
}
```

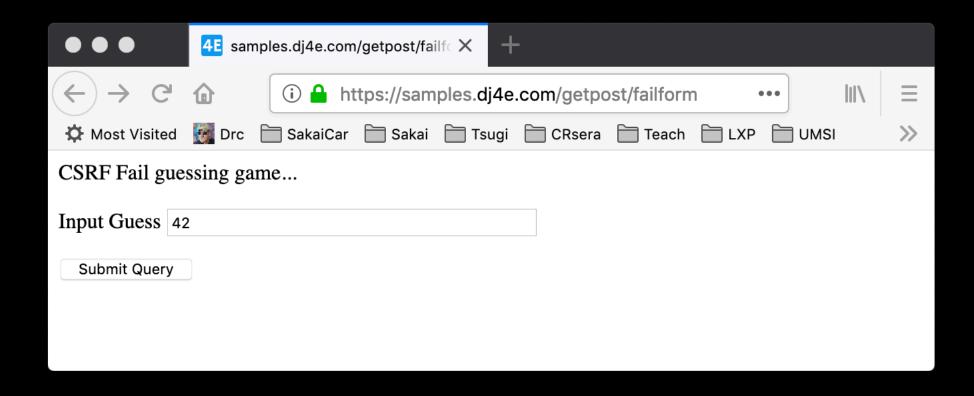
CSRF in forms

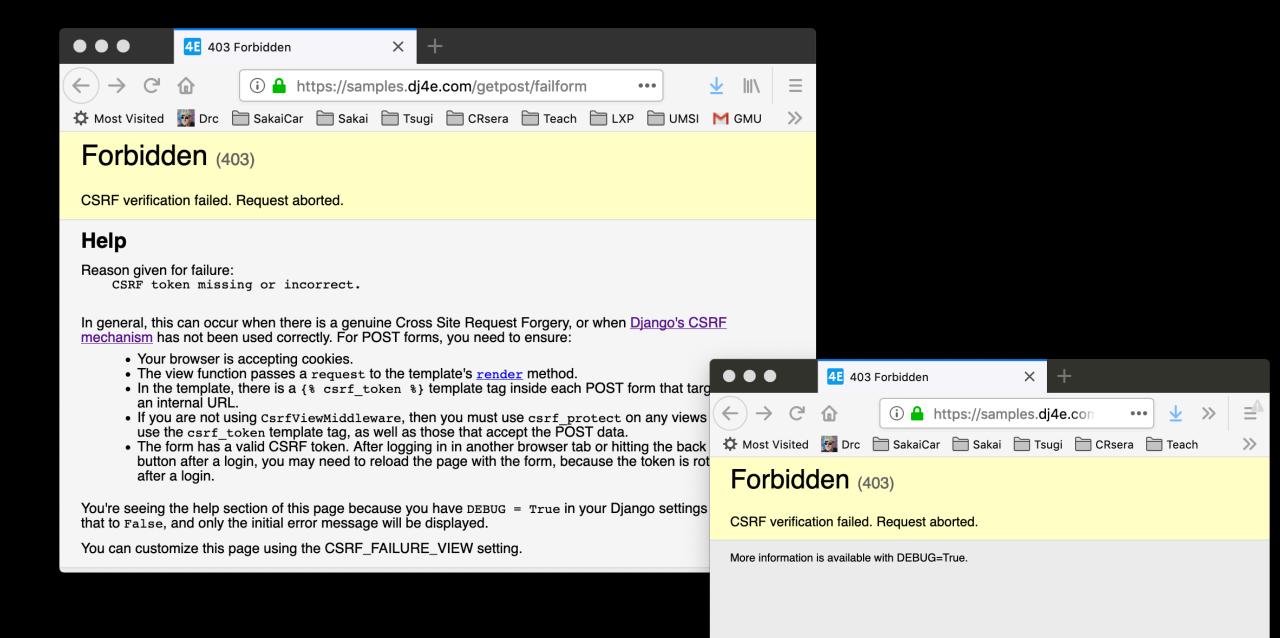
Remember.....

```
@csrf exempt
def postform(request):
    response = """Impossible POST guessing game...
       <form method="POST">
        <label for="quess">Input Guess</label>
        <input type="text" name="guess" size="40" id="guess"/>
        <input type="submit"/>
       </form>"""
    response += dumpdata('POST', request.POST)
    return HttpResponse(response)
```

https://samples.dj4e.com/getpost/failform

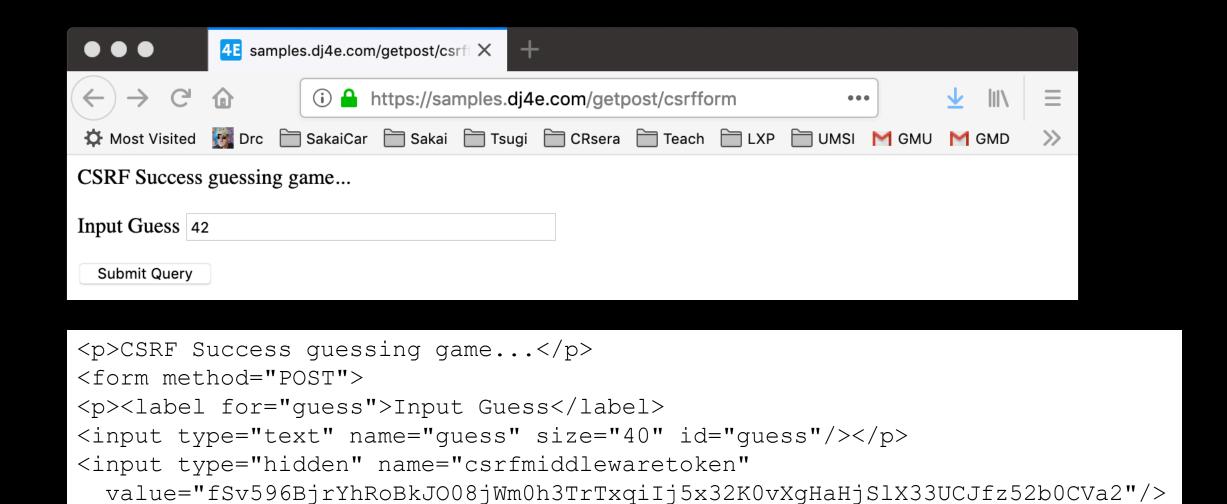
https://samples.dj4e.com/getpost/failform





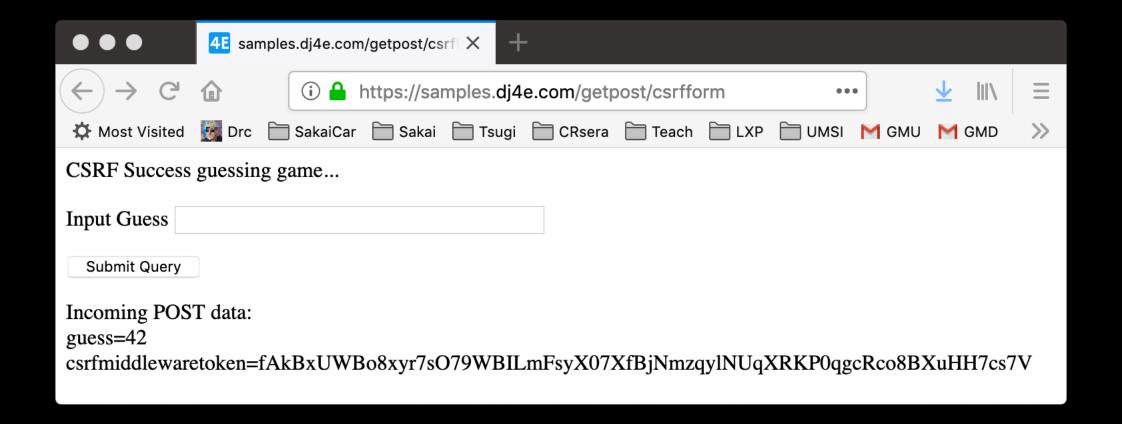
https://samples.dj4e.com/getpost/csrfform

```
from django.middleware.csrf import get token
def csrfform(request):
    response = """CSRF Success quessing game...
        <form method="POST">
        <label for="quess">Input Guess</label>
        <input type="text" name="quess" size="40" id="quess"/>
        <input type="hidden" name="csrfmiddlewaretoken"</pre>
            value=" token "/>
        <input type="submit"/>
        </form>"""
    token = get token(request)
    response = response.replace(' token ', html.escape(token))
    response += dumpdata('POST', request.POST)
    return HttpResponse(response)
```



<input type="submit"/>

</form>



Django CSRF in Templates

```
Guessing game
                                   dj4e-samples/getpost/templates/getpost/guess.html
{% if message %}
\langle p \rangle \{ \{ \text{message } \} \} \langle p \rangle
{% endif %}
<form method="post">
<label for="guess">Input Guess</label>
{% csrf token %}
<input type="text" name="guess" size="40" id="guess"/>
<input type="submit"/>
</form>
```

Utility Code for Guesses

```
# Call as checkquess('42')
def checkquess(guess) :
    msg = False
    if quess :
        try:
            if int(quess) < 42:
                msq = 'Guess too low'
            elif int(guess) > 42 :
                msg = 'Guess too high'
            else:
                msg = 'Congratulations!'
        except:
            msg = 'Bad format for guess:' + html.escape(guess)
    return msq
```

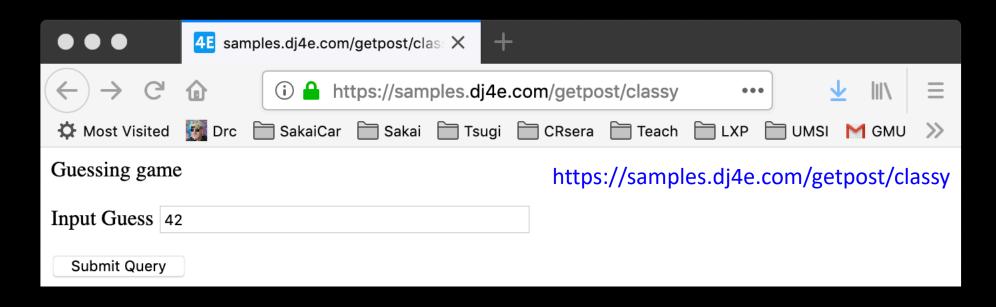
```
Guessing game
{% if message %}

{{ message }}
{% endif %}

<form method="post">

<label for="guess">Input Guess</label>
{% csrf_token %}

<input type="text" name="guess" size="40" id="guess"/>
<input type="submit"/>
</form>
```



https://samples.dj4e.com/getpost/classy

```
Guessing game
Input Guess 42
Submit Query
```

https://samples.dj4e.com/getpost/classy

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\leftarrow \rightarrow G	Û	i https://samples.dj4e.com/getpost/classy						•	<u>L</u> III\	=
Most Visited	M Drc	SakaiCar	Sakai	Tsugi	CRsera	Teach	LXP	UMSI	M GMU	>>
Guessing game										
Congratulations!										
Input Guess										
Submit Query										

Success!!!!!

POST-Refresh ... Oops!

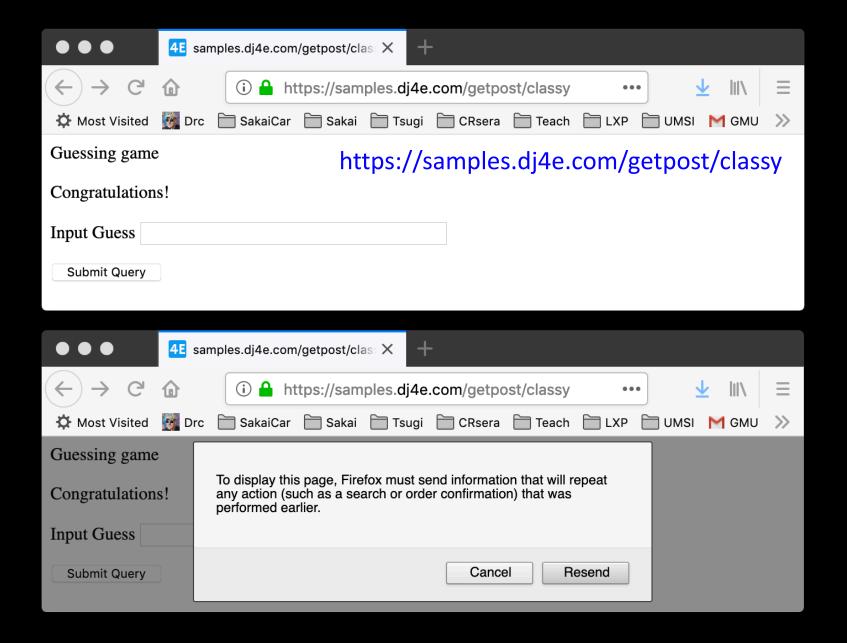
Remember this?



Success!!!!!

POST / Refresh / 😊

- Once you do a POST and receive 200 status + a page of HTML, if you tell the browser to refresh, the browser will re-send the POST data a second time.
- The user gets a browser pop-up that tries to explain what is about to happen.



Make a POST

See Success

Press Refresh

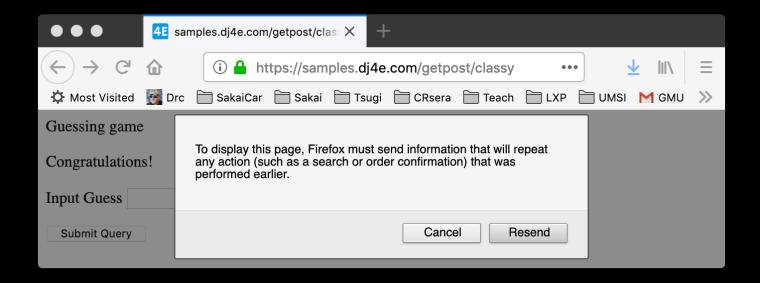
Yucky Message ☺

Don't Allow Double Posts

- Typically POST requests are adding or modifying data whilst GET requests view data
- It may be dangerous to do the same POST twice (say withdrawing funds from a bank account)
- So the browser insists on asking the user (out of your control)
- Kind of an ugly UX / bad usability
- As developers we work so this never can happen

POST-REDIRECT-GET-Refresh

POST Redirect Rule

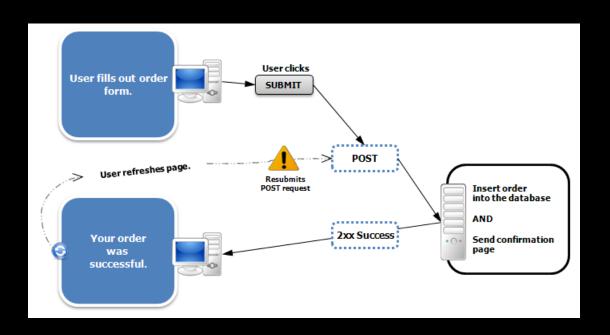


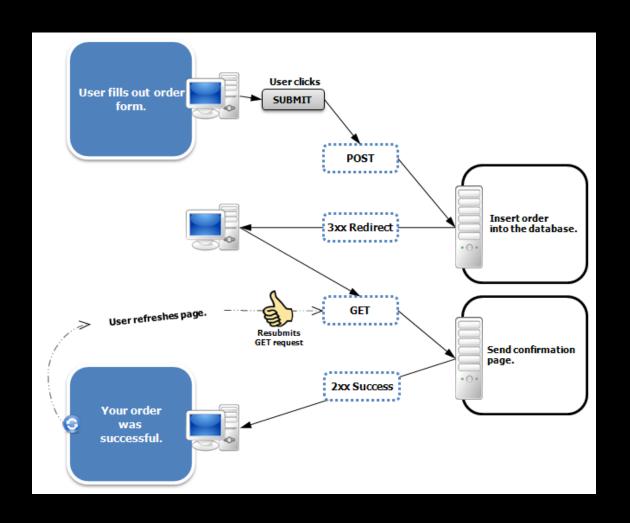
- The simple rule for pages intended for a browser is to never generate a page with HTML content when the app receives POST data and data has been modified
- Must cause a GET by redirecting somewhere even a GET to the same URLforcing the browser to make a GET after the POST

Review: HTTP Status Codes

- http://www.dr-chuck.com/page1.htm 200 OK
- https://samples.dj4e.com/getpost/failform 403 Forbidden
 - Post data without CSRF Token
- http://www.wa4e.com/nowhere.htm 404 Not Found
- http://www.drchuck.com/ 302 Found / Moved
 Also known as "redirect"

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_HTTP_status_codes





https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post/Redirect/Get

```
class AwesomeView(View) :
                                                          dj4e-samples/getpost/views.py
    def get(self, request):
        msg = request.session.get('msg', False)
        if ( msg ) : del(request.session['msg'])
        return render(request, 'getpost/guess.html', {'message' : msg })
    def post(self, request):
        quess = request.POST.get('quess')
        msg = checkquess(quess)
        request.session['msg'] = msg
        return redirect(request.path)
Guessing game
{% if message %}
                                  dj4e-samples/getpost/templates/getpost/guess.html
{ message } } 
{% endif %}
```

<form method="post">

<input type="submit"/>

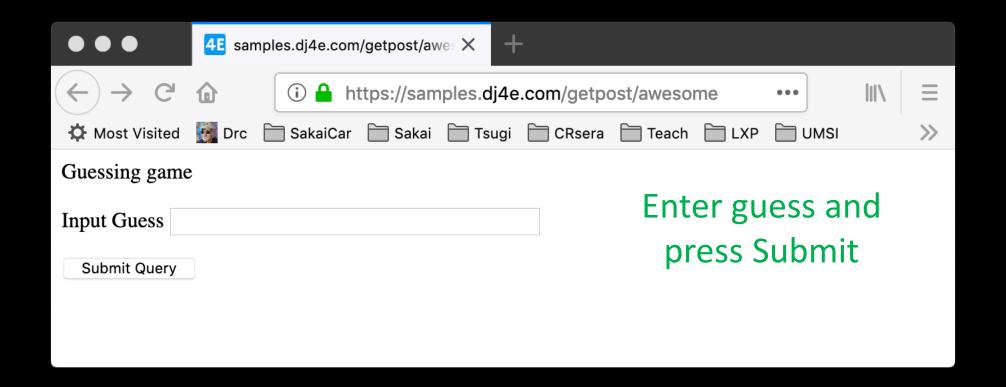
{% csrf token %}

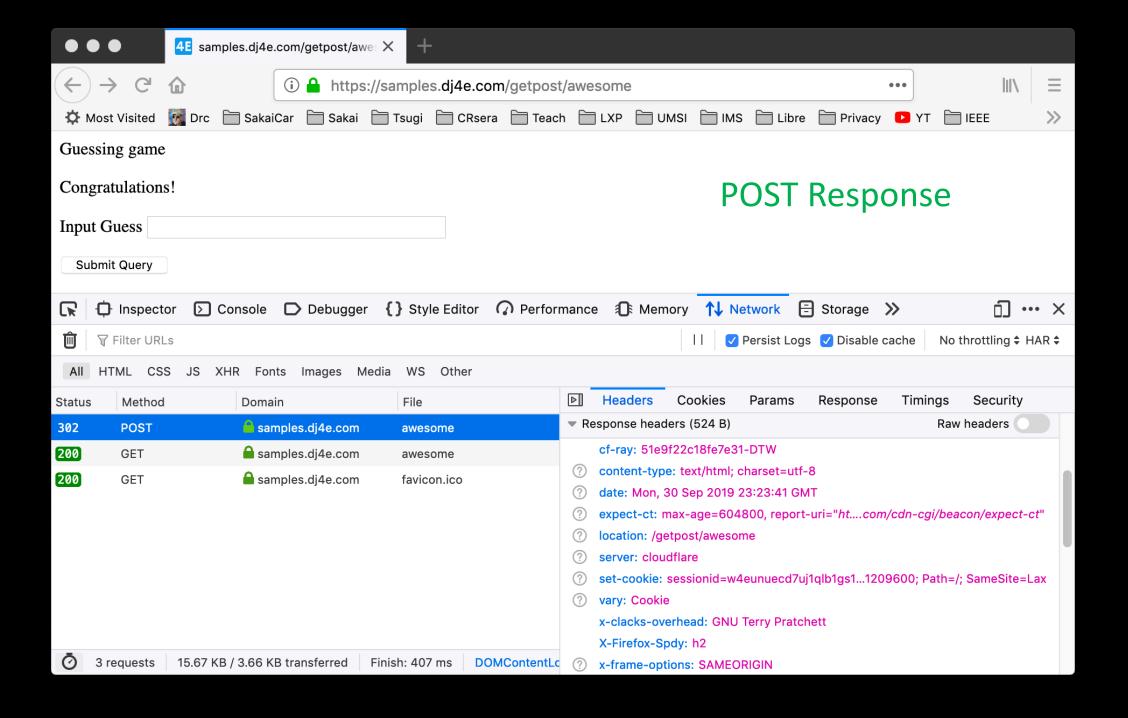
</form>

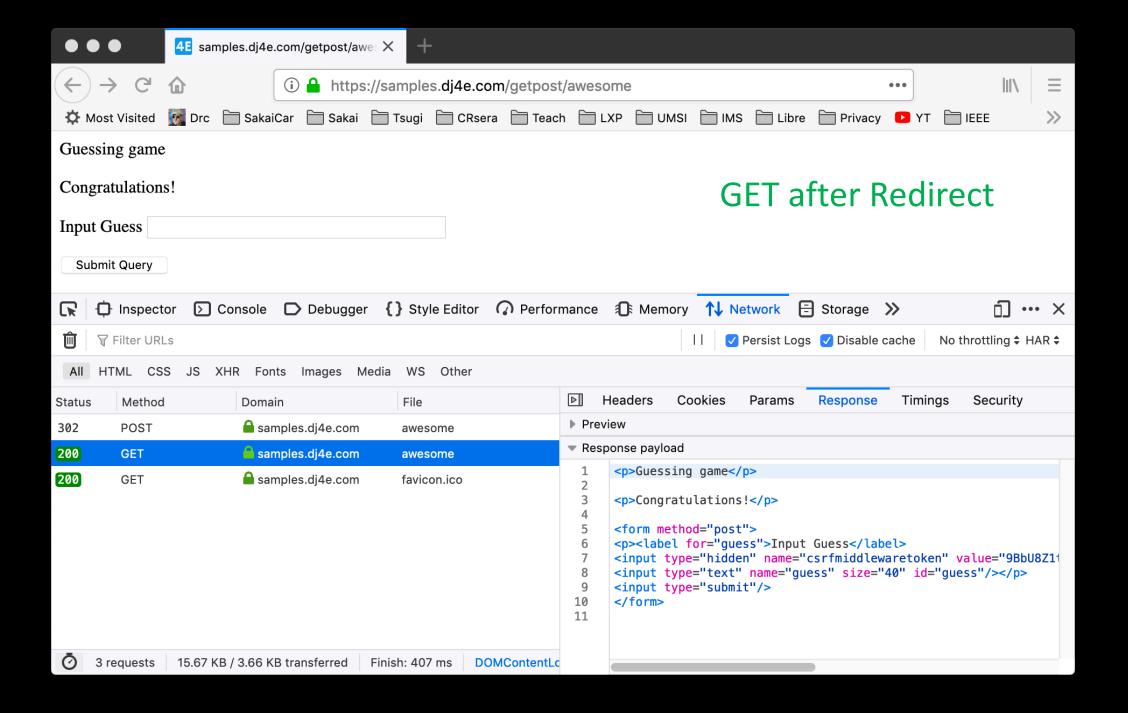
<label for="guess">Input Guess</label>

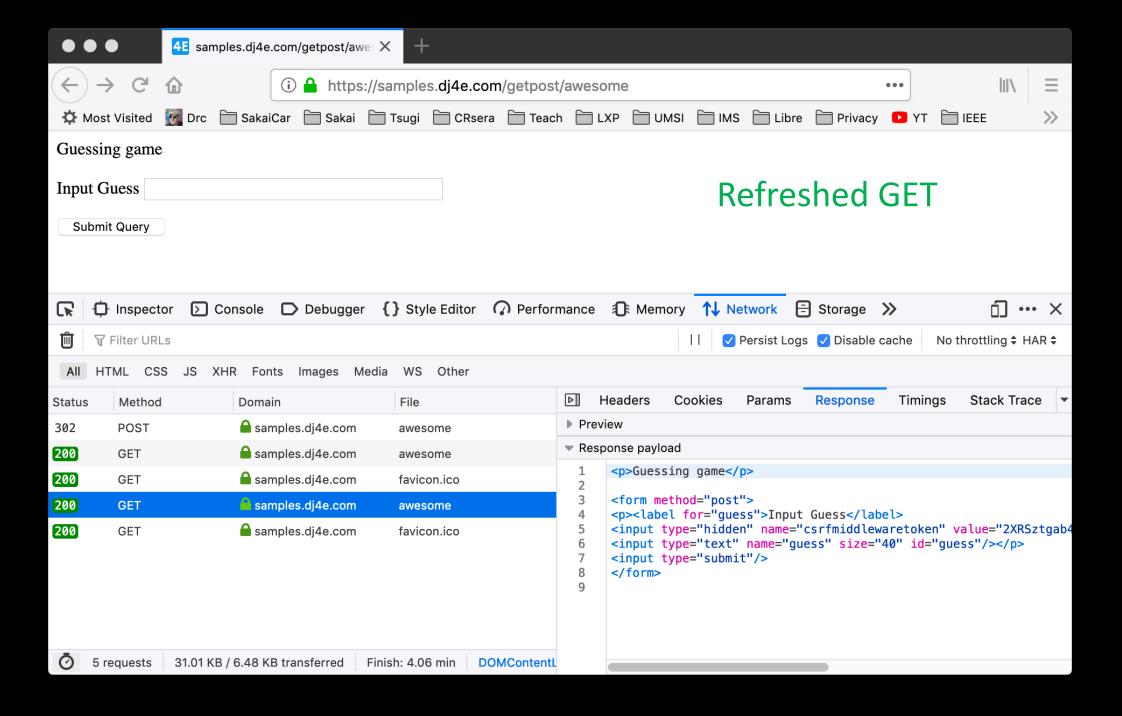
<input type="text" name="quess" size="40" id="quess"/>

https://samples.dj4e.com/getpost/awesome









The response to a POST must be a redirect

- Pass data to the GET "flash message pattern"
- Session can be used for flash messages

```
class AwesomeView(View) :
    def get(self, request):
        msg = request.session.get('msg', False)
        if ( msg ) : del(request.session['msg'])
        return render(request, 'getpost/guess.html', {'message' : msg })

def post(self, request):
    guess = request.POST.get('guess')
    msg = checkguess(guess)
    request.session['msg'] = msg
    return redirect(request.path)
```

Summary

- HTML for Forms
- GET versus POST
- CSRF
- POST Redirect GET

Acknowledgements / Contributions

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Initial Development: Charles Severance, University of Michigan School of Information

Insert new Contributors and Translators here including names and dates

Continue new Contributors and Translators here

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