**Cookies**

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A **cookie** is a tiny little file that’s stored on your computer. It contains the address of the web site and codes that your browser sends back to the web site each time you visit a page there. Cookies don’t usually contain personal information or anything dangerous; they’re usually innocuous and useful.

When you browse the web, the webserver needs to know who you are if you want to do things that require logging in or putting items in a virtual shopping cart or completing any other process that requires web site to remember information about you as you move from page to page. The most commonly used trick that allows web sites to keep track of what you’re doing is called setting cookies.

The **advantages** of cookies are:  
\* The cookies are simple to use & implement,  
\* They do not require any server resources,  
\* They are stored on the user’s computer, so, no extra burden on the server,  
\* They are light in size so they occupy less memory and you do not need to send back the data to the server.

The **disadvantages** of cookies are:  
\* The cookies are not secure as they are stored in a clear text, hence no sensitive information should be stored in cookies,  
\* They may pose to a possible security risk because anyone can open and tamper with the cookies.

**Q: What is Cookie?**  
A: Cookie provides a simple way to identify session among a group of HTTP/HTML requests. The cookie value is often an index into a table stored in the memory of a Web server that points to an in-memory object holding the user's records. This has many potential problems: If the user's request is routed to a different server in a subsequent request, the session information is unknown to the server.  
If the user is routed to a different server and the server is part of an application cluster, then all the [servers](https://lms.clarusway.com/mod/lesson/view.php?id=1015" \o "Servers) that could receive the user's request must have a way to synchronize the session data. Storing cookies and synchronizing sessions among clusters of server usually requires configuration, storage space, and memory.