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How to Create, Read, Update and Delete a Cookie with PHP or Javascript

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http is a **stateless protocol**. A way to remember information from page to page is to use **cookies**. According to **Wikipedia**:

> A cookie, also known as an HTTP cookie, web cookie, or browser cookie, is a small piece of data sent from a website and stored in a user's web browser while the user is browsing that website. Every time the user loads the website, the browser sends the cookie back to the server to notify the website of the user's previous activity. Cookies were designed to be a reliable mechanism for websites to remember stateful information (such as items in a shopping cart) or to record the user's browsing activity (including clicking particular buttons, logging in, or recording which pages were visited by the user as far back as months or years ago).

In this tutorial you will find information about creating and managing cookies with PHP or Javascript. **Demo** is available in each case.

Create cookies with PHP

(REMARK: for a visual way to display the following actions, see below "Manage cookies in various web browsers").

Create

Use **setcookie** to create a cookie with PHP. This cookie will

expire after 30 days. Using "/", cookie is available in all website (otherwise, select the directory you prefer).

```
1  $cookie_name = 'pontikis_net_php_cookie';
2  $cookie_value = 'test_cookie_set_with_php';
3  setcookie($cookie_name, $cookie_value, time() + (864
```

CLICK HERE FOR DEMO   It will set this cookie.

Read

Use **$_COOKIE** to retrieve a cookie with PHP. **Once the cookies have been set, they can be accessed on the next page load.**

```
1  $cookie_name = 'pontikis_net_php_cookie';
2  if(!isset($_COOKIE[$cookie_name])) {
3    print 'Cookie with name "' . $cookie_name . '" doe
4  } else {
5    print 'Cookie with name "' . $cookie_name . '" val
6  }
```

CLICK HERE FOR DEMO

Update

Actually, there is not a way to update a cookie. Just set (again) this cookie using **setcookie**.

```
1  $cookie_name = 'pontikis_net_php_cookie';
2  $cookie_value = 'test_cookie_updated_with_php';
3  setcookie($cookie_name, $cookie_value, time() + (864
```

CLICK HERE FOR DEMO   It will update this cookie value.

Delete

Actually, there is not a way to directly delete a cookie. Just use **setcookie** with expiration date in the past, to trigger the removal mechanism in your browser.

```
1  $cookie_name = 'pontikis_net_php_cookie';
```

```
2    unset($_COOKIE[$cookie_name]);
3    // empty value and expiration one hour before
4    $res = setcookie($cookie_name, '', time() - 3600);
```

CLICK HERE FOR DEMO   It will delete this cookie.

Create cookies with Javascript

(REMARK: for a visual way to display the following actions, see below "Manage cookies in various web browsers").

Create

Using **document.cookie** with following format:

```
1    document.cookie="name_here=value_here; expires=date_
```

You many use a function like this one:

```
1    /**
2     * Create cookie with javascript
3     *
4     * @param {string} name cookie name
5     * @param {string} value cookie value
6     * @param {int} days2expire
7     * @param {string} path
8     */
9    function create_cookie(name, value, days2expire, pa
10       var date = new Date();
11       date.setTime(date.getTime() + (days2expire * 24 *
12       var expires = date.toUTCString();
13       document.cookie = name + '=' + value + ';' +
14                     'expires=' + expires + ';' +
15                     'path=' + path + ';';
16    }
```

So, to create a cookie which will expire after 30 days:

```
1    var cookie_name = 'pontikis_net_js_cookie';
2    var cookie_value = 'test_cookie_created_with_javascr
3    create_cookie(cookie_name, cookie_value, 30, "/");
```

CLICK HERE FOR DEMO   It will set this cookie.

Read
```

*document.cookie* will return all cookies in one string as following: *cookie1=value; cookie2=value; cookie3=value;*. So to get the value of a cookie you have to parse this string.

You many use a function like this one:

```
/**
 * Retrieve cookie with javascript
 *
 * @param {string} name cookie name
 */
function retrieve_cookie(name) {
  var cookie_value = "",
    current_cookie = "",
    name_expr = name + "=",
    all_cookies = document.cookie.split(';'),
    n = all_cookies.length;

  for(var i = 0; i < n; i++) {
    current_cookie = all_cookies[i].trim();
    if(current_cookie.indexOf(name_expr) == 0) {
      cookie_value = current_cookie.substring(name_
      break;
    }
  }
  return cookie_value;
}
```

So, to retrieve a cookie with name "pontikis_net_js_cookie":

```
var cookie_name = 'pontikis_net_js_cookie';
var res = retrieve_cookie(cookie_name);
if(res) {
  alert('Cookie with name "' + cookie_name + '" valu
} else {
  alert('Cookie with name "' + cookie_name + '" does
}
```

CLICK HERE FOR DEMO

Update

Just, recreate cookie with new values:

```
var cookie_name = 'pontikis_net_js_cookie';
var cookie_name = 'test_cookie_updated_with_javascri
create_cookie(cookie_name, cookie_value, 60, "/");
```

CLICK HERE FOR DEMO   It will update this cookie.

Delete

Just give an expiration date in the past. Cookie value not
needed.

```
1   document.cookie = "pontikis_net_js_cookie=; expires=
```

You many use a function like this one:

```
1   /**
2    * Delete cookie with javascript
3    *
4    * @param {string} name cookie name
5    */
6   function delete_cookie(name) {
7     document.cookie = name + "=; expires=Thu, 01 Jan 1
8   }
```

So, to delete a cookie:

```
1   var cookie_name = 'pontikis_net_js_cookie';
2   delete_cookie(cookie_name);
```

CLICK HERE FOR DEMO   It will delete this cookie.

Create cookies with jQuery

There is a jQuery plugin available here
https://github.com/carhartl/jquery-cookie.

Manage cookies in various web browsers

REMARK: in the following screenshots, domain is appearing as
pontikis.net.lo. This is the local domain I use. If you try the above
demos, domain will appear as *pontikis.net*.

Google Chrome

Go to "Chrome Developer Tools" (Menu → Tools → Developer
Tools or press CTRL+SHIFT+I). Go to "Resources" tab and open

"Cookies" section

(click to enlarge)

Mozilla Firefox

Go to "Firefox Preferences" (Menu → Tools → Options on Windows or Menu → Edit → Preferences on Linux). Go to "Privacy" tab and press "Show Cookies"

here is the cookie

Another way is to install a Firefox plugin. A nice plugin is "View Cookies". Get it here:

View Cookies Firefox Add-on.

Go to "Page Info" (Menu → Tools → Page info) or just press "CTRL+I". A new tab ("Cookies") is present:

Internet Explorer

It is less convenient to view cookies in Microsoft Internet Explorer

Go to "Internet Options" (Menu → Internet Options). Go to first tab "General". Click "Settings" and then "View files"

Scroll down this list until you see the files labeled as cookies

There is also an utility available (IECookiesView) More **details here**.

Enable or disable cookies

Every user can disable browser cookies. But, keep in mind that **most websites will not work properly without cookies**.

Instructions for major browsers are available here:

- **Enable or disable cookies in Google Chrome**

- **Enable or disable cookies in Mozilla Firefox**

- **Enable or disable cookies in Internet Explorer**

Check if cookies are enabled

Check if cookies are enabled with PHP

Try to create a test cookie using **setcookie** and then count **$_COOKIE** array:

```
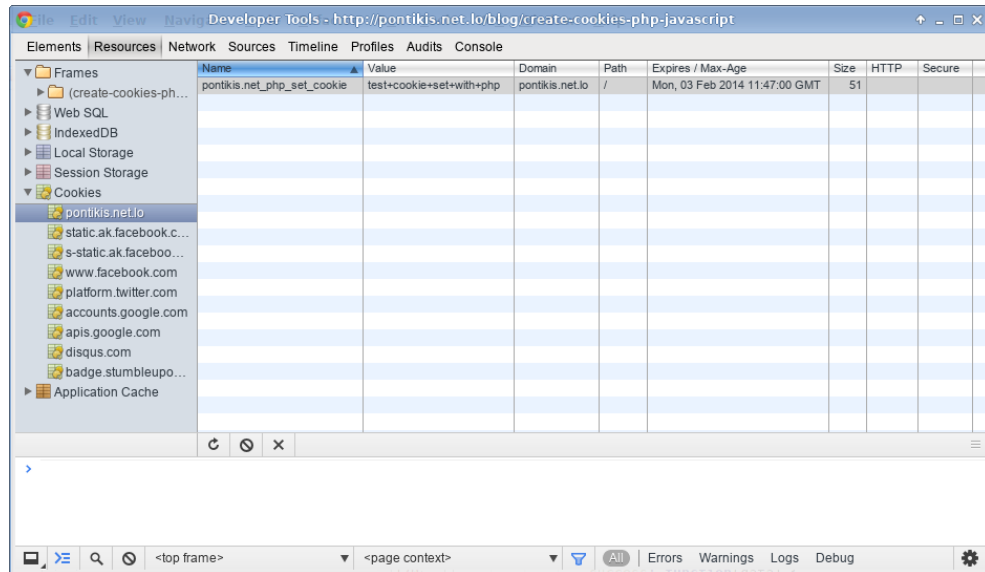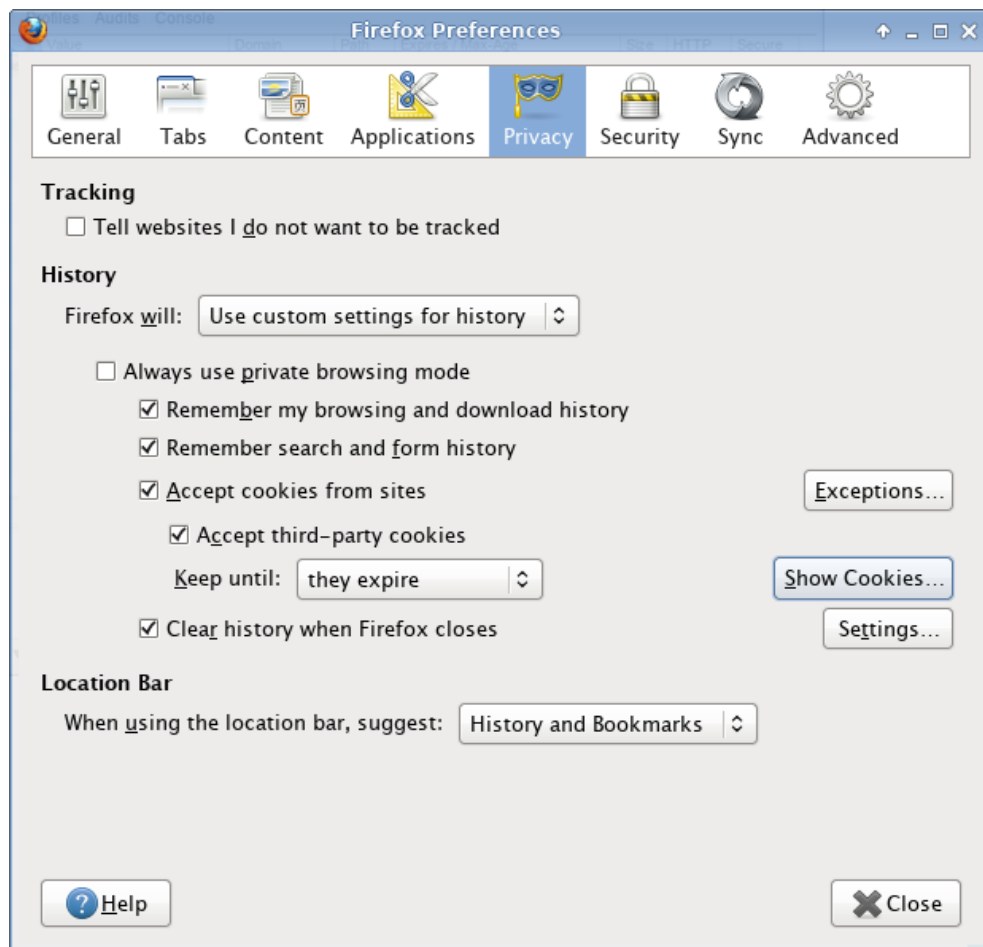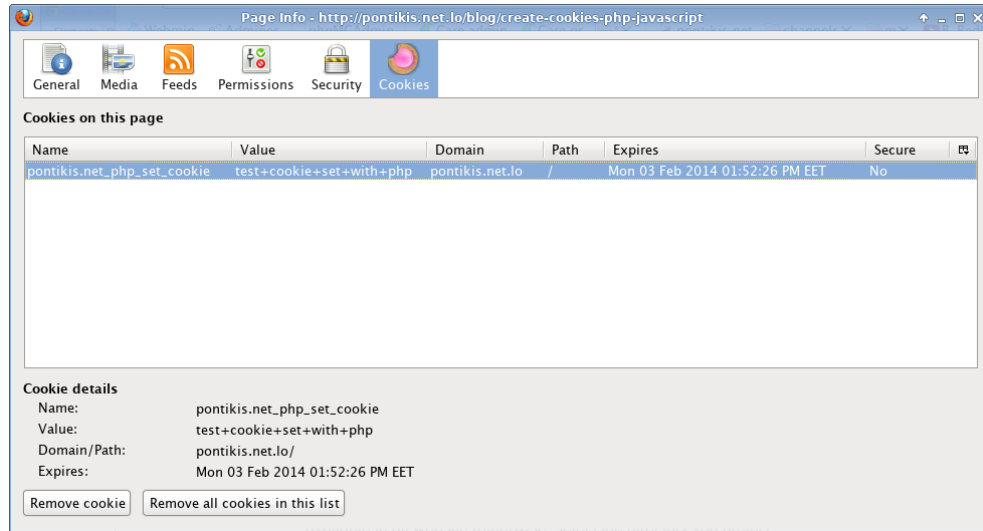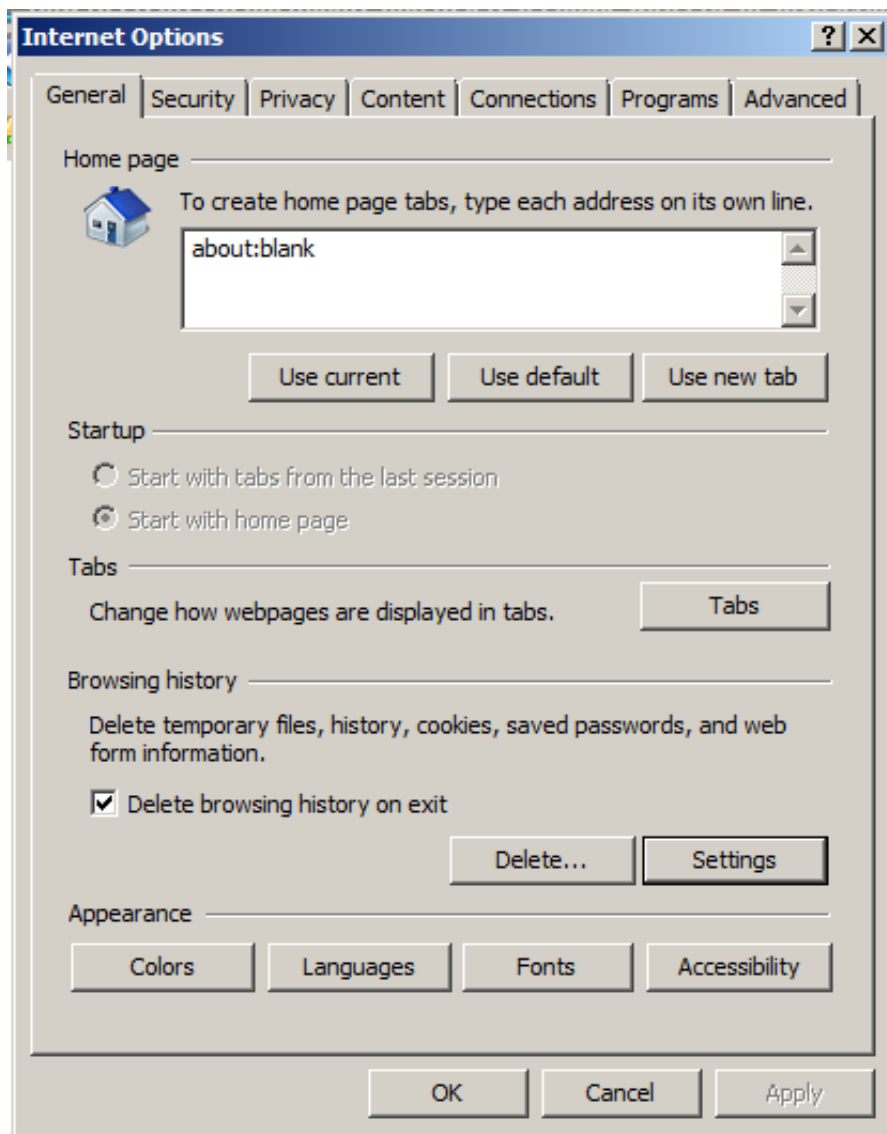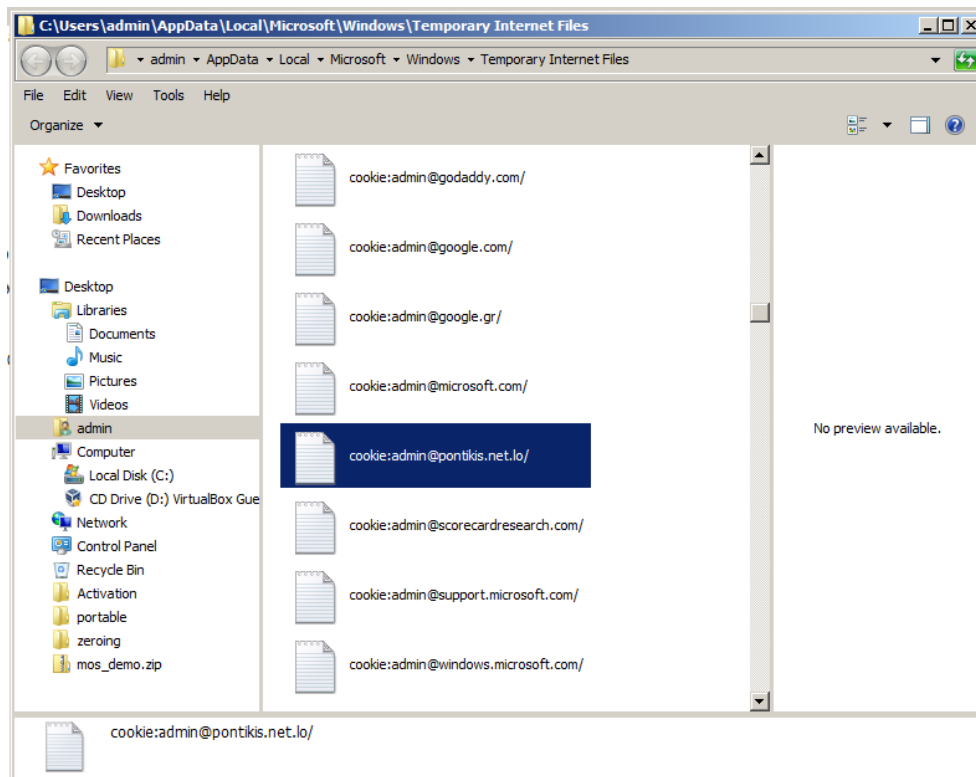1    setcookie('check_cookies_enabled', 'test', time() +
```

```
2  if(count($_COOKIE) > 0) {
3     print 'Cookies are enabled!';
4  } else {
5     print 'Cookies are disabled...';
6  }
```

CLICK HERE FOR DEMO

Check if cookies are enabled with Javascript

You can rely to **navigator.cookieEnabled**, as it supported from all major browsers:

```
1  if(navigator.cookieEnabled) {
2     alert('Cookies are enabled!');
3  } else {
4     alert('Cookies are disabled...');
5  }
```

CLICK HERE FOR DEMO

About the author

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Suraj Rai • 22 days ago

Thanks Christos Pontikis for your step by step explanation about Create, Update and Delete a Cookie. The best part I liked is "Click here for demo".

⌃ | ⌄   •   Reply   •   Share ›

Stefan Salvatore • 2 months ago

Great tutorial about cookies

Great tutorial about cookies.
I like one thing about this blog very much, which is it's coding part.
Thanks for sharing the code..It will be a great help for a php developers.
Software Development Company

∧ | ∨ • Reply • Share ›

arete • 5 months ago

Hiii ,
Christos Pontikis

Thanks to share this content
PHP's possibly executing it for compatibility good reasons. This might range involving PHP variants.

The dot at the front means that the cookie should not just be assigned to the specified host name, but also to any sub-domains below that host name.

http://arete.in/webdevelopment...

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