

Lesson26

PHP Basics

Session

What is a session?

- A Session is a global PHP variable stored on the server
- Each session is assigned to a unique id which is used to retrieve stored values
- Whenever a session is created, a cookie containing the unique session id is stored on the user's computer and returned with every request to the server
- If cookies are not available, session can also be saved as GET parameter
- Session have the capacity to store relatively large data compared to cookies

Session

Managing sessions in PHP

- `session_start()` - creates/start the session
- `$_SESSION['name'] = 'John';` - creates session variable and put value in it
- `$_SESSION['name']` - read session variable
- `session_destroy()` - Clear all session variables
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Session

Where session is stored?

- By default sessions are stored on the server in temporary files, the location is set in php.ini file (session.save_path) - in serialized form
- Can be stored in different places - in database, key/value cache storage as redis/memcached , etc.
- Self study: <https://www.php.net/manual/en/book.session.php>

Session vs Cookie

- Cookie are client based, Session - are server based
- Expiration on cookie can be set individually for each cookie, in session expiration can be set on whole session from `php.ini` configuration file or using function `session_set_cookie_params()`. By default php session last around 30min

Working with files

Useful functions

- `file_exists("file.txt")` - check if file or directory exist
- `is_file("file.txt")` - check if file exist and its actually a file (not folder)
- `is_dir("path\to\dir\")` - check if directory(folder) exist
- `filesize("file.txt")` - show size of file in bytes
- `is_readable("file.txt")` - file is readable *
- `is_writable("file.txt")` - file is writable *
- `is_executable("file.exe")` - file can be executed *

Files permissions

- **Read (r)**- this permission give you the authority to open and read a file. Read permission on a directory gives you the ability to lists its content.
- **Write (w)**- the write permission gives you the authority to modify the contents of a file.
- **Execute (Windows)** - an executable program usually has an extension ".exe" and which you can easily run.
- **Execute (Unix/Linux) (x)**- you cannot run a program unless the execute permission is set. If the execute permission is not set, you might still be able to see/modify the program code(provided read & write permissions are set), but not run it.

FILE I/O

Creating and reading files in php

- `file_put_contents($filename, $string, $options...)` - write data to a file (if file doesn't exist, the file is created)
- `file_get_contents($filename, $options...)` - get data from file into the string
- `parse_ini_file($filename)` - get data from file into the string
- `"\n"` - New line symbol
- `unlink($filename)` - removes(delete) file