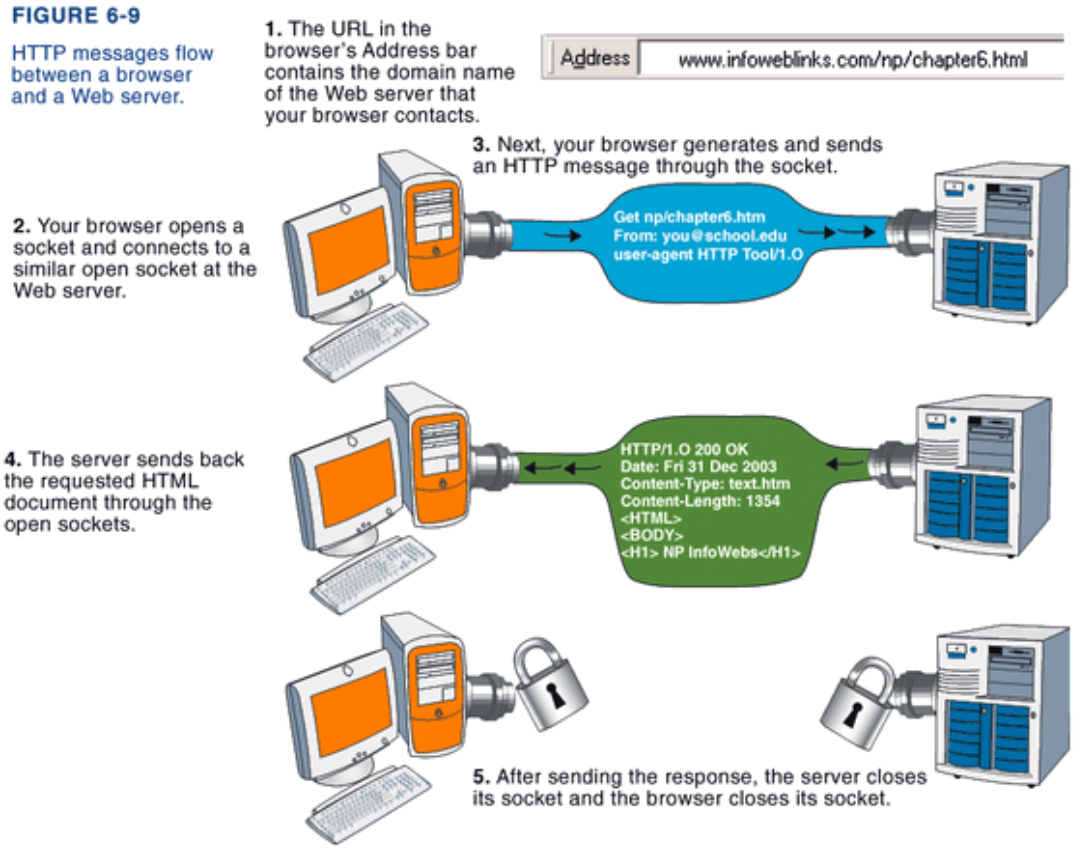
Chapter 10.
Maintaining state through multiple forms

HTTP – stateless protocol

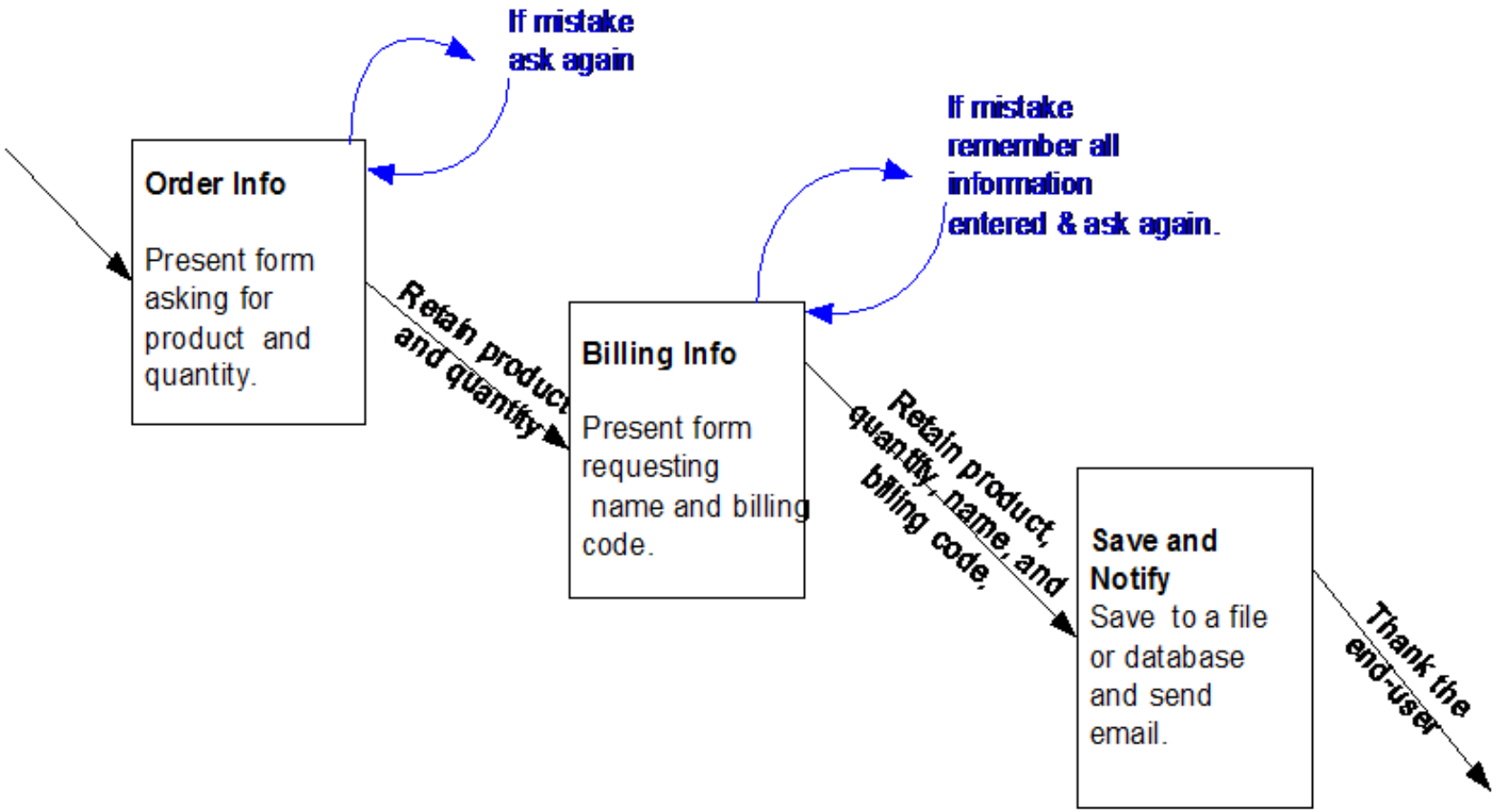
HTTP is a **stateless protocol**
→Once a web server completes a client's request for a web page, the connection between the two goes away.
→There is no way for a server to recognize that a sequence of requests all originate from the same client.



What Are Multiple-Form Web Sessions?

- A multiple-form Web session leads the user through a series of HTML forms that work together and pass data from form to form.
- E.g.
  - To build a shopping cart or on-line survey.
  - To save user authentication information from page to page
  - To store persistent user preferences on a site

Example Multiple Screen Session



How to maintain the state through multiform?

- Use tricks to keep track of state information between requests (session tracking)
  - Using hidden form fields
  - URL rewriting: every local URL on which the user might click is dynamically modified to include extra information
    - http://www.example.com/catalog.php?userid=123
  - Using cookies: a bit of information that the server give to a client → depends on the client
  - Using session

Content

1. Hidden fields
2. User browser cookies
3. PHP session

1. Hidden fields

- Hidden fields are part of HTML forms
  - Not displayed but value can be accessed in receiving script like any other variable.

```
<input type="hidden" name="preference" value="Likes Power Tools">
```

Variable name that will be available to your PHP program

Variable's value in the PHP program

A Full Script Example

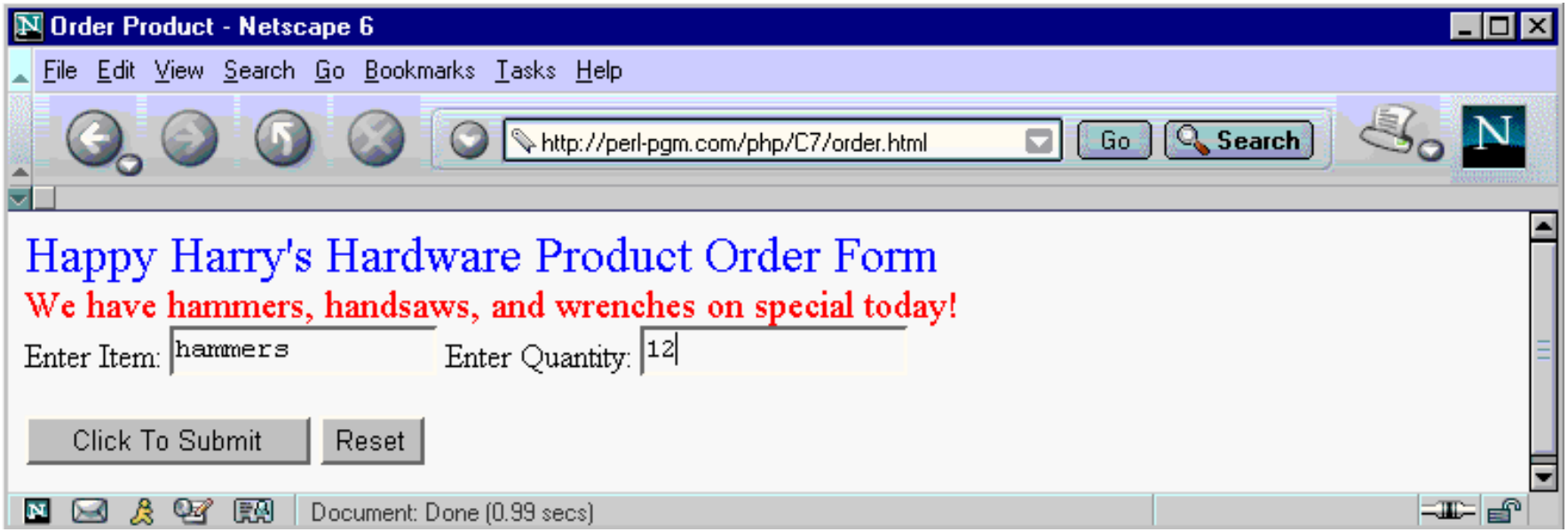
- Consider an example script sets a hidden field
  - Implements the Order Info form
  - on submit sends data to order2.php

PHP Script – order.html

```
1. <html><head><title>Order Product</title></head><body>
2. <form action="order2.php" method="post">
3. <h1> Hardware Product Order Form</h1>
4. <br><p class="highlight">
5. We have hammers, handsaws, and wrenches on special
   today!
6. </p>
7. <input type="hidden" name="sample_hidden"
   value="Welcome!">
8. <br>Enter Item: <input text type="text" size="15"
   maxlength="20" name="product">
9. Enter Quantity: <input text type="text" size="15"
   maxlength="20" name="quantity"><br>
10. <br><input type="submit" value="Click To Submit">
11. <input type = "reset" value="Reset">
12. </form></body></html>
```

The Output ...

The previous code can be executed at
http://webwizard.aw.com/~phppgm/C7/order.html



Receiving Hidden Fields in Web Sessions

- Your scripts can receive data from hidden fields like any other data.
  - Suppose the following is stored at: order2.php

```
1. <html><head><title> Order Product 2 </title> </head>
2. <body>
3. <form action="order3.php" method="post">
4. <?php $sample_hidden = $_POST["sample_hidden"];
5. $product = $_POST["product"];  $quantity =
   $_POST["quantity"];
6. print "<p class="highlight">";
7. print "Hidden value=$sample_hidden </p><br>";
8. print "You selected product=$product and
   quantity=$quantity";
```

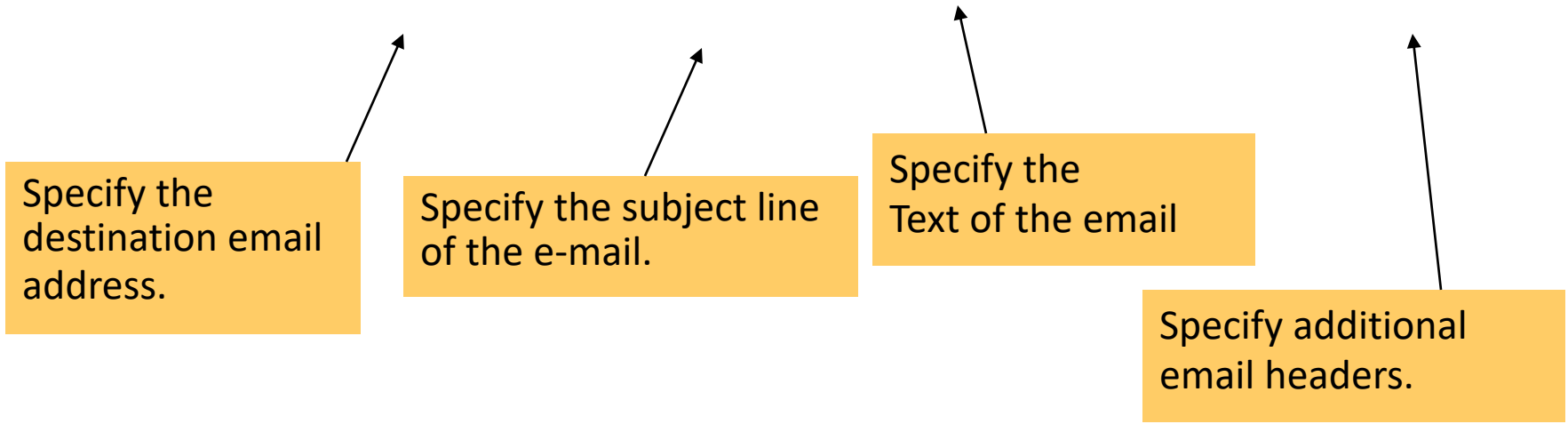
Receiving PHP Script

```
9. print "<br><br><input type=\"hidden\" name=\"product\"
  value=\"$product\"> ";

10. print "<input type=\"hidden\" name=\"quantity\"
  value=\"$quantity\">";

11. print "<input type=\"hidden\"
  name=\"sample_hidden\"value=\"$sample_hidden\">";

12. print 'Please enter your name:';

13. print '<input type="text" size="15" maxlength="20"
  name="name">';

14. print ' and billing code: (5 digits)';

15. print '<input type="text" size="5" maxlength="5"

name="code">';

16. print '<br> <input type=submit value="Process Order">';

17. print '<input type=reset>';

18. ?></form></body></html>
```

Sending email from PHP scripts

- Sometimes it is useful to send email from a PHP script:
  - PHP uses mail() that by default sends e-mail via the Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP).

```
mail(to_address, subject, message, extra_headers);
```



Consider the following example …

```
1. $dest='orders@hardwareville.com';
2. $subject = 'New Hardware Order';
3. $message = 'Enclosed is a new order for 12
   hammers.\n Thanks.';
4. $extra = 'From: harry@hardwareville.com';
5. mail( $dest, $subject, $message, $extra );
```

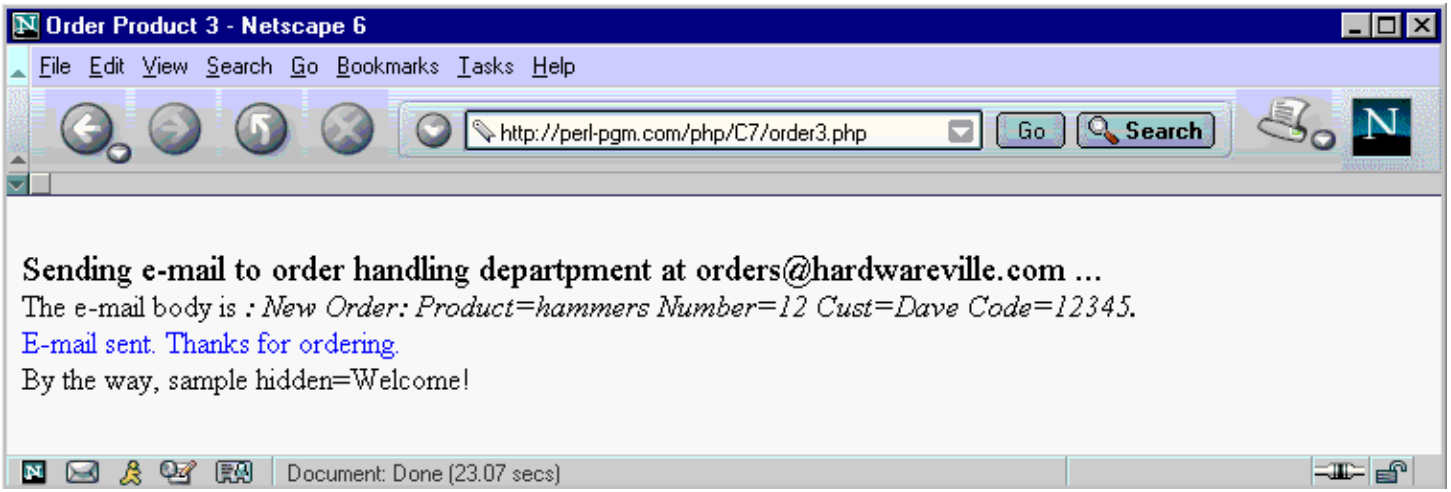
Consider the following full example …

- Implements save and notify
- Called from order2.php and saved at order3.php
- Can access variables $product, $quantity, and $sample_hidden sent as hidden fields from the Billing Info form.

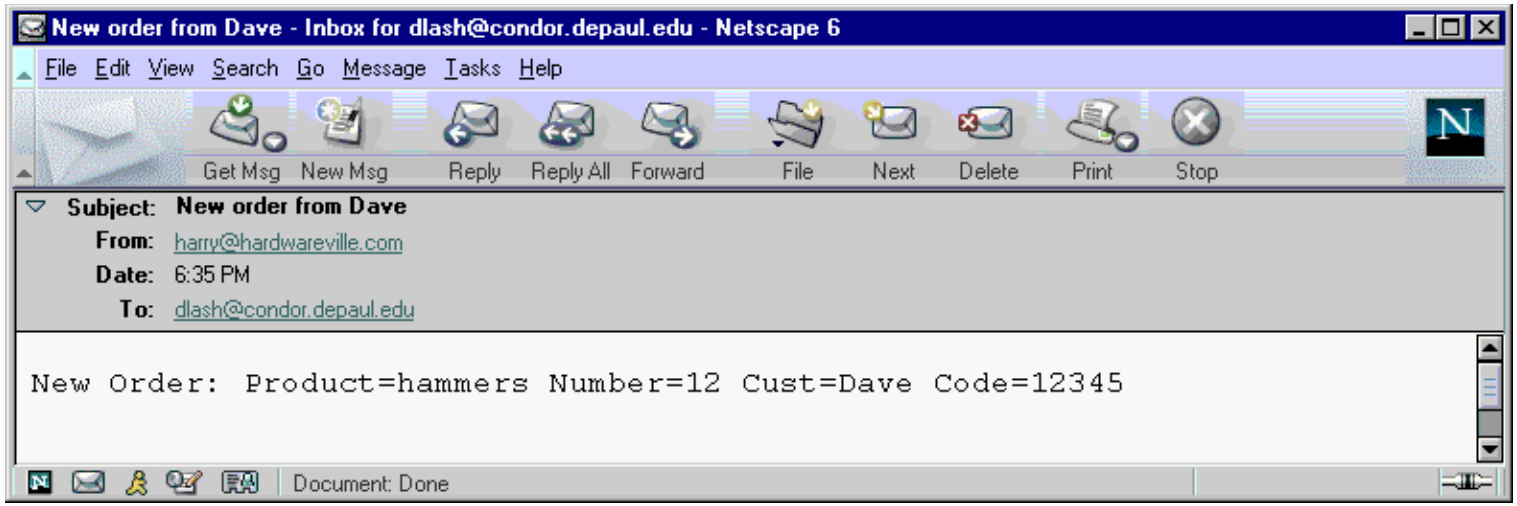
The following PHP Script …

```
1. <html><head><title>Order Product 3</title> </head><body>
2. <?php
3. $sample_hidden = $_POST["sample_hidden"];  quantity=$_POST["$quantity"];
4. $product = $_POST["product"]; $name=$_POST["name"];
5. $email='orders@hardwareville.com';
6. $body = "New Order: Product=$product Number=$quantity Cust=$name
   Code=$code";
7. print '<font size=4>';
8. print "<br>Sending e-mail to order handling department at $email ...
   </font>";
9. print "<br>The e-mail body is <i>: $body. </i>";
10. $from = 'harry@hardwareville.com';
11. $subject = "New order from $name";
12. mail($email, $subject, $body, "From: $from");
13. print '<br><font color="blue"> E-mail sent. Thanks for ordering. </font>';
14. print "<br>By the way, sample hidden=$sample_hidden";
15. ?></body></html>
```

Would have the following output …



Would have the following output …



Content

1. Hidden fields
2. User browser cookies
3. PHP session

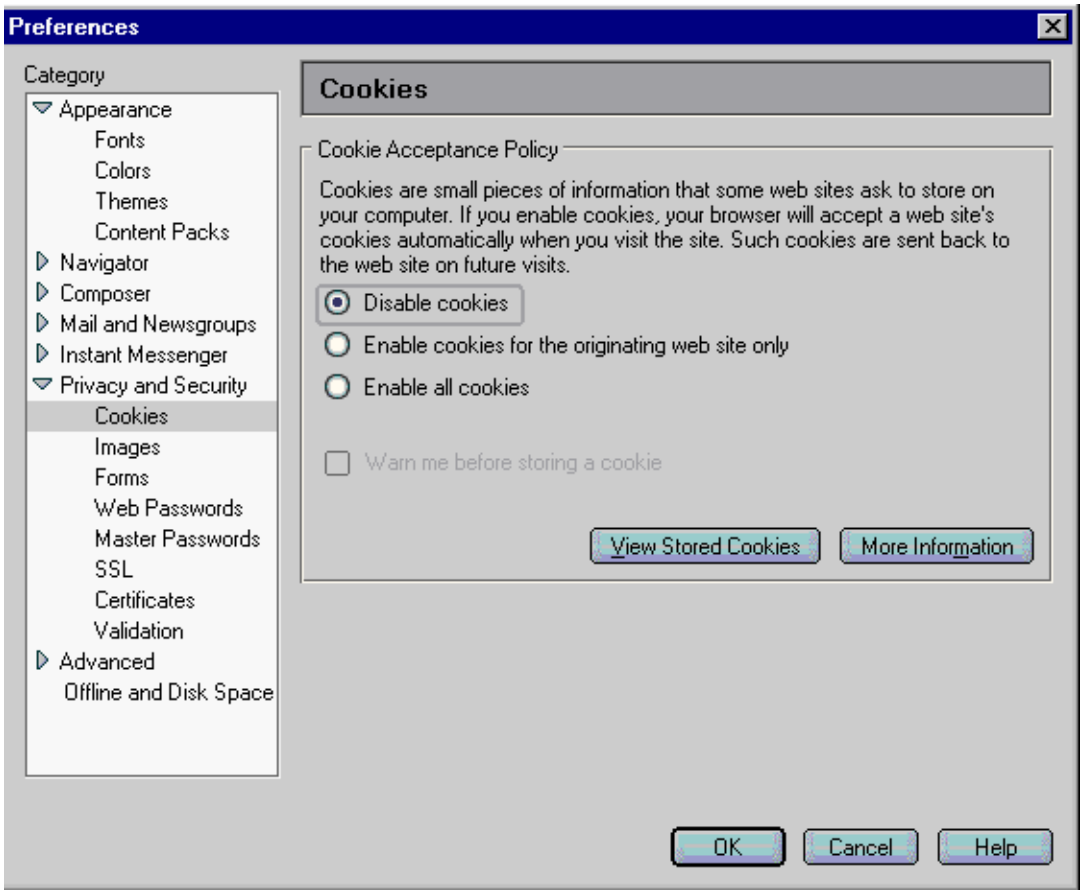
Using Browser Cookies …

- Cookies are small pieces of data that a Web application can save when a user visits the Web page.
  - Stored on the visitor's hard drive
  - a Web page script can read the previously stored browser cookie data

Understanding Cookie Limitations

- Users can easily disable the cookies feature.
- People move around.
- Users may delete cookies.
- PHP sets limit on cookies

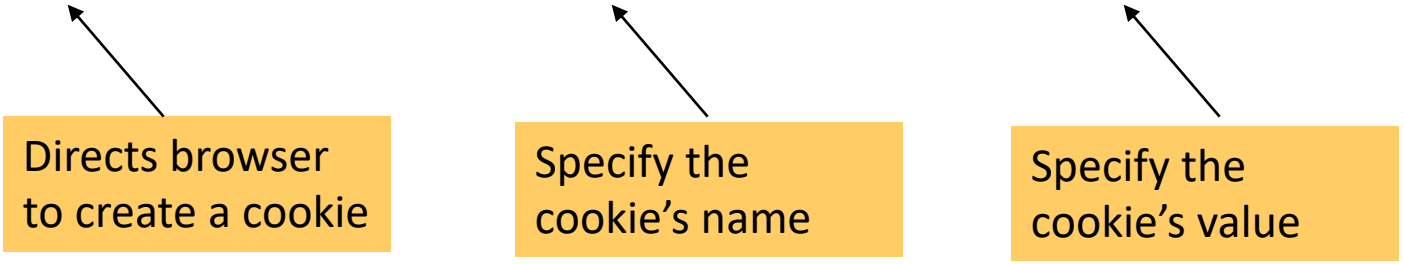
The disable cookie screen in Netscape



Setting and Reading Cookies

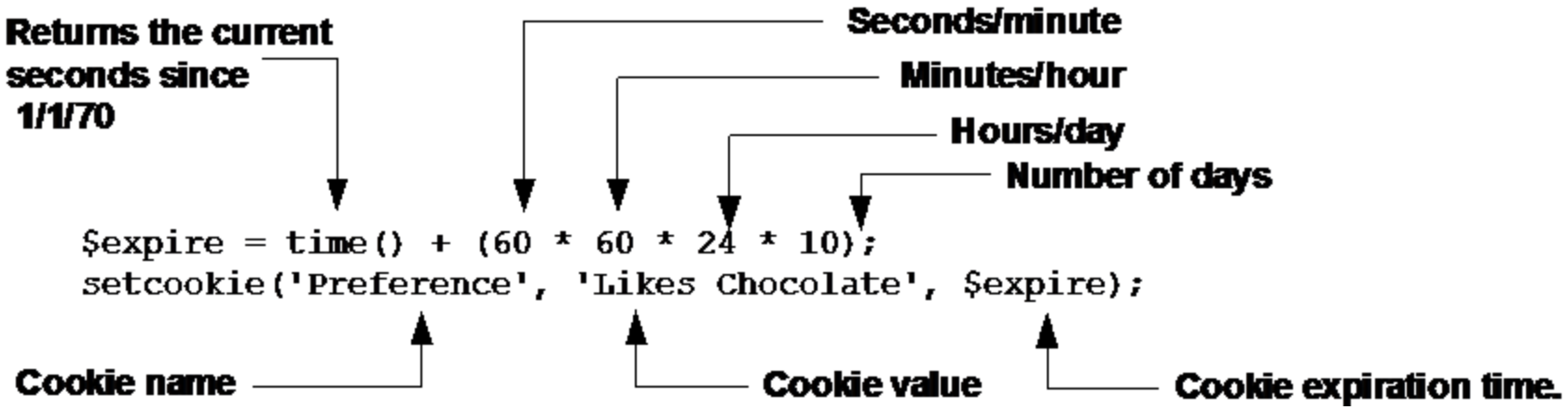
- Cookies can be set in memory or on hard disk
  - Set on hard disk are deleted when browser closes
  - Can use the setcookie() script

```
setcookie('Customer_name', 'Denise');
```



Setting A Cookie on a Hard Drive

- You need to use the time() function when want to set a cookie on a hard drive.



A full example of setting a cookie….

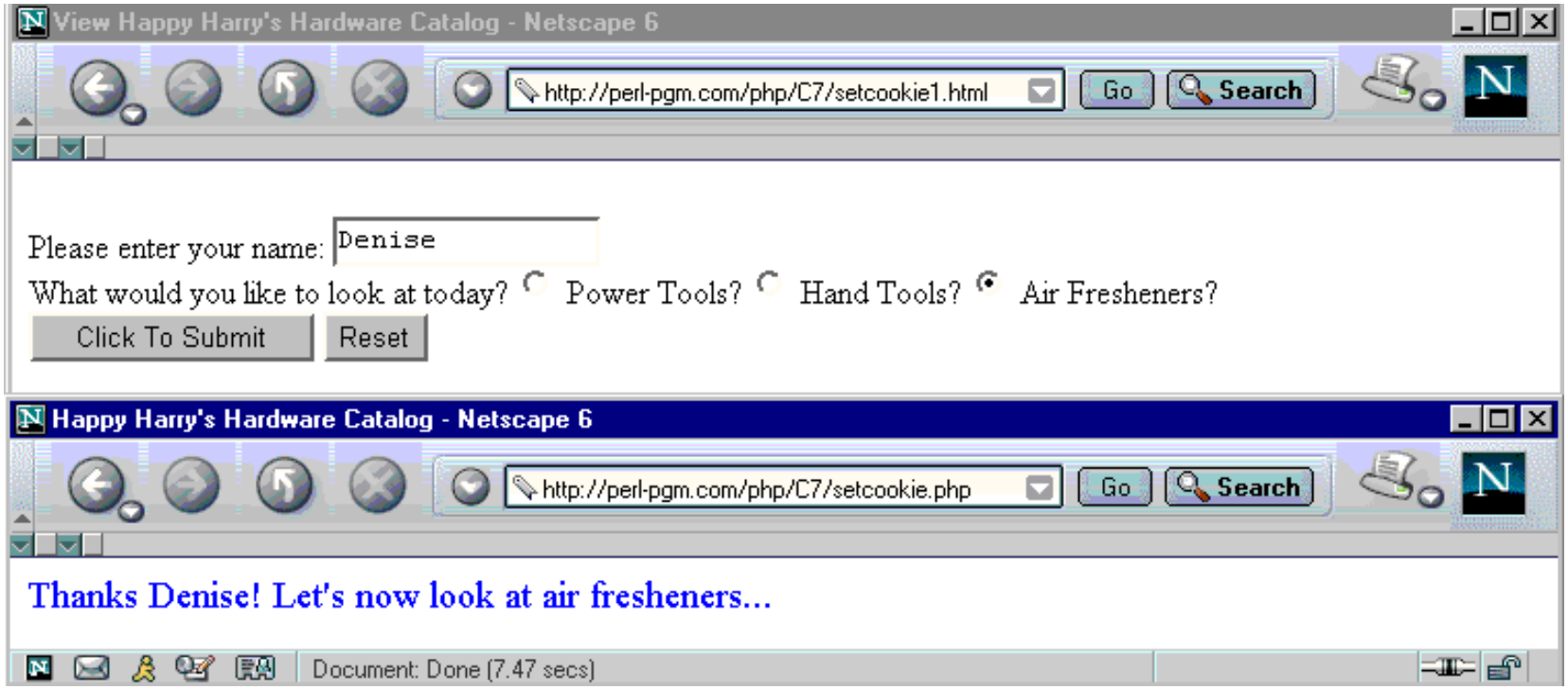
- Suppose a front-end web page asks for some survey information:

```
<input type="text" size="15" maxlength="20"
  name="custname">
<input type="radio" name="prefers" value="power tools"
checked > Power Tools?
<input type="radio" name="prefers"
value="hand tools"> Hand Tools?
<input type="radio" name="prefers" value="air
 fresheners"> Air Fresheners?
```

The following script runs when submitted – setcookie.php

```
1. <?php $prefers = $_POST[“prefers”];
   $expire=$_POST[“expire”];
   $custname=$_POST[“custname”];
2.    $expire = time() + (60 * 60 * 24 * 30);
3.    setcookie("name", $custname, $expire);
4.    setcookie("preference", $prefers, $expire);
5.  ?>
6.  <html>
7.  <head><title>Happy Harry's Hardware Catalog
   </title></head>
8.  <body><font size=4 color="blue">
9.  <?php
10.    print "Thanks $custname! “;
11.    print “Let’s now look at $prefers... ";
12.?> </font></body></html>
```

Would output:



Reading Cookies

- You can read a cookie by using a variable name with the same name as a cookie:
  - print “$cust_name”;

Reading Cookies with REGISTER_GLOBALS Off

- To read a cookie value use the $_COOKIE[] associative array to get the cookie function
- $cust_name= $_COOKIE[“cust_name”];

Example Script that read a cookie

```
1.<html>
2.<head><title>Happy Harry's Hardware Catalog</title>
3.</head><body>
4. <?php $name = $_COOKIE["name"];
         $preference = $_COOKIE["preference"];
5.  print '<font color="blue" size=4>';
6.  if (isset($name)){
7.    print "Welcome back to our humble hardware site, $name.";
8.  } else {
9.    print '<font color="red">';
10.   print 'Welcome to our humble hardware site.</font>';
11.  }
12.  if ($preference == 'hand tools'){
13.     print '<br> We have hammers on sale for 5 dollars!';
14.  } elseif ($preference == 'power tools'){
15.     print '<br> We have power drills on sale for 25 dollars!';
16.  } elseif ( $preference == 'air fresheners'){
17.     print '<br> We now carry extra-strength air fresheners!';
18.  } else {
19.     print '<br> <font color="red">';
20.     print 'We have drills and hammers on special today!';
21.}
22.  ?></font></html>
```

Content

1. Hidden fields
2. User browser cookies
3. PHP session

PHP Sessions

- PHP supports two functions that enable you to retain data between forms
  - **`session_start()`** – either starts a new session or resumes one if a session exists
    - Run at the start of every script
    - By default creates a unique session ID stored as a cookie
  - **`session_register()`** – registers one or more variables as session variables

```
$name = 'Matthew';
$preference = 'Soccer Equipment';
session_register('name', 'preference');
```

Example PHP Code

```
1.  <?php session_start(); ?>
2.  <html><head><title>Order Product</title>
3.  </head><body>
4.  <form action="sessions2order.php" method="post">
5.  <font color=blue size=5> Hardware Product Order Form
    </font>
6.  <br> We have hammers, handsaws, and wrenches.
7.  <br>Enter Item: <input text type="text" size="15"
    maxlength="20" name="product">
8.  Enter Quantity: <input text type="text" size="15"
    maxlength="20" name="quantity"><br>
9.  <?php
10.     $sample_hidden='Welcome Again!';
11.     session_register('sample_hidden');
12. ?>
13. <br><input type="submit" value="Click To Submit">
14. <input type = "reset" value = "Reset" >
15. K/form></body></html>
```

Since PHP 5.4

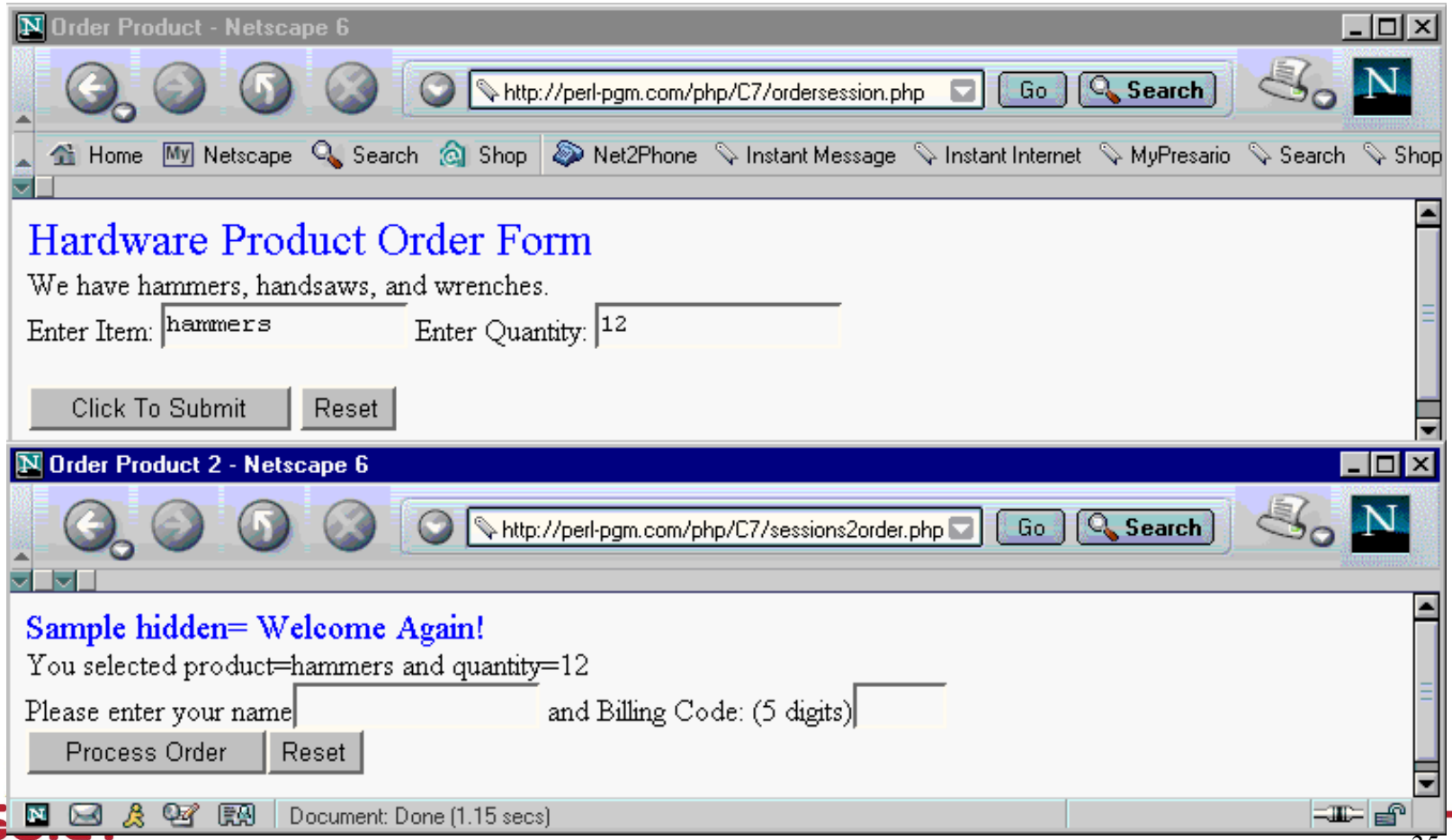
$_SESSION['sample_hidden ']=$sample_hidden;

Use the following script to read the session data - sessions2order.php

```
1.  <?php session_start() ?>
2.  <html><head><title> Order Product 2 </title> </head>
3.  <body>
4.  <form action="sessions3order.php" method="post">
5.  <?php $sample_hidden = $_SESSION['sample_hidden'];
6.    print "<h1> Sample hidden= $sample_hidden</h1>";
7.    print "<br>You selected product=$product and
                                    quantity=$quantity";
8.    session_register('product');   session_register('quantity');
9.    print '<br>Please enter your name';
10.  print '<input text type="text" size="15" maxlength="20"
                                    name="name">';
11.  print ' and Billing Code: (5 digits)';
12.  print '<input text type="text" size="5" maxlength="5"
                                name="code">';
13.  print '<br> <input type=submit value="Process Order">';
14.  print '<input type=reset>';
15.  print '</form></body></html>';
16. ?>
```

Example output

This script can be executed at:
http://webwizard.aw.com/~phppgm/C7/ordersession.php



Some session extras

- session_is_registered() - can be used to determine if a variable comes from a session:

```
if (session_is_registered('name')){
    print "got name=$name from session";
} else {
    print "name=$name not set from session";
}
```

PHP 5.4
if(isset($_SESSION[$name]))

Session Extras - $_SESSION

- Use $_SESSION Associative array when REGISTER_GLOBALS are off in php.ini
  - Do not need to use session_register()

```
session_start();
$_SESSION['sample_hidden'] = 'Welcome!';
```

Summary

- Hidden fields are HTML form fields you can use to set a variable name and variable value without displaying them on a form.
- Cookies provide a way for Web server applications to store small pieces of data on the user's hard disk.
- PHP session functions provide a convenient way to retain data between PHP scripts.
  - Use `session_start()` and `session_register()` functions to start sessions and define session variables, respectively

Question?