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| Course Name | ITD 3243 – Server Side Programming |
| Instructor | Mark L. Pranger |
| Student Name | Sharyl Hammer |
| Due date | March 15, 2018 |
| Grade | 100 |
| Grading Comments | <instructor comments here> |

The topic of cookies on a person's PC has been around since cookies started being used. They have received some majorly bad press and rightly so for some reasons. They are an instrument of web commerce.

In this discussion, you are to research the topic of Cookies and Sessions and provide an informed opinion about their use and abuse. Discuss their use in business. Identify proper ways if any that they can be used and identify ways in which they are abused. Discuss the steps users can take to protect themselves.

There are a lot of viewpoints on the various topics. Remember to respond meaningfully to postings of at least 2 other students.

Cookies are a text string which consists of a name and a value pair. Since a cookie is only a plain text string it cannot directly modify a user’s computer, create pop-up ads, generate spam or steal files. The uses of cookies are to allow users to skip login and registration forms, to have pages customized to display information on the internet that targets the user’s interest and to focus advertising on the internet to the user’s interests.

I feel cookies have gotten a bad reputation due to the third-party cookies which are sent from advertisers not from websites. The advertisers use cookies to gather information from the user and promote advertisements to the user and can possibly sell information to companies about the user.

How much information about a user is private? The information that can be gathered from a user is up to the user. The information acquired from cookies in the beginning was stored in the user’s computer without his or her consent or knowledge. The information from the cookie was transmitted to the website without the user’s knowledge. The browser upgrades have allowed the user to oversee the browser activity and place restrictions on cookies within their browser settings. The user can be alerted when a he or she is being offered a cookie but the formatting of the information of the cookie offers to the user very little about what is being stored. Some users feel that cookies have a cryptic nature and it is not always clear where the cookie is coming from when the user is alerted.