

PHP Session and Cookie

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Course Title: WEB TECHNOLOGIES



Dept. of Computer Science
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Lecture Outline



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- 2. What is a Cookie?**
 - I. Example of cookie**
 - II. Delete a Cookie**
- 3. PHP Session**
 - I. Example of session**
 - II. Uses of session**
- 4. Books and References**

Learning outcome



- In this lecture, we will learn temporary storage like Session & Cookie and their usage using PHP.

What is a Cookie?



- A cookie is often used to identify a user. A cookie is a small file that the server embeds on the user's computer.
- Each time the same computer requests a page with a browser, it will send the cookie too.
- With PHP, you can both create and retrieve cookie values.
- **setcookie(*name, value, expire, path, domain, secure, httponly*);**
- **Note:** The setcookie() function must appear BEFORE the <html> tag.

Example of Cookie

```
<?php
$cookie_name = "user";
$cookie_value = "Alex Porter";
setcookie($cookie_name, $cookie_value, time() + (86400 * 30), "/");
?>
<html>
<body>
<?php
if(!isset($_COOKIE[$cookie_name])) {
    echo "Cookie named '" . $cookie_name . "' is not set!";
} else {
    echo "Cookie '" . $cookie_name . "' is set!<br>";
    echo "Value is: " . $_COOKIE[$cookie_name];
}
?>
</body>
</html>
```



Delete a Cookie

```
<?php
// set the expiration date to one hour ago
setcookie("user", "", time() - 3600);
?>
```

Check if Cookies are Enabled

```
<?php
if(count($_COOKIE) > 0) {
    echo "Cookies are enabled.";
} else {
    echo "Cookies are disabled.";
}
?>
```

PHP Session



- A session is a way to store information (in variables) to be used across multiple pages.
- Unlike a cookie, the information is not stored on the users computer.
- Session variables hold information about one single user, and are available to all pages in one application.
- A session is started with the `session_start()` function.
- Session variables are set with the PHP global variable: `$_SESSION`.
- The `session_start()` function must be the very first thing in your document. Before any HTML tags.

Example of session

```
<?php
session_start();
?>
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>
<?php
// to change a session variable, just overwrite it
$_SESSION["favcolor"] = "yellow";
print_r($_SESSION);
?>
</body>
</html>
```

To remove or destroy session.

```
<?php
// remove all session variables
session_unset();
?>
```


Uses of session



- PHP Login Form with Sessions
- Creating a multi-page registration form using PHP and session.
- Creating a multi-page order form using PHP and Sessions.
- More details, we will see in the lab class.



Uses of session

1 2 3

ACCOUNT SETUP SOCIAL PROFILES PERSONAL DETAILS

CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT

This is step 1

Email

Password

Confirm Password

Next



Uses of session

33%

Step 1: Create your account

Email address

Password

Next



Books

- W3Schools Online Web Tutorials; URL: <http://www.w3schools.com>
- PHP Documentation; URL: <http://www.php.net/docs.php>
- Sams Teach Yourself Ajax JavaScript and PHP All in One; Phil Ballard and Michael Moncur; Sams Publishing; 2010
- JavaScript Phrasebook; Christian Wenz; Sams Publishing; 2007
- PHP and MySQL Web Development, 4/E; Luke Welling and Laura Thomson; Addison-Wesley Professional; 2009
- JavaScript for Programmers Paul J. Deitel and Harvey M. Deitel; Prentice Hall; 2009
- Beginning PHP5, Apache, and MySQL Web Development; Elizabeth Naramore, Jason Gerner, Yann Le Scouarnec, Jeremy Stolz and Michael K. Glass; Wiley Publishing; 2005
- XML in a Nutshell, 3/E; Elliotte Rusty Harold and W. Scott Means; O'Reilly Media; 2004



References

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2. <https://html.form.guide/php-form/php-order-form.html>
3. https://www.tutorialspoint.com/php/php_login_example.htm
4. <https://codewithawa.com/posts/admin-and-user-login-in-php-and-mysql-database>