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How to Manage Cookies in JavaScript?

Quick & Easy Guide for Beginners!

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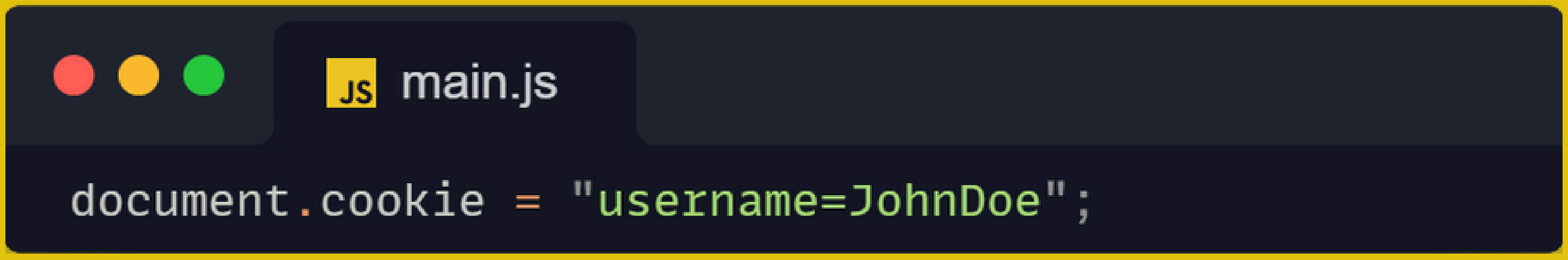
What is cookies ?

Cookies are small pieces of data stored in a user's browser to remember information, like login status or preferences, between visits. Here’s a guide to working with cookies in JavaScript!

Why Use cookies?

- **Persist data:** Keep data like user preferences or session info across page loads
- **Track activity:** Understand user behavior to enhance experience.
- **Remember sessions:** Enable users to stay logged in.

Creating cookies



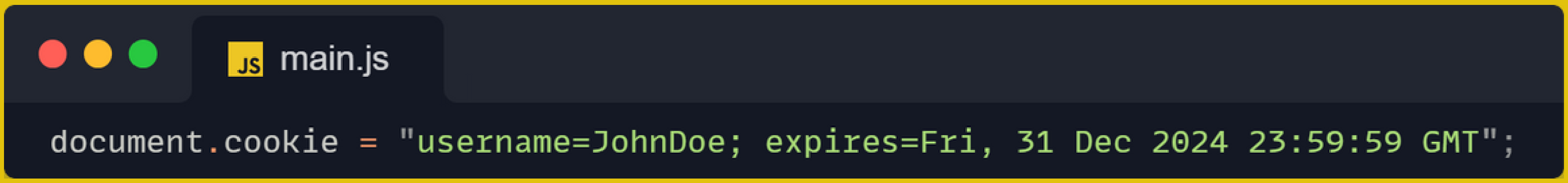
```
document.cookie = "username=JohnDoe";
```

Note:
- Sets a cookie with a key of username and a value of JohnDoe.
- Default expires when the session ends (when the browser is closed).

Setting a Cookie with Expiration

Cookies can have expiration times using either the **expires** attribute (a fixed date) or **max-age** (duration in seconds).

1. expires: Sets a specific expiration date for the cookie.

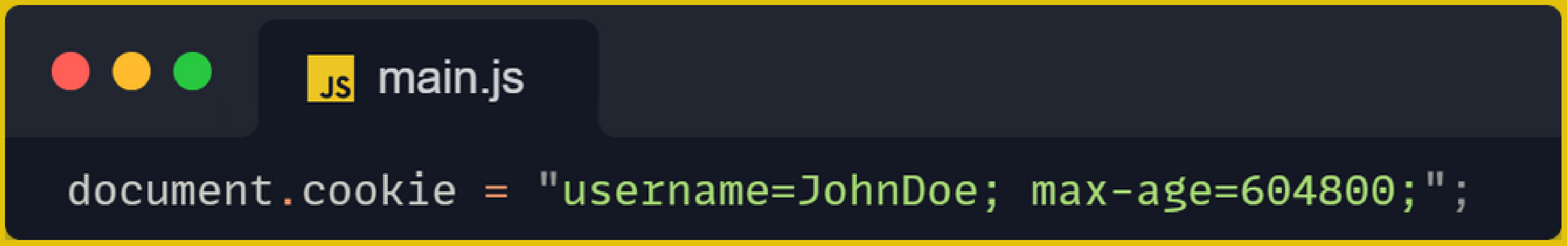


```
document.cookie = "username=JohnDoe; expires=Fri, 31 Dec 2024 23:59:59 GMT";
```

Note:

- The expires attribute takes a date in UTC string format.

2. max-age: Sets the expiration time relative to when it's set (in seconds).



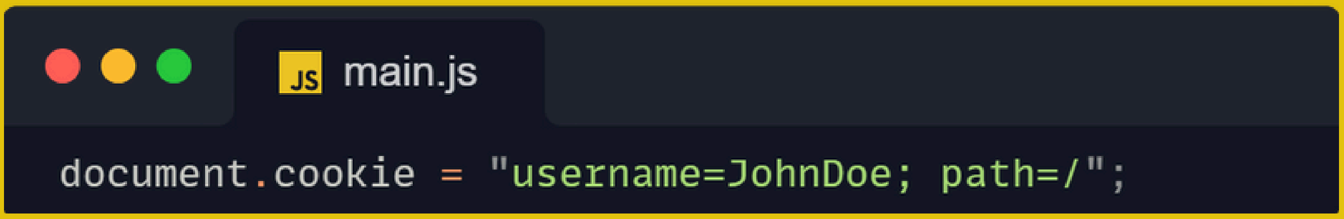
```
document.cookie = "username=JohnDoe; max-age=604800;";
```

Note:

- Expires in 7 days (604800 seconds)
- If neither **expires** nor **max-age** is set, the cookie will be a session cookie and will be deleted when the browser is closed.

Attributes for Cookies

1. path: Defines the scope of the cookie (i.e., the paths where it's accessible)..



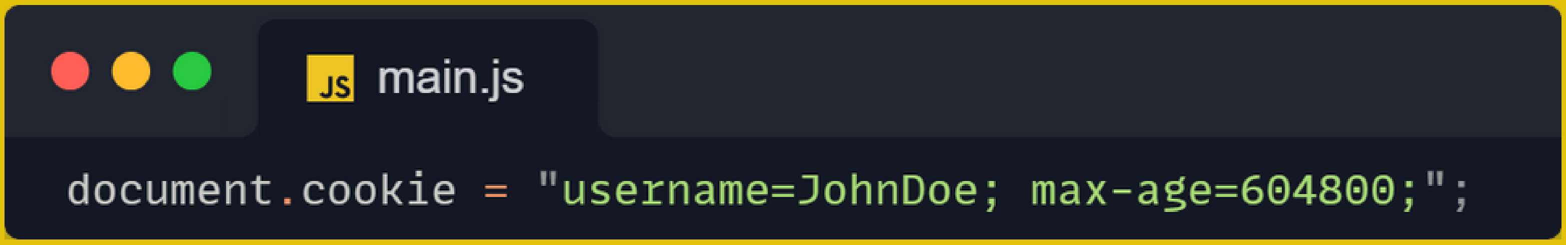
main.js

```
document.cookie = "username=JohnDoe; path=/";
```

Note:

- **path=/**: Makes the cookie accessible on all pages of the website.

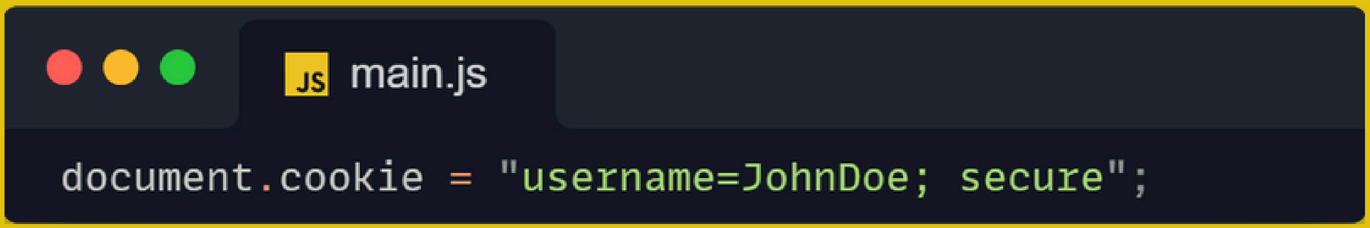
2. domain: Specifies the domain for which the cookie is valid. This helps control cross-subdomain access.



main.js

```
document.cookie = "username=JohnDoe; max-age=604800;";
```

3. secure: Ensures the cookie is only sent over HTTPS.



main.js

```
document.cookie = "username=JohnDoe; secure";
```

4. httpOnly: Makes the cookie inaccessible to JavaScript (document.cookie), enhancing security.

Note:

- This attribute is set from the server side, not in JavaScript.

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Reading Cookies

To read cookies, access document.cookie, which returns a string of all cookies in key-value pairs.

main.js

```javascript
const allCookies = document.cookie;
//example: Returns "username=JohnDoe; theme=dark"
```

Parsing Cookies: To get a specific cookie value, split document.cookie as follows:

main.js

```javascript
function getCookie(name) {
  const cookies = document.cookie.split("; ");
  for (let cookie of cookies) {
    const [key, value] = cookie.split("=");
    if (key === name) return value;
  }
  return null;
}
```

Usage:

main.js

```javascript
const username = getCookie("username"); // Returns "JohnDoe"
```

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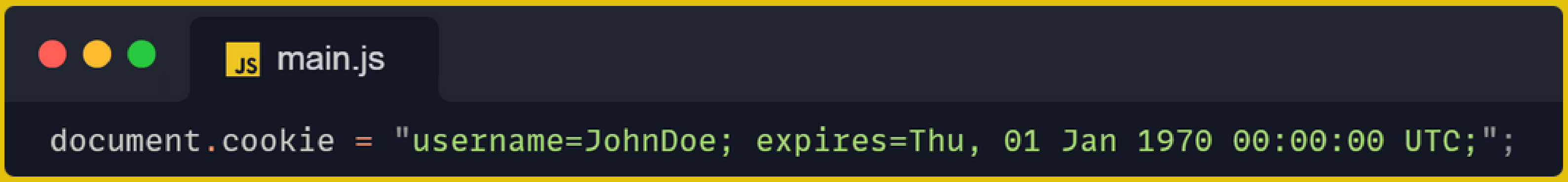
Deleting Cookies

To delete a cookie, set its expiration date to a past date.



main.js

```
document.cookie = "username=JohnDoe; expires=Thu, 01 Jan 1970 00:00:00 UTC;";
```

Best Practices

- **Limit usage**: Keep cookies small to reduce load time.
- **Secure data**: Only store non-sensitive data, and use HTTPOnly and Secure attributes when possible.
- **Use alternatives when possible**: For complex data, consider localStorage or sessionStorage.

Hopefully You Found It Usefull!

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