



PHP Global Variables (\$_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 user's computer.

When you work with an application on your PC, you open it, do some changes and you close it. This is much like a session.

The computer knows you are, it knows when you start the application and when you end.

But on the internet there is one problem; the web server does not know who you are or what you do, because the IP address doesn't maintain state.

Session variables solve this problem by storing user information to be used across multiple pages (e.g. username, occupation etc.).

By default, session variables last until the user closes the browser.

So, session variables hold information about one single user and are available to all pages in one application.

How to Start PHP Session

A session is started with the **session_start()** function.

```
<?php
    session_start();
    $_SESSION['username'] = 'Yusuf';
?>
<html>
```

The **session_start()** function

The Session variable
with value "username"

NB: The session_start() must be the very first thing in your document before any HTML tag

Modify a PHP Session

To change a session variable, just overwrite it;

```
<?php
    session_start();
    $_SESSION['username'] = 'Yusuf';
    $_SESSION['username'] = 'Umar';
?>
<html>
```

The second **SESSION** modifies the first **SESSION**. If you notice both the two **SESSION** have the same **variable** name ("username")

Destroy a PHP Session

To remove all global session variables and destroy the session, use **session_unset()** and **session_destroy()**:

```
<?php
    session_start();
    session_unset();
    session_destroy();
?>
<html>
```

Removes all session variables

Destroy the session