Cookie Monster Secret Recipe
HTTP Cookie Header

Another extremely common HTTP header is the Cookie header, which is used to retain user settings or establish / maintain a user session on a website.

Cookie Monster Secret Recipe HTTP Cookie Header

For example, a website has a button on its user preferences page which sets the webpage background color for the website.

Cookie Monster Secret Recipe HTTP Cookie Header

Once the color is selected, the web server will send a Cookie to the web browser to be used anytime the website is visited, changing the webpage's background colors to whatever is specified in the Cookie.
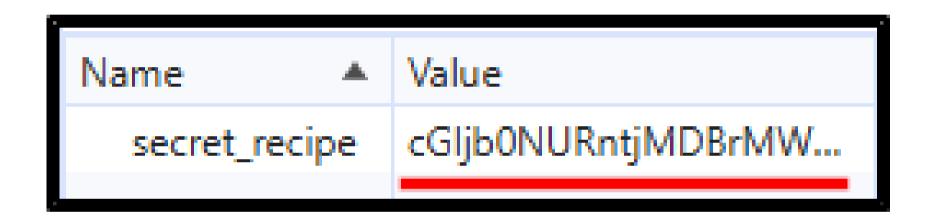
Cookie Monster Secret Recipe
HTTP Cookie Header

Similarly, when a user successfully logs into a website, the web server will send the web browser a Cookie that identifies which user session is being used, and the browser will use that Cookie each time that website is accessed.

Cookie Monster Secret Recipe
HTTP Cookie Header

Any Cookie that is used for user sessions has the potential for security abuse, so it important that the Cookie values created for user sessions are not predictable at all.

Cookie Monster Secret Recipe
HTTP Cookie Header

Name ▲	Value
secret_recipe	cGljbONURntjMDBrMW...

On this application, after any login, we are assigned a cookie named secret_recipe, and the value of the cookie looks like a Base6-encoded string