PHP Session:

When we work with an application, we open it, do some changes, and then we close it. This is just like a Session. The computer knows who we are. It knows when we start the application and when we end. But on the internet there is one problem: the web server does not know who we are or what we do, because the HTTP (which is a stateless protocol) address doesn't maintain state.

Session variables solve this problem by storing user information to be used across multiple pages. By default, session variables last until the user closes the browser.

A session is a way to store information about an user (in variables) to be used across multiple pages.

Unlike a cookie, the information is not stored on the user’s computer.

A session is started with the **session\_start()** function.

Session variables are set with the PHP global variable: **$\_SESSION**.

A session is a global variable stored on the server. Each session is assigned a unique id which is used to retrieve stored values. Whenever a session is created, a cookie containing the **unique session id** is stored on the user’s computer and returned with every request to the server.  If the client browser does not support cookies, the unique php session id is displayed in the URL. Sessions have the capacity to store relatively large data compared to cookies. The session values are automatically deleted when the browser is closed. If you want to store the values permanently, then you should store them in the database. Just like the **$\_COOKIE** array variable, session variables are stored in the **$\_SESSION** array variable. Just like cookies, the session must be started before any HTML tags.

When to use Session?

You want to pass values from one page to another.

You want the alternative to cookies on browsers that do not support cookies.

You want to store global variables in an efficient and more secure way compared to passing them in the URL.

**Creating a Session**

**File : a.php**

<?php  
  
session\_start(); // Start the session  
?>  
<!DOCTYPE html>  
<html>  
<body>  
  
<?php  
// Set session variables  
$\_SESSION["name"] = "Sachin";  
$\_SESSION["country"] = "India";

//$\_SESSION["name"] = "Smith"; // Update or modify the session variable  
//$\_SESSION["country"] = "Australia"; //// Update or modify the session variable  
  
echo "Session variables are set.";  
?>  
  
</body>  
</html>

Create another page called "b.php". From this page, we will access the session information we set on the first page ("a.php").

Session variables are not passed individually to each new page, instead they are retrieved from the session we open at the beginning of each page (session\_start()).

All session variable values are stored in the global $\_SESSION variable:

**File : b.php**

<?php  
session\_start();  
?>  
<!DOCTYPE html>  
<html>  
<body>  
<?php  
echo "Favorite name is " . $\_SESSION["name"] . ".<br>";  
echo "Favorite country is " . $\_SESSION["country"] . ".";

// print\_r($\_SESSION);  
?>  
</body>  
</html>

## Destroy a PHP Session

**session\_unset():**To remove all global session variables and

**session\_destroy():** destroy the session

**File :c.php**

<?php  
session\_start();  
?>  
<!DOCTYPE html>  
<html>  
<body>  
  
<?php  
session\_unset();  
// unset($\_SESSION['name']);  
session\_destroy();  
?>  
  
</body>  
</html>