

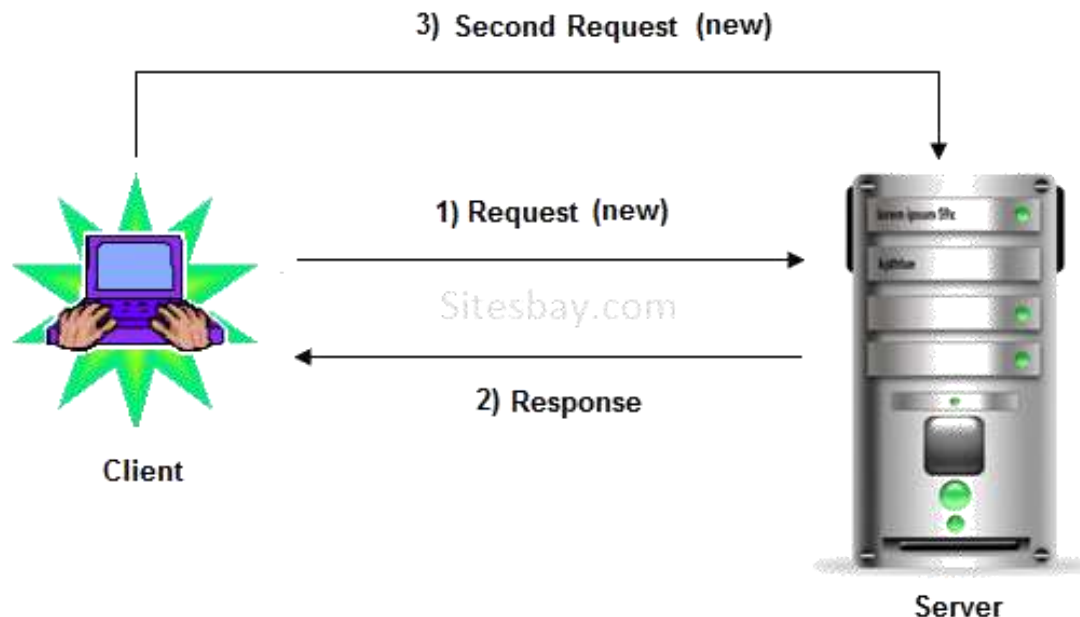
Session Tracking in Servlets

Session Tracking

- **Session** simply means a particular interval of time.
- **Session Tracking** is a way to maintain state (data) of an user. It is also known as **session management** in servlet.

Why need Session Tracking ?

- Http protocol is stateless, to make stateful between client and server we need Session Tracking.
- Session Tracking is useful for online shopping, mailing application, E-Commerce application to track the conversion.
- Http protocol is stateless, that means each request is considered as the new request. You can see in below image.



Why use Session Tracking ?

To recognize the user It is used to recognize the particular user.

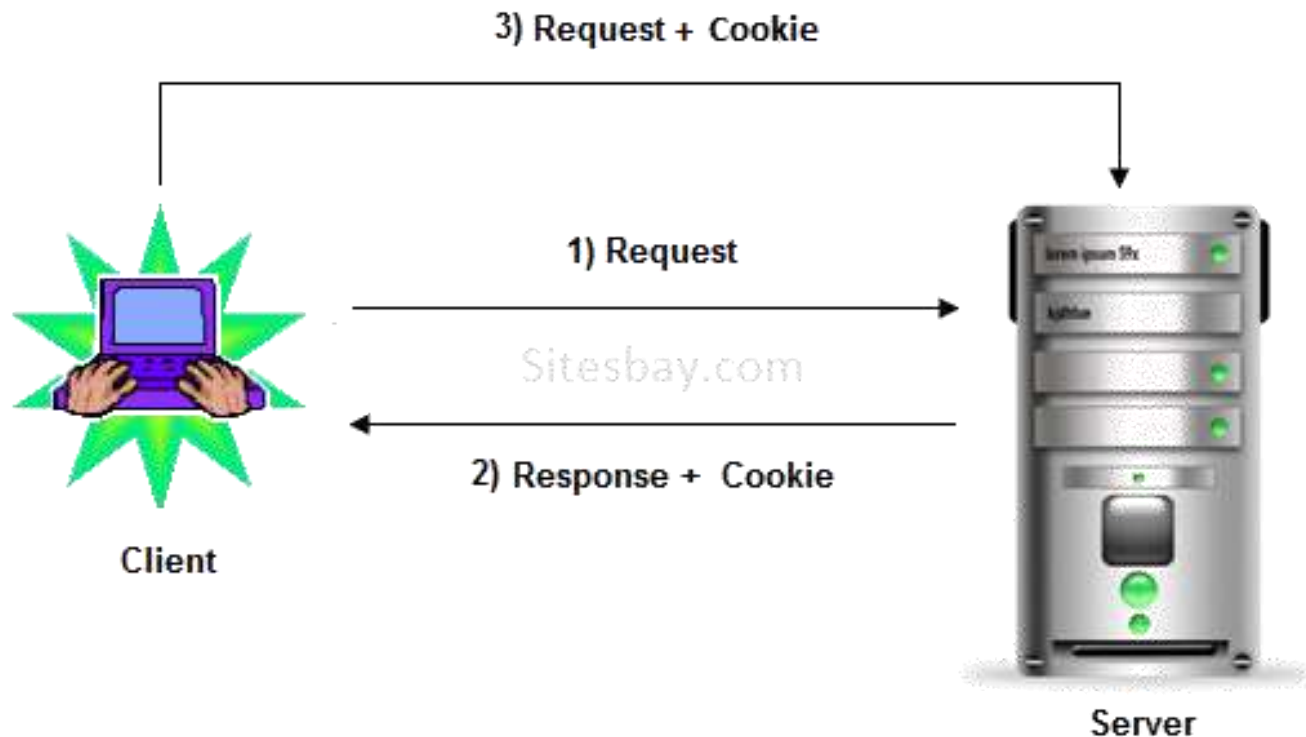
Session Tracking Techniques

There are four techniques used in Session tracking:

- 1. Cookies**
- 2. Hidden Form Field**
- 3. URL Rewriting**
- 4. HttpSession**

Cookies

- Cookies are small piece of information sent by web server in response header and gets stored in browser side. A web server can assign a unique session ID to each web client. The cookies are used to maintain the session. The client can disable the cookies.



Hidden Form Field

- The hidden form field is used to insert the information in the webpages and this information is sent to the server. These fields are not viewable to the user directly.

For example:

<input type = 'hidden' name = 'ABC' value = '12345' >

URL Rewriting

- Append some extra data through URL as request parameters with every request and response. URL rewriting is a better way to maintain session's management and work for the browsers.



HttpSession

- The HttpSession object represents a user session. The HttpSession interface creates a session between an HTTP client and HTTP server. A user session contains information about the user across multiple HTTP requests.

For example:

```
HttpSession s = request.getSession( );  
s.setAttribute("username", "password");
```