

# L#08: PHP Cookies & Sessions

## Cookies and Sessions in PHP

---

### Lecture 8

March 26, 2007

©2007, I.Sarah Al-Shareef

1

## Table of Content

---

- What Are Cookies?
- Do Cookies Harm?
- Setting Cookies
- Reading Cookies
- Deleting Cookies
- Using Sessions
- Starting Sessions
- Setting and Accessing Sessions Variables
- What if Cookies Are Disabled?
- Deleting and Removing Sessions

March 21, 2007

©2007, I.Sarah Al-Shareef

2

# L#08: PHP Cookies & Sessions

## What Are Cookies?

---

- Cookies are **files** that get written to a temporary file **on a user's computer** by a web application.
- Cookies store information that can be read by the online application.

March 21, 2007

©2007, I.Sarah Al-Shareef

3

## Do Cookies Harm?

---

- Because they are stored on a user's computer, they have developed a bad rap as being highly insecure.
- Cookies themselves are **not bad** or insecure **if used correctly** by a developer.
- Since users have the ability to turn them off, most developers have migrated their code to sessions (explained later)

March 21, 2007

©2007, I.Sarah Al-Shareef

4

# L#08: PHP Cookies & Sessions

## Setting Cookies

---

- by using the function `setcookie()` :

```
bool setcookie ( string name, string value,  
                int expire, string path,  
                string domain, bool secure)
```

- **name**    The name to set the cookie variable to  
            and    hence the name to access it with
- **value**    The value of the current cookie
- **expire**    When a cookie will expire (in the form  
                  of a Unix timestamp)

March 21, 2007

©2007, I.Sarah Al-Shareef

5

## Setting Cookies cont.

---

- **path**      **The directory where the cookie  
                  will be available for use**
- **domain**    **The domain at which the cookie  
                  will be available**
- **secure**    **Whether a cookie can be read  
                  on a non-SSL enable script**

March 21, 2007

©2007, I.Sarah Al-Shareef

6

# L#08: PHP Cookies & Sessions

## Example

---

- Let's write a script to set a cookie in the user's machine when he/she log in successfully.  
This Cookies must expire in a month

March 21, 2007

©2007, I.Sarah Al-Shareef

7

## Example Solution

---

```
<?php
function login($username, $password)
{
    setcookie("cookie_user", $username,
              time()+60*60*24*30);
    setcookie ("cookie_pass", md5($password),
              time()+60*60*24*30);
}

$username = $_POST["username"];
$password = $_POST["pass"];

login("test","test")
echo "Successfully logged in.";
?>
```

March 21, 2007

©2007, I.Sarah Al-Shareef

8

# L#08: PHP Cookies & Sessions

## Notes on the Example

---

- You must use `setcookie()` before any HTML tag... even `<html>`

- `md5()` is an encryption function:

```
string md5 ( string str , bool raw_output )
```

`raw_output` is optional.

- You can find your cookies in:  
C:/Documents and Setting/YouUser/Cookies

March 21, 2007

©2007, I.Sarah Al-Shareef

9

## Reading Cookies

---

- By using the `$_COOKIE` superglobal.

- `$_COOKIE[cookieName]`  
`cookieName` must be the same name you set the cookie with.

March 21, 2007

©2007, I.Sarah Al-Shareef

10

# L#08: PHP Cookies & Sessions

## Example

---

- Read the cookie you have set in the last example.

March 21, 2007

©2007, I.Sarah Al-Shareef

11

## Example Solution

---

```
<?php
function validatelogin ()
{   if (strcmp ($_COOKIE['cookie_user'],
                $_POST['username']) == 0 &&
        strcmp ($_COOKIE['cookie_pass'],
                md5 ($_POST['password'])) == 0)
    {   return true;   }
    else {   return false;   }
}
if (validatelogin ())
{   echo "Successfully logged in."; }
else {   echo "Sorry, invalid login."; }
?>
```

March 21, 2007

©2007, I.Sarah Al-Shareef

12

## L#08: PHP Cookies & Sessions

### Deleting Cookies

---

- By using `setcookie()` with the same parameters we use when we set it at the first time.
- The only different is to make the value of the cookie equal "".
- This is usually used for logout.

March 21, 2007

©2007, I.Sarah Al-Shareef

13

### Using Sessions

---

- Sessions provide a unique ID to a user, which can then be used to store and acquire information linked to that ID.
- When the user visit the page, wither a new ID will be allocated or the user will be reassociated with his previous one.

March 21, 2007

©2007, I.Sarah Al-Shareef

14

# L#08: PHP Cookies & Sessions

## Using Sessions cont.

---

- Sessions will send a cookie the browser.
- The cookie sent by sessions is differ from those sent by the developer.
- Thus, the cookies must be enabled in the user machine.

March 21, 2007

©2007, I.Sarah Al-Shareef

15

## Starting a Session

---

- By using `session_start()`.
- Because it send cookies, you must call it before any HTML tags.
- Sessions remain as long as the web browser is active

March 21, 2007

©2007, I.Sarah Al-Shareef

16

## L#08: PHP Cookies & Sessions

### Setting and Accessing Sessions Variables

---

- By using the `$_SESSION` superglobal.

```
$_SESSION["varName"]
```

March 21, 2007

©2007, I.Sarah Al-Shareef

17

### Notes on Sessions

---

- To find out where is your sessions cookies, print the result from the function:  
`session_save_path()`
- The file name will be : `sess_XXXXXXXXXX..`  
`XXXXXXXXXX..` Will be replaced by the session ID.
- To see your session ID, use:  
`session_id();`

March 21, 2007

©2007, I.Sarah Al-Shareef

18

## L#08: PHP Cookies & Sessions

### What if Cookies are Disabled?

---

- You can use the querystring.
  - Querystring are the variables you use in the URL after “?”
  
- How to do that?
  - By using constant SID which contains the session ID.
  - This SID must be concatenate with your link after ?
  - Ex:  

```
<a href="1.php?php echo SID;?&gt;"&gt;Next&lt;/a&gt;</pre
```

March 21, 2007

©2007, I.Sarah Al-Shareef

19

### Deleting and Removing Sessions

---

- To delete all variables in the session, use:  

```
session_destroy();
```

  - **This will destroy the session after existing the script. i.e. you still can use it within the current script contains `session_destroy()`**
  
- To remove specific variable in the session, use:  

```
unset($_SESSION[varName]);
```

  - **The variable won't available after it.**

March 21, 2007

©2007, I.Sarah Al-Shareef

20