

PHP Cookies

What is a Cookie?

- A cookie is often used to identify a user. A cookie is a small file that the server embeds on the user's computer. Each time the same computer requests a page with a browser, it will send the cookie too. With PHP, you can both create and retrieve cookie values.

Create Cookies With PHP

- A cookie is created with the `setcookie()` function.

Syntax

`setcookie(name, value, expire, path, domain, secure, httponly);`

- Only the *name* parameter is required. All other parameters are optional.

Modify a Cookie Value

- To modify a cookie, just set (again) the cookie using the `setcookie()` function:

Delete a Cookie

- To delete a cookie, use the `setcookie()` function with an expiration date in the past:

PHP Create/Retrieve a Cookie

- The following example creates a cookie named "user" with the value "John Doe". The cookie will expire after 30 days (86400 * 30). The "/" means that the cookie is available in entire website (otherwise, select the directory you prefer).
- We then retrieve the value of the cookie "user" (using the global variable `$_COOKIE`). We also use the `isset()` function to find out if the cookie is set:

```

<?php
$cookie_name = "user";
$cookie_value = "John Doe";
setcookie($cookie_name, $cookie_value, time() + (86400 * 30), "/"); // 86400 = 1 day
?>

<html>
<body>

<?php
if(!isset($_COOKIE[$cookie_name])) {
    echo "Cookie named '" . $cookie_name . "' is not set!";
} else {
    echo "Cookie '" . $cookie_name . "' is set!<br>";
    echo "Value is: " . $_COOKIE[$cookie_name];
}
?>

</body>
</html>

```

➤ Delete cookies Example:

```

<?php
// set the expiration date to one hour ago
setcookie("user", "", time() - 3600);
?>

<html>
<body>

<?php
echo "Cookie 'user' is deleted.";
?>

</body>
</html>

```