

IT350 Web and Internet Programming

Fall 2008

Perl Cookies

(some from online Chapter 25 of text)

Cookies – Then and Now

- Before – Cookies with JavaScript
 - Create cookie
 - `document.cookie = "color=red";`
 - Read cookie (from JavaScript)
 - Read and parse `document.cookie`
 - Use `parseCookie()` function to help with this
 - Where are cookies stored??
- Now – Cookies with Perl
 - Create cookie with `print()` BEFORE header
 - Sent to browser
 - Browser always send appropriate cookies back to server with request
 - Read cookie
 - Access `$ENV{ "HTTP_COOKIE" }` (book does this)
 - Or use `cookie()` function helper (easier!)
 - Where are cookies stored??
- Cookies created with Perl can read via JavaScript and vice versa

Creating cookie with Perl

(Assume this file invoked from a HTML form with fields name, height, and color)

```
use CGI qw( :standard );

$name = param( "name" );
$height = param( "height" );
$color = param( "color" );

$expires = gmtime( time() + 86400 );

print( "Set-Cookie: Name=$name; expires=$expires; path=\n" );
print( "Set-Cookie: Height=$height; expires=$expires; path=\n" );
print( "Set-Cookie: Color=$color; expires=$expires; path=\n" );

print( header() );
print( start_html( ) );

print h1("A cookie was stored! Name: $name");
print( end_html( ) );
```

Read Cookies With Perl

```
use CGI qw( :standard );

print( header() );
print( start_html( ) );

$name    = cookie( "Name" );
$height = cookie( "Height" );
$color   = cookie( "Color" );

if ( $name ) {
    print h1("A cookie was found!");
    print h2("Name: $name");
    print h2("Height: $height");
    print h2("Color: $color");
}

print( end_html( ) );
```

Uses for Cookies

- Most common:
 - User logs in using secure page (https)
 - Server checks password. If good, creates cookie
 - E.g. “login=m078987&auth=356af12cd124552”
 - User redirected to other pages. These pages don't ask for password – instead just check that have valid login cookie
 - Why do we need the auth field?

Remember

- Relevant cookies always sent by browser to the server
- Can create with JavaScript and read with Perl
- Or create with Perl and read with JavaScript