

IT350 Web and Internet Programming

Set 18: Sessions

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Authentication

- Get username/password from user
- Check in file/db that correct combination
 - Never store plain text passwords
 - Hash
 - Salt
 - Iterate hashing
- **Set session variable**
- Later see if session variable is set – if yes, it means “authenticated” user

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Sessions in Perl

```
# Object initialization
use CGI::Session;
my $session = new CGI::Session("driver:File", undef, {Directory=>/tmp});

# getting the effective session id
my $CGISESSID = $session->id();

#set cookie with session id
print "Set-Cookie:CGISESSID=$CGISESSID;httpOnly;secure;\n";

# storing data in the session
$session->param('username', 'test');
# or $session->param(-name=>'username', -value=>'test');

# retrieving data
my $user = $session->param('username');
# or my $user = $session->param(-name=>'username');

# clearing a certain session parameter
$session->clear('username');

# delete the session for good
$session->delete();
```

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Session management

- Session token should be random
- Cookie
 - No expiration date set - so expires at end of browsing session
 - secure – only send over https
 - httpOnly – cannot be accessed from JS

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