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" );
getColor = 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() );
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