

Re: Confusing POST behavior -- doing it twice?

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/PHP/comp.lang.php/2005-08/msg00184.html>

- *From:* Erwin Moller <since_humans_read_this_I_am_spammed_too_much@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 01 Aug 2005 18:02:26 +0200
-

Shelly wrote:

Hi Shelly,

I added a few things that may help.

Being in a hurry (food at home :P), I am not able to look into it in greater depth.

```
> Here is the corrected post. I made about 5 errors in typing this post the
> first time that are not in the actual (full) code.
>
> I am confused about what goes on with method POST. Here is an overview of
> a my code, sketching it out:
>
> <?php
> if (isset($_POST['Submit']) && $_POST['Submit']=="Submit") {
> if (isset($_SESSION['Error'])) {
> unset($_SESSION['Error']);
> }
```

Just a remark: Why do you not always unset the error?

Or is this code in a more complex environment where you want to be able too keep the custom-errormessage around?

(Not important, just curious)

```
> if (strcmp($A, "any")) {
> // Verify that a Zip code is numeric and is five digits
> If (!is_numeric($_POST['zip']) || strlen($_POST['zip']) != 5) then
> {
> $_SESSION['Error'] = "an error description";
> header("Location: thisSite.php");
```

```
Add
exit 0;
```

The header you set will just do that: set the header.

The program will run on from there.

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Later on you will be able to give it another value (which you actually do).
So you have to force PHP to quit here.

```
> }  
> }  
> }  
> header("Location: anotherSite.php");
```

Here you overwrite your previously set header. :-/

```
> ?>  
>  
> ..... in the form description I have an  
> <?php if (isset($_SESSION['Error'])) echo $_SESSION['Error']; ?>  
>  
> (Note: The form is type POST).  
>  
> So here is the problem:  
> 1 – When I start, there is no error message.
```

good.

```
> 2 – I deliberately put in a bad zip code and have a value other than "any"  
> in the A control and click to submit it.
```

Ok, and your code catches that just fine. :-)

```
> 3 – Instead of going back to thisSite.php and displaying the error  
> message, it goes to anotherSite.php.
```

Yes. Because you forgot the exit command.

```
> 4 – If I then hit the back arrow on the browser, it displays with the  
> error message on thisSite.php
```

Well...

The infamous BACK-button.

I hate that thing.

I have really nothing constructive to tell you on this point.

As far as my experience goes: It is implemented differently on different browsers.

I have seen the following things (over many years):

Some just fetch the HTML from cache and display that.

Or maybe some even repost (if a form was used to produce the HTML) without your knowledge.

Others warn you you are viewing possibly out-of-date html.

Or they warn you that you are reposting the form.

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Of course you can modify their behaviours with extra option in headers concerning cache-control, document-expires, etc. etc.

Everything is possible and it gives me a headache.

I have no idea how the current mostly used browser behave.
Maybe things improved and they all do the same, but I doubt it.

>
> It seems that
> 1 - on the submit it goes through the logic and sets the error.

Yes.

> 2 - It then must be going through a second time, but this time taking on
> the default setting of "any" for control A and so bypass the logic on the
> zip code and so goes to anotherSite.php.

Because of the missing exit, but I told you that already. :-)

>
> Please help me here.
>

I hope I did.

Regards,
Erwin Moller

> Shelly

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• **References:**

- ◆ **[Confusing POST behavior -- doing it twice?](#)**
 ◇ From: Shelly
- ◆ **[Re: Confusing POST behavior -- doing it twice?](#)**
 ◇ From: Erwin Moller
- ◆ **[Re: Confusing POST behavior -- doing it twice?](#)**
 ◇ From: Shelly
- ◆ **[Re: Confusing POST behavior -- doing it twice?](#)**
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