

Re: Sessions – Not working with IE

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/PHP/comp.lang.php/2006-10/msg01693.html>

- *From:* "Steve Wright" <usenet@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 26 Oct 2006 02:23:58 -0700
-

On Oct 26, 9:49 am, Erwin Moller
<since_humans_read_this_I_am_spammed_too_m...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Steve Wright wrote:

Forgive my ignorance, but I am just starting to learn about sessions in PHP and how to pass data from one page to the next. What I'm about to explain could just be my misunderstanding of how sessions work.

I have two test scripts. The first starts a session, displays a few details and a form. When the form is submitted it jumps to the second page. The first script looks like this.

[script snipped]

The second script displays the same variables as the first. In addition it displays the value of a variable passed by the `$_SESSION` array and a value passed via a form. It looks like this.

[Script snipped]

When run under IE6, I get the following output.

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Script 1

- Your session id is d7e201df8eb6ac9fd76915e53051666d
- The SESSION array contains
Array ([session_var] => testing)
- The SID is PHPSESSID=d7e201df8eb6ac9fd76915e53051666d
- PHPSESSID =

Script 2

- Your session id is 40211048ab6869c74dc8e9dff6098dc0
- The SESSION array contains
Array ()
- The SID is PHPSESSID=40211048ab6869c74dc8e9dff6098dc0
- PHPSESSID =
- session_var = { }
- form_var = {testing}

Note how the session id is different and the variable passed by the `$_SESSION` array is blank.

When run under Firefox 2.0 I get the following;

- Your session id is 00802b0742fdb87cda553cba85027c30
- The SESSION array contains
Array ([session_var] => testing)
- The SID is PHPSESSID=00802b0742fdb87cda553cba85027c30
- PHPSESSID =

and

- Your session id is 00802b0742fdb87cda553cba85027c30
- The SESSION array contains

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Array ([session_var] => testing)

- The SID is
- PHPSESSID =
- session_var = {testing}
- form_var = {testing}

This time, the session ids are the same and the variable is passed.

Any ideas why the difference?

With Firefox, why is SID populated on the first page and not the second?

Why is PHPSESSID blank?

In case it helps, the values from the php.ini file for session are;

```
session.auto_start = 0
session.cache_expire = 180
session.cache_limiter = nocache
session.cookie_domain =
session.cookie_lifetime = 0
session.cookie_path = /
session.entropy_file =
session.entropy_length = 0
session.gc_maxlifetime = 1440
session.gc_probability = 1
session.name = PHPSESSID
session.referer_check =
session.save_handler = files
session.save_path = /tmp
session.serialize_handler = php
session.use_cookies = 1
session.use_trans_sid = 1
```

Regards

Steve WrightHi Steve,

This is strange indeed.

Did you by any chance disable cookies on IE?

Also look for a ini value named:

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session.use_only_cookies
(That one is added in version 4.3)

Or are you maybe using an older version of PHP?
(If so, please upgrade.)

Regards,
Erwin Moller

As far as I can tell, I have not disabled cookies. The website runs in the trusted zone and the security level on that zone is set to "Low". Is there any other settings I should be checking in IE6?

The session.use_only_cookies is not defined in the php.ini. According to my book (APRESS Beginning PHP and MySQL5 by Jason Gilmore), the default value for this is 0.

From the phpinfo() call, the session section says the following

| Directive | Local Value | Master Value |
|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| session.auto_start | Off | Off |
| session.bug_compat_42 | On | On |
| session.bug_compat_warn | On | On |
| session.cache_expire | 180 | 180 |
| session.cache_limiter | nocache | nocache |
| session.cookie_domain | no value | no value |
| session.cookie_lifetime | 0 | 0 |
| session.cookie_path | / | / |
| session.cookie_secure | Off | Off |
| session.entropy_file | no value | no value |
| session.entropy_length | 0 | 0 |
| session.gc_divisor | 100 | 100 |
| session.gc_maxlifetime | 1440 | 1440 |
| session.gc_probability | 1 | 1 |
| session.hash_bits_per_character | 4 | 4 |
| session.hash_function | 0 | 0 |
| session.name | PHPSESSID | PHPSESSID |
| session.referer_check | no value | no value |
| session.save_handler | files | files |
| session.save_path | no value | no value |
| session.serialize_handler | php | php |
| session.use_cookies | On | On |
| session.use_only_cookies | Off | Off |
| session.use_trans_sid | 0 | 0 |

We are running PHP v5.0.4

I wouldn't mind if it worked under IE and not FF, but this is an

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intranet application and IE6 is the company standard :-(