

Re: Need to find-out improper sign-out

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 - *Date:* 4 Mar 2007 00:10:52 -0800
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On Mar 4, 5:35 am, gordonb.ku...@xxxxxxxxxxxxx (Gordon Burditt) wrote:

Every time
a user at
proper
sign-in, a
flag is set &
account is
locked
until he
sign-out by
updating in
the
login-table. At
sign-out the
flag
is released
& his
account is
ready to
log-in
again.
Is my logic
right?

Why on earth would you
need such a thing, besides
trying to drive off
users?

I'd even go so far as to say: the last one to
log in clearly knows the
password, if another one is currently logged
in under the same
credentials

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I log them out instantly.

I'll agree here: if you **must** insist on one login at a time, kill the **old** session (which may have just suffered modem disconnectus), not the **new** one. It also acts to discourage account sharing (situation: pay site for prOn or whatever). If you share your account widely, **all** people trying to use it are likely to get booted off often. It's harder to implement, though. One thing that makes it a bit easier is to use a session save handler which puts session data in a database, thereby making a search for people logged in under the same account easier.

I don't go as far as to use a custom save handler most of the time. Determining whether a user is logged in is done with the help of a database query though, where session id's and user id's are saved of the current 'active' users, which also gives a nice opportunity to check the time of last activity etc.

Well, I wrote a save handler, and it's turned out to have lots of uses. Part of the idea is that if you delete the session entry, the user is logged out as of the next hit. You also get "last hit" info. And it's useful for debugging. But there are other ways in the "is he logged in" check to accomplish the same thing.

People can get separate logins a plenty, no reason to share, and another little security measure to, well, not prevent, but end a specific session hijack.

Depending on the design of the site, there are plenty of reasons for the same user to try to pull up two different pages from the site at the same time (for example, to look at two things you might want and compare features side-by-side to decide which to buy), and many times it is necessary made to log in twice to do that.

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Normally, no. As long as he's using the same browser, he will have the same session id, and it will still be considered one user serverside, even if the requests hit the server at exactly the same moment (which 'never' happens).

I have been asked quite a few times about problems with this. It seems some sites use session data for navigation, search parameters, and options. If you have two browser instances with the same session ID, they share this data. Browser A searches on "motorcycle". Browser B searches on "Barbie Dolls". Browser A refines search with "helmet", and gets back an entry for a Barbie motorcycle outfit including a helmet, and nothing about a real motorcycle helmet. These users needed to *FORCE* having two different sessions in order to do what they wanted to do. I don't remember which sites had this issue. It wasn't Ebay. But I do recall it being real easy to bid on or order the wrong thing if you had two browser windows open to different items.

It seems to me that there was a certain patchlevel of IE6 that made this worse. Perhaps according to the specs, IE6 was correct, but it was causing a lot of questions at my ISP.

If you use different browsers (firefox & MSIE for instance), then they'll get different id's, simply because they don't use each others cookies. On any normal site, opening a wide variety of pages with a single login is perfectly possible.

Hi all,

it seems the original question has not been answered yet. If yes, please ignore my mumbling.

Is there any way to run a function or a code-block whenever the client-server communication breaks off. (ie power-off, browser-crash...)

1) If you write your own session handler you can use the function for the garbage collection to do this.

2) If you store somewhere (a login log?) if when a user has logged in and when the user has logged out, you can derive your needed information from there.

good luck
Martin

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