

Re: [PHP] Affiliate system

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/PHP/php.general/2006-09/msg00248.html>

- *From:* robert@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx (Robert Cummings)
 - *Date:* Wed, 13 Sep 2006 03:00:40 -0400
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On Wed, 2006-09-13 at 12:58 +0700, Peter Lauri wrote:

Hi guys,

I am reviewing an affiliate system that I created a while ago. I am using a very simple method to do this, but I am curious if there is any better system (better I mean less missed affiliate purchases).

1. User click on affiliate link <http://thedomain.com/?a=1234>
2. The if \$_GET['a'] is set, we check if that is an valid affiliate, and then set a cookie for that
3. At purchase, we check if that cookie still is there, if so, we register it as a affiliate purchase and that info is stored in the purchase database

What should I do if they do not allow cookies? I could amend a=1234 onto every url that they pass, but that would not be a "beautiful" solution.

Maybe I can also create a SESSION that stores the affiliate information so that it at least get registered if the purchase is completed within the session?

Sessions and temporary cookies solve the same issue (even if sessions are using trans sid). If a user has cookies disabled then you can rely on the trans sid feature which already performs the propagation of the session via URLs as you have suggested. Failing that, you don't really have any alternatives :)

Cheers,
Rob.

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