



# SNS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

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AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION



Approved by AICTE, New Delhi and Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai

## Session & Cookie in PHP

A **session** is a way to store information (in variables) to be used across multiple pages.

The session ID in the cookie is used to identify the user's session on the server.

Sessions are useful for storing temporary data that is specific to a single user and a single browser session.

A **cookie** is a small piece of data that is stored in a user's web browser. It can be used to store information such as user preferences or login information.

When a user visits a website, the server can send a cookie to the user's browser, which the browser will then store.

When the user returns to the website later, the server can access the cookie and use the information stored in it.

Cookies are useful for storing longer-term data that needs to be persisted across multiple sessions.

### **PHP session:**

To use sessions in PHP, you first need to start a session using the **session\_start()** function. This function must be called before any output is sent to the browser, so it is usually placed at the top of the PHP script.

**Example:** The following example shows how to start a session and store a value in a session variable:

```
<?php
    session_start();
    $_SESSION['favorite_color'] = 'blue';

    echo "Session variables are set.";
?>
```

To access a session variable, you can use the [\\$\\_SESSION](#) superglobal array. For example:

```
<?php
    session_start();

    echo "Your favorite color is: " . $_SESSION['favorite_color'];
?>
```

## PHP cookies:

To use cookies in PHP, you can use the [setcookie\(\) function](#). This function takes three arguments: the name of the cookie, the value of the cookie, and the expiration time of the cookie.

The expiration time is optional and is specified in seconds.

```
<?php
// 86400 = 1 day
setcookie('favorite_color', 'blue', time() + (86400 * 30));
echo "Cookie is set.";
?>
```

To access a cookie, you can use the `$_COOKIE` superglobal array. For example:

```
?php
echo "Your favorite color is: " . $_COOKIE['favorite_color'];
?>
```

You can do this using the [isset\(\)](#) function.

```
<?php
if (isset($_COOKIE['favorite_color'])) {
    echo "Your favorite color is: " . $_COOKIE['favorite_color'];
} else {
    echo "You have not set a favorite color.";
}
?>
```