

Making Programs in PHP

Outline

- How to process Info? HTML Forms, Actions and Methods
- How to fetch information? PHP Globals
- How to share information? Session and Cookies
- How to save information? Files and Databases

HTML Forms

- `<form>` tag syntax:
 - `<form action="processor.php" method="get"></form>`
 - Action = Processing Page
 - Method: POST or GET, main difference is visibility to the user
- Available Tags:
 - `<input>` – types: text, radio, checkbox; name; value
 - `<input type="button">` – Creates simple Button, must be bound with user-defined behavior
 - `<input type="submit">` – Creates Submit button, sends values to `<form>`'s action

PHP Globals

- PHP receives form data, regardless of method.
 - Two Special Global Variables: `$_GET` and `$_POST`
 - They are arrays, key is variable name:
 - `$_GET["username"]`
 - Information is String, but easily cast into Int or Float
- It is possible to check if user submitted all info:
 - `isset(variable)` – returns a bool
 - `isset($_POST["username"])`

More Globals: Sessions! Cookies!

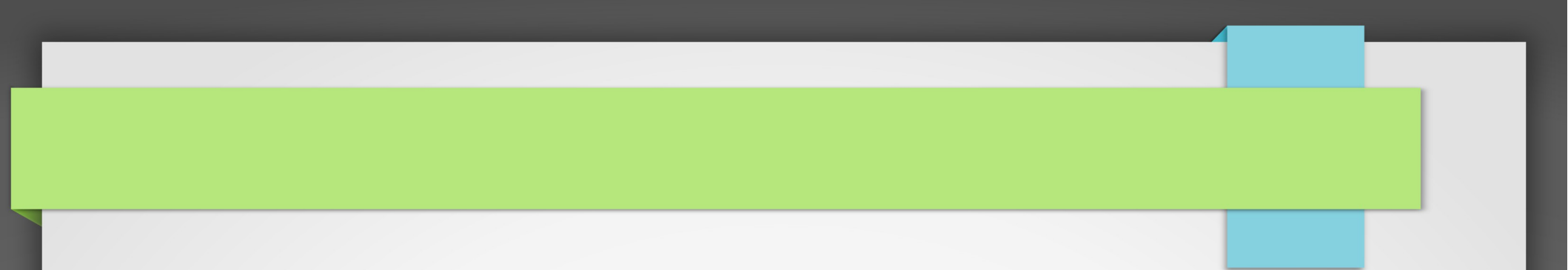
- How do you save important global info from one page to the next? (i.e. login info)
- Two methods:
 - Session Variables: `$_SESSION["var_name"]`
 - Cookies
 - Setting a Cookie: `setcookie(name,val,exp_date)`
 - Use `time()` for base `exp_date`
 - Retrieving a Cookie: `$_COOKIE[name]`
 - Deleting a cookie: `setcookie exp_date in the past`

Saving Information: Files

- Files: `$file = fopen("name.txt", mode)`
 - Modes: `r`, `r+`, `w`, `w+`, `a`, `a+`, `x`, `x+`
 - Closing a file: `fclose($file)`
 - Reading a Line: `fgets($file)`
 - Reading a Char: `fgetc($file)`
 - Checking EOF: `feof($file)`
 - Writing to File: `fwrite($file, $string)`

Saving Information: DB

- Connecting to a DB: `$con = mysqli_connect(host,username,password,dbname)`
- Close Connection: `mysqli_close($con)`
- Execute a Query: `mysqli_query($con, $query_txt)`
 - If not Select: Return value is boolean or int (if rows were affected)
 - If Select: Result Array
 - Each Result Row can be fetched using `mysqli_fetch_array($result)`



Let's do
some practical
demonstration!