

Lecture 21

Passing Variables Between Pages

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Summary of the previous lecture

- **Operators in PHP**
- **Conditional Statements in PHP**
- **Looping Statements**
- **Arrays in PHP**

Outline

- **Super Global variables**
- **Passing form data**
- **Passing data with sessions**

1. Passing form data

- Forms provide a mean of **submitting** information from the **client** to the **server**
- We can **create** HTML forms using **<form>** tag
- **Method** and **action** are the most common **attributes** of **<form>**

1. Passing form data...

- **action** - gives the URL of the application that is to receive and process the forms data
- **method** - sets the **HTTP method** that the browser uses to **send** the form's data to the **server** for processing
 - most common methods are **POST** or **GET**

1. Passing form data...

- **Get method** : all form data is encoded into the URL, appended the action URL as query string parameters



A blue rectangular form containing two input fields and a submit button. The top input field contains the text "Asad". The bottom input field contains the text "asd@gmail.com". Below the input fields is a button labeled "submit".



localhost/lecture%2026/action.php?name=asad&email=asd%40gmail.com&Submit=Submit

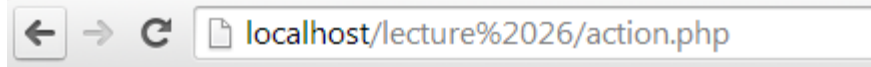
Action page name

Input field name

Value entered by user

1. Passing form data...

- **Post method:** form data appears within the message body of the HTTP request



Welcome Mr. Asad Mahmood

1.1 Super Global Variables

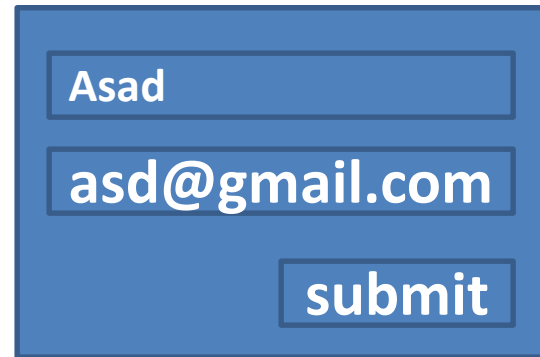
- PHP **automatically** makes few variables **available** in your program
- These are **array variables** and can be accessed by **name**
- These variables are called **super-global** variables because they can be accessed without **regard to scope**

1.1 Super Global Variables...

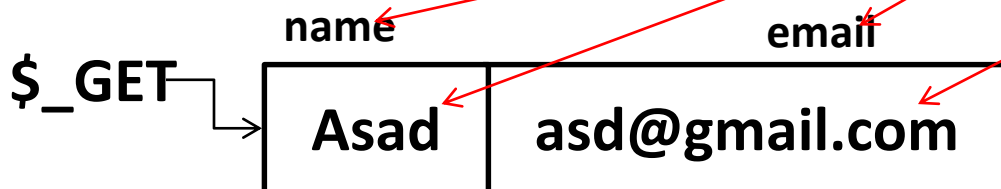
- **\$_GET:** contains all the query string variables that were **attached to the URL**
- **\$_POST:** contains all the **submitted form variables and their data**

1.1 Super Global Variables...

```
<body>
<form method="get"
action="action.php">
<input type="text" name="name">
<input type="text" name="email">
<input type="submit">
</form>
</body>
```

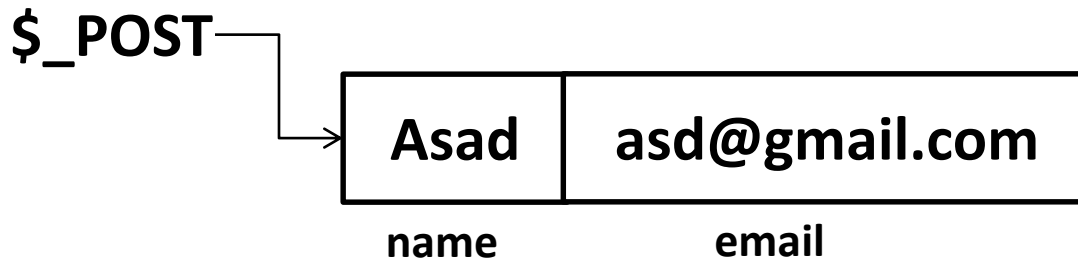
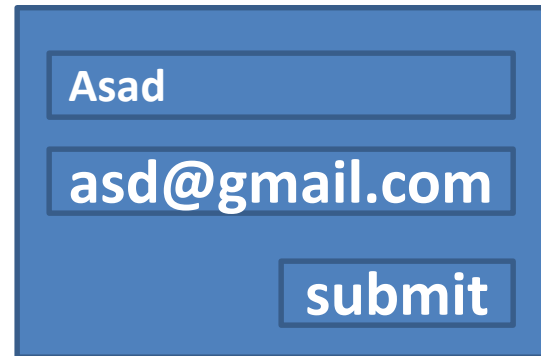


localhost/lecture%2026/action.php?name=asad&email=asd%40gmail.com&Submit=Submit

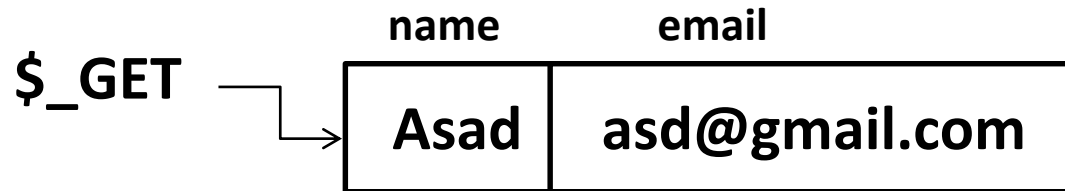


1.1 Super Global Variables...

```
<body>
<form method="post">
<input type="text" name="name">
<input type="text" name="email">
<input type="submit">
</form>
</body>
```



1.2 Accessing form data on action page



<input type="text" value="Asad"/>
<input type="text" value="asd@gmail.com"/>
<input type="submit" value="submit"/>

Action.php

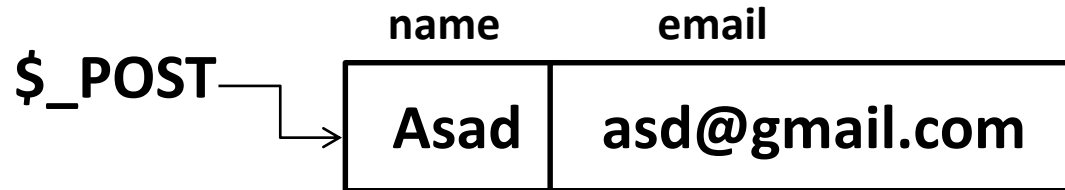
```
<?php
```

```
$name = $_GET['name'];
```

```
$email = $_GET['email'];
```

```
?>
```

1.2 Accessing form data on action page...



A form with three input fields. The first field contains the text "Asad". The second field contains the text "asd@gmail.com". The third field is a button labeled "submit".

Ation.php

```
<?php
```

```
$name = $_POST['name'];
```

```
$email = $_POST['email'];
```

```
?>
```

2. Passing text field data

The screenshot displays the Macromedia Dreamweaver 8 interface. The main workspace shows the following HTML code:

```
8 <body>
9 <form id="form1" name="form1" method="post" action
  ="action.php">
10 Enter Your Name: <input type="text" name="name"
11 value="Your Name" /><br>
12 <input type="submit" />
13 </form>
14 </body>
15 </html>
16
```

Annotations in the image include:

- A red arrow pointing to the `method="post"` attribute in line 9, with the label **Post Method** above it.
- A red arrow pointing to the `type="text"` attribute in line 10, with the label **Text field** below it.
- A red arrow pointing to the `name="name"` attribute in line 10, with the label **Text field name** below it.

The interface also shows the Properties panel at the bottom with a 'Code view' tab selected, and the CSS Styles panel on the right.

2. Passing text field data...

The screenshot shows the Macromedia Dreamweaver 8 interface with a PHP file named 'action.php' open. The code in the main editor is as follows:

```
1 <?php
2 $name = $_POST['name'];
3 echo "Welcome Mr. $name";
4 ?>
```

Two red arrows point to the code with annotations:

- An arrow points to the `$_POST['name']` part of line 2, with the text **Data is received** next to it.
- An arrow points to the `echo` statement in line 3, with the text **Display a message** below it.

The interface also shows a 'Properties' panel at the bottom with a 'Code view' tab and a 'Refresh' button. On the right side, there are panels for 'CSS Styles', 'Application', 'Tag Inspector', and 'Files'. The 'Files' panel shows a tree view of the local file system.

2. Passing text field data...

← → ↻ localhost/lecture%2026/form.php ← **We are at form page**

Enter Your Name:

Submit

**We are on
action page**

← → ↻ localhost/lecture%2026/action.php

Welcome Mr. Asad Mahmood

2. Passing hidden field data...

```
9 <form id="form1" name="form1" method="post" action
  ="action.php">
10 Enter Your Name: <input type="text" name="name"
11 value="Your Name" /><br>
12 <input type="hidden" name="hname" value="Ali" />
  <br />
13 <input type="submit" />
14 </form>
```

Hidden field **Field name** **Hidden value**

```
<?php
```

```
$name = $_POST['name'];
echo "Welcome Mr. $name";
echo "<br>";
echo "Hidden name is ". $_POST['hname'];
?>
```

Accessing hidden value

2. Passing hidden field data...

← → ↻ localhost/lecture%2026/form.php

Enter Your Name:

Submit

← → ↻ localhost/lecture%2026/action.php

Welcome Mr. Asad Mahmood
Hidden name is Ali

2.3 Getting value from checkbox

```
Which of the following language do you know? <br /
>
<input type="checkbox" name="C" value="C" />C++
<input type="checkbox" name="VB" />VB
<br />
<input type="submit" />
</form>
```

label

name

value

Getting value of 'C'

Getting value of 'VB'

```
echo "<br>";
echo $_POST['C'];
echo "<br>";
echo $_POST['VB'];
?>
```

2.3 Getting value from checkbox...

localhost/lecture%2026/form.php

Enter Your Name:

Which of the following language do you know?

C++ VB

localhost/lecture%2026/action.php

Welcome Mr. Asad Mahmood

Hidden name is Ali

C

on

2.3 Getting value from checkbox...

```
echo $_POST['C'];  
echo "<br>";  
echo $_POST['VB'];  
if($_POST['C']=='C')  
echo "You Know C++";  
else  
echo "You do not know C++";  
?>
```

localhost/lecture%2026/action.php

Welcome Mr. Asad Mahmood
Hidden name is Ali
C
on
You Know C++

Checking for value of C

2.4 Getting value from radio button

```
Your Nationality: <br />
<input type="radio" name="nat" value="single" />
Single
<input type="radio" name="nat" />Dual
<br />
<input type="submit" />
</form>
```

Same name

Value is set

Value is not set

```
echo "<br>";
echo $_POST['nat'];
?>
```

Getting value of radio

2.4 Getting value from radio button...

The screenshot shows two browser windows side-by-side. The left window is at localhost/lecture%2026/form.php and contains a form with the following elements: a text input field with 'Asad Mahmood', a question 'Which of the following language do you know?' with checked checkboxes for 'C++' and 'VB', a question 'Your Nationality:' with radio buttons for 'Single' (selected) and 'Dual', and a 'Submit' button. The right window is at localhost/lecture%2026/action.php and displays the output: 'Welcome Mr. Asad Mahmood', 'Hidden name is Ali', 'C on', 'You Know C++', and 'single'.

localhost/lecture%2026/form.php

Enter Your Name:

Which of the following language do you know?

C++ VB

Your Nationality:

Single Dual

localhost/lecture%2026/action.php

Welcome Mr. Asad Mahmood
Hidden name is Ali
C
on
You Know C++
single

2.5 Getting value from select list

Name of the list

Your Domicile:


```
<select name="dom">
```

Option and value

```
<option value="punjab">Punjab</option>
```

```
<option value="KPK">KPK</option>
```

```
<option value="sindh">Sindh</option>
```

```
<option value="Balochistan">Balochistan</option>
```

```
</select>
```

```
echo "<br>";  
echo $_POST['dom'];  
?>
```


2.5 Getting value from select list...

localhost/lecture%2026/form.php

Enter Your Name:

Which of the following language do you know?

C++ VB

Your Nationality:

Single Dual

Your Domicile:

localhost/lecture%2026/action.php

Welcome Mr. Asad Mahmood

Hidden name is Ali

C

on

You Know C++

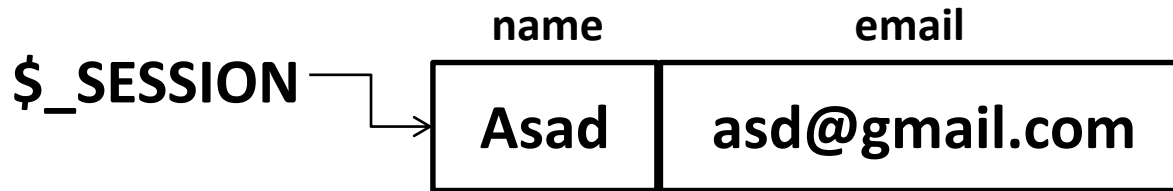
single

KPK

3. Passing variables using sessions

1. A **session** is basically a **temporary** set of variables that exists only until the **browser** has shut down
2. **\$_SESSION**: represents data available to a **PHP script** that has previously been stored in a **session**

3. Passing variables using sessions...



First page

```
<?php
$_SESSION['name ' ]
='Asad';
?>
```

2nd page

```
<?php
echo
$_SESSION['name '];
$_SESSION['email ' ]
='asd@gmail.com';
?>
```

.....

nth page

```
<?php
echo
$_SESSION['name '];
echo
$_SESSION['email '];
?>
```

3. Passing variables using sessions

- **session_start()**- is used to start a session
- **\$_SESSION['variable_name']**- is used to store data in session variable
- **session_destroy()**- is used to destroy a session
- **unset(\$_SESSION['variable_name'])**- is used to unset a specific variable

3. Passing variables using sessions...

```
1  <?php
2  session_start();
3  ?>
4  <html>
5  <head>
6  <title>Using Sessions</title>
7  </head>
8  <body>
9  <?php
10  $_SESSION['name']='Ali';
11  ?>
12  <h1>Welcome to the first page </h1>
13  <a href="session2.php">Go to the next page</a>
14  </body>
```

Session starts

Session variable is created

Link to the next page

3. Passing variables using sessions...

```
1 <?php
2 session_start();
3 ?>
4 <html>
5 <head>
6 <title>Getting Session</title>
7 </head>
8 <body>
9 <h1> This is the second page</h1>
10 <?php
11 echo "The value received from session variable is
12 ". $_SESSION['name'];
13 <a href="session3.php">Go to the third page </a>
14 </body>
15 </html>
```

Session starts

Session variable is accessed

link

3. Passing variables using sessions...

localhost/lecture%2026/session1.php

Welcome to the first page

[Go to the next page](#)

localhost/lecture%2026/session2.php

This is the second page

The value received from session variable is Ali

[Go to the third page](#)

Session
variable's value



3. Passing variables using sessions...

```
1  <?php
2  session_start();
3  session_destroy();
4  ?>
5  <head>
6  <title>Destroying Session</title>
7  </head>
8  <body>
9  <?php
10 echo $_SESSION['name'];
11 ?>
12 </body>
13 </html>
```

Session is destroyed

Session is accessed

3. Passing variables using sessions...

localhost/lecture%2026/session3.php

(!) Notice: Undefined index: name in C:\wamp\www\lecture 26\session3.php on line 10

Call Stack

#	Time	Memory	Function	Location
1	0.0010	140800	{main}()	..\session3.php:0

Summary

- **Super global variables**
- **Passing data with forms**
- **Using session variables**

References

- **Chapter 2**, “Beginning PHP6,Apache,MySQL web development” by Matt Doyle, Wrox publishers, 2009, ISBN: 0470413964
- **Chapter 13**, “Beginning PHP and MySQL” by W. Jason Gilmore, Apress publisher, 4th edition; 2010, ISBN-13 (electronic): 978-1-4302-3115-8.