

Lecture 23

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

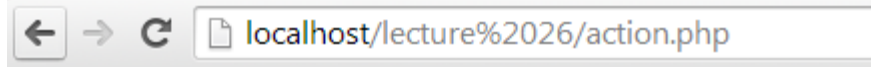
Action page name

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

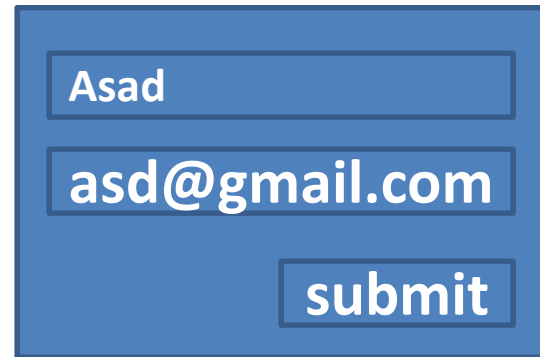
- PHP **automatically** makes few variables **available** in your program
- These are **array variables** and can be accessed by **name**
- These variables are called **super-global** variables because they can be accessed without **regard to scope**

1.1 Super Global Variables...

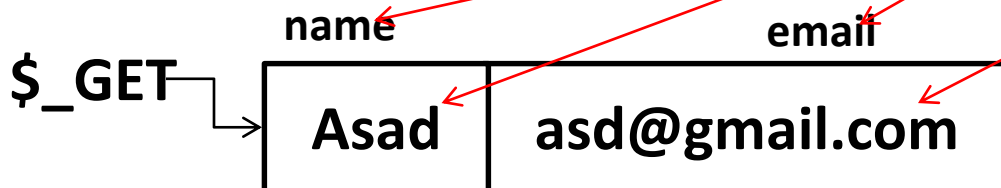
- **\$_GET:** contains all the query string variables that were **attached to the URL**
- **\$_POST:** contains all the **submitted** form variables and their data

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>
```

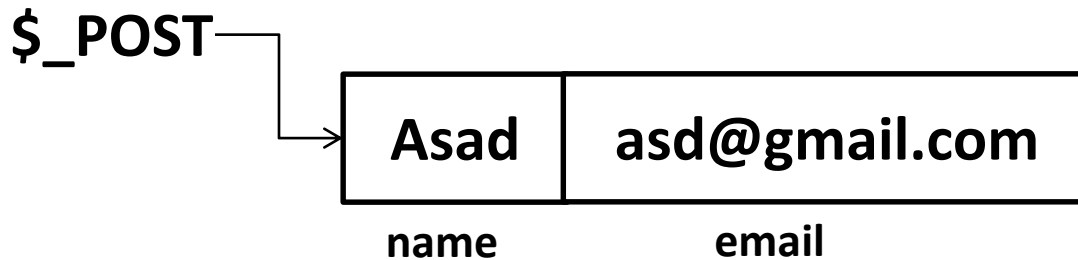
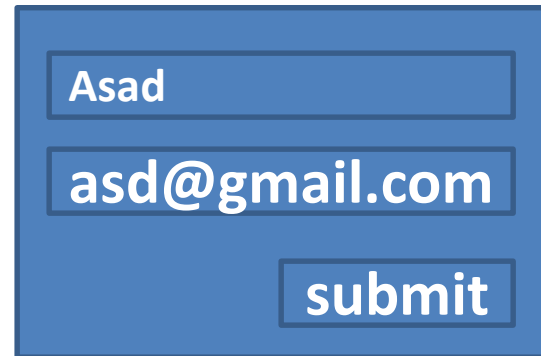


localhost/lecture%2026/action.php?name=asad&email=asd%40gmail.com&Submit=Submit

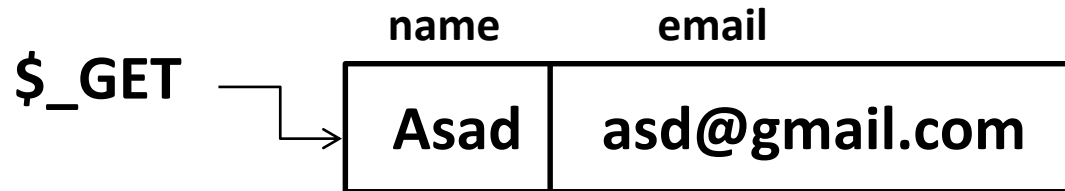


1.1 Super Global Variables...

```
<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...



Asad

asd@gmail.com

submit

Ation.php

```
<?php
```

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

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

```
?>
```

2. Passing text field data

The screenshot shows the Macromedia Dreamweaver 8 interface. The main window displays the HTML code for a form titled "Post Method". The code is as follows:

```
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
```

Red arrows point to the `type="text"` attribute in line 10, labeled "Text field", and the `name="name"` attribute in line 10, labeled "Text field name".

The interface also shows the CSS Styles panel on the right, the Application and Tag Inspector panels, and the Properties panel at the bottom. The Properties panel shows a message: "You have made changes to the code. To edit selection properties, click Refresh or press F5." with a Refresh button.

2. Passing text field data...

The screenshot shows the Macromedia Dreamweaver 8 interface. The main workspace displays the following PHP code in a file named `action.php`:

```
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 drive.

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'.

Enter Your Name:

Which of the following language do you know?
 C++ VB

Your Nationality:
 Single Dual

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++

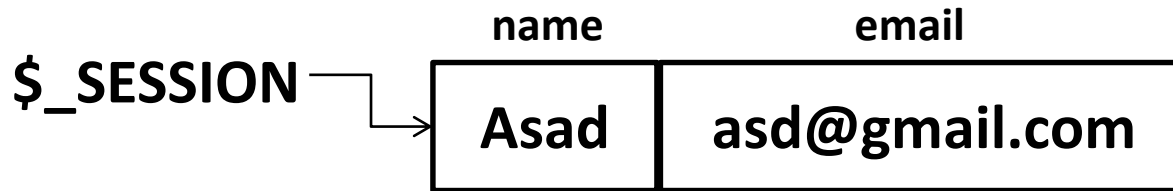
single

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.