More PHP

Lecture 13
CGS 3066 Fall 2016

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Multi Dimensional Arrays

- A multidimensional array is an array containing one or more arrays.
- PHP understands multidimensional arrays that are two, three, four, five, or more levels deep.
- However, arrays more than three levels deep are hard to manage for most people.
- An n-dimensional array needs n indices to access an element.
The PHP `date()` function formats a timestamp to a more readable date and time.

Syntax: `date(format,timestamp);`

The required format parameter of the `date()` function specifies how to format the date (or time).

Here are some characters that are commonly used for dates:

- `d` - Represents the day of the month (01 to 31)
- `m` - Represents a month (01 to 12)
- `Y` - Represents a year (in four digits)
- `l` (lowercase 'L') - Represents the day of the week
Creating a Date

- There are a few different ways to create a date.
- The `mktime()` function returns the Unix timestamp for a date.
- The Unix timestamp contains the number of seconds between the Unix Epoch (January 1 1970 00:00:00 GMT) and the time specified.
- The PHP `strtotime()` function is used to convert a human readable string to a Unix time.
Cookies

- A cookie is often used to identify a user.
- A cookie is a small file that the server embeds on the user’s computer.
- Each time the same computer requests a page with a browser, it will send the cookie too.
- With PHP, you can both create and retrieve cookie values.
Creating/Retrieving Cookies

- A cookie is created with the setcookie() function.
- Syntax: setcookie(name, value, expire, path, domain, secure, httponly);
- Only the name parameter is required. All other parameters are optional.
- The setcookie() function must appear BEFORE the <html> tag.
- We can then retrieve the value of the cookie using the global variable $_COOKIE.
- We can also use the isset() function to find out if the cookie is set.
The value of the cookie is automatically URLencoded when sending the cookie, and automatically decoded when received (to prevent URLencoding, use setrawcookie() instead).

To modify a cookie, just set (again) the cookie using the setcookie() function.

To delete a cookie, use the setcookie() function with an expiration date in the past.
AJAX

► AJAX = Asynchronous JavaScript and XML.
► AJAX is a technique for creating fast and dynamic web pages.
► AJAX allows web pages to be updated asynchronously by exchanging small amounts of data with the server behind the scenes. This means that it is possible to update parts of a web page, without reloading the whole page.
► Classic web pages, (which do not use AJAX) must reload the entire page if the content should change.
► Examples of applications using AJAX: Google Maps, Gmail, Youtube, and Facebook tabs.