The Joy Of PHP: Deep Dive Into Sessions
In the book “The Joy of PHP” we introduced new programmers to the world of creating interactive web sites using PHP. To make the topic more interesting we invented a case study of “Sam’s Used Cars” to describe how someone who sells used cars could use PHP and mySQL together to create a website that accurately reflects the ever-changing inventory of used cars. That book has been a consistent best-seller and is the top-rated book in its primary category (Computers & Technology --> Programming --> PHP). Readers told me (overwhelmingly) that they wanted more, and specifically wanted a series short books that cover a particular topic in detail. This way you can pick out just the topics that interest you. In this SHORT book we extend Sam’s story (and the accompanying sample website and source code) to take advantage of a feature of PHP called sessions. By using sessions we’ll allow people to log into Sam’s website (if they want to) and present different features and information to different people. For example, Sam (the owner) should be able to see how much a car actually cost while the car shopper should only be able to see the asking price. Other features might be appropriate for sales people, data entry people, etc. We call this role-based features and explain how it works in the book.

This book will walk you through--step by step-- in creating a user table in your cars database to store users’ name, password and role. We’ll explain how to create a login form, submit that form to a PHP script to perform the necessary user lookup, and then assign the user a set of session variables to that user based on who they are. Every line of code is explained in clear, easy-to-understand English. While it isn’t required that you first read The Joy of PHP, I do (naturally) recommend it. This book is a continuation of that story and builds on the knowledge (and code base) that The Joy of PHP presents. Although I try to make this book stand on its own, I do want you to succeed so I warn you right up front. For this book to make sense, you will need to know some basic PHP syntax, you will have PHP already installed and running on your computer, and you will know how to use phpMyAdmin. You will also need to know basic SQL queries such as INSERT, UPDATE, DELETE, and CREATE TABLE. If you know these things already then you should be just fine with this book.

Are you ready to take the next step and take a Deep Dive into Sessions?

Book Information

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The Joy of php: Deep Dive into Sessions and the original Joy of php are great books to learn php. They are a fun and easy read, not like a text book; and with real life examples (and a large continuing project) anyone can walk away with a good understanding of php.

I can already program and I needed something to get me onto PHP and this book did it with ease and the shortest time. The last time I coded was some 10 years ago so I was rusty. This book refreshed and got me up to speed. In my case, there was no skipping through as this book just focussed on getting the important programming concepts across for PHP like variables scopes and naming, loops, forms, and databases. Exactly what I needed to focus on to get back on track. I am so glad I found this book so I didn’t have to spend a fortune on a mazed up gold mine.

This "small" book is a great way to go deeper into the session variables! it’s a perfect add-on to the joy of PHP

After purchasing and reading the original Joy of PHP, I decided to buy this book too as I could learn a lot from its formal book. I was sure that I can learn further about PHP languages and this has been working so great too. It has many real examples to understand self-learners like myself. I would like to recommend you to buy this small but strong book, after the Joy of PHP for beginners. This is
shorter than its formal book but it has many strong points. P.S, price is very reasonable too! If you are still deciding? just buy it. You won't regret it. Thank you, Alan :-)

This book covers only the simplest and most basic usage and too little about sessions in itself. No deep dive at all. Instead, much space is dedicated to explain simple PHP and HTML code as well as simple protection that has little to do with sessions. The meat of this could easily fit into a short article.

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