

Flask – Cookies

A cookie is stored on a client's computer in the form of a text file. Its purpose is to remember and track data pertaining to a client's usage for better visitor experience and site statistics.

A **Request object** contains a cookie's attribute. It is a dictionary object of all the cookie variables and their corresponding values, a client has transmitted. In addition to it, a cookie also stores its expiry time, path and domain name of the site.

In Flask, cookies are set on response object. Use **make_response()** function to get response object from return value of a view function. After that, use the **set_cookie()** function of response object to store a cookie.

Reading back a cookie is easy. The **get()** method of **request.cookies** attribute is used to read a cookie.

In the following Flask application, a simple form opens up as you visit `/` URL.

```
@app.route('/')
def index():
    return render_template('index.html')
```

This HTML page contains one text input.

```
<html>
  <body>
    <form action = "/setcookie" method = "POST">
      <p><h3>Enter userID</h3></p>
      <p><input type = 'text' name = 'nm' /></p>
      <p><input type = 'submit' value = 'Login' /></p>
    </form>
  </body>
</html>
```

The Form is posted to `/setcookie` URL. The associated view function sets a Cookie name **userID** and renders another page.

```
@app.route('/setcookie', methods = ['POST', 'GET'])
def setcookie():
    if request.method == 'POST':
        user = request.form['nm']
```

```
resp = make_response(render_template('readcookie.html'))
resp.set_cookie('userID', user)

return resp
```

'**readcookie.html**' contains a hyperlink to another view function **getcookie()**, which reads back and displays the cookie value in browser.

```
@app.route('/getcookie')
def getcookie():
    name = request.cookies.get('userID')
    return '<h1>welcome '+name+' </h1>'
```

Run the application and visit **http://localhost:5000/**

Read Cookie HTML

The result of setting a cookie is displayed like this –

Result of Setting Cookie

The output of read back cookie is shown below.

Reading Cookie Back

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