

**Active Server Pages
Session and Application Variables**

EIW - ASP Session Variables 1

ASP VBScript Variable Scope

- **Procedure:** variable declared in a procedure is gone once the procedure has finished.
- **Script:** variable declared outside of a procedure is *alive* for the life of the script. Once the script is complete the variable is gone.
- **Session:** variable is associated with a user session, and is maintained (by the server) throughout the life of the session.
- **Application:** variable is maintained by the server and shared by all users of a script.

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**Creating and Using an
Application Variable**

Application("varname")

- Now **Application("varname")** is an application variable.
 - The server keeps track of the value even when the script is complete.
 - *Every* use of the script shares the same variable.

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Global Hit Counter

```
<%  
Application("count") = Application("count")+1  
%>  
<%=Application("count")%>  
People have loaded this page.
```

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Session Variables

- IIS/PWS can also keep track of variables that are associated with a session.
- The server creates the session for you!
 - creates a session key and sends it to the browser as a cookie.
 - looks up session variable values based on the session key received with request (as a cookie).

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Creating and Using a Session Variable

`Session("varname")`

- Now `Session("varname")` is an application variable.
 - The server keeps track of the value even when the script is complete.
 - The variable is associated with a single user (each user has their own value of the variable).

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Global and Session Hit Counters

```
<%  
Application("count") = Application("count")+1  
Session("count") = Session("count")+1  
%>  
<H3><%=Application("count")%>  
People have loaded this page.</H3>  
  
<H3>You have been here  
<%=Session("count")%> times.</H3>
```

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Session Control

- The **Session** object can be used to control sessions.
 - **Session.Abandon**
 - Server clears the session at the end of the script.
 - **Session.Timeout**
 - Set to the number of minutes of inactivity until the session expires. Default is 10 minutes.
`Session.Timeout = 35`

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No more cookies?

- With ASP you probably won't ever need to use cookies directly.
 - only if you need to share a session with non ASP pages (Perl CGI programs).
- You can access cookies directly through the **Request** and **Response** objects...

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