

Re: Session Variables – why aren't novice developers warned?

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- *From:* "Mark Fitzpatrick" <markfitz@xxxxxxxxxx>
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Bill,

Unfortunately, that's not the job of documentation. The docs are meant to instruct on a particular subject, not to speculate on the pros and cons. There are plenty of articles out there as well as books that discuss these pros and cons in-depth. The pros and cons have been discussed now for the better part of a decade so the information is there, it's just not the place of the documentation to inform you of comparisons with other technologies and with the pros and cons. It's the docs job simply to explain and instruct on the particular topic. Before attempting to implement something new, it's always useful to seek out some of the info that's out there on a topic. For example, there are plenty of articles out there on session variables, how to use them in web-farms, high-jacking of cookies sessions, etc., as developers we just need to seek them out as the docs are never the be-all and end-all on a subject.

Hope this helps,
Mark Fitzpatrick
Former Microsoft FrontPage MVP 199?-2006

"Bille" <belgie@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:OZ2foZr8GHA.2288@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

When a user opens a new IE browser window using File-New-Window the integrity of an application which relies on session state is COMPLETELY undermined. Anyone who overlooks the fact that File-New-Window creates an instance of IE in the same process with the same SessionID as the parent window is in big trouble. This fundamentally restricts the usefulness of using session state management.

I probably missed it somewhere – can someone please help me find where in the Visual Studio 2005 documentation this pitfall is PLAINLY mentioned? Such that developers seeking basic guidance will not fail to note the warning? There are articles which explain elementary concepts such as how

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to create a session variable, without pointing out this serious hazard.

I have read the articles entitled Session State Overview, Session Identifiers, Session State Events, etc. and I can't find this trap openly described. For example, the article ASP.NET State Management Recommendations identifies only performance considerations in the Disadvantage of Using Session State section.

Why aren't developers warned of this while the basics of ASP.NET development are being explained?

I agree that the injudicious use of global variables in any type of application is sloppy and can incur pitfalls. However, in most types of applications global variables are limited in scope to the instance of the application. If there are multiple instances of the same application open on one machine, each instance has its own scope. I think many (most?) asp developers may have naive expectations that this is the case when using session variables in an asp application hosted by Internet Explorer. I did.

–Bill

"GroupReader" <newsgroups_01@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:1161148121.175510.124660@xx

You'll have these issues *any* time you use global variables in *any* type of application. It's best to use local variables whenever possible. In asp.net this translates to passing your variables around from form to form. Use querystring variables or form variables instead. Sorry I don't have a decent solution, but one more thought: I think your issue may get worse when IE7 introduces "tabbed browsing"... which makes it much easier to "open new windows". Maybe there's an IE setting that tells IE to start a new session when a new window is opened(?)