

# Handle Session Timeout And Lost MemberID

**Source:**

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Internet-Server/microsoft.public.inetsrvr.asp.general/2004-12/0231.html>

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I have a web site where once a user has logged on I store their MemberID in a global variable in the global.asa file.

Then in other pages I find out which member I am dealing with by looking at this variable, ie:

```
<%  
Private lgMemberID  
  
lgMemberID = Session.Contents("MemberID")  
  
%>
```

I then use this variable to query a database...

```
Sub WriteMessages()  
Dim strFirstName  
Dim strSurname  
Dim bPhone  
Dim bCard  
Dim bEMail  
Dim strSQL  
Dim rs  
  
strSQL = "{CALL qGetMessages (" & lgMemberID & ")}"  
  
Set rs = Server.CreateObject("ADODB.Recordset")  
rs.Open strSQL, conn, 3, 3  
  
Do Until rs.EOF  
strFirstName = rs("ContactFirstName")  
strSurname = rs("ContactSurname")  
bPhone = rs("Phone")  
bCard = rs("Card")  
bEMail = rs("EMail")
```

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With Response

```
.Write "<TR>" & vbcr
.Write "<TD width=160>" & strFirstName & " " & strSurname &
"</TD>" & vbcr
.Write "<TD align='center' width=100>"
If bPhone Then .Write "<IMG SRC='images/yes.gif' ALT=' BORDER=0>"
.Write "</TD>" & vbcr
.Write "<TD align='center' width=100>"
If bCard Then .Write "<IMG SRC='images/yes.gif' ALT=' BORDER=0>"
.Write "</TD>" & vbcr
.Write "<TD align='center' width=100>"
If bEMail Then .Write "<IMG SRC='images/yes.gif' ALT=' BORDER=0>"
.Write "</TD>" & vbcr
.Write "<TD width=23><A HREF='http://?'>Edit</A></TD>" & vbcr
.Write "<TD width=23><A HREF='http://?'>Delete</A></TD>" & vbcr
.Write "</TR>" & vbcr
End With
rs.MoveNext
Loop

rs.Close
Set rs = Nothing
```

End Sub

I want to know how to professionally handle the 'time-out' of the session.

At the moment when the app. times out Session.Contents("MemberID") equals 0.

Which means I get an error:

```
"ADODB.Field (0x800A0BCD)
```

Either BOF or EOF is True, or the current record has been deleted.

Requested operation requires a current record."

I don't really want to handle the BOF/EOF error directly as this is just a symptom of a different problem (the time out).

Would I have to force the user to log in again?

Increase the time out?

How do other people do this??

I also don't see how appropriate it would be to increase the timeout to, say 2 hours. When the site generates large amounts of traffic then keeping 100s of sessions live for so long is going to eat too many resources.

Do other people use cookies to store the memberID instead of a session variable?

If so – what do they do about people who have cookies blocked?

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