

# Internship Projects Homework 5: PHP Sessions

## References

The documentation for session management functions is at the following URL:

<http://am.php.net/manual/en/ref.session.php>

## Assignment in General

In HW 4, we had to submit a form twice: once to the validate page and a second time to the insert page. We can avoid this “double submission” by using sessions.

PHP uses the `session_start()` function and the `$_SESSION` global variable to keep track of data from page to page. Session data is kept on the server, so using sessions reduces network traffic. The browser must allow temporary cookies for a session to work.

### [HTML Form and Splash Page](#)

These pages should both work the same as in Homework 4.

### [Validate Page](#)

The validate page changes. There is no form with hidden fields. Instead, use the JavaScript `onClick` event for a button to call the insert page.

### [Insert Page](#)

The insert page works from data stored in `$_SESSION` instead of `$_POST` or `$_GET`.

## Specific Requirements

### [Starting a Session](#)

The validate and insert pages must start with the following PHP code before anything else:

```
<?php session_start(); ?>
```

See the Hints section if PHP complains that `session_start()` is not at the beginning of the page.

### [OnClick Event](#)

In HW 4, we used a separate form with hidden fields to call the insert page. We don't need a form any longer, just a button. Use a button similar to this:

```
<INPUT TYPE=BUTTON NAME=Insert VALUE=Insert onClick=[statement]>
```

where `[statement]` is a single JavaScript statement that loads the insert page.

## Hints

If you have done HW 3 and HW 4, this should be a simple assignment.

If PHP complains that `session_start()` is not at the beginning of the web page, it is possible that the source file has the Unicode UTF-8 file encoding string of `0xEFBBBF` at the beginning of the file. It is not possible to see this string without a hex editor. Save the file with a programmer's editor that allows turning off this encoding signature.

See our `theButton.js` example for a hint on how to load a page using the `onClick` event.