MODULE F THE INTERNET · F4

Cookies: session vs persistent

Original practice questions · 21 marks · ~25 minutes · Cambridge 0478 syllabus 5.1.6

Name _____ Date _____

Instructions. Answer all questions in the spaces provided. The marks for each part are shown in brackets [ ]. The total for this worksheet is **21 marks**.

1

Total: 3 marks

(a) Describe what is meant by a **cookie**. **[2]**

(b) Identify the software on a user's computer that stores and manages cookies. **[1]**

2

Total: 4 marks

(a) Tick (✓) **one** box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false. **[4]**

Statement	True	False
A session cookie is deleted when the web browser is closed		
A persistent cookie is deleted when the user moves to a different web page		
A persistent cookie can stay on the device until its expiry date		
A session cookie is kept on secondary storage between visits to a website		

3 **Total: 7 marks**

A city bike-hire company has a website. Customers can create an account, choose bikes and equipment, and pay online. The website uses cookies.

(a) Identify the function of the cookie in each situation in the table. Each situation shows a different function. **[4]**

Situation	Function of the cookie
When a customer returns, the website appears in the language and text size they chose last time	
A customer's name, address and phone number are filled in automatically on the booking form	
Two bikes and a helmet that a customer has chosen stay in their basket while they look at other pages	
A customer does not have to enter their username and password when they come back the next day	

(b) Tick (✓) **one** box in each row to show which type of cookie is needed. **[3]**

Description	Session cookie	Persistent cookie
The customer's chosen language is remembered when they visit again next month		
The items in the basket are removed when the customer closes the web browser		
The customer stays logged in for 14 days after ticking "Keep me logged in"		

4 **Total: 4 marks**

A hotel has a computer in its lobby that any guest can use. A guest uses this computer to log in to their account on a travel booking website. The website can store the guest's login using either a session cookie or a persistent cookie.

(a) Explain why a **session** cookie is more suitable than a **persistent** cookie for storing the login on this computer. **[4]**

5 **Total: 3 marks**

A news website lets each reader choose which topics appear first on its home page, for example sport and weather.

(a) Describe how the website can use a persistent cookie so that a reader sees their chosen topics first when they visit again a week later. **[3]**

Total for this worksheet: 21 marks