

Cookie Contracts

Version V10_30 Drumbeat 2000

These contracts allow you to manipulate the Cookie variables. Before we get into the details of the contracts, lets discuss cookies.

What is a Cookie?

A 'cookie' is a small piece of information sent by a web server to store on a web browser so it can later be read back from that browser. Cookies are mainly used for customization and personalization of a user's visit to a site. In most cases, not only does the storage of personal information into a cookie go unnoticed, so does access to it. Web servers automatically gain access to relevant cookies whenever the user establishes a connection to them, usually in the form of Web requests.

For a web server to access the cookie content, the server must know the cookie name and location. Also the user can disable the Cookie feature in their browser. This way the server can not set up any cookie files in the users machine.

How does a Cookie work?

Cookies are based on a two-stage process. The Web server creates a specific cookie, which is essentially a tagged formatted string of text containing the user's preferences, and it transmits the cookie to the users computer. The users Web browser, if cookie enabled, receives the cookie and stores it in a special file.

During the second stage, the cookie is automatically transferred from the users machine to a Web server. Whenever the user directs the browser to display a certain Web page from the server, the browser will, without the users knowledge transmit the cookie containing the details, stored during an earlier visit, to the Web server.

Drumbeat 2000 Cookie Interactions

The Cookie Contracts, provide a set of interactions to manipulate cookie values. The interactions fall into two categories.(1) Create a new Cookie name/value pair (2) Retrieve a Cookie name/value pair if one exists. One of the participating element in the interactions is the "Cookie" SmartElement. The Cookie SmartElement can be found under the "Standard" tab in Element Library.

Some things to keep in mind while using the Cookie SmartElement!

- Set the default expiration of the cookie to a value greater than 0 (zero). This can be set from the Attribute sheet of the SmartElement.

- The Cookie SmartElement is a site-level element. i.e. the same SmartElement can be used through out the site. Just drag the site level element into any page you want a cookie feature and reuse it, without creating multiple copies.

For each of the following interactions the Name in a Cookie Name/Value pair is specified when the interaction is applied.

1. If [source] is selected, insert [editbox] into [cookie] when [button] is clicked
This interaction is useful to save the users login/password details in a login page. The interaction creates cookie value based on the editbox if the user chooses to save the login details by setting the 'source' (checkbox/radio button) to true.
2. Insert [other] into [cookie] when [source] is clicked
This interaction sets the value of a cookie based on the editbox content when a button is clicked.
3. Insert value of [other] into [cookie] when [source] is clicked
This interaction sets the value of the cookie based on a radio button/check box value.
4. Insert data into [cookie] when [source] is clicked
Create a new Name/Value Cookie pair on a click event.
5. Set State of [target] if [cookie] value exists
Set the check box/ radio button states based on the cookie values.
6. Replace [token] in [source] with value from [cookie]
This interaction replaces a token in source with the cookie value. The token is mandatory in the source
7. Insert [list] selected value into [cookie] when [source] is clicked
Set the value of the cookie based on the drop-down/list box value.
8. Set content of [target] to the value in [cookie]
Display the Cookie value in an edit box!

For more information, please read the Description provided for each interaction in the Contract Builder dialog. You can bring up the Contract Builder from Tools → Contracts...