The $_GET Variable

The $_GET variable is used to collect values from a form with method="get".

The $_GET variable is an array of variable names and values sent by the HTTP GET method.

The $_GET variable is used to collect values from a form with method="get". Information sent from a form with the GET method is visible to everyone (it will be displayed in the browser's address bar) and it has limits on the amount of information to send (max. 100 characters).

The $_GET Variable

```
<form action="welcome.php" method="get">
Name: <input type="text" name="name" />
Age: <input type="text" name="age" />
<input type="submit" />
</form>
```

When the user clicks the "Submit" button, the URL sent could look something like this:

```
http://www.mogmachine.com/welcome.php?name=Peter&age=37
```

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The $_GET Variable

The "welcome.php" file can now use the $_GET variable to catch the form data (notice that the names of the form fields will automatically be the ID keys in the $_GET array):

```
Welcome <?php echo $_GET["name"]; ?>.<br />
You are <?php echo $_GET["age"]; ?> years old!
```

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Why Use $_GET

Note: When using the $_GET variable all variable names and values are displayed in the URL.

So this method should not be used when sending passwords or other sensitive information! However, because the variables are displayed in the URL, it is possible to bookmark the page. This can be useful in some cases.

Note: The HTTP GET method is not suitable on large variable values; the value cannot exceed 100 characters.

The $_POST Variable

The $_GET variable is used to collect values from a form with method="post".

The $_POST variable is an array of variable names and values sent by the HTTP POST method.

The $_POST variable is used to collect values from a form with method="post". Information sent from a form with the POST method is invisible to others and has no limits on the amount of information to send.

The $_POST Variable

```
<form action="welcome.php" method="post">
Name: <input type="text" name="name" />
Age: <input type="text" name="age" />
<input type="submit" />
</form>
```

When the user clicks the "Submit" button, the URL will not contain any form data, and will look something like this:

```
http://www.mogmachine.com/welcome.php
```

The $_POST Variable

The "welcome.php" file can now use the $_POST variable to catch the form data (notice that the names of the form fields will automatically be the ID keys in the $_POST array):

```
Welcome <?php echo $_POST["name"]; ?>.<br />
You are <?php echo $_POST["age"]; ?> years old!
```

Why Use $_POST

- Variables sent with HTTP POST are not shown in the URL

- Variables have no length limit

However, because the variables are not displayed in the URL, it is not possible to bookmark the page.

The $_REQUEST Variable

The PHP $_REQUEST variable contains the contents of both $_GET, $_POST, and $_COOKIE.

The PHP $_REQUEST variable can be used to get the result from form data sent with both the GET and POST methods.

```
Welcome <?php echo $_REQUEST["name"]; ?>.<br />
You are <?php echo $_REQUEST["age"]; ?> years old!
```