PHP Web Development, Lesson 2

Contents

[1 Example 1 – Postback to Self 1](#_Toc194227674)

[2 Example 2 – Postback to Self, more Secure 1](#_Toc194227675)

[3 Example 3 – Postback to Self & Redirect 2](#_Toc194227676)

[4 Example 4 – Creating an Order with Products (Classes) 2](#_Toc194227677)

[5 Example 5 – Postback to Self via Radiobutton Selection 2](#_Toc194227678)

[Appendix 1 Resources 3](#_Toc194227679)

[Appendix 1.1 Detecting First Time on Page 3](#_Toc194227680)

[Appendix 1.2 Session 3](#_Toc194227681)

[Appendix 1.3 Single-Page Apps (SPA) 3](#_Toc194227682)

[Appendix 1.4 Misc 4](#_Toc194227683)

[Appendix 1.5 Redirect to another Page 4](#_Toc194227684)

[Appendix 2 Frameworks 4](#_Toc194227685)

The code for the examples below is found by following the link on the Schedule to GitHub. The *outline.php* page is a link to all the examples.

# Example 1 – Postback to Self

Code: lesson2/ex1-postself.php, ex1-code.php

Features: (a) including code, (b) postback to self, (c) multi-select listbox, (d) first time on page vs. post back, (e) XSS examples.

Instead of posting to another page, post to yourself. Suppose a user needs to enter new product data into a database. Under one scenario, they might enter the data for a product, submit, next product, submit, etc. In other words, using the same page over and over. That is what we will create here. This technique is the basis of what is called a [single-page app (SPA)](https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Glossary/SPA), however with SPAs, partial page updates are accomplished with JavaScript and usually implemented in a framework, for example, [WebRocketX](https://webrocketx.com/phpSpa.html).

Post to self, either of these:

<form action="<?php echo $\_SERVER['PHP\_SELF']; ?>" method="POST">  
<form action="" method="POST">

# Example 2 – Postback to Self, more Secure

Code: lesson2/ex1-postself-validated.php, ex1-code-validated.php

Features: htmlspecialchars

[w3school:PHP htmlspecialchars() Function](https://www.w3schools.com/php/func_string_htmlspecialchars.asp)

[What is the purpose of the "htmlspecialchars" function in PHP?](https://eitca.org/web-development/eitc-wd-pmsf-php-and-mysql-fundamentals/forms-in-php/xss-attacks/examination-review-xss-attacks/what-is-the-purpose-of-the-htmlspecialchars-function-in-php/#:~:text=The%20%22htmlspecialchars%22%20function%20in%20PHP%20is%20a%20vital%20tool%20for,as%20HTML%20tags%20or%20code.)

# Example 3 – Postback to Self & Redirect

Code: lesson2/ex3-session.php, ex3-results.php

Features: (a) postback to enter data (number), redirect to results page, (b) checkbox to reset, (c) session: start, checking if exists, updating, (d) array of numbers.

Set the *value* attribute in the button so that it is posted along with other form data. Then detect with: isSet(\_POST[“btn1]). Very simple example:

<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/how-to-call-php-function-on-the-click-of-a-button/>

# Example 4 – Creating an Order with Products (Classes)

Code: lesson2/ex4-session-v1/add\_order.php, add\_products.php, Order.php, Product.php

Features: (a) scenario: create order, then create products, one at a time. Product page shows order, (b) custom classes, Order🡪\*Product, (c) objects in session: serialize, deserialize, (d) session: start, checking if exists, updating.

[PHP OOP - Classes and Objects](https://www.w3schools.com/php/php_oop_classes_objects.asp)

[Classes & Objects – The Basics](https://www.php.net/manual/en/language.oop5.basic.php)

# Example 5 – Postback to Self via Radiobutton Selection

Code: lesson2/ex5-radiopostback.php

Features: (a) scenario: select a radiobutton to submit form (b) JS submit (in helper method), (c) helper methods to build radio buttons., (d) making the radio button stay checked!, (e) checking if a key exists in Post collection.

Appendix

1. Resources
   1. Detecting First Time on Page

Don’t like article, but technique might be: if ($\_SERVER['REQUEST\_METHOD'] == 'POST')

<https://www.sitepoint.com/community/t/send-post-values-with-header-location/38750>

Show different page first time. One commenter said this is old, don’t use it.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/8752398/show-different-page-if-first-time-visit>

* 1. Session

Excellent description

<https://www.usna.edu/Users/cs/adina/teaching/it350/fall2020/lectures/set11-sessions.html>

Cookies, from same source:

<https://www.usna.edu/Users/cs/adina/teaching/it350/fall2020/lectures/set10-phpCookies.html>

JS Cookies

<https://www.usna.edu/Users/cs/adina/teaching/it350/fall2020/lectures/set22-jscookies.html>

Doc page. Simple examples

<https://www.php.net/manual/en/function.session-start.php>

Code is simple. Explanations seem wacky, but must be my understanding b/c w3schools is good.

<https://www.w3schools.com/php/php_sessions.asp>

* 1. Single-Page Apps (SPA)

Don’t quite understand how it works. Don’t see form/post anywhere. Some JS being used. But, very simple otherwise.

<https://github.com/Posandu/php-single-page-application/tree/main>

Active CSS framework. Good description of what a SPA does. I believe you just need to include a JS file.

<https://activecss.org/manual/php-spa-tutorial-part-1.html>

WebRocketX – all JS based

<https://github.com/matthewekeller/WebRocketX>

I think this has the answer I want for hw 4 (the old one, which will be same as new one). See last answer (0 points!).

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/73349425/how-can-i-make-a-single-page-application-with-php>

This is excellent! All JS, raw code, not frameworks nor 3rd party JS.

<https://orangeable.com/php/spa>

* 1. Misc

Can use header(‘a.php?result=success’). From comment on question itself.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/17333901/php-form-on-submit-stay-on-same-page>

Very good explanation

<https://html.form.guide/php-form/php-form-action-self/>

Don’t quite understand how it works. Don’t see form/post anywhere. Some JS being used. But, very simple otherwise.

<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/how-to-call-php-function-on-the-click-of-a-button/>

Other:

[11 Best PHP Frameworks](https://www.hostinger.com/tutorials/best-php-framework)

[Best practice in mixing html and php? and why?](https://www.reddit.com/r/PHP/comments/5vdf3v/best_practice_in_mixing_html_and_php_and_why/)

[Form Validation](https://www.w3schools.com/php/php_form_validation.asp) – D

* 1. Redirect to another Page

Didn’t like this too much

<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/how-to-make-a-redirect-in-php/>

I think this is a copy of above, but written better

<https://phoenixnap.com/kb/php-redirect>

Supplemental resource: I don’t believe it posts the form data. This is a technique that does a full http request. Don’t recommend right now.

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/4281900/php-header-redirect-with-post-variables/4281960>

1. Frameworks

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| Laravel: [wiki](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laravel), | MVC | Most popular |
| [Comparison of frameworks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_server-side_web_frameworks) |  |  |
| [Symphony](https://symfony.com/) | ? | Components & framework |