
Use \$SESSION instead of \$REQUEST variables

Posted by kefford - 2015/11/12 00:53

Hi,

I am currently using \$REQUEST variables to pass parameters that the ARI DataTables module is catching and using in its' SQL statement. This works fine but the URL length is becoming a concern. I want to attempt to modify the site pages to use \$SESSION variables stored directly on the server instead.

Please see the thread in the link below to see how I am currently using \$REQUEST variables passed through the URL,

<http://www.ari-soft.com/ARI-Data-Tables/53660-Strange-Problem-Returning-Specific-MySQL-Results.html>

Can \$SESSION variable values be called and used in the SQL statements within the ARI DataTables modules? If so, can you provide a simple example? Using \$SESSION variables instead will enable me to remove all URL parameters and shorten the URLs.

Please note, this question relates only to using \$SESSION variables instead of the \$REQUEST variables ONLY in the WHERE statement of the SQL statement, not anywhere else.

Thanks in advance.

Ken

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Re:Use \$SESSION instead of \$REQUEST variables

Posted by admin - 2015/11/12 06:32

Hello,

Upgrade the module to v. 1.15.4. It supports ability to use session variables in SQL queries. The sample query where "article_id" session variable is used:

```
SELECT
id,
title
FROM
#__content
WHERE
id = {$SESSION:article_id|empty:"}
```

Regards,
ARI Soft

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Re:Use \$SESSION instead of \$REQUEST variables

Posted by kefford - 2015/11/12 13:56

Excellent, thank you. I will test it following your example.

Ken

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Re:Use \$SESSION instead of \$REQUEST variables

Posted by kefford - 2016/09/27 17:47

Hi,

I tried changing to \$SESSION variables but without results. The query does not return data.

I was using \$REQUEST variables passed through the URL string, as follows, and this works perfectly,

```
SELECT
LocRegion as Region,
COUNT(DISTINCT uSimID) AS Count
FROM Simulators
WHERE
MarkForDeletion "1"
AND
({$REQUEST:vOrganization|empty:""} = " OR Organization LIKE CONCAT('%',{ $REQUEST:vOrganization|empty:""},'%'))
AND
({$REQUEST:vTrainingNetwork|empty:""} = " OR TrainingNetwork LIKE
CONCAT({$REQUEST:vTrainingNetwork|empty:""},'%'))
GROUP BY
LocRegion
ORDER BY
Count DESC
```

When I changed to \$SESSION variables, as follows, the query does not return any data,

```
SELECT
LocRegion as Region,
COUNT(DISTINCT uSimID) AS Count
FROM Simulators
WHERE
MarkForDeletion "1"
AND
({$SESSION:vOrganization|empty:""} = " OR Organization LIKE CONCAT('%',{ $SESSION:vOrganization|empty:""},'%'))
AND
({$SESSION:vTrainingNetwork|empty:""} = " OR TrainingNetwork LIKE
CONCAT({$SESSION:vTrainingNetwork|empty:""},'%'))
GROUP BY
LocRegion
ORDER BY
Count DESC
```

Also, I have confirmed that the \$SESSION variables are set and being read properly because on the same form and article I re-load the data from those same \$SESSION variables.

Am I missing something? Do I have to include a session_start() call? If so, where?

Ken

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Re:Use \$SESSION instead of \$REQUEST variables

Posted by admin - 2016/09/27 19:41

Hello,

Could you provide a link to a page where use the module and a temporary access to your J! backend by email?

Regards,
ARI Soft

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Re:Use \$SESSION instead of \$REQUEST variables

Posted by kefford - 2016/09/28 01:25

How should I send the details? I do not want the login details posted on a forum. Is there a secure way to send?

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Re:Use \$SESSION instead of \$REQUEST variables

Posted by admin - 2016/09/28 07:10

Use {\$_PHPSESSION} instead of {\$SESSION}. {\$SESSION} variables are used for Joomla! sessions, Joomla! is configured to store sessions into database on your site.

Regards,
ARI Soft

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Re:Use \$SESSION instead of \$REQUEST variables

Posted by kefford - 2016/09/28 20:04

Thank you. Works great now.

Ken

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Re:Use \$SESSION instead of \$REQUEST variables

Posted by kefford - 2016/10/02 22:04

One more question as I work through developing the changes required in this upgrade. The overall aim of these changes is to now support multiple selections and return with ARIDataTables results for queries with multiple selections.

For the single selection, here is what I am using in the ARIDataTables SQL query,

```
AND ({$_REQUEST:vACClass|empty:''} = " OR ACClass LIKE CONCAT({$_REQUEST:vACClass|empty:''}, '%'))
AND
```

The above is part of the WHERE and the selected values to drive the filter is passed via the URL as a \$REQUEST variable. This works great.

Now, for the new multi-select query I am testing, below is what I have for the same filtering field,

```
AND
({$_PHPSESSION:sACClass|empty:''} = " OR ACClass IN ( {$_PHPSESSION:sACClass|empty:''} ))
AND
```

The selected items are in a string saved as a \$SESSION variable named sACClass which is simply the selected values separated by a COMMA. The ACClass is the database field being queried.

The new method above works fine when nothing is selected, and when only one item is selected. However, when more than one item is selected ARIDataTables returns no data from the database.

Clearly, I am missing something, but have not been able to isolate the problem. Do you have any ideas or suggestions? I am sure I am doing something wrong.

Also, I have confirmed that the \$SESSION variables are filling properly.

Ken

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Re:Use \$SESSION instead of \$REQUEST variables

Posted by admin - 2016/10/03 06:35

It doesn't work because value of {\$_SESSION:sACClass} is a string, not an array. IN operator for multiple values look like:

Col1 IN ('Value 1', 'Value 2', 'Value 3')

in your case it looks like:

Col1 IN ('Value 1,Value 2,Value 3')

BTW, the extension doesn't support ability to use array variables. We can extend this functionality and implement it as a custom feature.

Regards,
ARI Soft

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Re:Use \$_SESSION instead of \$_REQUEST variables

Posted by admin - 2016/10/03 10:58

It will not work because the extension doesn't support variable which contains arrays. As we wrote previously, we can adjust module functionality and add it as a custom feature. If you are interested in it, contact us by email and we will discuss details.

Regards,
ARI Soft

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Re:Use \$_SESSION instead of \$_REQUEST variables

Posted by kefford - 2016/10/03 11:44

I sent you the email requesting details on supporting array variables.

But I am still confused by your replies. I am not using any array variables in my implementation.

The variable sACClass is NOT an array, it is a string that is built from an array outside of the module. The array is not referenced anywhere in the ARIDataTables module. I am attempting to build a string to pass the set of acceptable values for the IN statement.

Is there another way to achieve the same result other than using an IN statement? Maybe what I am building for the IN is the same as an ARRAY, as far as ARIDataTables is concerned.

I do not see how passing a string into the IN is an array, but what do I know. The IN is standard SQL.

I am simply trying to implement multiple selections in the easiest way possible. My first thought was to use the power of SQL which your extension supports.

Ken

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Re:Use \$_SESSION instead of \$_REQUEST variables

Posted by admin - 2016/10/03 13:18

Check your mail please.

Regards,

ARI Soft

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Re:Use \$SESSION instead of \$REQUEST variables

Posted by kefford - 2016/10/03 13:37

There is no email.

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Re:Use \$SESSION instead of \$REQUEST variables

Posted by admin - 2016/10/03 13:41

Check again. Re-sent it from our secondary email.

Regards,
ARI Soft

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Re:Use \$SESSION instead of \$REQUEST variables

Posted by kefford - 2016/10/03 13:53

I got both emails. The first one was quite delayed in being delivered, but I got it.

I sent payment so please proceed. Thanks.

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Re:Use \$SESSION instead of \$REQUEST variables

Posted by admin - 2016/10/03 17:56

We have sent the update by email.

Regards,
ARI Soft

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