

## User Guide 3.3

### Session and ViewState Variables

#### A. Session Variables

There are times you need to transfer data between different aspx pages. There are various ways to transfer data (i.e. the ID/Name of a student to be updated) between pages. You could create a cookie, or you could add the data to a temporary database table, or your 'hide' them on the web page, or you could use a Session Variables

Session Variables are Strings or an Array of Strings, stored in RAM on the Server for up to 20 minutes. Thus their use must be limited as they do impact performance. It is a good idea to create and then remove session variables when no longer needed.

The following example assumes you want to transfer the ID and the First and Last Name of a student to be updated.

1. Using your Person Class, create a new instance as in:

```
PersonInfo personToUpdate = new PersonInfo();
```

2. Gather the appropriate info such as ID, FN, LN from a grid or other object and move into the temporary class

```
personToUpdate.PersonId = studentID;  
personToUpdate.FirstName = "From Grid/Other Object";  
personToUpdate.LastName = "From Grid/Other Object";
```

3. Finally move into the session variable by transferring the new class to the Session Array

```
Session["personToUpdate"] = personToUpdate;
```

4. To retrieve the values on another page, call the session variable, give it the class name of the personInfo and transfer back into the personToUpdate as in:

```
personToUpdate = (PersonInfo) Session["personToUpdate"];
```

5. To remove the values from RAM on the server

```
Session.Remove("personToUpdate");:
```

## B. ViewState Variables

View State Variables are similar to Session Variables, however they are not stored in RAM and only maintain their value if the 'post back' is to the same ASPX page as it stores its value in the header encrypted data that is passed back to the client machine.

Following are examples of creating and retrieving values from the ViewState

```
ViewState["studentToUpdate"] = personToUpdate;  
personToUpdate =(PersonInfo) ViewState["studentToUpdate"];
```