What is the Difference Between Cookies and Browser Sessions?

The UBB.threads™ software, in order to function normally, needs to keep track of users' activity in the forums. For example, the "who's online" feature requires information on which users are currently logged in. The software can accomplish this tracking using one of two different mechanisms: browser sessions or cookies.

You can determine which mechanism is used by changing the variable in the config.inc.php file that looks like this:

```
// Do you want to use sessions or cookies to track your users

// values = "cookies" or "sessions";

  $config['tracking'] = "cookies";
```

If you set the variable to "cookies" (the recommended setting), then your users will be recognized by the UBB.threads™ software and will not have to log in each time they enter your community. The cookie will stay in place within the user's browser until it is deleted by the user.

If you set the variable to "sessions", then user activity will be tracked using browser sessions, and your users will have to log in each time they re-open their browser. Additionally, if you are using the "sessions" variable, you need to secure the "sessions" directory, either by placing it above the web root or by requesting that your web host make it a non-browsable directory.