



MODULE 1

INFORMATION & DATA LITERACY

About Cookies

Explorer Level Activities



About cookies

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY

When you navigate the Web, you are exposed to a series of laws and regulations linked to browser cookies. It is fundamental that before accepting them you are aware of what cookies are and how they can influence your activity and privacy online.



Source: <https://www.pexels.com/it-it/foto/pila-di-biscotti-3252139>

A cookie is a small text file on your hard drive created by the web pages you visit and can be used to identify you to a website. It looks like a sequence of numbers, a series of codes, which is meaningful only to the software creating them. Cookies are meant to track, personalise and save information about your online session (i.e. recognise users' login information and preferences; customise advertising; tracking items previously searched to create shopping carts and suggest similar goods). Cookies create some persistence, informing the server that the requests come from the same computer. They can be compared to getting a ticket for a coat check: you leave your coat at the desk; you receive your ticket identifying you; when you come back, you can take back your coat with your ticket.

Cookies have often been at the centre of discussions about privacy violations, as they may allow data aggregation to track your online activity and contribute to the creation of precise user profiles. According to the EU directive on HTTP, a website can grab information on a visitor only after his/her consent. If you wish to remove your cookies, you can usually choose the options that best meet your needs.

Activity - Reflection

Visit the following resources and list information on the questions below about cookies. You can search on the web for more resources.

- What information can cookies hold? Find more if there are more than those mentioned already.
- Is it obligatory to accept cookies?
- Can cookies be dangerous and how?



Resources:

- EU cookies Laws: <https://gdpr.eu/cookies/?cn-reloaded=1>
- Allow cookies: <https://support.kaspersky.com/common/windows/2843#block2>
- Turn cookies on/off:
<https://support.google.com/accounts/answer/61416?co=GENIE.Platform%3DAndroid&hl=en>
- An ultimate guide for using cookies: <https://html.com/resources/cookies-ultimate-guide/#:~:text=Cookies%2C%20or%2C%20to%20give%20them,specific%20to%20each%20individual%20user.>
- Rookie Cookies: <https://www.thesun.co.uk/tech/6507593/what-is-cookie-internet-accept-info-decline-delete-cookies-explained/>
- <https://www.privacypolicies.com/blog/browser-cookies-guide>
- What are cookies: <https://www.kaspersky.com/resource-center/definitions/cookies>

TOOLS DATA & RESOURCES NEEDED

- Web Browser (Chrome, Firefox, Edge, Opera, etc.)

TIME REQUIRED

- 30 minutes for visiting resources and reflection