

What are 'cookies'?

Cookies are small text files which are downloaded to your computer, tablet or mobile phone when you visit a website or application. The website or application may retrieve these cookies from your web browser (e.g. Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome) each time you visit, so they can recognise you, remember your preferences and provide you with a more secure online experience.

Generally, cookies are very useful and are a common method used by almost every website you visit because they help to make your online experience as smooth as possible. For security reasons, many websites will not function at all without the use of cookies.

Cookies generally do not hold any information to identify an individual person, but are instead used to identify a browser on an individual machine.

Cookies can be referred to as **session cookies** or **persistent cookies**, depending on how long they are used:

- Session cookies only last for your online session and disappear from your computer or device when you close your browser.
- Persistent cookies stay on your computer or device after the browser has been closed and last for the period of time specified in the cookie. These persistent cookies may be checked each time you visit the site where the cookie was generated or, in the case of third-party cookies, from another site that also uses the same service.
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How does the Magna Sinfonia website use cookies?

A visit to a page on the Magna Sinfonia website may generate the following types of cookie:

- Registration and preferences cookies
- Anonymous analytics cookies
- Anonymous advertising cookies.

Checking Your Cookies

You can check which cookies are used by each business solution, third-party app or third-party integration using the facility built into most browsers. While in incognito mode, click the **Secure** icon  next to the URL bar and then select **Cookies**.

Registration and preferences cookies

When you log into the restricted content on our site, we generate cookies that let us know whether you are signed in or not. Our servers use these cookies to work out which account you are signed in with, and if you are allowed access to a particular service. It also allows us to associate any comments you post with your username. If you have not selected 'keep me signed in', your cookies get deleted when you either close your browser or shut down your computer.

Anonymous analytics cookies

Every time someone visits our website, software provided by other organisations (e.g., Google Analytics) generate 'anonymous analytics cookies'.

These cookies can tell us whether or not you have visited the site before. Your browser will tell us if you have these cookies and, if you don't, we generate new ones. This allows us to track how many individual users we have, and how often they visit the site. We may use them to gather statistics, for example, the number of visits to a page, to help us identify if visitors would benefit from more information on a particular area.

Anonymous advertising cookies

If we place adverts on our website, these cookies allow us to know how many people have seen or clicked on an advert on the Magna Sinfonia website. We may also use cookies to help us use targeted advertising. We may also combine these cookies with data provided by other organisations (e.g., Google Analytics and Google Adwords) to target our advertising elsewhere on the internet.

How do I turn cookies off?

It is usually possible to stop your browser accepting cookies, or to stop it accepting cookies from a particular website. However, we cannot tell if you are signed in without using cookies, so you would not be able to post comments and you may have problems using or accessing other parts of the Magna Sinfonia website.

All modern browsers allow you to change your cookie settings. You can usually find these settings in the 'options' or 'preferences' menu of your browser. To understand these settings, the 'Help' option in your browser may provide useful details.

Useful links

To find out more about cookies, including how to see what cookies have been set or controlling your cookies, visit www.aboutcookies.org or www.allaboutcookies.org.