Browser Dev Tools Cheat Sheet

John HR Schuster

Version 2.1b, 09/21/2018

Table of Contents

In order to address some browser issues reports by users of web applications it becomes necessary to use the `Dev Tools` build into the browser.

Dev Tools can be executed by pressing the `F12` key. The GUI for Dev tools varies from one browser to another.

Often the Dev Tools can uncover some issues on how the browser and the web application interact. The Web Tools provide a way to vide the JavaScript and CSS errors that can't be seen normally.

> ℹ️ The DevTools `F12` will appear slightly different depending on the browser you are using.

This document will be available via the https://tinyurl.com/y7kspwj8 link.

Console

One of the most powerful features for debugging a web app is the `Console`. In some cases there are errors and warning that can't bee seen without the Dev-Tools console.
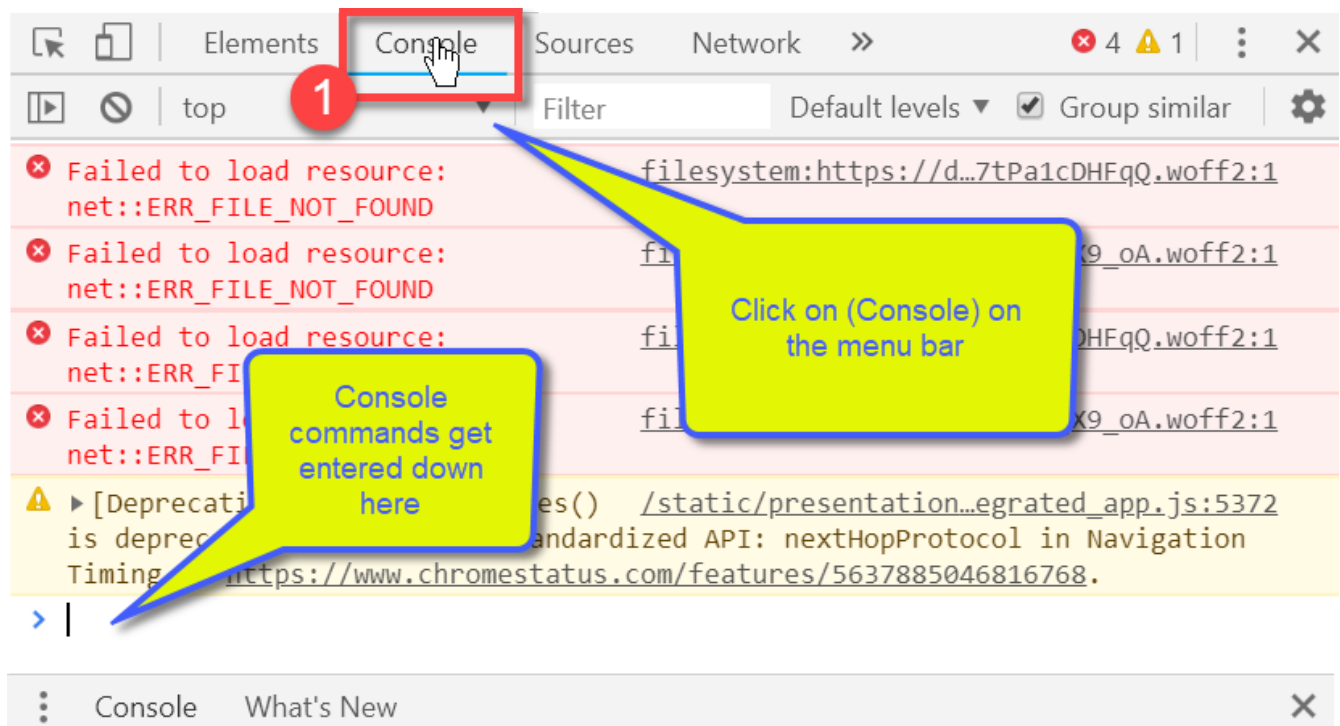
Chrome Browser

Figure 1. Chrome Dev Tools
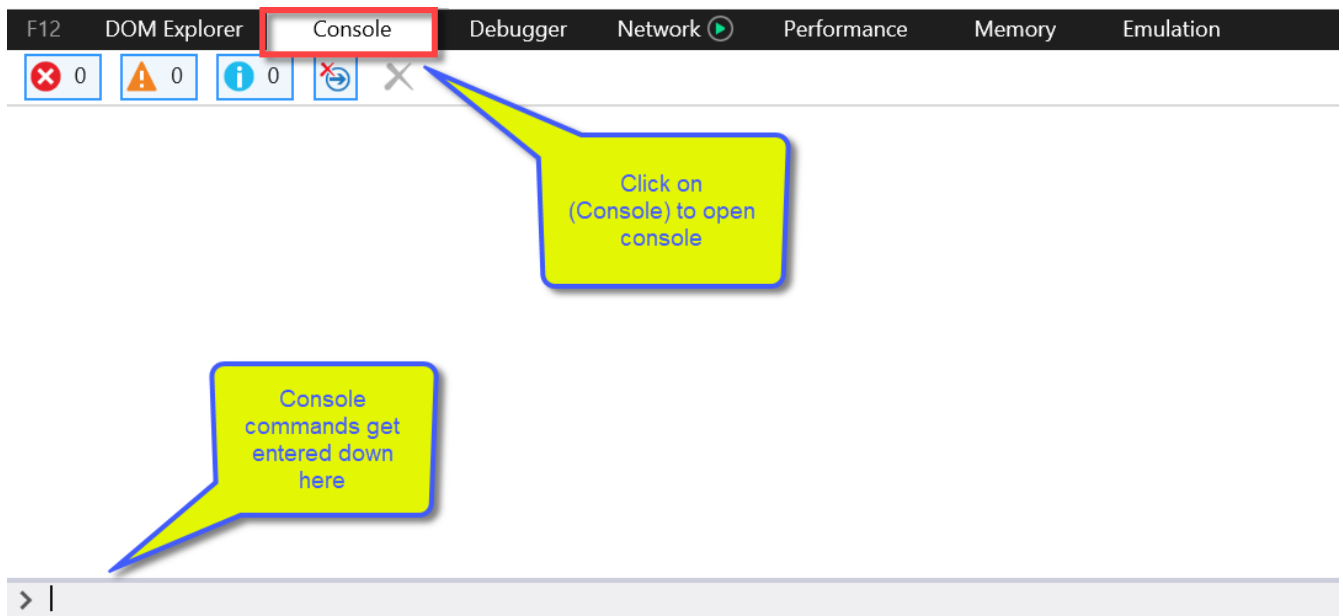
Internet Explorer (not Edge)

Figure 2. Internet Explorer Dev Tools (Not Edge)
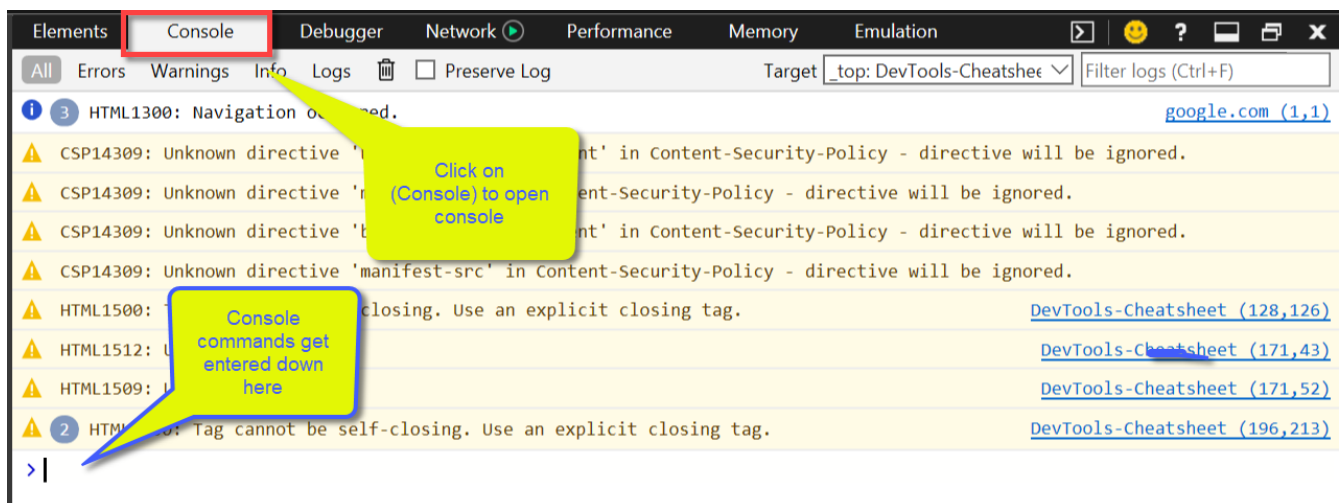
Microsoft Edge (Not Internet Explorer)

Figure 3. Edge (Not Interenet Explorer) Dev Tools

Writing to the console

Use the `console.log()` method for any basic logging to the console. It takes one or more expressions as parameters and writes their current values to the console, concatenating multiple parameters into a space-delimited line.

Command Menu

Many of the commands for the Dev tools can be quickly access via the Google Chrome Command Menu.

A description of the Chrome Devtools protocol with commands is available at this link.

Google Chrome Browser

Press `Ctrl+Shift+P` for the Command Menu, then scroll up and down list for the command you need.
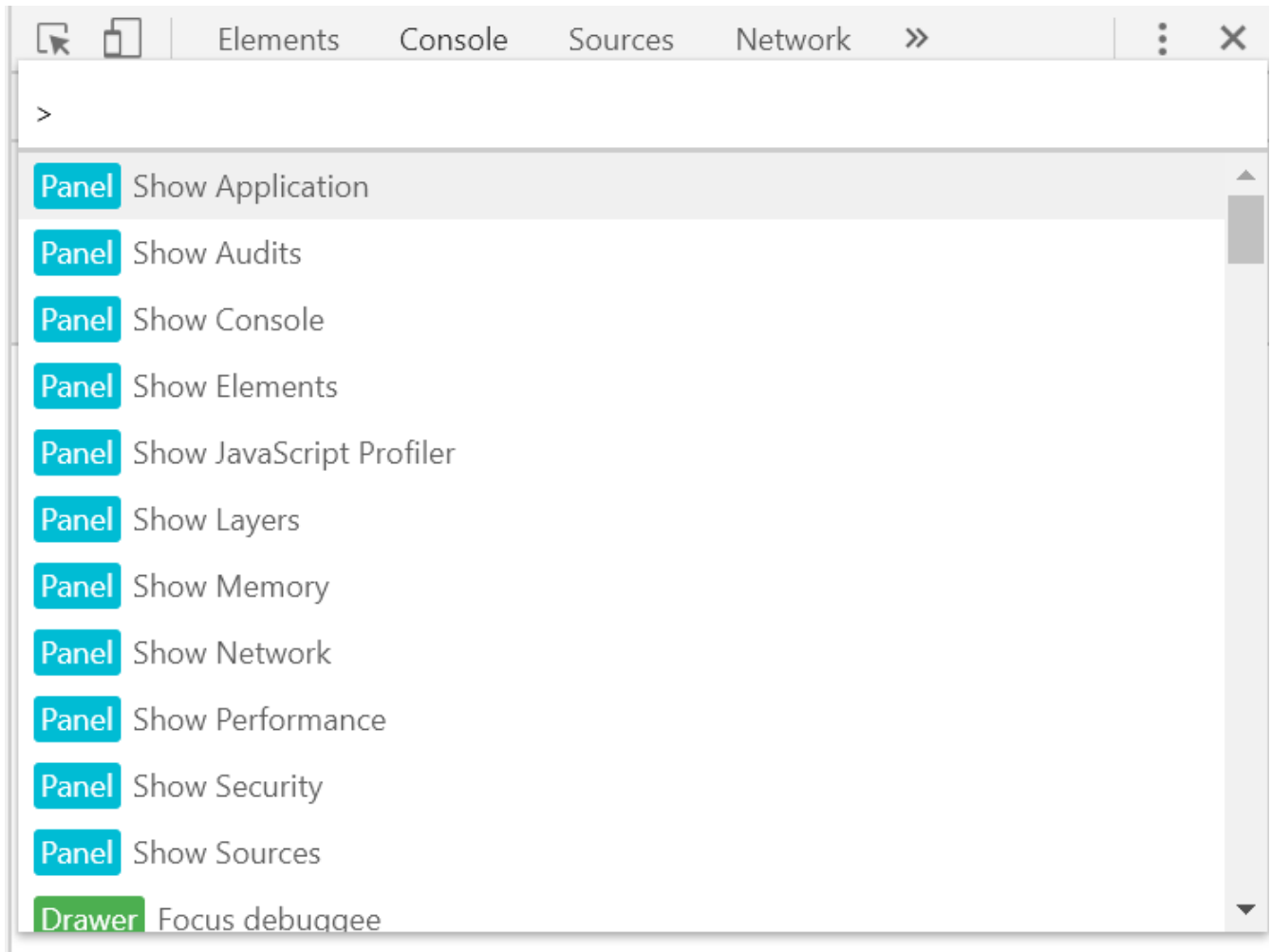

Figure 4. Example Command Menu

DevTool Commands

Here is a list of the DevTool commands that have proven useful for debugging browser issues.

Internet Explorer Version

Clear Console - Clear off console

Chrome Version - Get Chrome version info

Current Date/Time - Display timestamp for testing

Display Body DOM - Display properties of body of web page

Edge Version (Emulation) - View version number and emulate many other browsers

Internet Explorer Version - Determine IE browser version 11,10,9,8,7

Network Panel Description - What do columns mean?

Reload Page - Reload the last page

Save Console to file - Save content of the log to a file

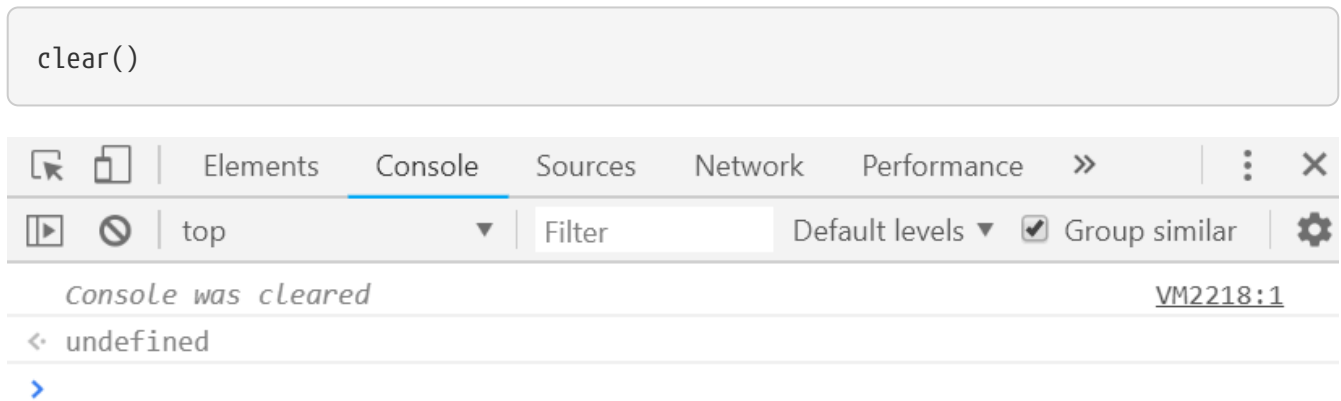# Clear Console

Clear the console out to start a new test.

```
clear()
```


Figure 5. Example Clear Console

Chrome Version

Display the current version information about Chrome.

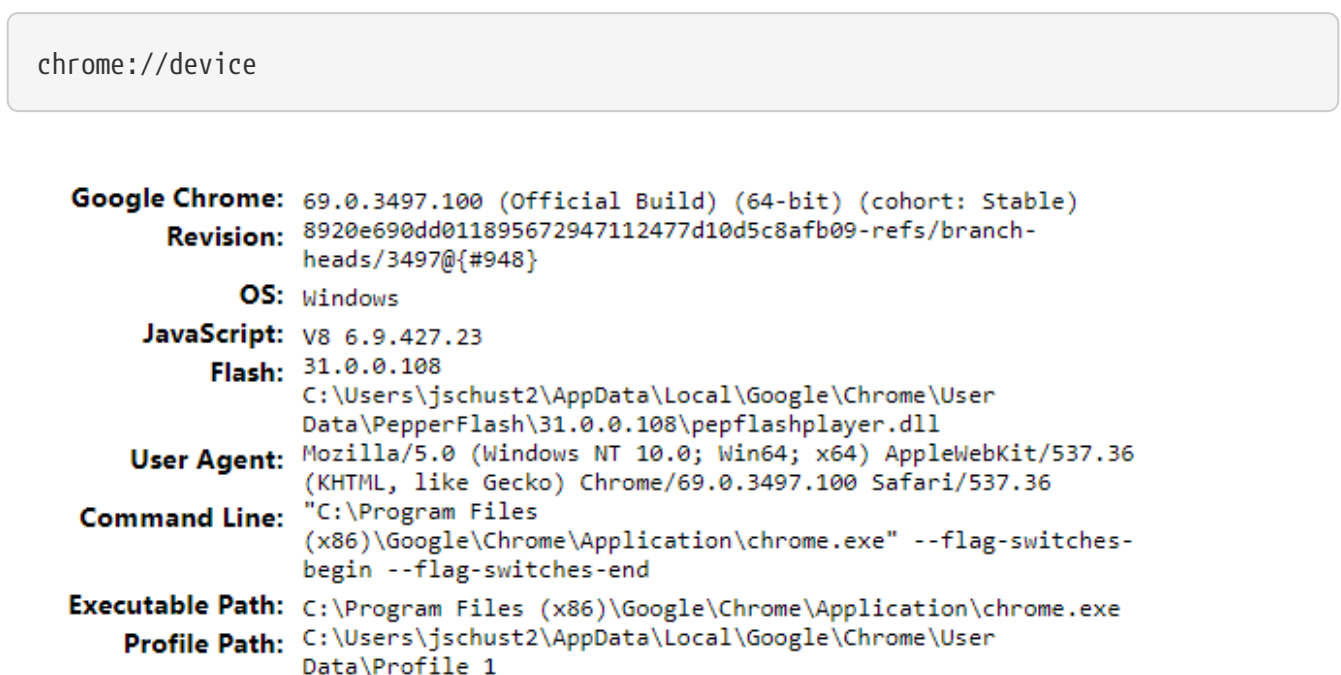ℹ️　　This is entered in as a URL, not a F12 DevTool command.

```
chrome://device
```


Figure 6. Example Chrome Version

Current Date/Time

Current Date / Time

Sometimes it is good to get a date and time stamp in the console for timestamp to work. This example also shows how the group can be used to make the format look professional.

```
console.group("Testing Timestamp");
console.log("Phoenix Workgroup Test");
now = new Date();
console.log( now );
console.groupEnd();
```
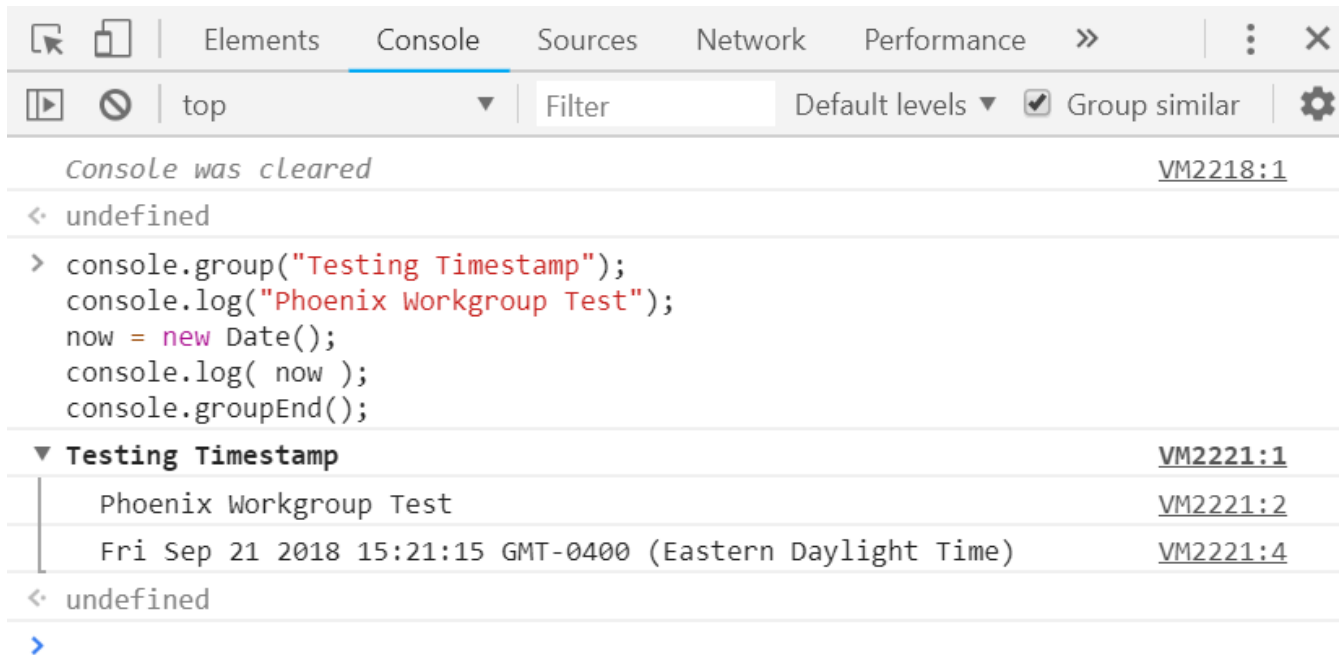

Figure 7. Example Timestamp

Display Body DOM

Displays expandable list of the body of the web page.

> Remember to open up the single line is result for all properties.
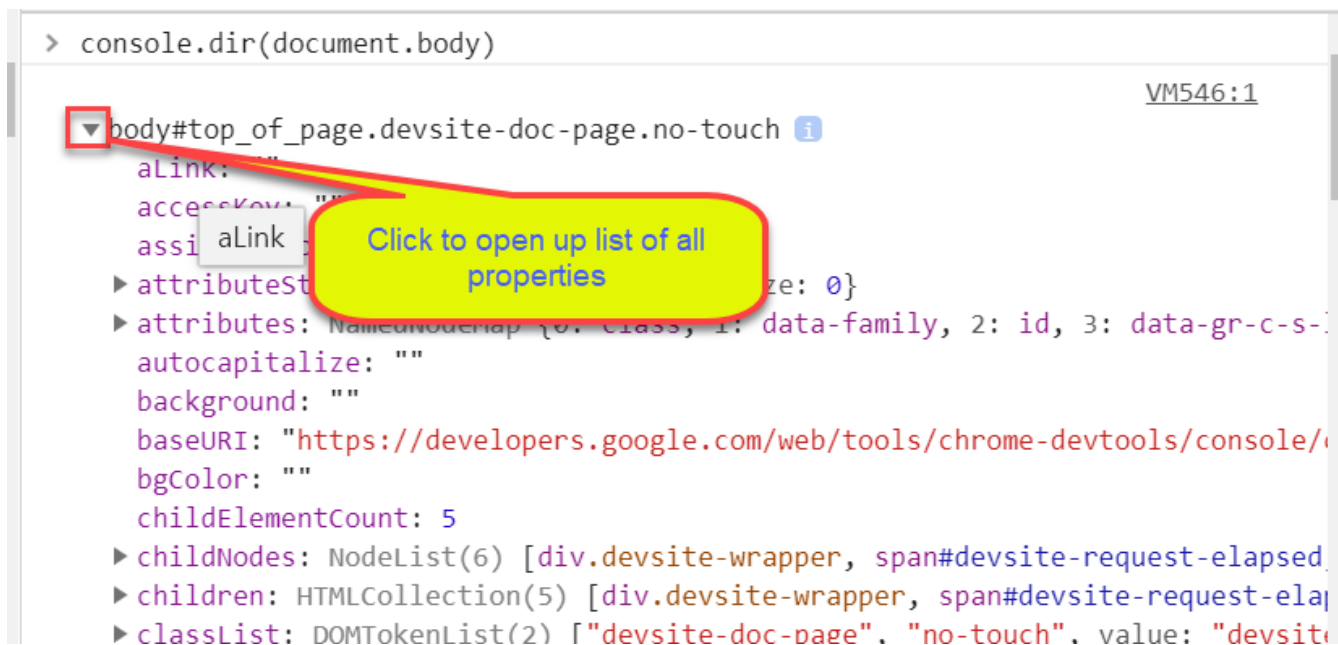
```
console.dir(document.body)
```

Figure 8. Example dicument.body properties

Edge Version (Emulation)

The newer Microsoft Edge browser has an `Emulation` feature from the menu that lets you emulate many different browsers.
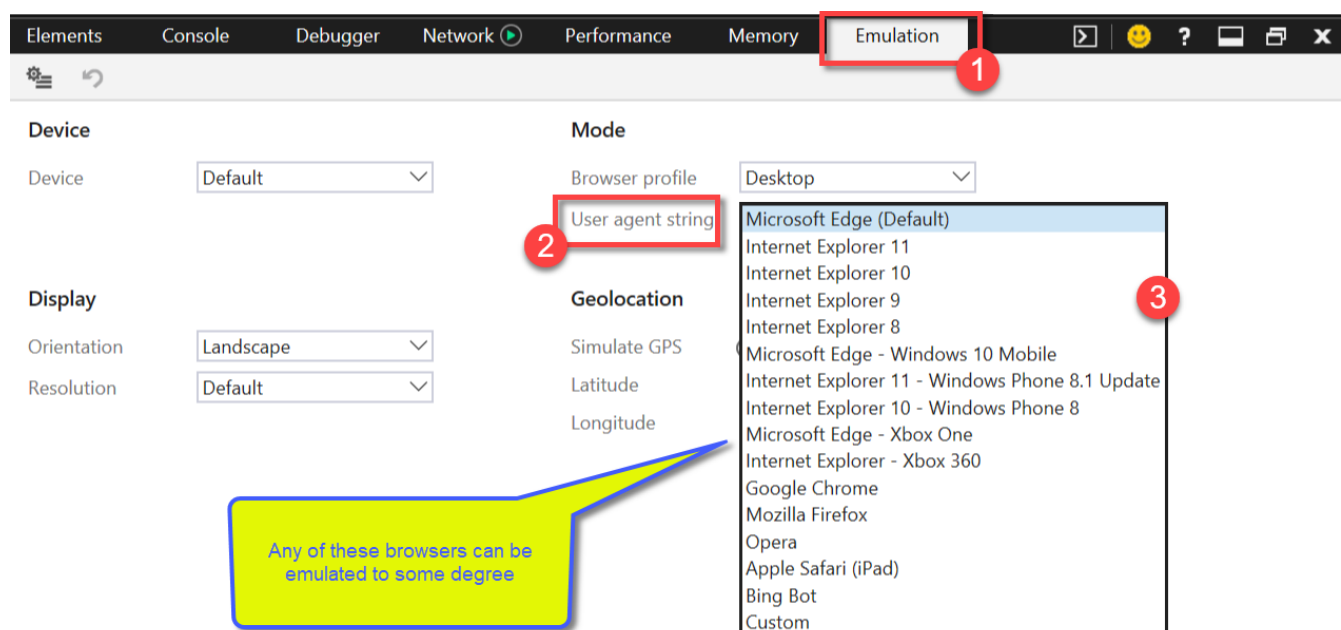

Figure 9. Edge Version (Emulation)

Internet Explorer Version

Some issues are caused by the wrong version of Internet Explorer being used. To determine the version of Internet Explorer you need to open IE DevTools by pressing F12
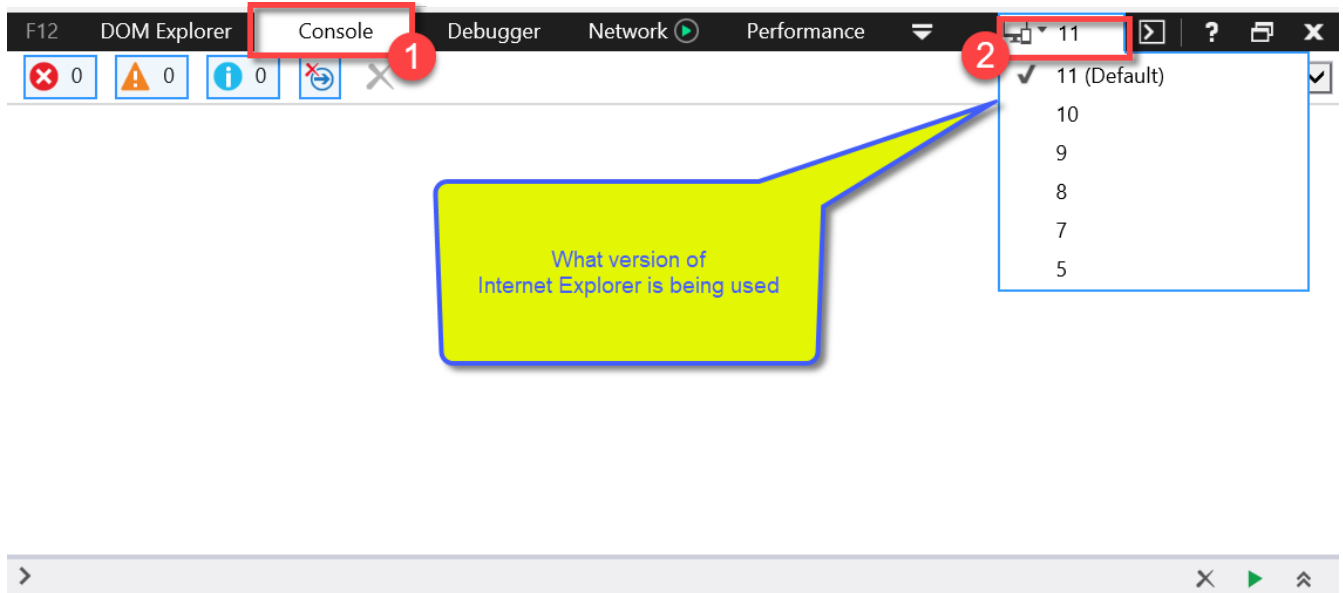
Figure 10. Ineternet Explorer Version

You can change the Version of the IE browser by selecting one from the list. The Internet Explorer Version will temporarily be set to that version.

This great for testing if the IE browser version is the issue.
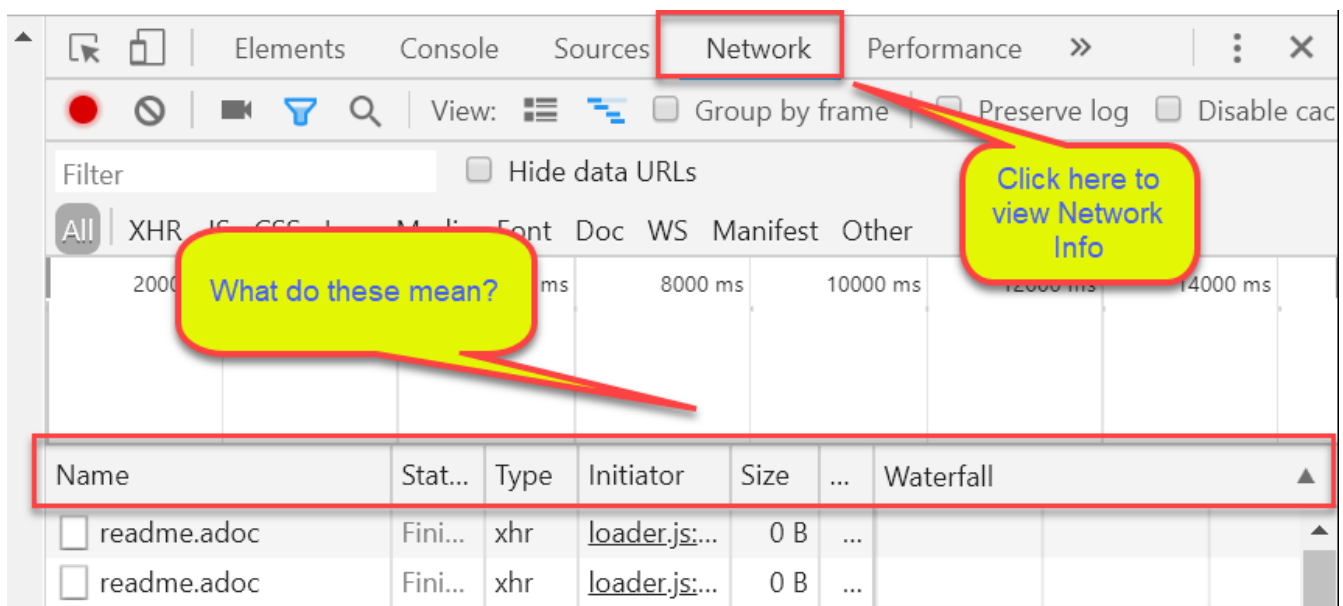
Network Panel Description

Figure 11. Network Tab

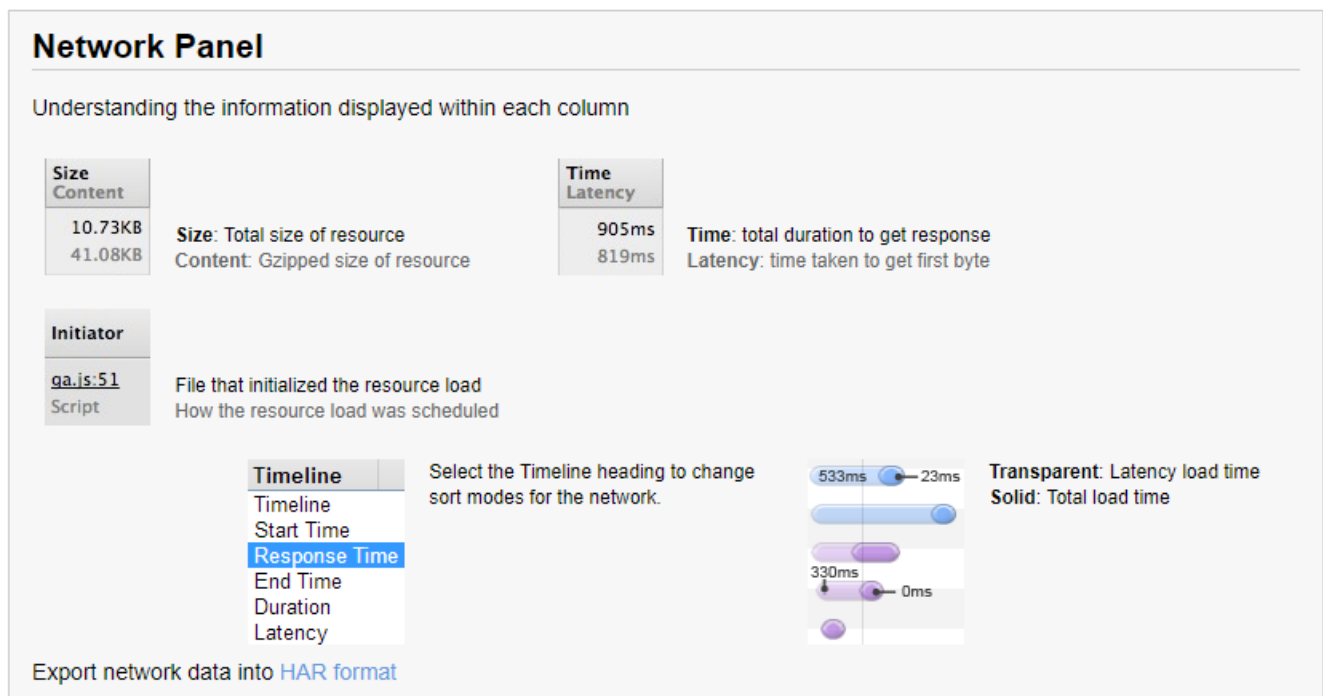What do columns in the Network Panel mean?

Figure 12. Network Panel Description

Reload Page

Sometime it is necessary to reload the page. (ie: update network info).

Press the F5

Save Console to file

Save the content of the console to a file.

ℹ️   This is done inside of the active console window.

Figure 13. Save console to file

Figure 14. Example Saved Console Log

References

There have been many web sites that have contributed to this document.

Table 1. Contributing references

Name	URL	Contributes
AntiCode Dev Tools	http://anti-code.com/devtools-cheatsheet/	Cheat sheet, slow!
Google Web Developer	https://developers.google.com/web/tools/chrome-devtools/console/console-write	Basics
Do anything in console	https://umaar.com/dev-tips/98-command-menu/	Examples

Document History

Table 2. Document History

Date	Version	Author	Description
10/04/2018	V2.1d	JHRS	Added IE/Edge example
08/23/2018	V2.1c	JHRS	Updated with Command Menu, better structure
09/21/2018	V2.1b	JHRS	Initial version