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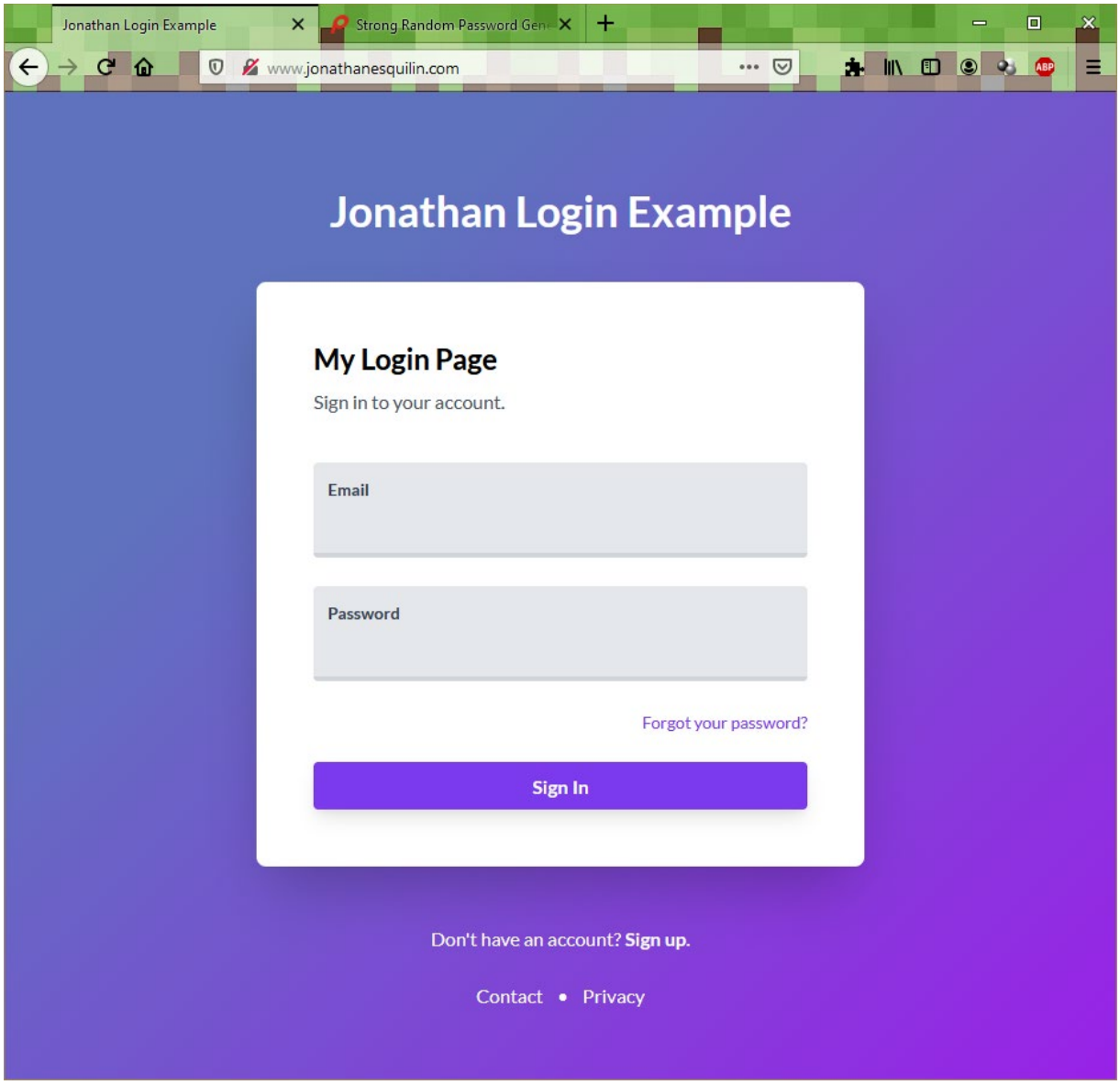
How to see the password in a web password field.

Have you ever tried to login to a web account where you must enter a long or complex password? then sadly as you type you may have forgot what you are typing in the middle of it. Even worse, the field doesn`t have a button to change from the password dots to text to allow you to see what you have typed, and you must start all over again. Well suffer no more with this tutorial on "How to see the password in a web password field."

Before we start, if you want to follow along with my web page example you can get the files from my GitHub[1] repository for this project at https://github.com/JEsquilin-Samples/WebPasswordFields.[2] You will need to install Python 3.0 or above with the Flask library[3] to run the project in my GitHub repository. You don`t need to create my webpage example to follow along with these instructions. These instructions will work with all web pages` password fields. I just think it would be better to use my own web page to keep things simple while I am teaching you how to do it.

First let`s look to my webpage example as shown below (see fig. 1).

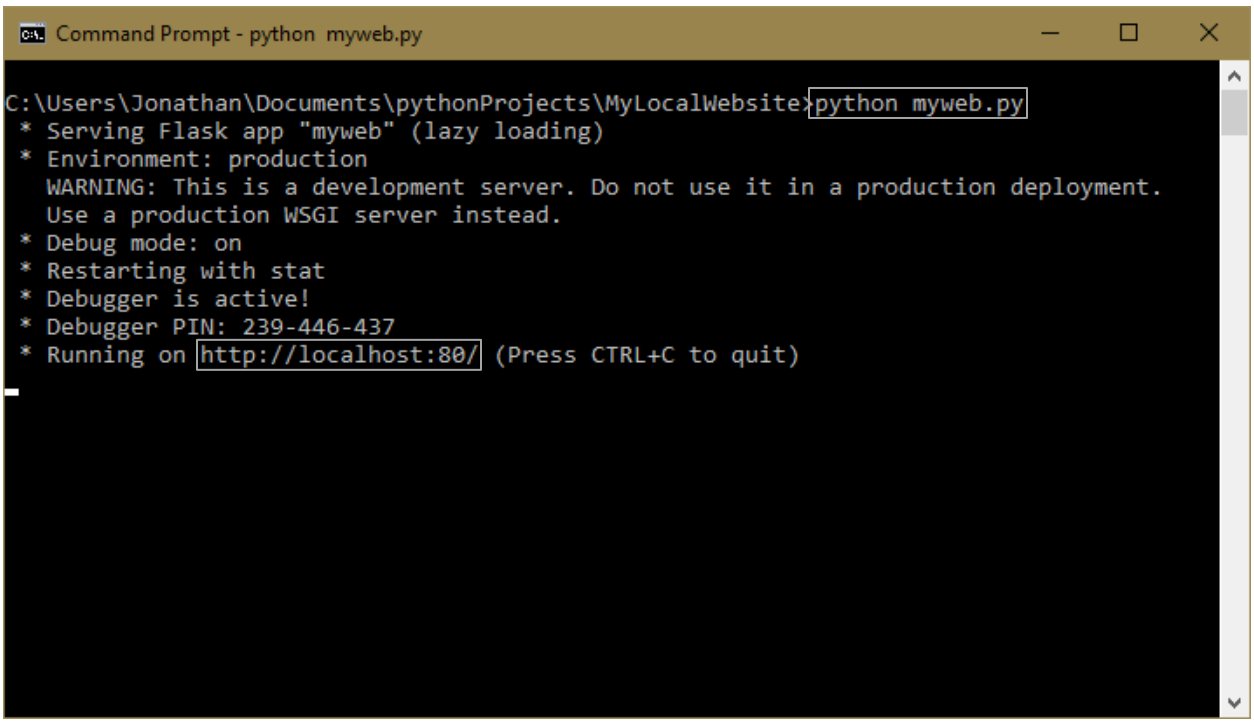


(Fig. 1.)

If you are following along with my example go ahead navigate to your files folder using command prompt on windows and launch the webserver using the command:

python myweb.py

You should see something like this. (see fig. 2).

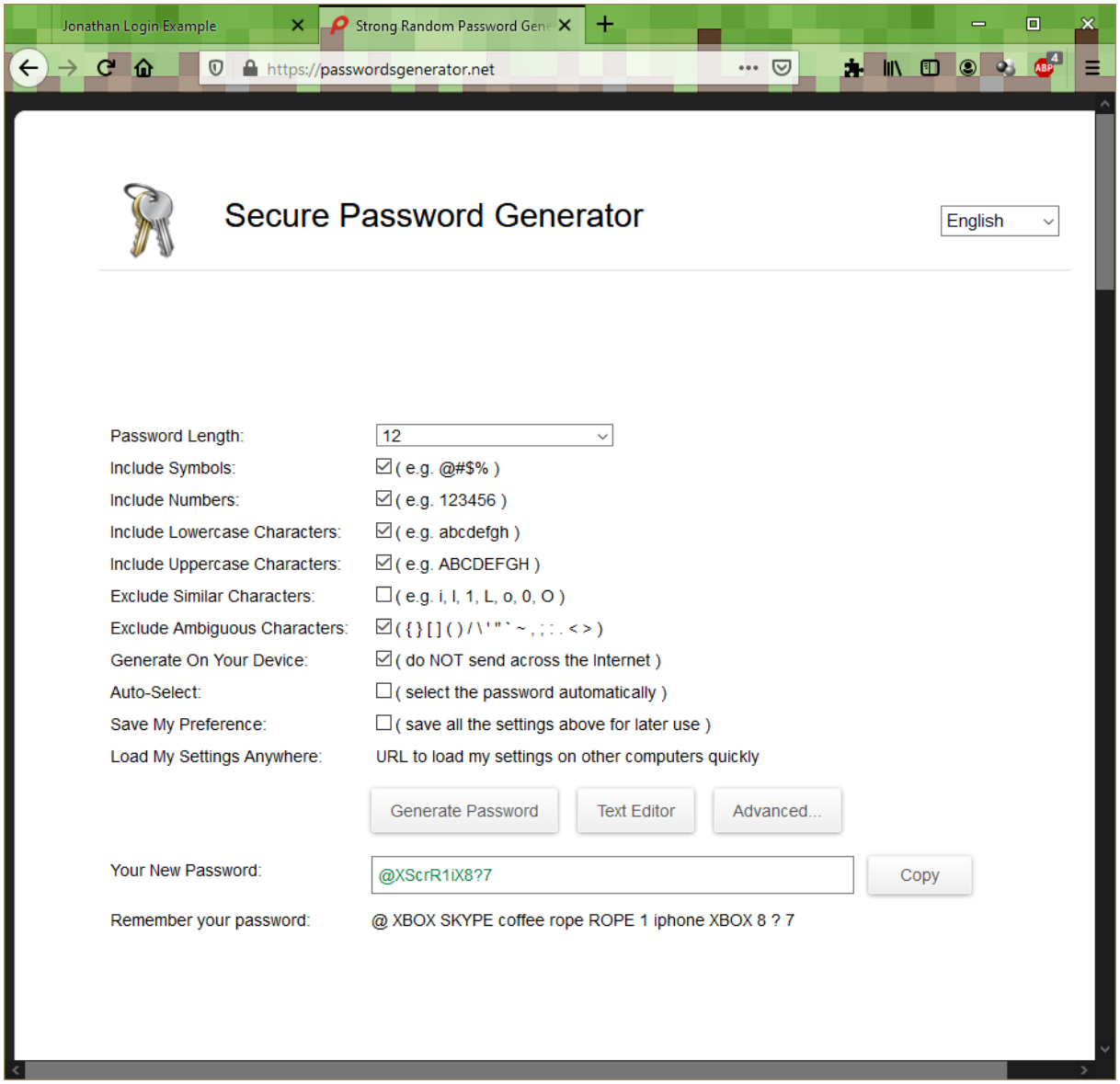


(Fig. 2.)

Then navigate to the URL indicated after “Running on.” in your case this will be http://localhost/. In my case the URL will be different since I altered my domain to show as http://www.jonathanesquilin.com on my pc.

If you are not using the same project, just navigate to the login screen of any website and you can still follow the directions presented here.

Our next step is to generate a password if you don`t have one already in mind. A good tool for this is a password generator software. You can use a free password generator at https://passwordsgenerator.net/. I generate a password for this project using their tool (see fig. 3).



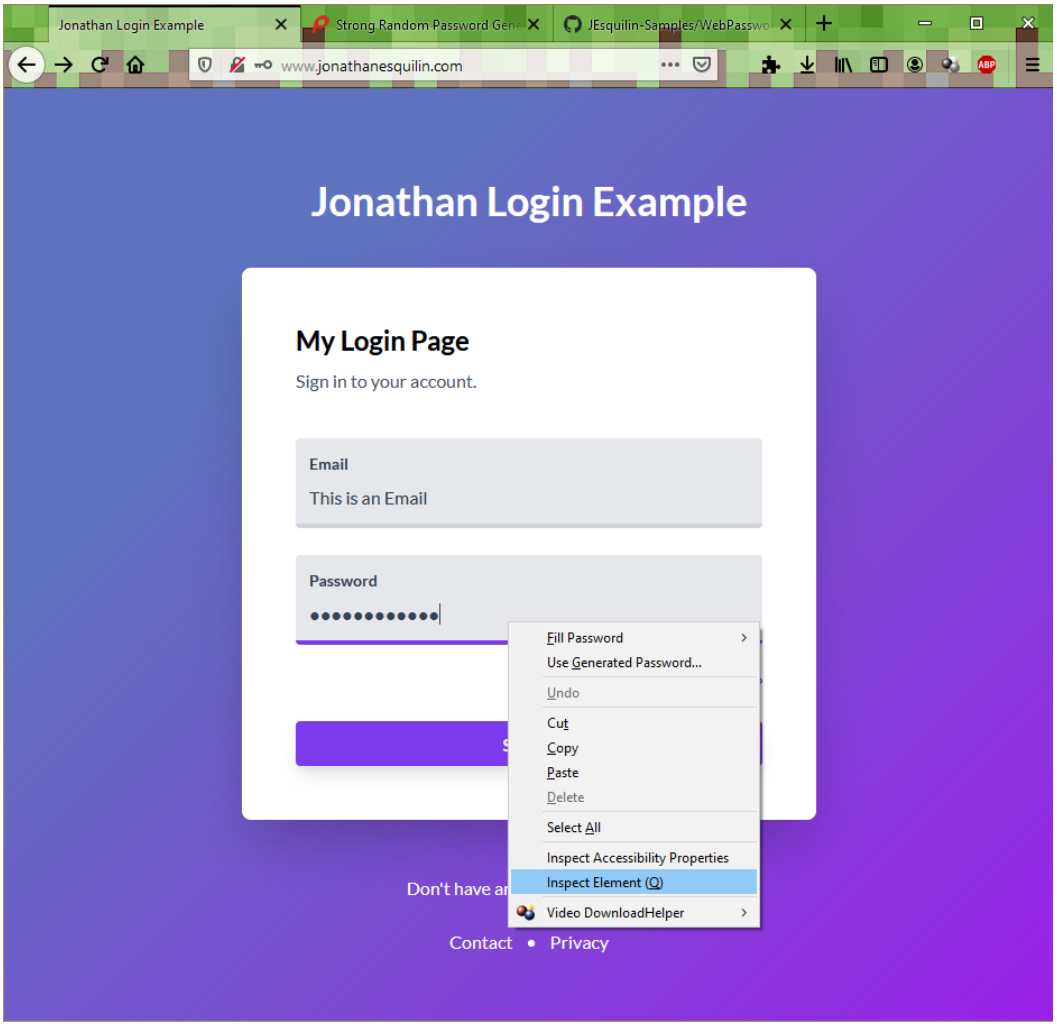
(Fig. 3.)

Go ahead and make or generate a password. In this example, I will be using "@XScrR1iX8?7" as the password.

OK, we have our web login page and our password; let`s start!

Make sure you are in the page that contains the password field. I will be using my own web login example. Since I generate a complex password in the previous step, I will attempt to enter the password by memory. After I tried, now I`m not sure if I typed it right. Our login template does not have a button that will allow me to see the password field. I will have to either re-type the password again but what if there is a way to look at what I typed? Let`s get to it!

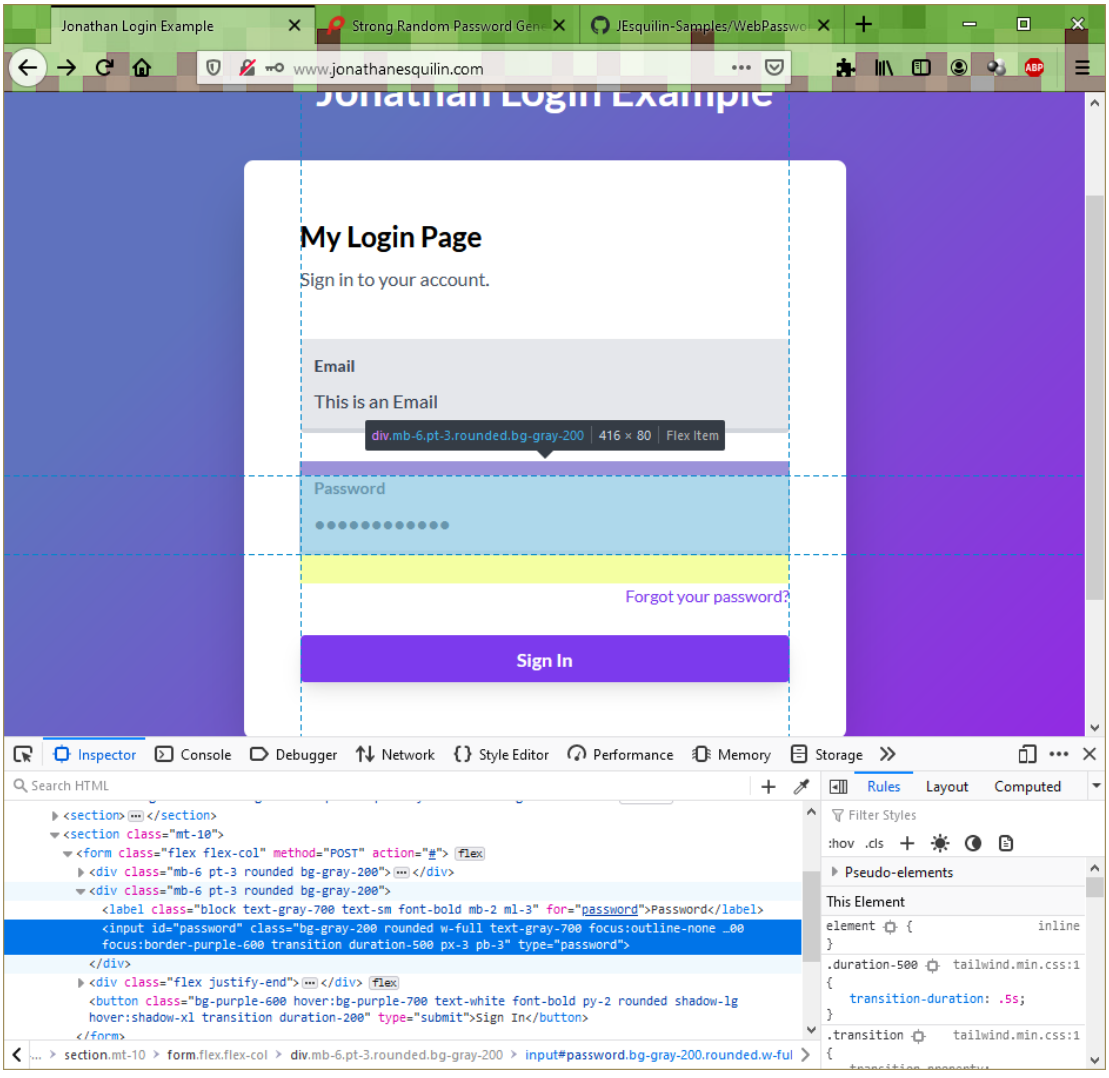
Right click on the Password box. This will be important to identifying which piece of code created the Password box field. A menu will appear as shown in figure 4 (see fig. 4).

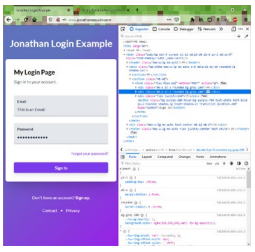


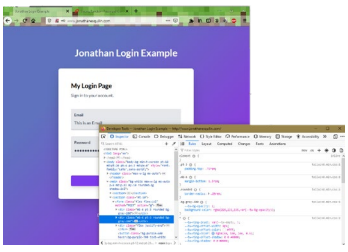
(Fig. 4.)

Click on “Inspect Element” if you are using Firefox or “Inspect” if you are using Google Chrome. This action will open up the developer menu at the bottom of the window (see fig. 5).

Note: Sometimes, it can also open a pop-up window or end up on the sides or top of the window based on settings previously set (see fig. 5).

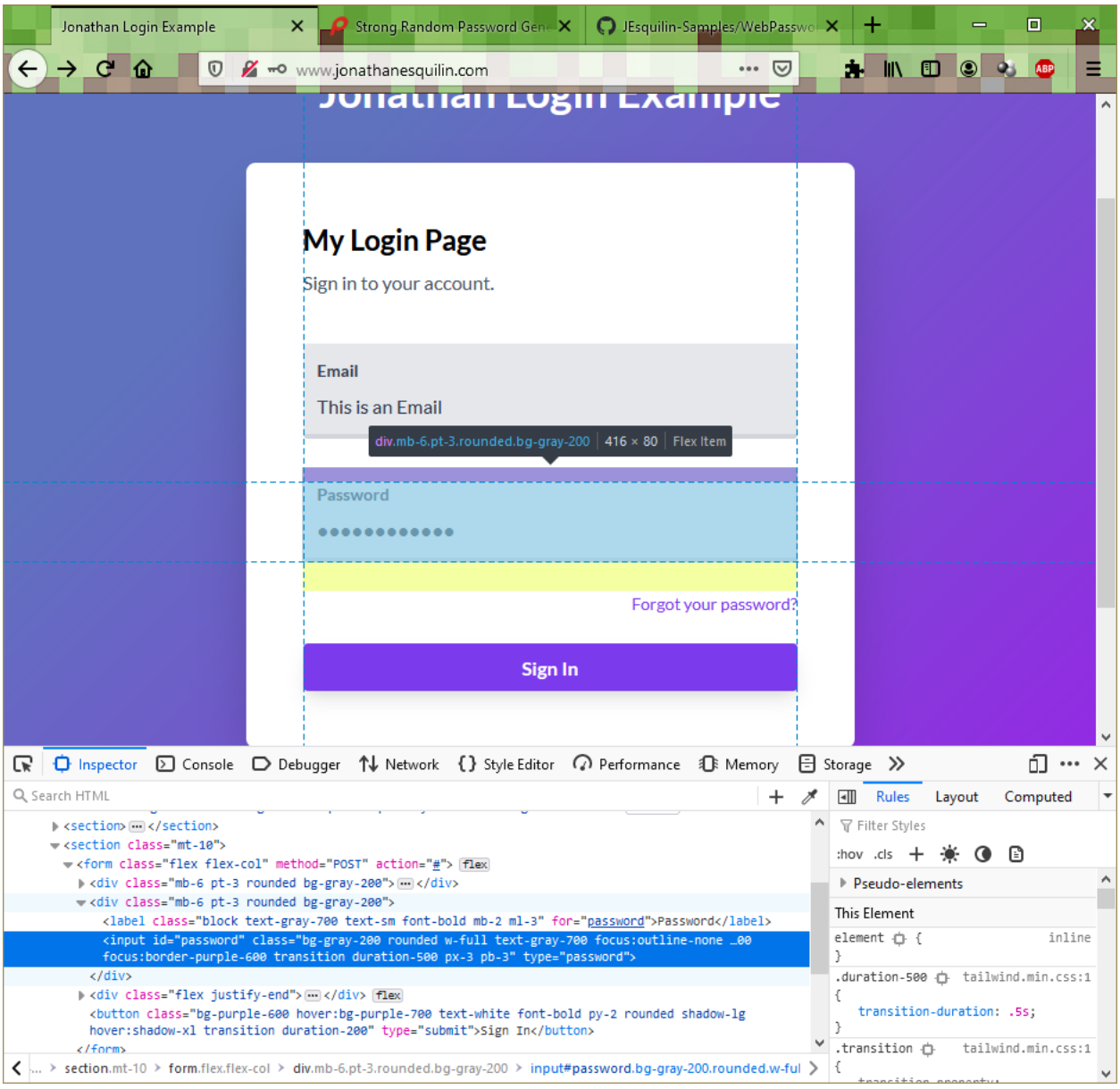






(Fig. 5.)

But no matter which view it is set to, the menu will select the password box as long as you right clicked on the correct field earlier. The next thing to do is look at the selected code. If you see a small button with an ellipsis, click on it to expand the code, otherwise it should be already on the right field as presented below (see fig. 6).



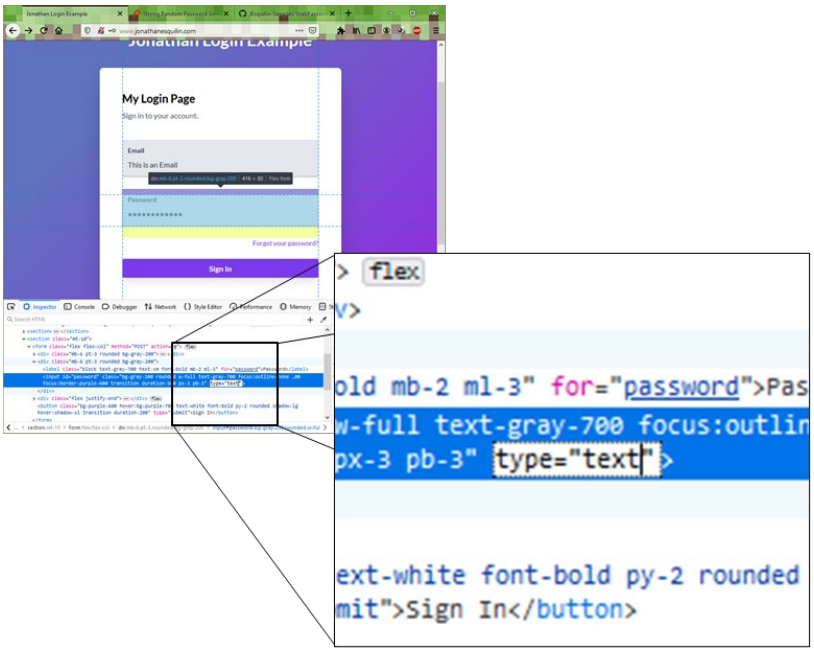
(Fig. 6.)

Now let`s try to make sense of the code that has been highlighted for us by looking at (fig. 7).

```
<input id="password" class="bg-gray-200 rounded w-full text-gray-700 focus:outline-none border-b-4 border-gray-300 focus:border-purple-600 transition duration-500 px-3 pb-3" type="password">
```

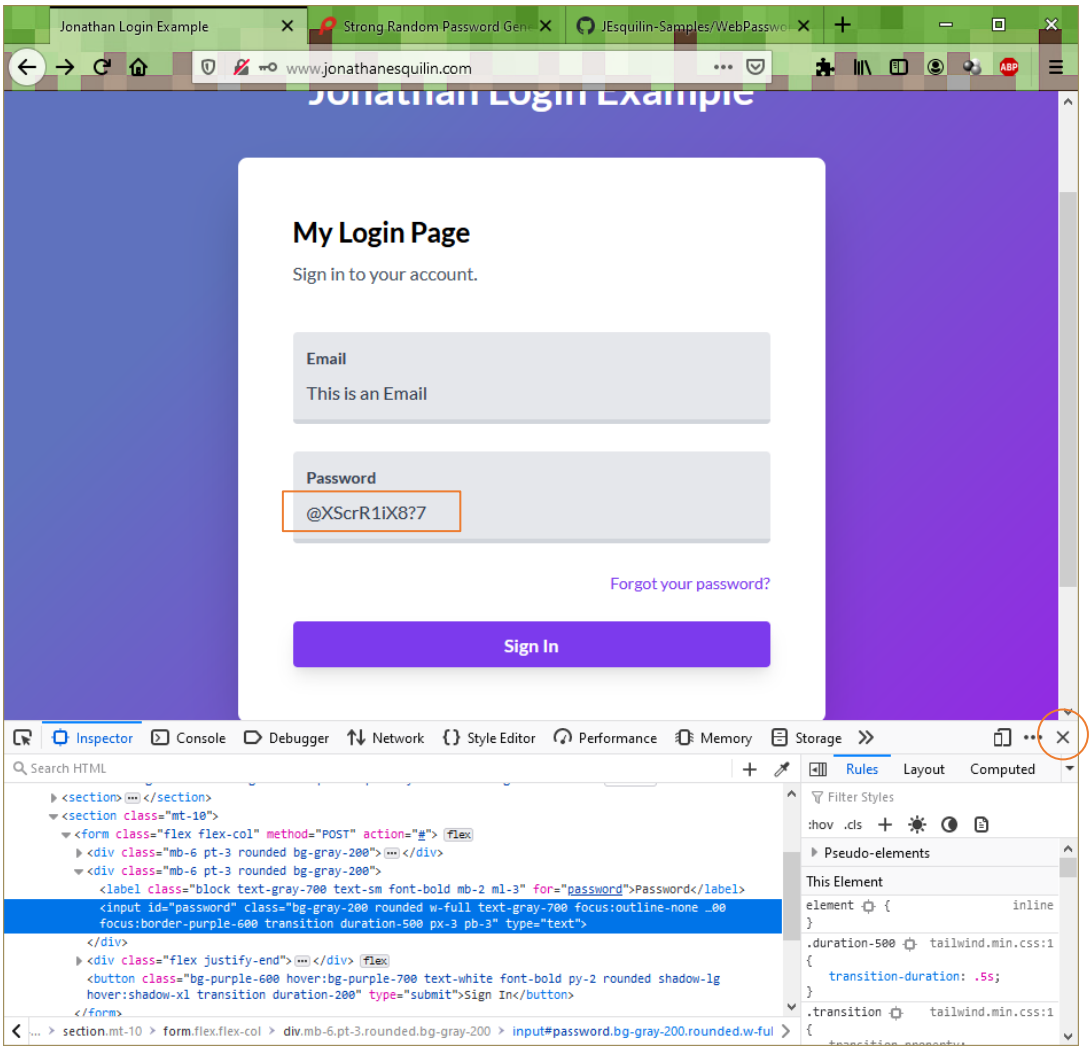
(Fig. 7.)

This first part is "<input … >" is telling us that this is an input field element. The next part is the properties of this element (id="password") (class="…") (type="password"). The "id" is an identifier with the name of "password", the "class" property contains CSS elements to give the style or look to the web element, and the property we are interested in for this tutorial, and the "type" property. Notice that it has a value equal to "password." Go ahead and double click on "password" in the "type" property and then change it to "text" as shown in (fig. 8).



(Fig. 8.)

Click off the menu to see the result. Your password field is now interpreted as a text field by the web browser allowing you to see what you typed or what you are typing on it. (see fig. 9)



(Fig. 9.)

Turns out I typed the password correctly! Now you can close the developer window by clicking the X button in the developer window (see fig. 9), not to be confused with the browser window or you will close everything.

This is the end, thanks for reading my tutorial on “How to see the password in a web password field.”

Notes

1. GitHub “is a provider of Internet hosting for software development and version control using Git an open-source version control system.” (GitHub).
2. https://github.com/JEsquilin-Samples/WebPasswordFields this is a GitHub repository that contains my project files to help you follow this tutorial. The folder contains a small webserver I made with Python, Flask and a login page template. The web login template was made by David Grzyb. I will add his work in my reference just incase you want to check out his work.
3. Python and Flask: Python is a programing language and Flask is a library for python that will allow you to make webpages with a web server. The code I make for the server I learned from the Flask documentation. I have been learning programing in Python, HTML, Scratch and C++ since I was nine years old. I am not an expert but I know my way around.

Works Cited

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