An Intro to Web Site Testing with Cypress

Chris Coyier on February 14th at 8:01 am, CST

Front-end testing is someone because it's one the parts of web development that is most in need of improvement. Cypress is a new tool that makes it easier than ever to write tests and run them in a way that is very helpful for debugging. Let's take a look at what it's all about and what it's good at and not. It's not a silver bullet, but it's very cool.

Cypress is made to run tests in a local dev environment like Chrome, and it's very good at that. It's not a tool for cross-browser testing (and testers can't be tested on it), but it's very good at what it does. It's also open source, so it's free to use and can be run anywhere.

Cypress is made to be very easy to write and learn. It's very good at showing you what happened in your tests, and it's very good at being very helpful when things go wrong. It's very good at being very fast and reliable. It's very good at being very good.

Note: Cypress is still a beta version and could change. Most of what I'm writing about here will be true for the future, but some of it may change. Cypress is very good at being very good.

Installing Cypress

Cypress is a node-based tool, so yes, that's how you can install it. Install it in your project:

```
npm install --save-dev cypress
```

Following the docs, you should also create the tests folder and run Cypress:

```
./node_modules/.bin/cypress open
```

Running that command will open up the Cypress app:

Notice that it's smart enough to know that it's a new project.

Setting up tests for CSS-Tricks

We'd like tests for CSS-Tricks, so let's start by scaffolding out all of the tests we'd like to have. Cypress tests are written in a syntax that looks very much like Mocha and Chai. Let's create a file called `cssTricks.spec.js` and put some tests in it:

```
describe('CSS-Tricks', function() {
  it('Visits the Home Page')
  it('Visits the Page Template')
  it('Visits the Page Template and Checks the Page Title')
  it('Visits the Page Template and Checks the Page Title and Header')
  it('Visits the Page Template and Checks the Page Title and Header and Footer')
  it('Visits the Page Template and Checks the Page Title and Header and Footer and Sidebar')
  it('Visits the Page Template and Checks the Page Title and Header and Footer and Sidebar and Comments')
  it('Visits the Page Template and Checks the Page Title and Header and Footer and Sidebar and Comments and Search')
  it('Visits the Page Template and Checks the Page Title and Header and Footer and Sidebar and Comments and Search and Checks the Search Results')
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  it('Visits the Page Template and Checks the Page Title and Header and Footer and Sidebar and Comments and Search and Checks the Search Results
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