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JUL 31 2015

How to Copy Another Site's CSS Using Chrome Developer Tools [VIDEO]



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Have you ever come across something formatted in a cool way on a site and wondered how they accomplished it, so you could something like it on your site? Now let's get really honest? Do you have hacked up CSS skills like mine? I am constantly breaking things on my site because I (quite literally) know just enough to be dangerous. [Jessica Frick of CopyBlogger](#) can attest to this as she's my resident CSS pooper scooper! My site runs on their [Rainmaker platform](#), and if anything can be broken I. Will. Find. A. Way.

Chrome Developer Tools to the Rescue

But one feature in Chrome Developer Tools that has totally saved me has been its Styles tab. You can select any element on a page while in Chrome, right-click,

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pulled on their super-sexy formatting for their [Google Tag Manager Guide](#) — particularly this design element.



Understanding Tags and the Document Object Model (DOM)

Your business depends on accurate data, and tags are what capture that data. If data is a photograph, a tag is the camera. Tags are snippets of website code, usually JavaScript, that a third party such as Google Analytics provides. Nearly all of today's digital marketing solutions – including analytics, site personalization, and affiliate marketing – require tags. Tags help you measure traffic, track visitor behavior, gauge the efficacy of social media and online advertising, target audiences, and test your site.

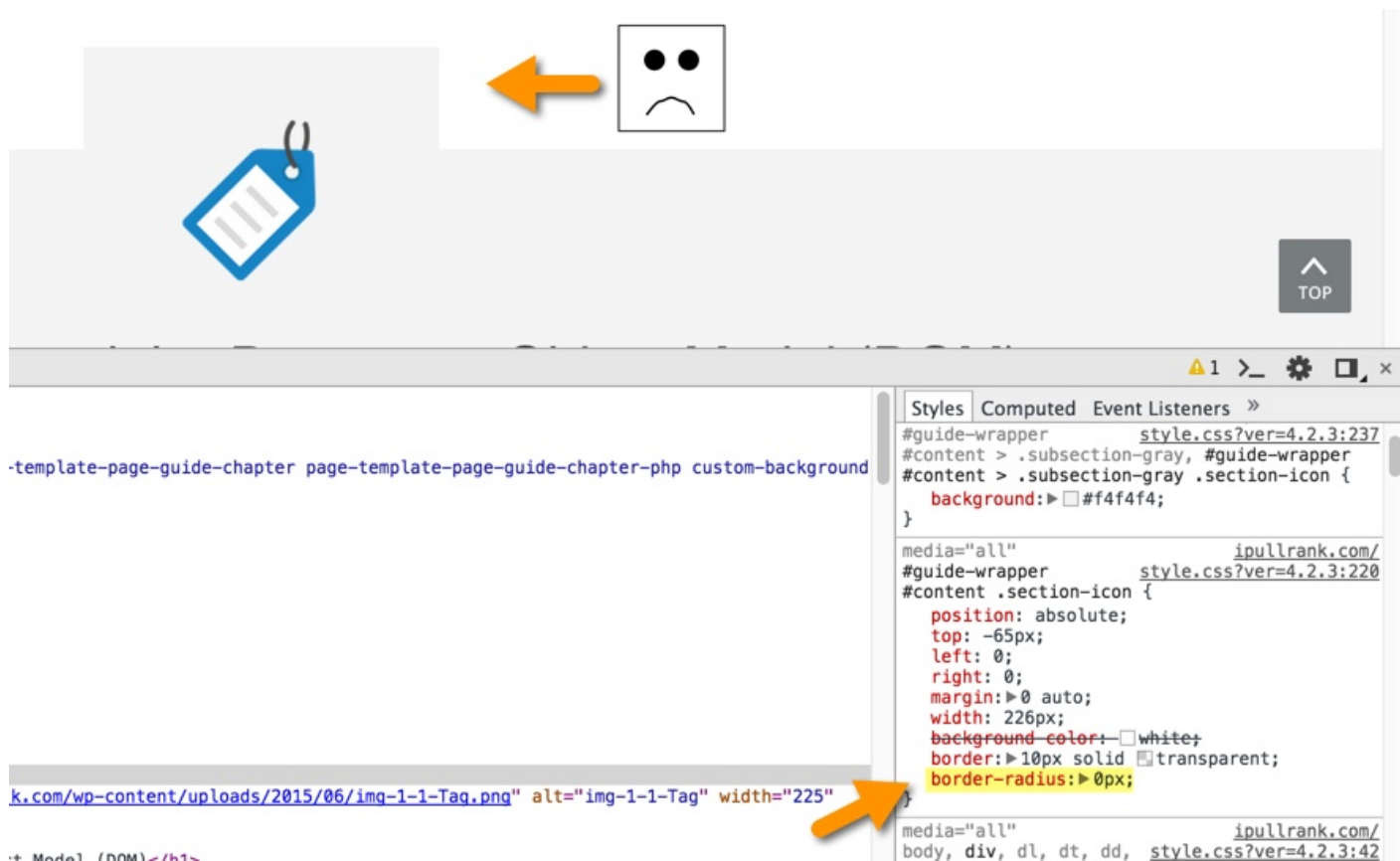
So I used the tip I demonstrate in [the video tutorial](#) and was able to pull the CSS from the little tag icon, which you can see here:

```
#guide-wrapper #content .section-icon{  
  position: absolute;  
  top: -65px;  
  left: 0;  
  right: 0;  
  margin: 0 auto;  
  width: 226px;  
  background-color: white;  
  border: 10px solid transparent;
```

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accomplished with the border-radius property. Watch when it looks like when I set that to 0px:



Sorry, Mike. I'm breaking your site for science, if that's any consolation. :/

But pretty cool, eh? I'm definitely storing his little border radius trick away for a rainy day.

Great Tool to Learn CSS

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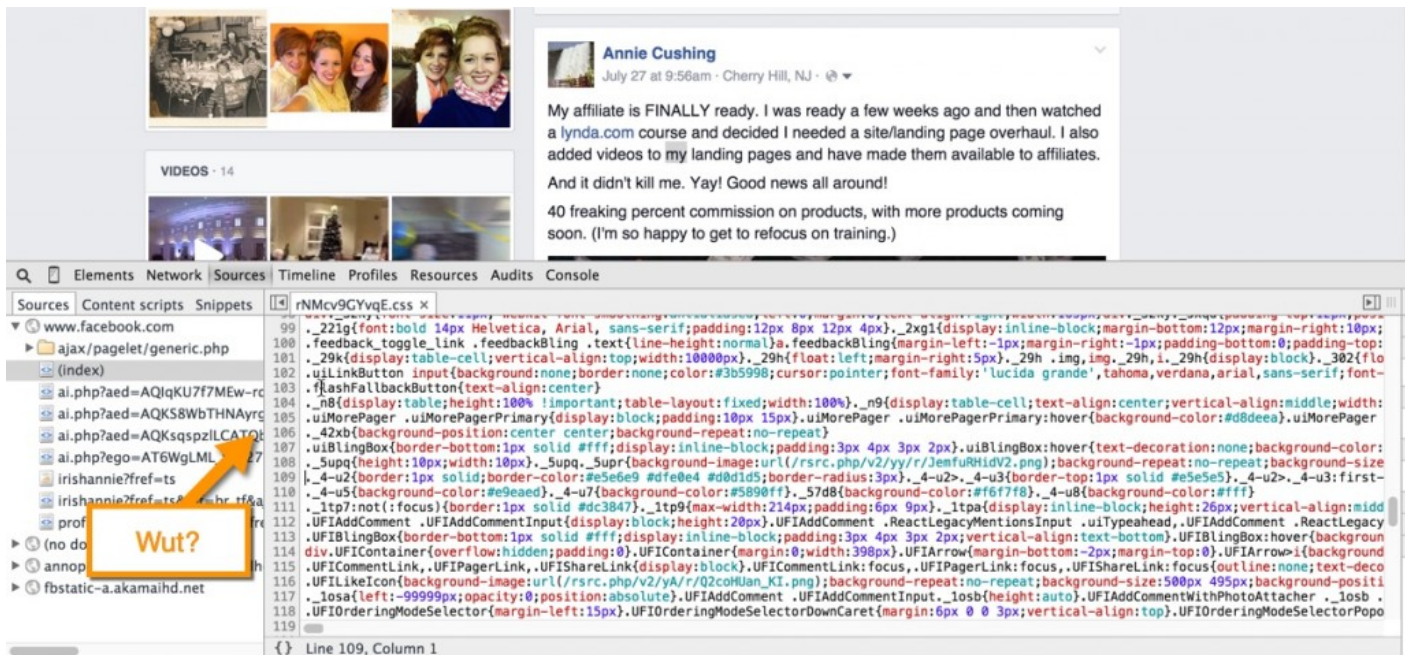
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right in Chrome (and see the page update live), and then copy the updated code to send your developers.

This is also a great way to learn CSS. My daughter, [Destinee](#), just finished her degree in Digital Media last year, and she had to learn CSS. I was aghast when she told me they never taught her this tip. It would have saved her *a lot* of aggravation.

Tip for Prettifying Ugly, Minified CSS

Oh, and one more important tip that I just mention briefly in the video: If you ever come across CSS that looks like this ...



... it's ugly as hell because it's been minified. But clicking the little curly brackets in the bottom-left corner of the CSS tab you have open will deminify it (which is

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```
7690 }
7691
7692 ._Supq._Supr:active,._Supq._42fs {
7693     background-image: url(/rsrc.php/v2/yy/r/JemfuRHidV2.png);
7694     background-repeat: no-repeat;
7695     background-size: 28px 641px;
7696     background-position: -17px -412px
7697 }
7698 .l4-u2 {
7699     border: 1px solid;
7700     border-color: #e5e6e9 #dfe0e4 #d0d1d5;
7701     border-radius: 3px
7702 }
7703
7704 ._4-u2>._4-u3 {
7705     border-top: 1px solid #e5e5e5
7706 }
7707
7708 { }
Line 7698, Column 2
```

Oh yeah, that's *much* better. This tip also works with JavaScript, betedubs.

Video Tutorial

If you'd like to watch me walk through the process you can check out [my video tutorial](#). And before you judge me, I was using gossip sites as my example because of a project I was using this tip for. And that's all I'm going to say about that ...

Learn More

If you want to learn more tricks for your site, my [DIY Site Audit Template](#) will give you a professional set of tools and skills to audit your site.

Comments



Lluç Berrio Penycate says

August 1, 2015 at 8:20 AM

Thank you Annie, great tip! I was searching for a way to test a new project and your tip comes in very handy.

[Reply](#)



Annie Cushing says

August 2, 2015 at 6:00 PM

Awesome! Glad it helped! 😊

[Reply](#)



Eric says

August 15, 2015 at 8:18 PM

Great tips, thanks!!

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My pleasure!

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Carlos says

February 9, 2016 at 4:33 PM

Never more, copy. paste and formatter CSS!!!

Thanks Annie

[Reply](#)

Annie Cushing says

February 10, 2016 at 9:40 AM

Awesome!!

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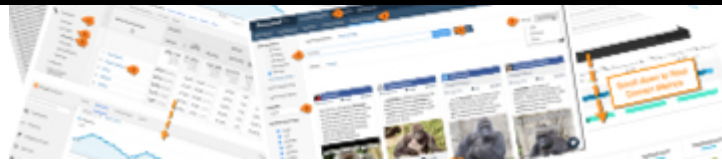
Note: Also offered for Mac

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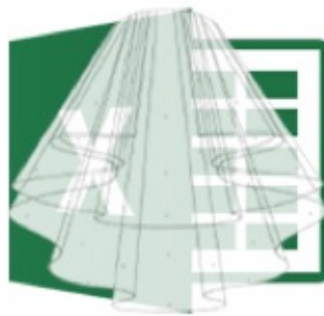
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