No website is built perfectly. Like all products made by humans, code errors are part of the process. That’s why it’s important to thoroughly test any new website you build to make sure that it’s as free of errors as possible to give your users the best possible experience.

You shouldn’t test a web site without trying Google Chrome’s DevTools kit first. Chrome developer mode allows you to try out and thoroughly test a new site (or an existing one) to find and fix bugs. It can also give you insight into how other sites are run, including viewing the source code.

**What Is Chrome Developer Mode?**

When we refer to the Chrome developer mode, we’re not talking about the [same developer mode](https://helpdeskgeek.com/featured-posts/hdg-explains-what-is-chromebook-developer-mode-what-are-its-uses/) that you’ll see on Chromebooks. What we’re referring to is the extensive Chrome development tools (called **Google DevTools**) that are built into the browser itself.

These are tools designed to test, analyze, and purposely break (if you need to) a web page you’ve loaded in the Google Chrome browser for testing purposes. At a basic level, you can use DevTools to view the source code for a website, letting you peek under the hood to see how a site has been built and how well it runs.

Graphical user interface, text, application

Description automatically generated

Google DevTools offers more than this, however. You can use Chrome developer mode to change a page after it’s loaded, run Google Chrome console commands to control and manipulate the page, as well as run speed and network tests to monitor web traffic.

You can also emulate other devices, including different operating systems and screen resolutions, in the Chrome DevTools mode. This lets you see if a site has responsive web design, and where site content and layouts will change depending on the device resolution or type.

While these tools are aimed at professional web developers or testers, it’s also handy for standard Chrome users to know their way around the DevTools suite. If you see a problem with a site that you can’t solve, switching to Chrome developer mode can help you see if the problem is with the site or with your browser.

**How To Access Google Chrome DevTools Menu**

There are a few ways you can access the Google Chrome DevTools menu, depending on the tool you wish to use.

The easiest method to do this is from the Google Chrome menu. To do this, click the **three-dots menu icon** in the top-right. From the menu that appears, click **More Tools > Developer Tools**.

The Second way to open developer tools is **Right click on the mouse anywhere inside the browser > Click on Inspect Element**

The Third way to open Devtools via short i.e. **use shortcut on the keyboard**

**Ctrl + Shift + I**

Graphical user interface, text, application

Description automatically generated

This will open the DevTools kit in a new menu on the right-hand side of your open Chrome tab or window.

You can also do this by using keyboard shortcuts. From a Windows or Linux PC, open the Chrome browser and press the **F12**key. You can also press the **Ctrl + Alt + J** or **Ctrl + Alt + I** keys in an open Chrome tab or window.

On macOS, press **F12** or press the **Option + Command + J** or **Option + Command + I** keys to open the Chrome DevTools menu instead. This will open the Chrome console, with options to move to other Chrome tools at the top of the DevTools menu.

If you want, you can view the source code for a website (opening the **Elements** tab of the DevTools menu in the process) on any open web page by right-clicking the and clicking the **Inspect**option.

**Using Chrome DevTools**

As we’ve briefly touched upon, you can use the Chrome DevTools kit to see the source code for a website under the **Elements** tab. It’ll let you analyse the code behind the page you’ve loaded, as well as view error messages (indicating problems with how the site has loaded) in the Chrome console under the **Console** tab.

Text

Description automatically generated

You can also view the different sources for content from a website under the **Sources** tab. For instance, if a site is [using a content delivery network (CDN)](https://helpdeskgeek.com/networking/what-is-a-cdn-why-is-one-essential-if-you-own-a-domain/), media from a site would be listed as a different source here.

Chrome developer mode allows you to download that content directly, or perform more complex analysis of the content.

Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generated

If you want to test how a site is performing, you can monitor and record your network usage under the **Network** tab. This will show the speed, size, and type of network requests made between your browser and the site.

For instance, when a page first loads, the site will load the page content itself, but it may also request data from third-party databases. For instance, when you sign in, this may query a database which would show up as a network request here.

Table

Description automatically generated

You can analyse this further under the **Performance**tab, where you can record your Chrome browser usage in greater depth, including recording screenshots at different points. This will log how long it takes to load your site for further analysis.

Graphical user interface, text, application, email

Description automatically generated

Google Chrome has a reputation for [being hard on your PC memory](https://www.online-tech-tips.com/google-softwaretips/google-chrome-running-too-many-processes/), so you can test your site’s JavaScript memory usage under the **Memory** tab. Different Chrome testing profiles can be used here, with further information about this testing at the [Chrome DevTools documentation page](https://developers.google.com/web/tools/chrome-devtools/memory-problems/heap-snapshots).

Graphical user interface, text, application, Word

Description automatically generated

For more in-depth analysis of your site content, as well as any browser storage it might be using (for instance, to log data), you can search through the **Application** tab. You can view site cookie information here under the **Cookies** section, or clear the storage being used by clicking the **Clear storage** option.

Graphical user interface, text, application, email

Description automatically generated

If you’re worried about your site security, you can check how well it performs under the **Security**tab. This will give you a quick overview of Chrome’s security analysis for a page, including whether or not the page has a correct and trusted SSL certificate.

Graphical user interface, text, application, email

Description automatically generated

If you want to generate a report on your site’s performance, including if it meets typical user standards and if the site performance could be affecting search engine optimization, you can click the **Lighthouse** tab. This offers settings you can check or uncheck for your report—click **Generate report** to create the report to view.

Graphical user interface, text, application, email

Description automatically generated

This barely scratches the surface of the potential that Chrome developer mode can bring to developers. If you want to learn more, the [Chrome DevTools documentation](https://developers.google.com/web/tools/chrome-devtools) should help you with the tools and features on offer, including how to build your own user tests with it.