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Assignment 9.4

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The Chrome DevTools offer an outstanding number of features for developers. DevTools has a set of tools built right into the browser that allow developers to debug, simulate, and make on the fly changes to their software directly within in the web browser (Google Developers, 2019). Every web developer should integrate Chrome’s DevTools into their workflow while developing websites. With DevTools you can actually make edits to the content of the Google search results, however those results will only be viewable within you browser. It is good practice to learn how the DevTools work. I feel that Chrome offers to easiest to use and cleanest interface of all of the browser based debugging software available today.

The viewport functionality in DevTools is an excellent feature for any developer. Having the ability to simulate how your website scales for mobile devices is very important when developing your website. With a large amount of web browsing being done on mobile and tablet devices, it is critical to take those screen sizes into account and understand how your website will appear on different devices and screen sizes. Inside of viewport you can change between predefined sizes and you can also set your own custom sizes. The responsive viewport option also allows you the flexibility to see how you website will scale when different sized browser windows are used without the hassle of having to resize you own browser window. As the mobile and tablet web browsing continues to rise, I foresee this becoming one of the most important features that developers integrate into their daily workflow.

Understanding page load times is another feature that I feel is very important. Not only does it allow you the ability to simulate a slower network connection, it also allows you to make decisions as to how features on your website load (SR, 2019). Simulating load times on slower connections is important. As I had mentioned earlier, mobile browsing is becoming so prevalent that understanding how the website loads on those various mobile speeds, such as 3G and 4G, is important. This is not something that we think about when we are connected to a high speed network such as fiber or cable, however it is critical when developing websites.

Using the Elements tab, it is possible to interact with elements of the page and change what is shown to us (SR, 2019). You can view and change the page’s CSS properties within DevTools. This will allow you to show changes and how they will impact the look and feel of your website. Adding and changing a line, font type size and color, along with the background color of a website, all have a large impact on how the public views you and your brand. When deciding if you want to make changes, DevTools allows you to make these changes with out actually modifying the code. You will be able to see the changes and how they will look inside of the web browser.

Chrome’s DevTools is a very powerful tool to have in a developer’s tool bag. These are just a few of the many features that allow developers to do their job better. I am excited to have this in my toolbox and I plan to use DevTools throughout my career as a web developer.

Google Developers. (2019). Chrome DevTools  |  Tools for Web Developers  |  Google Developers. [online] Available at: https://developers.google.com/web/tools/chrome-devtools/ [Accessed 7 Apr. 2019].

SR, J. (2019). 5 Ways Chrome DevTools Made My Life Easier. [online] Medium. Available at: https://medium.com/swlh/5-ways-chrome-devtools-made-my-life-easier-d1b4a49a3826 [Accessed 7 Apr. 2019].