- What is Firebug? Introduction and Features
- Documentation FAQ and Wiki
- CommunityDiscussion forums and lists
- Get InvolvedHack the code, create extensions

Firebug

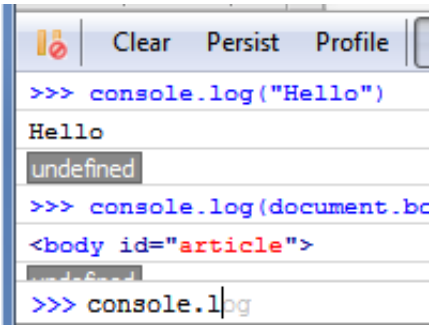
Web Development Evolved.

Install Firebug 100% free and open source

- Other Versions
- Firebug Lite
- Extensions

Firebug and Logging

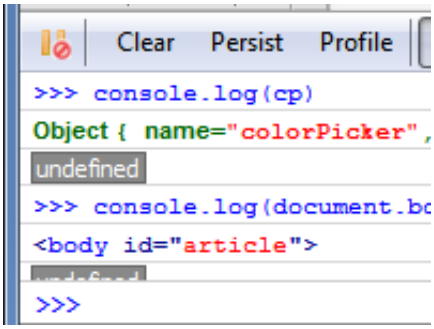
Having a fancy JavaScript debugger is great, but sometimes the fastest way to find bugs is just to dump as much information to the console as you can. Firebug gives you a set of powerful logging functions that you can call from your own web pages.



Your new friend, console.log

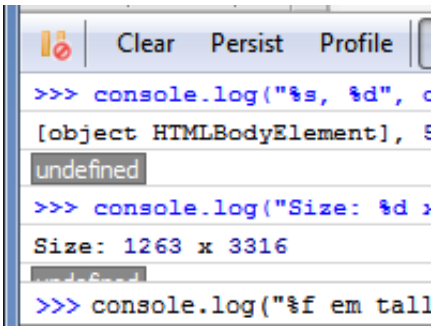
The easiest way to write to the Firebug console looks like this: `console.log("hello world")`

You can pass as many arguments as you want and they will be joined together in a row, like `console.log(2,4,6,8,"foo",bar)`.



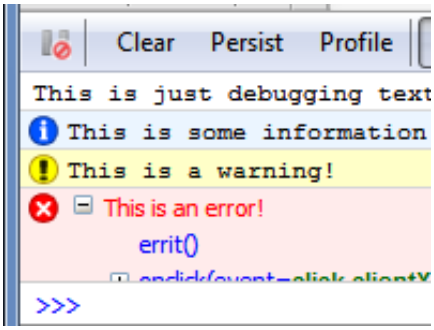
Logging object hyperlinks

`console.log` and its related functions can do a lot more than just write text to the console. You can pass any kind of object to `console.log` and it will be displayed as a hyperlink. Elements, functions, arrays, plain ol' objects, you name it. Clicking these links will inspect the object in whatever tab is most appropriate.



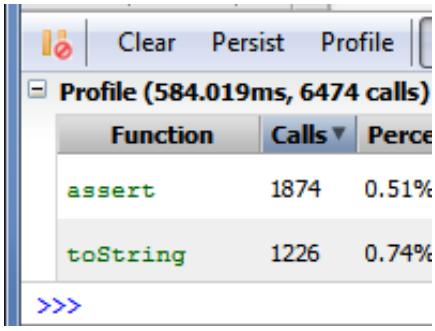
String formatting

`console.log` can format strings in the great tradition of printf. For example, you can write `console.log("%s is %d years old.", "Bob", 42)`.



Color coding

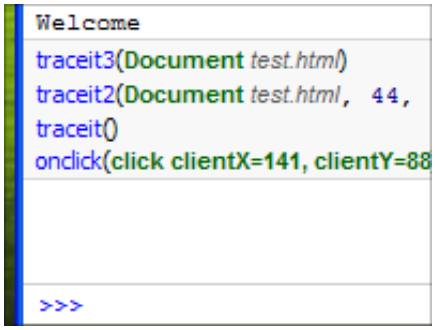
In addition to `console.log`, there are several other functions you can call to print messages with a colorful visual and semantic distinction. These include `console.debug`, `console.info`, `console.warn`, and `console.error`.



Timing and profiling

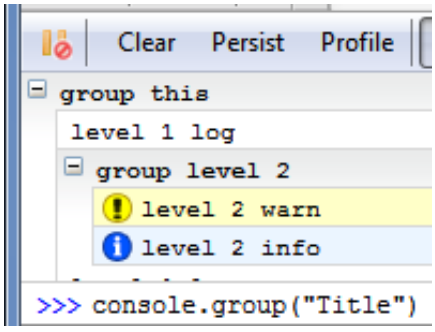
Firebug gives you two easy ways to measure JavaScript performance. The low-fi approach is to call `console.time("timing foo")` before the code you want to measure, and then `console.timeEnd("timing foo")` afterwards. Firebug will then log the time that was spent in between.

The high-fi approach is to use the JavaScript profiler. Just call `console.profile()` before the code you want to measure, and then `console.profileEnd()` afterwards. Firebug will log a detailed report about how much time was spent in every function call in between.



Stack traces

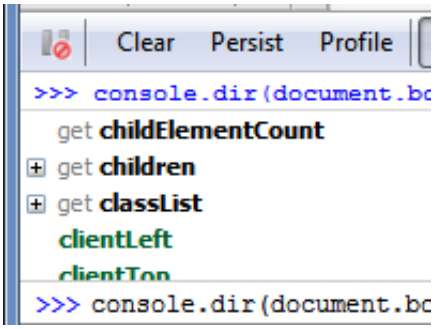
Just call `console.trace()` and Firebug will write a very informative stack trace to the console. Not only will it tell you which functions are on the stack, but it will include the value of each argument that was passed to each function. You can click the functions or objects to inspect them further.



Nested grouping

Sometimes a flat list of messages can be difficult to read, so Firebug gives you a solution for indenting in the console. Just call `console.group("a title")` to start a new indentation block, and then

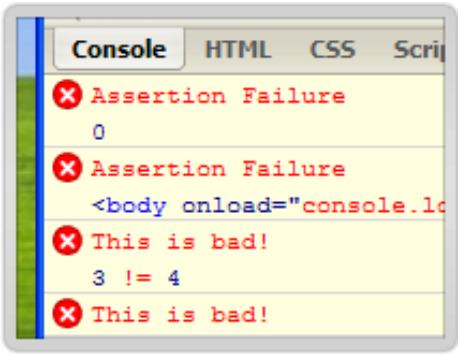
`console.groupEnd()` to close the block. You can create as many levels of indentation as you please.



Object inspection

How many times have you hand-written code to dump all of the properties of an object, or all of the elements in an HTML fragment? With Firebug, you'll never write that code again.

Calling `console.dir(object)` will log an interactive listing of an object's properties, like a miniature version of the DOM tab. Calling `console.dirxml(element)` on any HTML or XML element will print a lovely XML outline, like a miniature version of the HTML tab.



Be assertive

Assertions are a wonderful way to ensure that your code stays rock-solid in the face of change. Firebug provides a set of handy assertion functions, and writes very informative error messages to the console when your assertions fail.

Links and Elsewhere

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- Firebug FAQ
- Enabling Firebug
- HTML Development
- CSS Development
- CSS Layout
- Network Monitoring
- Javascript Debugging

- Finding Errors
- DOM Exploration
- Javascript Command Line
- Javascript Logging

Firebug around the web

Illuminations for Developers
A tool to help you develop web applications by making your existing tools smarter.
"What's new in Firebug 1.6" video by Jay Garcia
Follow Firebug news on Twitter
HTML5 Makes a Great Color Picker
Firebug 1.5: a closer look ☆ Mozilla Hacks – the Web developer blog
FireUnit: Firebug Unit Testing for Firefox
integrated webpage unit testing in Firebug via this extension
Software is hard | Firecookie
Jan "Honza" Odvarko's firebug addon for seeing the contents of Cookies.
jsCrypto
encryption in Javascript
FireQuery
Firebug extension for jQuery development
Hammerhead
Hammerhead adds a tab to Firebug for measuring the load time of web pages.

Firebug

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