Web development tools are an important part of any web developer’s toolkit. The ability to edit code on the fly and single out errors speeds up development, which in turn means faster results for your clients. The two most popular development tools come with the Google Chrome browser and the Mozilla Firefox browser. We’ll discuss each in turn.

Chrome Developer Tools (“CDT”) is a part of Google Chrome. With CDT you can view the CSS styles for a page and then click on and change them. You can also remove and add CSS styles, including adding pseudoclasses and classes. You can debug JavaScript scripts by using a tool that allows you to run the code one step at a time. You can put breakpoints in the code to stop it at a certain place. And you can directly enter JavaScript commands, functions and variables to see the result of anything you may want to add or alter. Finally, CDT helps you speed up you website. CDT is indeed a very powerful tool.

Firefox Developer Tools (“FDT”) comes with Mozilla Firefox. It too lets you view and modify the CSS on a page as well as the HTML. It also helps you debug JavaScript by stopping the script and going step by step through it, as well as modifying it. Further, with FDT you can inspect cookies, local storage and session storage for a page.

CDT and FDT do have their differences. CDT has an events listeners panel, a security inspector, touch simulation and pixel density for device emulation, a frames per second meter, and CSS media emulation, among other things. FDT, on the other hand, has a DOM inspector, a web audio editor, a scratch pad, page rulers, a font inspector and a grid inspector. One line of thought is that CDT is great for debugging JavaScript, events and DOM troubleshooting while FDT is great for layout design.

Both CDT and FDT are valuable tools for web developers. A developer would not go wrong using either or even both tools.

Resources:

Jaswant Kaur. (2018, Oct 15). Top 12 Cross-Browser Debugging Tools (article). Retrieved from <https://dzone.com/articles/top-12-cross-browser-debugging-tools>.

What Unique Features Do the Firefox DevTools have that the Chrome DevTools Don’t Have and Vice Versa (discussion). Viewed 2019, Feb 5. Retrieved from <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/42504326/what-unique-features-do-the-firefox-devtools-have-that-the-chrome-devtools-dont>.