Discussion Board 5.1 – The Console API

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This week we look at the JavaScript Console API. An API is an "application programming interface." This is how a program incorporates information from another program. There are thousands of API's in use today, from stock market prices to baseball scores and everything in between. The Console API was created by Firebug and is used for debugging code (Reuter, Kyeck, 2013). It is a developer tool that can be found in any web browser that supports JavaScript. It can also be used with Node.JS, which can be used for building programs on, and working with, the server-side of a web app (Flanagan, 2020).

The console is a great place to inspect the activities of a running web page. As a development team builds a web app, they can use the console for simple logging, checking and counting, formatted logging, and profiling and timing (2013). All of these features and the methods that come with each allows the development team the ability to see how their web app is performing in real-time. It can show keys, such as a username, or arrays and the information they contain, and of course – errors in the code.

While the console API is a valuable debugging tool, revealing critical information regarding the performance of a web app during development, it is rarely used in deployed code.

References

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