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Web 231

Assignment 9.4

Developer tools in Chrome called Chrome DevTools, “is a set of web developer tools built directly into the Google Chrome browser.” (Google). As the definition from Google suggests, a set of tools that developers can use on the Chrome browser. One way these tools work is to allow developers change the way code is written on the website. On the Elements panel, one can change the DOM and CSS to edit the style of the site and change the structure of the DOM. (Google) Right click and select ‘Inspect’ on the item you wish to change, and the Elements panel will appear. Another to access the Elements panel is to “Press CTRL+SHIFT+C (for Windows) and CMD+SHIFT+C (for iOS) on your keyboard.” (BitDegree) This is helpful if you cannot decide on a color for the background, for example, and would like to see how the different colors work with the rest of your elements on the site. You can remove or add CSS styles here.

A side note, I found this handy tool to search for unused CSS. This Coverage tab can assist in finding unused JavaScript and CSS code, which, when removed, can “…speed up your page load and save your mobile users cellular data.” (https://developers.google.com/web/tools/chrome-devtools/coverage)

To debug JavaScript for any issues, the Sources panel is where you want to go. To get there, “Open DevTools by pressing Command+Option+I (Mac) or Control+Shift+I (Windows, Linux). This shortcut opens the Console panel.” (Google -b) After clicking on the Sources tab, there are 3 parts of the Source panel, the File Navigator, Code Editor and JavaScript Debugging pane. Here, use breakpoints to help find parts of the code that are causing issues and you can update JavaScript when you figure what to change. Stepping through the code is also part of debugging, you can tell how the code is executed in which order, if it is doing what you expected it to do. You can save changes to the JavaScript for the browser you are working on, but for all users to see the change, code must be corrected on the servers. (Google)

The third thing that DevTools can help with is to ‘Optimize Website Speed’ (Google -c). Not saying it will make everything faster, but it will help make it so that the website is running as it is best speed. The Network tab on the developer tools pane is where you start. You would want to test the speed of a page first. Per A2 Hosting, “To test a specific page, open Developer Tools and navigate to the page you want to test. Alternatively, if you want to test the current page, simply refresh the page.” After which, I would run an audit of the site to find out what is causing the slow down. You may find pieces of code that are redundant. After the audit, you can try fixes by removing or adding code to the site to see if it improves the speed.

These 3 uses are just the surface of what one can do with Chrome DevTools. To find out more, Google has an extensive guide to their Chrome DevTools at https://developers.google.com/web/tools/chrome-devtools .

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