Web pages are meant to be read and enjoyed by anyone with an internet connection. However, as a designer it is our job to make sure that our webpages are not only readable but enjoyable to read and viewable too all users. To that end we use built-in browser debugging tools to identify problems in our code and ensure that our content looks good. I will be going over 3 tools that I found were very interesting: Readability, Copy Element Styles and Networking

First, readability is a concern for web designers because we often have audiences of varying visual impairment or eye conditions. Have you ever struggled to read text with poor color choice? I know that from experience webpage designers can end up blindly following the color styling that was put forth by the client without accounting for user experience. Poor contrast such as light-yellow text on a white background or dark red back ground with dark grey text. Any way you slice it, if the contrast is bad not only can you not read it but people who are color blind or have other visual disabilities cannot either. So, to address this google Chrome has built a tool to measure contrast call Readability. With the debugging tools open chrome will alert the developer of any contrast issues in the CSS section of the inspector tool. Once selected the tool will bring up a visual to show different contrasts. In a graph of color gradients chrome will show 2 lines that separate different levels of readability. The worst selections will be identified and show a red x as they are not recommended. The second best or readable options show that a user without any visual impairment should be able to read the colors within this band. The third option will show the best contrast options that will be readable to almost anyone including people without severe visual impairments.

Second, copy element styles is a chrome tool that is designed to help users implement code style that they can procure from other well-designed webpages without the hassle of trying to recreate it from scratch. While it may seem like stealing, open-source code is encouraged in the programming community and the designs that look the best can often be improved or customized. This maximizes time for development of a style guide or other areas of interest on a project such as security.

Lastly, we have the networking tool. This tool is great for understanding what issues may be coming from a back-end or server-side issue and not as a direct issue of your code. HTTP has certain codes that are associated with different types of errors and make it easy to understand what is happening at a glance. Codes in the 100s are informational responses, used to indicate response in communication like the 101 Switching Protocols code. 101 means that the requester has asked to switch protocols and the server must agree to do so. 200s mean success, these are good codes to have as they signal a process has completed and has been received by the client. 300s mean redirection, the client must take additional action to complete the request. 400s are client errors. 404 is requester resources/page could not be found. 500s are server errors. These are errors associated with a server being out of commission/down for maintenance or that you are not authorized by the network to have access.

References:

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