

HTML Debugging Tools Lab

All major browsers have debugging tools. In this lab we'll work with one or two. Our site isn't ready to go yet but any site you can browse to can be debugged.

1. You and your partners should agree on a site to debug. Where do you want to go today?
2. Open a browser and navigate to that site.
3. Open the developer tools.

Working with elements

4. Open the elements tab.
5. Examine the HTML structure of the page.
6. Use the picker tool to pick an element. Examine what is around that element.
7. Go ahead and change some of the elements. You should see the changes immediately on your page.
8. Do you see any HTML elements you're unfamiliar with? Write a couple down here if so: _____. After the lab, feel free to ask your instructor what these things do.

Working with CSS

9. In the same tab, you'll probably also see styles. Depending on the browser, they're usually to the right.
10. Find an element and focus on it in the elements section. Notice that the styles section changes to reflect the one you're focused on.
11. Pick a couple of others and inspect the styles applied to each. Notice how some styles may be overridden by others.
12. As before, click on a couple of styles and change them. Look at how they change appearance in the browser window.
13. Don't worry about changing things. The changes don't stick. Just refresh the page to restore the values coming from the server.

Examining http traffic

14. Open the Network tab. It is sometimes called "Net".
15. Clear any entries in the network tab.
16. Refresh the page in the browser.
17. You should see the loading of the main page followed by loading of lots of resources like JavaScript files, CSS files, images, and maybe more.
18. Look at several of those, noting the HTTP codes. Any 404s? Any 300-series? Any 500s? Hope not! :-)
19. Click on a few and examine the contents of each. See if you can see a preview of each.

Emulating a mobile device

20. See if you can figure out how to view the page as if it were being delivered to a mobile device. Pick your favorite mobile phone model and refresh the page. Does the page still look good?
21. Rotate the device from landscape to portrait and back.
22. View several pages this way.
23. Do the same with a tablet or phablet device.
24. How well would you say the pages re-shape themselves to conform to different devices?

Bonus!! Working with different browsers

25. You've done this on one browser. Now open another browser and try out their tools. Be ready to compare and contrast. Which one(s) do you like better and why?