**Assignment 9.4**WEB-231

Developer Tools in Chrome and Firefox are great, intuitive tools that help the user accomplish a variety of tasks. From utilizing dev-tools to test possible creative ideas in real-time without permanently affecting the file to using it to debug issues quickly in your Javascript code, dev-tools is an all-around powerhouse made for developers to create and correct their best websites and programs. Below are three features you can utilize in dev-tools:

1) Issue Commands in the Command Menu in Chrome

One of the exclusive features in Chrome Dev-Tools is its command menu. Often times, users spend a lot of time using the mouse to perform repetitive tasks that can be shortened using the command menu. To access this menu, you just have to click CTRL+SHIFT+P on Windows or CMND+SHIFT+P on MAC.1 This menu gives the user the option to use the keyboard to search for a specific command that they wish to access or select.

2) Select Elements Directly to Inspect

In both Chrome and Firefox, inspecting elements is super easy and quick. Normally, you could just right-click the element you want to inspect and select “Inspect” and that would bring up the properties associated with that element. Now, there is a quick and easy tool that you can use to select the element with one click. To access this tool, in the top left-hand corner of the dev-tools window, select the icon with a mouse pointer on top of a box. While the tool is selected, as you hover over each element, prior to selecting it, you can view the properties of the element. In Firefox, the properties display are it’s size properties. In Chrome, in addition to the size properties, you will also see color, font, and margin properties.2 Then, after selecting the element, you will notice the properties get loaded up in the developer tools window. From here, you can utilize the full power of developer tools.

3) Change Elements in Real-Time

Along with being able to view and inspect each HTML and CSS element on the page, you can also make your own personal edits to the code. One of the key features of editing the code is it will update in real-time, allowing you to make edits quickly to achieve your intended output. This means that if you add a button into your HTML file and CSS styling to it, you will notice the changes immediately as you are typing the code in. This is incredibly helpful when you are testing out code but don’t want to adversely affect your code. In the Styles menu, where you will be editing your code, there are several windows that roll through the styling directly affecting the element, the parent styling, and any other styling that might be indirectly affecting the code. A key tool to find that kind of information is the “Computed” tab beside the “Styles” tab. In this menu, it will bring up all the CSS styling that is affecting the line of code you have selected.3

There are so many options and tools with the developer tools and any developer should explore them to make their coding and developing a lot easier, more productive and more efficient.

***Sources***

* [Build better sites faster with Chrome DevTools](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYyQv0CSZOE&feature=emb_title)1
* [What's New In DevTools (Chrome 73)](https://developers.google.com/web/updates/2019/01/devtools)2
* [Chrome DevTools for CSS - Better CSS Coding & CSS Debugging with Developer Tools](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z3HGJsNLQ1E)3