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Discussion 9.1

Web 231

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Firefox and Chrome Debugging

Not all errors in an application are as simple to fix as a missing semicolon. Debuggers facilitate a surgical approach to debugging a program because you can “step through” the code. Stepping through is a term that pertains to running a program step by step and allows the ability to pause the program with breakpoints. By placing a breakpoint, you can see the value of each line of code before the breakpoint. Breakpoints can also be set to be conditional which means that the code will stop when a set condition is met[1]. Seeing the value of variables and functions is important because it helps to zero in where there may be an undefined or unnoticed error. There is also the option of stepping into a function. Stepping in allows a developer to focus on a function’s method and step through that as well.

Firefox’s firebug and Chrome debugger are two of the most popular developers tools in the field. Since developers now use Javascript frameworks like React, Vue and Angular source maps are a required feature[2]. Modern JS frameworks as well as packagers minimize code in a way where it is less readable and difficult to debug. This is why a good debugging tool should be able to revert the compiled code to its original state to make it possible to debug. Programs can contain a large amounts of lines of codes. These debuggers allow developers to choose a function they want to debug and individually dissect the conditions and outcomes of a program.

Reference List

1. Kudvenkat. “Debugging Javascript in Chrome,” YouTube. Published 12 October 2015

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KbEx0s06VLs&ab\_channel=kudvenkat

1. Mozilla Hacks. “Firefox Debugger,” YouTube. Published 15 May 2018

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bwUNifZ4WrY&ab_channel=MozillaHacks>