Developers and designers have fallen in love with CSS Grid. Since this Mozilla has been working hard on the new Developer Tools Layout panel, adding in massive upgrades to the Grid Inspector and Box Model. In the new Layout panel, it lists all the available grid containers and has an overlay to help the developer or designer visualize the grid. In this you can customize what is displayed, including the grid numbers, and dimensions. This also features an interactive grid, which when mouse over you can highlight part of the page and see the size, and position details. You are also able to see the display grid area, which shows the associated area name in every cell. Right now, these features are only available in the Firefox Developer edition, so if you do want to check them out make sure to download this for more developer tools.

Another great tool is the Mozilla Network Monitor, with this it shows you all the network requests Firefox makes, and how long it takes, and details of all the quests. What is great, is that it starts recording any time you have the Developer Toolbox open, even if you aren’t on the network monitor page. This makes it possible to start debugging a page in the web console, then switch of to the Network Monitor page to check that information without having to refresh the page. Another great thing about this tool is the ability to throttle the network speed to simulate different connection speeds, this allows the developer to see how the app will behave under different types of connections.

The Firefox debugger is my new favorite tool to use, I used Chrome religiously and have now been brought over to the Mozilla side after the research I’ve done on its utilities. A lot of developers will just use console.log(); to test their code. But in doing this they are missing out on things as they happen or being able to deep dive into their code. The debugger tool has very comprehensive tools to help find and repair broken code. Something it does feature is the ability to view minified code. Minified code is used to make the file size smaller, so it loads faster. With Firefox debugger you can view this code and it is translated into a format that is more human readable by just clicking a button that pops up. Back to not having to use so many console.log, in the debugger tool you are able to use things like breakpoints, which signals the debugger to pause at a certain point to better find where the problem truly lies. When it does pause, and you find a problem you can either use what is output to the console to find the underlying problem, or hover over the text to find things like the value of a variable. Another great way to find things like the value of a variable is to use the Watch Expressions in the sidebar. You just set one with the watch expression and typing it. Once ran when a value is assigned to a variable, the value with appear in the watch Expressions section.

Sources:

<https://mozilladevelopers.github.io/playground/>

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Tools/Network_Monitor>

<http://jensimmons.com/writing>