3 Things You Can Do with Firefox Developer Tools

Below are three features of Firefox’s Web Developer Tools. They are listed by their name or their icon’s name.

**Responsive Design Mode**

Responsive Design Mode allows you to change the screen size of your web page in order to see how it would be viewed on devices of different sizes. It also allows you to simulate “their interaction methods and typical connection speed.” (Bracey, 2017) There’s a toolbar above the screen view when using Responsive Design mode that allows you to choose from a list of popular devices (iPhone, Galaxy, Kindle Fire, etc.) change the screen size, rotate the view to portrait or landscape, and also to “Enable touch simulation”.

Another great feature of Responsive Design Mode is the ability to emulate the speeds of different network types. (Responsive Design Mode, 2017) This allows a developer to determine if there will be issues accessing the site on a slower connection. The different speeds to choose from are displayed when the “No throttling” box at the top of the screen is clicked.

**Eyedropper**

Have you ever visited a website and wanted to use one or more of the colors on it? With the Eyedropper you can find out what the color is, and even copy it. I saw this feature listed on “9 Things You Didn’t Know About Firefox Dev Tools” (Bracey, 2017) and researched it on Mozilla’s website.

It’s very simple to use: Click on the eyedropper icon located in the upper-right hand of the Web Developer page. This brings up a magnifying glass that you hover over the color on the screen that you want. Click on it to copy it to the clipboard. On the Web Developer side of the screen for your page, simply paste it in the Rules column on the element that you want to change over the current value of the property. You can also change it in the Inspector Rules view by pasting it over the color that is displayed for the element you’d like to alter. (MDN contributors, March 23, 2019)

**Fonts**

You can view the fonts used by clicking on the fonts tab located on the bar that contains “Layout”, “Computed”, and “Changes”. It has three sections:

1. The “Fonts Used” section, which displays all fonts for the selected element;
2. The “Fonts Editor” which allows the “fonts’ characteristics” (MDN Contributors, March 18, 2019) of the selected element to be adjusted. This allows you to adjust the size, line height, weight, and italics. With the exception of the “Italic” selection, all others can be adjusted using a slider. The CSS filters are to the left, and display the new adjusted sizes, as does the screen. You can use the new settings to update the CSS stylesheet to save them to the page;
3. The “All Fonts on Page” section not only lists all the fonts, but additional characteristics (if any) as well. For example, if using a web font not installed on the system, the URL is displayed. The “@font-face” shows how it’s defined in the stylesheet. There is also a text example of the selected font.

References

1. Bracey, Kezz, “[9 Things You Didn’t Know About Firefox Dev Tools](https://webdesign.tutsplus.com/tutorials/things-you-didnt-know-about-firefox-dev-tools--cms-26331)”, August, 2017
2. MDN Contributors, “[Responsive Design Mode](https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Tools/Responsive_Design_Mode)”, July, 2019
3. MDN Contributors, “[Eyedropper](https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Tools/Eyedropper)”, March 23, 2019
4. MDN Contributors, “[Edit fonts](https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Tools/Page_Inspector/How_to/Edit_fonts)”, March 18, 2019