

# Edit the DOM



By Kayce Basques

Technical Writer for Chrome DevTools



By Meggin Kearney

Meggin is a Tech Writer

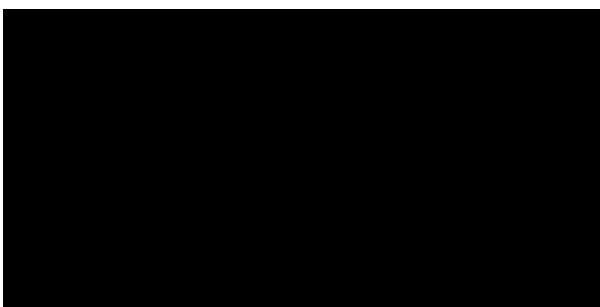
The DOM tree view in the Chrome DevTools Elements panel displays the DOM structure of the current web page. Live-edit the content and structure of your page through DOM updates.

## TL;DR

- The DOM defines your page structure. Each DOM node is a page element, for example, a header node, paragraph node.
- Live-edit the content and structure of your pages through the rendered DOM.
- But remember, you can't modify source files through DOM changes in the Elements panel. Reloading the page erases any DOM tree modifications.
- Watch for changes to the DOM using DOM breakpoints.

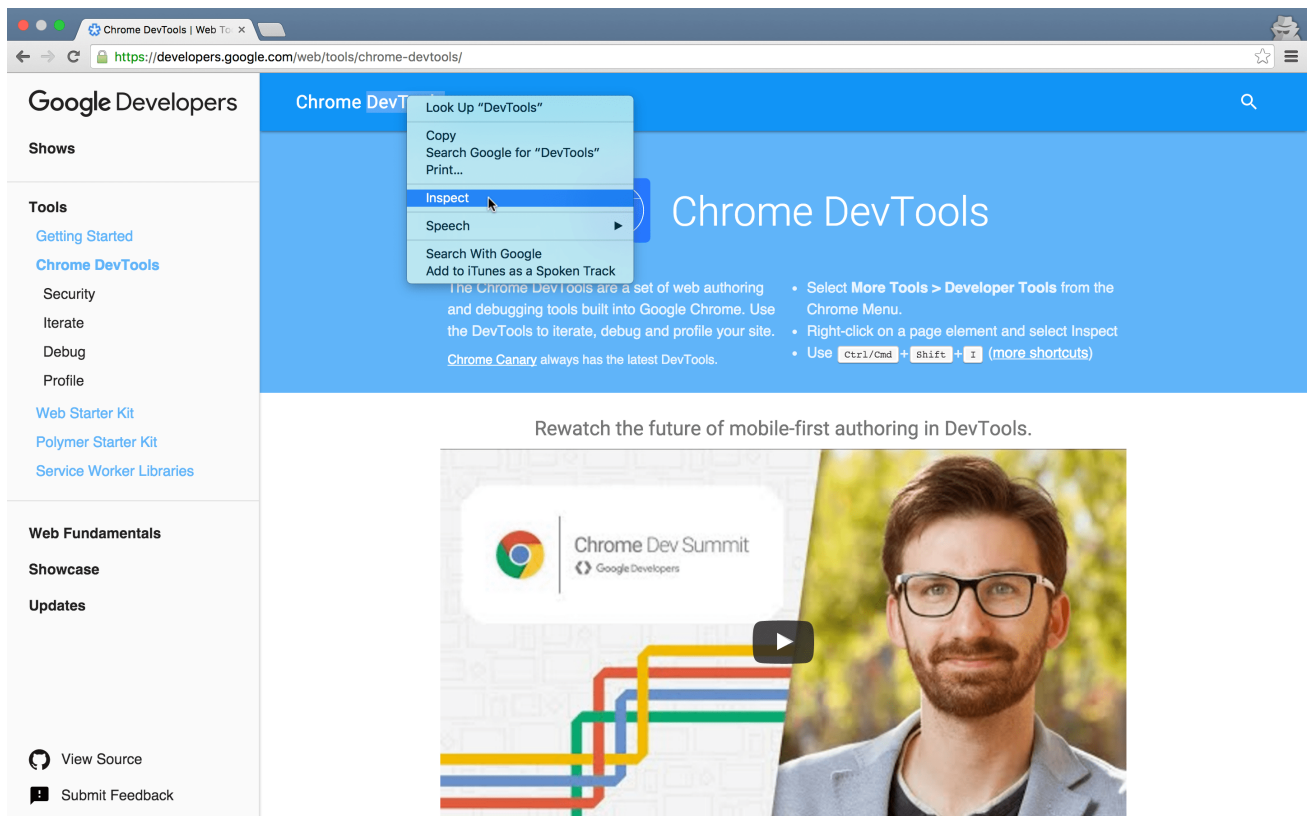
## Inspect an element

Use the **Elements panel** to inspect all elements in your page in one DOM tree. Select any element and inspect the styles applied to it.




There are several ways to inspect an element:

Right-click any element on the page and select **Inspect**.



Press **Ctrl + Shift + C** (Windows) or **Cmd + Shift + C** (Mac) to open DevTools in Inspect Element mode, then hover over an element. DevTools automatically highlights the element that you are hovering over in the **Elements** panel. Click on the element to exit inspect mode while keeping the element highlighted within the **Elements** panel.

Click the **Inspect Element** button  to go into Inspect Element Mode, then click on an element.

Use the **inspect** method in the console, such as `inspect(document.body)`.

## View the rendered and natural sizes of an image

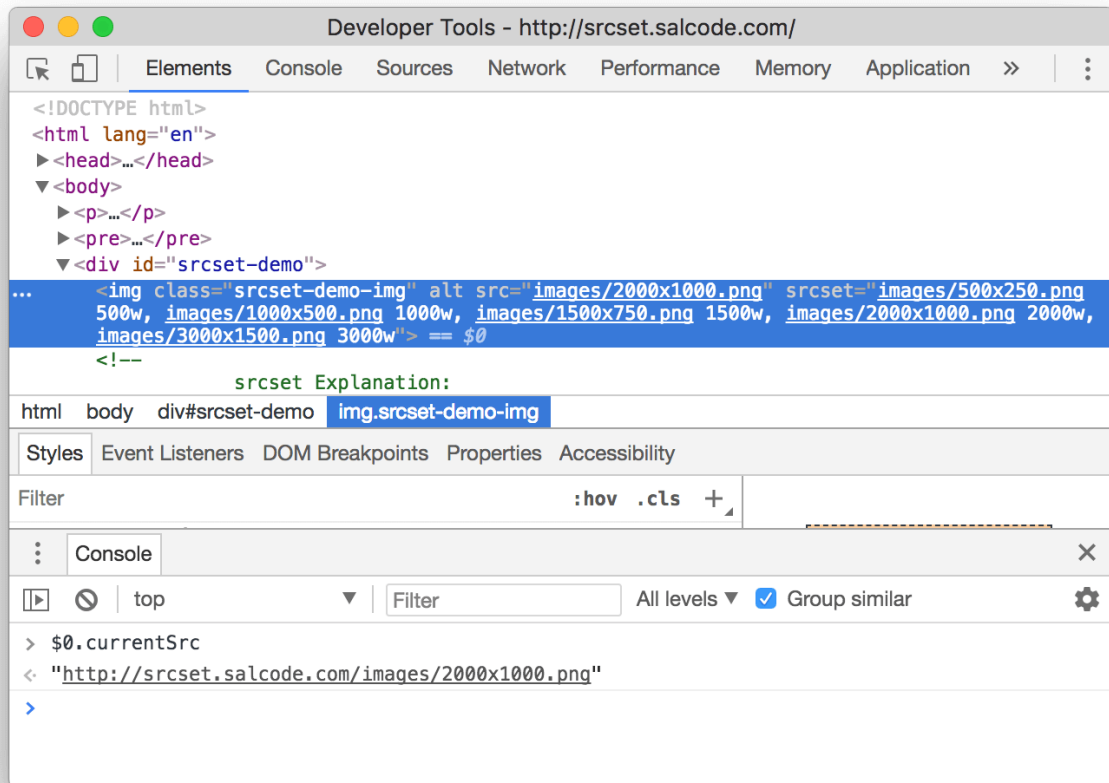
Hover over an `img` tag in the **DOM Tree** to view the rendered and natural sizes of that image.



View which image in a source set (srcset) is being used

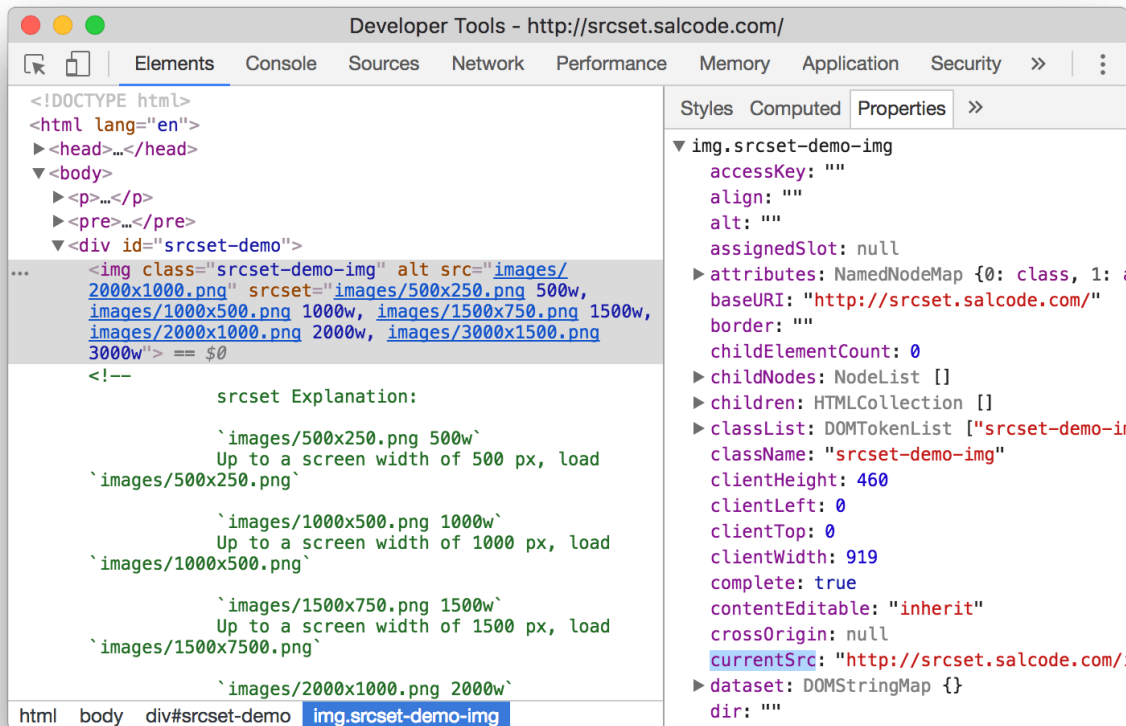
To view which version of an image in a srcset was loaded, select the `img` element, then evaluate `$0.currentSrc` in the **Console**.

**Note:** See [Enhance images with srcset for high DPI devices](#) to learn more about image optimization using **srcset**.



**Note:** `$0` is a shortcut in the DevTools **Console**. It provides a reference to the currently-selected element in the **DOM Tree**.

You can also view `currentSrc` via the **Properties** tab. The **Properties** tab only displays properties for the currently-selected element, so make sure that you've selected the correct element before viewing.



## Navigate the DOM

Navigate through the DOM structure using your mouse or keyboard.

A collapsed node has an arrow next to it pointing right:

▶ `<head>...</head>`

An expanded node has an arrow next to it pointing down:

▼ `<head>`

Using your mouse:

- Click once to highlight a node.
- To expand a node, double-click anywhere on it or click on the arrow next to it.
- To collapse a node, click on the arrow next to it.

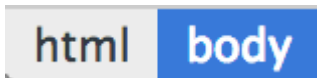
Using your keyboard:

- Press the **Up Arrow** key to select the node above the current one.

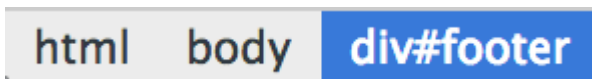
- Press the **Down Arrow** to select the node below the current one.
- Press the **Right Arrow** key to expand a collapsed node. Press it again to move to the first child of the (now-expanded) node. You can use this technique to quickly navigate deeply-nested nodes.

## Navigate the breadcrumb trail

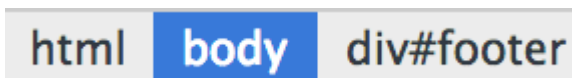
At the bottom of the Elements panel is a breadcrumb trail.



The currently selected node is highlighted in blue. The node to the left is the current node's parent. And to the left of that is the parent's parent. And so on, all the way up the tree.



Navigating back up the structure moves the highlight:



DevTools displays as many items as possible in the trail. If the entire trail doesn't fit in the status bar, an ellipsis (...) shows where the trail has been truncated. Click the ellipsis to show the hidden elements:

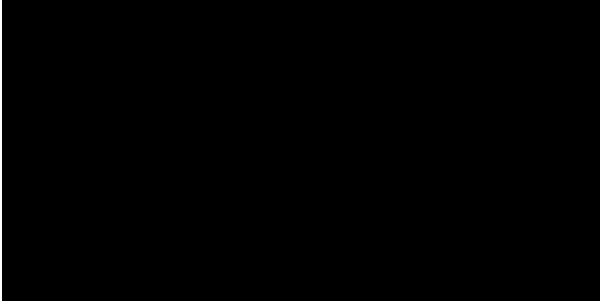


## Edit DOM nodes and attributes

To edit a DOM node name or attribute:

- Double-click directly on the node name or attribute.
- Highlight the node, press Enter, and then press Tab until the name or attribute is selected.
- Open the more actions menu and select **Add Attribute** or **Edit Attribute**. **Edit Attribute** is context-sensitive; the portion you click on determines what gets edited.

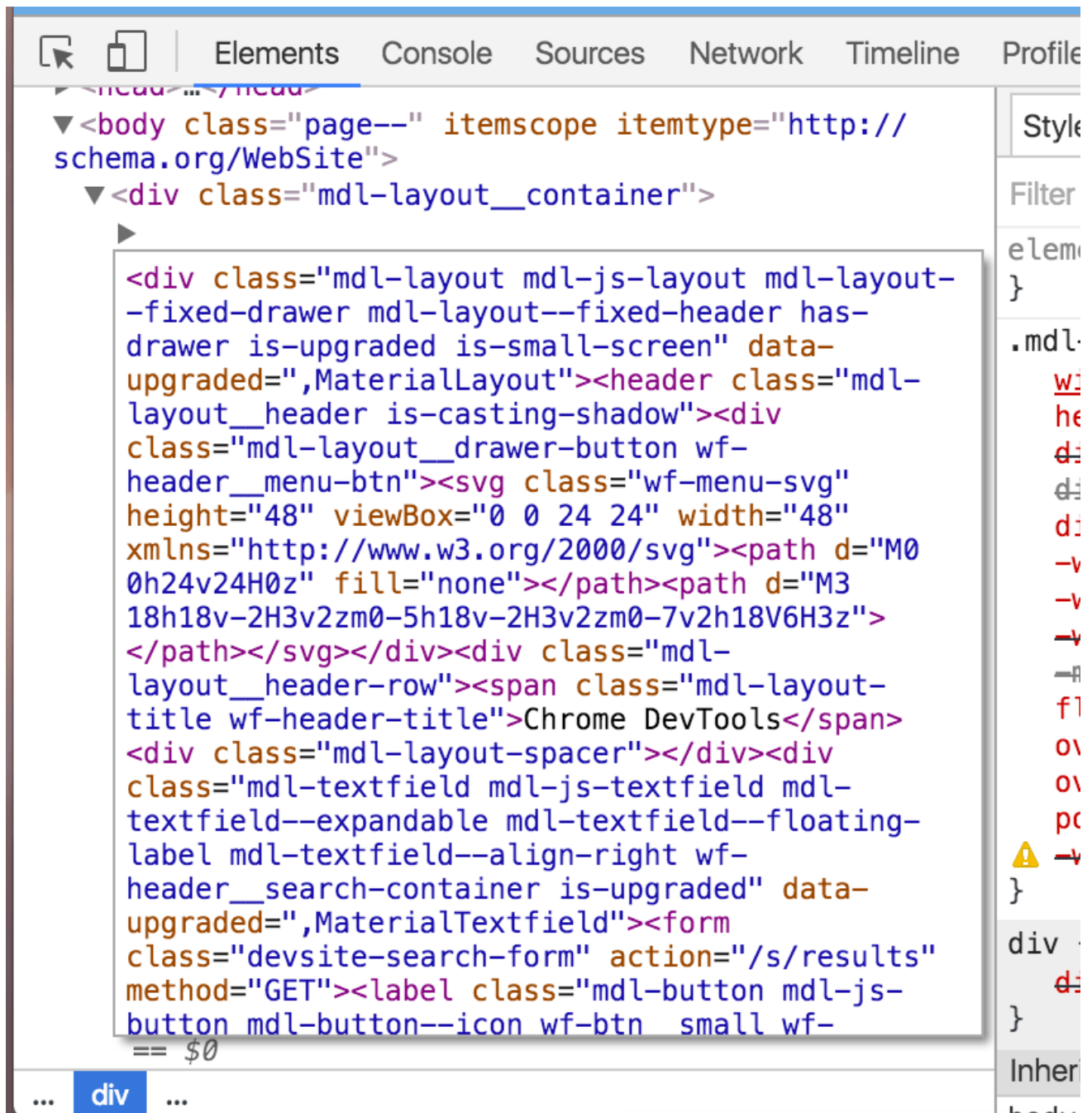
The closing tag is automatically updated when you're finished.



## Edit DOM node and its children as HTML

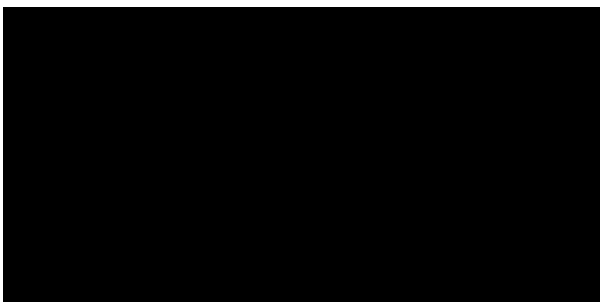
To edit a DOM node and its children as HTML:

- Open the more actions menu and select **Edit as HTML**.
- Press F2 (Windows / Linux) or Fn+F2 (Mac).
- Press Ctrl+Enter (Windows / Linux) or Cmd+Enter (Mac) to save your changes.
- Press Esc to exit the editor without saving.



## Move DOM node

Click, hold, and drag a node to move it.






## Delete DOM node

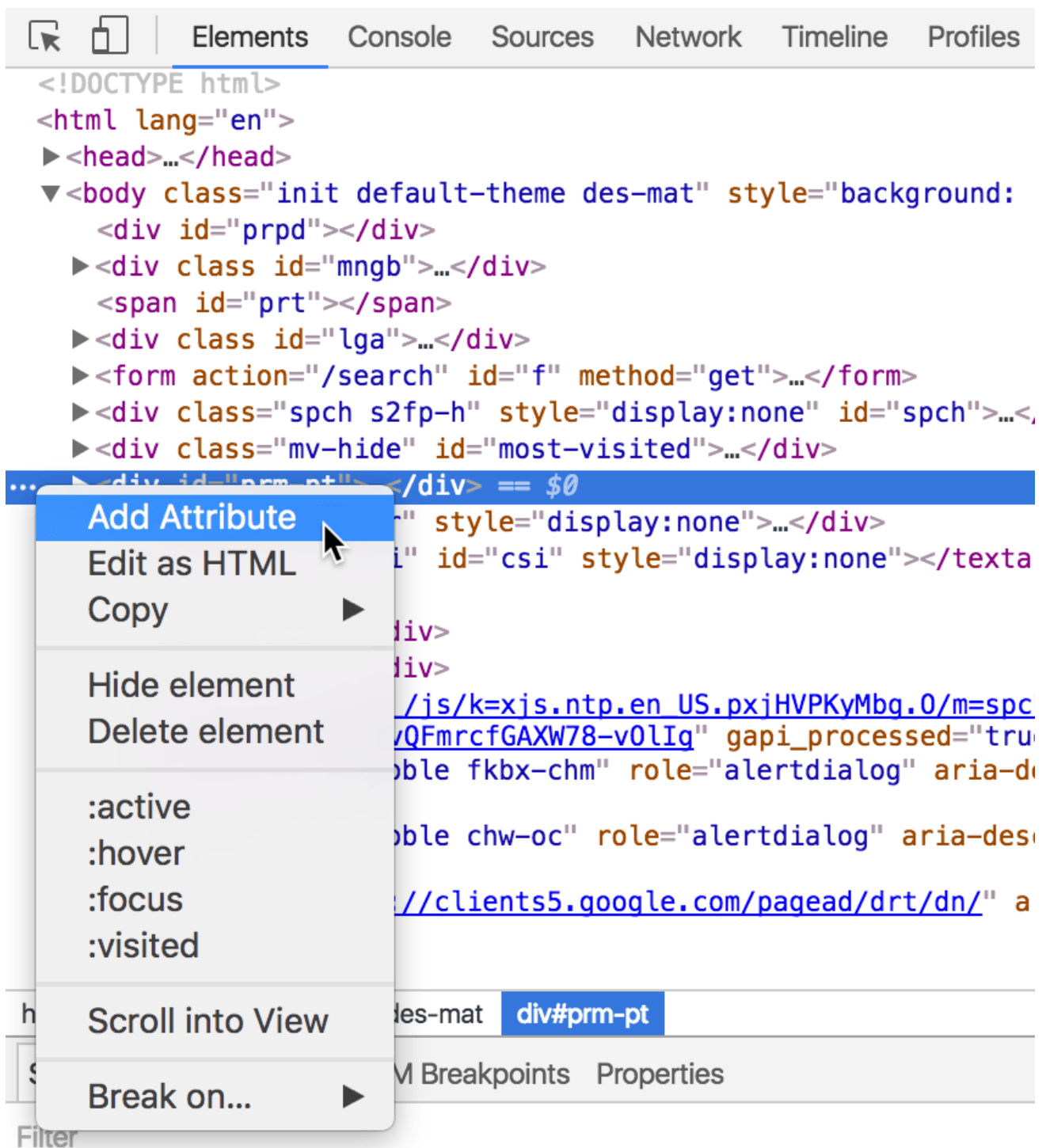
To delete a DOM node:

- Open the more actions menu and select **Delete Node**.
- Select the node and press the Delete key.

**Note:** If you delete a node by accident, Ctrl + Z (or Cmd + Z on Mac) to undo your last action.

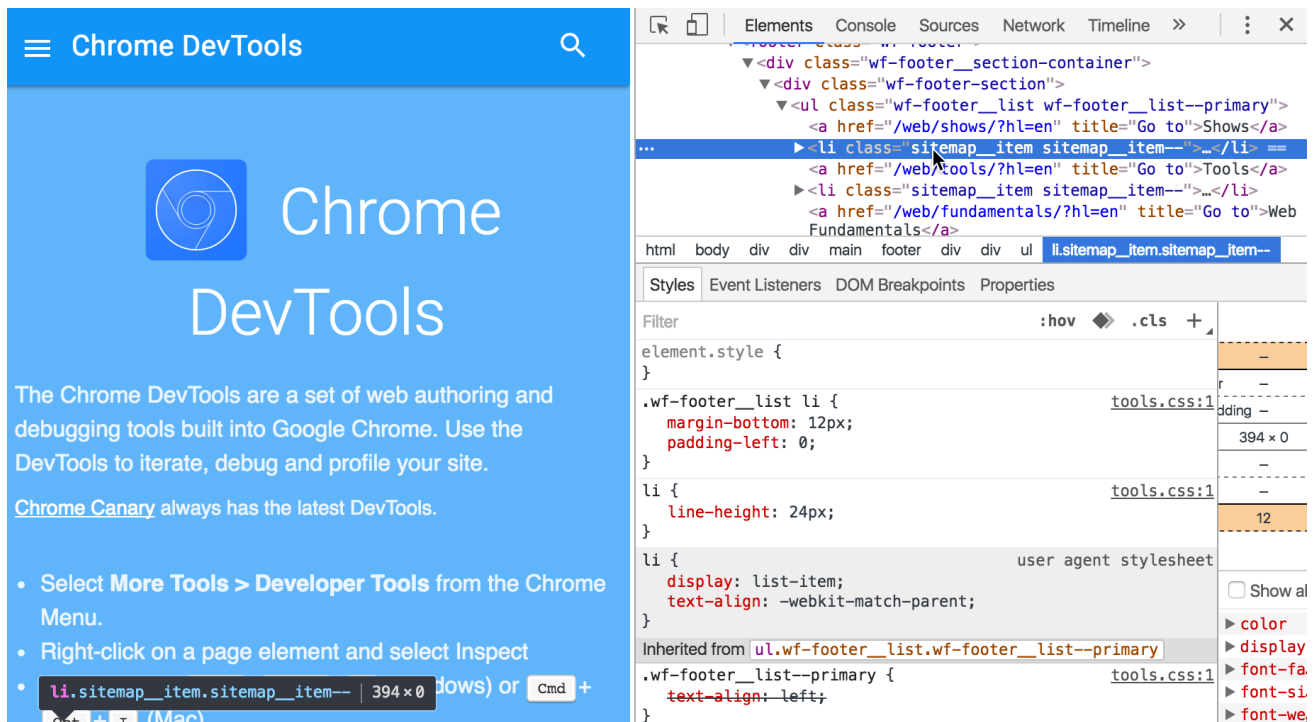
## Show more actions menu

The **more actions** menu lets you interact with a DOM node in a variety of ways. To view the menu, right-click on a node, or select a node and then press the **more actions** button (). The button is only displayed on the currently selected element.



## Scroll into view

When you hover over or select a DOM node, the rendered node is highlighted in the viewport. If the node is scrolled offscreen, you'll see a tooltip at the top of the viewport if the node is above the current viewport, and a tooltip at the bottom if the node is below the current viewport. For example, in the screenshot below DevTools is indicating that the currently selected element in the **Elements** panel is below the viewport.



To scroll the page so the node appears in the viewport, **Right-click** the node and select **Scroll into View**.

## Set DOM breakpoints

Set DOM breakpoints to debug complex JavaScript applications. For example, if your JavaScript is changing the styling of a DOM element, set a DOM breakpoint to fire when the element's attributes are modified. Trigger a breakpoint on one of the following DOM changes: subtree change, attribute change, node removal.

### Subtree Modifications

A subtree modification breakpoint is triggered when a child element is added, removed, or moved. For example, if you set a subtree modification breakpoint on the `main-content` element, the following code triggers the breakpoint:

```
var element = document.getElementById('main-content');
//modify the element's subtree.
var mySpan = document.createElement('span');
element.appendChild( mySpan );
```

### Attribute Modifications

An attribute modification occurs when the attribute of an element (`class`, `id`, `name`) is changed dynamically:

```
var element = document.getElementById('main-content');  
// class attribute of element has been modified.  
element.className = 'active';
```



## Node Removal

A node removal modification is triggered when the node in question is removed from the DOM:

```
document.getElementById('main-content').remove();
```



## Interact with DOM breakpoints

The Elements and Sources panels both include a pane for managing your DOM breakpoints.

Each breakpoint is listed with an element identifier and the breakpoint type.

The screenshot shows the Chrome DevTools interface with the 'Elements' panel on the left and the 'DOM Breakpoints' pane on the right. The 'Elements' panel displays a tree of DOM elements, with a blue dot indicating a breakpoint set on the element `div#4n.section.story-section.section-en_us-s`. The 'DOM Breakpoints' pane on the right lists three breakpoints:

- ☒ `div.esc-separator` Subtree Modified
- ☒ `div#4n.section.story-section.section-en_us-s` Node Removed
- ☒ `div.esc-lead-article-title-wrapper` Attribute Modified

The bottom of the 'Elements' panel shows the breadcrumb: `... #3x div div#4n.section.story-section.section-en_us-s`.

Interact with each listed breakpoint in any of the following ways:

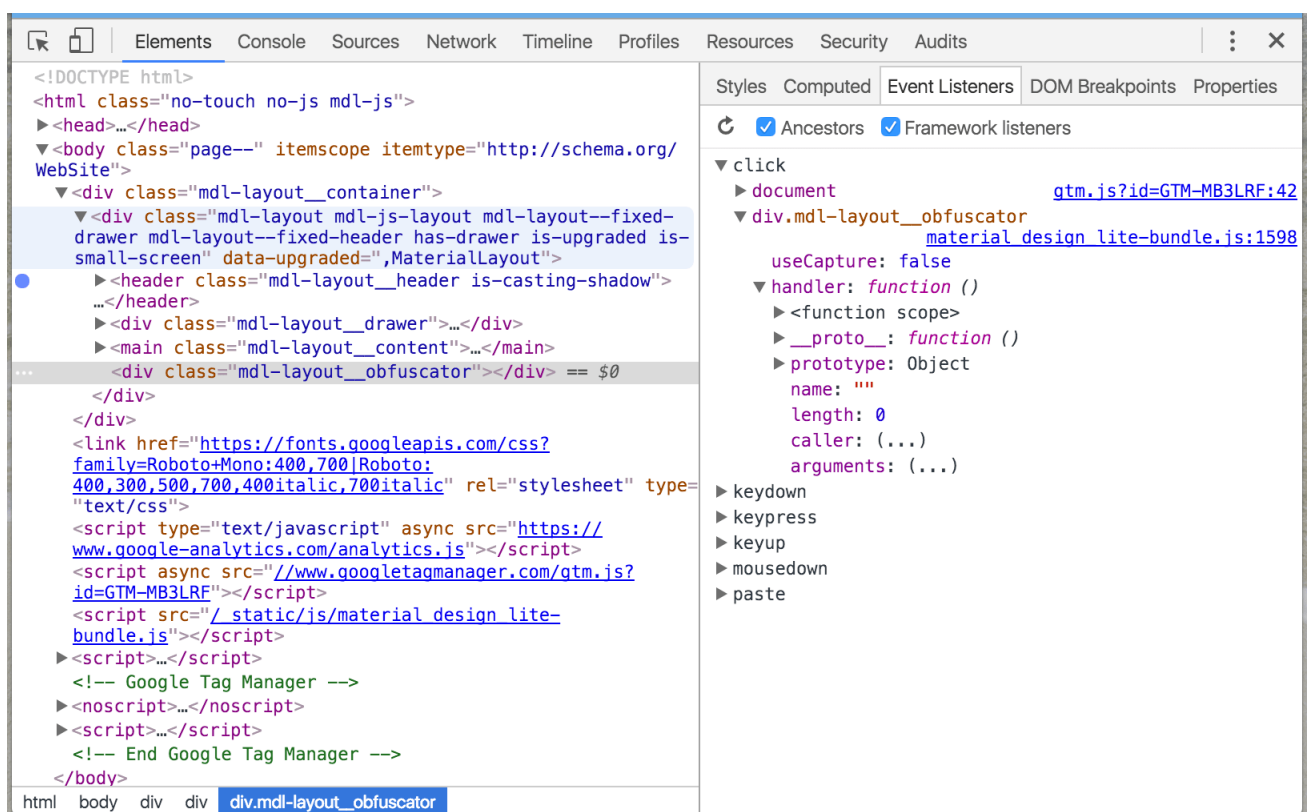
- **Hover** over the element identifier to show the element's corresponding position on the page (similar to hovering over nodes in the Elements panel).
- **Click** an element to select it in the Elements panel.
- **Toggle** the checkbox to enable or disable the breakpoint.

When you trigger a DOM breakpoint, the breakpoint is highlighted in the DOM Breakpoints pane. The **Call Stack** pane displays the **reason** for a debugger pause:

*Paused on a "Subtree Modified" breakpoint set on `div#main`, because its descendant `article.fallback` was removed.*

## View element event listeners

View JavaScript event listeners associated with a DOM node in the **Event Listeners** pane.



The top-level items in the Event Listeners pane show the event types that have registered listeners.

Click the arrow next to the event type (for example `click`) to see a list of registered event handlers. Each handler is identified by a CSS selector-like element identifier, such as

`document` or `button#call-to-action`. If more than one handler is registered for the same element, the element is listed repeatedly.

Click the expander arrow next to an element identifier to see the properties of the event handler. The Event Listeners pane lists the following properties for each listener:

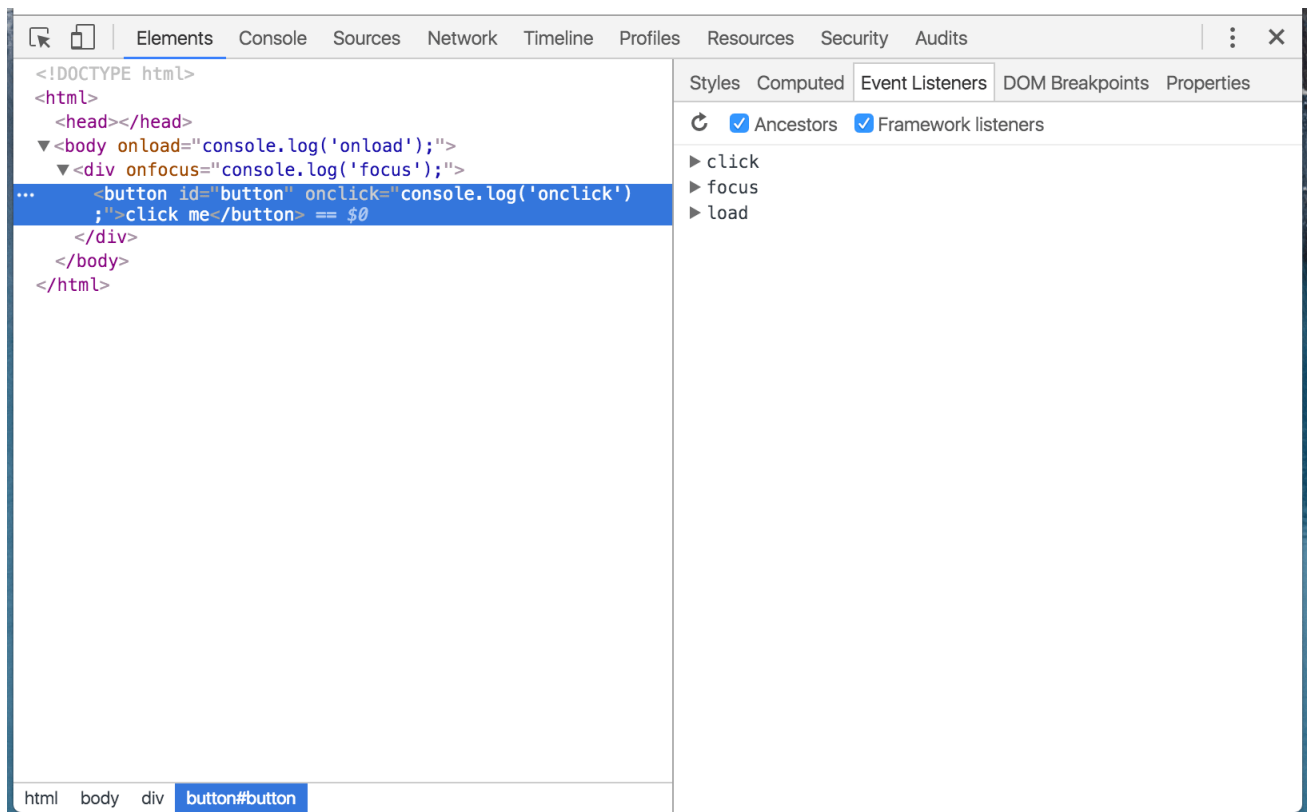
### Event Listener Properties & Description

<b>handler</b>	Contains a callback function. Right-click on the function and select <b>Show Function Definition</b> to view where the function is defined (if source code is available).
<b>useCapture</b>	A boolean value stating whether the <u><code>useCapture</code></u> flag on <code>addEventListener</code> was set.

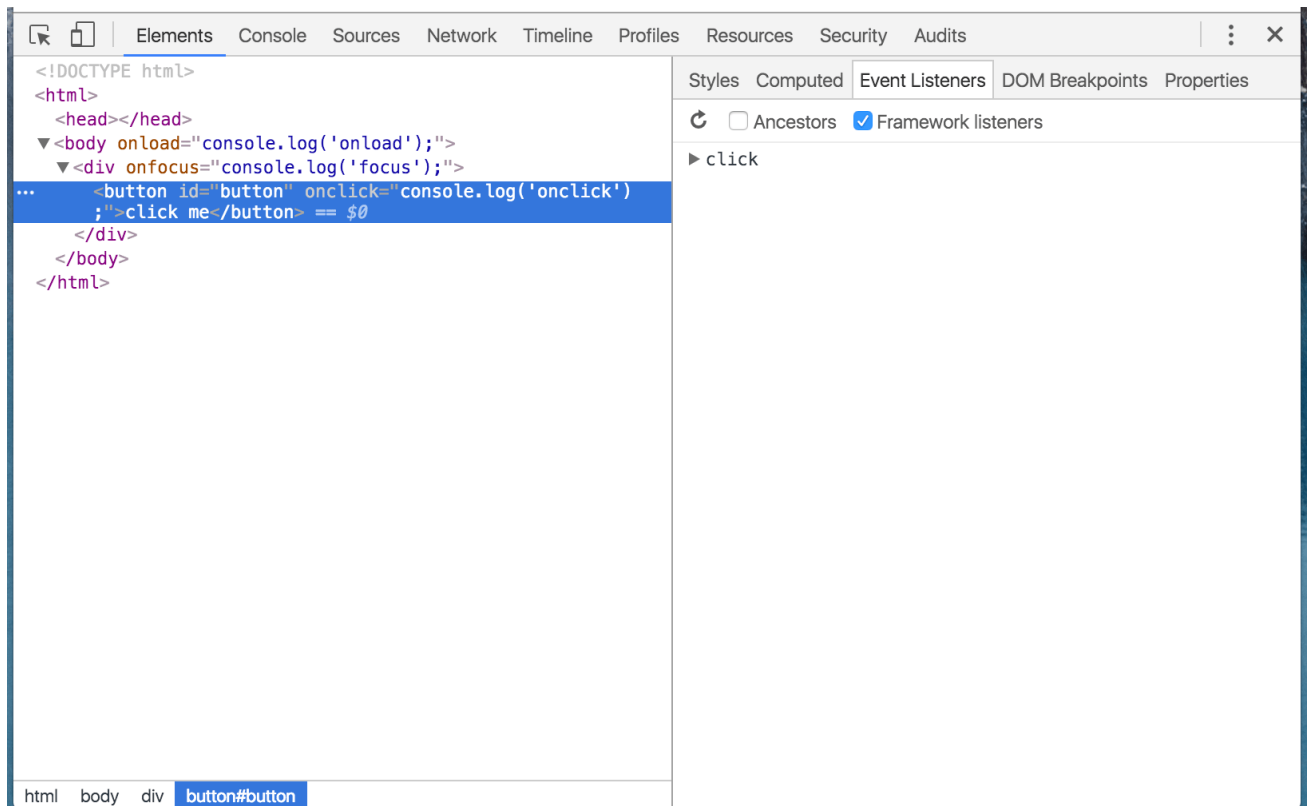
**Note:** Many Chrome extensions add their own event listeners onto the DOM. If you see a number of event listeners that aren't set by your code, you may want to reopen your page in an [Incognito window](#). Incognito windows prevent extensions from running by default.

### View ancestor event listeners

When the **Ancestors** checkbox is enabled, the event listeners for the ancestors of the currently selected node are displayed, in addition to the currently selected node's event listeners.



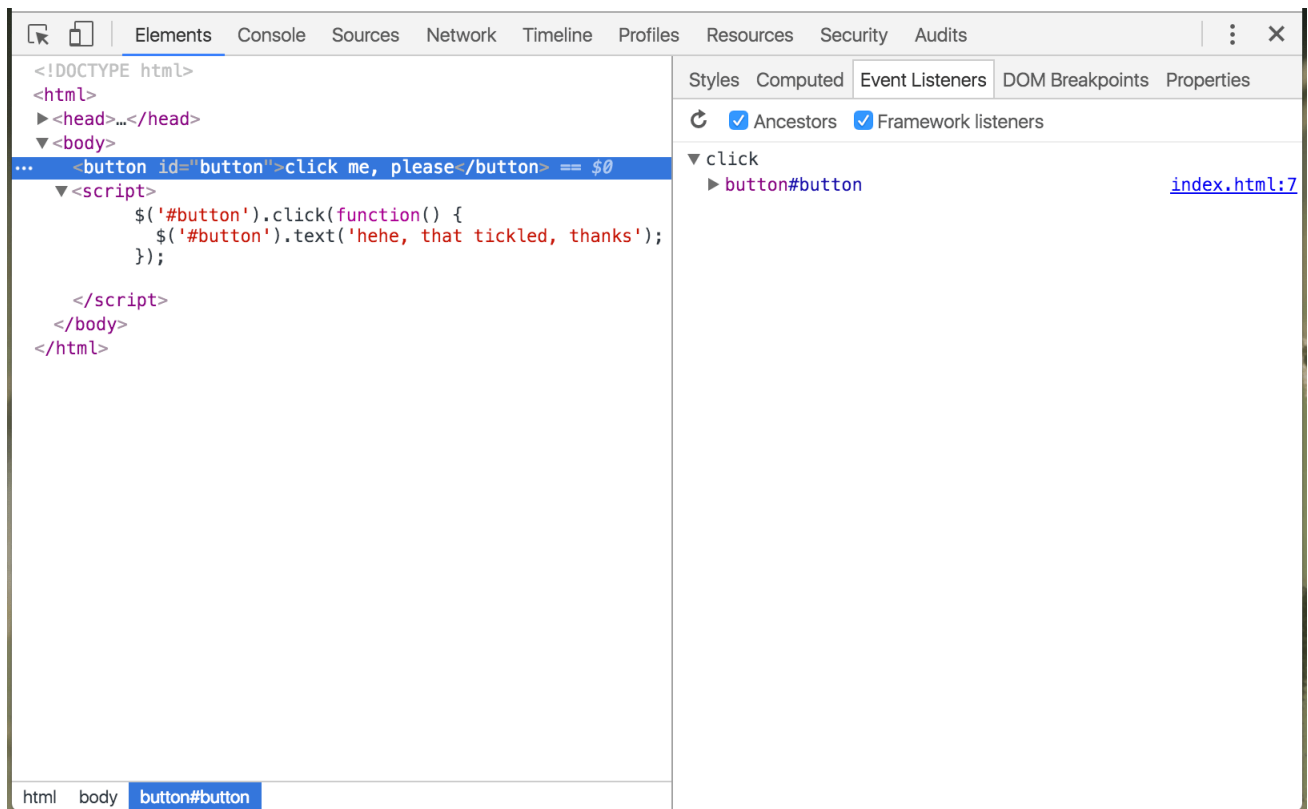
When the checkbox is disabled, only the event listeners for the currently selected node are displayed.



View framework listeners

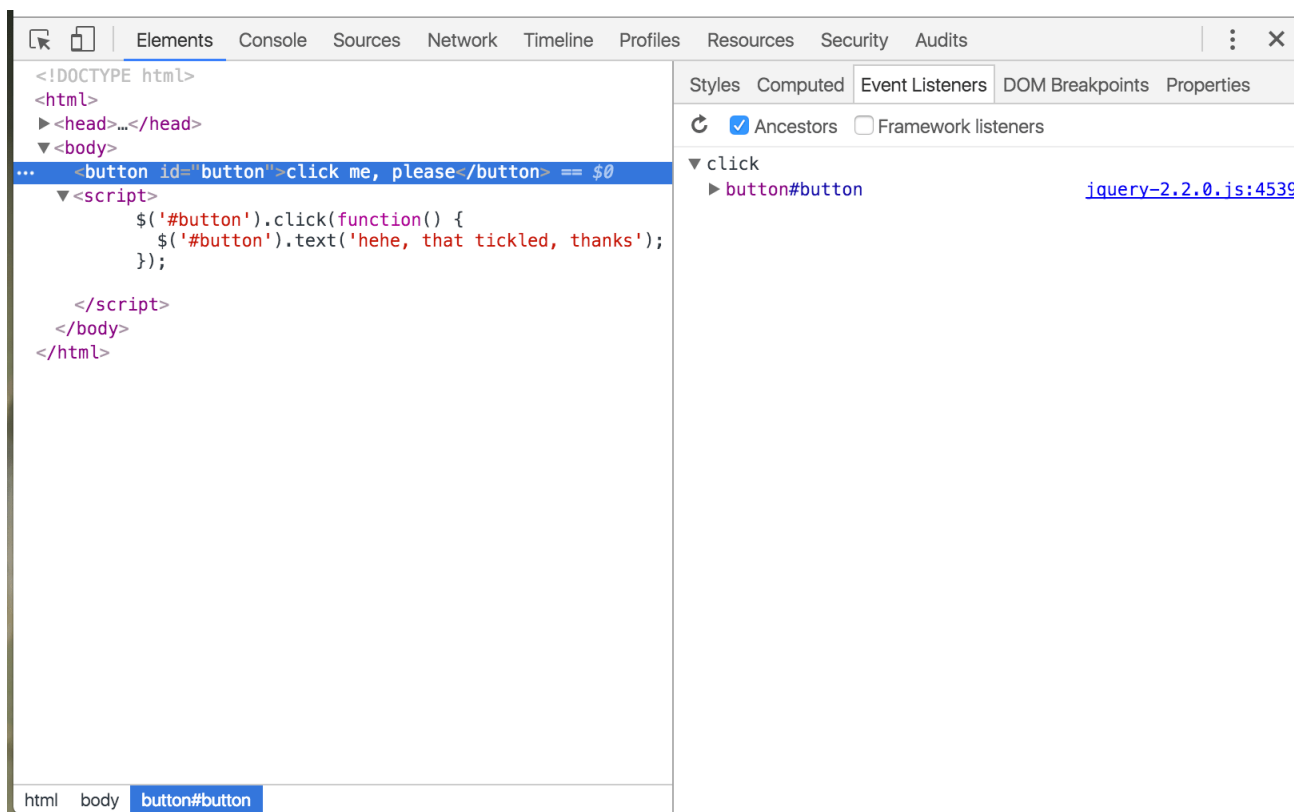
Some JavaScript frameworks and libraries wrap native DOM events into their custom event APIs. In the past this made it hard to inspect the event listeners with DevTools, because the function definition would just reference back to the framework or library code. The **Framework listeners** feature solves this problem.

When the **Framework listeners** checkbox is enabled, DevTools automatically resolves the framework or library wrapping portion of the event code, and then tells you where you actually bound the event in your own code.



When the **Framework listeners** checkbox is disabled, the event listener code will probably resolve somewhere in the framework or library code.





## Show HTML comments

To show or hide HTML comments in the Elements panel:

1. Open Settings.
2. Click the **Preferences** tab.
3. Under the **Elements** section, check the **Show HTML comments** checkbox.

To show or hide HTML comments in the **Elements** panel, open Settings, go to the **Preferences** panel, find the **Elements** section, and then toggle the **Show HTML comments** checkbox.

---

*Except as otherwise noted, the content of this page is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 License](#), and code samples are licensed under the [Apache 2.0 License](#). For details, see our [Site Policies](#). Java is a registered trademark of Oracle and/or its affiliates.*

*Last updated July 2, 2018.*