Three Things You Can Do With Chrome’s Development Tools

Tyler Armstrong

Bellevue University

Author Note

Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Tyler Armstrong, 1900 South Eads St., Arlington, VA 22202.

Contact: tkarmstrong@my365.bellevue.edu

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Abstract

This paper sets out to provide a developer some information regarding Chrome’s Development Tools

Keywords: Internet, web, development, front-end design

Three Things You Can Do With Chrome’s Development Tools

Chrome Development Tools are essential for front-end web developers. It includes many built-in tools to make the development process more manageable. Three tools specifically are Pretty Print, Edit CSS, and Snippets.

# Pretty Print

There are many times where a developer would need to be able to view JavaScript. Chrome Dev Tools offer a great way to accomplish this. When viewing source code, a developer may find that the code is minified. Minification makes it difficult to read or follow along with the code. To resolve this, a developer would need to click on the Pretty Prin**t** icon within Chrome's Dev Tools. According to (Jackson, 2017), "You can easily change the formatting of your minimized code by clicking on { } which will go back to the normal view so you can easily go through it." Clicking on the Pretty Print icon will help a developer to make their source code more manageable.

# Editing CSS Properties

Another means within Chrome's Development Tools that can make a developer's life easier is giving them the ability to edit CSS and instantly see their changes. (Jaskson, 2017) Editing CSS properties within Chrome's Development Tools are most likely its most used function of all the tools found within Chrome's Development Tools (Jackson, 2017). Editing CSS properties without having to switch back-and-forth from the text editor and then having to refresh the browser can speed up development time tremendously.

# Code Snippets

The last option that is a useful tool found within Chrome's Development Tools is called Snippets. Just like editing CSS Properties, Snippets provide the developer a means to speed up their development process. According to (Firdaus, 2018), "By taking advantage of frequently used codes, Code Snippets can save you a lot of time and significantly speed up the debugging process. First, go to Sources > Snippets (subpanel). Then, right-click and select New to create a new snippet, type in a code that you frequently use and save it. To insert a snippet, just open one of your source codes – it could be HTML, CSS or JS. Then, drag and drop the snippet into the source code."

# Conclusion

In summary, Chrome offers several different mechanisms that the web developer can take advantage of to make their lives easier. Three of the tools mentioned were Pretty Print. Pretty Print reverts code from a Minified version into a version that is more human readable than machine readable. The second tool mentioned within Chrome's Development Tools is the ability to edit CSS Properties. Editing CSS Properties within Chrome's development tools enables the developer to immediately preview their CSS changes within the browser without having to edit their source code, save, then refresh their browser. Last, but not least of the Chrome Development Tools listed above was the Code Snippets. The Code Snippets are a means for the developer to reuse code that is often used many times. Being able to reuse code without having to type it can speed up the development process. Also, by being able to edit the code right within the tool without having to edit the source code, save, and refresh the browser saves the developer time within their development process.

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