

Chrome Dev Tools for the Initiated

Hidden Gems & Pro Tips

By Tyler Lemke

A Little History on Dev Tools

1st Tool with Debug + Web Inspect

- Firebug Extension in 2006
- Written by NetScape Dev - Joe Hewitt
- All praise Joe and Timothy Hatcher

Shortcuts

Available in `Settings > Shortcuts`

- **File search** – `Ctrl + P`
- **Command menu** – `Ctrl + Shift + P`
- **Open console** – `Ctrl + (Backtick)`
- **Search in panel** – `Ctrl + F`
- **Global search** – `Ctrl + Shift + F`

The Console

Console Settings Overview

Console Filtering

[✓] Selected Context Only

- Enable via `Settings > Console` or the gear icon
- Filters out errors from:
 - 3rd-party scripts (e.g., Chrome extensions)
 - Iframed pages

Other Filtering Tips

- **Sidebar filter (preferred):**
Use "*User messages*" to view only JS messages (not browser logs)
- **Log type filter:**
 - Pros - Filters entire types of messages until changed
 - Cons - I always forget to change it until mass confusion has kicked in

Console Utilities & Shortcuts

- `$_` — Last evaluated expression
- `$(selector)` — jQuery-style selector
- `clear()`
- `copy(object)`

Useful Console Preferences

Settings > Preferences > Console

- Hide network messages
- Show timestamps
- Autocomplete suggestion on Enter
- Preserve log on navigation
- Enable custom formatters

Handy Console Commands

- `console.table()`
- `console.group()` , `console.groupEnd()`
- `console.time()` , `console.timeEnd()`

Network Settings

Settings > Preferences > Network

- Show User Agent Shadow DOM
- Disable cache while DevTools is open
- Color-code resource types
- Group network logs by frame

Persistence

Settings > Preferences > Persistence

- **Enable Local Overrides**
 - [Guide](#)

Experimental Features

(Caution - may cause issues)

Settings > Experimental Features

- Authored/Deployed Trees
- IgnoreList (hide known 3rd-party scripts)
- Highlight DOM violations in Elements panel
- Report contrast issues via Issues panel
- New font editor in Styles tab
- View full accessibility tree

Layers Panel

- Inspect `z-index` stacking contexts and layers

References Part 1

- <https://developer.chrome.com/docs/devtools/tips>
- <https://devtoolstips.org/tips/en/inspect-user-agent-dom/>
- <https://senuravihanjayadeva.medium.com/local-overrides-in-chrome-devtools-f4a148de30c2>

References Part 2

- https://developer.chrome.com/docs/devtools/shortcuts/?utm_source=devtools
- <https://developer.chrome.com/blog/devtools-tips-13?hl=en>
- <https://developer.chrome.com/docs/devtools/console>
- <https://devtoolstips.org/tips/en/custom-object-formatters/>