

Debugging JavaScript and CSS Using Firebug

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CSCI 571

1/27/13

Notice for Copying JavaScript Code from these Slides

- When copying any JavaScript code from these slides, the console might return the following:

```
>>> ["Harman", "Goei", "CSCI", "571"];  
✖ SyntaxError: illegal character  
● ["Harman", "Goei", "CSCI", "571"]; with(...1"]; }; (line 2)
```

- To fix this, **retype** each quote.

Outline

- [What is Firebug? Why do web developers use Firebug?](#)
- [Installation of Firebug for Mozilla Firefox browser](#)
- [Launching Firebug for the First Time](#)
- [The Panels of Firebug](#)
- [Firebug Tutorials](#)

What is Firebug?

- Firebug is an extension for the Mozilla Firefox browser that allows you to debug and inspect HTML, CSS, the Document Object Model (DOM) and JavaScript.

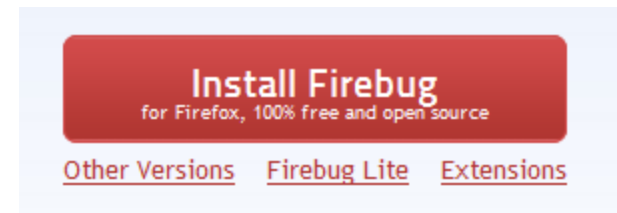


Why do Web Developers use Firebug?

- Inspect the behavior of HTML/CSS, and modify style & layout with true WYSIWYG
- Debug JavaScript
- Detect performance of website
- Track Cookies & Sessions

Installation of Firebug for Mozilla Firefox Browser

- To install Firebug for Firefox, go to <http://www.getfirebug.com> (click on Install Firebug)



- *Don't have Firefox? Firebug has a **lite** version which can be saved as a bookmark or embedded into your web page in JavaScript.*

2 Ways to Launch Firebug

With the Mozilla Firefox browser open...

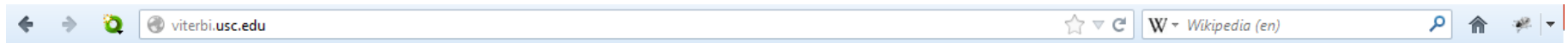
1) Press **F12** on the keyboard

*(By default, body HTML Element is selected)**

OR

2) Press the Firebug button on the toolbar

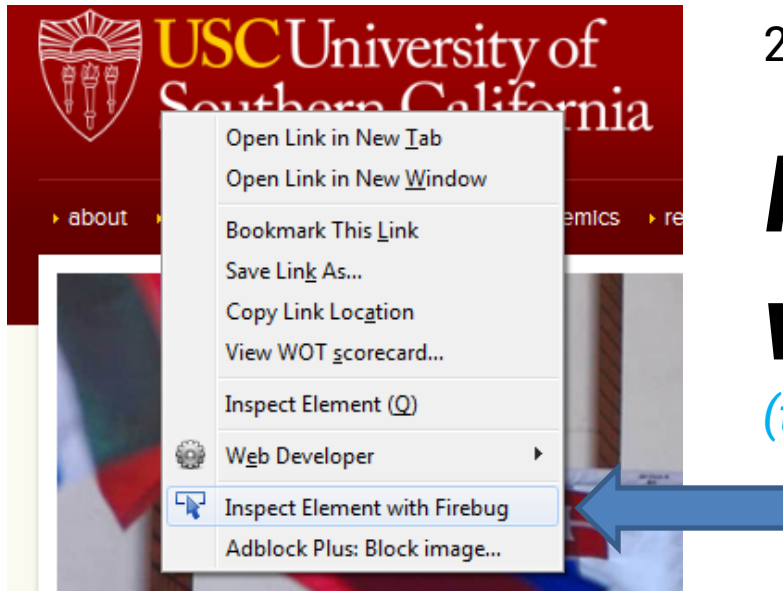
*(By default, body HTML Element is selected)**



*Note: Firebug may continue from a last saved session if it is still running

The 3rd Way to Launch Firebug

1) In the current webpage, right click on an element (an image, text, background, etc).

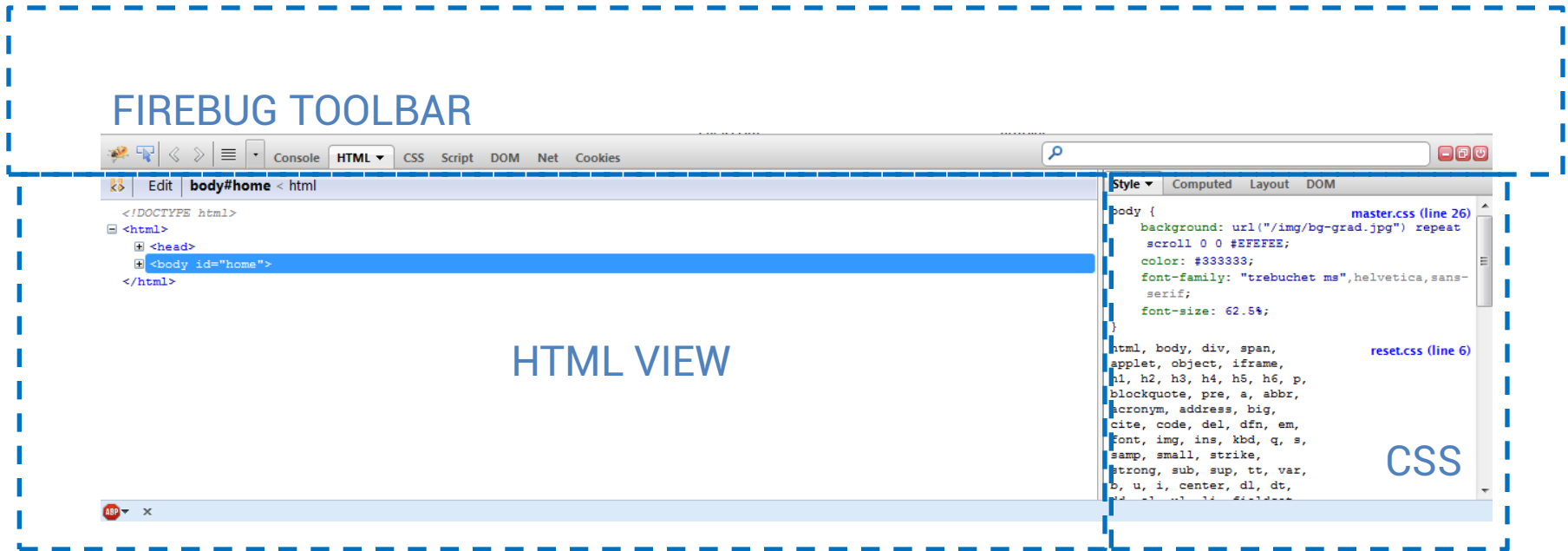


2. In the dropdown menu, click on

Inspect Element with Firebug...

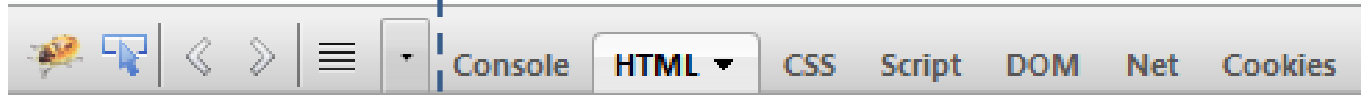
(the element you right clicked on is selected.)

Hello, Firebug!



Let's take a look at the **Firebug Toolbar** first, as we will use this throughout the tutorial.

Firebug Toolbar



PANELS

Console: Brings up a Interactive JavaScript Console

HTML: Brings up the HTML View (see previous)

CSS: Brings up the CSS View

Script: Brings up the JavaScript Debugger (used later)

DOM: A list of all the DOM Properties (*defaults to window object*)

Net: Displays requests made from the browser

Cookies: Displays sessions & cookies from the browser

Firebug Toolbar – Firebug Button



1. The Firebug Button

- a. Hide Firebug (hides the panel)
- b. Deactivate Firebug (turns off Firebug)
- c. Firebug UI Location...**
 - a. Detached
 - b. Left/Right
 - c. Top/Bottom
- d. Open with Editor
- e. Options
- f. Firebug Online
- g. Customize Shortcuts**
- h. About

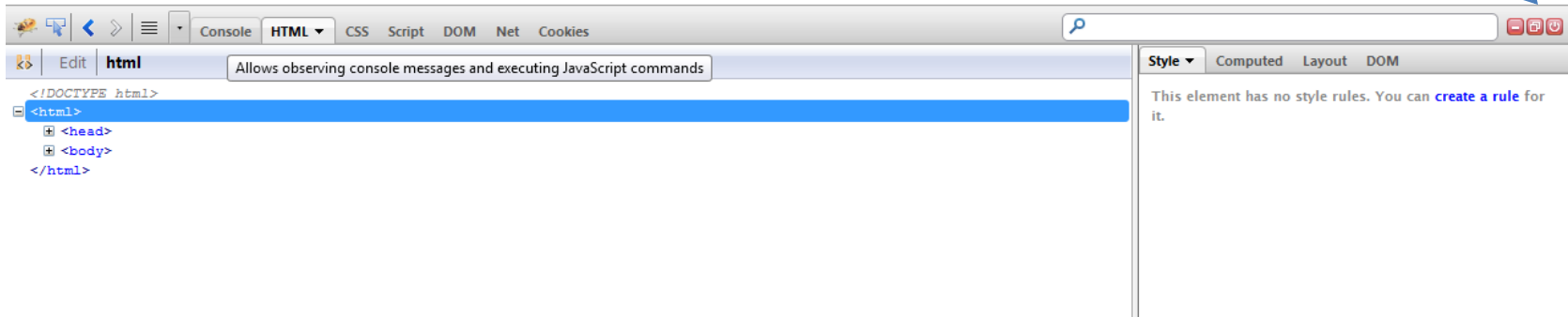
Bold: Useful things in Firebug

Firebug UI Locations - Docked

I am a paragraph element with black text and a white background.

The University of Southern California does not screen or control the content on this website and thus does not guarantee the accuracy, integrity, or quality of such content. All content on this website is provided by and is the sole responsibility of the person from which such content originated, and such content does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the University administration or the Board of Trustees

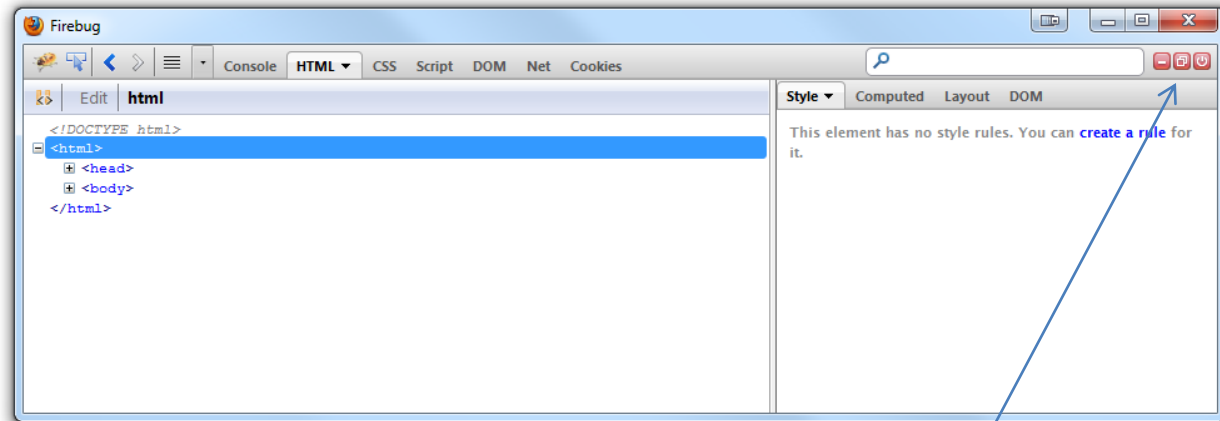
To undock Firebug, click on



Firebug UI Locations - UnDocked

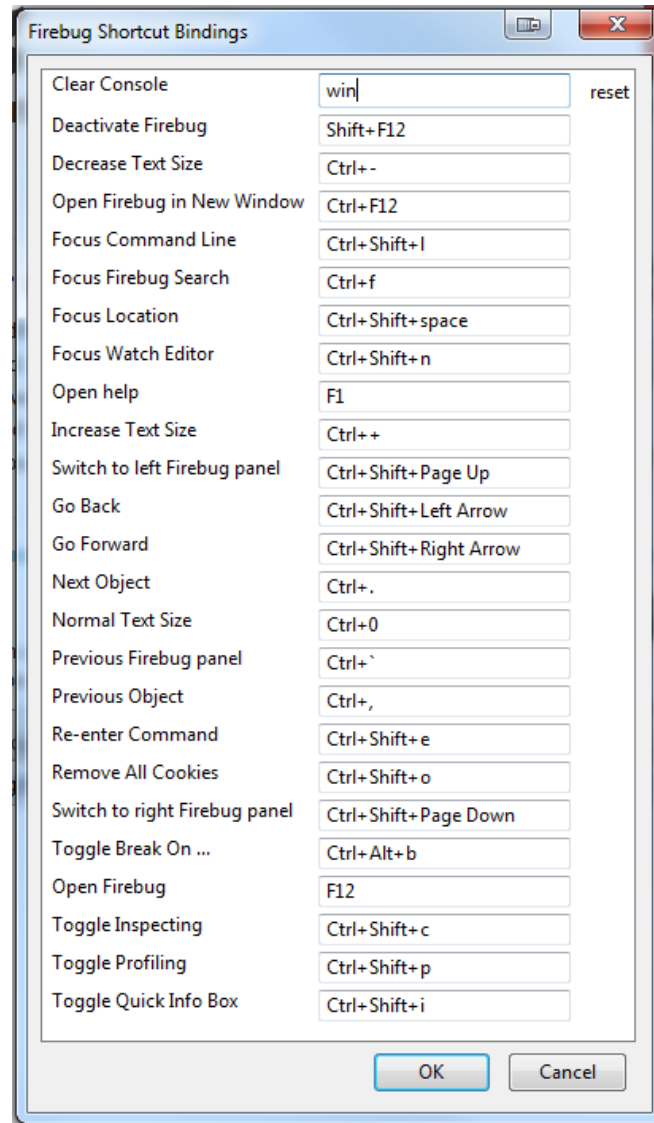
I am a paragraph element with black text and a white background.

The University of Southern California does not screen or control the content on this website and thus does not guarantee the accuracy, integrity, or quality of such content. All content on this website is provided by and is the sole responsibility of the person from which such content originated, and such content does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the University administration or the Board of Trustees

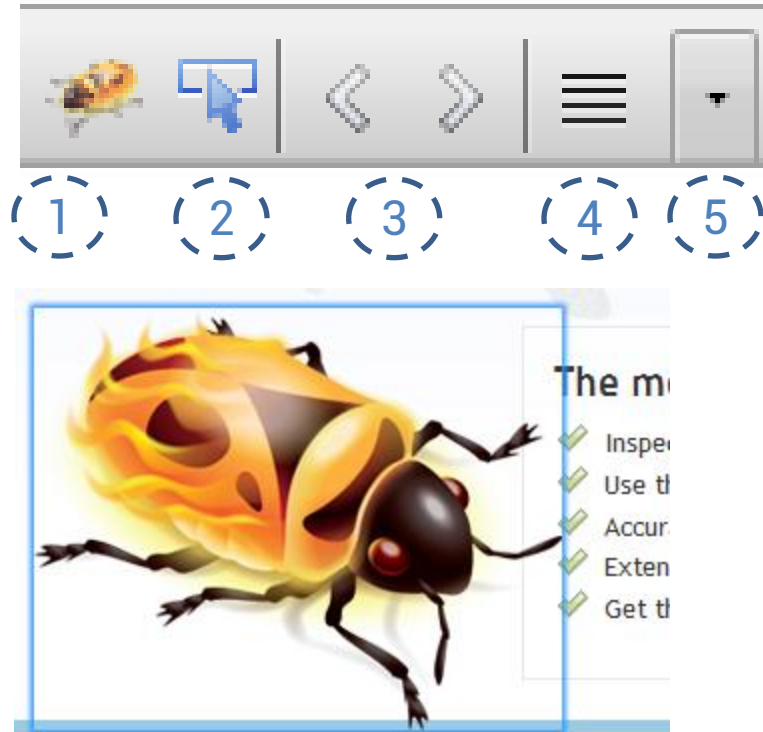


To dock Firebug, click on 

List of Useful Firebug Shortcuts



Firebug Toolbar – Inspect Element Button



A Hovered Element using Inspect Element Button

2. **Inspect Element** (this is similar to Right click & Inspect Element with Firebug)

The difference: When hovering over elements in the page, the element is highlighted.

Also, the element is also highlighted in blue in the HTML View

```
<div class="bigfirebug"></div>
```

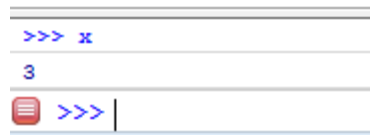
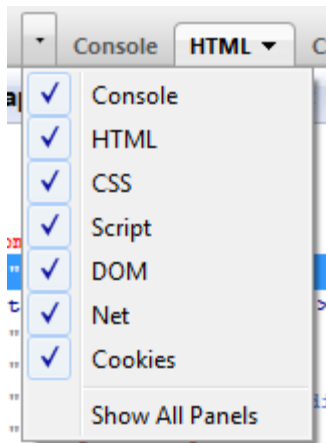
Firebug Toolbar – Arrows, Quick Console, Show Hide Panels



3. Back/Forward – Switches between Panels

4. Quick Console – Interactive JavaScript console

5. Show or Hide Panels – Show or hide all panels



Firebug Tutorials Outline

1. [Inspecting HTML/CSS elements and their properties](#)
2. [Modifying HTML/CSS elements in real time](#)
3. [Debugging JavaScript & Analyzing Behavior of JavaScript code](#)
4. [Web Performance](#)
5. [Cookies and Sessions](#)

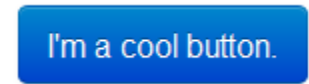
Inspecting HTML/CSS Elements and their Properties

1) Click here for the tutorial:

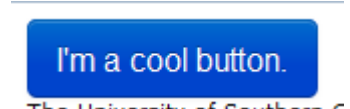
<http://www-scf.usc.edu/~goei/571-firebug/lesson1.html>

TUTORIAL OBJECTIVES

We are given the following element:



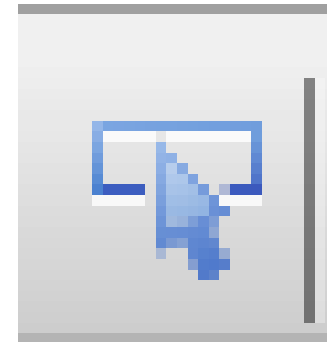
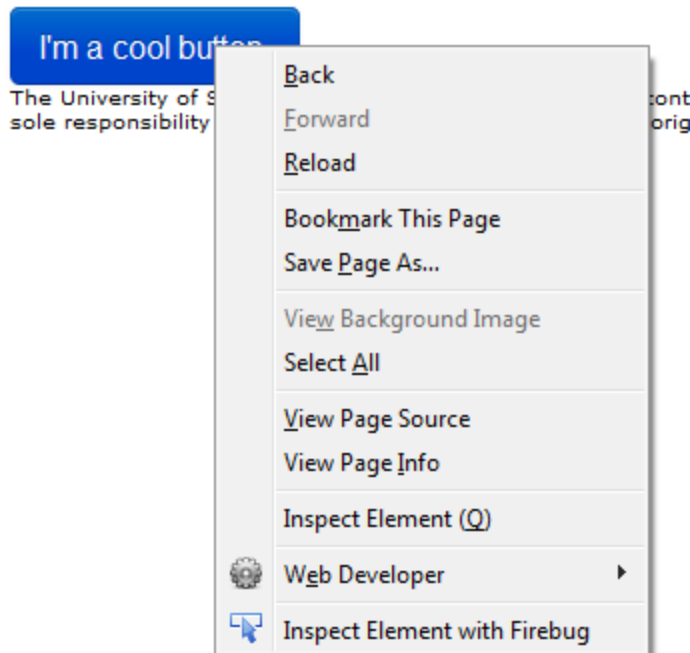
- 1) Find out the attributes & DOM properties of the element
- 2) Find out the computed CSS properties
- 3) Draw the box model for the element.
- 4) When hovering the element, determine the CSS properties.



Hovered

Finding the Attributes & DOM properties of the Element

1) Use the Inspect Element feature in Firebug. (**Right click** on the element, and click on **Inspect Element with Firebug**)

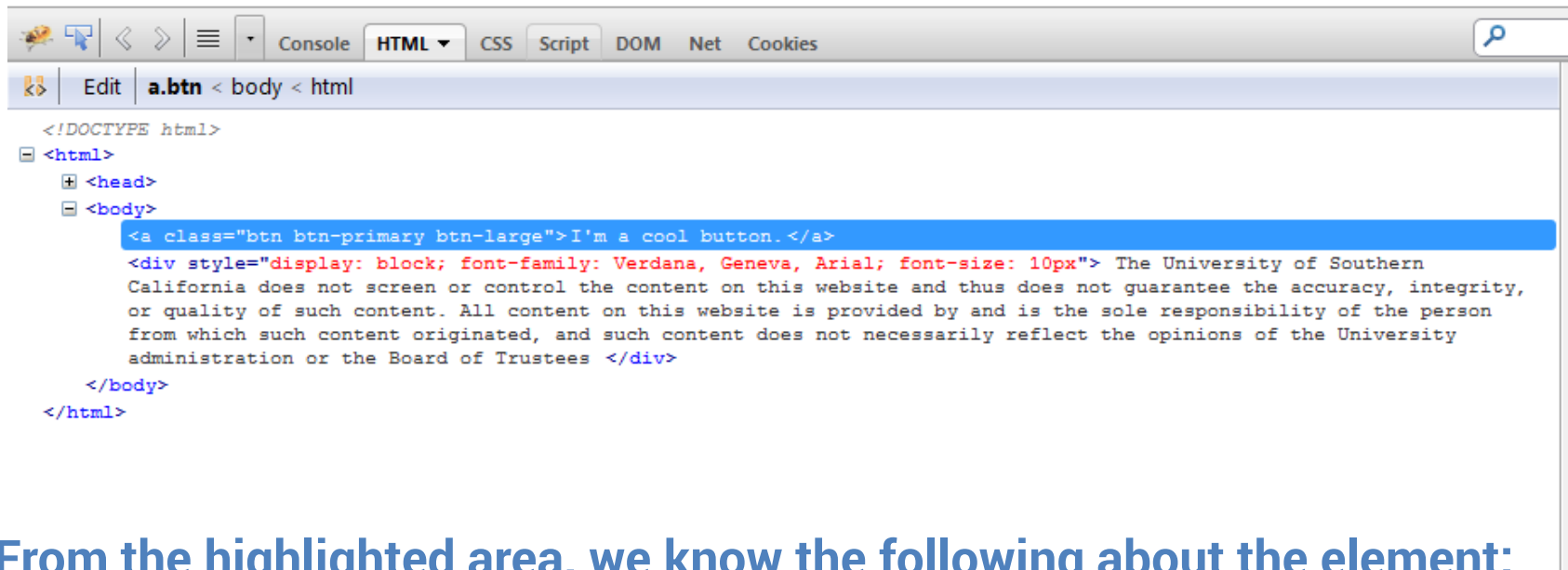


Note: We can also use this button and click on the element

**INSPECTING HTML/CSS ELEMENTS
AND THEIR PROPERTIES**

Finding the Attributes & DOM properties of the Element

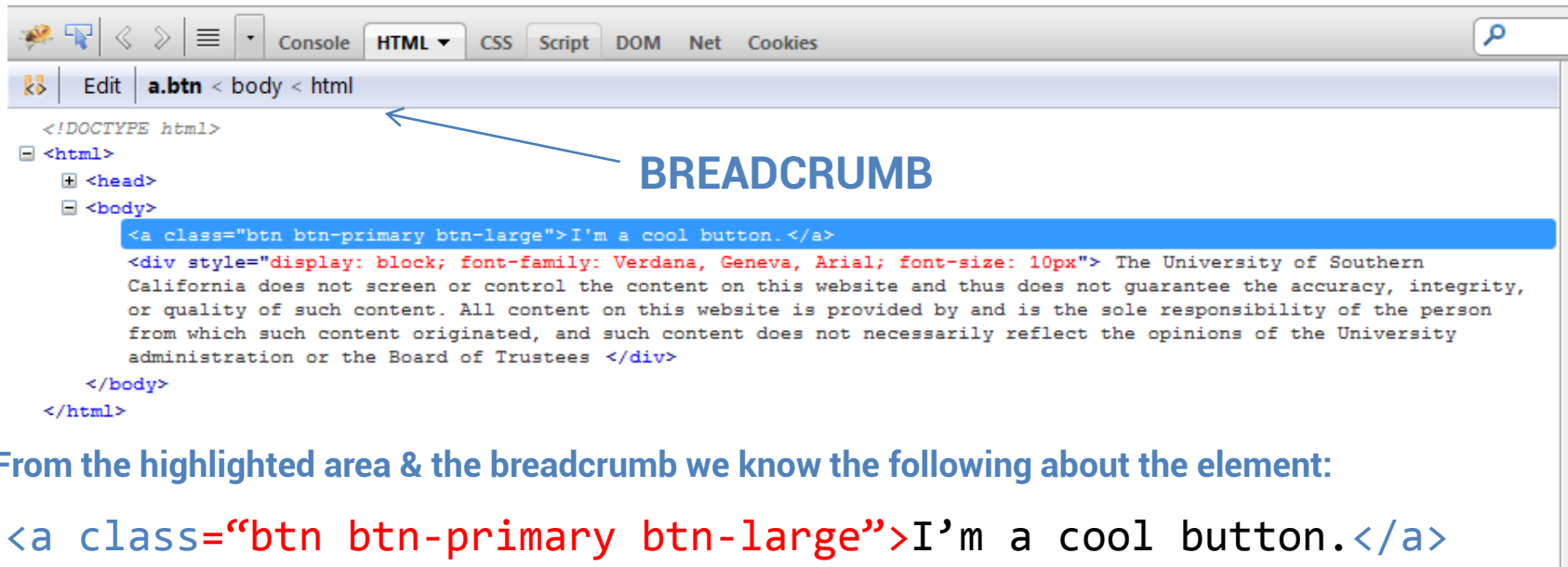
2) The HTML Panel is displayed with the element selected.



From the highlighted area, we know the following about the element:

```
<a class="btn btn-primary btn-large">I'm a cool button.</a>
```

Finding the Attributes & DOM properties of the Element



The screenshot shows a browser's developer console with the DOM tree expanded. The breadcrumb path is 'a.btn < body < html'. The selected element is an anchor tag with the following attributes and content:

```
<a class="btn btn-primary btn-large">I'm a cool button.</a>
```

The breadcrumb path is highlighted in blue, and the selected element is highlighted in light blue. A blue arrow points to the breadcrumb path with the text 'BREADCRUMB'.

From the highlighted area & the breadcrumb we know the following about the element:

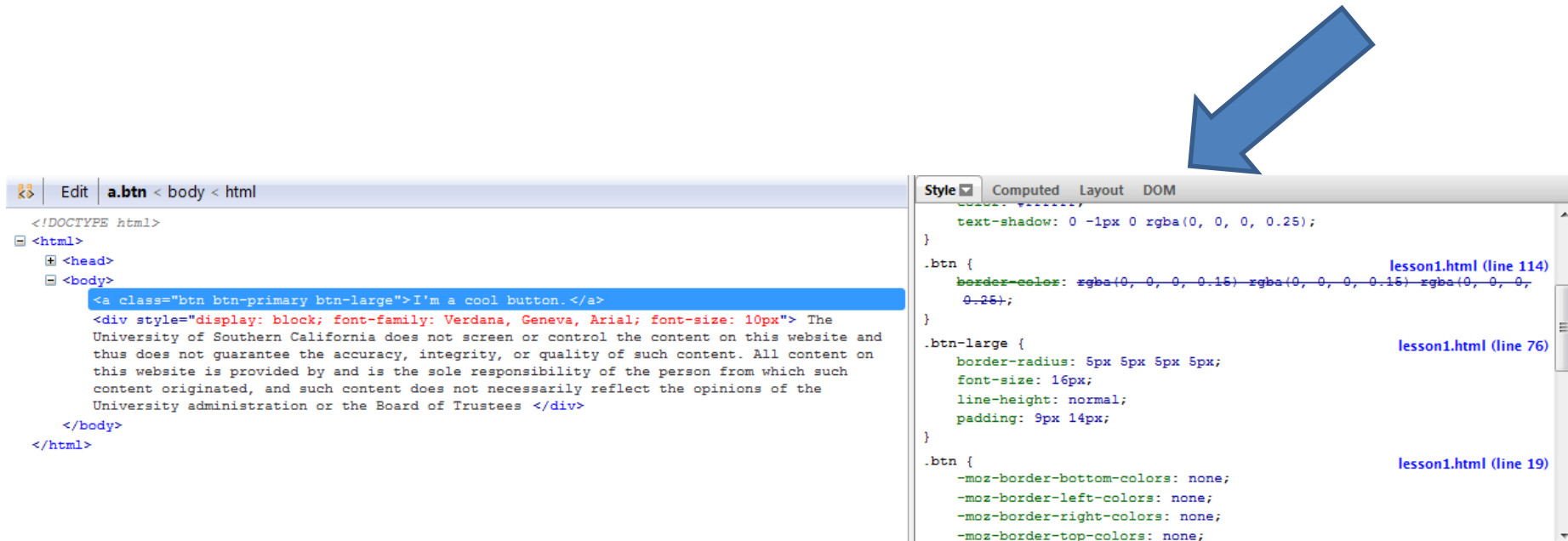
```
<a class="btn btn-primary btn-large">I'm a cool button.</a>
```

1. The element is an anchor
2. The element has a class attribute `btn btn-primary btn-large`
3. The element has a TextNode with TextContent "I'm a cool button"
4. The element's parent node is body (whose parent node is html)

There's a lot more we can say about the element though!

Finding the Attributes & DOM properties of the Element

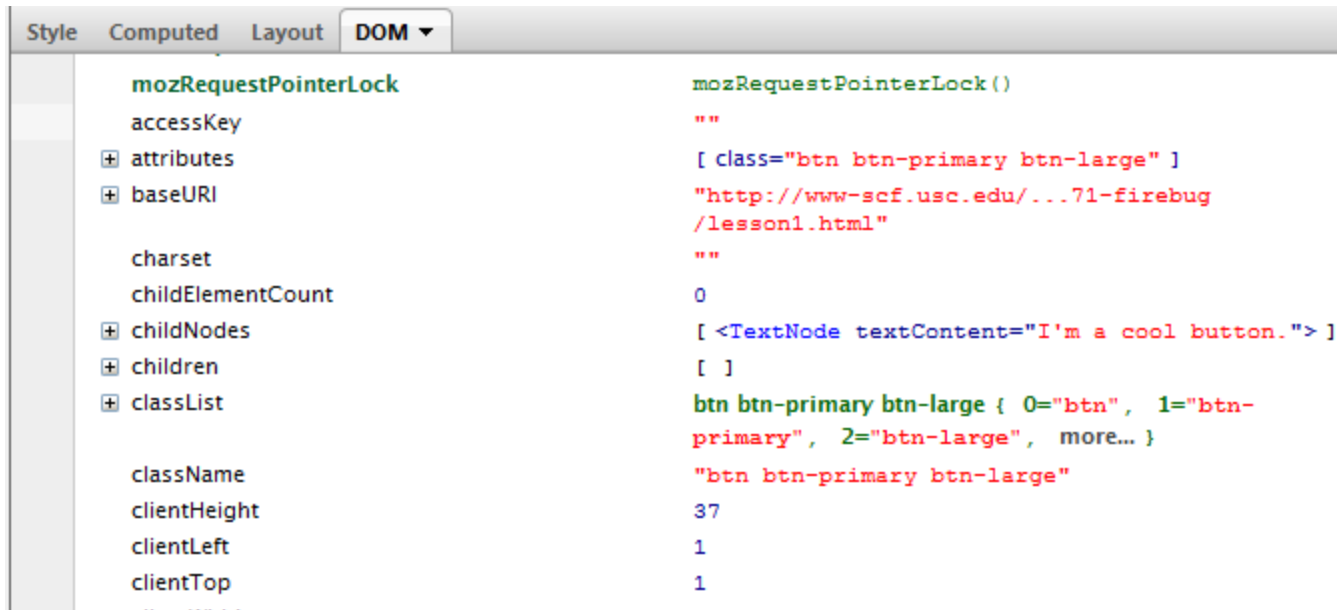
4) Click on the DOM panel on the CSS sidebar on the HTML view.



INSPECTING HTML/CSS ELEMENTS
AND THEIR PROPERTIES

Finding the Attributes & DOM properties of the Element

A list of all DOM properties are displayed for the current element selected.



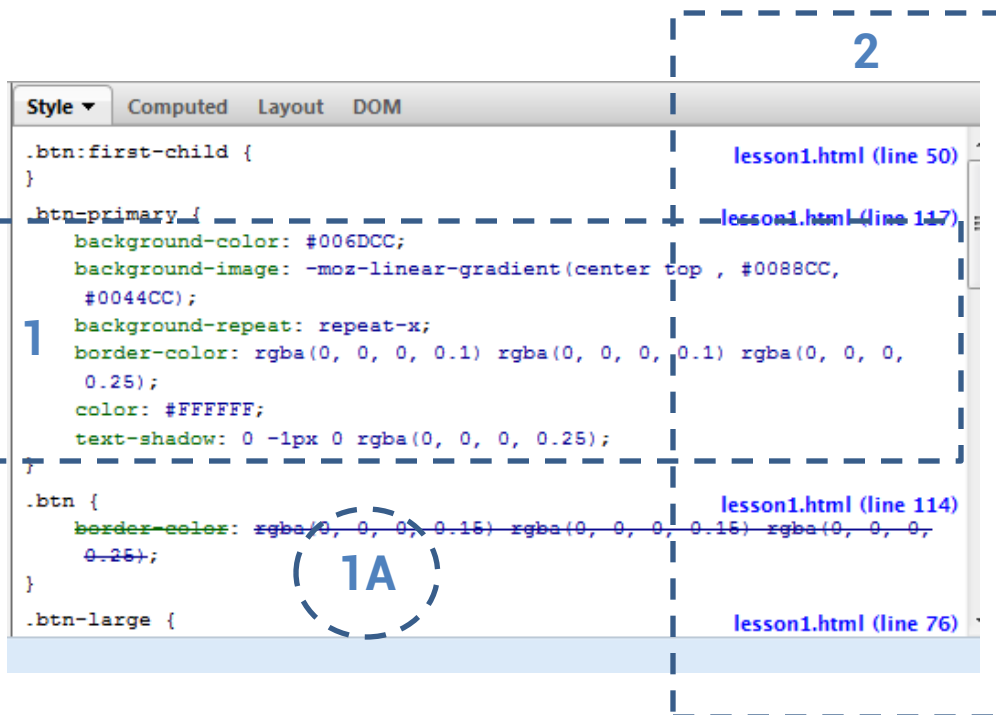
```
Style  Computed  Layout  DOM ▾
mozRequestPointerLock  mozRequestPointerLock()
accessKey              ""
attributes             [ class="btn btn-primary btn-large" ]
baseURI                "http://www-scf.usc.edu/...71-firebug/lesson1.html"
charset                ""
childElementCount     0
childNodes             [ <TextNode textContent="I'm a cool button."> ]
children               [ ]
classList              btn btn-primary btn-large { 0="btn", 1="btn-primary", 2="btn-large", more... }
className              "btn btn-primary btn-large"
clientHeight           37
clientLeft             1
clientTop              1
```

Notice: We have an attributes member variable, which has an array of attributes. This is another way how to determine the attributes for the selected element.

Find the Computed CSS Properties for that Element

1) Click on Style in the right hand column.

A list of CSS properties are shown, from most relevant to least.



What we know from the diagram:

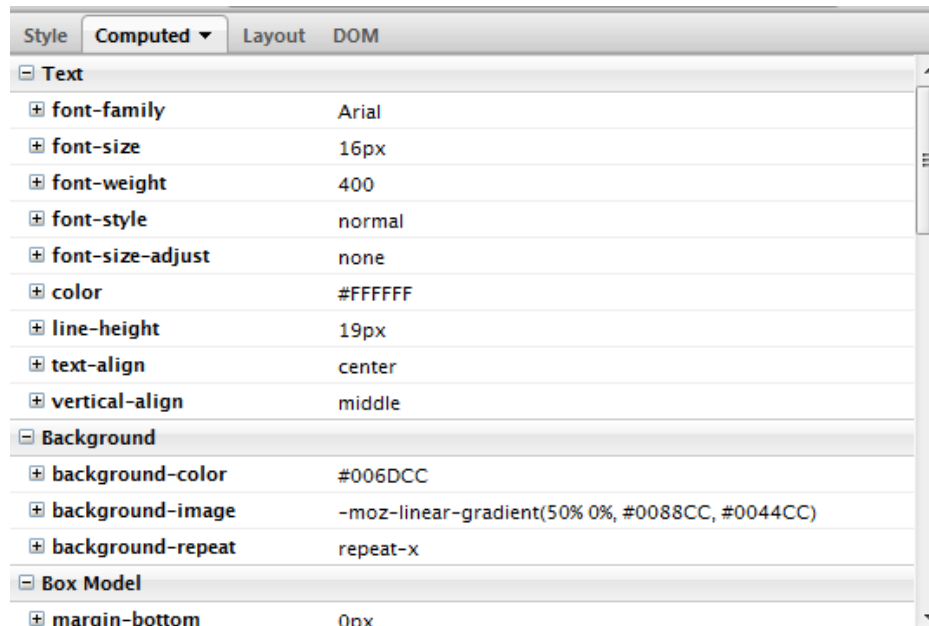
- 1) List of CSS properties
 - a) **crossed out** – It means the style was cascaded
- 2) Where it is located in the server
 - Which file,
 - What line number does the CSS property start
 - Clicking on [lesson1.html \(line 50\)](#) brings up the file in the CSS panel.

Tip: If you did not mean for a css property to be cascaded, you can simply add an **!important** to the cascaded property, or you must rearrange the CSS properties (files) (bottom CSS cascades the top CSS)

Find the Computed CSS Properties for that Element

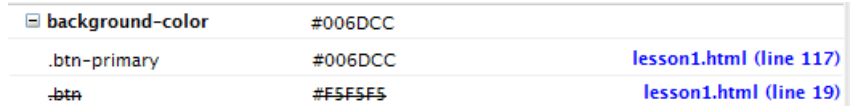
2) Click on Computed

A list of Computed CSS properties are displayed.



Style	Computed	Layout	DOM
[-] Text			
+	font-family	Arial	
+	font-size	16px	
+	font-weight	400	
+	font-style	normal	
+	font-size-adjust	none	
+	color	#FFFFFF	
+	line-height	19px	
+	text-align	center	
+	vertical-align	middle	
[-] Background			
+	background-color	#006DCC	
+	background-image	-moz-linear-gradient(50% 0%, #0088CC, #0044CC)	
+	background-repeat	repeat-x	
[-] Box Model			
+	margin-bottom	0px	

Tip: Clicking on the +/- displays the computation for the CSS property (Cascaded properties are crossed out)



[-] background-color	#006DCC	
.btn-primary	#006DCC	lesson1.html (line 117)
.btn	#F5F5F5	lesson1.html (line 19)

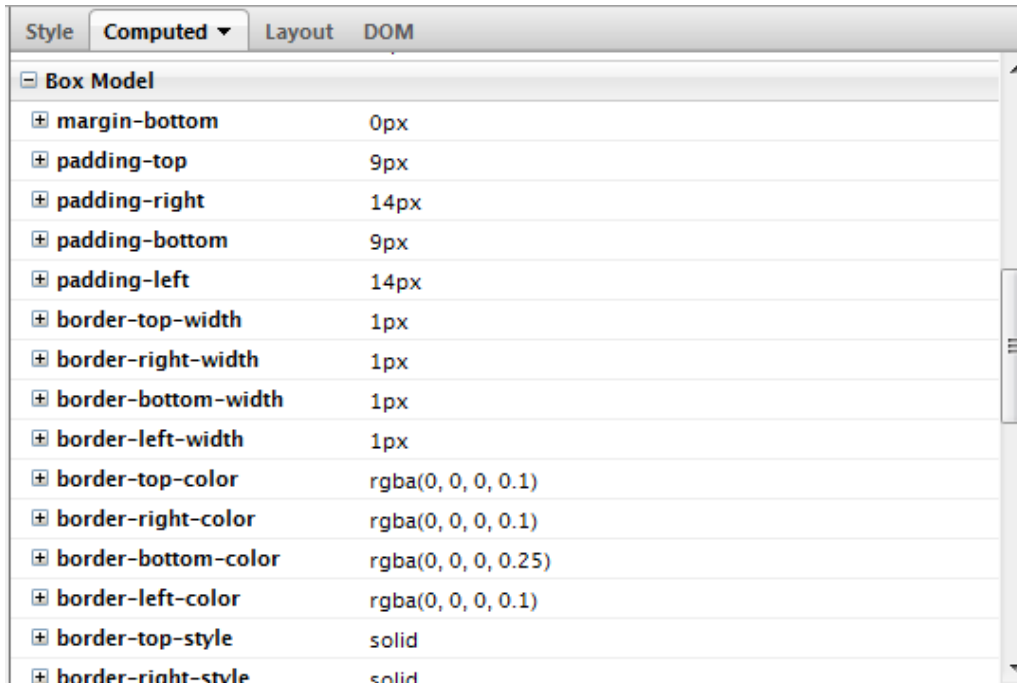
Next objective, finding the box model of the element



Find the Computed CSS Properties for that Element

1) Stay on the Computed panel and scroll to box model.

A list of Box Model CSS properties are shown..



The screenshot shows a browser's developer tools interface with the 'Computed' panel selected. The 'Box Model' section is expanded, displaying a list of CSS properties and their values. The properties are listed in a table format with expandable icons on the left.

Property	Value
margin-bottom	0px
padding-top	9px
padding-right	14px
padding-bottom	9px
padding-left	14px
border-top-width	1px
border-right-width	1px
border-bottom-width	1px
border-left-width	1px
border-top-color	rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.1)
border-right-color	rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.1)
border-bottom-color	rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.25)
border-left-color	rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.1)
border-top-style	solid
border-right-style	solid

We need to draw out the box model, however...

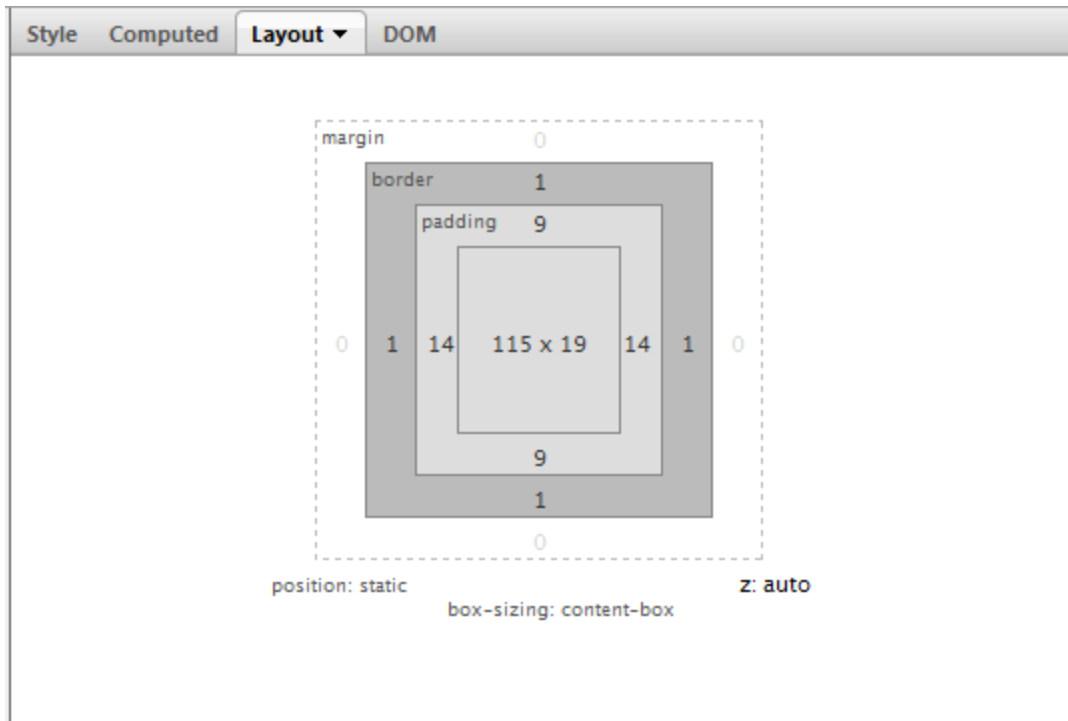
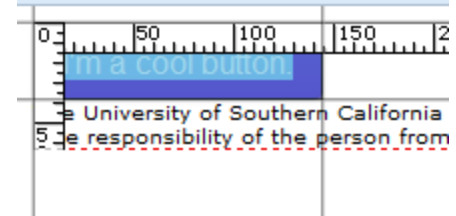
Find the Computed CSS Properties for that Element

2) Click on Layout

The Box Model is drawn out. When highlighting over an area, the browser highlights the selected element's box property & displays a ruler

Purple highlight: Padding

Yellow highlight: Margin



INSPECTING HTML/CSS ELEMENTS
AND THEIR PROPERTIES

Determining Hover CSS Properties of the Element

1) **Hover over the element.**

The Style Panel will change accordingly.

I'm a cool button.

Added CSS properties caused by the pseudo-class hover.

```
.btn-primary:hover, .btn-primary:active,  
.btn-primary.active, .btn-primary.disabled,  
.btn-primary[disabled] {  
  background-color: #0044CC;  
  color: #FFFFFF;  
}
```

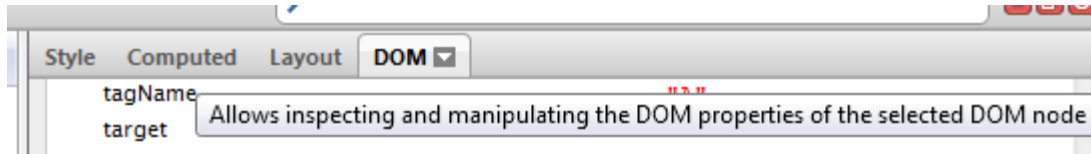
lesson1.html (line 125)

Tutorial 1 Summary

TUTORIAL OBJECTIVES

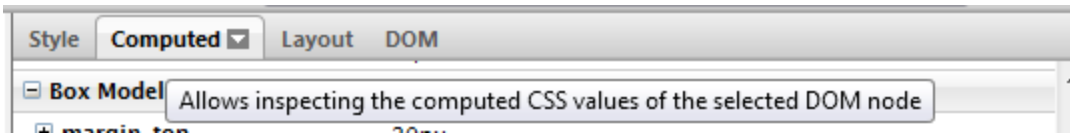
1) Find out the attributes & DOM properties of the element

Solution: In the HTML Panel, click DOM on the right side pane.



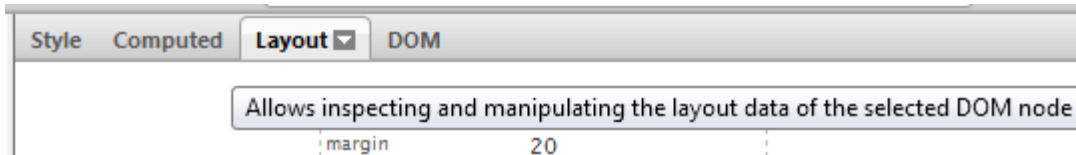
2) Find out the computed CSS properties

Solution: In the HTML Panel, click DOM on the right side pane



3) Draw the box model for the element.

Solution: In the HTML Panel, click on Layout



**INSPECTING HTML/CSS ELEMENTS
AND THEIR PROPERTIES**

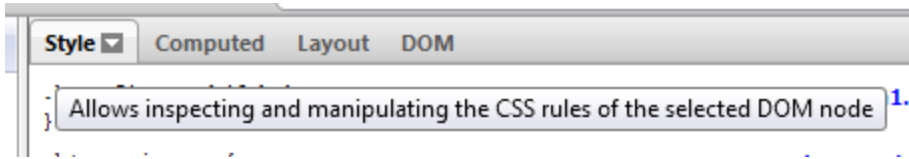
Tutorial 1 Summary

TUTORIAL OBJECTIVES

4) Determining CSS Hover Properties of the element

Solution: Hover over the element, watch the Style pane in HTML View

I'm a cool button.



HOW IS THIS USEFUL?

1) Can visualize how an element is formed in CSS/HTML/JavaScript

Example – A client of yours likes a button at Google+. The client wants that same exact button in their web application. **Time to use Firebug.**

INSPECTING HTML/CSS ELEMENTS
AND THEIR PROPERTIES

Modifying the DOM of an Element in Real Time

Go to <http://www-scf.usc.edu/~goei/571-firebug/lesson2.html>

TUTORIAL OBJECTIVES

Transform this page:

I am a paragraph element with black text and a white background.

The University of Southern California does not screen or control the content on this website and thus does not guarantee the accuracy, integrity, or quality of such content. All content on this website is provided by and is the sole responsibility of the person from which such content originated, and such content does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the University administration or the Board of Trustees

TO

I am a paragraph element with white and a black background.

The University of Southern California does not screen or control the content on this website and thus does not guarantee the accuracy, integrity, or quality of such content. All content on this website is provided by and is the sole responsibility of the person from which such content originated, and such content does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the University administration or the Board of Trustees

WHAT WE WILL LEARN

How to change the view of an element in real time in the browser, even though we don't have access rights to modifying the file.

MODIFYING THE DOM OF AN ELEMENT
IN REAL TIME

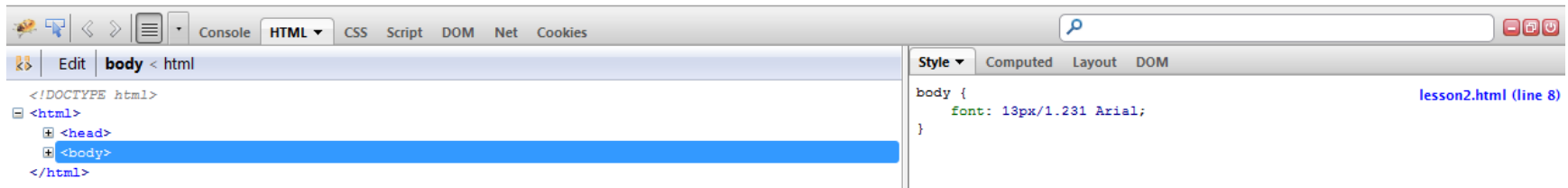
2013 (C) Harman Goei

Modifying the DOM of an Element in Real Time

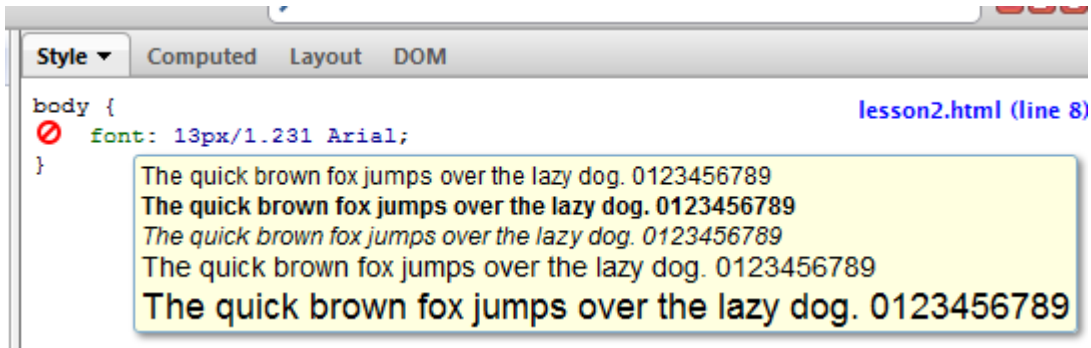
Go to <http://www-scf.usc.edu/~goei/571-firebug/lesson2.html>

Method 1: Using the HTML View & Style Pane


- 1) **Launch Firebug** and under the **HTML View** inspect the body element.
 - Easy way to do this: F12, click on the body tag. It is highlighted.



1a) If we hover over: `font: 13px/1.231 Arial;`



Hovering over the element does 2 things:

- 1) shows an info box about the property (if available)
- 2) Clicking on  will hide the selected property.

Modifying the DOM of an Element in Real Time

Go to <http://www-scf.usc.edu/~goei/571-firebug/lesson2.html>

Method 1: Using the HTML View & Style Pane

2) Click on the braces { } of the CSS element declaration. Firebug will allow you to add a new css property.

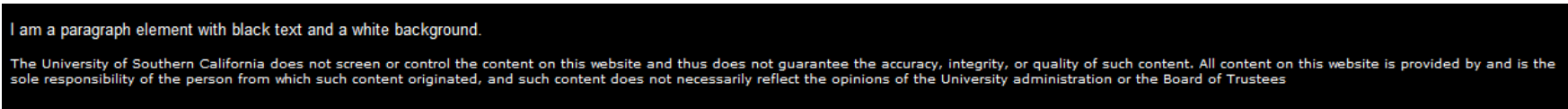
```
body {                                     lesson2.html (line 8)
  font: 13px/1.231 Arial;
  }

```

3) Add the following properties:

```
color: white;
background: black;
```

Result... but we are not done yet



Modifying the DOM of an Element in Real Time

Go to <http://www-scf.usc.edu/~goei/571-firebug/lesson2.html>

Method 1: Using the HTML View & Style Pane

I am a paragraph element with black text and a white background.

The University of Southern California does not screen or control the content on this website and thus does not guarantee the accuracy, integrity, or quality of such content. All content on this website is provided by and is the sole responsibility of the person from which such content originated, and such content does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the University administration or the Board of Trustees

4) Inspect the paragraph element, I am a paragraph element with black text and a white background

```
<p> I am a paragraph element with black text and a white background. </p>
```

5) Double click on the innerText of the element, and modify accordingly.

```
<p> I am a paragraph element with white text and a black background. </p>
```

I am a paragraph element with white text and a black background.

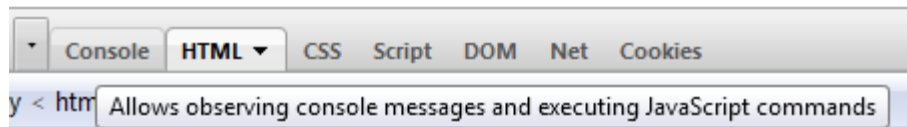
The University of Southern California does not screen or control the content on this website and thus does not guarantee the accuracy, integrity, or quality of such content. All content on this website is provided by and is the sole responsibility of the person from which such content originated, and such content does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the University administration or the Board of Trustees

Modifying the DOM of an Element in Real Time

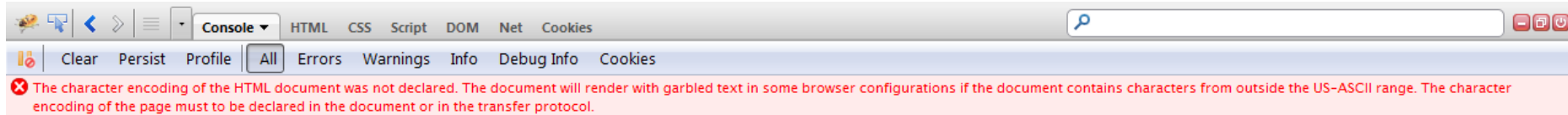
Go to <http://www-scf.usc.edu/~goei/571-firebug/lesson2.html>

Method 2: Using the Interactive JavaScript Console

1) Click on Console.



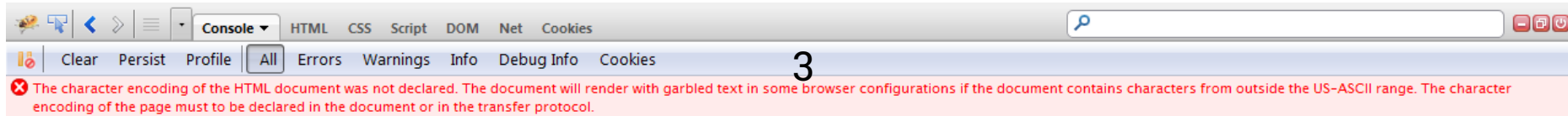
CONSOLE PANEL



Modifying the DOM of an Element in Real Time


Method 2: Using the Interactive JavaScript Console

CONSOLE PANEL



1



- 1. The Interactive JavaScript Console.** All console messages (console.log), output of execution is displayed here.
- 2. Write commands here.** As long the JavaScript is valid, any command here will be executed in **real time**.
- 3. Filtering.** We can filter messages by their type. Clicking  will cause the console to break on all errors.

MODIFYING THE DOM OF AN ELEMENT
IN REAL TIME

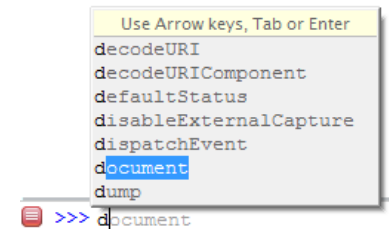
2013 (C) Harman Goei

Modifying the DOM of an Element in Real Time

Method 2: Using the Interactive JavaScript Console

1. Execute the following JavaScript line:
(To execute JavaScript code, type the line starting at >>> and hit Enter)

```
document.body.style.color = "white";
```

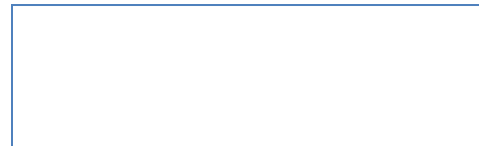


Neat! Firebug has autocomplete when typing in JavaScript commands

Result:

```
>>> document.body.style.color = "white"  
"white"
```

Console



Browser view

What did we just do? We just set the text color of the body element to white, so currently we have white text on a white background (the border is there just to emphasize there is nothing)

2. Execute the following lines of JavaScript:

```
document.body.style.backgroundColor = "black";  
document.body.children[0].innerHTML = "I am a paragraph with white text and a black background";
```

Result:

```
I am a paragraph element with white and a black background.
```

The University of Southern California does not screen or control the content on this website and thus does not guarantee the accuracy, integrity, or quality of such content. All content on this website is provided by and is the sole responsibility of the person from which such content originated, and such content does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the University administration or the Board of Trustees

Modifying the DOM of an Element in Real Time

TUTORIAL OBJECTIVES

Transform this page: <http://www-scf.usc.edu/~goei/571-firebug/lesson2.html>

I am a paragraph element with black text and a white background.

The University of Southern California does not screen or control the content on this website and thus does not guarantee the accuracy, integrity, or quality of such content. All content on this website is provided by and is the sole responsibility of the person from which such content originated, and such content does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the University administration or the Board of Trustees

TO

I am a paragraph element with white and a black background.

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HOW WE ACCOMPLISHED THE OBJECTIVE WITH FIREBUG WITH 2 METHODS:

1. Method 1: Changing HTML/CSS Properties using the HTML Panel and the CSS Pane
Solution: Use the CSS Pane to change the background to black and the text-color, to white
Solution: Use the HTML pane to change the text content of the element
2. Method 2: Use the Interactive JavaScript Console
Solution: Write JavaScript DOM object code in the Console (`document.body.style.color...`)

MODIFYING THE DOM OF AN ELEMENT
IN REAL TIME

2013 (C) Harman Goei

Side Note: Executing a Block of JavaScript Code

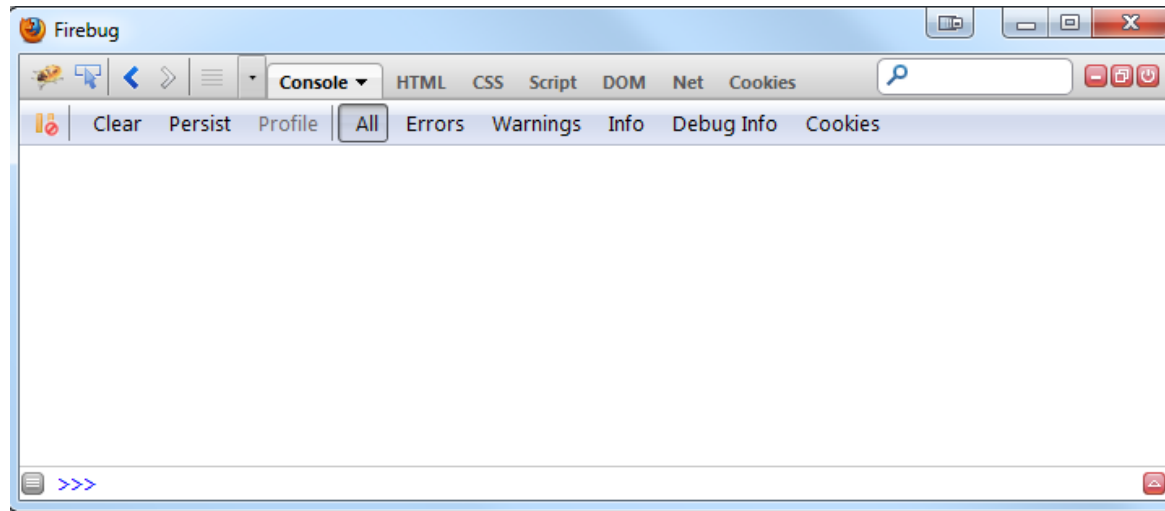
If you have a **block of JavaScript** code you would like to execute, such as the following:

```
var array = ["Harman", "Goei", "CSCI", "571"];

for(var i = 0; i < array.length; i++) {
    console.log(array[i]);
}
```

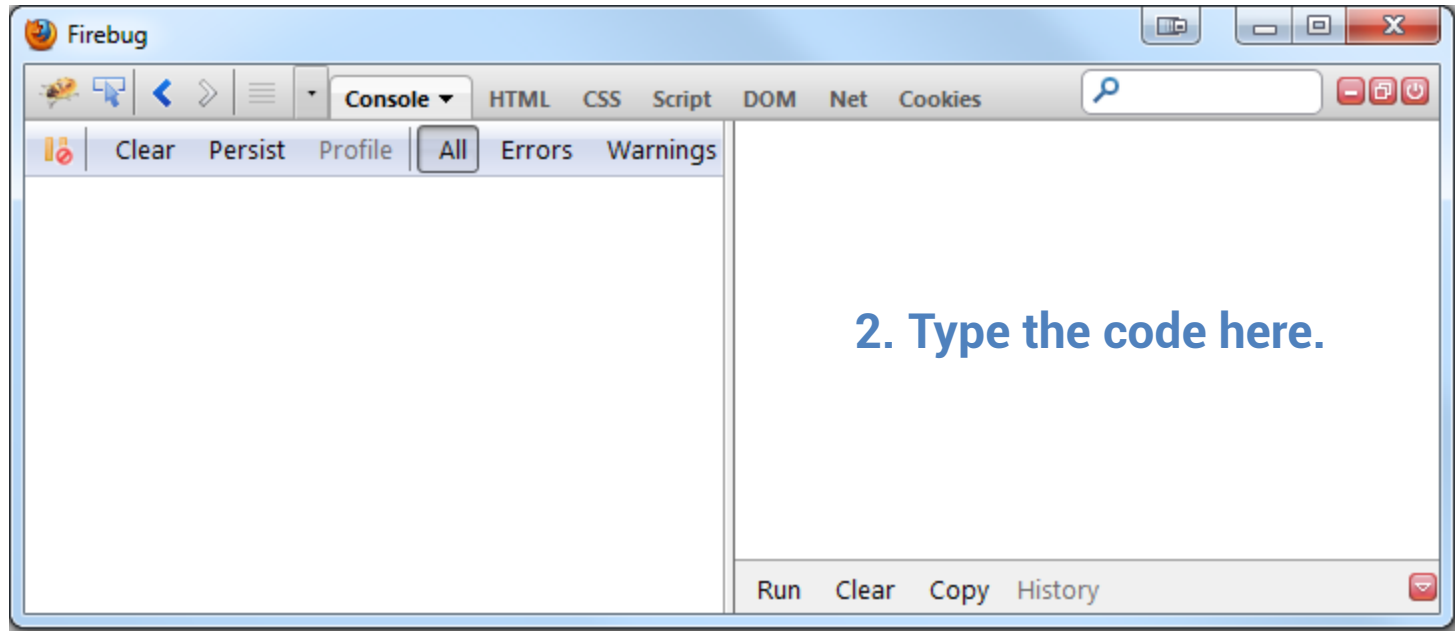
Instead of writing line by line, we can paste the entire block in the console. Here's how:

1. Press the  button in the Console tab.



Side Note: Executing a Block of JavaScript Code

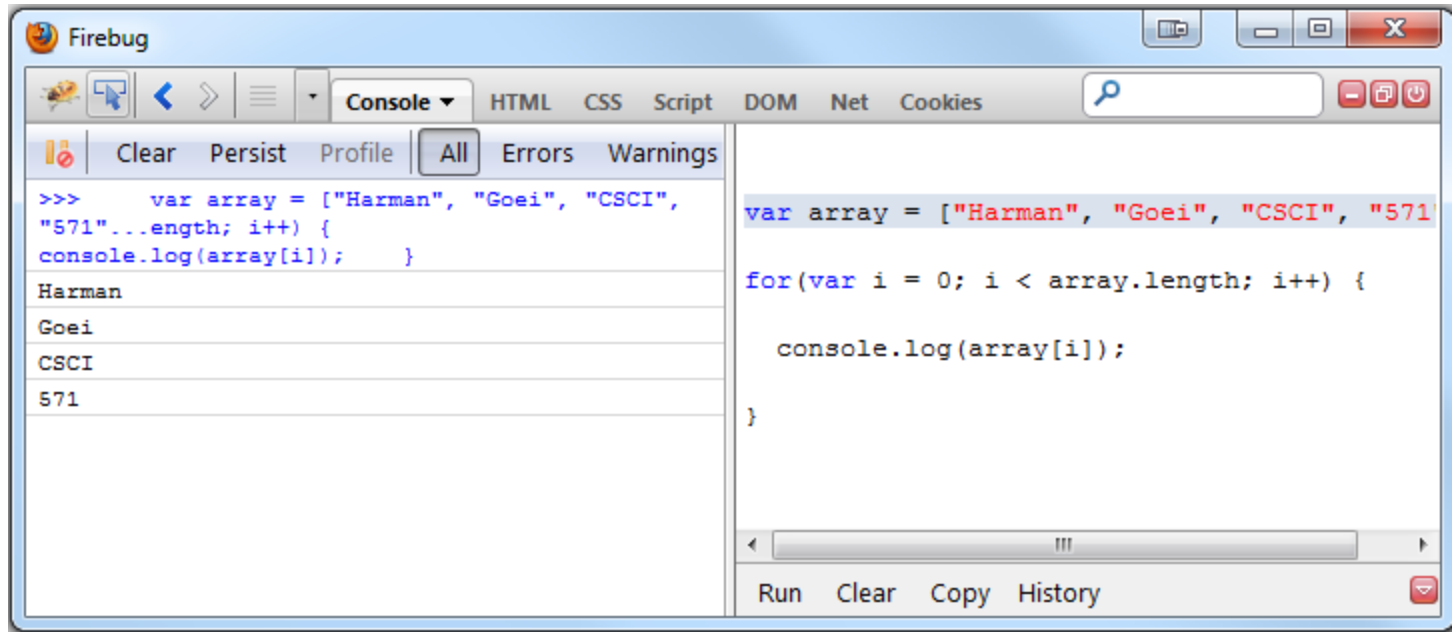
The Console Panel should now be the following:




3. Click **Run**.

Side Note: Executing a Block of JavaScript Code

Result:



Note: To go back to single-line mode, click on 

```
>>> var array = ["Harman", "Goei", "CSCI", "571"]; for(var i = 0; i < array. 
```

WHY IS THIS USEFUL?

To write good JavaScript code, you have to test it frequently. We can write functions, test it, and ensure validity through the console. This practice is known as **test-driven development**.

MODIFYING THE DOM OF AN ELEMENT IN REAL TIME

2013 (C) Harman Goei

Understanding Behavior of JavaScript Code & Detecting Errors with Firebug

TUTORIAL OBJECTIVES

<http://www-scf.usc.edu/~goei/571-firebug/lesson3.html>

1. Step through the behavior of the JavaScript code
2. Understand what happens in the console when JavaScript hits an error

We will be analyzing the following JavaScript:

```
var array = [1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8, "9"];  
  
for(var i = 0; i < array.length; i++) {  
    array[i] = array[i] + 1;  
}  
console.log(array);  
setTimeout(function() { x=z; }, 5000);
```

WHAT THE CODE DOES

1. Given an array, add 1 to each element.
2. In 5 seconds, a function will do an illegal operation in JavaScript.

UNDERSTANDING BEHAVIOR OF JAVASCRIPT CODE &
DETECTING ERRORS WITH FIREBUG

2013 (C) Harman Goei

Understanding Behavior of JavaScript Code & Detecting Errors with Firebug

1) Go to <http://www-scf.usc.edu/~goei/571-firebug/lesson3.html>

2) Go to the Console. You should see the following:

```
[ 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, "91" ]
```

lesson3.html (line 15)

✘ The character encoding of the HTML document was not declared. The document will render with garbled text in some browser configurations if the document contains characters from outside the US-ASCII range. The character encoding of the page must to be declared in the document or in the transfer protocol.

QUESTION: Why did the last element become 91?

We will analyze this by stepping through the code.

3) Click on Script

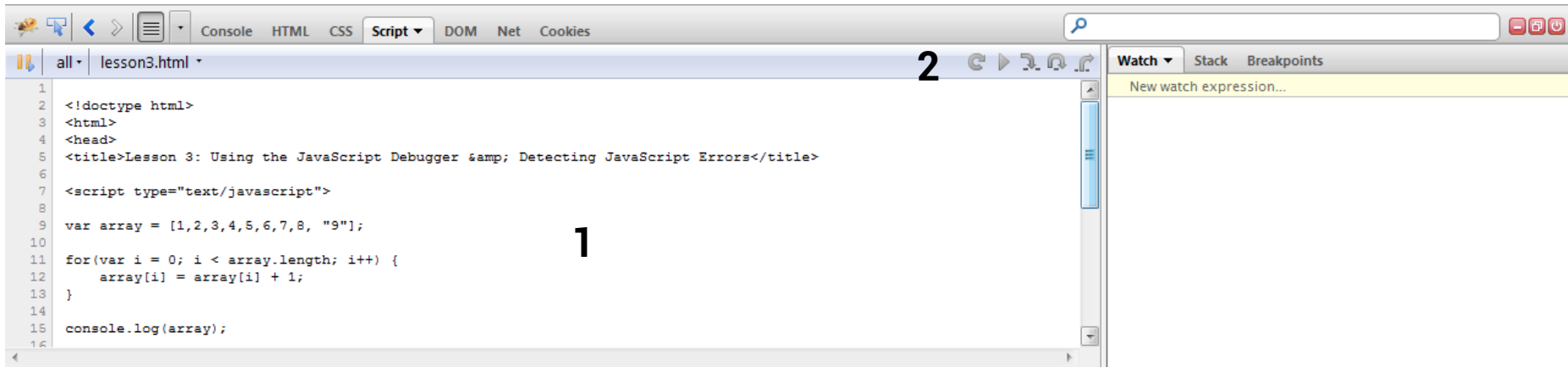


```
1 <!doctype html>
2 <html>
3 <head>
4 <title>Lesson 3: Using the JavaScript Debugger & Detecting JavaScript Errors</title>
5 <script type="text/javascript">
6
7 var array = [1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8, "9"];
8
9 for(var i = 0; i < array.length; i++) {
10     array[i] = array[i] + 1;
11 }
12 console.log(array);
13
14
15
```

UNDERSTANDING BEHAVIOR OF JAVASCRIPT CODE &
DETECTING ERRORS WITH FIREBUG

2013 (C) Harman Goei

Firebug - SCRIPT PANEL



1. The Script Panel View
2. Actions when JavaScript has hit a breakpoint
 1. Rerun – Shift + F8
 2. Continue – F8
 3. Step Into – F11
 4. Step Over – F10
 5. Step Out – Shift F11

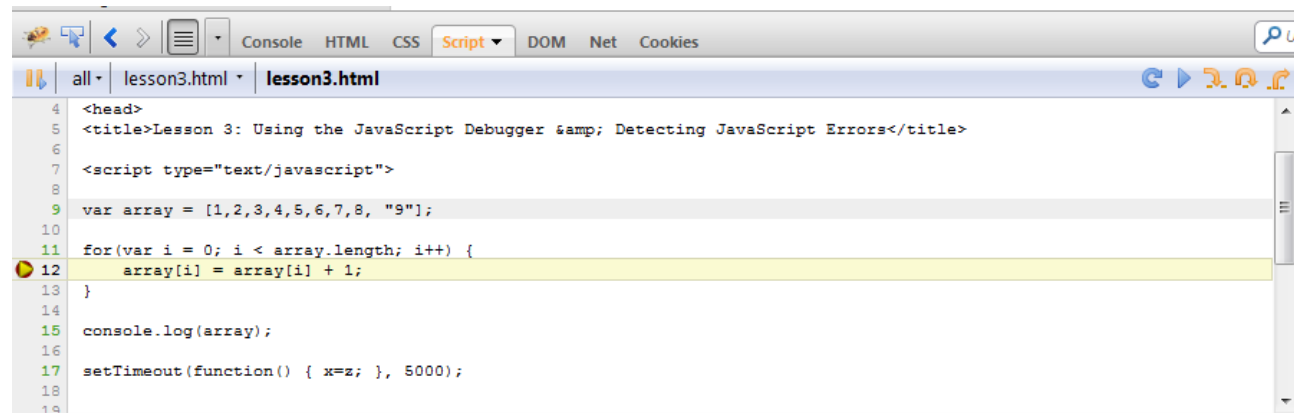
Stepping Through JavaScript

4) Create a breakpoint on line number 12 to analyze the problem. **Refresh the page.** (To create a breakpoint, click on the line number)

```
1 <!doctype html>
2 <html>
3 <head>
4 <title>Lesson 3: Using the JavaScript Debugger &amp; Detecting JavaScript Errors</title>
5
6
7 <script type="text/javascript">
8
9 var array = [1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8, "9"];
10
11 for(var i = 0; i < array.length; i++) {
12     array[i] = array[i] + 1;
13 }
14
15 console.log(array);
16
```

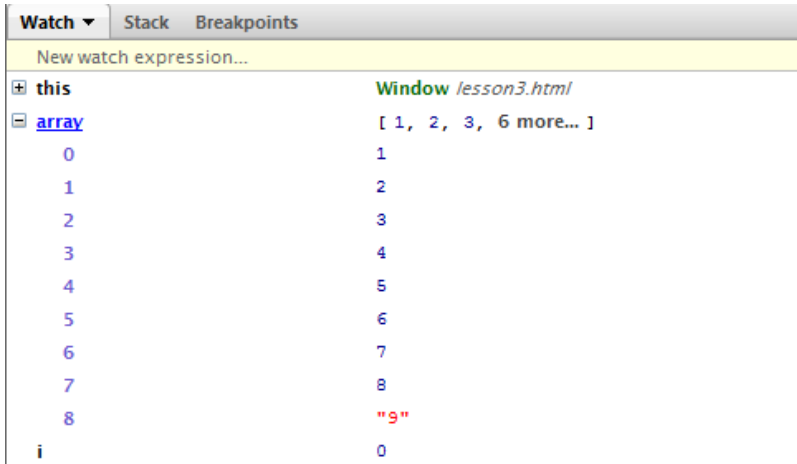
5) JavaScript has stopped on the breakpoint.

Notice: The page is still loading because the body element is not loaded.

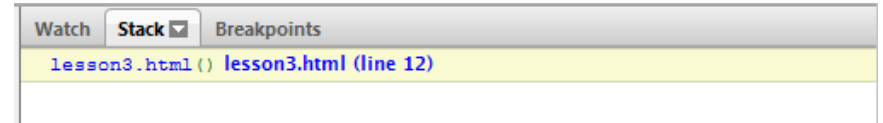


When Firebug Hits a Breakpoint, what else can we see?

Global elements & local elements
(click on Watch)



The stack (useful for recursive functions)
(click on Stack)



Breakpoints
(click on Breakpoints)



Analyzing the Array using the Watch Pane

- 4) Step through **8** times the dynamic execution trace by clicking on **Step Into...**
- 5) Step through once. **The 8th element should be now "91"**



```
⊕ this
⊖ array
  0
  1
  2
  3
  4
  5
  6
  7
  8
i
```

Window lesson3.htm

```
[ 2, 3, 4, 6 more
  2
  3
  4
  5
  6
  7
  8
  9
  "9"
  8
```

```
⊕ this
⊖ array
  0
  1
  2
  3
  4
  5
  6
  7
  8
i
```

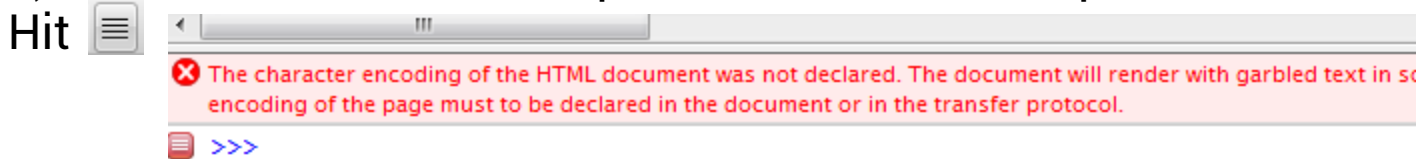
Window lesson3.htm

```
[ 2, 3, 4, 6 mo
  2
  3
  4
  5
  6
  7
  8
  9
  "91"
  8
```

After pressing Step Into 8 times...

Stepping in once after 8

- 6) We can execute JavaScript code while JavaScript is still in the breakpoint.



Analyzing the Array using the Watch Pane

6) Execute the following JavaScript. (after typing, hit enter)

```
typeof array[8]
```

```
>>> typeof array[8]  
"string"
```

QUESTION: Why did the last element become 91?

It's because the last element is a string, hence it will do concatenation.

WHY IS STEPPING THROUGH JAVASCRIPT USEFUL?

- 1) It detects logic errors in JavaScript code
- 2) Useful when interpreting data via AJAX, as numbers may be interpreted as strings, and when we do number manipulation, it will cause a similar error as was described.

Speaking of errors, what does Firebug do when it executes the following illegal code?

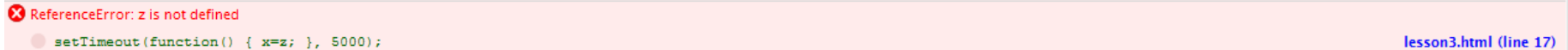
```
setTimeout(function() { x=z; console.log("Hello there!"); },  
5000);
```


Errors in the Console

```
setTimeout(function() { x=z; console.log("Hello there!"); },  
5000);
```

How to detect JavaScript Syntax/Undefined errors the easy way:

1. Launch **Firebug**. Click on **Console** in the Firebug toolbar.
2. Due to the nature of the top code, the error will not appear until 5 seconds have passed. Then the following should show:



WHY IS THIS USEFUL?

- By default, JavaScript code stops executing from the line an error occurs.
- If we didn't have Firebug, we would expect Hello there! to appear in the console, but it didn't, and we would debug manually by using alert() or document.write()

Detecting Web Performance Using Firebug

TUTORIAL OBJECTIVE

We will use <http://www.google.com> for this tutorial.

Determine what requests are made when going to <http://www.google.com> and how fast was each request.

The Google logo is centered on the page, featuring the word "Google" in its characteristic multi-colored font.A long, empty search input field is positioned below the Google logo.

Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky

Detecting Web Performance Using Firebug

1. Go to <http://www.google.com>
2. Launch Firebug and click on **Net**



1

1. The requests made
2. Filtering

3. Refresh the page.

Detecting Web Performance Using Firebug

URL	Status	Domain	Size	Remote IP
⊕ GET www.google.com	200 OK	google.com	30.1 KB	74.125.239.18:443
⊕ GET photo.jpg	304 Not Modified	lh3.googleusercontent.com	985 B	74.125.239.10:443
⊕ GET j_e6a6aca6.png	304 Not Modified	ssl.gstatic.com	14.8 KB	74.125.239.15:443
⊕ GET chrome-48.png	304 Not Modified	google.com	1.8 KB	74.125.239.18:443
⊕ GET logo3w.png	304 Not Modified	google.com	6.8 KB	74.125.239.18:443
⊕ GET rs=AltRSTPJcKSPOJE16u0l	304 Not Modified	google.com	170.4 KB	74.125.239.18:443
⊕ GET aec5274682e28369.js	304 Not Modified	google.com	17.4 KB	74.125.239.18:443
⊕ GET get?hl=en&gl=us&authusei	304 Not Modified	google.com	408 B	74.125.239.18:443
⊕ GET rs=AltRSTPJcKSPOJE16u0l	304 Not Modified	google.com	2.3 KB	74.125.239.18:443
⊕ GET tia.png	304 Not Modified	google.com	387 B	74.125.239.18:443
⊕ GET ntf?ei=e0N-UOW3EZSziAlt	200 OK	google.com	37 B	74.125.239.18:443
⊕ GET nav_logo114.png	304 Not Modified	google.com	28.1 KB	74.125.239.18:443
⊕ GET csi?v=3&s=webhp&ac...7,r	204 No Content	google.com	0	74.125.239.18:443
⊕ POST gcosuc?origin=http...F%2l	200 OK	plus.google.com	54 B	74.125.224.162:443
⊕ GET frame?sourceid=1&h...eMe'	200 OK	plus.google.com	0 (1.3 KB)	
15 requests			273.5 KB	(243.3 KB from cache)

After refreshing, something like the above should appear.

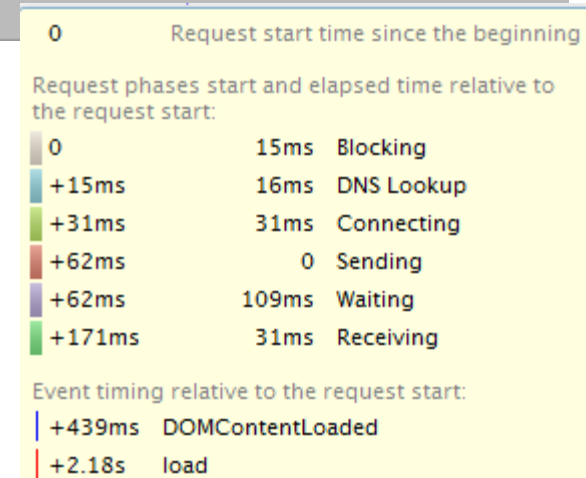
Here's what we can say about the performance of <http://www.google.com>:

1. There were 15 requests, 273.5 KB in total size, 243.3 KB from cache.
2. The remote IP is 74.125.239.18: 443 and 74.125.224.162:443 for one req.
3. The status of each request, and what type it was

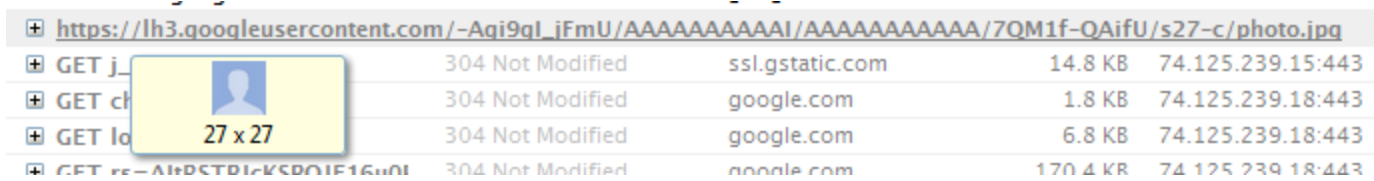
Detecting Web Performance Using Firebug

	Domain	Size	Remote IP	Timeline
	google.com	30.1 KB	74.125.239.18:443	202ms
ed	lh3.googleusercontent.com	985 B	74.125.239.10:443	297ms
ed	ssl.gstatic.com	14.8 KB	74.125.239.15:443	266ms
ed	google.com	1.8 KB	74.125.239.18:443	250ms
ed	google.com	6.8 KB	74.125.239.18:443	265ms
ed	google.com	170.4 KB	74.125.239.18:443	62ms
ed	google.com	17.4 KB	74.125.239.18:443	62ms
ed	google.com	408 B	74.125.239.18:443	62ms
ed	google.com	2.3 KB	74.125.239.18:443	31ms
ed	google.com	387 B	74.125.239.18:443	31ms
	google.com	37 B	74.125.239.18:443	78ms
ed	google.com	28.1 KB	74.125.239.18:443	16ms
nt	google.com	0	74.125.239.18:443	62ms
	plus.google.com	54 B	74.125.224.162:443	125ms
	plus.google.com	0 (1.3 KB)		62ms
		273.5 KB (243.3 KB from cache)		

4. The longest request is 297 ms.
5. We also know the timeline of each request
6. The legend on the right indicates what each request was doing



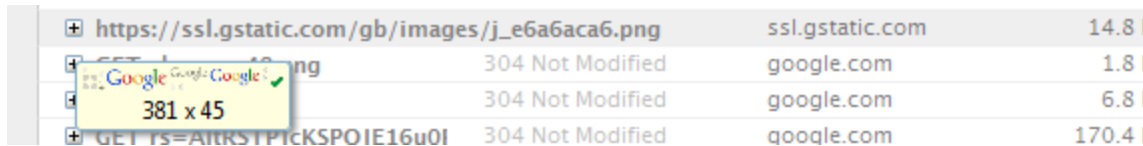
Analyzing a Request using Firebug



+	https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-Aqi9gl_jFmU/AAAAAAAAAAI/AAAAAAAAAAA/7QM1f-OAifU/s27-c/photo.jpg				
+	GET j...	304 Not Modified	ssl.gstatic.com	14.8 KB	74.125.239.15:443
+	GET ch...	304 Not Modified	google.com	1.8 KB	74.125.239.18:443
+	GET lo...	304 Not Modified	google.com	6.8 KB	74.125.239.18:443
+	GET rs=AltRSTPICKSPOIE16u0I	304 Not Modified	google.com	170.4 KB	74.125.239.18:443

TIP: Hovering over an image will show an info box of the image

1) Expand the request by clicking on +



+	https://ssl.gstatic.com/gb/images/j_e6a6aca6.png		ssl.gstatic.com	14.8 KB	
+	GET ...	304 Not Modified	google.com	1.8 KB	
+	GET ...	304 Not Modified	google.com	6.8 KB	
+	GET rs=AltRSTPICKSPOIE16u0I	304 Not Modified	google.com	170.4 KB	

Analyzing a Request using Firebug

2) We can see the details of the request in the Headers Tab

Headers Cache

Response Headers [view source](#)

Age 572849
Date Wed, 10 Oct 2012 14:27:22 GMT
Expires Thu, 10 Oct 2013 14:27:22 GMT
Server GFE/2.0
X-Firefox-Spdy 3

Request Headers [view source](#)

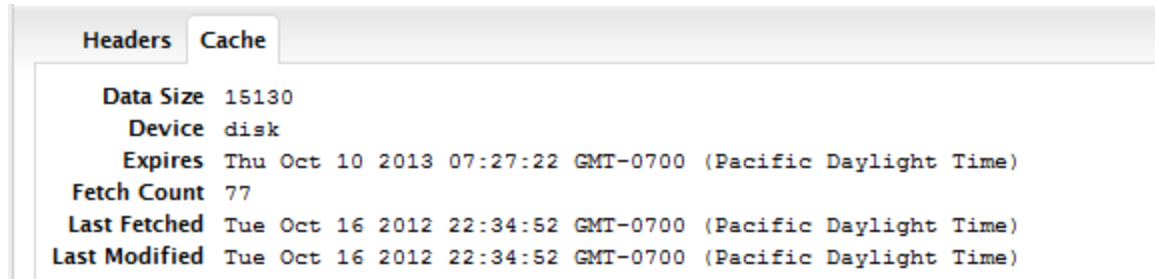
Accept image/png, image/*;q=0.8, */*;q=0.5
Accept-Encoding gzip, deflate
Accept-Language en-US,en;q=0.5
Cache-Control max-age=0
Connection keep-alive
Host ssl.gstatic.com
If-Modified-Since Thu, 29 Mar 2012 23:53:57 GMT
Referer https://www.google.com/
User-Agent Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; rv:16.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/16.0

Response Headers From Cache

Age 572849
Cache-Control public, max-age=31536000
Content-Length 15130
Content-Type image/png
Date Wed, 10 Oct 2012 14:27:22 GMT
Expires Thu, 10 Oct 2013 14:27:22 GMT
Last-Modified Thu, 29 Mar 2012 23:53:57 GMT

Analyzing a Request using Firebug

3) We can see what was loaded in the cache from the cache tab



WHY IS ANALYZING PERFORMANCE WITH FIREBUG USEFUL?

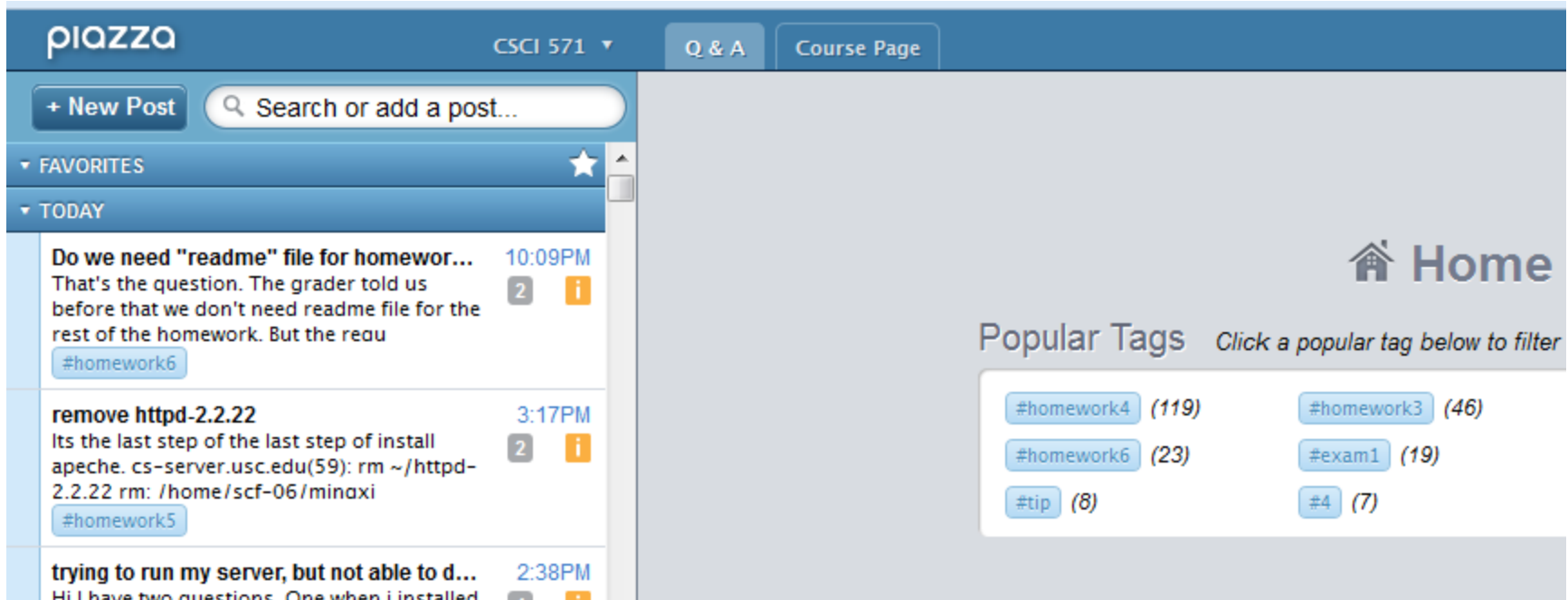
We can detect how large a request is, and where the website is really slow
- which is how we can improve performance for a site

Tracking Cookies and Sessions with Firebug

TUTORIAL OBJECTIVE

Track the cookies and sessions created by a website.

1) We will use <http://www.piazza.com> for this example.

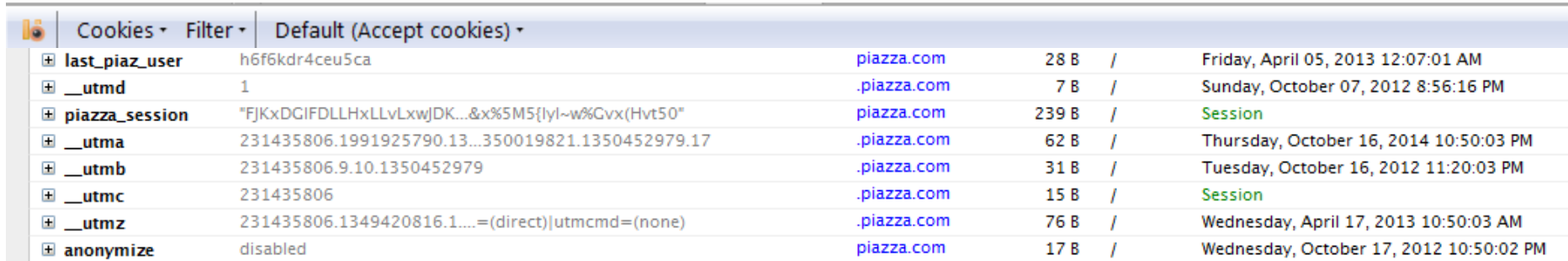


The screenshot shows the Piazza website interface. The top navigation bar includes the Piazza logo, the course name "CSCI 571", and buttons for "Q & A" and "Course Page". Below the navigation bar is a search bar and a "New Post" button. The main content area displays a list of posts under the "TODAY" section. The first post is titled "Do we need 'readme' file for homework..." and the second is "remove httpd-2.2.22". The sidebar on the right features a "Home" button and a "Popular Tags" section with various tags and their counts.

Tag	Count
#homework4	119
#homework3	46
#homework6	23
#exam1	19
#tip	8
#4	7

2) Launch Firebug and click on the cookies panel.

Tracking Cookies and Sessions with Firebug



Cookie Name	Value	Domain	Size	Path	Expiration
last_piaz_user	h6f6kdr4ceu5ca	piazza.com	28 B	/	Friday, April 05, 2013 12:07:01 AM
__utmd	1	.piazza.com	7 B	/	Sunday, October 07, 2012 8:56:16 PM
piazza_session	"FJKxDGIFDLLHxLLvLxw]DK...&x%5M5{lyl~w%Gvx(Hvt50"	piazza.com	239 B	/	Session
__utma	231435806.1991925790.13...350019821.1350452979.17	.piazza.com	62 B	/	Thursday, October 16, 2014 10:50:03 PM
__utmb	231435806.9.10.1350452979	.piazza.com	31 B	/	Tuesday, October 16, 2012 11:20:03 PM
__utmc	231435806	.piazza.com	15 B	/	Session
__utmz	231435806.1349420816.1....=(direct) utmcmd=(none)	.piazza.com	76 B	/	Wednesday, April 17, 2013 10:50:03 AM
anonymize	disabled	piazza.com	17 B	/	Wednesday, October 17, 2012 10:50:02 PM

1

2

3

4

5

1. Name and Expand button.

Expanding the cookie only reveals the full value of the value attribute.

2. Value of the cookie

3. Domain of the cookie

4. The size

5. The path

6. When it expires / or whether it is a session

Sources

- **Smashing Magazine - “15 Helpful In-Browser Web Development Tools”**
<http://www.smashingmagazine.com/2008/11/18/15-helpful-in-browser-web-development-tools/>
(Used for Introduction)
- **SitePoint – “Firebug CSS Active Hover States”** - <http://www.sitepoint.com/firebug-css-active-hover-states/> - Tip for :hover
- **Firebug** - <https://getfirebug.com/> (Images, and Firebug Console)

- **Tutorials were made from scratch**, based on my **real-life** scenarios as a web developer:
 - Tutorial 1: **Client:** I really like **this button** from <http://www.google.com> . I want **that same button** on my website.
 - Tutorial 2: **Client:** Can we compare how the website looks with white text and black background, black background & white text?
 - Tutorial 3: When I was developing a canvas application for USC Viterbi, I was adding numbers like the following: **2 + 2**. I expected 4, but the result turned out to be **22**.
 - Tutorial 4: When I had the lecture in CSCI 571 about Web Performance, I played with Firebug
 - Tutorial 5: Internship made me deal with cookies/sessions