values with Script Debugger. Open the Command Window by clicking the menu bar button or by selecting the View ➤ Command Window menu item.

The Command Window interface is entirely text based. It has no list of available objects to inspect or collapsible list of the object’s properties under each object. You must know the name of the variable you want to inspect; it could be a JavaScript object, an object property, or the property of some item that appears on the page. To view the variable value, simply type the variable name in the Command Window, and hit the Enter key. The variable’s value should display on the following line.

The process for updating the variable’s value is similar to viewing its value. To update the variable’s value, type the variable name followed by an equals sign, followed by the desired new value. If the value is a string, then you must enclose it within quotation marks. You can also set values to other objects by simply following the equals sign with the object variable name.

Figure 7-8 shows an instance of inspecting a variable value and then changing it. First we entered the variable name, `queryString`, into the Command Window, and pressed the Enter button, which displays the value of `queryString` on the following line. Next, we entered a line assigning a new value for `queryString`, with the new value being echoed after we pressed the Enter button. Finally, we inspected the value of `queryString` again to ensure that the new value was correctly set.

After inspecting and possibly modifying variable values, you can continue stepping through the script, line by line. The F8 key or Step Into toolbar button will step into the next line of code, stepping into any functions that are called; the Shift+F8 key or Step Over toolbar button will execute the next line of code without stepping into any called functions. The F5 key or Run button will run the rest of the script, stopping only when another breakpoint is encountered or the script completes.

Microsoft Script Debugger is a simple but useful tool for debugging client-side scripts. Because of the primitive interface of the Command Window, the Script Debugger is probably best left for those working in an all–Internet Explorer environment or even those who are using VBScript instead of JavaScript. Still, it’s another tool in the developer’s toolbox that can provide a significant amount of help when needed.