

How to Find HTML locators and How to use Firebug

Locators

Locators are used to find the element on the web pages that are used in the test cases.

In HTML, it is seen as good practice to make sure that every element you need to interact with has an ID attribute and a Name attribute. Unfortunately, following best practices can be extremely difficult to do, especially when building the HTML dynamically on the server before sending it back to the browser.

There are mainly 5 HTML Locator; we see each one by one

Locating element by ID

Locating element by Name

Locating element by Link

Locating element by CSS

Locating element by XPath

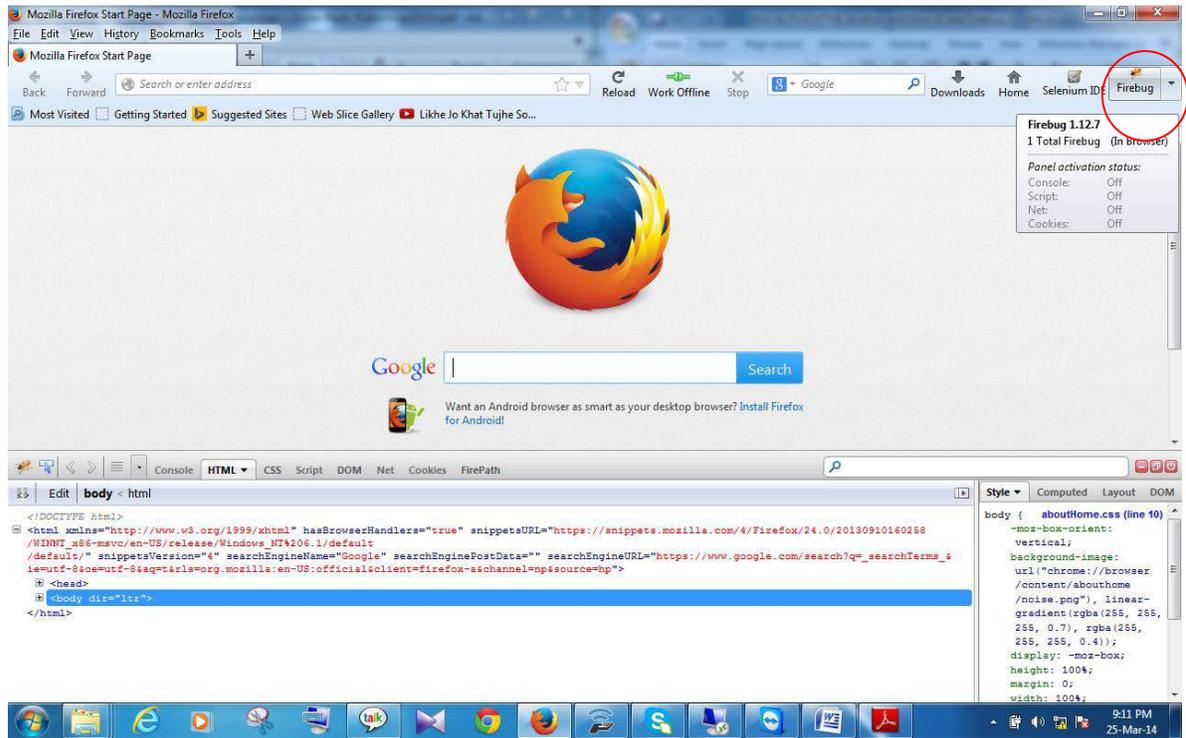
Firstly Before using locator in the test cases you need to download the following two applications

- **Firebug:** <https://addons.mozilla.org/firefox/addon/firebug>
- **Firefinder:** <https://addons.mozilla.org/firefox/addon/firefinderfor-firebug>

When you download this plug-in you will see the firebug icon at the right hand corner of your Firefox

You can launch firebug by pressing F12.

Or you can launch the fire bug by clicking on the icon shown in the picture below

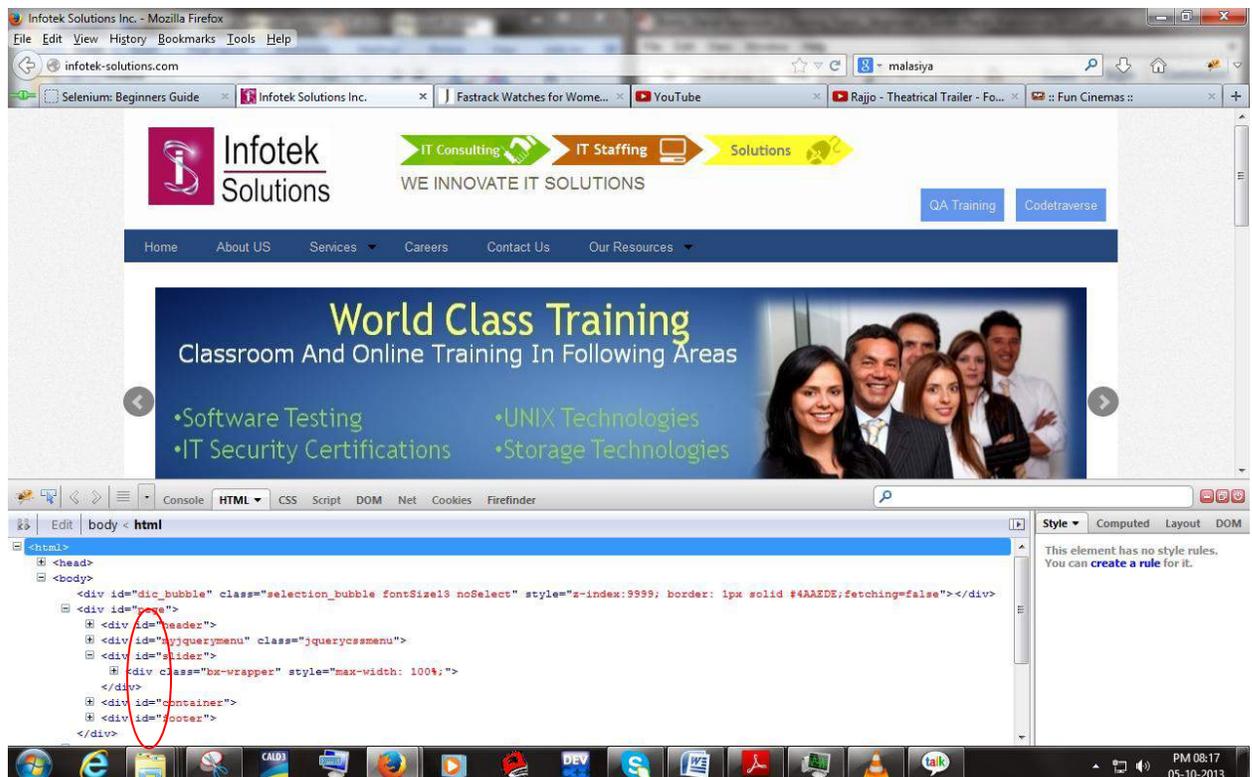


1. Locating elements by ID:

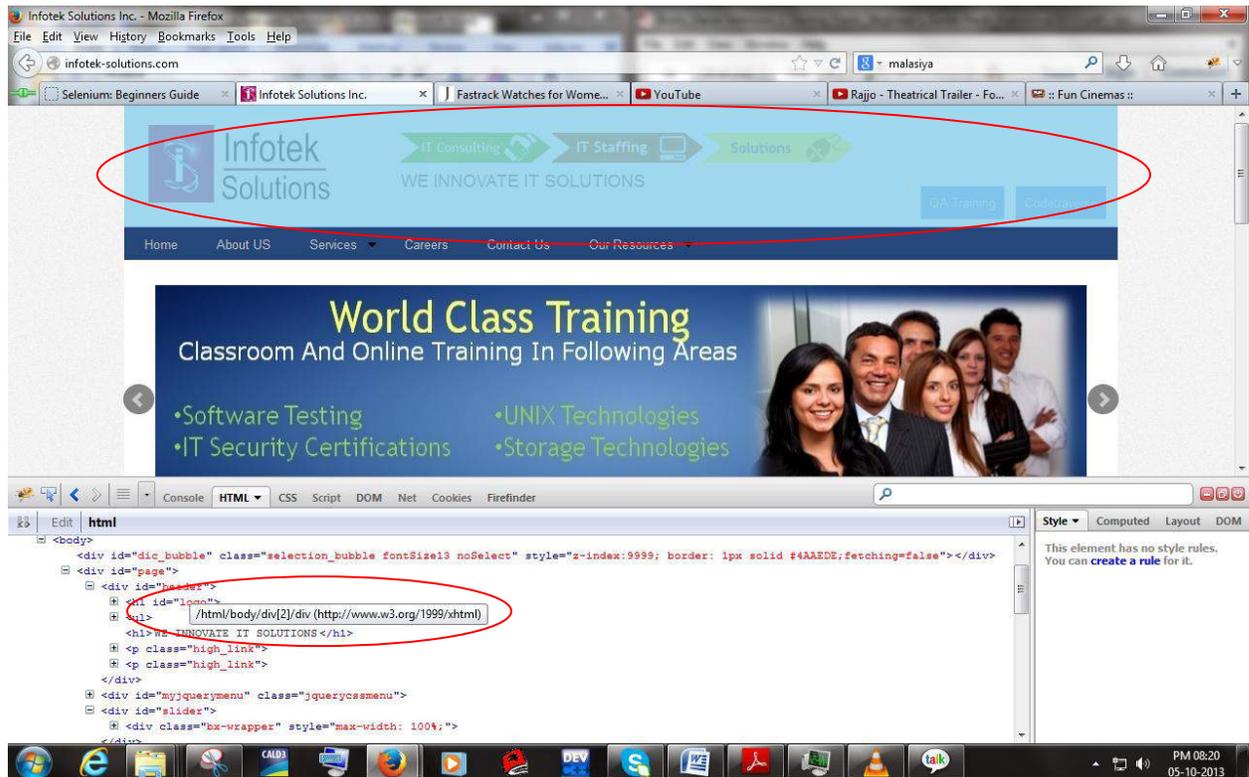
IDs of an element is the unique identity which allows selenium to find the unique item on the web page

Step1: Open any website, I am navigate to <http://infotek-solutions.com/>

Step 2: Press F12 to open firebug. You see the following window



Step3: Move your mouse in the firebug window to different elements, firebug will highlight the elements that you want to see. In the picture below we locate the header Div by using id=header.

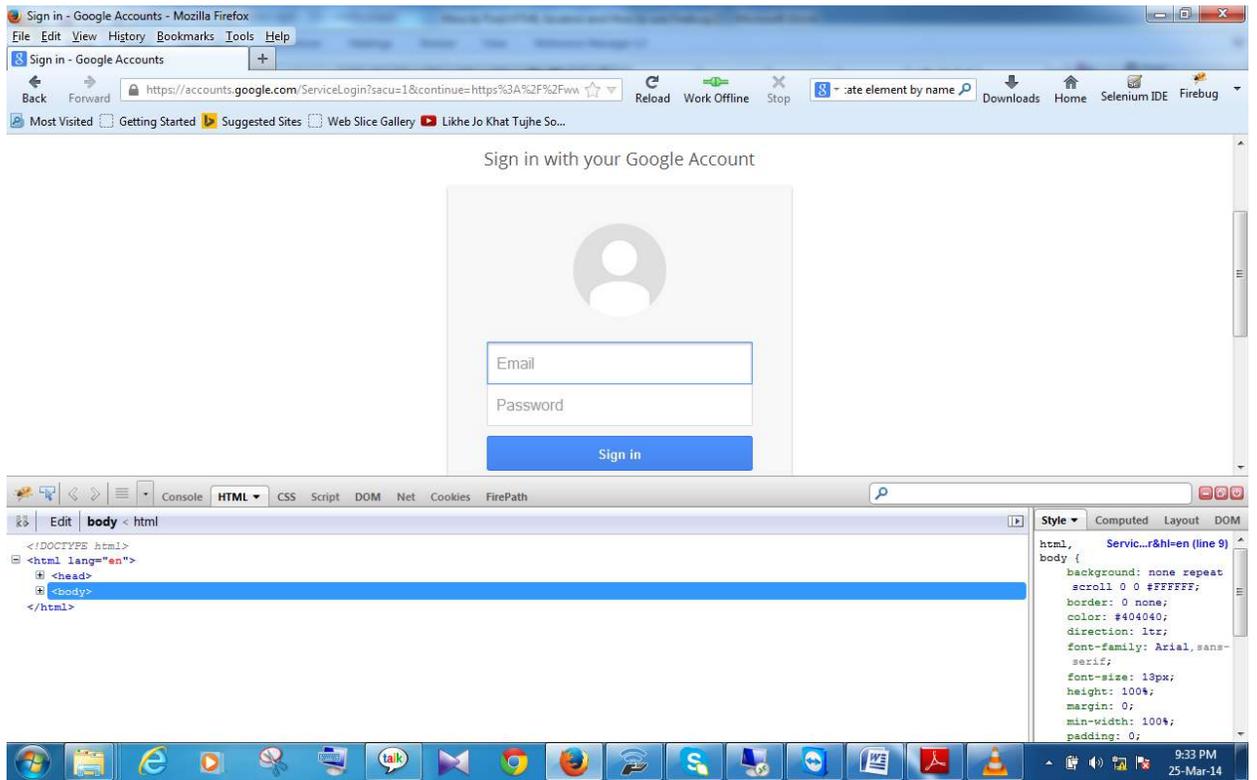


2. Locating element by Name

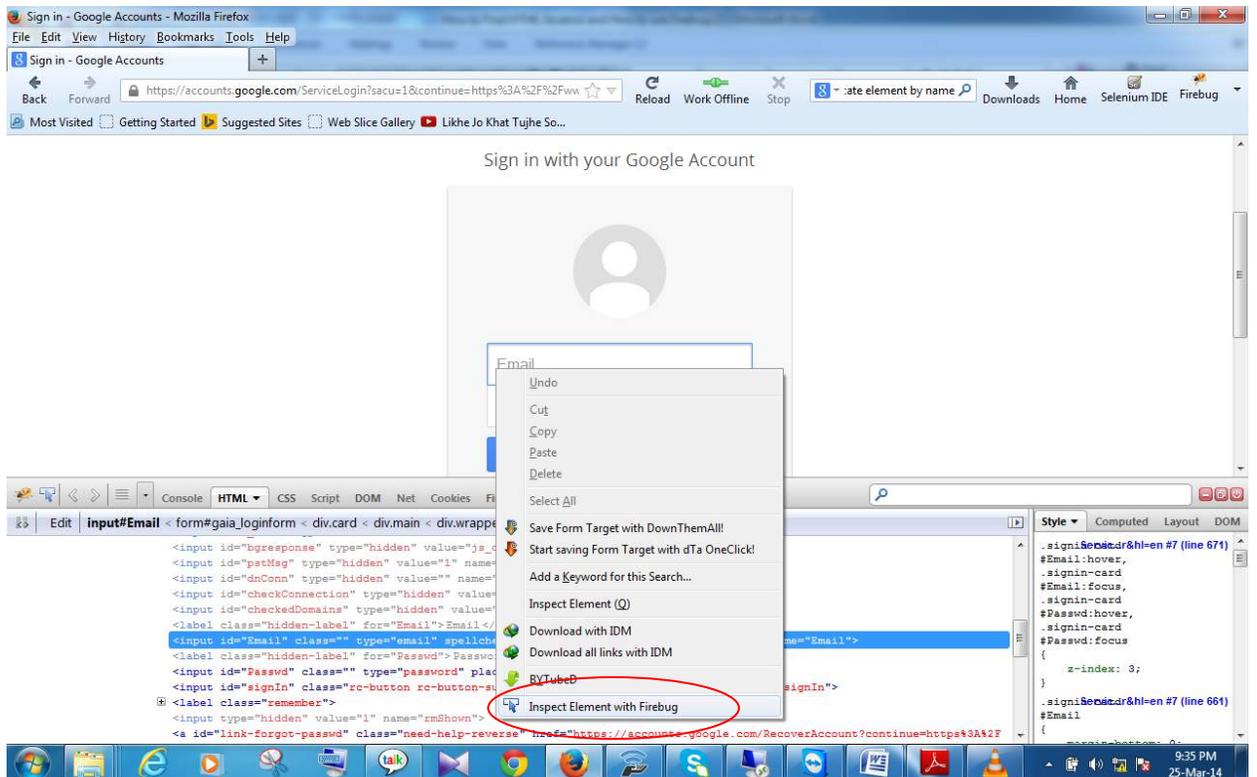
Now suppose if there is no ID related to the HTML element then how you will locate, so here we the second method for locating the element by using name, here I give you an example.

Step1: Open any website, I am navigate to <http://www.gmail.com/>

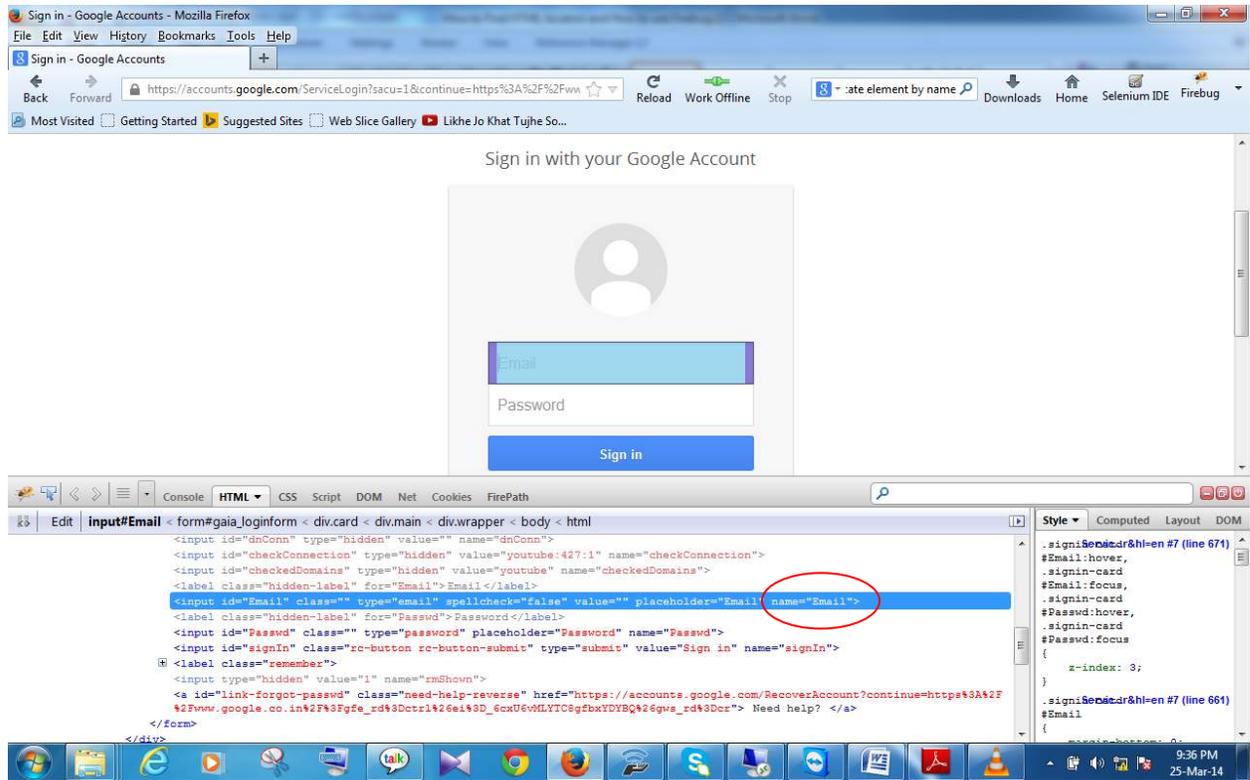
Step 2: Press F12 to open firebug. You see picture shown below



Step 3: Now right click on the email field and click on the option inspect element by firebug.



Step 4: See the firebug window where you find the name='email' for locating the email text box. In this way you can locate the element by using name also.

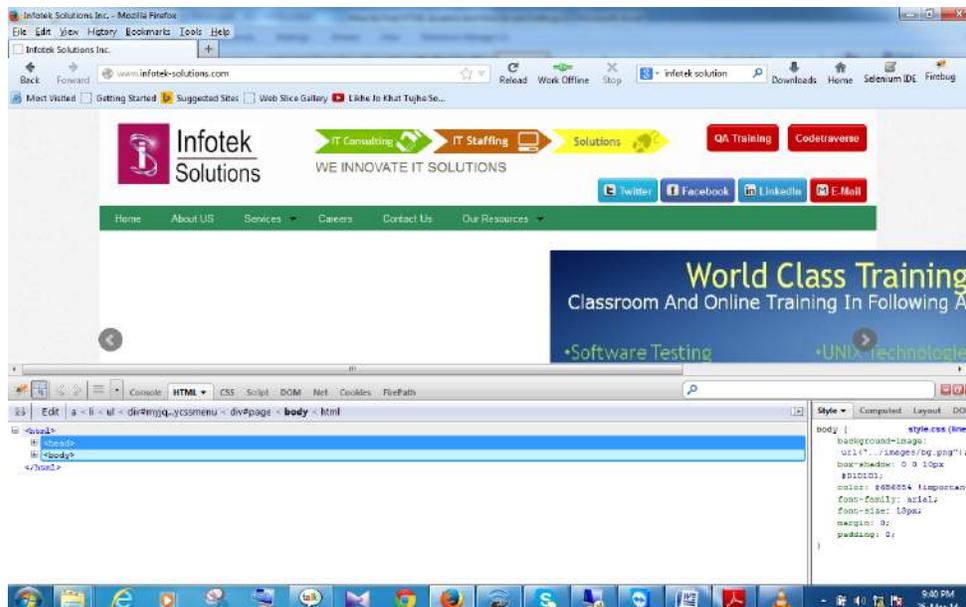


3. Locating Element by using Link

Now, for locating the element by using links do the following steps given below.

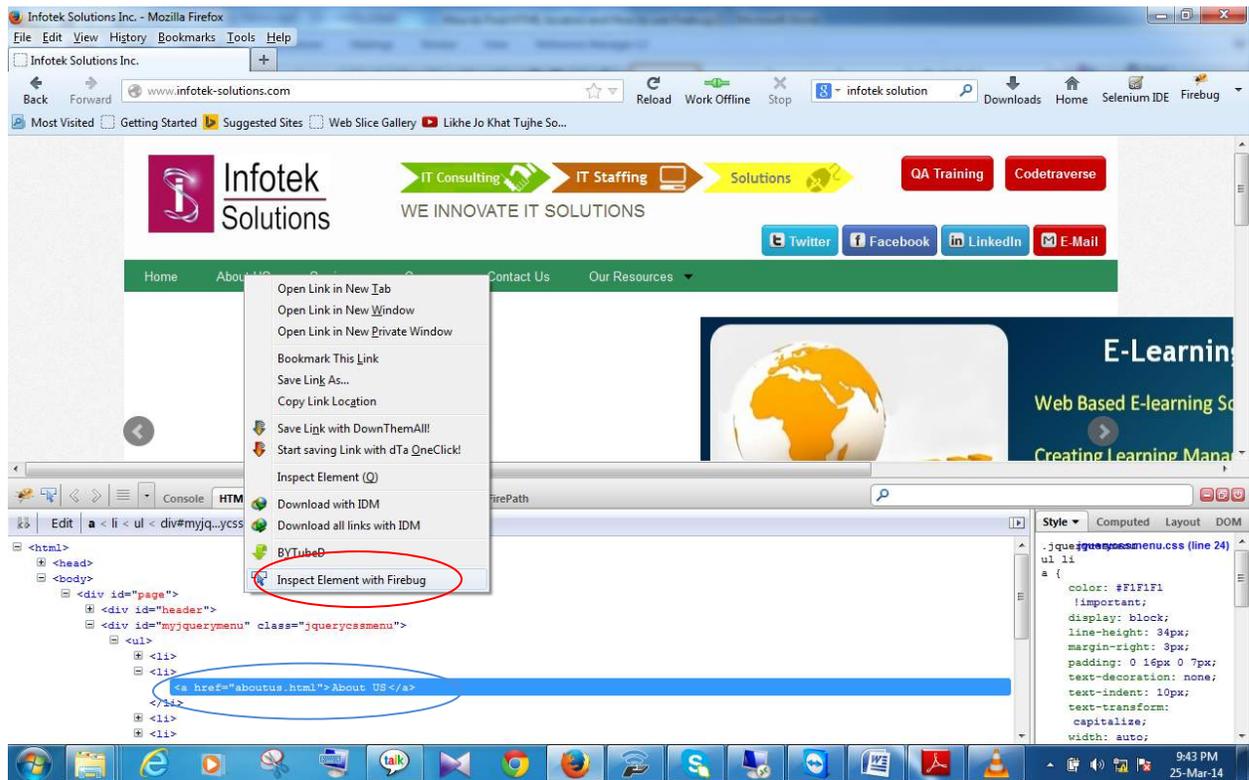
Step1: Open any website, I am navigate to <http://infotek-solutions.com/>

Step 2: Press F12 to open firebug. You see the following window

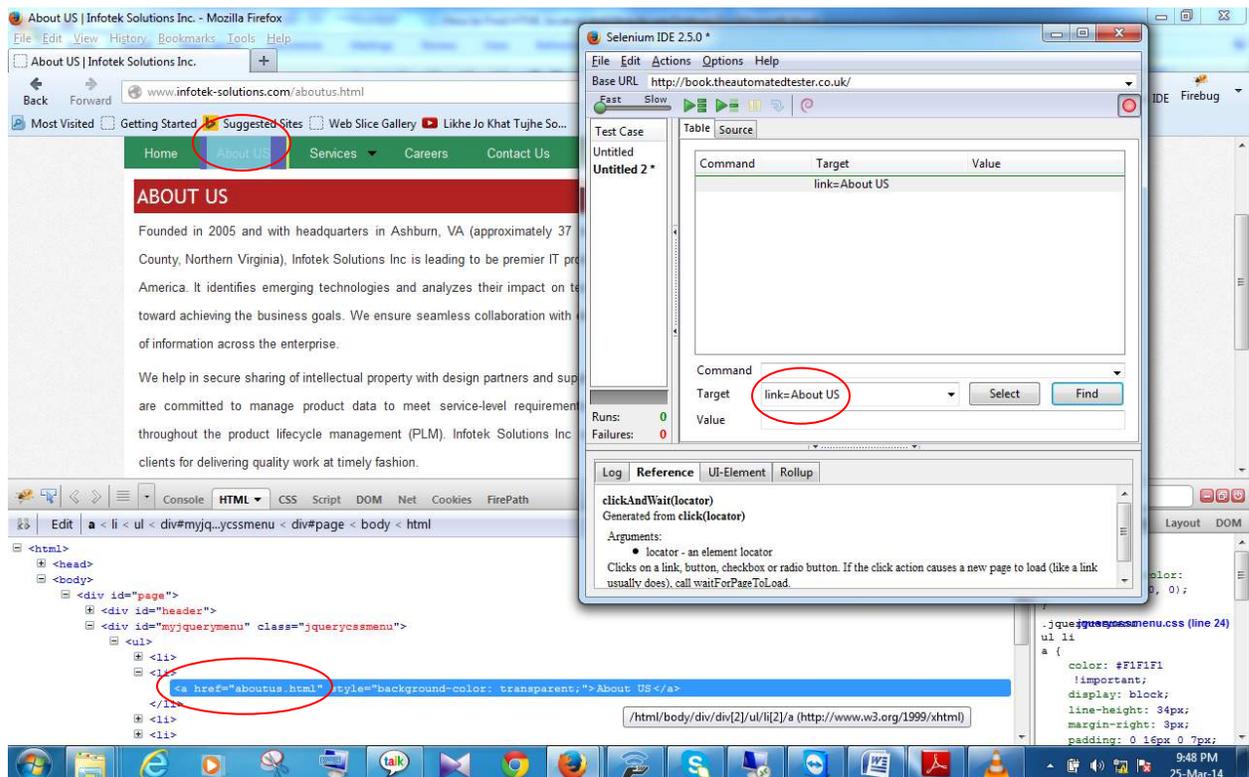


Step 3: Now right click on any link, like in the picture below I right clicked on the About us link. And again click on the option inspect element with firebug.

You will see the link `About US` in the blue eclipse



So you link='About US' to locate this link on the webpage



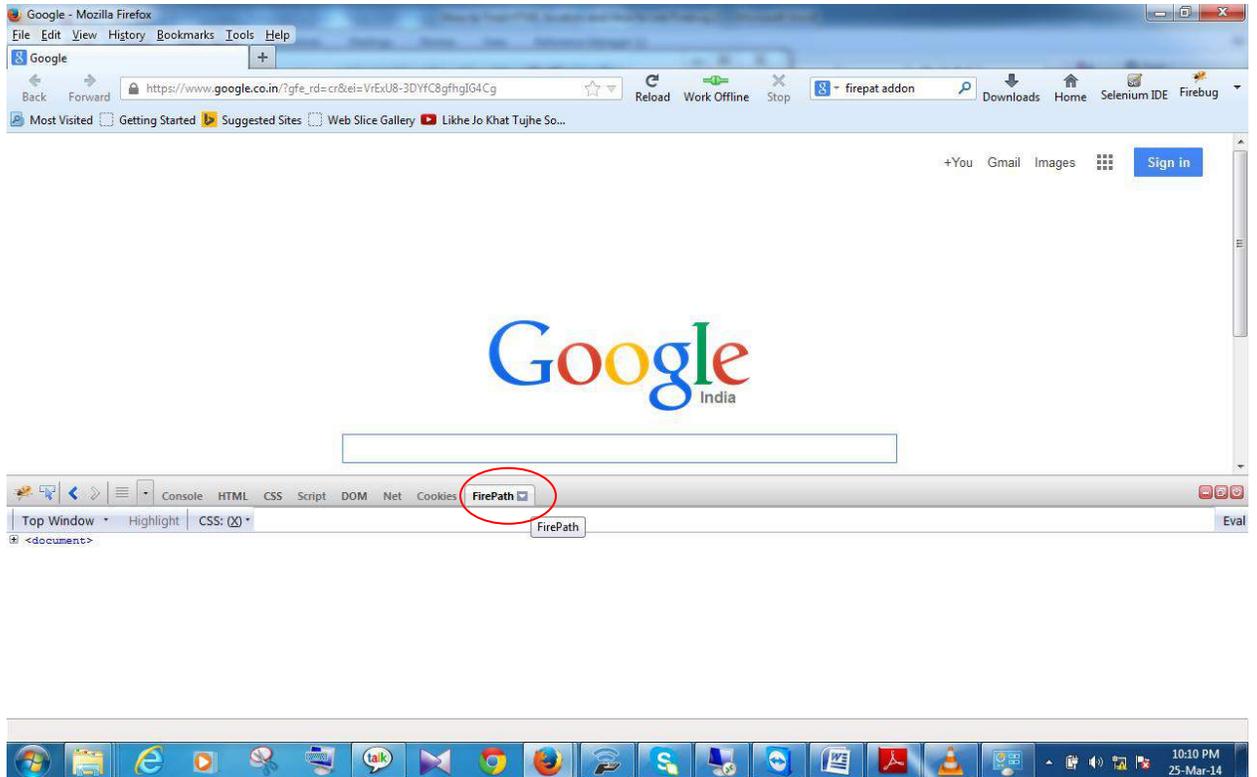
4. Locating element by CSS Selector

Now for locating the element by using CSS and Xpath you need firepath.

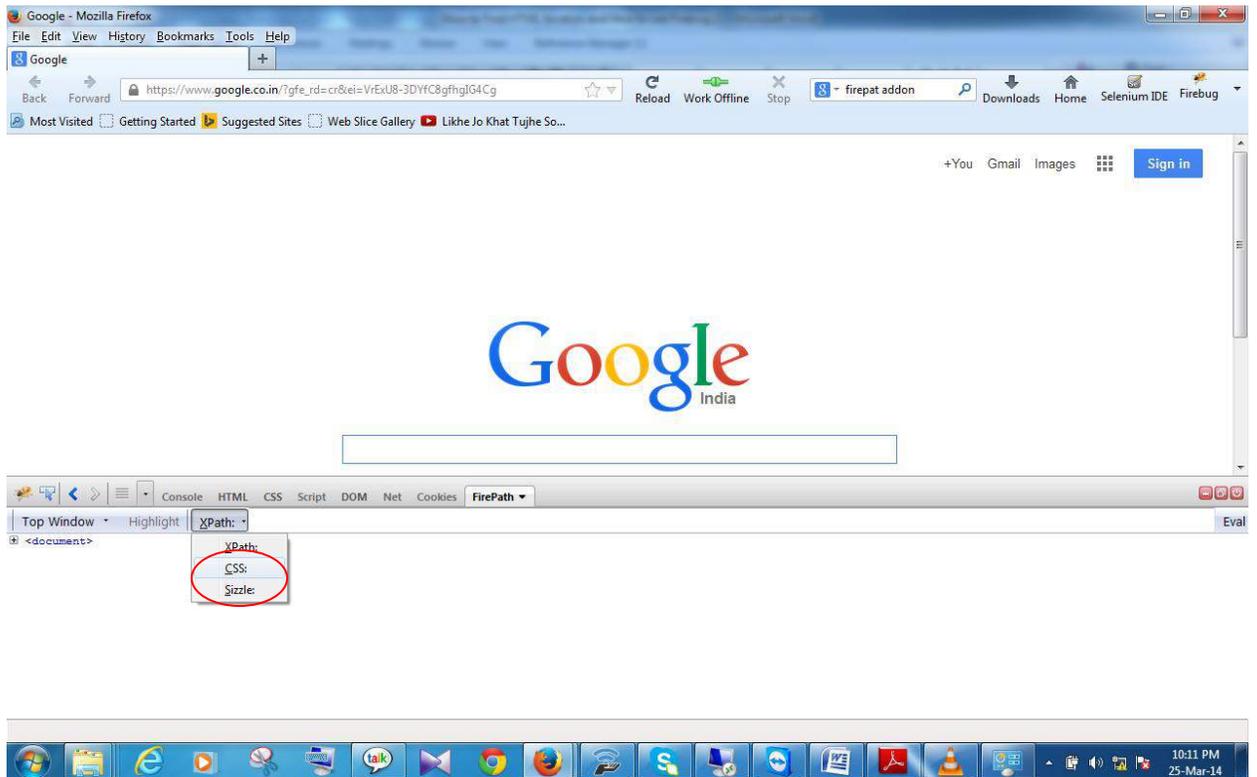
Fire path is nothing it is also an add on you can download it from the given link

<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/firepath/>

Now, when you download this add add-on you will see one more tab in your firebug window name as FirePath



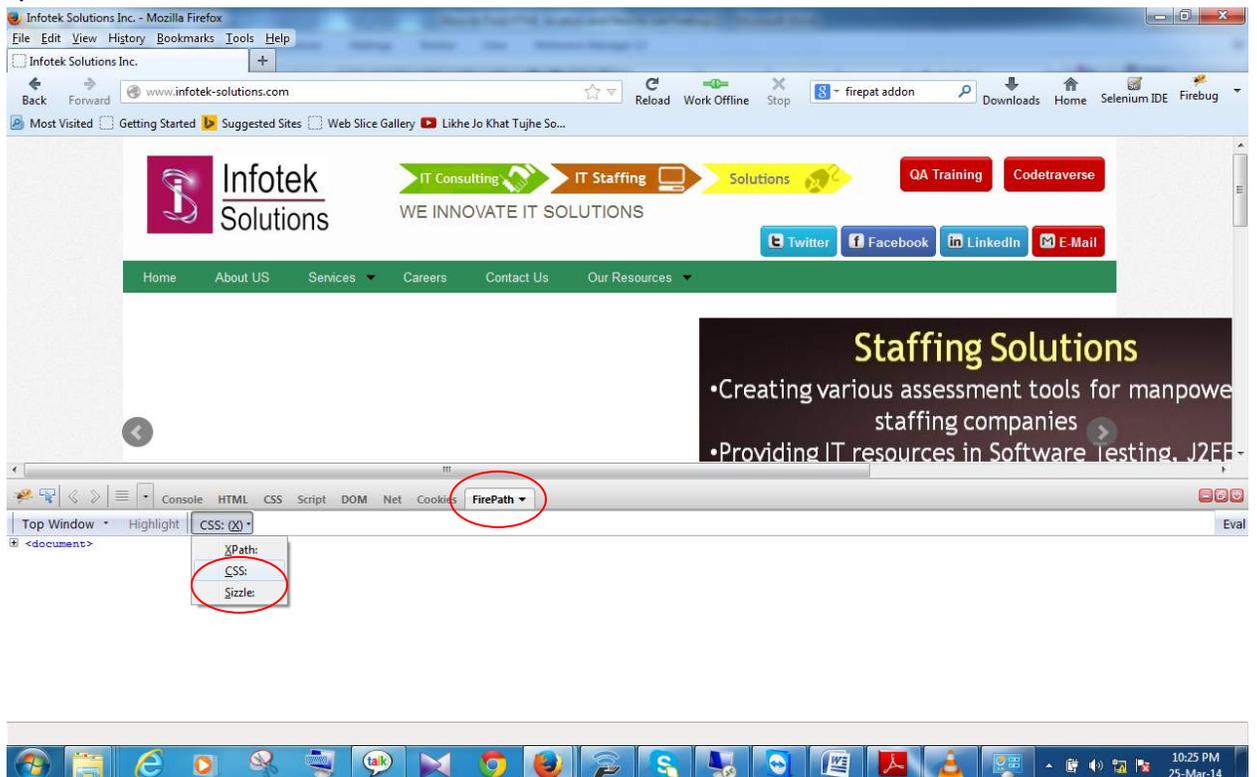
When you install the FirePath plug-in you will see the following option in your firebug window



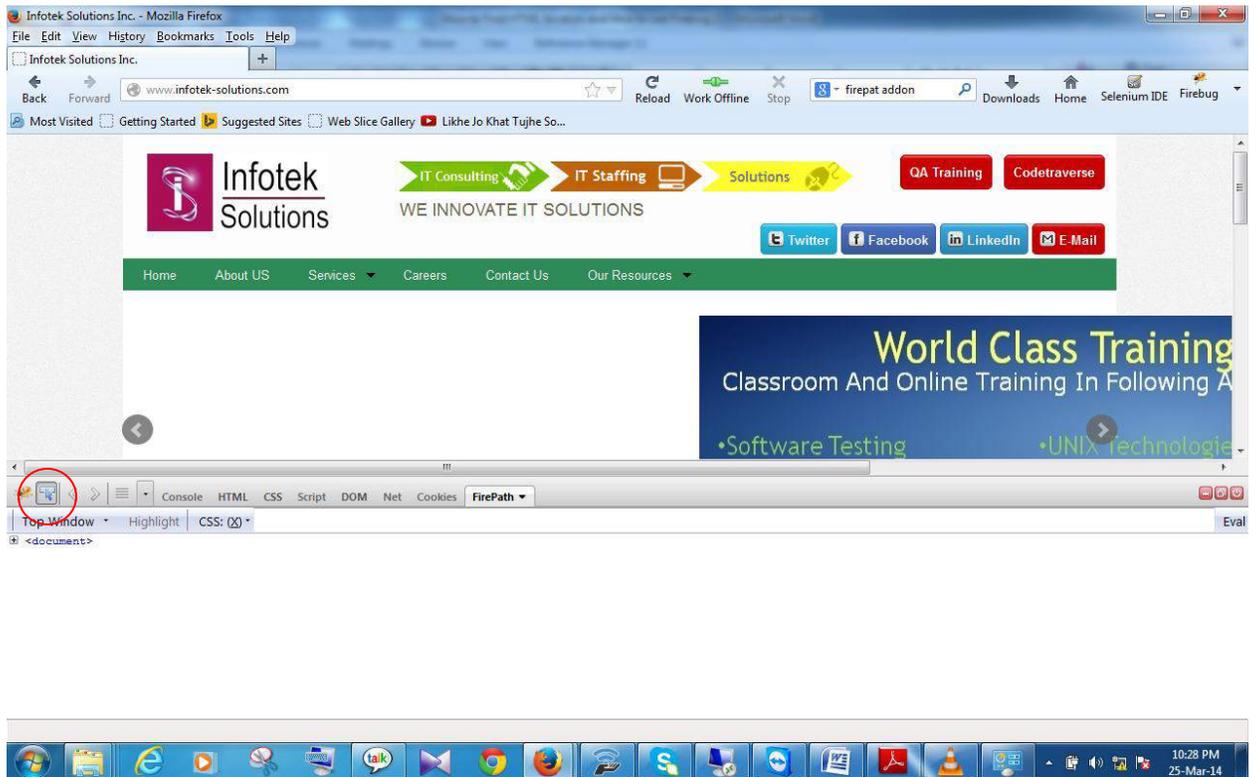
Now for locating the element select the CSS option and follow the steps below

Step1: Open any website, I am navigate to <http://infotek-solutions.com/>

Step 2: Press F12 to open firebug. And Click on the FirePath tab and select the CSS option.

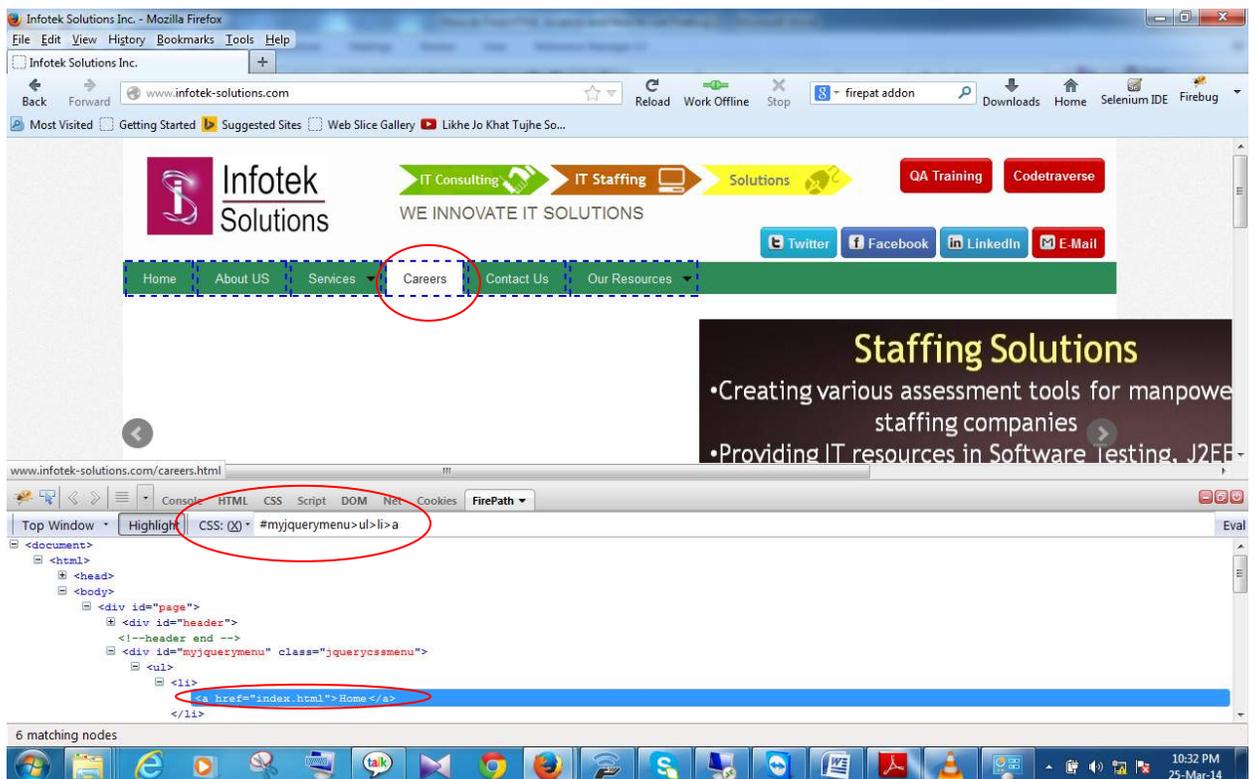


Step 3: Now right click on the button shown in the red eclipse, figure below



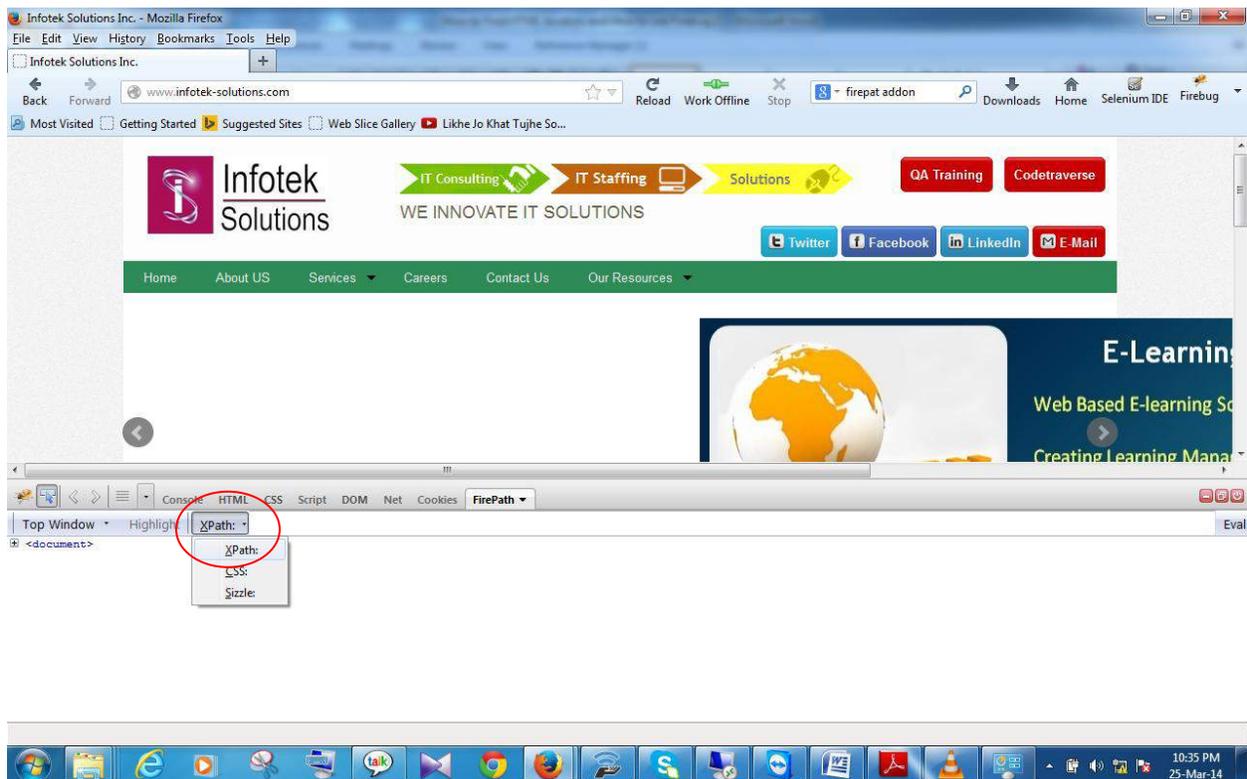
Step 4: Now drag your mouse to any element, for which you want to locate by using CSS, you will see the CSS address of the following element in the CSS box.

You will see the CSS address of the Careers link in the picture below

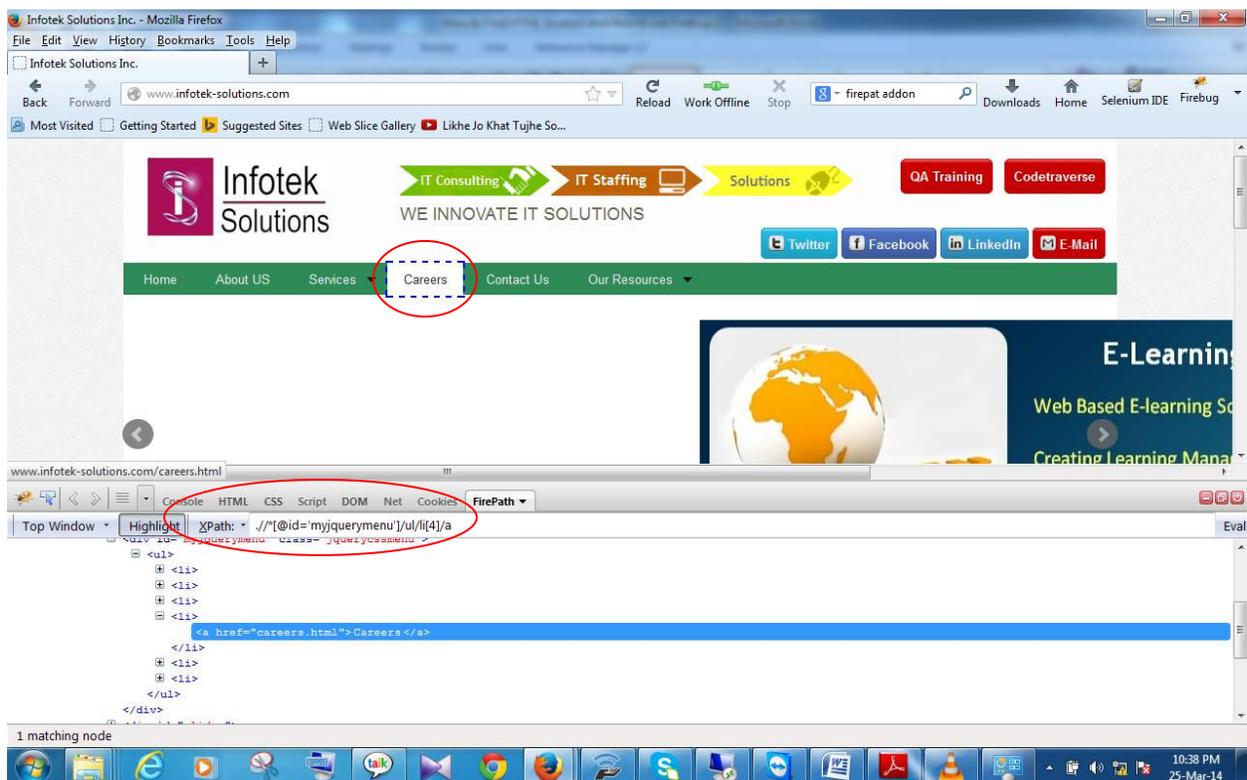


5. Locating Element by using Xpath

For locating element using xpath is similar to locating the element using CSS. The main difference is in step 2. Instead of selecting the CSS option you have to select the xpath option.



Step 3: Now drag your mouse to any Element which you want to locate by using its xpath. In the picture below I am locating the xpath of careers link



In this way we can locate the element and their attributes.

Now, see how to use them in the selenium IDE.

Step1: Open any website and selenium

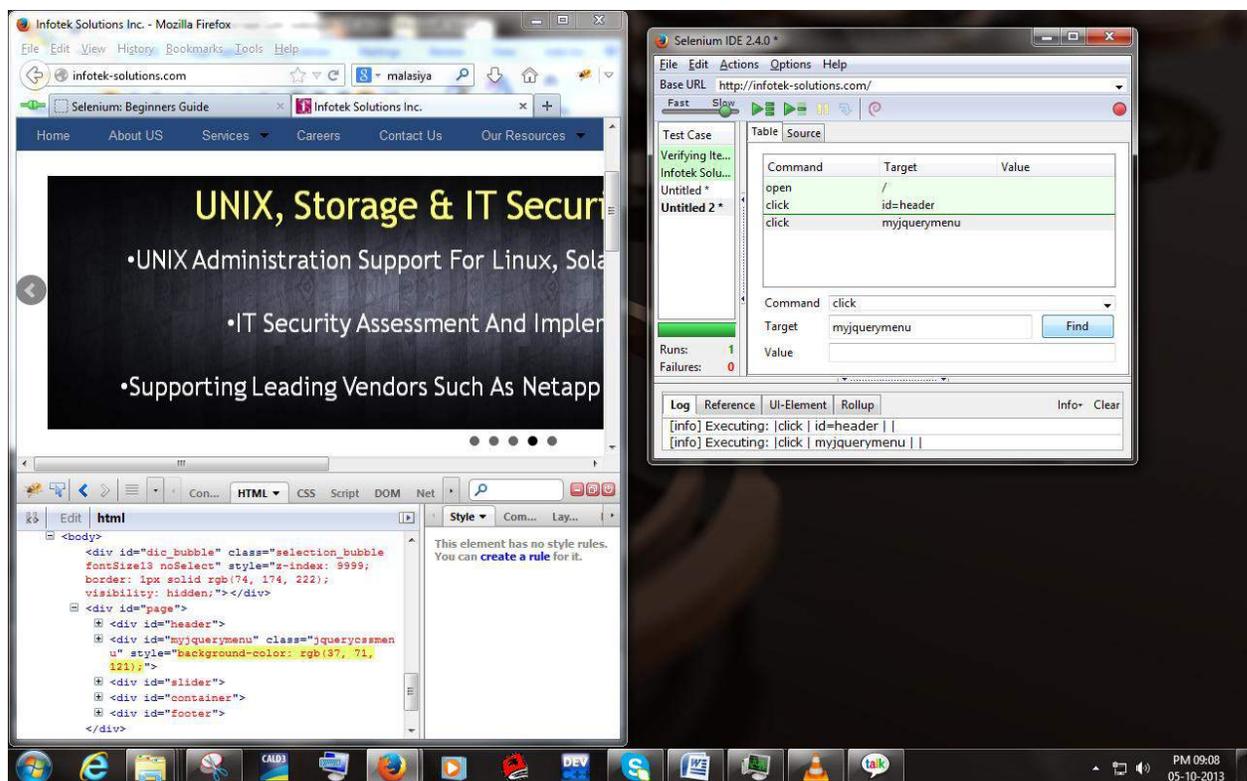
Step2: press F12 to open firebug.

Step3: Find the desired element that you want to use in the target field of the selenium.
Put its attribute value

Step4: Type click in the command box

Step5: play the test

Note: you can do it by right click on the element attribute and select that element it will automatically take into the selenium target and command box.



When you click on the find button it will highlight the desired are by yellow color.

Note: with the same way you can locate and use any element in the selenium IDE whether it is locate by ID or by name, CSS, XPath or may be by Link.