

Browser Safety

Welcome to this training lesson on **Browser Safety**. In this lesson, we'll look at some ways to make using a browser safer.

Estimated Completion Time: 6 minutes.

Browser Safety

Using a Browser. As long as you are using a recent browser, and update that browser fairly regularly, your browsing is *fairly* safe - notwithstanding the issues we discussed in the **Surfing the Internet** lesson.

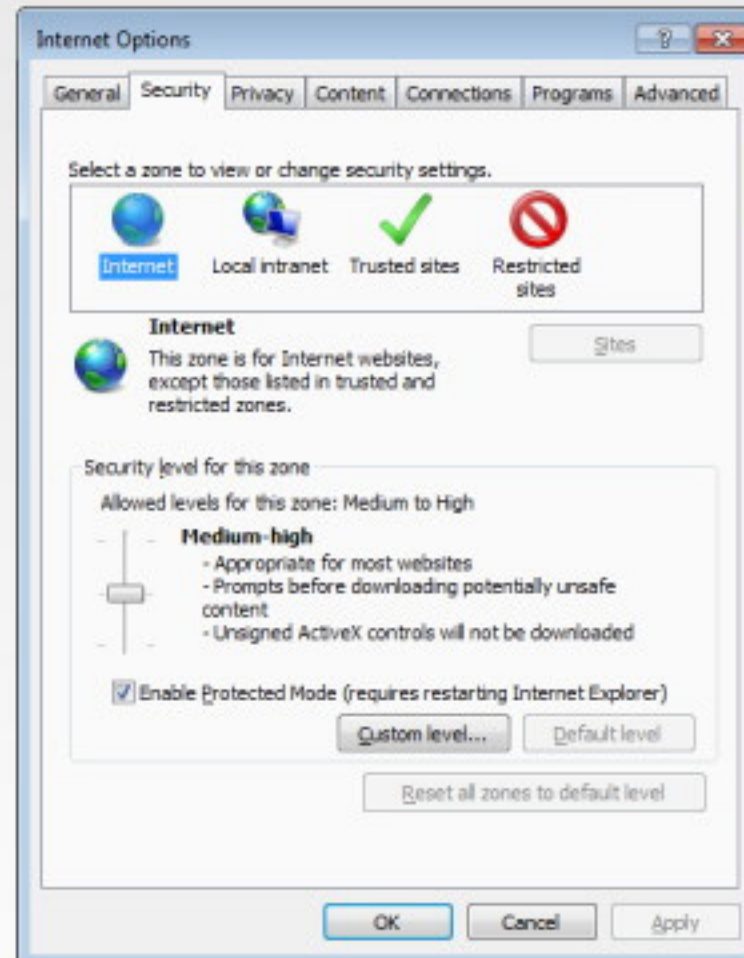
Some browsers have additional, and optional, safety measures you can enable or disable. Additionally, there are many third party virus scanning programs that work with your browser to make Internet surfing even safer.



Browser Safety

Built In Browser Security. Of all the browsers now available, Internet Explorer comes with the widest range of safety and privacy options, and is one reason why it is so popular in corporate environments.

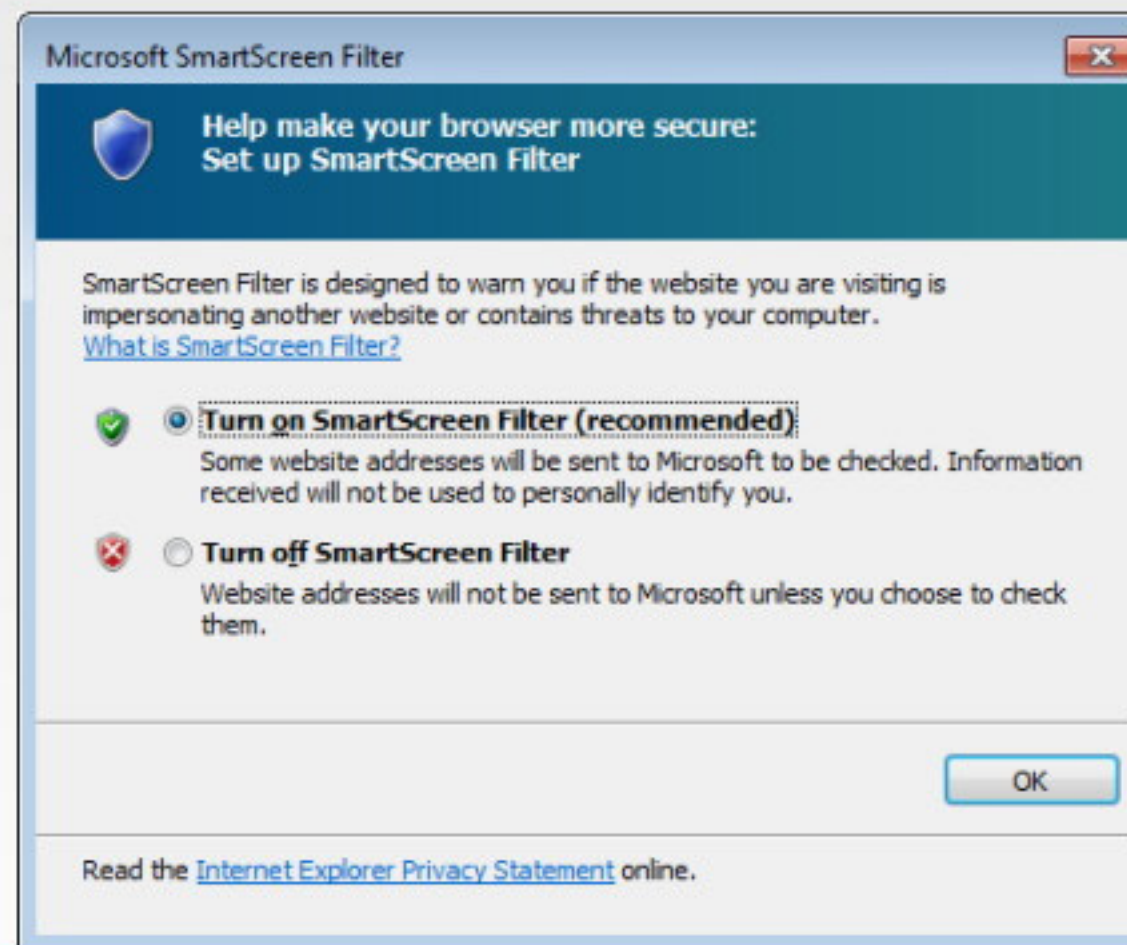
You can see an example, below (touch or click to expand image).



Browser Safety

Phishing and SmartScreen Filtering. Some browsers, like Internet Explorer, have what is known as *phishing* control (called *SmartScreen Filtering* in Internet Explorer).

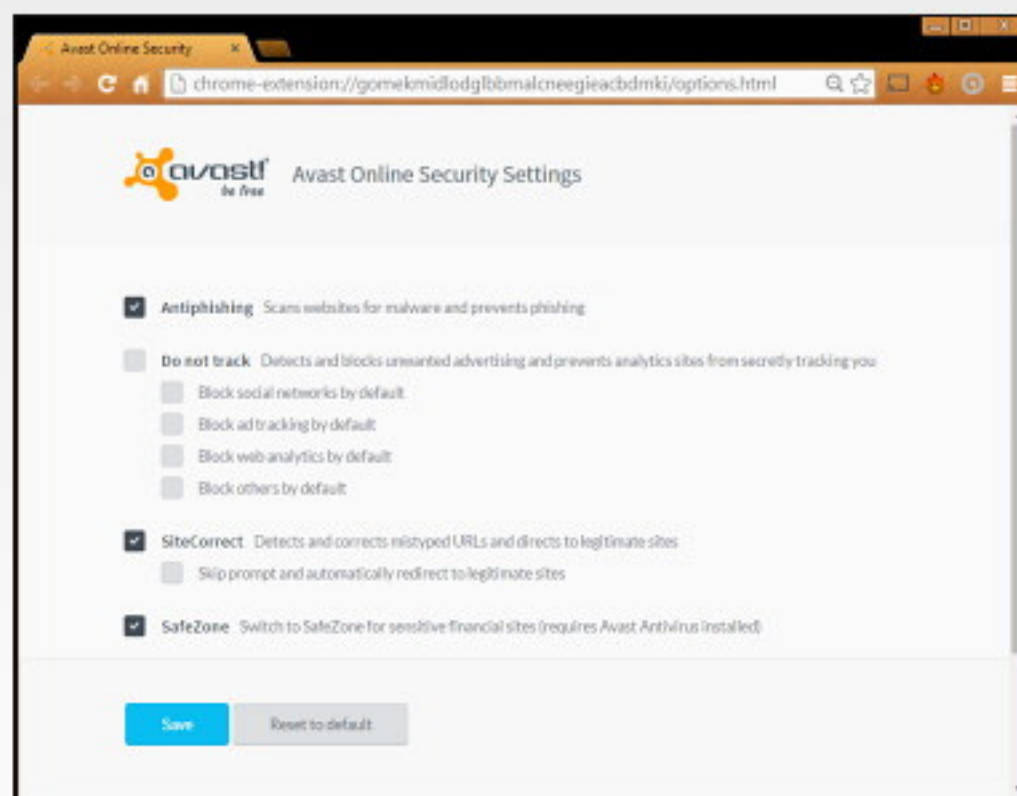
When this feature is enabled (ensure that it is!), all web addresses are checked to determine whether they are valid, or have been reported as suspicious or fraudulent, and warn you if appropriate.



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Third Party Browser Extensions. If you have a third party virus checker installed - like Norton's, McAfee, or Avast, these will normally also include a browser extension for the major browsers.

These extensions work with your browser to prevent access to fraudulent sites, block or warn about dangerous downloads or online malware, and even allow you to block adds, or block websites from tracking you.



Browser Safety

Cookies. Cookies are small pieces of information that a website can store on your computer, and retrieve at a later date. In and of themselves, cookies are not dangerous. They cannot do anything to harm your system.

Many websites rely on cookies to operate correctly. They provide a useful and harmless way to customize your experience on certain sites.

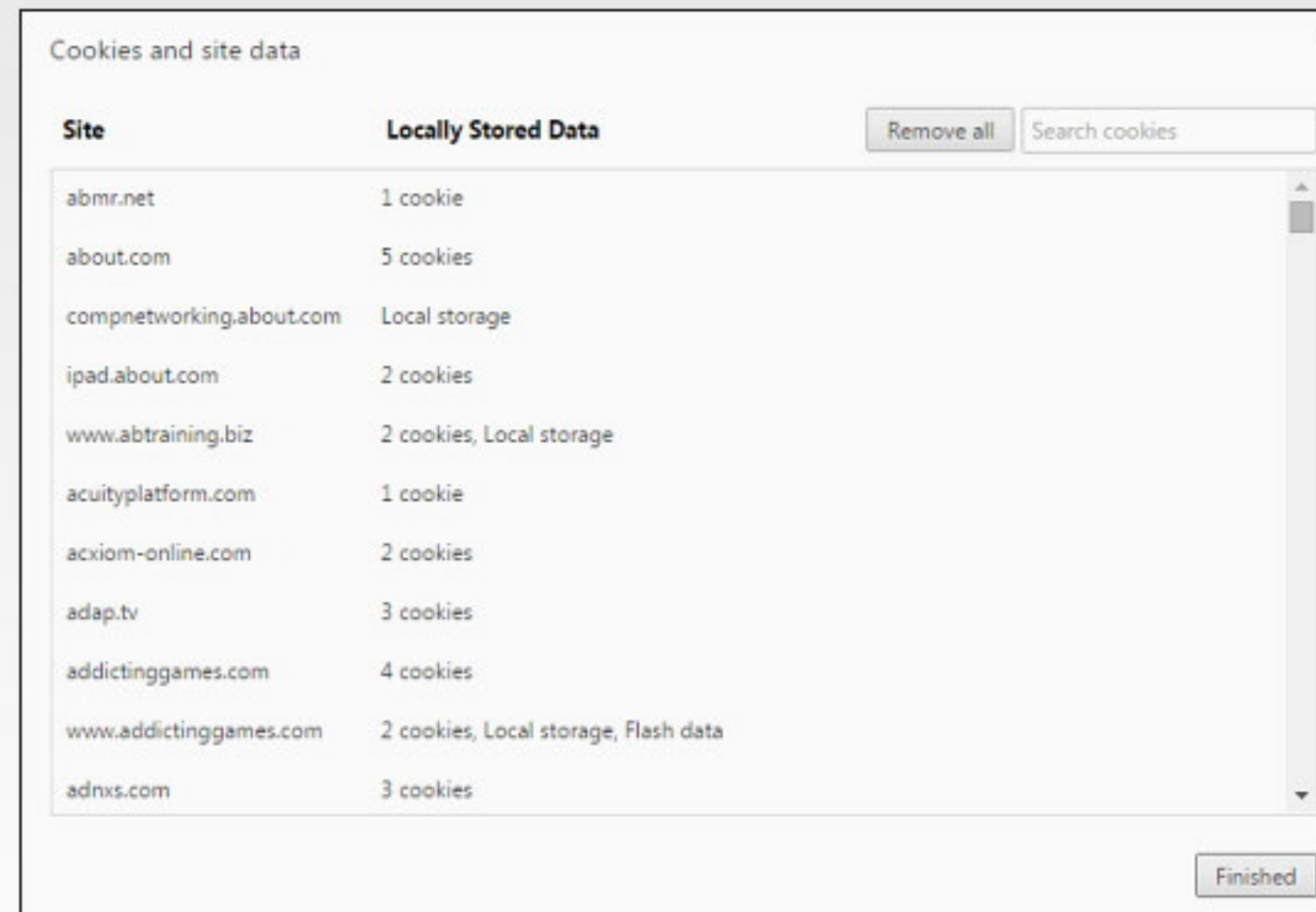
However, many people consider cookies an intrusion of privacy - especially when used by advertisers to track the websites you have been visiting.



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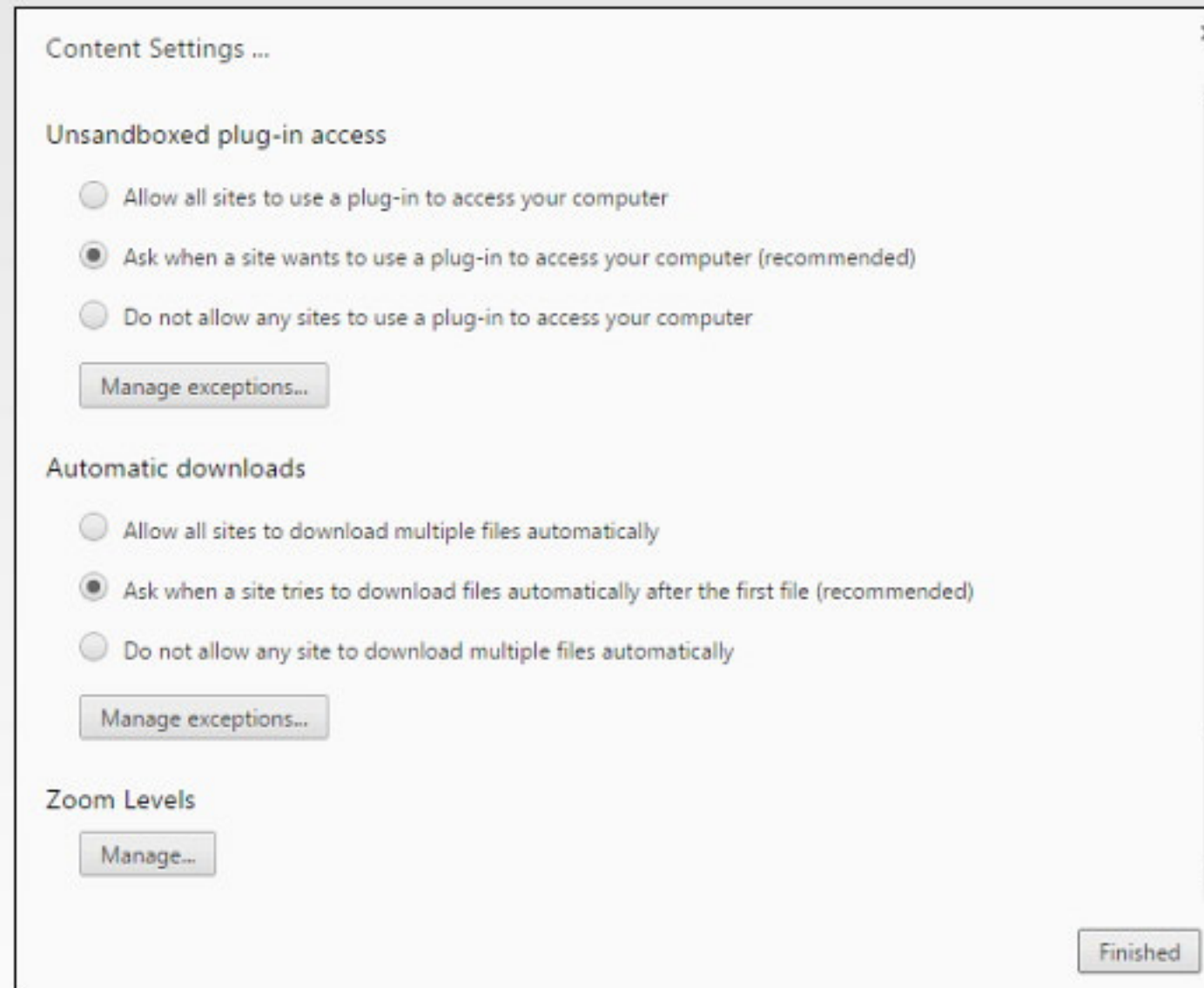
Controlling Cookies. Almost all browsers have controls over whether cookies can be used - even down to what sites can use cookies, and what sites can't.

Check the **Settings, Options,** or **Internet Controls** commands in your browser for more information.



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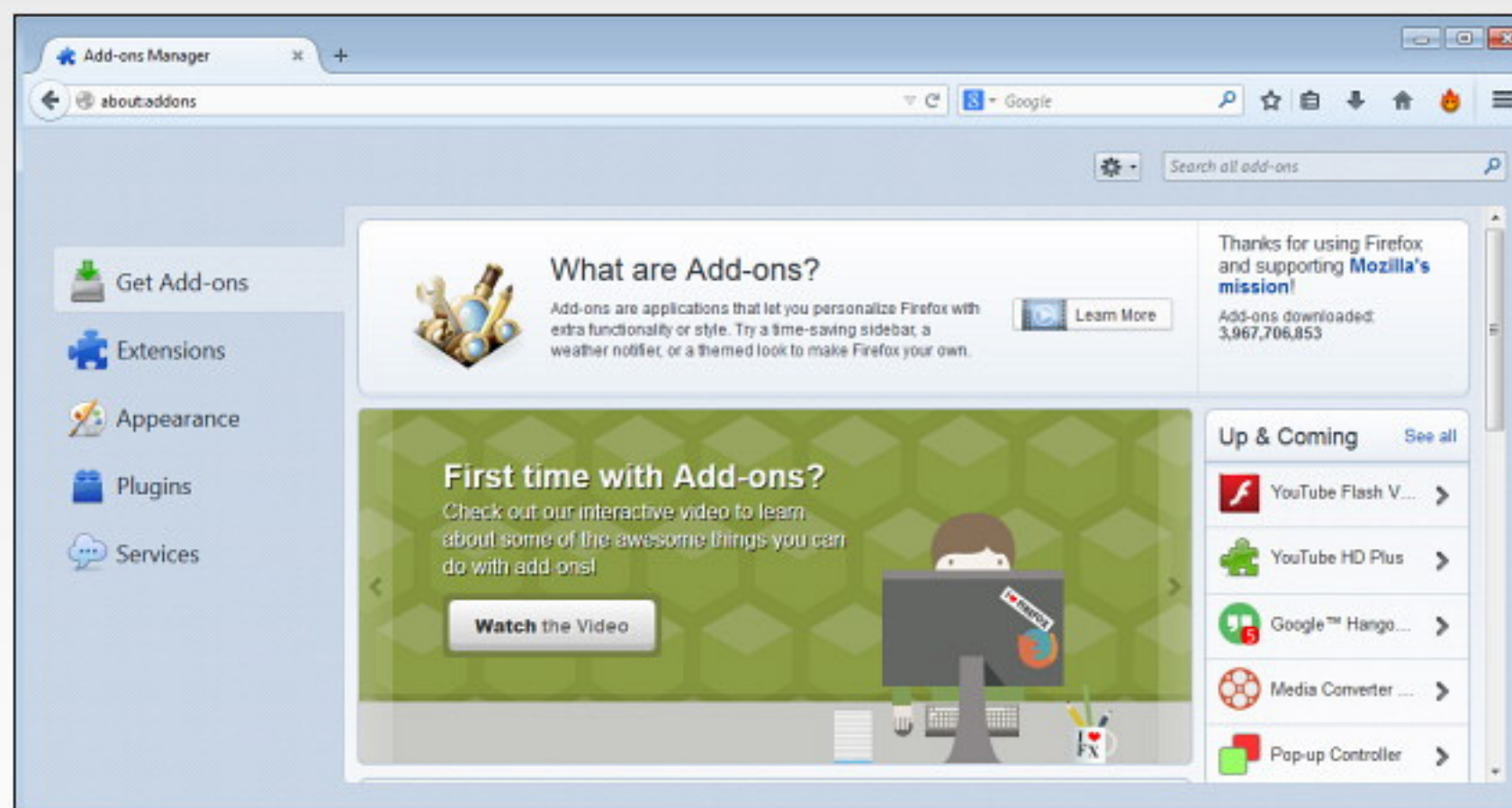
Unwanted Downloads. Most browsers will have the ability to control downloads somewhat - also found in the **Settings, Options,** or **Internet Options** commands in your browser.



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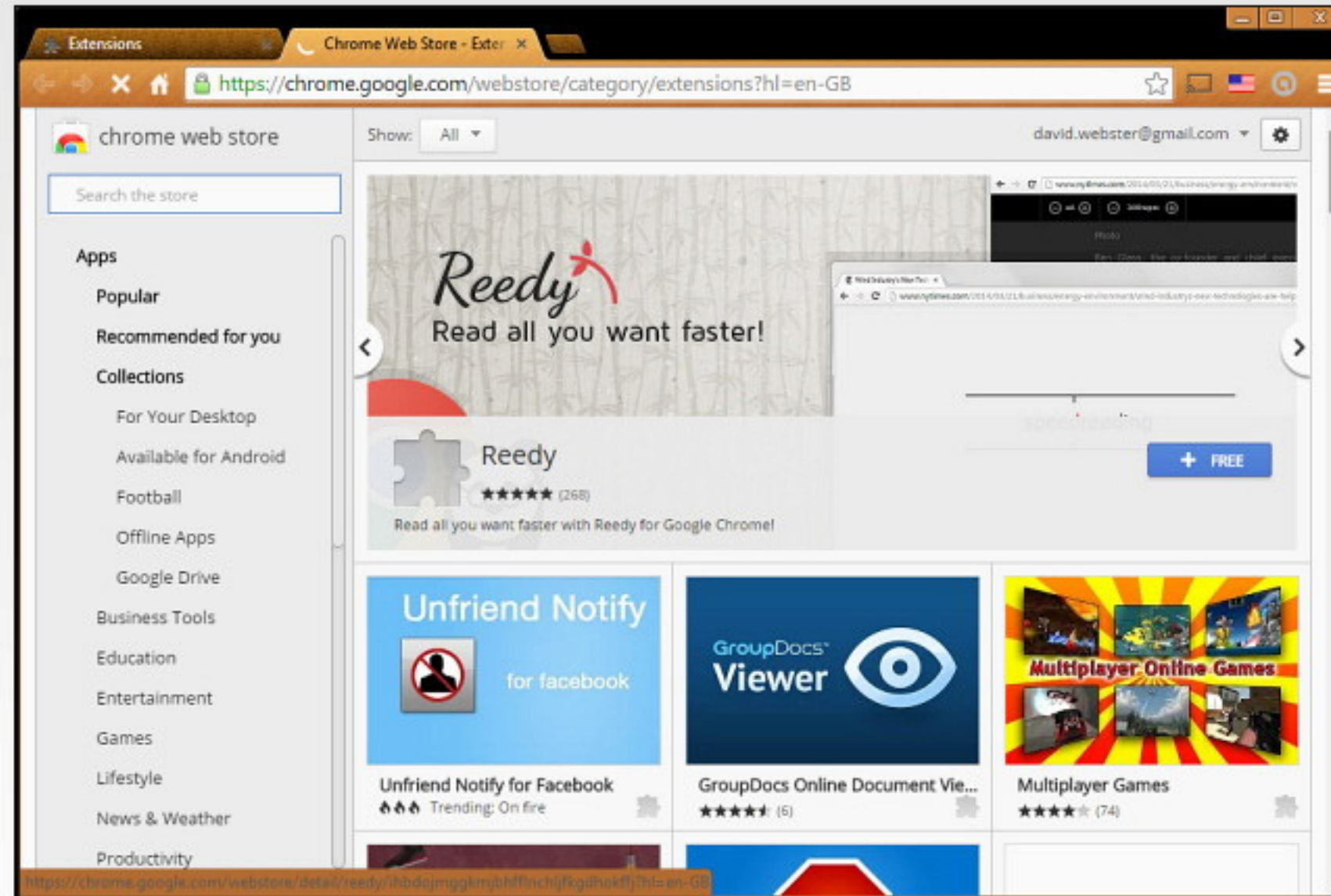
Browser Plugins, Extensions, and Add-ons. All modern browsers support what they call plugins, extensions, or add-ons (each browser has a slightly different name for them, but essentially they are the same thing).

These can be useful tools. They can provide extra security. Or block ads, or provide new toolbars. Or provide extra security, as we discussed earlier.



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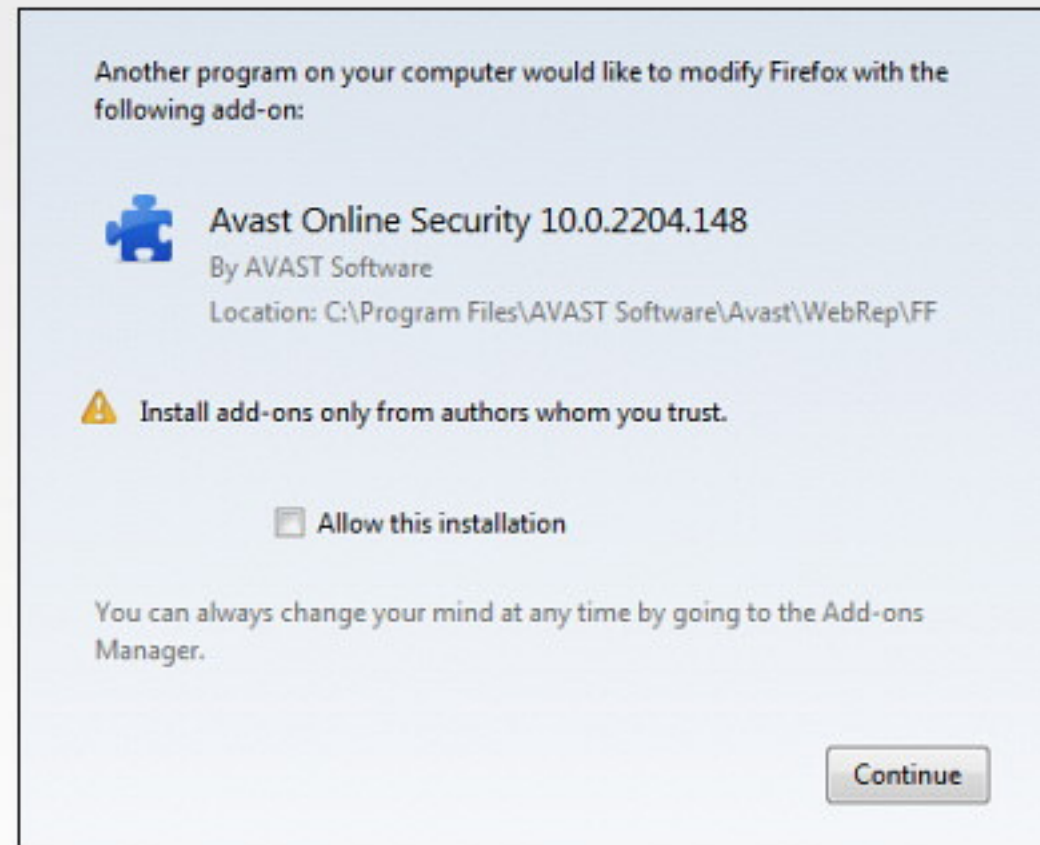
Getting Browser Plugins, Extensions, and Add-ons. Each of the browsers will have the equivalent of a 'store' where additional plugins, extensions, and add-ons can be searched for, reviewed, and installed, if you wish.



Browser Safety

Confirming Browser Plugins, Extensions, and Add-ons. One security issue with such plugins is that other programs on your computer can install them - even without your knowledge or permission.

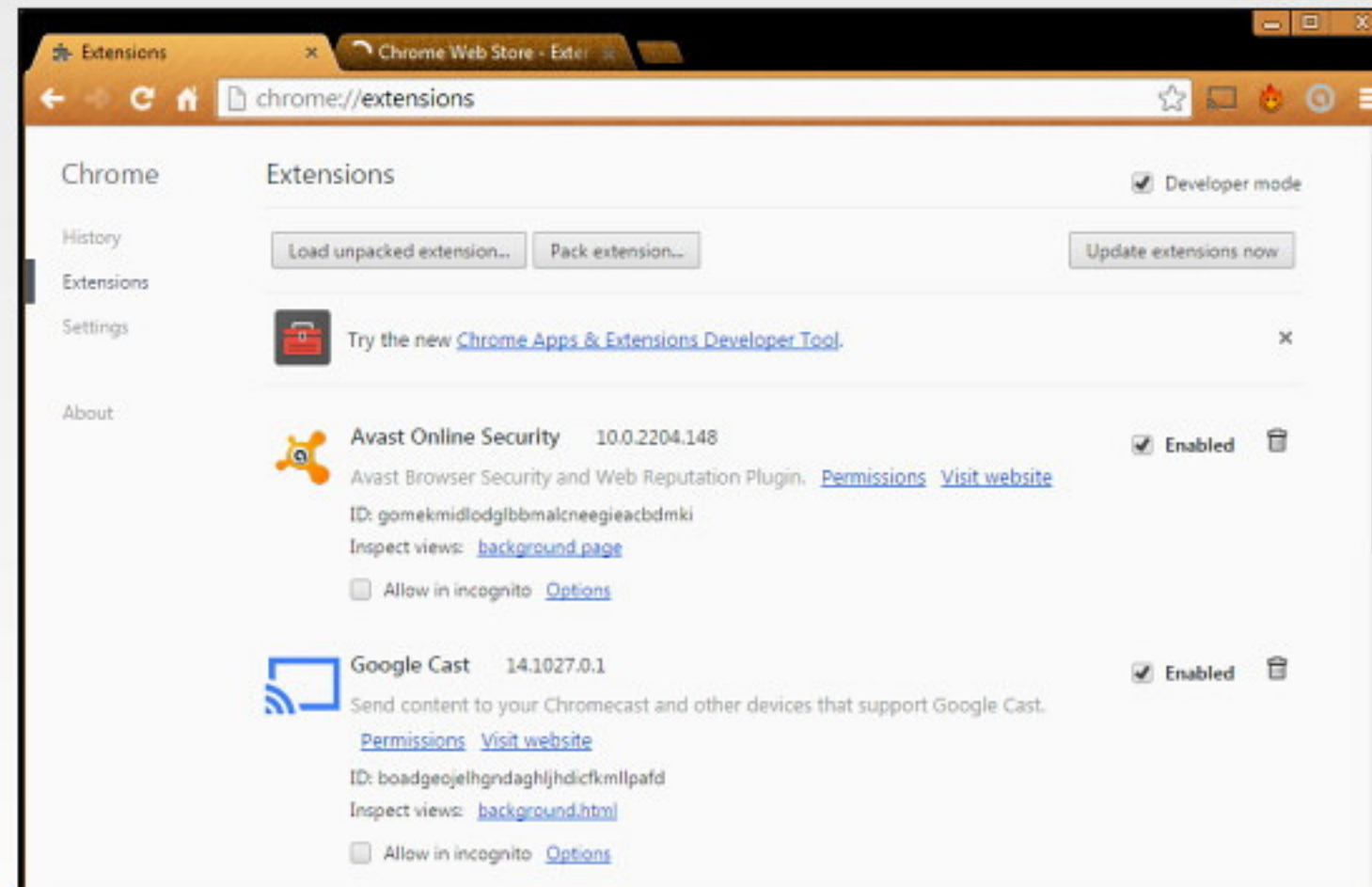
However, modern browsers will always ask you to confirm whether a new plugin, extension, or add-on, should be enabled. You'll see something like the image below. If you do not recognise the plugin, do not enable it.



Browser Safety

Enabling/Disabling Browser Plugins, Extensions, and Add-ons. You are able, at any stage, to enable or disable browser plugins - even remove them altogether.

Check for a command in your browser marked **Add-ons, Extensions, or Plugins** to manage your plugins. Below, we display the Chrome page that allows us to enable, disable, and remove any extensions.



Browser Safety

You've now completed this training lesson on **Browser Safety**. In this lesson, we looked at some ways to make using a browser safer.