

My Research On: How Malicious Browser Extensions Can Harm Users

Malicious browser extensions may look useful, but they can cause serious security and privacy issues.

1. Steal Login Credentials

- Capture usernames and passwords
- Access saved browser passwords
- Perform session hijacking

2. Track Browsing Activity

- Monitor websites visited
- Collect search history
- Track online behavior for data selling

3. Inject Advertisements

- Display unwanted pop-ups
- Redirect to fake shopping or phishing websites
- Replace legitimate ads with malicious ones

4. Modify Web Content

- Change search engine results
- Redirect traffic to scam websites

- Inject malicious scripts into webpages

5. Install Malware

- Download hidden malicious files
- Act as a gateway for spyware or ransomware

6. Excessive Permissions Abuse

If an extension has permissions like:

- “Read and change all website data”
- “Access browsing history”
- “Manage downloads”

It can misuse these permissions to compromise user privacy.