Extraction of Browser Artifacts (Chrome History)

Aim:

To extract and analyze web browsing history from Google Chrome using the View Chrome History extension and document the findings for forensic purposes.

Introduction:

Browser artifacts (history, cache, cookies, downloads, etc.) are valuable in digital forensics because they reveal user activity, timelines, and intent. Chrome's history records the URL, title, and timestamps for each visit. The View Chrome History extension provides a quick, UI-based way to filter, view, and export this data without digging into database files, enabling investigators to create a defensible activity timeline.

Procedure:

1. Setup

   o Open Google Chrome → install View Chrome History from the Chrome Web Store.

   o Pin the extension for easy access.

2. Open the Tool

   o Click the extension icon to launch the View Chrome History dashboard.

3. Configure Search Filters

   o In Search in history, enter a keyword relevant to the case (e.g., rec).

   o Set Start Date and End Date to constrain the time window (e.g., 04-10-2025 to 11-10-2025).

   o Click Search.

4. Review Results

   o Note the total items found and the dates grouped in the left pane.

   o For each entry, observe:

      ▪ Title (page label)

- - Timestamp (local time)

    - URL (e.g., https://rec215.examly.io/login, .../dashboard, .../profile)

  o Use the list controls to page through results.

  o (Forensically safe practice) Do not use Delete options during evidence collection.
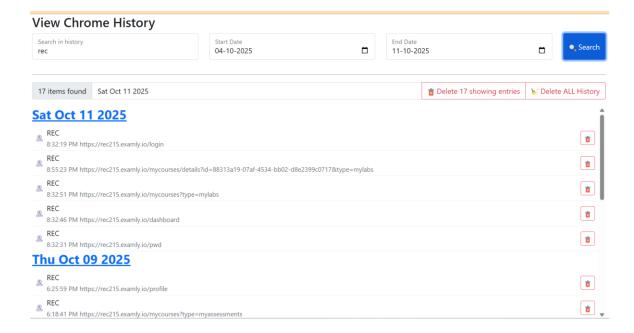
5. Preserve Evidence

  o Take screenshots of filtered results (showing keyword, date range, hit count, and entries).

  o If the extension supports export, save to CSV/HTML; otherwise, record details in the case log (date/time, URL, title).

  o Hash exported files (MD5/SHA-256) if submitting as evidence.

6. Correlate (Optional)

  o Cross-check URLs against system time, logs, or other artifacts (downloads, cookies).

  o If needed, use cache tools (e.g., Web Cache Viewer) to view historical page content.

Output (Observation):

- With keyword rec and date range 04-10-2025 → 11-10-2025, the tool reported "17 items found."

- Entries were grouped by date (e.g., Sat Oct 11 2025, Thu Oct 09 2025) and included URLs such as:

  o https://rec215.examly.io/login (time shown near 8:32 PM)

  o https://rec215.examly.io/dashboard

  o https://rec215.examly.io/profile

  o Course and labs pages under https://rec215.examly.io/...

- Each record displayed page title, exact timestamp, and URL, suitable for constructing a user activity timeline within the specified window.

View Chrome History

Search in history	Start Date	End Date	
rec	04-10-2025	11-10-2025	🔍 Search

17 items found	Sat Oct 11 2025	🗑 Delete 17 showing entries	✂ Delete ALL History

Sat Oct 11 2025

REC
8:32:19 PM https://rec215.examly.io/login 🗑

REC
8:55:23 PM https://rec215.examly.io/mycourses/details?id=88313a19-07af-4534-bb02-d8e2399c0717&type=mylabs 🗑

REC
8:32:51 PM https://rec215.examly.io/mycourses?type=mylabs 🗑

REC
8:32:46 PM https://rec215.examly.io/dashboard 🗑

REC
8:32:31 PM https://rec215.examly.io/pwd 🗑

Thu Oct 09 2025

REC
6:25:59 PM https://rec215.examly.io/profile 🗑

REC
6:18:41 PM https://rec215.examly.io/mycourses?type=myassessments 🗑

Result:

Browser history for the specified period and keyword was successfully extracted and reviewed using View Chrome History. The resulting artifact list (URLs, titles, timestamps) provides a clear timeline of user web activity, suitable for inclusion in the forensic report and for correlation with other evidence (logs, cache, downloads).