

Task 7: Identify and Remove Suspicious Browser Extensions

Objective: To learn how to identify, evaluate, and remove potentially harmful or unnecessary browser extensions to improve browser security and performance.

Tools Used: Google Chrome (can also be done on Firefox, Edge, or other modern browsers)

Procedure / Steps Taken Opened the Extensions Manager

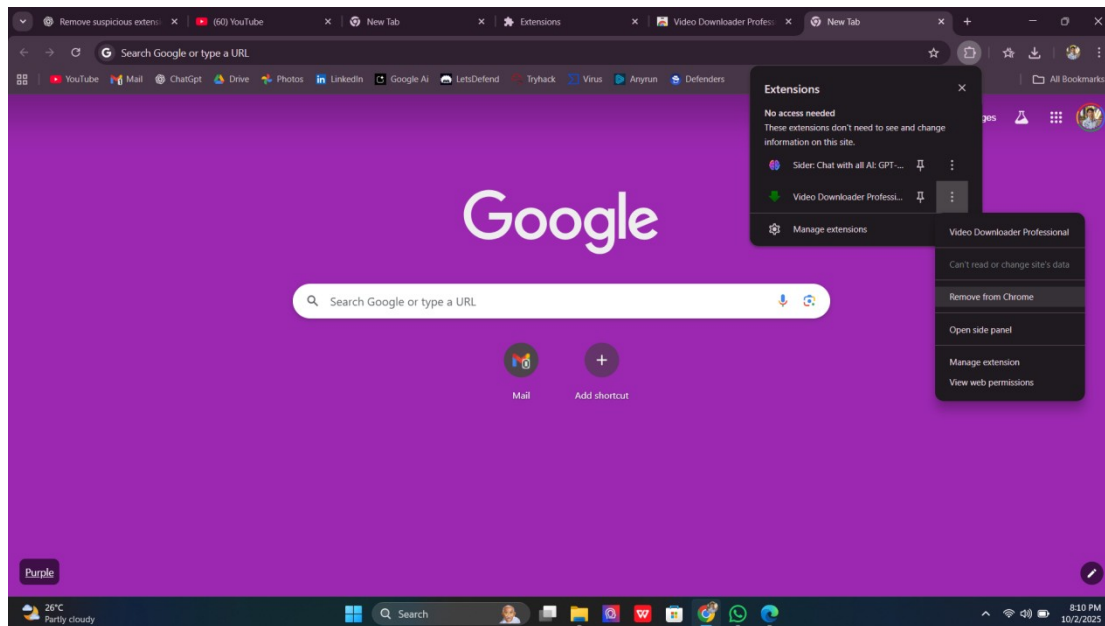
- Chrome: Menu (⋮) → More Tools → Extensions
- Reviewed Installed Extensions
- Listed all installed extensions in the browser.
- Checked for unfamiliar or rarely used extensions.
- Checked Permissions and Reviews
- Clicked Details for each extension.
- Reviewed permissions requested by extensions (e.g., access to all website data).
- Checked ratings and reviews on the official store for legitimacy.
- Identified Suspicious or Unnecessary Extensions
- Extensions with unusual permissions, unknown origin, or negative reviews were flagged.
- Rarely used extensions were also considered unnecessary.
- Removed Suspicious Extensions
- Clicked Remove or Uninstall and confirmed.
- Ensured only safe, necessary extensions remained.
- Restarted Browser
- Closed and reopened the browser to check performance improvements.
- Confirmed that unwanted behavior like pop-ups or slowdowns was resolved.
- Researched Risks of Malicious Extensions

Malicious extensions can:

- Track browsing activity
- Steal credentials or personal data
- Inject unwanted ads or redirect searches
- Slow down browser performance

Findings / Extensions Removed Extension Name Reason for Removal Action Taken
Evidence Unknown Toolbar Not recognized, suspicious Removed Screenshot Coupon
Finder Excessive permissions, ads Removed Screenshot Video Downloader Rarely
used, unnecessary Removed Screenshot

Evidence / Screenshot Figure 1: Screenshot showing the suspicious extension in Chrome Extensions Manager before removal.



Outcome

- Increased awareness of browser security risks.
- Learned to safely evaluate and remove suspicious extensions.
- Improved browser performance and reduced potential security threats.