

CYBER SECURITY INTERNSHIP – Task 7

Task Name: Identify and Remove Suspicious Browser Extensions

Objective: Learn to spot and remove potentially harmful browser extensions.

Tools Used: Google Chrome / Mozilla Firefox

Outcome: Improved awareness of browser security risks and best practices to manage extensions.

Steps to Perform the Task:

1. Open Browser Extension Manager

- For **Chrome**:
Go to `chrome://extensions/` or click on : > Extensions > Manage Extensions
- For **Firefox**:
Go to `about:addons` or click the menu > Add-ons and Themes > Extensions

2. Reviewed Installed Extensions

- I manually examined the name, developer info, description, and permissions of each extension.

3. Evaluated Permissions & Source

- I paid attention to permissions like:
 - *“Read and change all your data on all websites”*
 - *Access to clipboard, browsing history, or user data*

4. Cross-Verified on Web Store

- I checked user reviews and ratings from the Chrome Web Store for each extension.

5. Identified Unnecessary or Suspicious Extensions

- Extensions with unclear publishers, low trust, or not actively used by me were marked for removal.

6. Removed/Disabled Extensions

- I removed four extensions that were either unnecessary, inactive, or posed potential risks.

7. Restarted Browser

- After removing the extensions, I restarted my browser and verified that the performance was smooth.

My Installed Extensions & Review

Extension Name	Status	Reason
Dark Reader	Kept	Trusted utility for dark mode; actively used.
Google Docs Offline	Kept	Official Google extension; provides offline access to Docs.
Google Scholar Button	Kept	Useful academic tool; safe and from a trusted source.
Grammarly: AI Writing Checker	Kept	Trusted grammar tool; useful and secure.
HP Network Check Launcher	Removed	HP OEM tool; not necessary for my browser usage.
McAfee® WebAdvisor	Removed	Bundled software is known to cause performance and privacy issues.
Sider: Chat with all AI models	Kept	Actively used AI assistant; no suspicious behavior noted.
SignalHire - Find Email/Phone	Kept	Over-permissioned, could potentially leak data but useful for me at the time being.
StudyX: AI Homework Assistant	Kept	Educational and helpful tool; safe to use.
WA Web Plus by Elbruz Technologies	Removed	Inactive extension; unnecessary for my needs.
Wappalyzer - Technology Profiler	Kept	Developer tool, reliable and non-intrusive.

Key Learnings:

- Not all extensions are secure, even if they serve a useful purpose.
- Extensions should be periodically reviewed to remove unnecessary ones.
- Permissions like full access to websites should always be scrutinized.
- Inactive or bundled extensions often pose hidden risks.