Task 7 : Identify and Remove Suspicious Browser Extensions

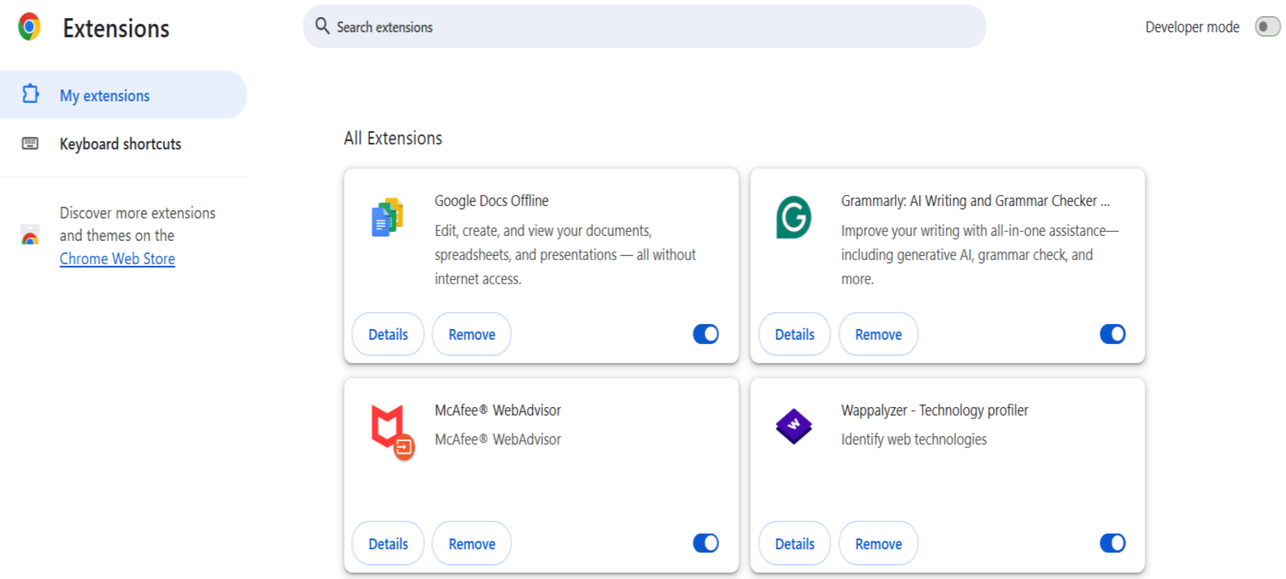
Objective: Learn to spot and remove potentially harmful browser extensions.

Tools used:

Chrome,Firefox

Extensions:

Google:



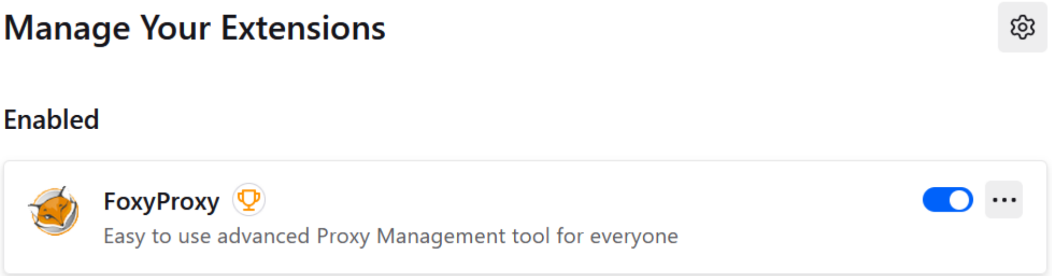
Google Docs Offline
Edit, create, and view your documents, spreadsheets, and presentations — all without internet access.

Grammarly: AI Writing and Grammar Checker ...
Improve your writing with all-in-one assistance—including generative AI, grammar check, and more.

McAfee® WebAdvisor
McAfee® WebAdvisor

Wappalyzer - Technology profiler
Identify web technologies

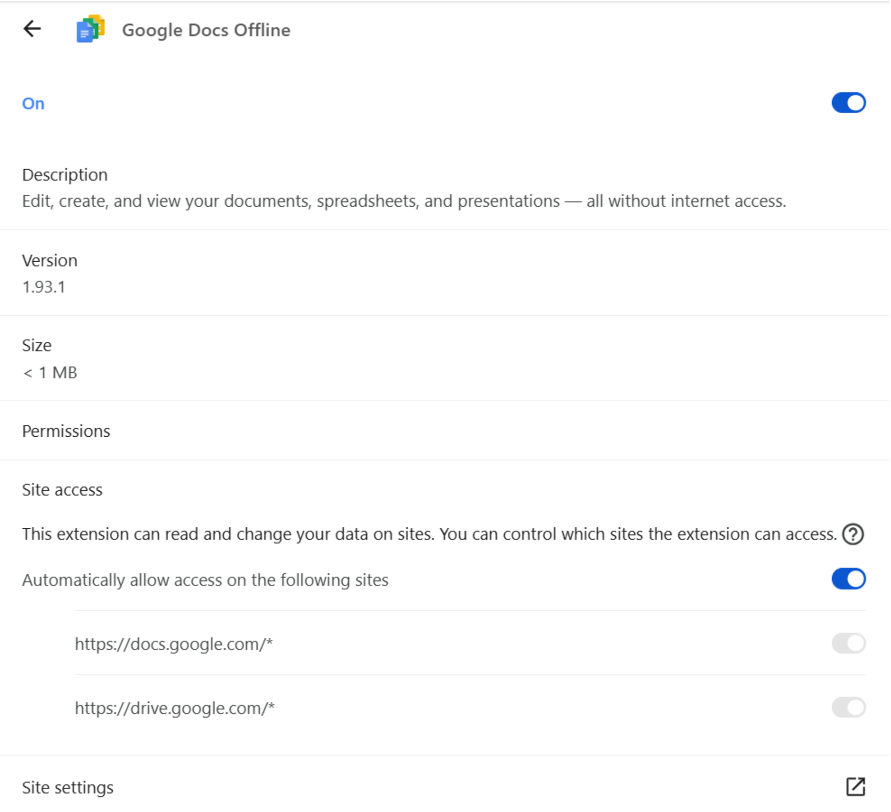
Firefox:



FoxyProxy
Easy to use advanced Proxy Management tool for everyone

Permissions for extensions:

1.Google Docs Offline:



Google Docs Offline

On

Description
Edit, create, and view your documents, spreadsheets, and presentations — all without internet access.

Version
1.93.1

Size
< 1 MB

Permissions

Site access

This extension can read and change your data on sites. You can control which sites the extension can access.

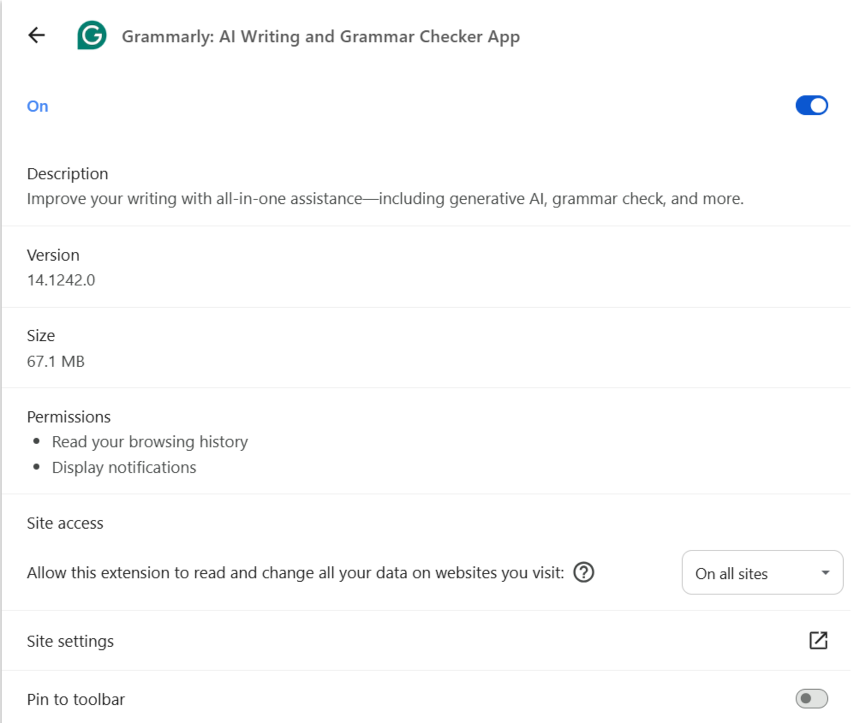
Automatically allow access on the following sites

https://docs.google.com/*

https://drive.google.com/*

Site settings

2.Grammarly:



Grammarly: AI Writing and Grammar Checker App

On

Description
Improve your writing with all-in-one assistance—including generative AI, grammar check, and more.

Version
14.1242.0

Size
67.1 MB

Permissions
- Read your browsing history
- Display notifications

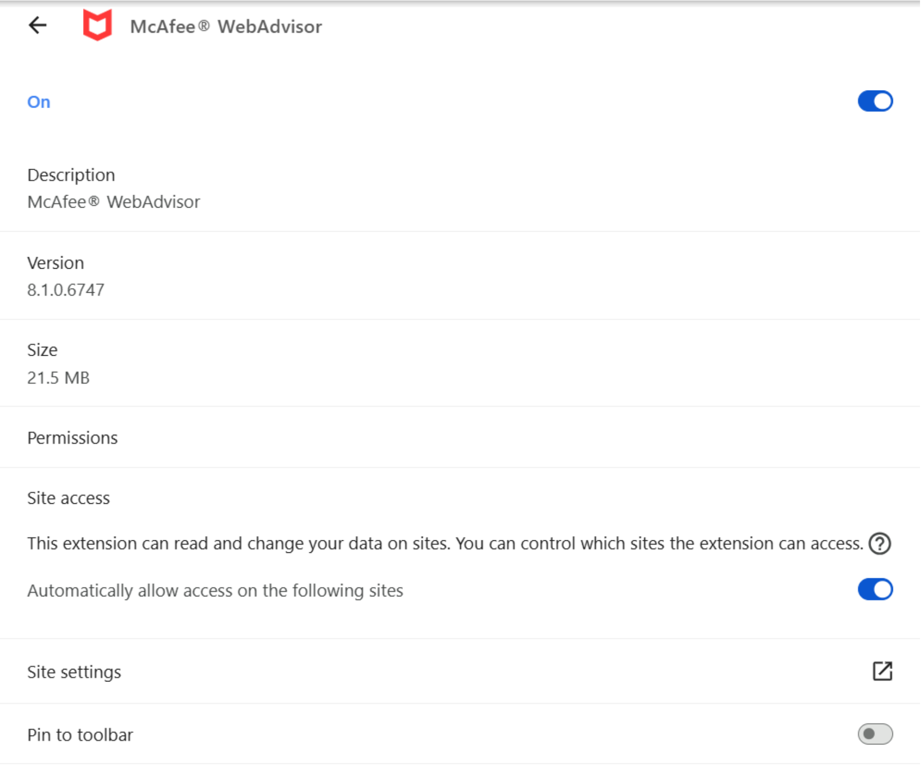
Site access

Allow this extension to read and change all your data on websites you visit: On all sites

Site settings

Pin to toolbar

Mcafee:



McAfee® WebAdvisor

On

Description
McAfee® WebAdvisor

Version
8.1.0.6747

Size
21.5 MB

Permissions

Site access

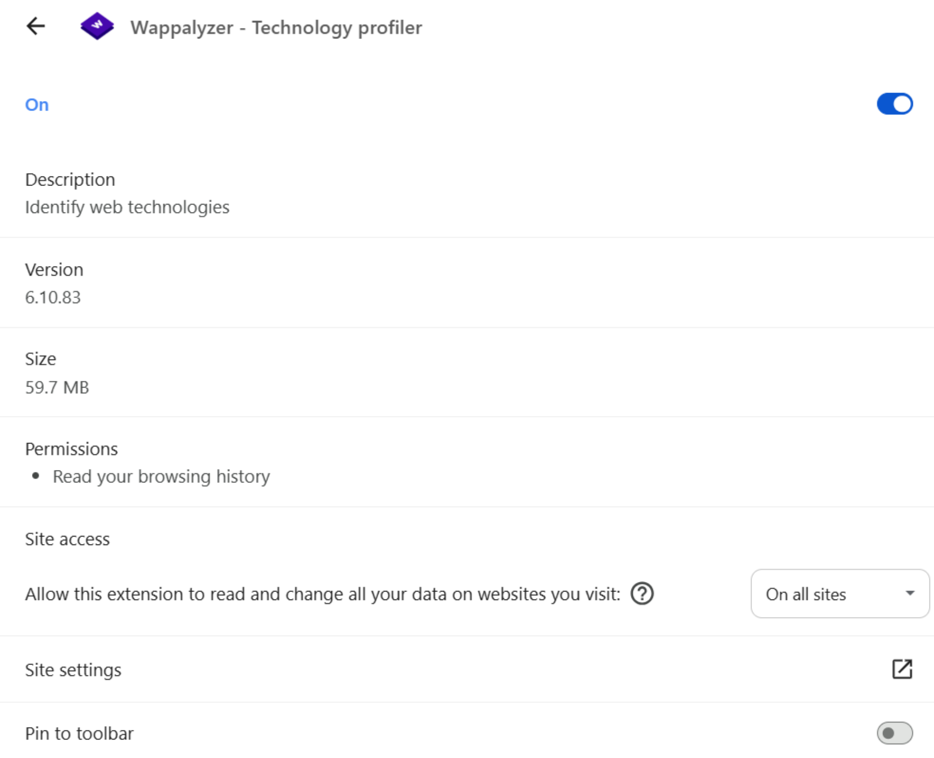
This extension can read and change your data on sites. You can control which sites the extension can access.

Automatically allow access on the following sites

Site settings

Pin to toolbar

Wappalyzer:



Wappalyzer - Technology profiler

On

Description
Identify web technologies

Version
6.10.83

Size
59.7 MB

Permissions
- Read your browsing history

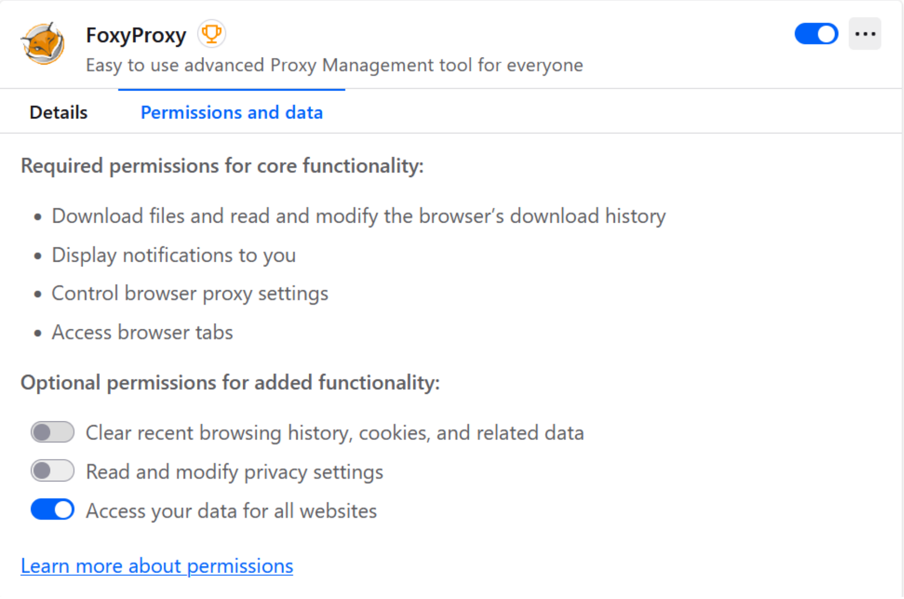
Site access

Allow this extension to read and change all your data on websites you visit: On all sites

Site settings

Pin to toolbar

FoxyProxy:



FoxyProxy

Easy to use advanced Proxy Management tool for everyone

Details | Permissions and data

Required permissions for core functionality:

- Download files and read and modify the browser's download history
- Display notifications to you
- Control browser proxy settings
- Access browser tabs

Optional permissions for added functionality:

○ Clear recent browsing history, cookies, and related data

○ Read and modify privacy settings

● Access your data for all websites

Learn more about permissions

Performance improvement:

After reviewing my browser extensions, I confirmed that all are in active use and trusted. While I did not remove any, restarting the browsers allowed me to assess performance. There were no noticeable issues such as slow loading, memory lag, or browser crashes. This suggests that the current set of extensions is not negatively impacting performance.

How Malicious Browser Extensions Harm Users

1.Stealing sensitive data:

There are some extensions which requests for more permissions to read and change all the data on the websites which we visit. Suppose that extension is malicious , it can use this permissions to steal sensitive information such as passwords, session cookies, and any personal details.

Example: A fake extension impersonating “google translate” was caught sealing data from gmail users by executing hidden scripts.

2.Tracks browsing history:

Malicious extensions may silently monitor and log all the the things we do ad all the websites we visit. This data can be sold to third parties to create profiles.

3.Inject Advertisements and redirect users:

Extensions can modify the website content we frequently visit by injecting unwanted advertisements.this disturbs the user experience and slows down performance.and they re direct to malicious websites .

Steps taken :

1. Open the extension settings in both Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox.
2. Review all installed extensions to check their purpose and usage.
3. Verify the safety of each extension by checking permissions and publisher details.
4. Identify any extensions that are unused or suspicious.
5. Decide to keep all extensions that are frequently used or potentially useful.
6. Restart the browsers to observe any changes in performance.
7. Ensure the browser functions normally without lag or issues.