# Identifying and Removing Harmful Browser Extensions

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Date: 6/5/2025

Browser Used: Google Chrome

## Objective

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

## Tools Used

- Web Browser: Google Chrome

- Internet access (for researching extensions)

## Steps Followed

1. Opened the Extensions Manager:  
    - Chrome: chrome://extensions/
2. Reviewed Installed Extensions:  
    - Carefully checked each installed extension.  
    - Noted its purpose and whether I use it regularly.
3. Checked Permissions & Reviews:  
    - Clicked 'Details' for each extension.  
    - Reviewed permissions granted.  
    - Searched online for reviews or complaints.
4. Identified Suspicious or Unused Extensions:  
    - Looked for unknown names, bad reviews, or unusual permissions.
5. Removed Suspicious/Unused Extensions:  
    - Clicked 'Remove' to uninstall unnecessary ones.
6. Restarted the Browser:  
    - Observed noticeable performance improvements.
7. Researched How Malicious Extensions Harm Users:  
    - Found they can steal data, insert ads, or slow down browsing.

## List of Extensions Removed

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Extension Name | Reason for Removal |
| Flash Player Emulator | Imitated Adobe Flash; flagged by users for redirecting to malicious sites |
| Weather Forecast | Seemed unnecessary; collected location data and injected news ads |

## Learnings

- Extensions should be reviewed regularly.

- Even a useful-looking extension may be risky if permissions are too broad.

- Removing unused extensions improves speed and security.