



Theo [Redacted]

Updates to Chrome Web Store Policy

1 message

chromewebstore-dev-support@google.com <chromewebstore-dev-support@google.com> Wed, Jul 5, 2017 at 10:20 AM

Reply-To: chromewebstore-dev-support@google.com

To: [Redacted]

Dear Developer,

Protecting users and user choice have been long-standing principles of Google's core philosophy. That is why [three years ago](#), Chrome released an extension-based [Settings Overrides API](#) for Chrome on Windows that ensures all users have notice and control over any settings change that take place in their browser. Earlier this year, we implemented the same API for macOS.

Starting August 1, the only compliant way to programmatically change the startup page, homepage, search provider setting, or any other setting that has an API is via the appropriate API. If your extension affects changes to any of these functions, it must use the API.

Extensions that have been using the Webrequest API (or other mechanisms) to redirect search requests from the new tab page or the omnibox, must now use the search provider and/or new tab page API. After August 1st, extensions redirecting search requests from the new tab page or omnibox without using these APIs will be removed from the store.

Extensions that perform automatic redirections from a web page URL must display a prominent notice informing the user of the redirection. For example, if an extension redirects search queries from www.google.com (or any other search provider), the extension's notice must:

- **Be prominent:** large, conspicuous, and close in proximity to the search box and on the search engine results page
- **Be timely:** shown prior to the user executing the search
- **Be persistent:** the prominent notice (including the name) cannot automatically disappear or be dismissable; it must show up every time, not just prior to the first redirect
- Must show the name of the extension (and the brand of search engine, if different) and what will happen
- Not look similar to a system or Chrome dialog box or user-interface element; for example, disclosures in yellow bars that look similar to Chrome's yellow ("butter") bars are not permitted.

Extensions must also comply with other [Chrome Web Store policies](#) and Google's [Unwanted Software Policy](#).

Sincerely,

Chrome Web Store Team

You have received this mandatory service announcement to update you about important changes to your account.

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