

# Identify and Remove Suspicious Browser Extensions

## Objective

To learn how to identify, analyze, and remove potentially harmful browser extensions to improve browser security, privacy, and performance.

## Tools Used

- Google Chrome Web Browser

### Step 1: Open Browser Extension Manager

The Chrome Extensions Manager was opened using:

**Menu (:) → Extensions → Manage Extensions**

### Step 2: Review All Installed Extensions Carefully

All installed extensions were reviewed by checking their names, purposes, status (enabled/disabled), and whether they were genuinely needed. Chrome's built-in **Safety Check** section was also reviewed for warnings.

### Step 3: Check Permissions and Reviews for Each Extension

Permissions requested by each extension were examined, especially access to:

- Browsing data
- Website content
- Background activity

Chrome safety warnings and policy messages were used to assess extension reliability.

### Step 4: Identify Unused or Suspicious Extensions

Chrome flagged **two extensions as unsafe**, indicating potential security risks:

Extension Name	Status	Reason
Free VPN ZenMate – Best VPN for Chrome	Disabled	Chrome cannot verify the source
IRCTC Tatkal Automation Tool	Disabled	Violates Chrome Web Store policy

These extensions were identified as suspicious due to policy violations and unknown sources.

The screenshot shows the 'Extensions' page in Google Chrome. At the top, there are four tabs: '(1) WhatsApp', 'task.pdf', 'Remove Suspicious Extensions', and 'Extensions'. Below the tabs, the URL 'chrome://extensions' is visible. A search bar with the placeholder 'Search extensions' is at the top right. On the left, a sidebar has 'My extensions' selected. The main content area is titled 'Safety check' and lists two extensions as unsafe: 'Free VPN ZenMate-Best VPN for Chrome' and 'IRCTC Tatkal Automation Tool'. Both have a status of 'Off' and a note about Chrome not verifying their origin. A 'Remove all' button is available. Below this, under 'All extensions', two extensions are listed: 'Adobe Acrobat' and 'Foxified', each with a 'Details' and 'Remove' button and a toggle switch.

This screenshot is identical to the one above, showing the 'Extensions' page in Google Chrome with the same tabs, URL, and extension safety check results. The extensions 'Free VPN ZenMate-Best VPN for Chrome' and 'IRCTC Tatkal Automation Tool' are both marked as unsafe ('Off') and listed under the 'Safety check' section. The 'All extensions' section below shows the same two extensions with their respective details and removal options.

This screenshot is identical to the previous ones, showing the 'Extensions' page in Google Chrome. The layout, tabs, URL, and extension safety check results are all the same. The 'All extensions' section also displays the same two extensions: 'Adobe Acrobat' and 'Foxified'.

Extensions

Search extensions

Developer mode

My extensions

Keyboard shortcuts

Discover more extensions and themes on the [Chrome Web Store](#)

IRCTC Tatkal Automation Tool

Chrome recommends you review this extension  
This extension violates the Chrome Web Store policy and might be unsafe. Remove it from Chrome so that it can no longer see and change your data on sites that you visit, including your personal info.

Keep Remove

Off

Description  
IRCTC Tatkal Automation Tool helps you book IRCTC tatkal tickets at an ease. It autofills and submits all data during tatkal booking

Version  
0.1.1

Size  
< 1 MB

Permissions  
• Read your browsing history

Site access

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## Step 5: Remove Suspicious or Unnecessary Extensions

The suspicious extensions were **disabled and removed** using the **Remove** option as recommended by Chrome to reduce security risks.

## Step 6: Restart Browser and Check Performance

After removing the suspicious extensions, the browser was restarted.

Result observed:

- Improved browser stability
- No unexpected redirects or warnings
- Faster page loading

## Step 7: Research How Malicious Extensions Can Harm Users

Malicious browser extensions can:

- Steal personal data and passwords
- Track browsing activity without consent
- Inject unwanted ads or redirects
- Slow down browser performance
- Install additional malware

## **Step 8: Documentation of Actions Taken**

### **Suspicious Extensions Removed**

<b>Extension Name</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>
Free VPN ZenMate – Best VPN for Chrome	Removed
IRCTC Tatkal Automation Tool	Removed

### **Safe Extensions Retained**

<b>Extension Name</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Adobe Acrobat PDF Tools	PDF viewing and editing
Foxified	Firefox extension compatibility

### **Conclusion**

Regularly reviewing browser extensions is essential for maintaining security and privacy. Chrome's safety check helped identify unsafe extensions, which were removed to ensure a safer and more efficient browsing experience.