## Using uBlock Origin to Bypass YouTube's Anti-Adblock

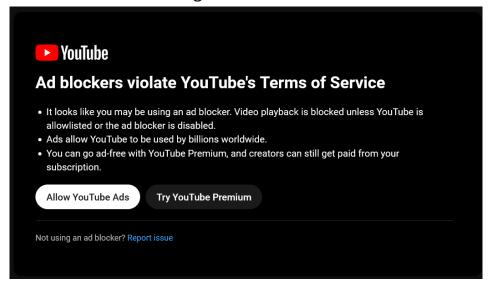
(Updated 10/11/2023)

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#### **Installing uBlock Origin**

The most reliable way to block YouTube's anti-adblock (shown below) is to use the browser extension uBlock Origin.



YouTube's anti-adblock.

uBlock Origin works most reliably with the FireFox browser, so I recommend using that browser. That said, this tutorial will work with any browser that uBlock Origin is available on. It will not work with the YouTube mobile app.

- 1. Install the uBlock Origin extension from its website, <u>uBlockOrigin.com</u>. You can also download it from your web browser's extension store.
- 2. Once the uBlock Origin is installed, restart your browser and check YouTube to see if the anti-adblock still appears.
  - a. If it doesn't, then you're all set.
  - b. If it does show up, then something is not working correctly. Follow the steps in **Troubleshooting uBlock Origin**.

## **Troubleshooting uBlock Origin**

If you have uBlock Origin installed but YouTube's adblock notifications are still showing up, follow these steps to troubleshoot.

#### I. Ensure that you have the latest version of uBlock Origin installed.

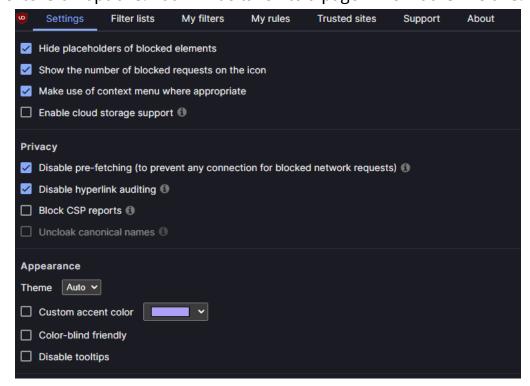
- 1. Navigate to the **Manage Extensions** page on your browser. Reference the links below to see how you can find this page on your browser.
  - Chrome
  - Firefox
  - o Edge
  - o Safari
- On the Manage Extensions page, locate the uBlock Origin extension.
  Select it to view it in detail. On the Details page, look for the Version number.
  - This number should match the version number listed on the <u>uBlockOrigin.com</u> underneath the black "Get uBlock Origin" button.



The uBlock Origin homepage. The current version is 1.52.2.

- 3. If the version number between your version of uBlock Origin and the one listed on the site do not match, update your extension.
  - I recommend enabling automatic updates for uBlock Origin to ensure it is always up to date.

- **II. Reset your uBlock Origin to default settings.** This is done in case any of your custom configurations are interfering with YouTube adblocking.
  - 1. Navigate to the uBlock Origin **Dashboard**. To do this, follow the same steps as before to navigate to the **Manage Extensions** page and view the details for uBlock Origin. On the **Details** page, locate the link to the extension options. You will be taken to a page which looks like this:



The uBlock Origin Dashboard.

- 2. *(Optional)* If you would like to, make a backup of your configurations. To save your current filter lists and configurations, select the "Back up to file..." button located near the bottom of the page.
- 3. Select the "Reset to default settings..." button located near the bottom of the page.
- 4. Update your filter lists. While still on the **Dashboard**, select the "Filter lists" tab from the header at the top of the page. Then, select the "Update now" button located underneath the header.

At this point, restart your browser and check YouTube to see if the anti-adblock still appears. If it does, then continue to step III.

- **III. Disable all other browser extensions.** If you have other browser extensions installed, one of them may be conflicting or interfering with uBlock Origin.
  - 1. Once again, navigate to the **Manage Extensions** page on your browser.
  - 2. Disable all other browser extensions other than uBlock Origin.
    - Disabling the extensions is enough. You do not need to completely uninstall or remove them.

# At this point, restart your browser and check YouTube to see if the anti-adblock still appears. If it does, then continue to step VI.

- **VI. Clear your cache.** This clears settings and information on websites. Clearing the YouTube cache will essentially redownload the website on your device, ensuring uBlock Origin is working with a fresh copy of the website.
  - 1. On most browsers, the easiest way to find the cache settings is to navigate to the browser tools menu near the top-right corner of the window and selecting "Settings". Once on the **Settings** page, use the search bar at the top of the page to search for "cache".
    - o You do not need to clear your history or your cookies.
  - 2. Restart your browser. If you have followed every step correctly, YouTube's anti-adblock should no longer appear! If it still shows up, try the fixes in **Further Troubleshooting uBlock Origin**.

## **Further Troubleshooting uBlock Origin**

YouTube's anti-adblock is updated frequently, and solutions that worked last week may fail the following week. If you have followed all the steps but YouTube's anti-adblock still appears, try the following.

- Double-check your extensions to make sure uBlock Origin is still the only one enabled; sometimes other extensions get reenabled automatically.
- Check using a private window. Navigate to the Manage Extensions page on your browser and view the Details page for uBlock Origin. There should be a setting to allow the extension to run in private windows/incognito mode/etc; enable that setting. Then, open a new private window in your browser (This can be done using Ctrl + Shift + p on Firefox and Ctrl + Shift + n on most other browsers). Check YouTube to see if the anti-adblock still appears.
  - If it doesn't, verify that you have completed steps III-VI of <u>Troubleshooting uBlock Origin</u> correctly.
  - If it does, update your browser and follow the troubleshooting steps again.
- **Switch to a different browser**, install uBlock Origin on that browser, and see if the problem persists.
- **Temporary fix for Firefox:** Disable uBlock Origin before opening any YouTube videos. Open a YouTube video, then re-enable uBlock Origin and refresh the page. This will trick YouTube into thinking you have disabled the extension, and you will be able to browse YouTube ad-free on this tab. If you want to open YouTube on another tab, you will have to repeat this process.