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Section B

Written Homework 4
How to Use ExplainShell for Chrome

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1 Introduction

1.1 Motivation

Many times, when using the terminal you encounter lines of shell code that wished you could have explained. Fortunately, the site ExplainShell.com does just this. However, having to copy, switch tabs, and then paste can distract from what you were doing when you encountered that line of shell code. The Chrome extension ExplainShell for Chrome alleviates this issue. In this tutorial, we'll describe the process installing and using ExplainShell for Chrome.

1.2 Overview

Following this tutorial will take **no longer than 5 minutes**. All in all, it's a **total of 6 steps**. You're a perfect candidate for this tutorial if you often work in a terminal or command line environment. All you need is a computer with the Google Chrome web browser installed! Let's get started.

2 Installation

First we need to install ExplainShell for Chrome. We can do this through the Chrome Webstore.

2.1 Navigate to the Chrome Webstore

Within Chrome, navigate to the URL `https://chrome.google.com/webstore/`. This is illustrated in Figure 1.

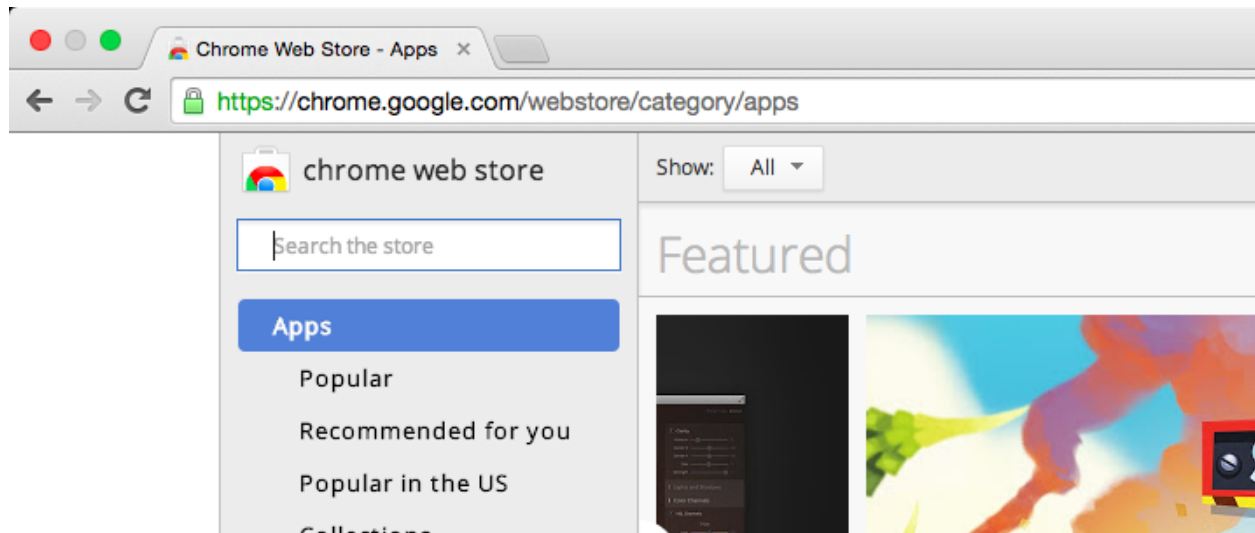


Figure 1: Navigating to the Chrome Webstore

2.2 Search for ExplainShell for Chrome

In the search box on that page, search for **“ExplainShell for Chrome”**. If you’re having trouble locating the search box, be sure to check out Figure 2.

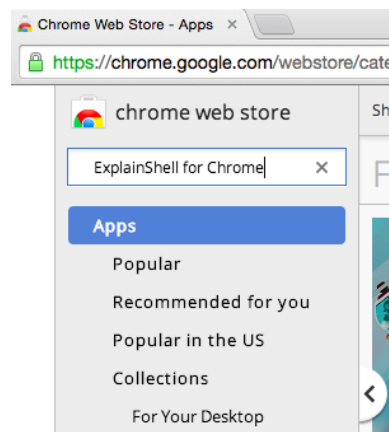


Figure 2: Search for “ExplainShell for Chrome”

2.3 Install the Extension

Your search should have turned up the correct extension. At the time of writing this tutorial, this search returns only one result. Be sure to check Figure 3 if your search returned multiple results in order to disambiguate between the results.

Click on the **blue “+ Free” button** to the right to download and install the extension.

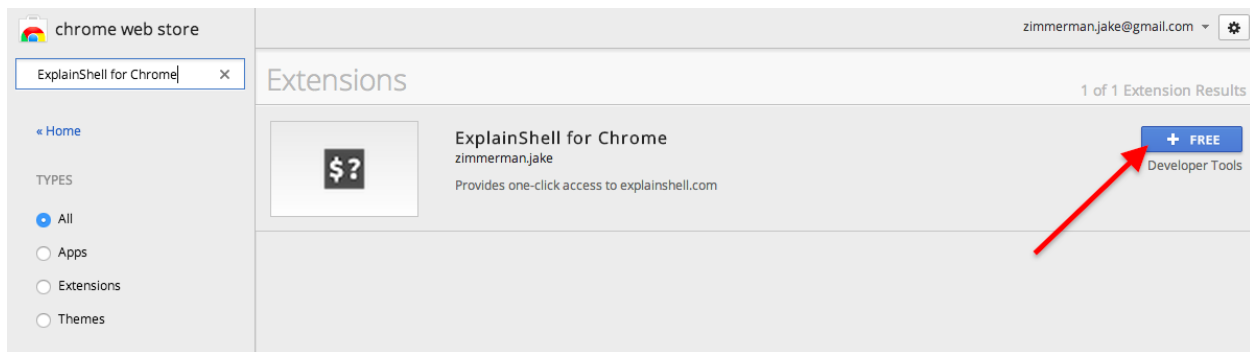


Figure 3: Click the button pointed to by the red arrow to install.

2.4 Confirm the Installation

After clicking the button, Chrome will ask you if you really mean to install the extension. **Click “Add” to continue** and it should install in seconds.

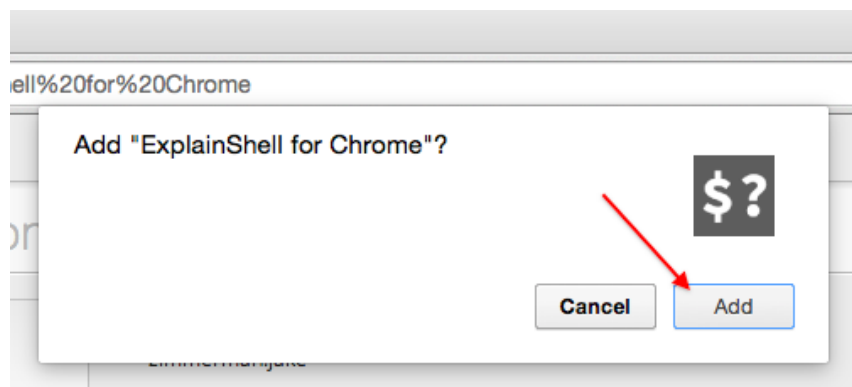


Figure 4: Click the button pointed to by the red arrow to confirm.

3 Usage

The following steps will describe how to actually use ExplainShell for Chrome to look up a line of shell code.

3.1 Context

Let's say that I'm interested in installing the Homebrew package manager. I've navigated to their site and I see that to install, they want me to run a particular line of code. Curious as to what this line does, I decide to use ExplainShell for Chrome to look it up.

This is just one example of how to use ExplainShell for Chrome. If you happen to have a different site where you know there's a line of shell code, feel free to follow along there! For reference though, you can see what my screen looks like in Figure 5.



Figure 5: I'll be using the site `brew.sh` to demonstrate.

3.2 Select the text and look it up

Using the extension is incredibly simple.

1. Select the text
2. Right click what you just highlighted (the text should remain highlighted)
3. Locate and click on the menu item that reads "Lookup on explainshell.com". This will take you to explainshell.com in a new tab.

All of these steps can be seen in Figure 6. **If you don't see the item** in the menu that pops up, it's possible that the Chrome extension failed to install. You can verify that the extension is there by navigating to `chrome://extensions` and checking if you see an extension named "ExplainShell for Chrome". If not, repeat the installation steps.

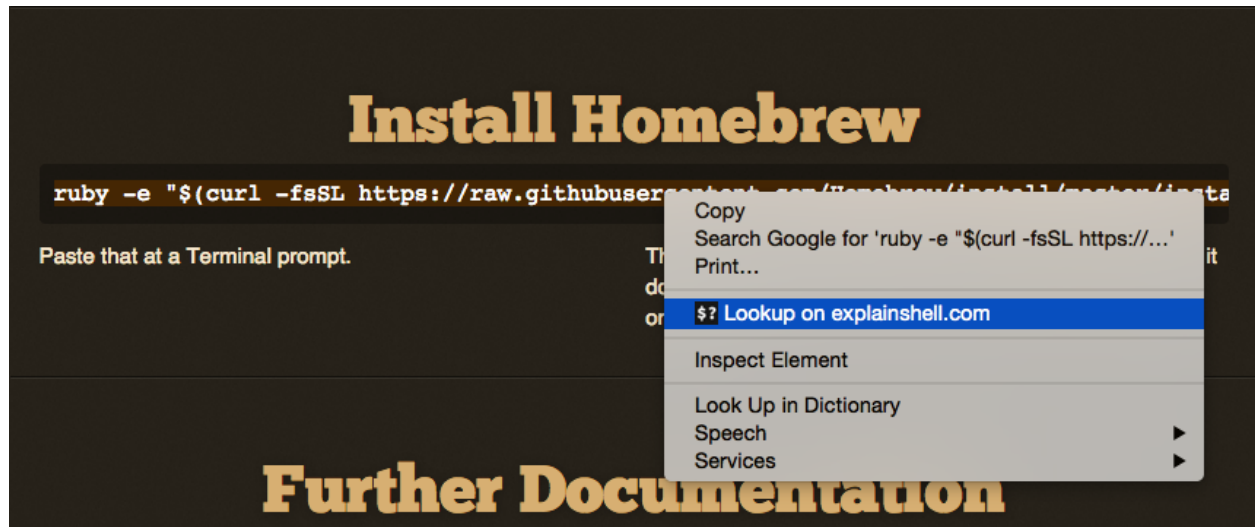


Figure 6: Click the menu item highlighted above to jump to explainshell.com

3.3 ExplainShell.com

After clicking, you should see ExplainShell.com open in a new tab. Peruse the documentation, and close the window when done. Simple!



Figure 7: You should see this after the new tab opens.