

Cyber Security Internship

Task 7 – Identify and Remove Suspicious Browser Extensions

Objective:

To inspect installed browser extensions, remove any suspicious or unnecessary ones, improve browser performance and understand the security risks associated with malicious extensions.

Steps Performed:

1. Opened the Browser's extension / add-on's manager
 - For Chrome/Edge: Navigated to **chrome://extensions/**
 - For Firefox: Opened **about:addons**
 - This displayed a list of all installed extensions
2. Reviewed all installed extensions carefully
 - Checked each extension:
 - Name
 - Description
 - Purpose
 - Icon and developer
 - Confirmed whether we personally installed each one.
3. Checked Permissions and Reviews
 - Opened **Details** for every extension.
 - Examined permissions such as:
 - “read and change all data on websites”
 - “access browsing history”
 - “run in background”
 - Looked up store reviews and ratings to verify legitimacy
4. Identified unused or suspicious extensions

Marked extensions as suspicious if:

- I did not recall installing them
- They had vague names
- Developer information was missing
- They required excessive permissions
- Reviews mentioned privacy or security concerns

- They caused unwanted ad's, pop-up's or slow performance
5. Removed suspicious or unnecessary extensions
- Used the **Remove button** for each suspicious / unused extension
 - Disabled temporarily uncertain ones before deciding to delete
 - Examples of actions taken:

Extension Name	Status	Reason	Action
PDF Converter Pro	Suspicious	Unknown developer, unnecessary permissions	Removed
AdBlock	Safe	Trusted developer, useful	Kept
Shopping Assistant	Unwanted	Auto-installed, caused pop-ups	Removed

6. Restarted Browser and checked performance

After removal:

- Browser opened faster
- Fewer pop-ups and ads
- No unusual redirects
- Search engine and homepage stable
- Memory usage reduced

7. Researched how malicious extensions can harm users

Learned that malicious extensions can:

- Track browsing history
- Steal passwords and personal data
- Inject ads or redirect pages
- Use browser for cryptomining
- Spy on keystrokes
- Modify search engine settings
- Download additional malware

This highlights the importance of regularly reviewing browser extensions

8. Documented steps and extensions removed

All actions taken were recorded, including:

- Extensions reviewed

- Suspicious extensions identified
- Extensions removed
- Browser improvements observed
- Risks associated with malicious extensions

Extensions

Search extensions

Developer mode

My extensions

Keyboard shortcuts

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

Ad Blocker: Stands AdBlocker Stands AdBlocker – it's a free ad blocker for YouTube, Twitch, Pop-Ups, Video Ads, and websites. Block ads everywhere with Stands!	AliTools Shopping Assistant Auto-find & apply AliExpress™ promo codes, price history, seller rating, similar products, find item by picture
Google Docs Offline Edit, create, and view your documents, spreadsheets, and presentations — all without internet access.	PDF Viewer Pro - View, Edit, Fill, Convert, Sign, ... PDF Viewer Pro: Your all-in-one PDF solution. View, edit, fill, comment, and sign PDFs seamlessly in your browser.
Screen Recorder Record a video from the camera or capture it from the screen (desktop, specific application window or browser tab)	Scribe: AI Documentation, SOPs & Screenshots Document any workflow automatically. Share beautiful step-by-step guides in seconds. Save each team member 35 hours/month.

Extensions

Search extensions

Developer mode

My extensions

Keyboard shortcuts

All Extensions

Ad Blocker: Stands AdBlocker Stands AdBlocker – it's a free ad blocker for YouTube, Twitch, Pop-Ups, Video Ads, and websites. Block ads everywhere with Stands!	Google Docs Offline Edit, create, and view your documents, spreadsheets, and presentations — all without internet access.
Screen Recorder Record a video from the camera or capture it from the screen (desktop, specific application window or browser tab)	Scribe: AI Documentation, SOPs & Screenshots Document any workflow automatically. Share beautiful step-by-step guides in seconds. Save each team member 35 hours/month.

Outcome

Unnecessary and suspicious extensions were successfully removed, improving security and browser performance. Regular extension audits will now be part of our cybersecurity hygiene routine.