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# Declare permissions

To use most [extension APIs](#) and features, you must declare your extension's intent in the [manifest's](#) permissions fields. Extensions can request the following categories of permissions, specified using the respective manifest keys:

"permissions"

Contains items from a list of [known strings](#). Changes may trigger a [warning](#).

"optional\_permissions"

Granted by the user at runtime, instead of at install time.

"content\_scripts.matches"

Contains one or more [match patterns](#) that allows content scripts to inject into one or more hosts. Changes may trigger a [warning](#).

"host\_permissions"

Contains one or more [match patterns](#) that give access to one or more hosts. Changes may trigger a [warning](#).

"optional\_host\_permissions"

Granted by the user at runtime, instead of at install time.

Permissions help to limit damage if your extension is compromised by malware. Some permission warning are displayed to users for their consent before installation or at runtime, as detailed in [Permission with warnings](#).

Consider using [optional permissions](#) wherever the functionality of your extension permits, to provide users with informed control over access to resources and data.

If an API requires a permission, its documentation explains how to declare it. For an example, see [Storage API](#).

## Manifest

The following is an example of the permissions section of a [manifest](#) file:

On this page

Manifest

Host permissions

Permissions with warnings

Allow access

Allow access to file URLs and incognito pages

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