**Task 7: Identify and Remove Suspicious Browser Extensions**

**Objective**

To identify, analyze, and remove potentially harmful browser extensions that may compromise privacy, security, or system performance.

**Tools Used**

* Google Chrome (latest version)
* Mozilla Firefox (latest version)

**Steps Taken**

1. **Opened Browser Extension Manager**
   * Chrome: Menu > More Tools > Extensions
   * Firefox: Menu > Add-ons and Themes > Extensions
2. **Reviewed Installed Extensions**
   * Checked all active and inactive extensions installed in the browsers.
   * Verified their source, purpose, and permissions requested.
3. **Analyzed Permissions and Reviews**
   * Extensions with excessive permissions (e.g., access to browsing history, clipboard, or all websites) were flagged for review.
   * Cross-checked reviews/ratings on Chrome Web Store and Mozilla Add-ons.
4. **Identified Suspicious or Unused Extensions**
   * Extensions that were not required for daily use or had poor reputation were considered suspicious.
   * Looked for duplicate functionality (e.g., multiple ad-blockers or PDF viewers).
5. **Removed Suspicious Extensions**
   * Uninstalled unnecessary or suspicious extensions.
   * Restarted the browser to apply changes.
6. **Researched Security Risks**
   * Noted how malicious extensions can:
     + Track browsing history.
     + Inject ads or pop-ups.
     + Redirect to phishing websites.
     + Steal login credentials.
     + Reduce browser performance.
7. **Documented Findings**

**Deliverables**

**List of Extensions Found and Actions Taken**

| **Extension Name** | **Status** | **Action Taken** | **Reason** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Grammarly | Safe | Kept | Verified publisher, used daily |
| Dark Reader | Safe | Kept | Enhances readability, safe reviews |
| Free VPN Proxy | Suspicious | Removed | Unknown publisher, excessive permissions (access to all websites, browsing activity) |
| PDF Converter Pro | Unused | Removed | Duplicate functionality, unnecessary |
| Adblock Plus | Safe | Kept | Widely trusted, improves security |

**Outcome**

* Suspicious and unnecessary extensions were **removed**, improving browser performance and reducing attack surface.
* Gained awareness of how malicious browser extensions operate and why regular review of installed add-ons is essential.
* Ensured only **trusted, verified, and necessary extensions** remain installed.