

BROWSER EXTENSION TO BLOCK TRACKERS

INTERNSHIP PROJECT REPORT

Name: Sowmy

Project Title: Browser Extension to Block Trackers

Technology: JavaScript, HTML, CSS, Manifest v3

1. Introduction

Online tracking has become a major privacy concern in today's internet usage. Many websites load third-party scripts that track user behavior for analytics and advertisements. This project focuses on building a browser extension that blocks such tracking scripts to enhance user privacy.

2. Objective of the Project

The main objectives of this project are:

- To understand browser extension development
- To identify and block tracking domains
- To learn how browsers intercept network requests
- To build a simple and functional privacy tool

3. Tools & Technologies Used

- **Programming Languages:** JavaScript, HTML, CSS
- **Browser:** Google Chrome
- **Extension Standard:** Manifest Version 3
- **Chrome APIs Used:**
 - declarativeNetRequest
 - storage
 - action

4. Project Architecture

- **manifest.json** – Defines permissions, rules, and extension configuration
- **background.js** – Handles tracker blocking logic and counter updates
- **popup.html** – Displays blocked tracker count
- **popup.js** – Fetches and updates counter values
- **popup.css** – Styles the popup UI

5. Working Methodology

1. A predefined list of tracking domains is created
2. Chrome monitors outgoing network requests
3. Requests matching tracker domains are blocked automatically
4. Each blocked request increases a counter
5. The counter is stored using Chrome storage
6. The popup displays the total number of blocked trackers

This process runs silently in the background without affecting normal browsing.

6. Testing & Results

- Advertisement-related requests were blocked
- Console displayed `ERR_BLOCKED_BY_CLIENT`
- Popup correctly showed the number of blocked trackers
- Extension worked without affecting website usability

7. Screenshots Included

- Chrome Extensions page with extension enabled
- Developer Console showing blocked tracker requests
- Extension popup displaying blocked tracker count

8. Security & Privacy Considerations

- No personal data is collected
- No browsing history is stored
- All operations occur locally within the browser
- The extension improves user privacy by blocking trackers

8. Learning Outcomes

- How browser extensions function internally
- Basics of web privacy and tracking
- Practical usage of JavaScript in real-world security tools

9. Conclusion

This project successfully demonstrates a simple yet effective way to block online trackers using browser extensions. It helped in gaining hands-on experience in browser security and extension development.