WORKOUT 01

# Reduce Online Tracking by Using Browser Extensions

**With Security Planner**

Use a browser extension to make it harder for advertising networks and other companies to track you across multiple websites.

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## Your Next Steps

☐ ## Add __Privacy Badger__ to your browser

Privacy Badger is a free tool developed by the nonprofit Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), and widely recommended by privacy and security experts. It is a browser extension that can be used with Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Mozilla Firefox, or Opera. (Privacy Badger does not work with Apple's Safari browser at this time.)

☐ ## Adjust as needed

Think of Privacy Badger as a gatekeeper that allows some types of trackers to load in your browser—for example, cookies that keep you logged in to a particular service—but keeps other trackers out. If a site you're trying to access doesn't load correctly once you're using the extension, you can easily disable it for the site.

# ☐ Add an ad blocker

While Privacy Badger will block some ads that rely on trackers, it isn't intended to stop advertisements from appearing on web pages. You can use the ad blocker uBlock Origin alongside Privacy Badger. Blocking ads can make websites load faster and reduce the risks of "malvertisements"—ads that, if clicked on, will load malware or viruses onto your computer. However, ad blockers sometimes stop sites that rely on ad technology from working correctly. If this happens, uBlock Origin can be disabled for the website you are trying to use.

**Get uBlock Origin for Chrome**    **Get uBlock Origin for Firefox**

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# Why is this important?

- Most websites collect data about you, your devices, and what you do online with the help of third-party trackers. These are small packets of data developed by other companies for purposes such as advertising and analytics, and can be used to track your activity across the internet.

- In some cases, companies may be tracking you across multiple websites without your knowledge or consent. The scope and scale of the data being collected may be unclear.

- The EFF's Privacy Badger blocks third-party trackers from collecting information about multiple sites you visit across the web and from sharing that information with other companies.

- Privacy Badger won't prevent your employer or internet service provider from tracking what you do online. Our pages on using virtual private networks (VPNs), the Tor browser and HTTPS Everywhere include information for people concerned about those aspects of their privacy.

- Learn more at securityplanner.consumerreports.org