Browsers & Extensions

John Acquavella

PMUG Regular Meeting

May 9, 2020

Outline

- Browsers 101
- Extensions 101
- Popular extensions
- Anonymous board member extension profiles
- Guess the board member (w/prizes)

Guess the Board Member

1. John Acquavella
2. Sondra Bradshaw
3. John Carter
4. Frank Croft
5. Art Gorski
6. Jim Romaine

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Browsers 101

Browsers

- Most used software on your computer
- Key considerations: speed, compatibility
- Top 4: Chrome (69%), Firefox (7%), Safari (4%), Microsoft Edge (8%)
- New considerations: privacy, customization, convenience features, mobile integration, minimizing memory usage
- Features being added used to come from extensions
- Firefox has an educational mission

Browser usage %s provided by Jim Hamm as published by Computerworld

Browser Capabilities

- Choice of search engines (most include DuckDuckGo)
- Can sync bookmarks, passwords (encrypted), open tabs, etc. across devices
- Lots of extensions available (esp. Chrome; Safari most limited)
- Reading mode (strips out adds), social media share capabilities, page repository for later viewing

Privacy

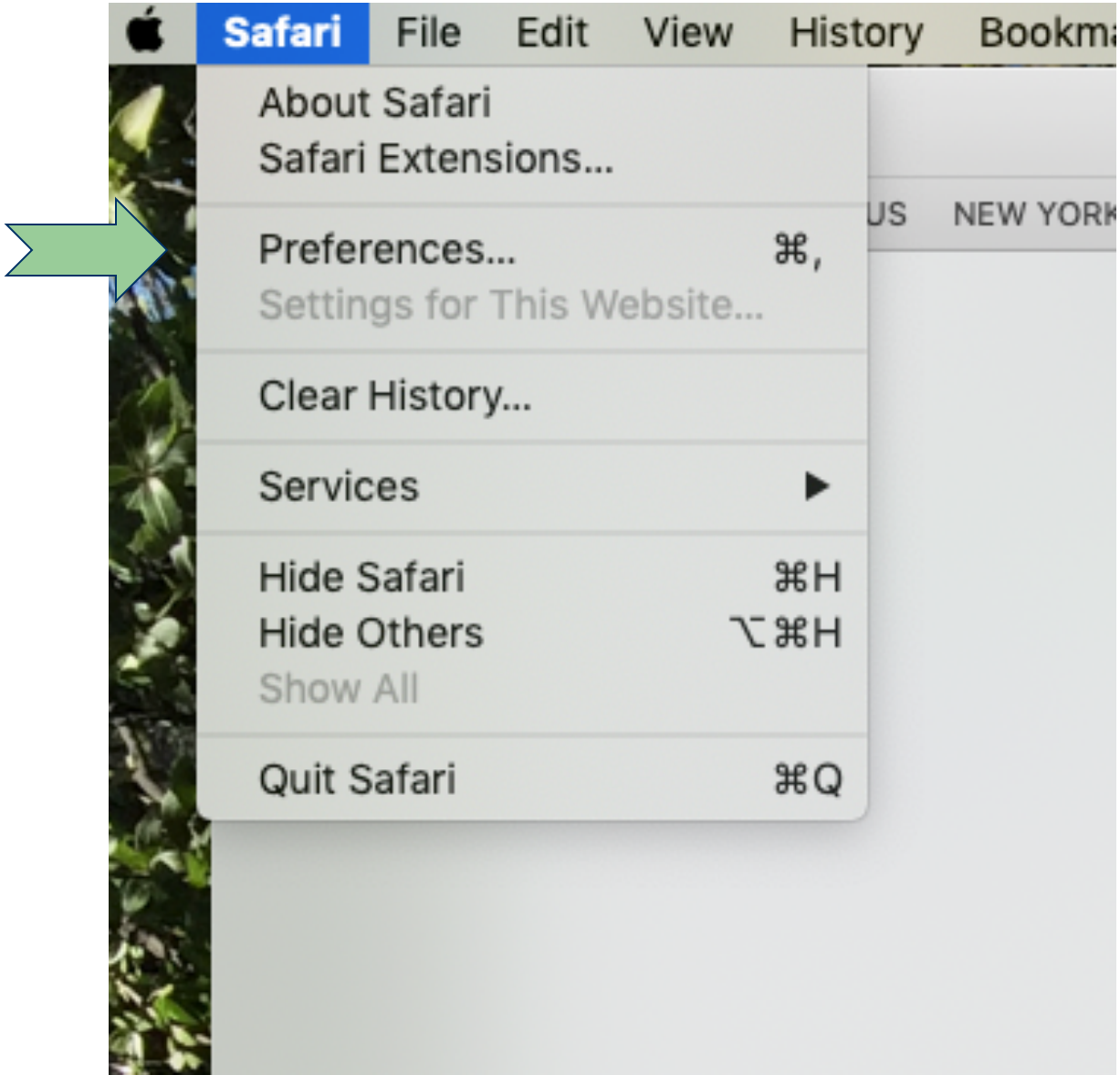
- Privacy mode - discards history and cookies & hides activities from third-party tracking sites
- Fingerprint protection - prevents trackers from identifying you based on your hardware and software setup
- [Firefox] Content blocking - fend off known trackers and cryptocurrency-mining ploys (??)
- [Opera] – built in VPN (virtual private network)

Browser Extensions 101

Browser Extensions 101

- Browser extensions increase the capabilities of your web browser with additional features, modify web pages, and integrate your browser with other services you use.
- Using too many can slow your browsing
- There are some bad actors, so pick from trustworthy providers
- Apple curates extensions for Safari – they must be acquired through the App store or the Safari extensions gallery

What Extensions Are You Using?
Safari/Preferences/Extensions



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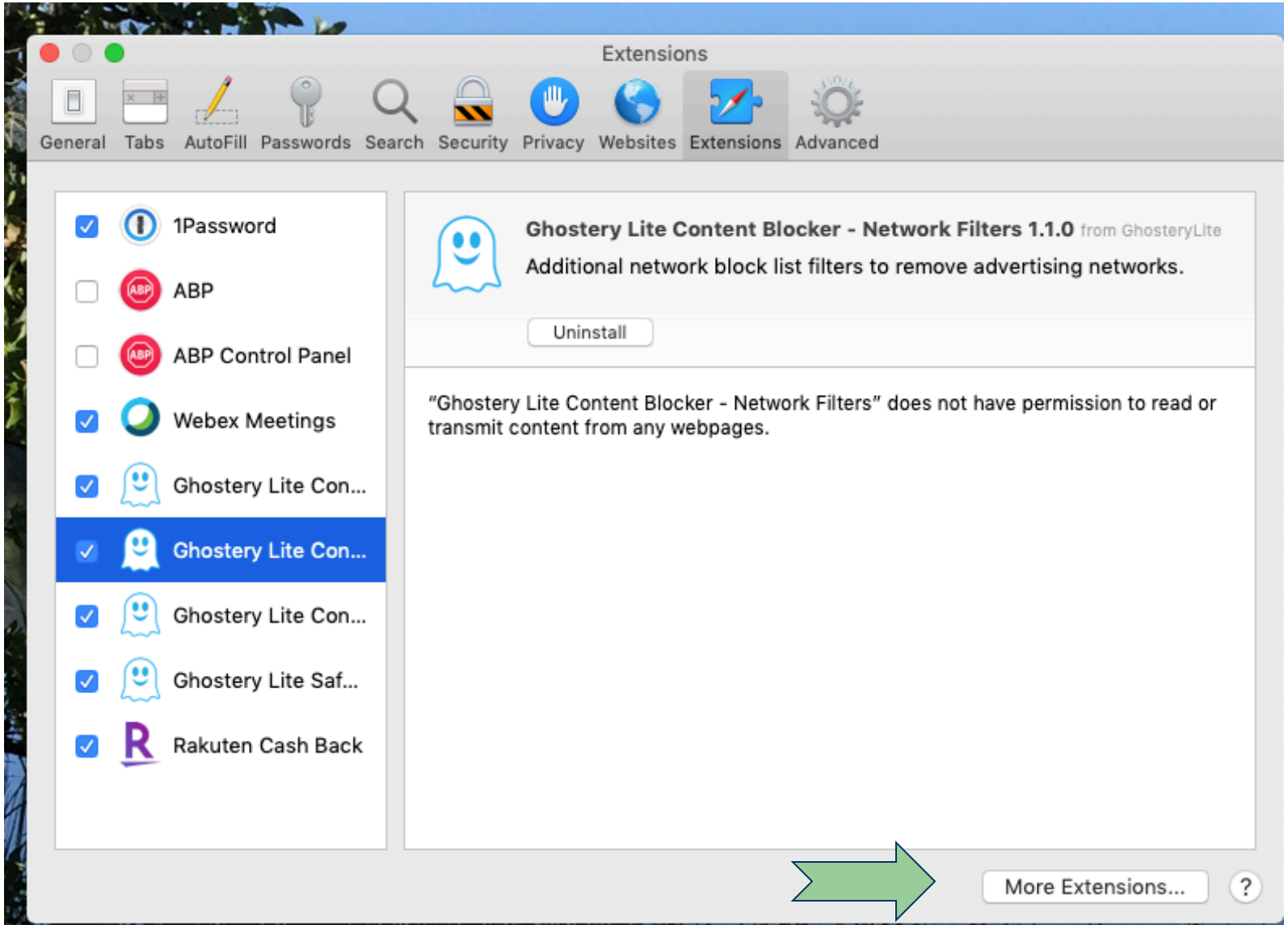
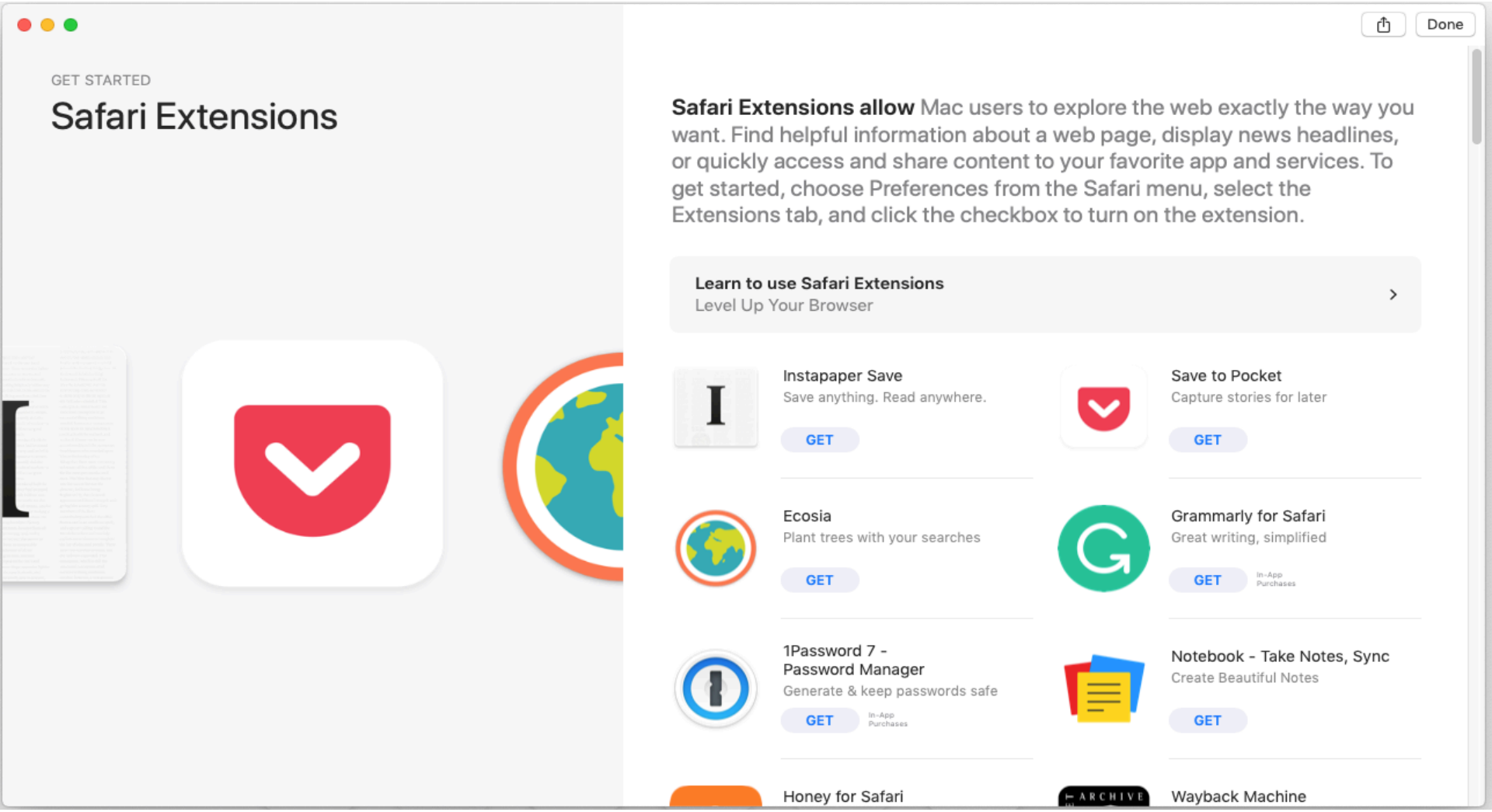
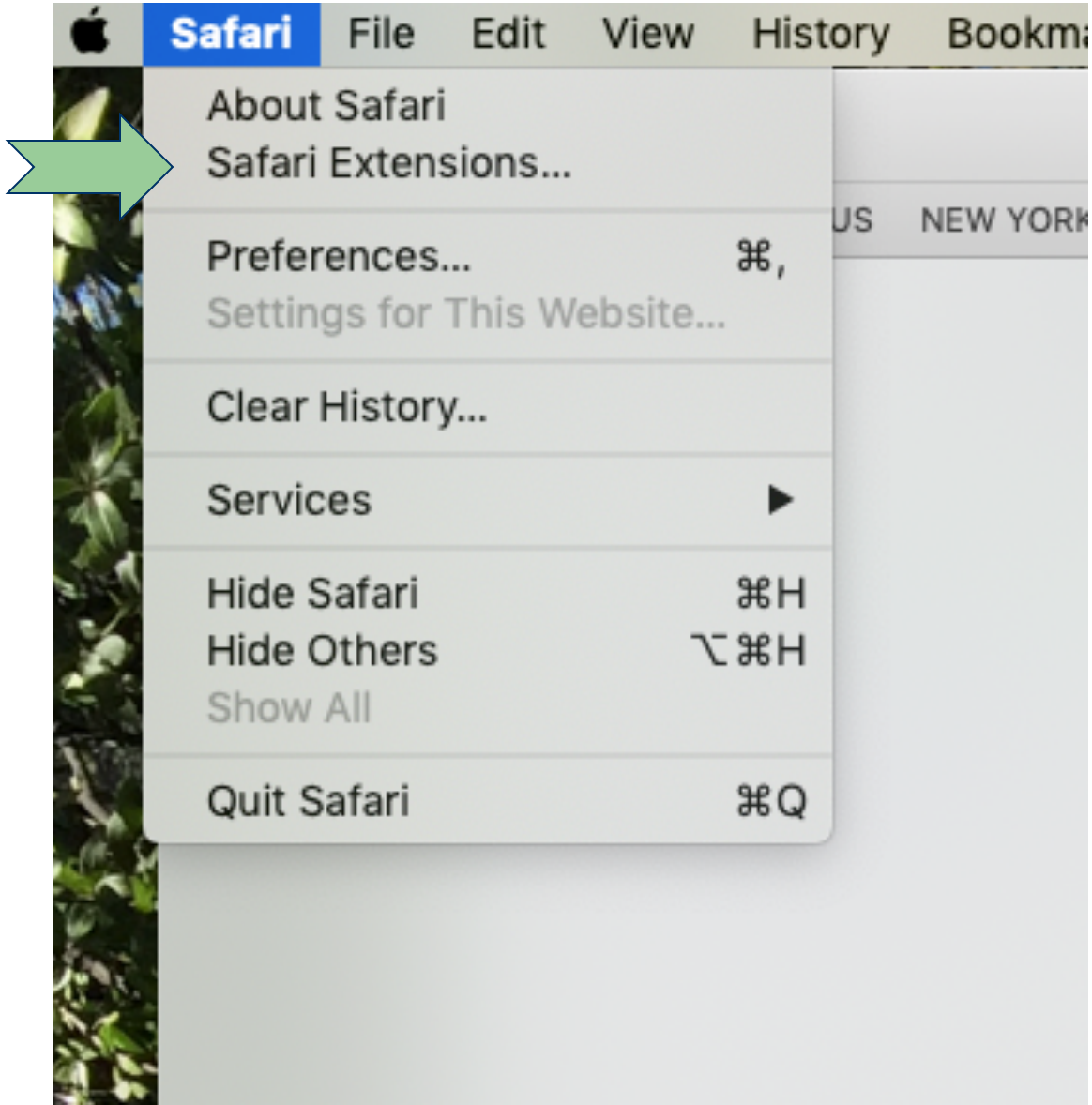


Safari Extensions

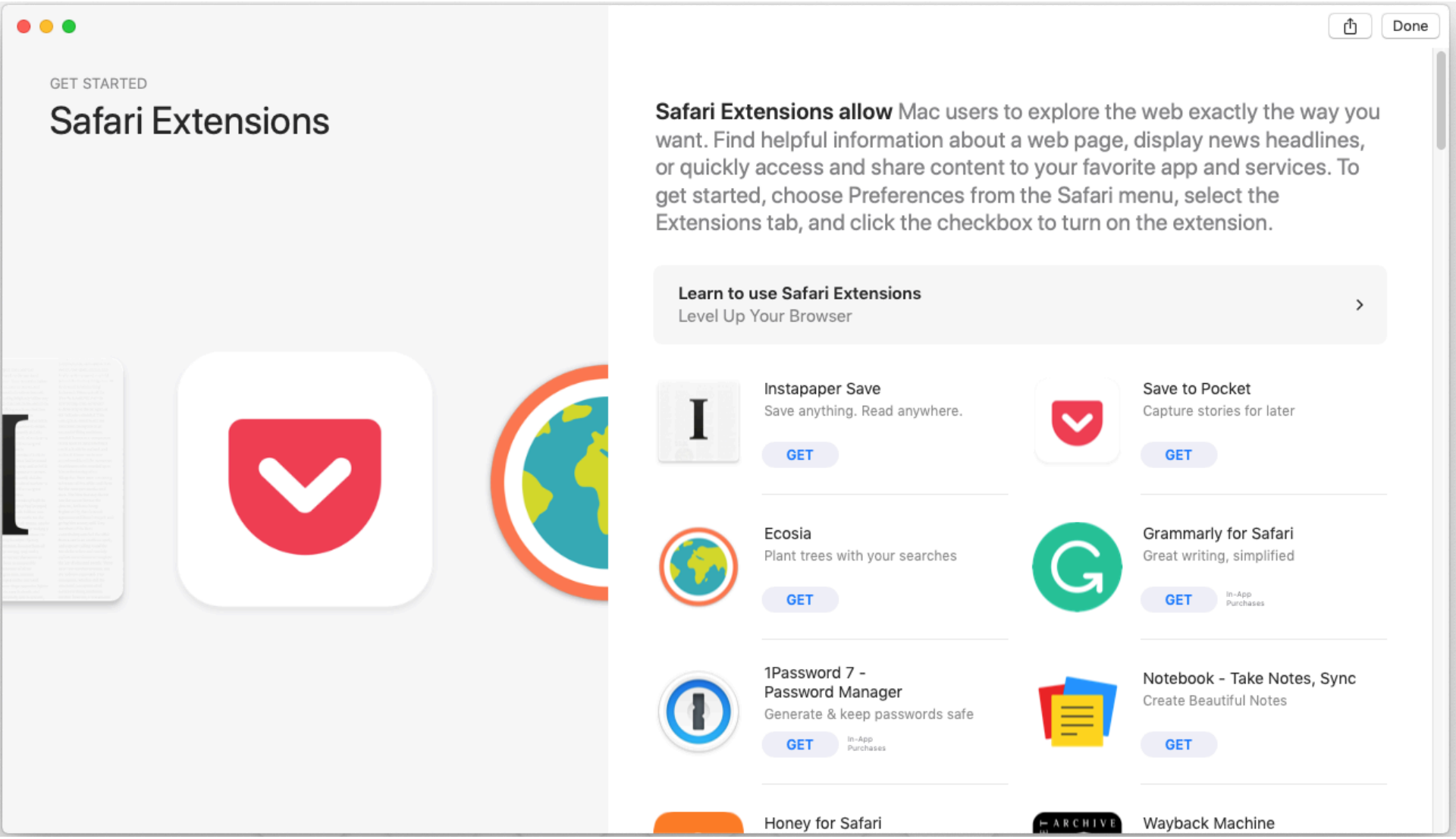


Safari extensions must be obtained from the App store or the Safari Extensions gallery.

What Extensions Are Available?
Safari Extensions



Safari Extensions

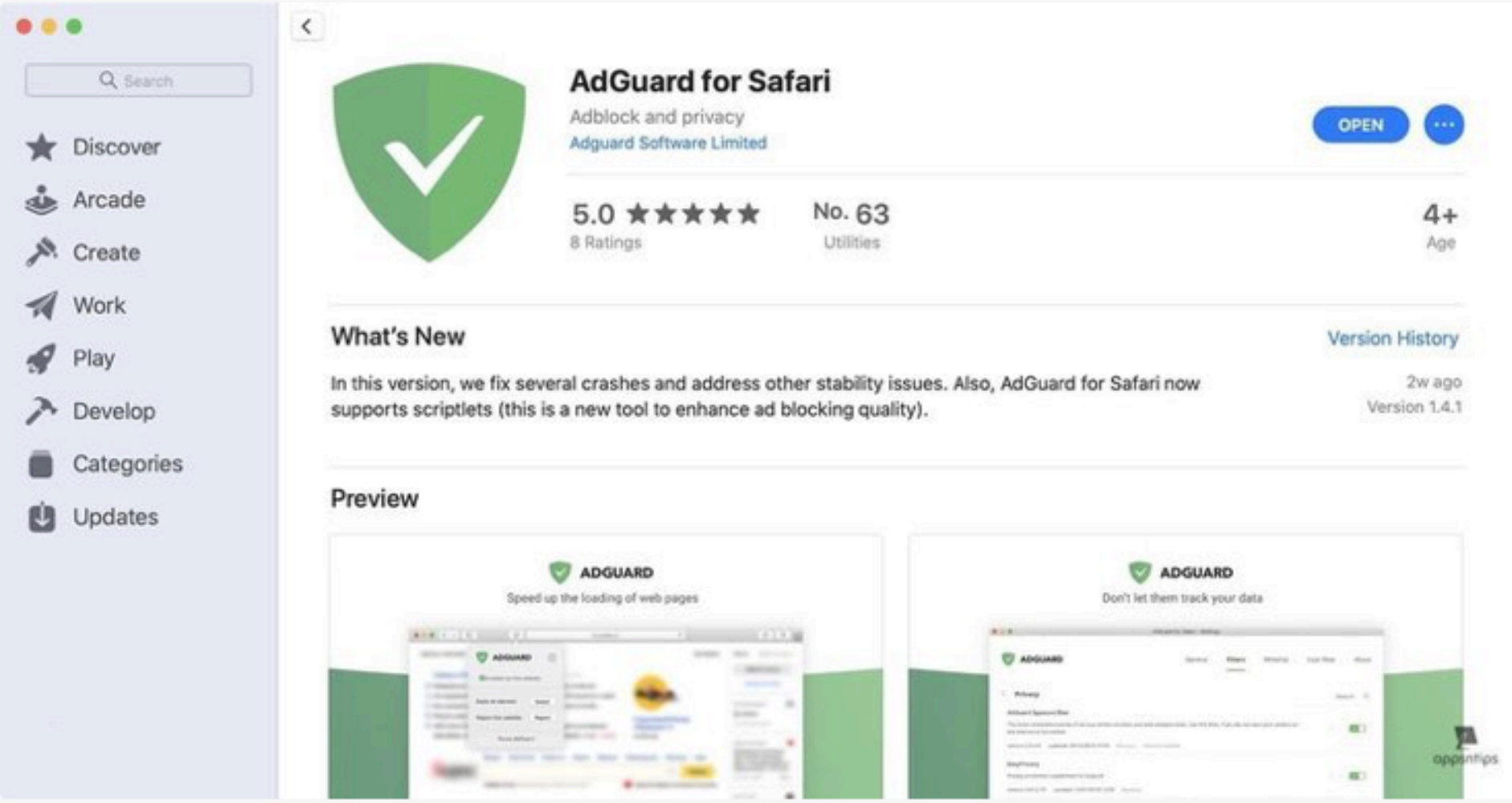


Installing Extensions

- Go to the App store or Safari extensions gallery
- “Get” as for any other app
- Safari/preferences/extensions and click in the box to activate

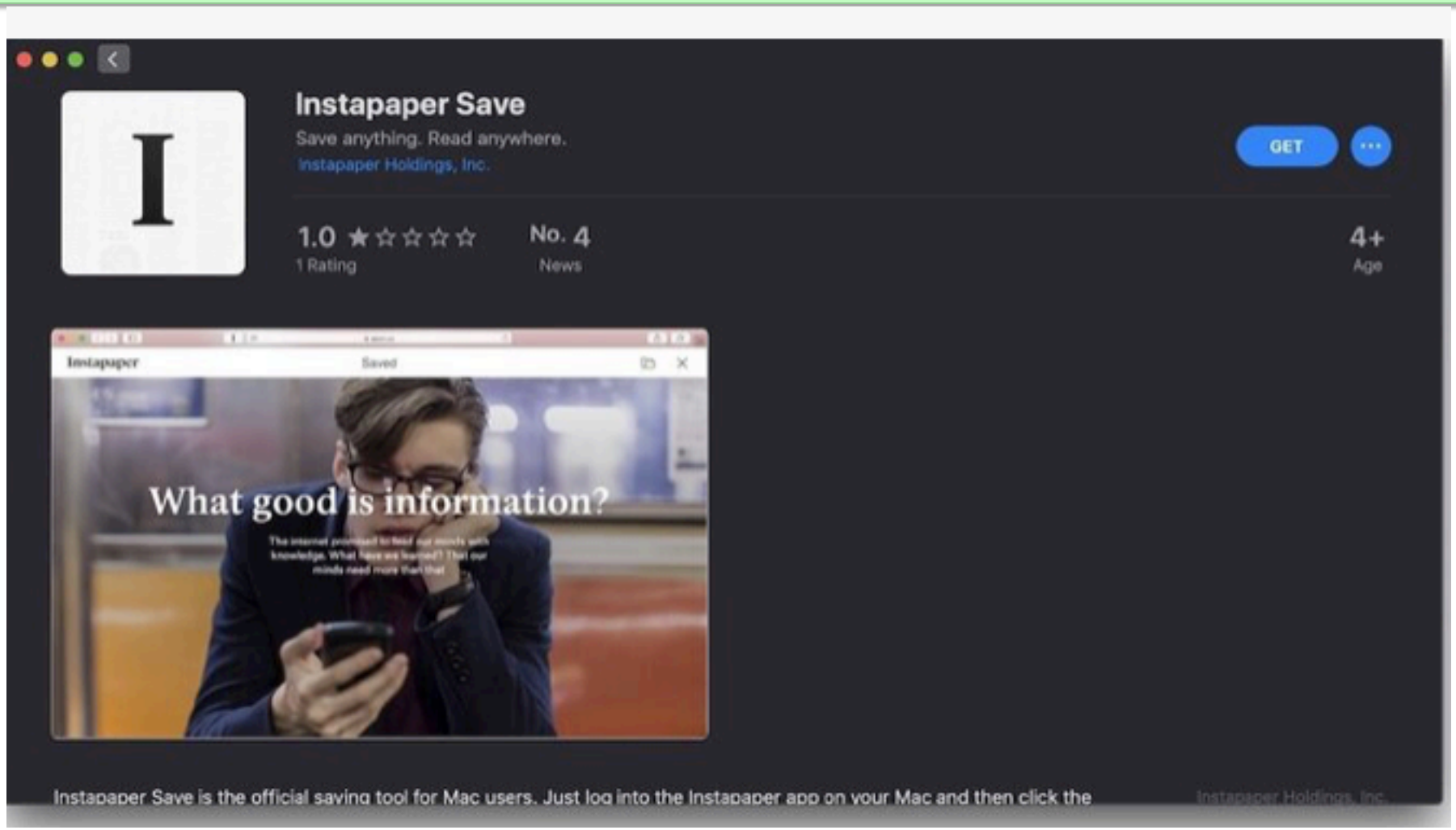
Popular Browser Extensions

AdGuard Adblocker



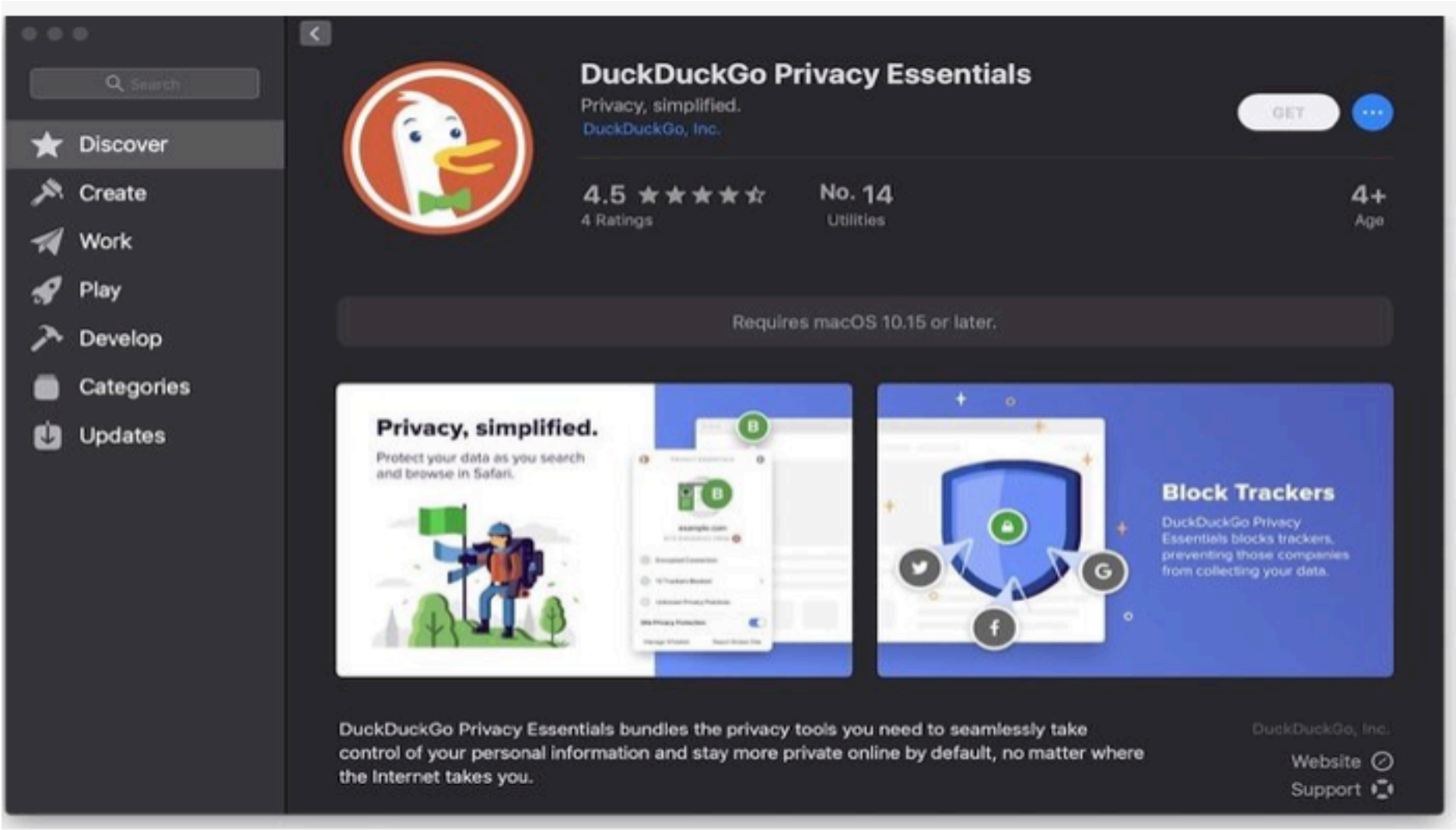
Free! Blocks ads (esp. from malicious websites). Blocks tracking pixels. Allows whitelisting.

Instapaper (or Pocket)



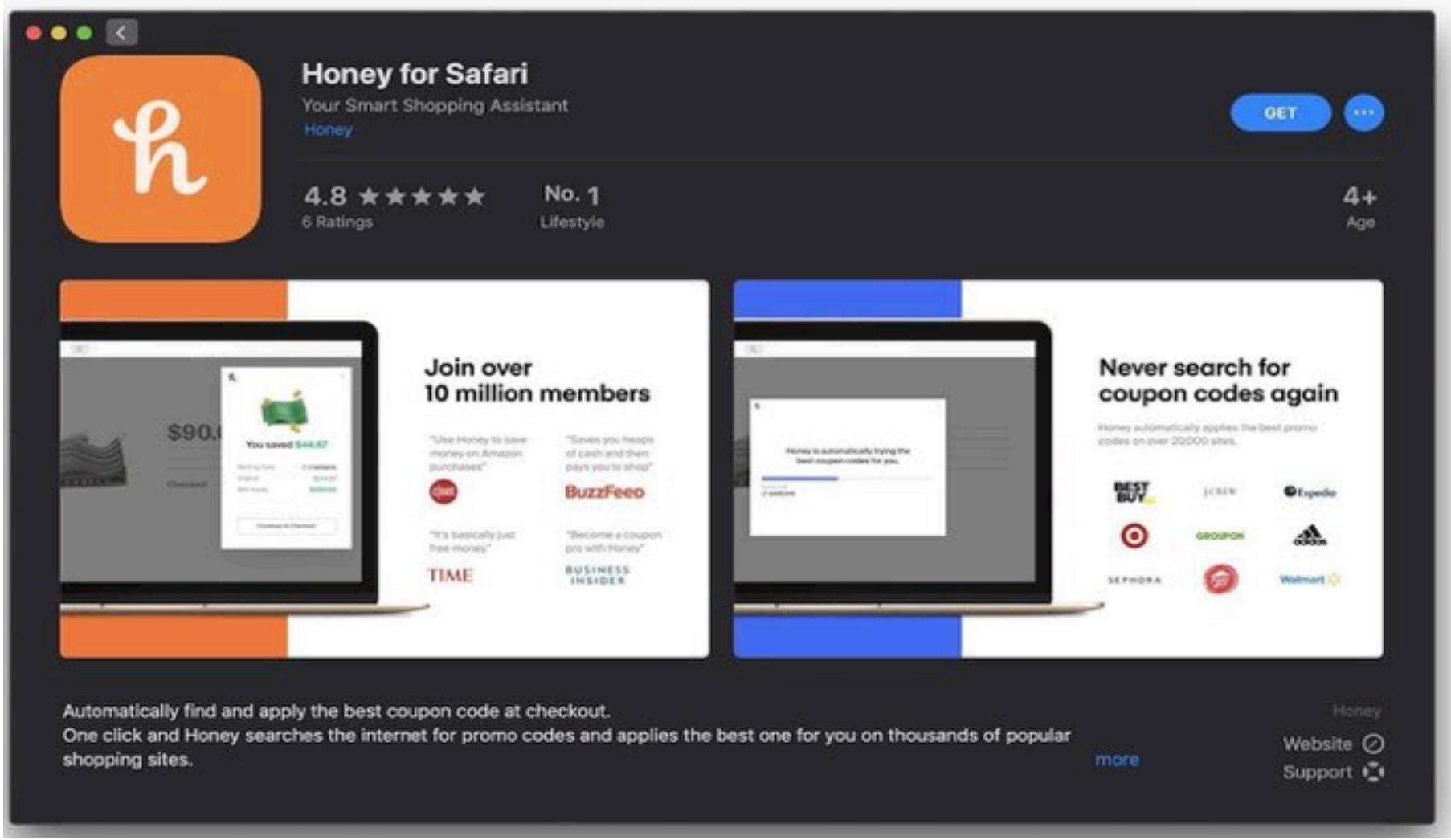
Free! Allows you to save & categorize articles for later reading. Can sync across devices.

DuckDuckGo



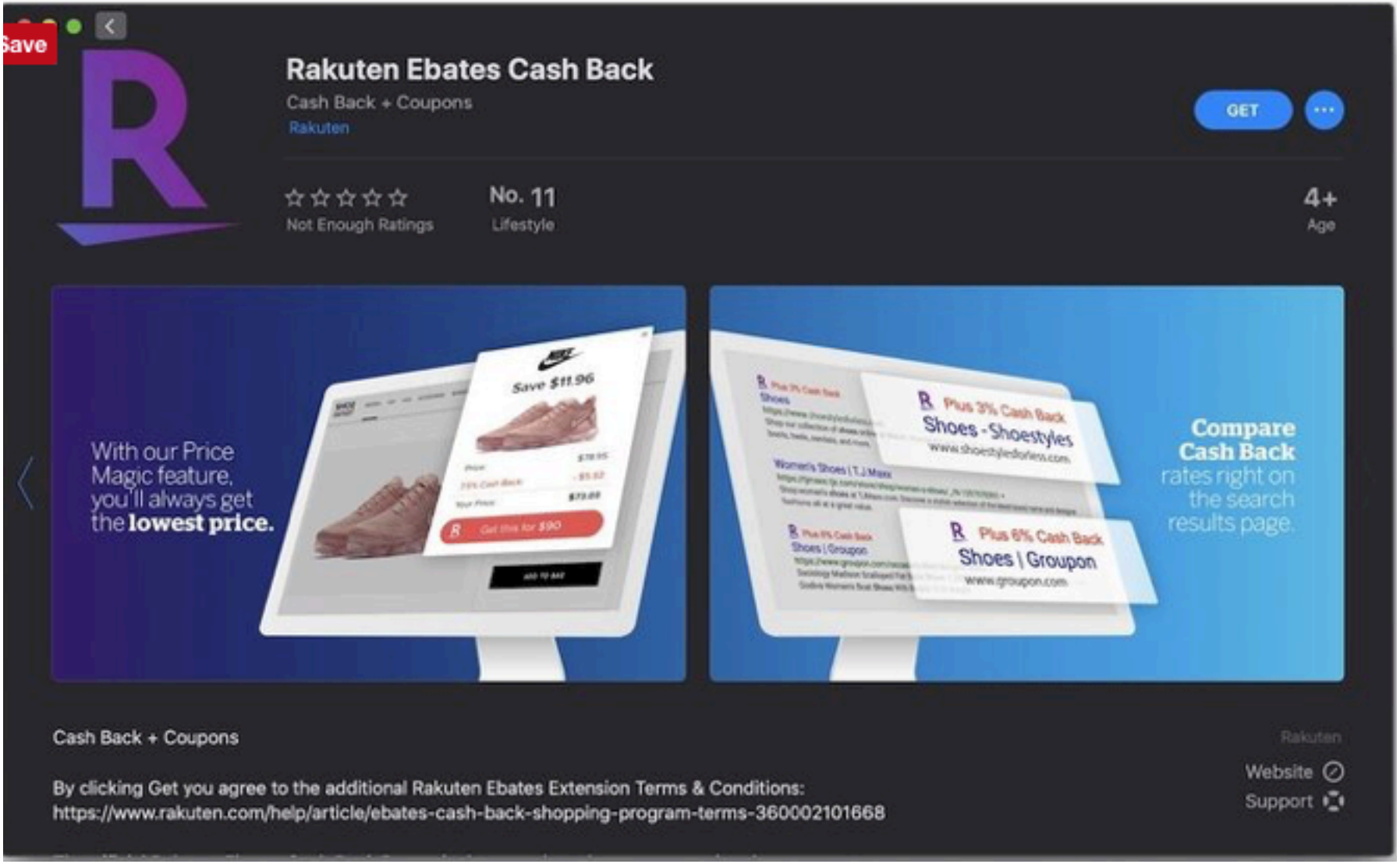
Free! Only works with Mac OS Catalina. Extends blocking and provides privacy score for sites.

Honey



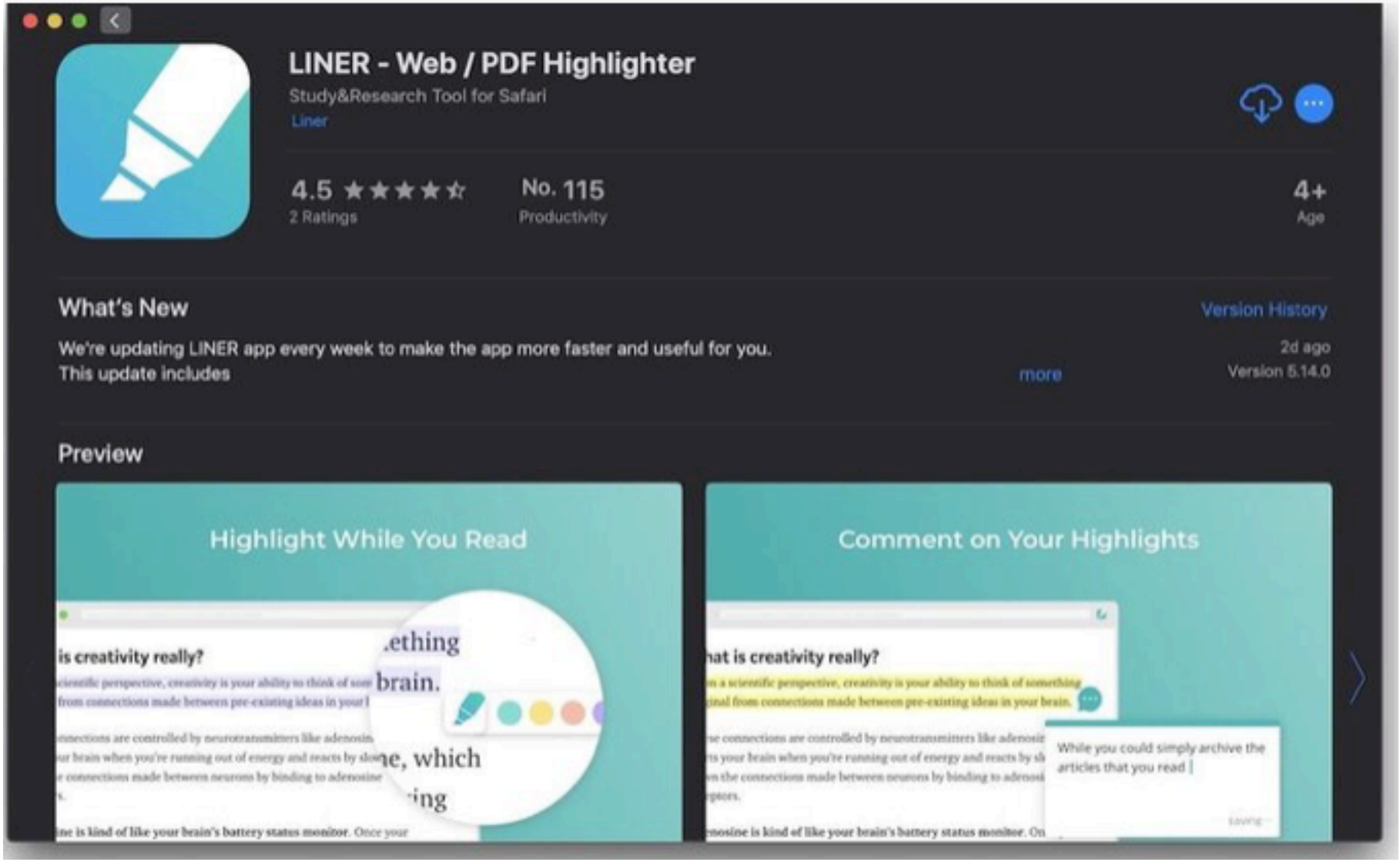
Free! Coupon aggregator. Saves $$s at checkout when you buy online.

Rakunen (formerly ebates)



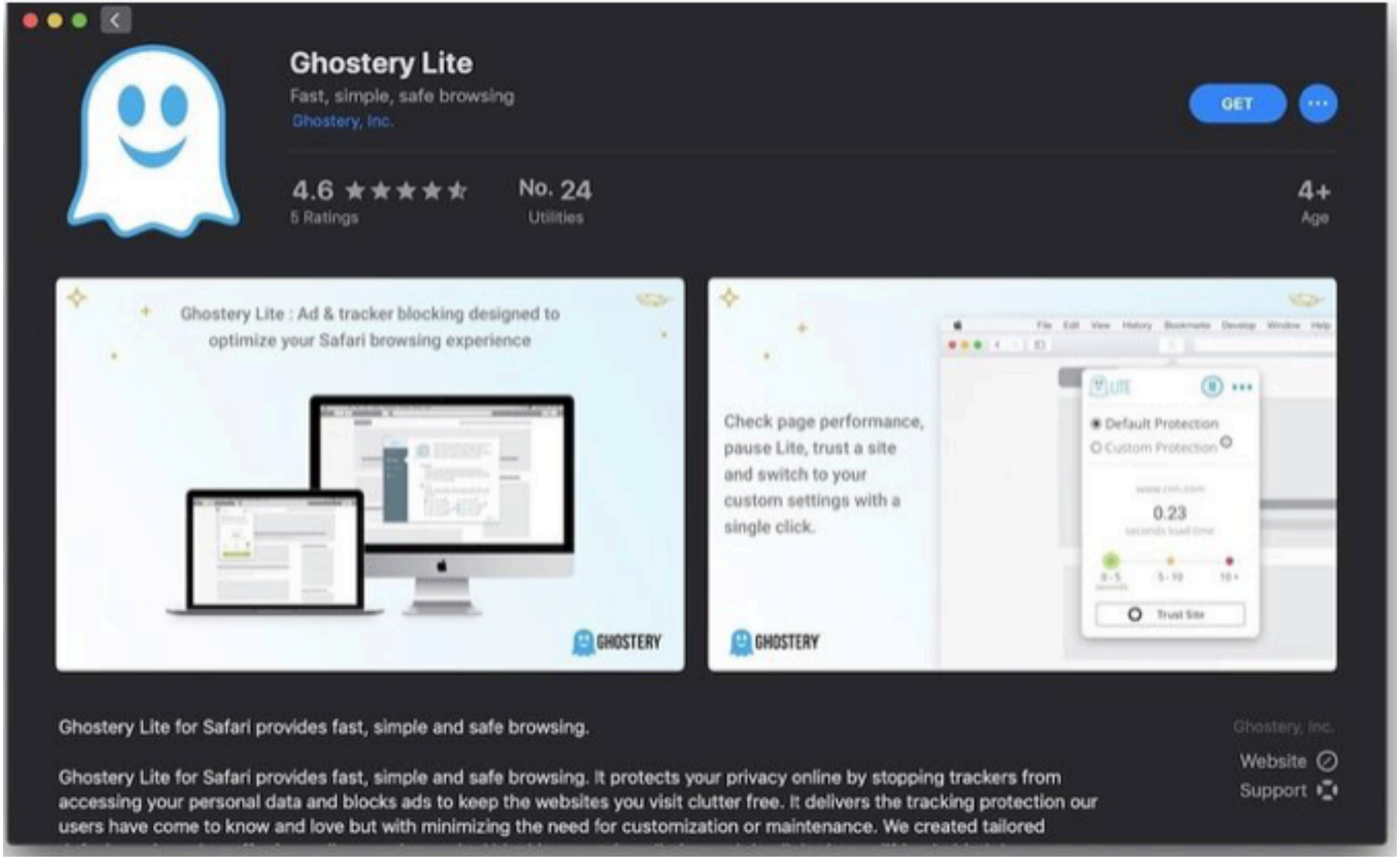
Free! Offers coupons and cashback when you buy online. Sends $s periodically.

Liner – Web/PDF Highlighter



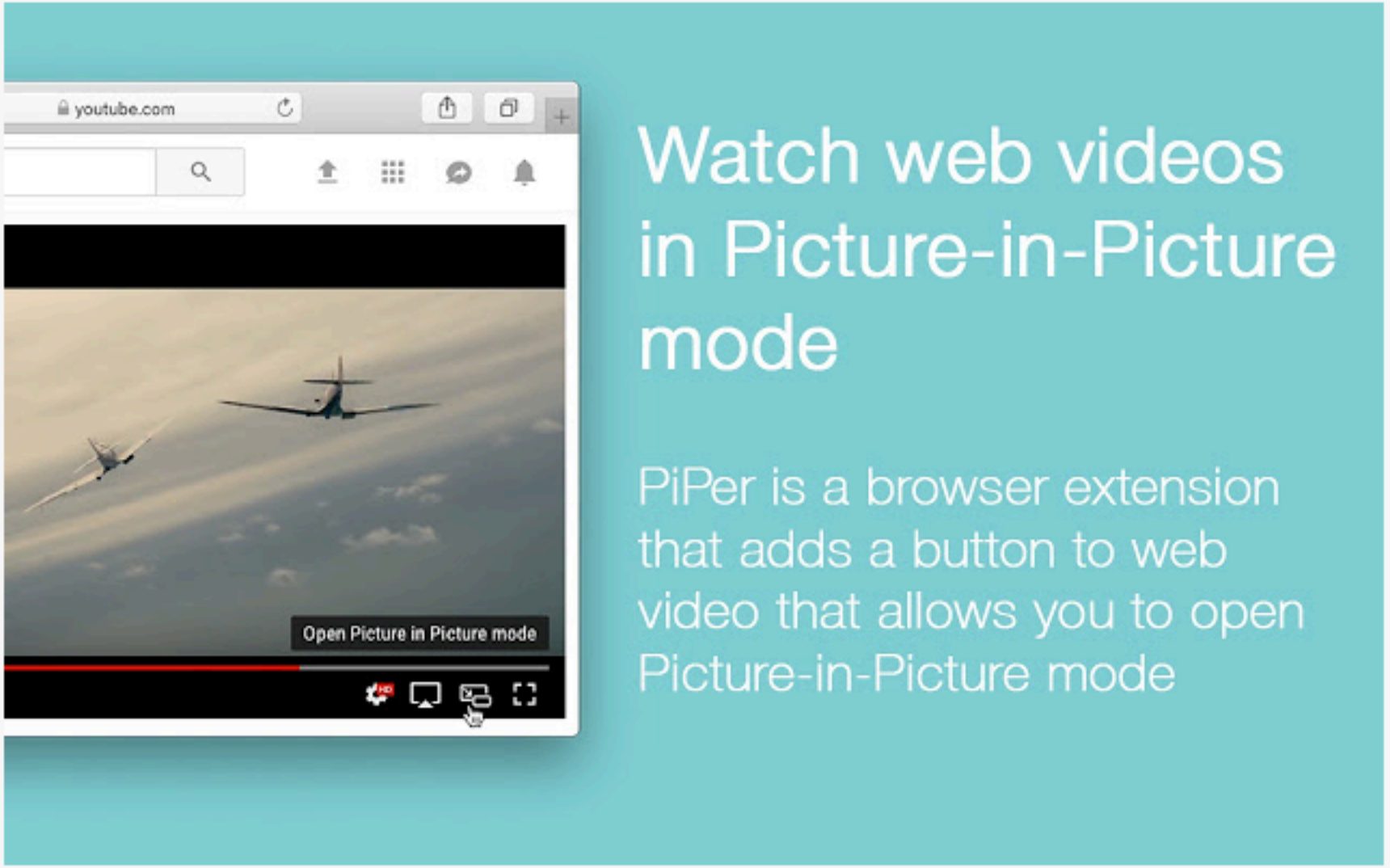
Free! Allows you to share/save content with key items highlighted.

Ghostery Lite



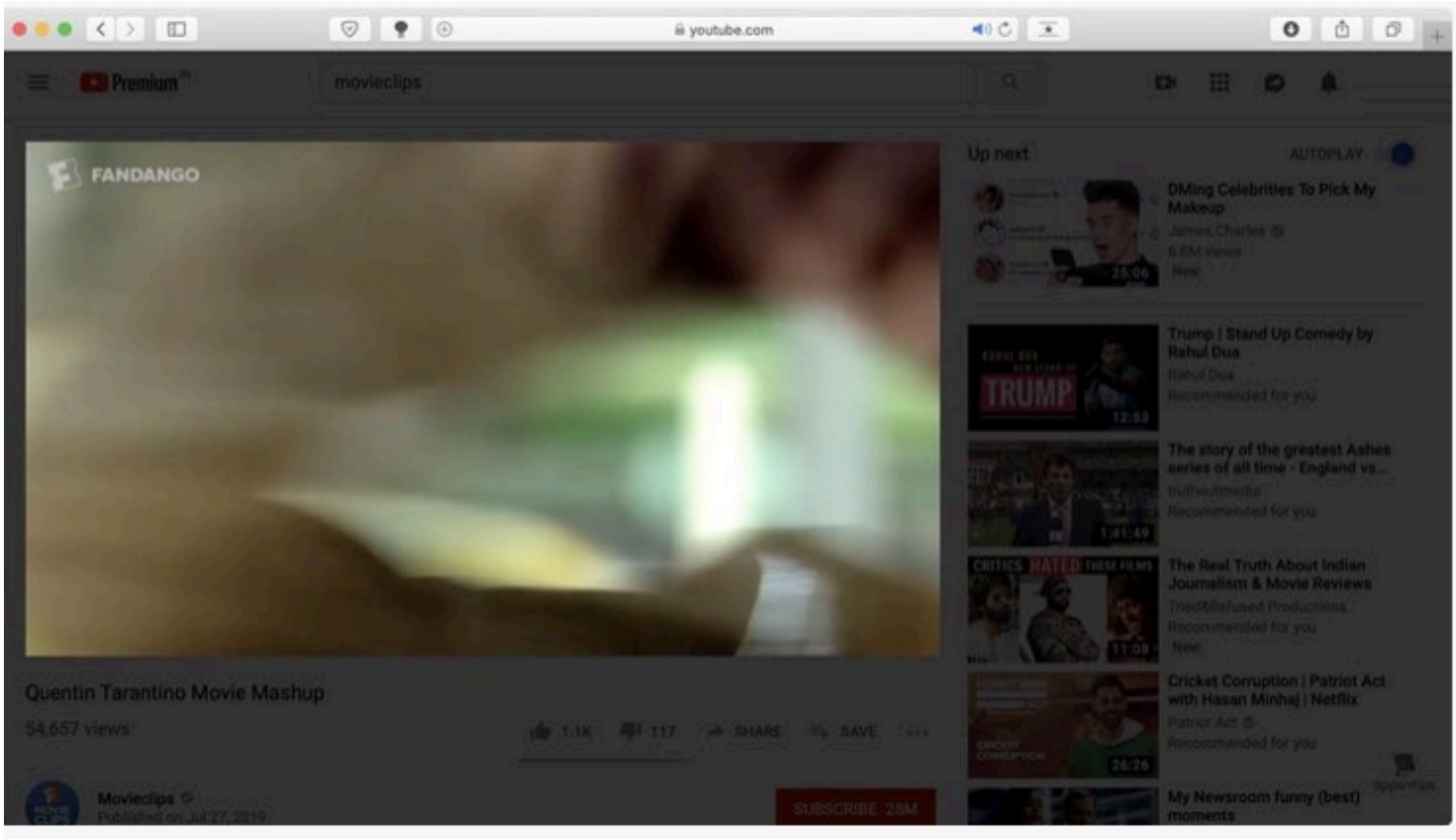
Free! Blocks tracking and ads without slowing down your browsing.

PiPer



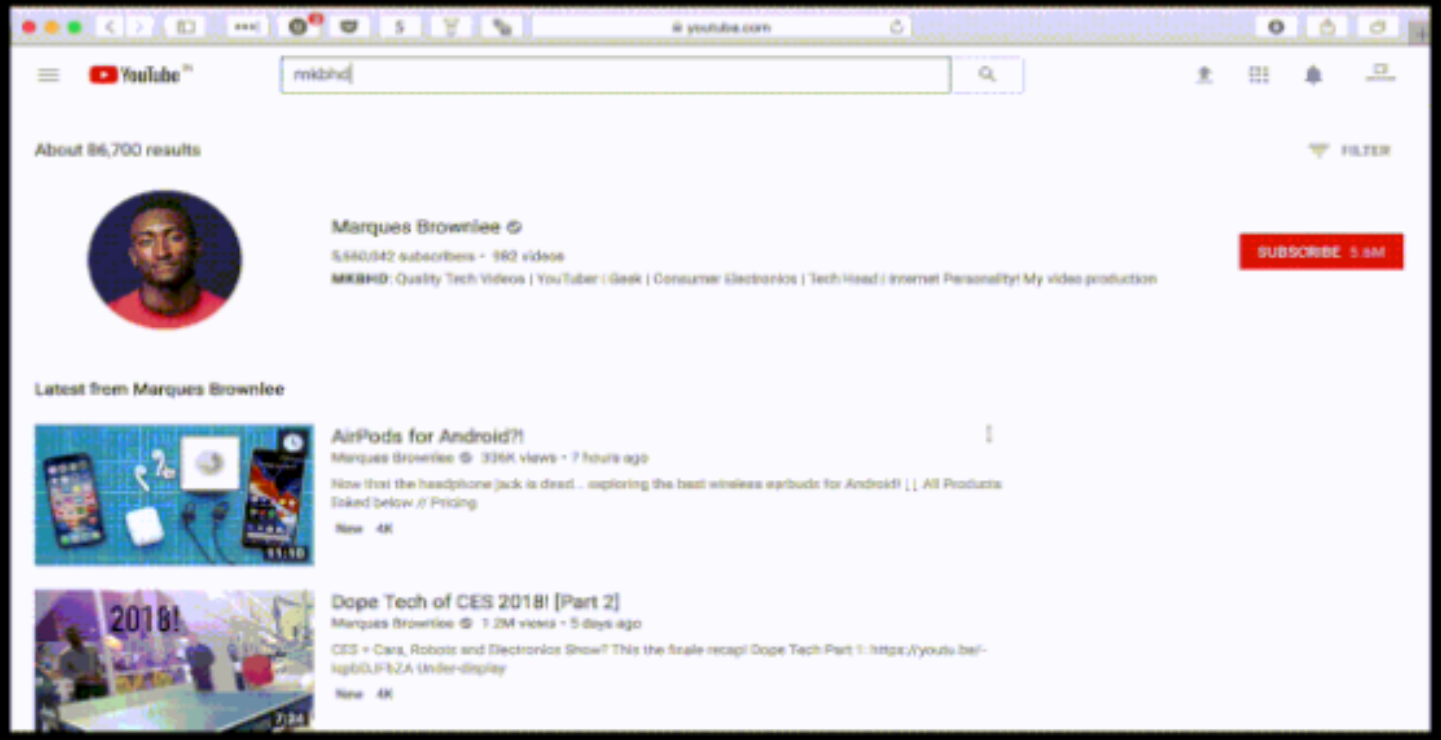
Free! Adds picture in picture button to Youtube, Netflix, etc.

Turn Out the Lights



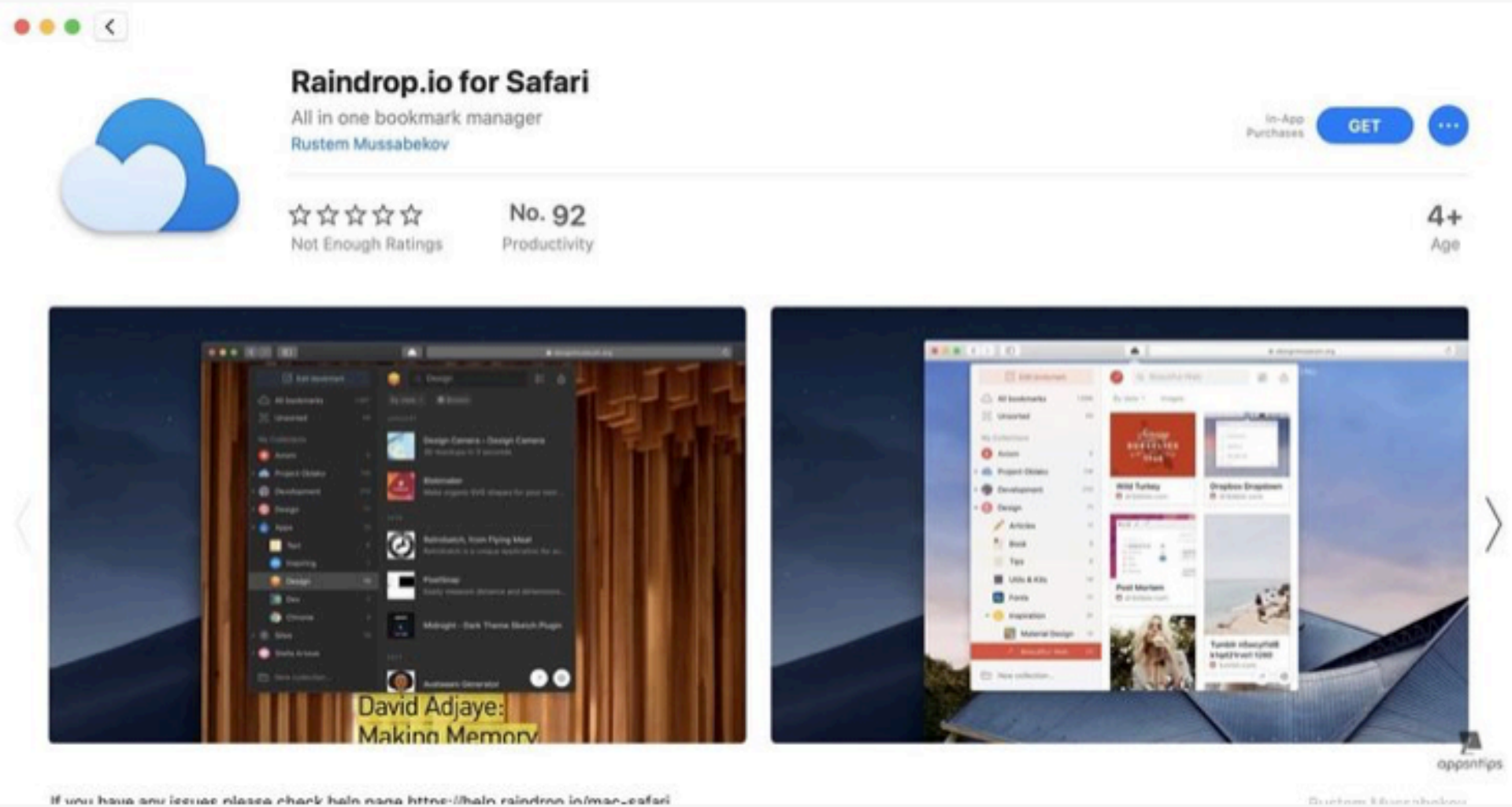
Free! Blurs out “stuff” surrounding picture with Youtube, other streaming websites.

HoverSee



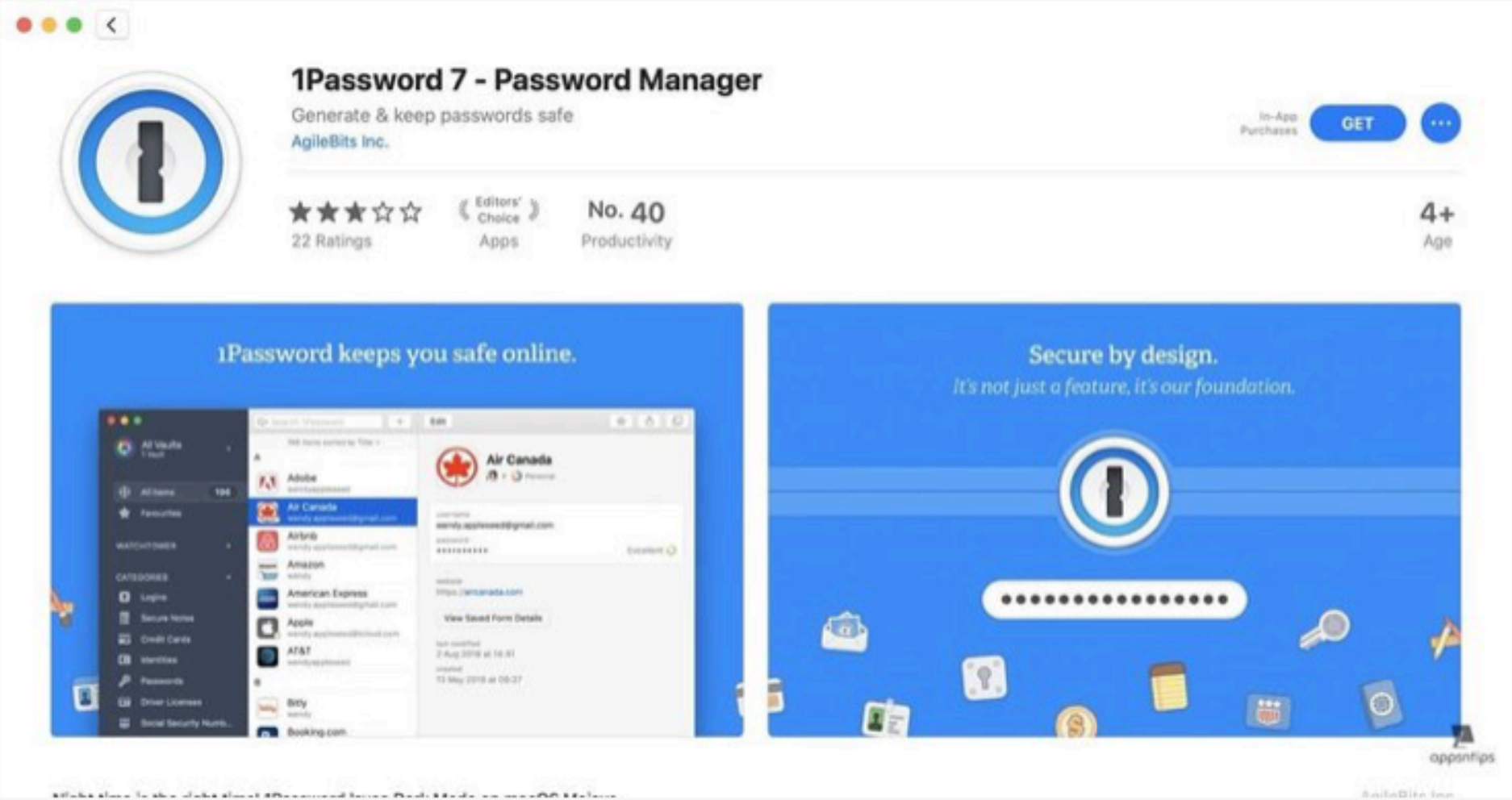
$7.99! You hover over potential content and the app lets you preview the content.

Raindrop.Io



Free! Bookmark organizer

1Password



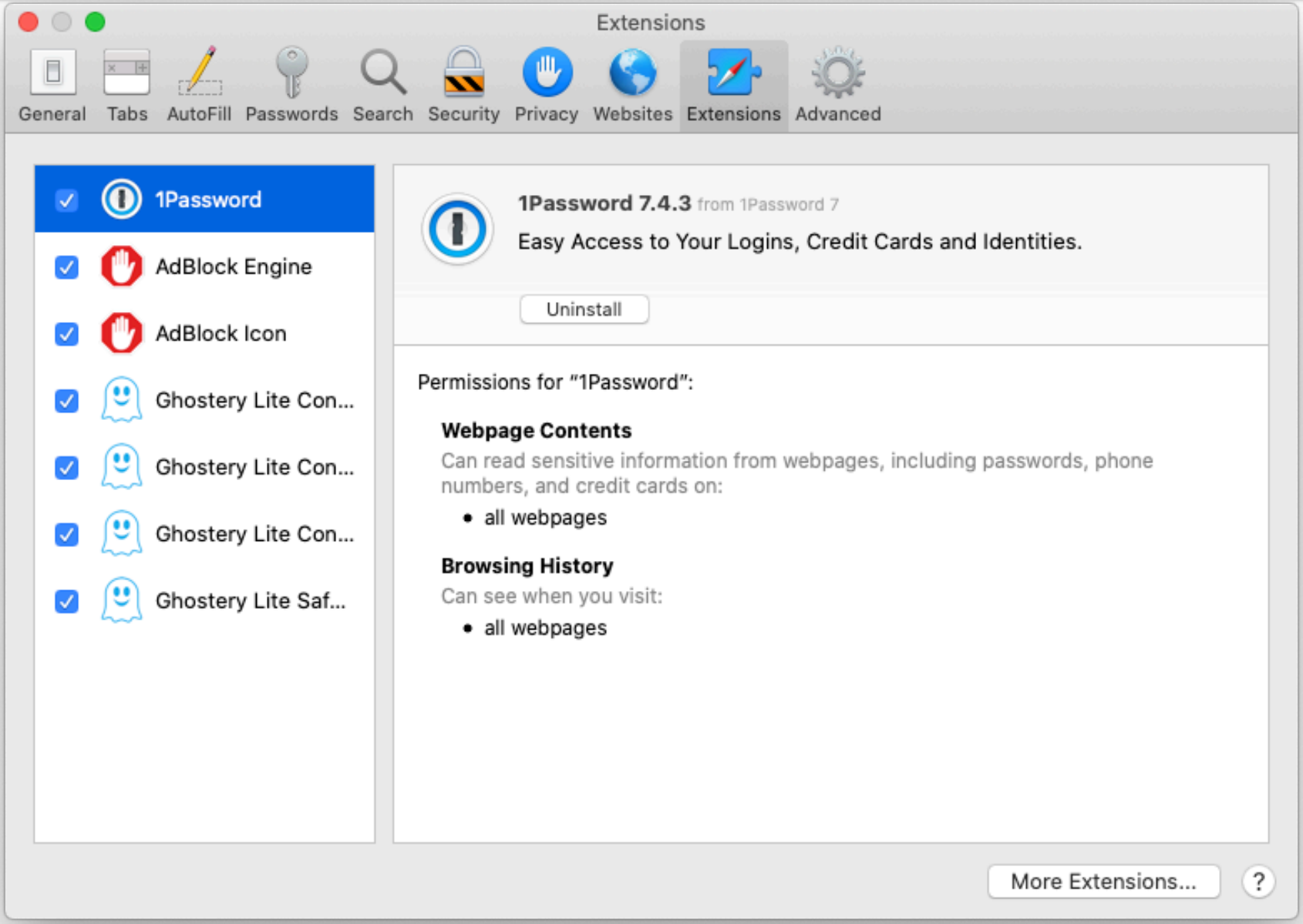
Well known password manager extension for Safari

Guess the Board Member

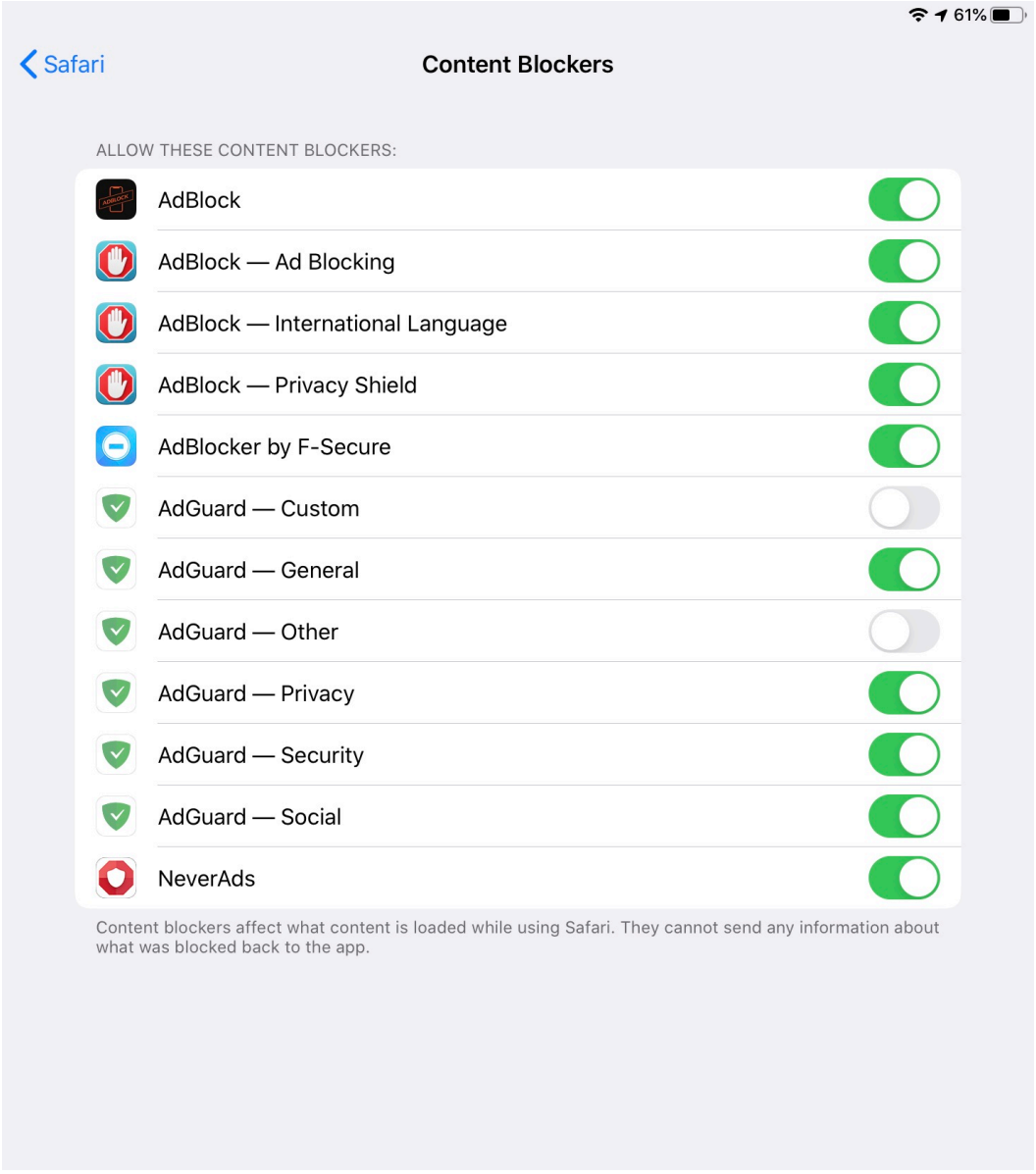
1. John Acquavella
2. Sondra Bradshaw
3. John Carter
4. Frank Croft
5. Art Gorski
6. Jim Romaine

Rules: Keep a score sheet. Honor system. If you get 6/6 or 5/6 correct let us know via the chat window. The first 4 with the highest scores will receive prizes. Indicate preference for prizes.

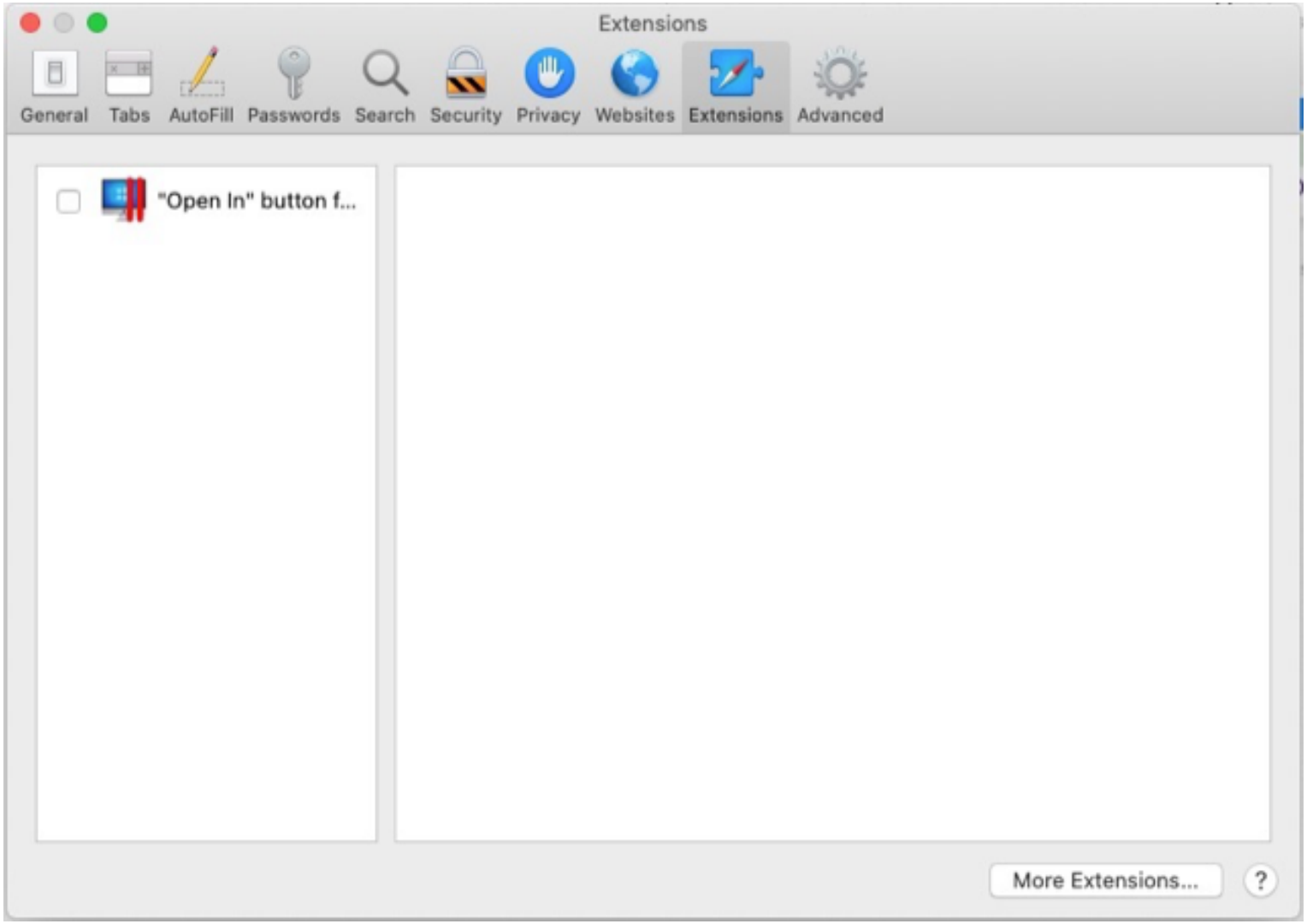
Profile 1 – “Privacy & security”



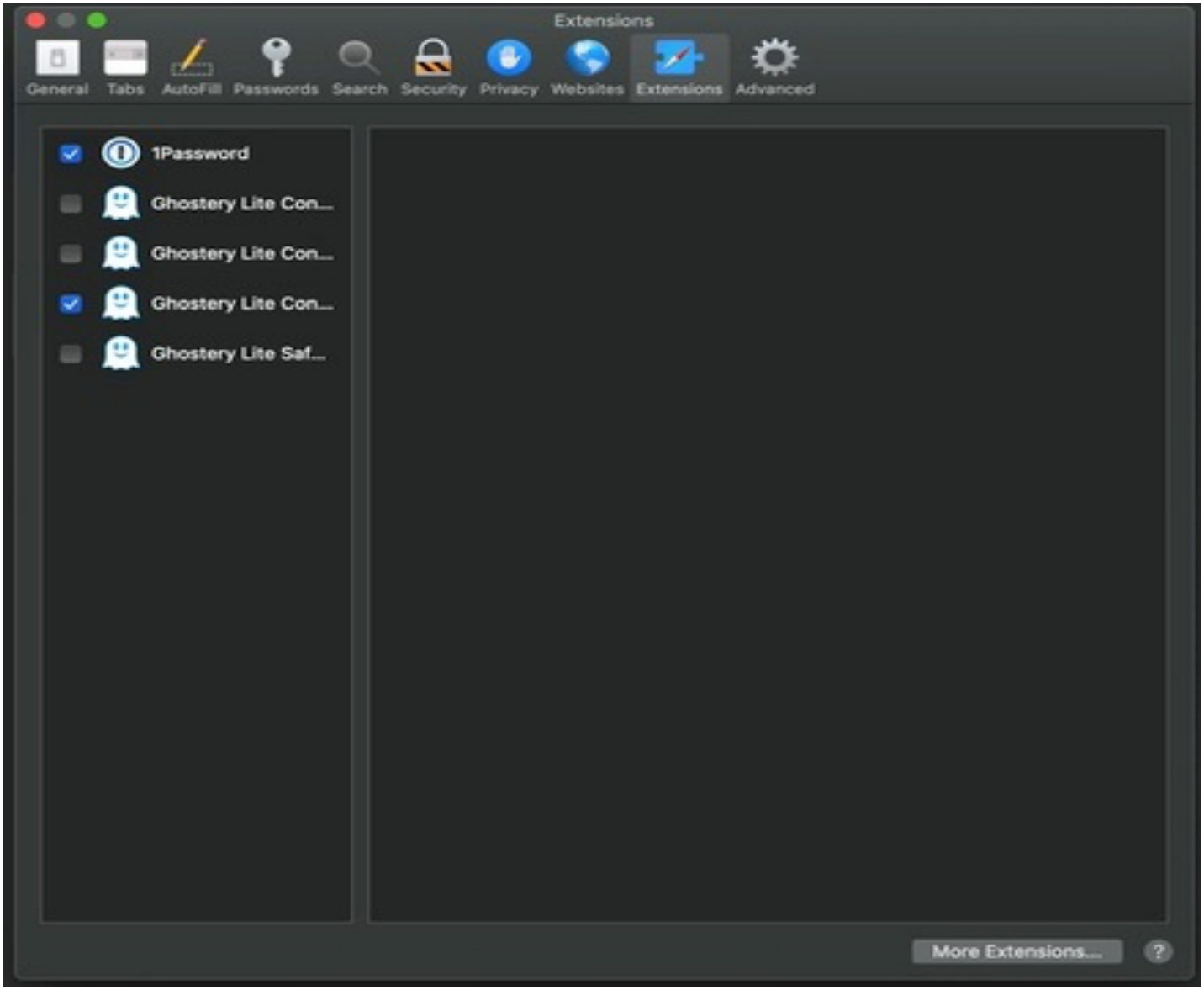
Profile 2 – “Leave me alone”



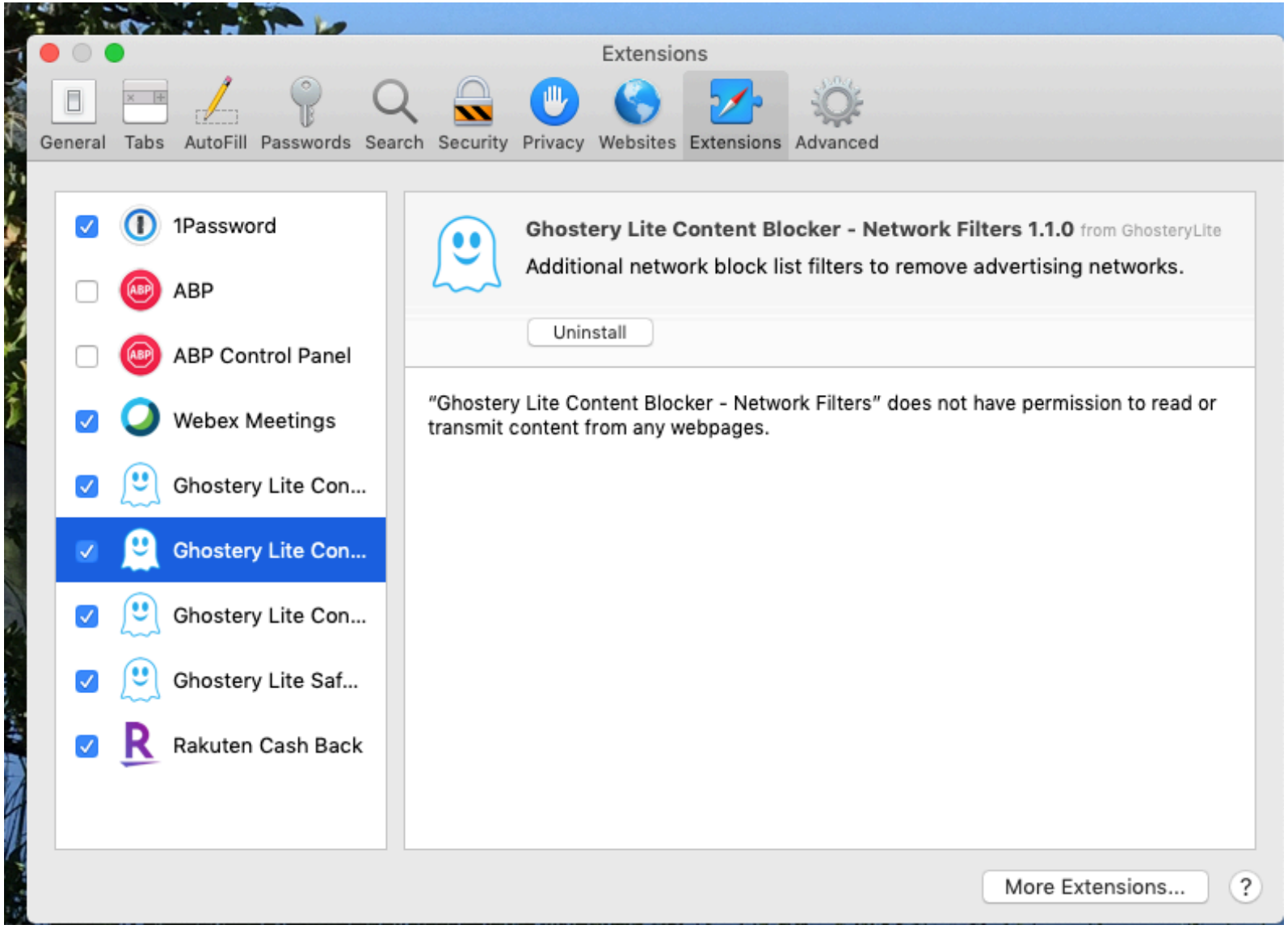
Profile 3 – “Bare Bones”



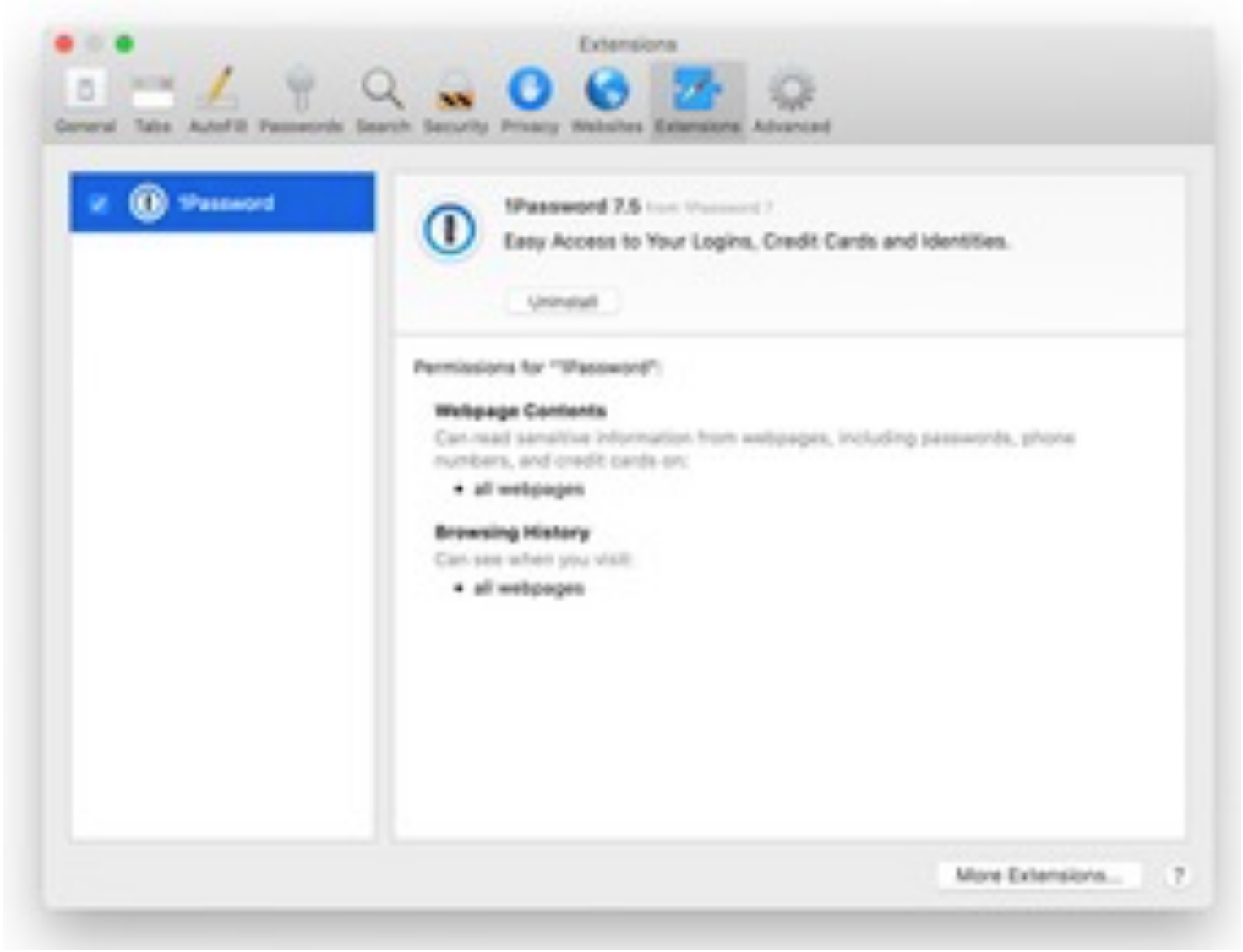
Profile 4 – “Light touch”



Profile 5 – “Privacy & Cash Back”



Profile 6 – “I’m a minimalist”



Identities Revealed

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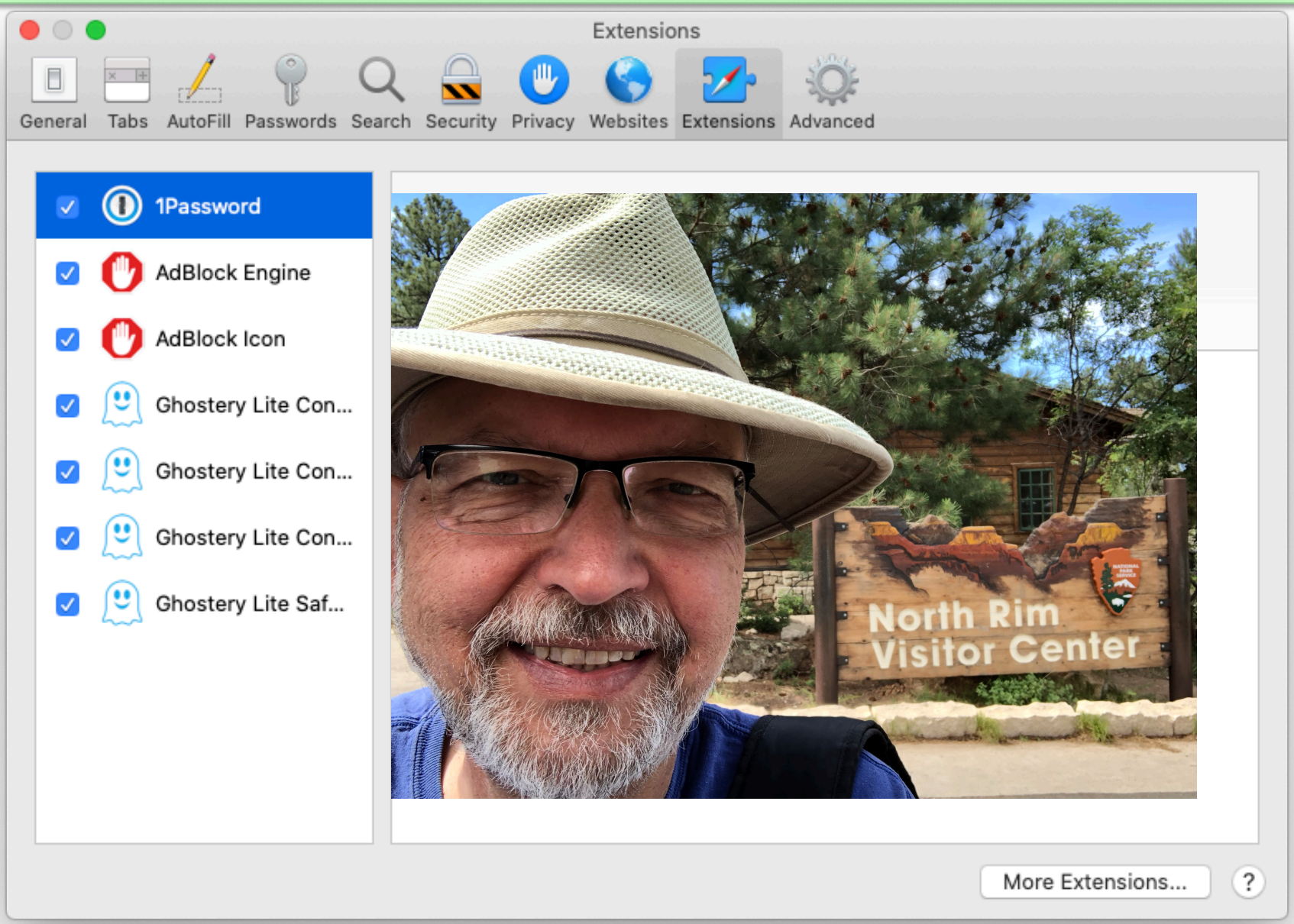

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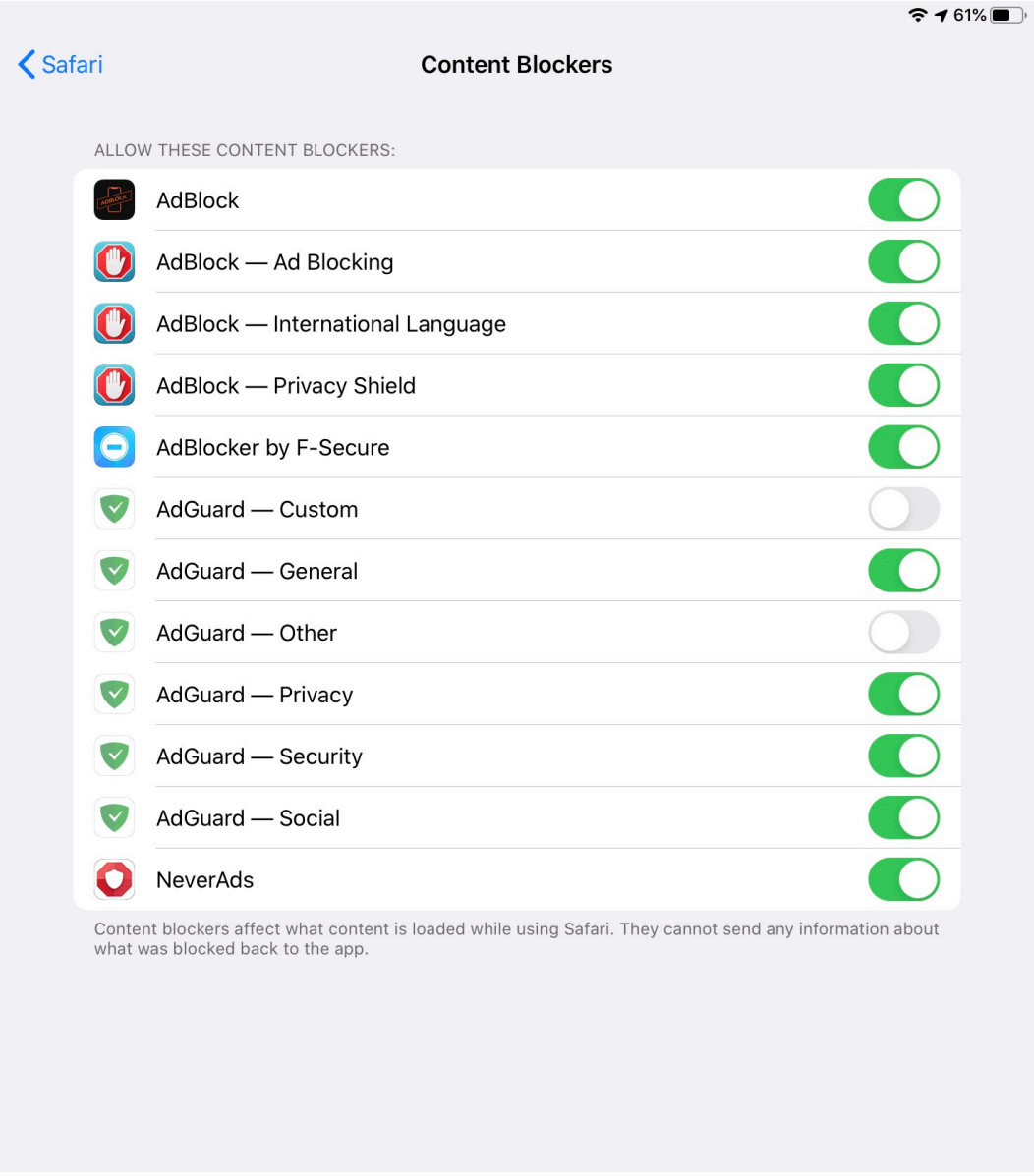

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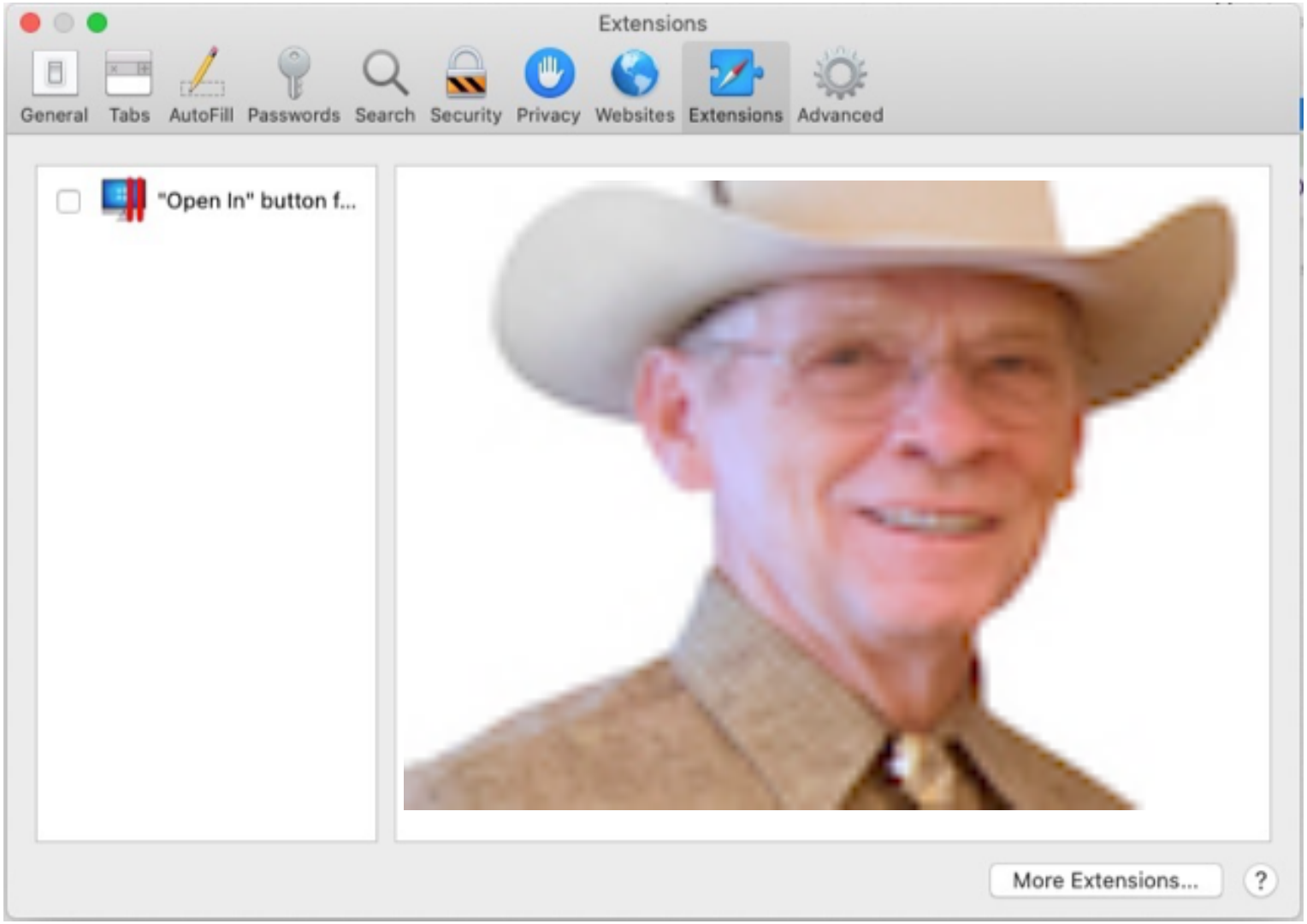

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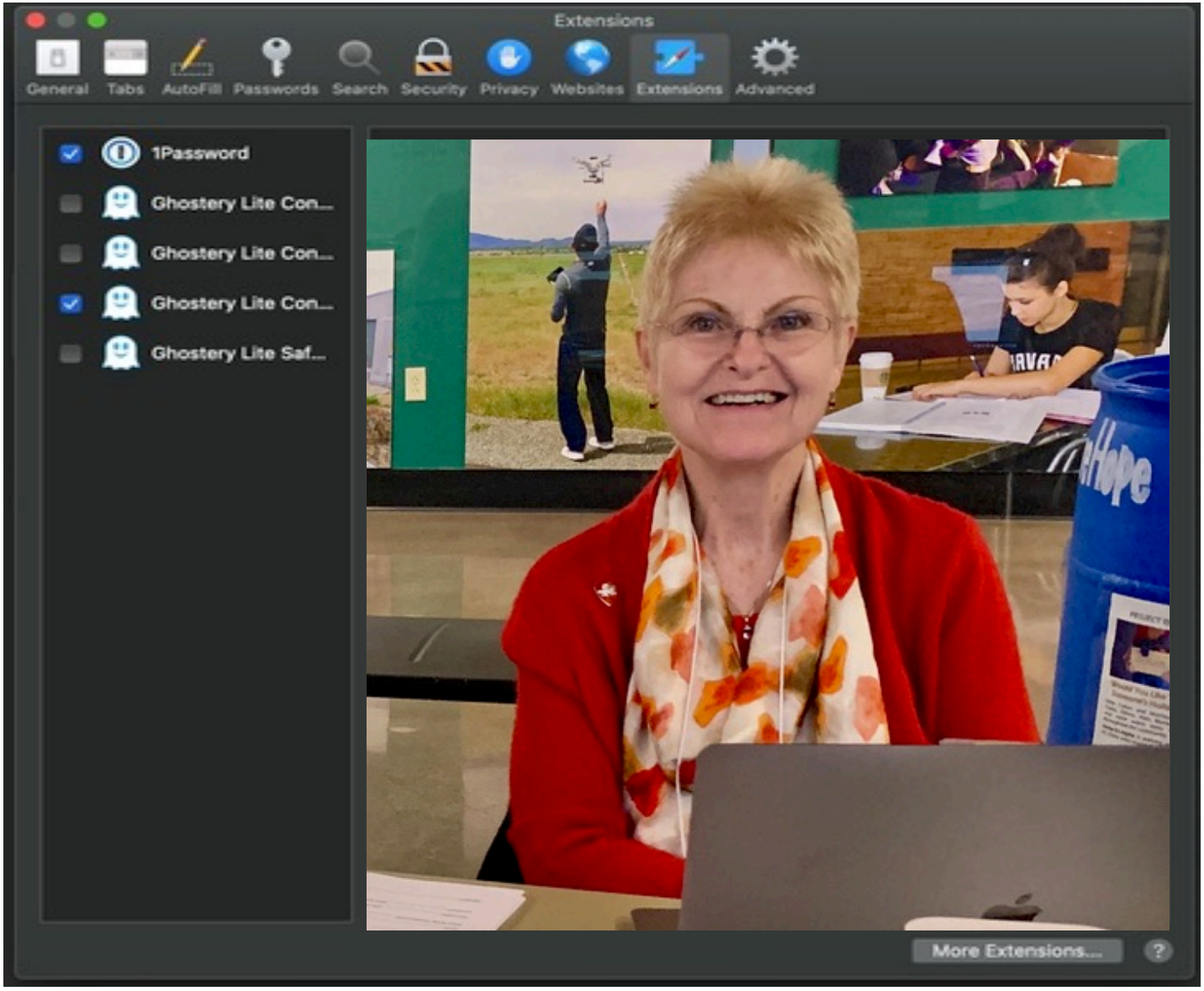

Profile 5 – “Privacy & Cash Back”

Profile 6 – “I’m a minimalist”

Winners

- If you have 6/6 or 5/6 communicate score via chat
- Indicate preference; Staples, iTunes, or Take Control book (2)
- First 4 highest scores received will be winners