How to Block .EXE File Downloads in Google Chrome Using GAT Shield

Users Audit & Management · https://gatlabs.com/knowledge/tech-tips/how-to-block-exe-file-downloads-in-google-chrome-using-gat-shield/

The GAT Shield extension allows admins to **track and view user behavior** while logged into their Google domain account. Google Workspace Admins can set up real-time alerts based on the behavior of the end-users.

With this guide, you'll learn **how to block .EXE file downloads** using Shield’s alert rules.

These Alert Rules allow admins to stop and report unsafe downloads by users across their domain.

How to Report and Remove exe. File downloaded by Google Workspace Users?

Set Up Rules to Block .EXE File Downloads

Navigate to **GAT Shield → Alerts → +New Alert Rule**

Fill in the details for the download alert rule

1. Name & Type

For each field, various options are displayed for selection.

- **Name**: Enter a descriptive name for the alert rule.
- **Type**: Select "Download" from the drop-down menu. This option triggers a notification when a user downloads a file. You can customize the alert based on file formats, sizes, and specific web pages it applies to.

Action

When an alert rule is triggered, a pre-selected action will be executed on the user's device. Note that only tabs that trigger the rule will be affected if "Close" or "Redirect" actions are chosen.

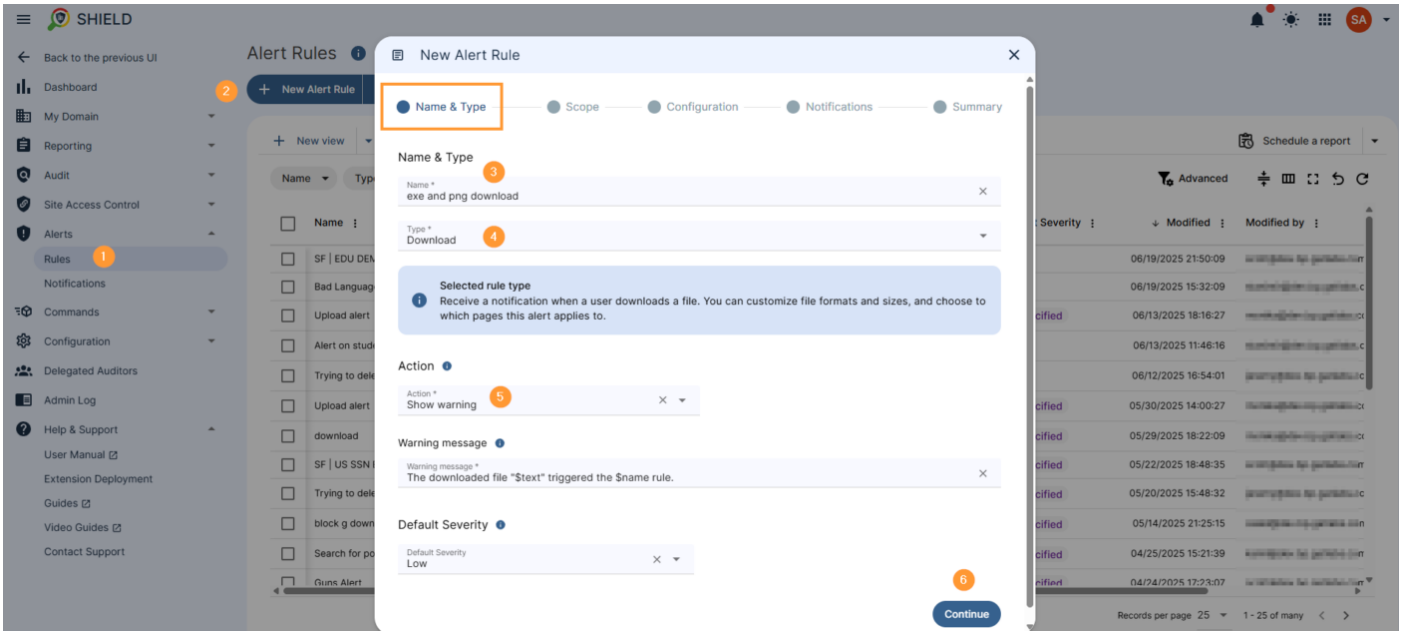
- **Show a warning message**: Display a warning message to the end-user.

- **Close**: Close the Browse tab.
- **Close without warning**: Close the Browse tab directly, without any prior notification.
- **Redirect**: Redirect the user's browser tab. You must also enter a warning message to be displayed to the end-user.
- **Redirect without warning**: Redirect the user's Browse tab without displaying a warning message.
- **No action**: Select this option if no action should be performed on the end-user's device.

Default Severity

When an alert rule is triggered, a notification is generated. The severity of this notification indicates its level of importance. "Default Severity" is the value assigned to all notifications created by this specific rule.

- Select **Low**, **Unspecified** (default), or **High** to set the notification's severity level.

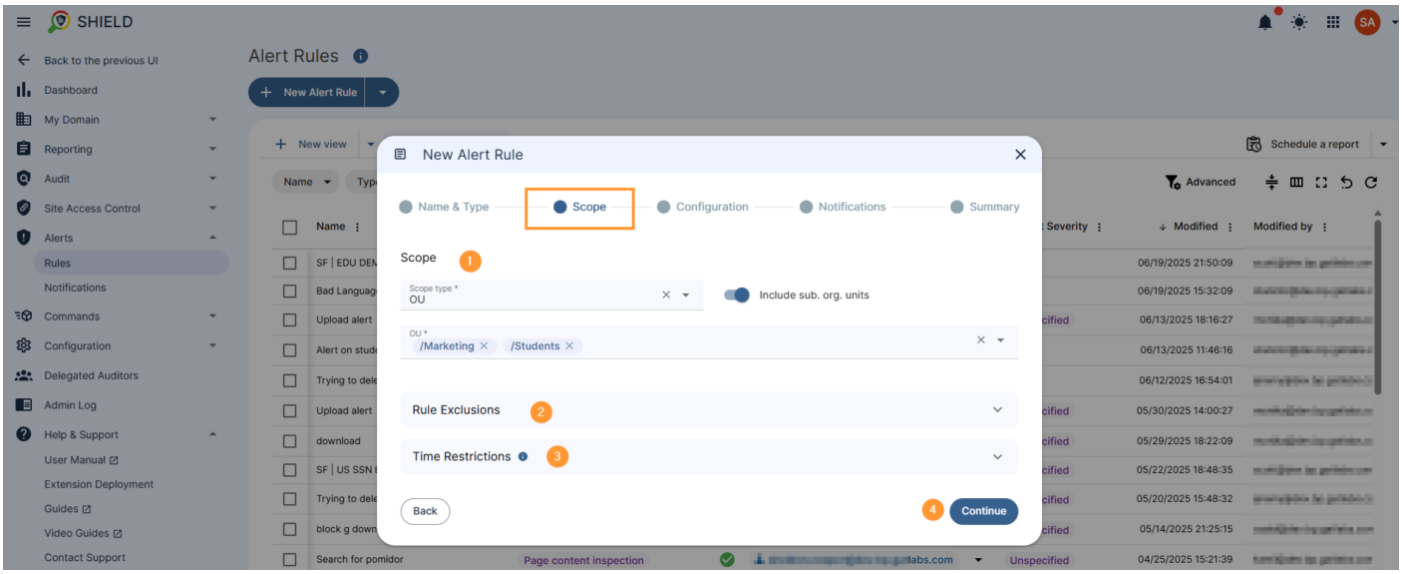


2. Scope of the New Alert Rule

In the Scope field, select all the users who will be affected by the alert rule

- **Scope** - add the users, group of users, or org. unit of users that will be affected by the rule
- **Rule exclusions** - select a list of users to be excluded from the rule
- **Time restriction** - select the times when the rules will be applied.
  - By default, when no time restriction is added, the rule will always be active. To change it, select days and time ranges when rule will be active.

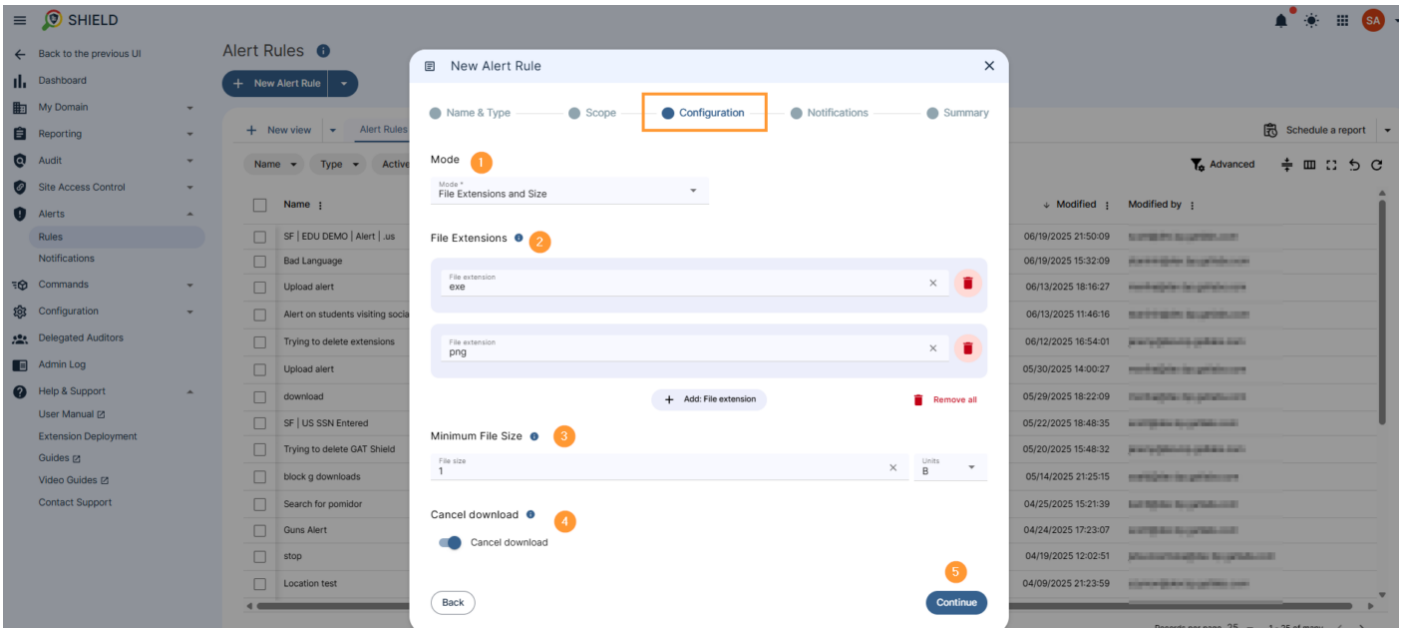
- **Continue** - click to continue to the next configuration



3. Configuration of the New Alert Rule

In the configuration, fill in the required information

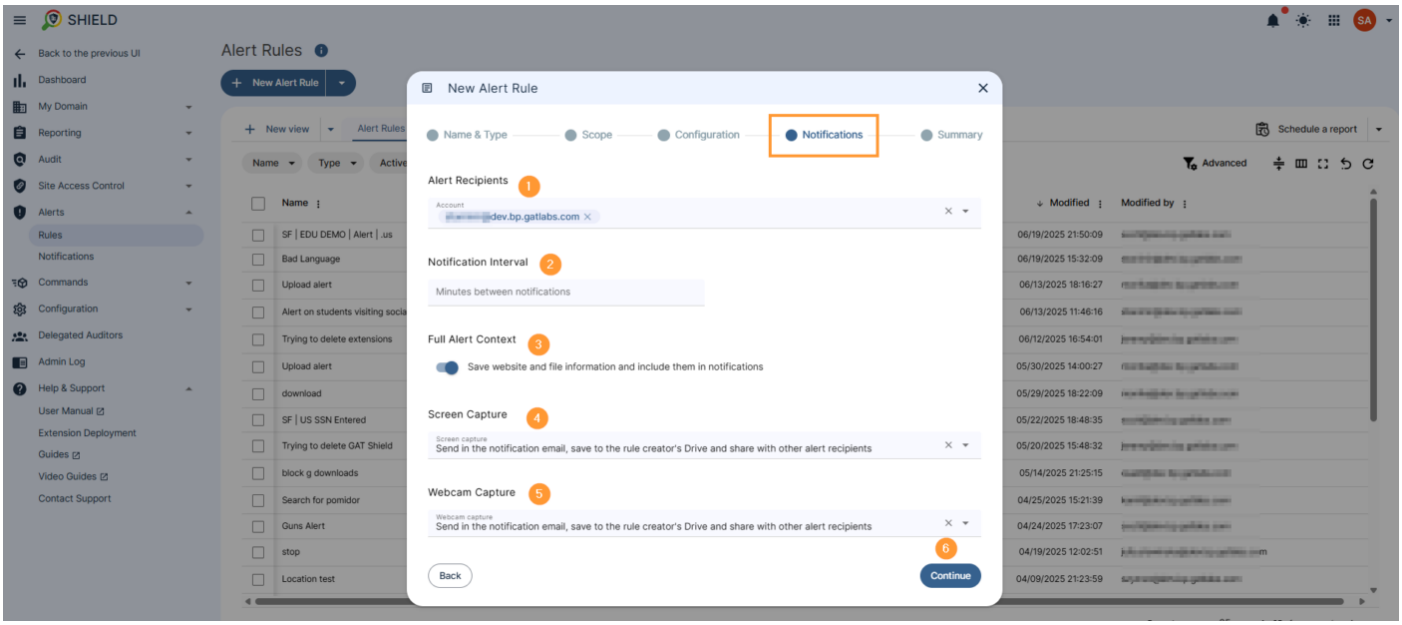
- **Mode** - select what mode to be enabled.
  - File extensions and Size
  - File extensions only
  - Size only
- **File extensions** - enter the file extensions for which the rule will be applied. The alert rule will be triggered if the downloaded file has any of these extensions. If the minimum file size is set you can leave this list empty to trigger on any download.
- **Minimum File size** - Enter a minimum file size to trigger the alert.
- **Cancel download** - Enabling this option cancels the download and removes local files
- **Continue** - click the button to continue



4. Notifications of the New Alert Rule

In the notifications,

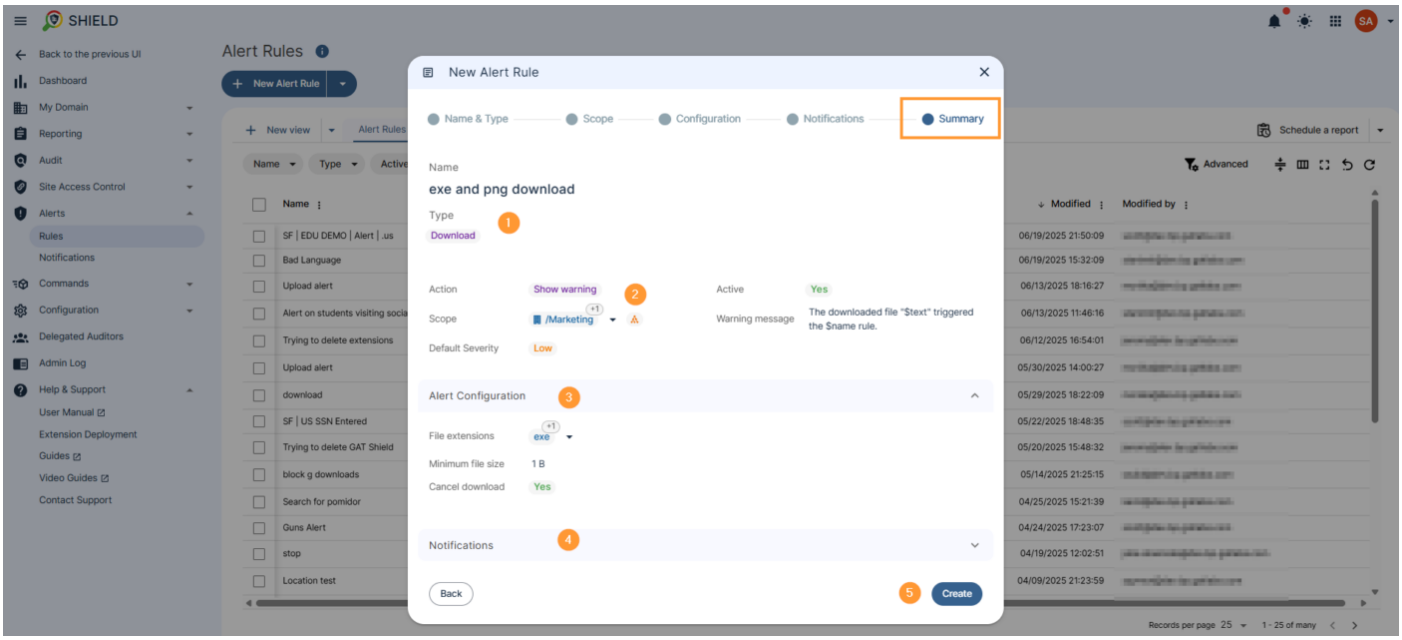
- Recipients - Select the alert recipients
- Notification interval - select time (in minutes) for which the alert notification will not be sent
- Full alert context by saving website and file information, and including them in the notifications
- Screen capture - select an option from the list
  - Do not send
  - Send in the notification email
  - Send in the notification email and save to the rule creator's Drive
  - Send in the notification email, save to the rule creator's Drive, and shareit with other alert recipients
- Webcam capture - select an option from the list
  - Do not send
  - Send in the notification email
  - Send in the notification email and save to the rule creator's Drive
  - Send in the notification email, save to the rule creator's Drive, and share it with other alert recipients
- **Continue** - click the button to continue



5. Summary of the New Alert Rule

In the Summary, the Admin can view all the details for the rule that has been created

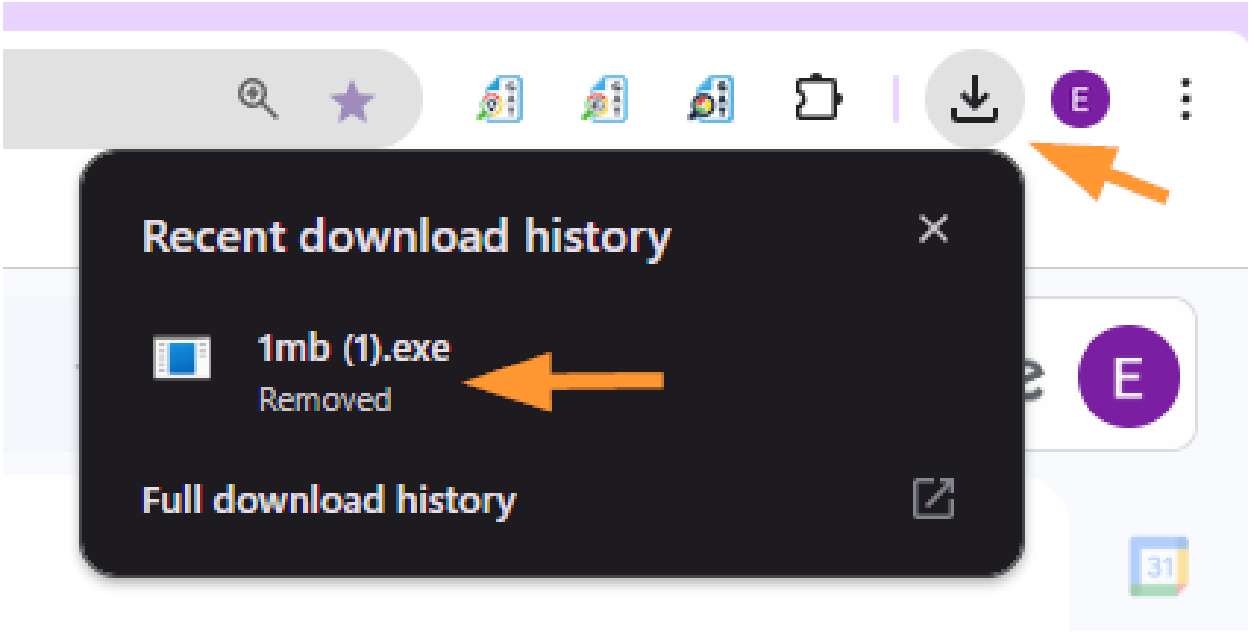
Click on the **Create** button to create the rule



Result for the end-user

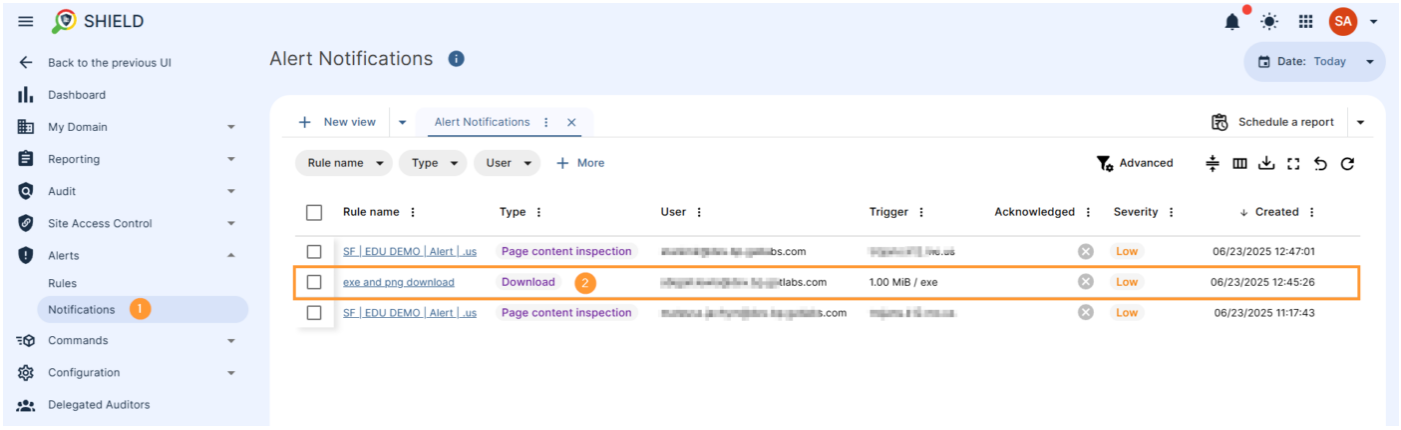
The end-user where the rule is applied will receive a **notification** on their screen, depending on what "End-user" action is selected.

The download will **be removed, and** the user will see this message in the recent download history on their Chrome browser



Result for the Google Workspace Admin

All the results will be displayed in **GAT Shield > Alerts > Notifications**



How-to video: GAT Shield Alert Rules

Embedded media:

https://www.youtube.com/embed/1M8xNTbONZ8?feature=oembed&color=red&rel=0&controls=1&start=&end=&fs=0&iv_

FAQs

Q: Can I block only certain users from downloading .exe files in Chrome?

A: Yes. In GAT Shield, you can scope your alert rule to specific organisational units (OUs) or sub-OUs, allowing targeted enforcement.

Q: Will users be notified when a download is blocked?

A: If you choose the “Show warning” action in the alert rule, users will see a custom message explaining the block.

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Alert Rules in Shield