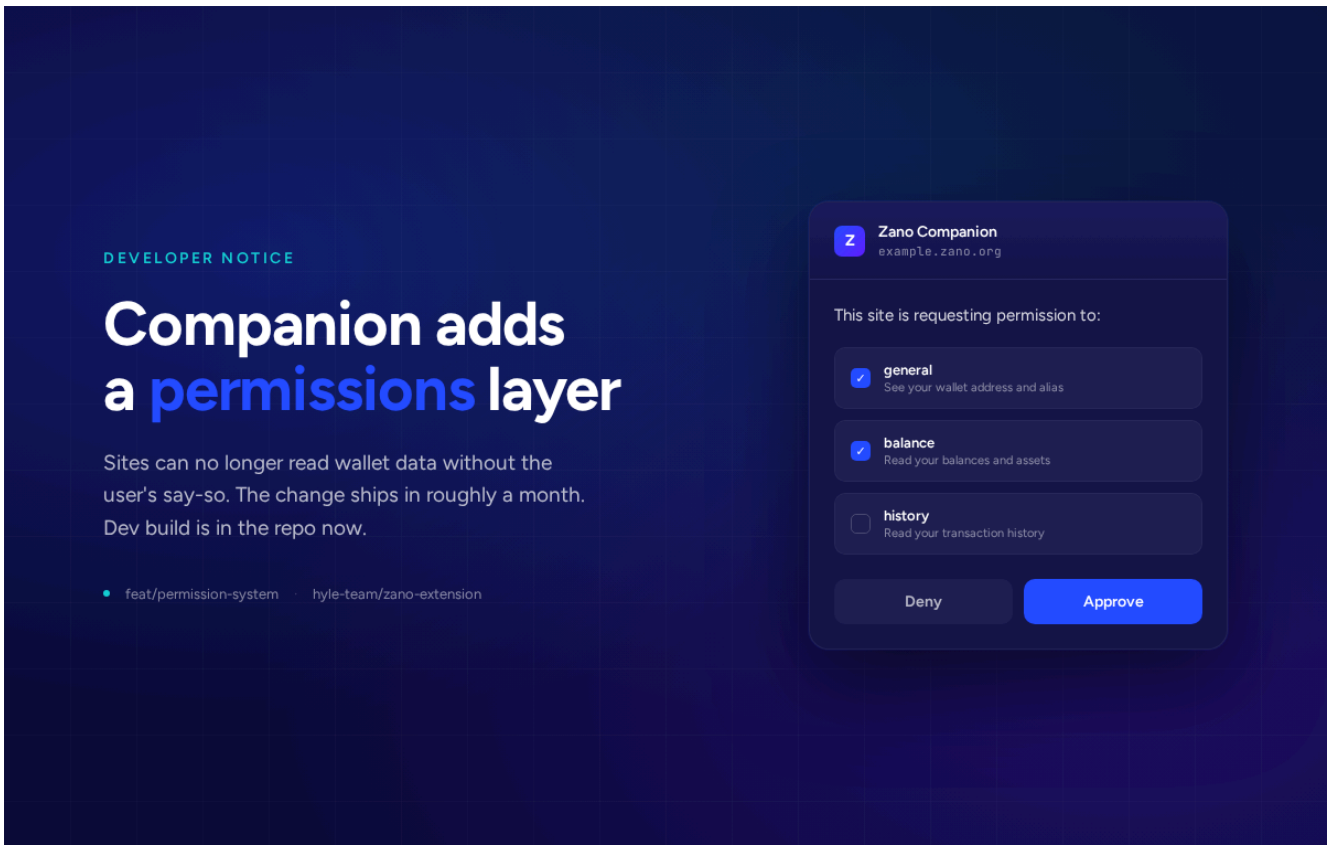
BLOG

DEVELOPMENT

Zano Companion is getting a permissions system

Ravaga
May 15, 2026 • 4 min read



The next Zano Companion release adds a permission layer between websites and the user's wallet. Today, any site that detects the extension can read the active wallet's address, balance, and transaction history the moment the page loads. After t

sites have to ask first.

The dev build is on the `feat/permission-system` branch of hyle-team/zano-extension. Public rollout is **June 15, 2026**. If you run a site that talks to Companion, this is the heads-up to wire in the new flow before then.

Key changes

Every site now has to ask the user before fetching wallet data or proposing transactions. The one method that works without approval is the new `REQUEST_ACCESS` call, and your frontend has to make it before any other request.

Permissions are scoped per origin and per wallet address. If the user switches to a different wallet, your access goes away until they switch back or grant the new wallet too.

Available permissions

TYPE	GRANTS ACCESS TO	REQUIRED FOR
`general`	Wallet address and alias	Every method. Must always be in the request.
`balance`	Wallet balance and assets	Methods that return balance data. `GET_WALLET_DATA` now omits the `balance` and `assets` fields without this permission.
`history`	Transaction history	Methods that return transaction history. `GET_WALLET_DATA` now omits the `transactions` field without this permission.

Each type is independent. Asking for one does not imply approval of another. Multiple permissions can be bundled into a single approval prompt.

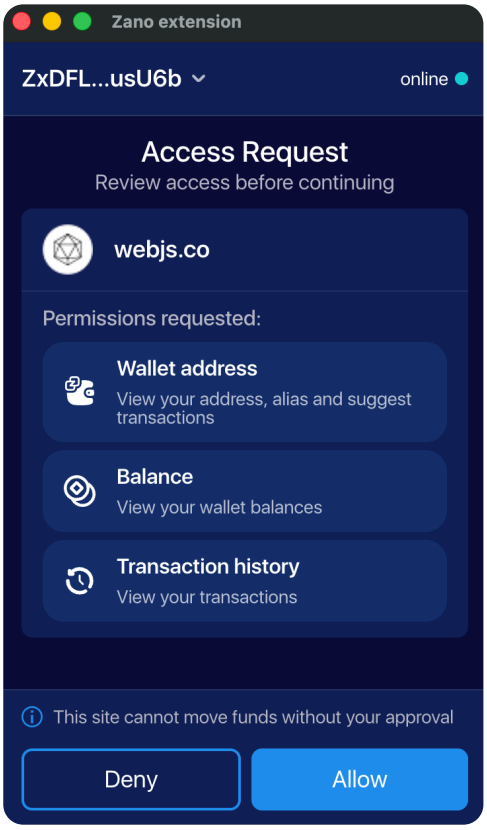
Requesting access

```
const result = await window.zano.request('REQUEST_ACCESS', {
  permissions: [
    { type: 'general' },
    { type: 'balance' },
    { type: 'history' }
  ]
});
```

Users see a popup like the one on the right. It also makes the safety guarantee explicit: the site cannot move funds without a separate approval. Permissions only affect what the site can *read* and what it can *propose*. Signing a transfer is still a per-transaction confirmation.

Response shape:

- Approved: `{ success: true }`
- Denied: `{ error: 'User rejected the access request' }`
- Already granted on a previous visit: `{ success: true }` instantly, no popup



Ask for what you actually need. A read-only block explorer page usually needs `general` and `history`. A swap dApp needs `general` and `balance`. Requesting all three on a page that only shows an address looks pushy and gets denied more often.

Backwards compatibility

To keep working for users still on the old extension during the rollout window, wrap the call:

```
try {
  await window.zano.request('REQUEST_ACCESS', {
    permissions: [{ type: 'general' }]
  });
} catch (e) {
  if (e.error === 'Unknown method: REQUEST_ACCESS') {
    // user is on the old extension, skip and use the legacy flow
  } else {
    throw e;
  }
}
```

`Unknown method: REQUEST_ACCESS` is the signal that the user has not updated yet. Treat it as "permissions not required on this version" and proceed with your existing code path. Once the new version is the default, you can drop the fallback.

Error reference

ERROR STRING	CAUSE	WHAT TO DO
`General permission required`	`general` not granted for the current address.	Call `REQUEST_ACCESS`.
`User rejected the access request`	User clicked Deny.	Do not re-prompt immediately.
`Invalid or empty permissions`	Malformed or empty `permissions` array.	Fix the request payload.

ERROR STRING	CAUSE	WHAT TO DO
`Unknown origin`	Sender origin cannot be determined (e.g. sandboxed iframe).	Check the page or iframe context.
`Request timeout exceeded`	No response from the user within the timeout window.	Retry the request.
`Request already pending`	An access request is already open for this site.	Wait for the current request to resolve.
`Unknown method: REQUEST_ACCESS`	User is on an older extension version.	Skip `REQUEST_ACCESS` and use the legacy flow.
`Permission denied`	Method requires a permission beyond `general` that was not granted.	Call `REQUEST_ACCESS` again with the missing permission.

Who needs to act

Any site that calls `window.zano.request(...)`. The Zano-built and ecosystem surfaces, including Zano Trade, Obscura, Confidential Layer, Wrapped Zano, ZanoStats, Zanox, and Freedom Dollar, all ship updated integrations alongside the extension release.

If you run a community-built site that integrates Companion, please grab the dev build and run through your flows now. Pages that auto-trigger wallet reads on load are going to look broken until you call `REQUEST_ACCESS` first, and methods that used to return data silently are now going to surface `General permission required` and `Permission denied`. Existing error handlers probably don't cover those strings.

Timeline

- **Now.** Dev build on `feat/permission-system`. Load it as an unpacked extension in Chrome or Firefox and run your integration against it.
- **June 15, 2026.** Public release through the Chrome Web Store and Firefox Add-ons. Users get the update automatically. Sites that haven't added `REQUEST_ACCESS` will look broken to anyone on the new version.

If you need help with the migration, reach out in the Zano Discord developer channel or open an issue on the extension repo. We'll post again once the public release ships.

Why we're doing this

The old behaviour was a holdover from how Web3 wallets used to work. Any site that detected Companion could read the active wallet's address, balance, and transaction history without the user knowing. That's not how a privacy wallet should behave.

For users, nothing breaks. The first time you visit a Zano site after updating, you'll see a popup asking what to share. Pick what you're comfortable with. You can revoke later by reconnecting from a fresh wallet, or by clearing the site's permissions in the extension settings.

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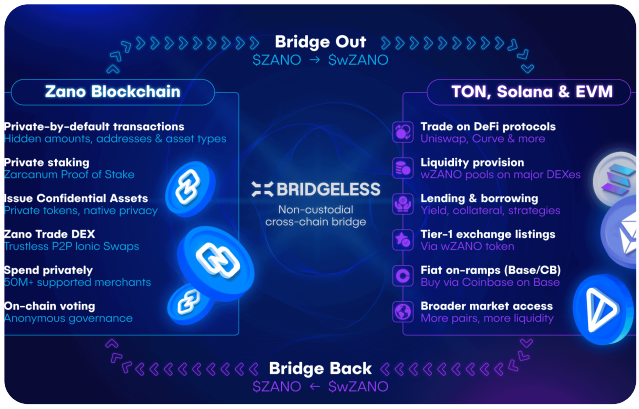

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