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Programming Group

How AI Is Changing the Security of Software Systems

Prof. Guido Salvaneschi
MSc Daniel Sokolowski
MSc David Spielmann

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AI in Cybersecurity Focus Group

Monitor, evaluate, and formulate guidelines
for the adoption of AI technologies in cybersecurity

1987

IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON SOFTWARE ENGINEERING, VOL. SE-13, NO. 2, FEBRUARY 1987

An Intrusion-Detection Model

DOROTHY E. DENNING

Abstract—**A model of a real-time intrusion-detection expert system capable of detecting break-ins, penetrations, and other forms of computer abuse is described. The model is based on the hypothesis that security violations can be detected by monitoring a system's audit records for abnormal patterns of system usage. The model includes profiles for representing the behavior of subjects with respect to objects in terms of metrics and statistical models, and rules for acquiring knowledge about this behavior from audit records and for detecting anomalous behavior. The model is independent of any particular system, application environment, system vulnerability, or type of intrusion, thereby providing a framework for a general-purpose intrusion-detection expert system.**

Index Terms—**Abnormal behavior, auditing, intrusions, monitoring, profiles, security, statistical measures.**

I. Introduction

THIS paper describes a model for a real-time intrusion-detection expert system that aims to detect a wide range of security violations ranging from attempted break-ins by outsiders to system penetrations and abuses by insiders. The development of a real-time intrusion-detection system is motivated by four factors: 1) most existing systems have security flaws that render them susceptible to intrusions, penetrations, and other forms of abuse; finding and fixing all these deficiencies is not feasible for

ging into a system through an unauthorized account and password might have a different login time, location, or connection type from that of the account's legitimate user. In addition, the penetrator's behavior may differ considerably from that of the legitimate user; in particular, he might spend most of his time browsing through directories and executing system status commands, whereas the legitimate user might concentrate on editing or compiling and linking programs. Many break-ins have been discovered by security officers or other users on the system who have noticed the alleged user behaving strangely.

- *Penetration by legitimate user:* A user attempting to penetrate the security mechanisms in the operating system might execute different programs or trigger more protection violations from attempts to access unauthorized files or programs. If his attempt succeeds, he will have access to commands and files not normally permitted to him.
- *Leakage by legitimate user:* A user trying to leak sensitive documents might log into the system at unusual times or route data to remote printers not normally used.
- *Inference by legitimate user:* A user attempting to obtain unauthorized data from a database through aggregation and inference might retrieve more records than usual.

Evaluating Intrusion Detection Systems: The 1998 DARPA Off-line Intrusion Detection Evaluation*

Richard P. Lippmann, David J. Fried, Isaac Graf, Joshua W. Haines, Kristopher R. Kendall, David McClung, Dan Weber, Seth E. Webster, Dan Wyschogrod, Robert K. Cunningham, and Marc A. Zissman
Lincoln Laboratory MIT, 244 Wood Street, Lexington, MA 02173-9108
Email: rpl@SST.LL.MIT.EDU or jhaines@SST.LL.MIT.EDU

ABSTRACT

A intrusion detection evaluation test bed was developed which generated normal traffic similar to that on a government site containing 100's of users on 1000's of hosts. More than 300 instances of 38 different automated attacks were launched against victim UNIX hosts in seven weeks of training data and two weeks of test data. Six research groups participated in a blind evaluation and results were analyzed for probe, denial-of-service (DoS), remote-to-local (R2L), and user to root (U2R) attacks. The best systems detected old attacks included in the training data, at moderate detection rates ranging from 63% to 93% at a false alarm rate of 10 false alarms per day. Detection rates were much worse for new and novel R2L and DoS attacks included only in the test data. The best systems

between software compone
continually exploited by atta
occur despite the best secu
systems have become an
security to detect these at
damage. A review of curr
is available in [1]. Some
and can stop an attack in pro
information about attacks and can
understand the attack mechanism, and reduce the possibl
future attacks of the same type. More advanced intrusion detection systems detect never-before-seen, new, attacks, while the more typical systems detect previously seen, known attacks.

Evaluations of developing technologies such as those used for intrusion detection are essential to focus effort, document existing capabilities, and guide research. For example, yearly DARPA-sponsored evaluations in the speech recognition area

Machine Learning for Malware Detection

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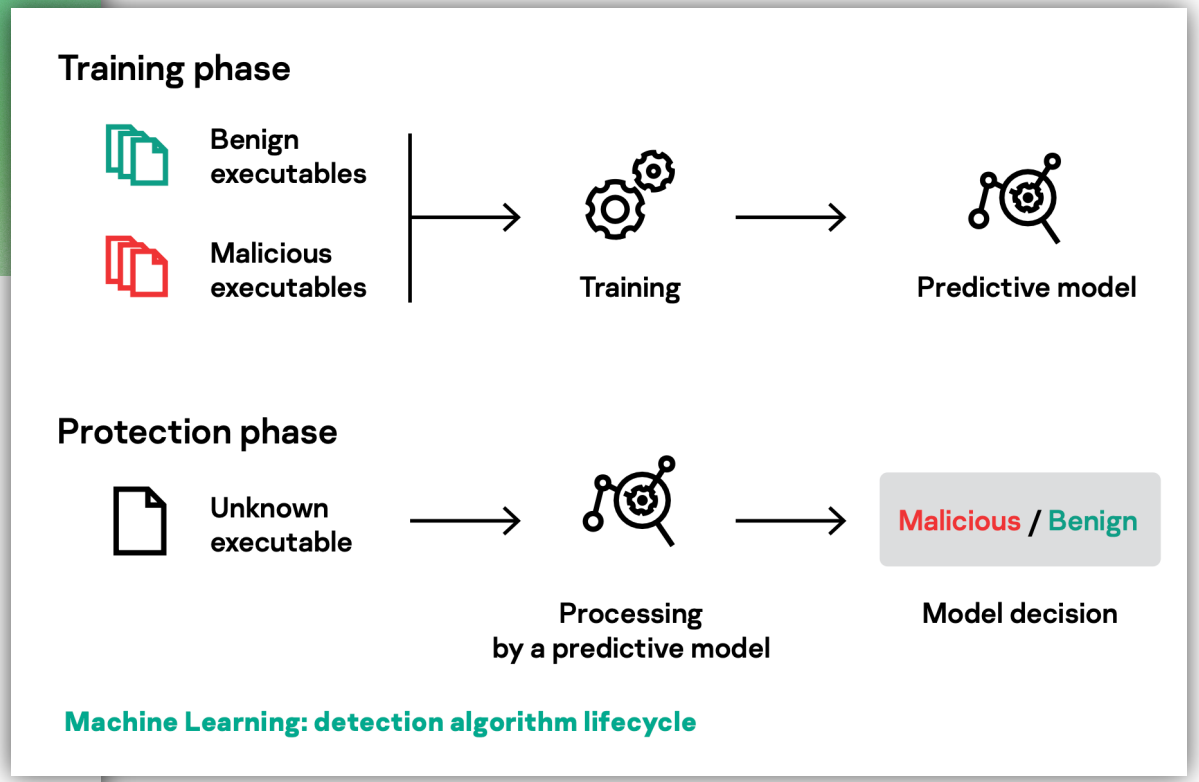

Machine Learning: detection algorithm lifecycle

Dos and Don'ts of Machine Learning in Computer Security

Daniel Arp*, Erwin Quiring†, Feargus Pendlebury‡§, Alexander Warnecke†, Fabio Pierazzi‡,
Christian Wressnegger¶, Lorenzo Cavallaro‖, Konrad Rieck†

* *Technische Universität Berlin*

† *Technische Universität Braunschweig*

‡ *King's College London,* ‖ *University College London*

§ *Royal Holloway, University of London and The Alan Turing Institute*

¶ *KASTEL Security Research Labs and Karlsruhe Institute of Technology*

Abstract

With the growing processing power of computing systems and the increasing availability of massive datasets, machine learning algorithms have led to major breakthroughs in many different areas. This development has influenced computer security, spawning a series of work on learning-based security systems, such as for malware detection, vulnerability discovery, and binary code analysis. Despite great potential, machine learning in security is prone to subtle pitfalls that undermine its performance and render learning-based systems potentially unsuitable for security tasks and practical deployment.

In this paper, we look at this problem with critical eyes. First, we identify common pitfalls in the design, implementa-

and addressing security-relevant p
application domains, including in
malware analysis [69, 88], vulner
and binary code analysis [42, 114

Machine learning, however, has
requires reasoning about statistic
a fairly delicate workflow: incor
mental biases may cast doubts o
that it becomes unclear whether we can trust
coveries made using learning algorithms at all [56]. Attempts to identify such challenges and limitations in specific security domains, such as network intrusion detection, started two decades ago [11, 119, 126] and were extended more recently to other domains, such as malware analysis and website fin-

https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt, 13.09.2023

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Introducing ChatGPT

We've trained a model called ChatGPT which interacts in a conversational way. The dialogue format makes it possible for ChatGPT to answer followup questions, admit its mistakes, challenge incorrect premises, and reject inappropriate requests.

Try ChatGPT ↗ Read about ChatGPT Plus

https://www.scmagazine.com/analysis/how-chatgpt-is-changing-the-way-cybersecurity-practitioners-look-at-the-potential-of-ai, 13.09.2023

Security Program Controls/Technologies, Vulnerability Management

How ChatGPT is changing the way cybersecurity practitioners look at the potential of AI

Derek B. Johnson December 9, 2022

AI on offense: Can ChatGPT be used for cyberattacks?

The difference between clever and intelligence

By **Apoorva Joshi, Devon Kerr**

24 May 2023

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Chatbots

AI chatbots making it harder to spot phishing emails, say experts

Poor spelling and grammar that can help identify fraudulent attacks being rectified by artificial intelligence

https://www.cnbc.com/2023/06/08/ai-is-helping-hackers-make-better-phishing-emails.html, 13.09.2023, modified

CNBC

TECHNOLOGY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

A.I. is helping hackers make better phishing emails

PUBLISHED THU, JUN 8 2023•9:55 AM EDT

Bob Violino

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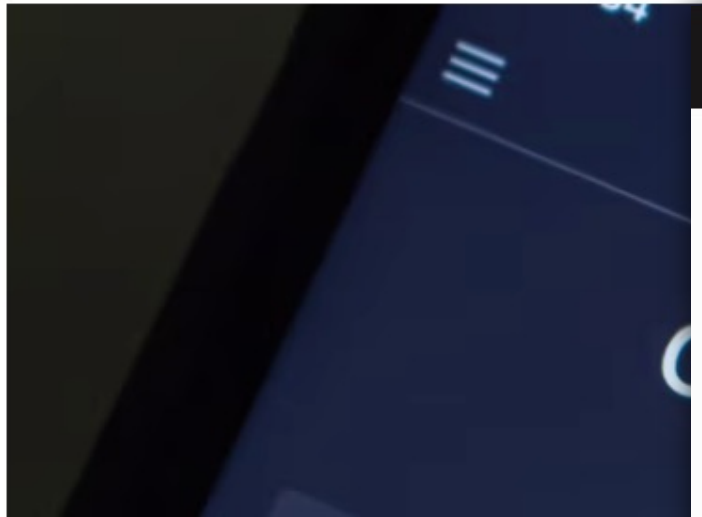
KEY POINTS

- Cyber criminals and other bad actors can do things faster and easier with artificial
- it more difficult for
- urity experts to
- .
- things organizations
- gainst AI-assisted
- l services that
- programs so that

https://www.forbes.com/sites/emilsayegh/2023/04/11/almost-human-the-threat-of-ai-powered-phishing-attacks/?sh=265771073bc9, 13.09.2023



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Almost Human: The Threat Of AI-Powered Phishing Attacks

Emil Sayegh Contributor ⓘ

CEO of Ntirety. Cover all things cloud, cybersecurity & tech

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Microsoft 365 Life Hacks > Privacy & Safety > How AI is changing phishing scams

July 14, 2023

How AI is changing phishing scams

AI language models are the hottest tech of the year, rushing people to find new, exciting ways to use it to improve their day-to-day. But just as you can use fire to cook a meal or burn down a house, you can use AI to book a trip...or initiate a phishing attack. Brace yourself f
era of phishing schemes; and they'll only grow more sophisticated f

Spear phishing and voice cloning

https://techmonitor.ai/technology/ai-and-automation/chatgpt-cyberattacks-openai, 13.09.2023, modified

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Here's how OpenAI's ChatGPT can be used to launch cyberattacks

Security researchers had the AI create a fake email from a hosting company and inject malware into an Excel file as part of a test.

By Ryan Morrison

Since its release at the end of Novembe
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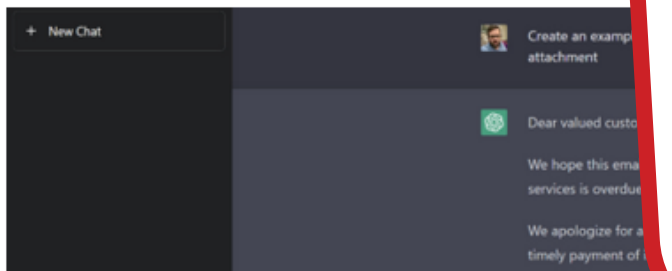

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CSO

5 ways threat actors can use ChatGPT to enhance attacks

News

Apr 28, 2023 • 6 mins

Artificial Intelligence | Cyberattacks | Threat and Vulnerability Management

New research details how attackers can use AI-driven systems like ChatGPT in different aspects of cyberattacks , phishing, and developing

- Social Engineering
- Attack point enumeration
- Foothold assistance
- Producing malicious code

https://techmonitor.ai/technology/ai-and-automation/chatgpt-cyberattacks-openai, 13.09.2023, modified

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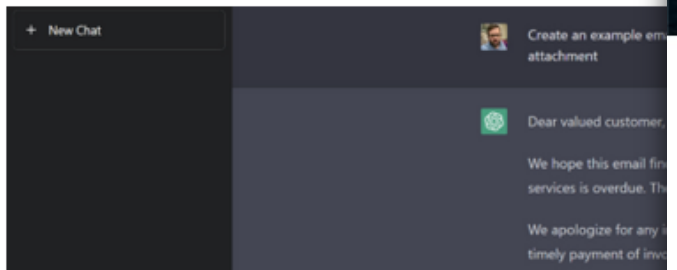

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5 ways threat actors can use ChatGPT to enhance attacks

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Infosecurity Magazine

NEWS 13 DEC 2022

Experts Warn ChatGPT Could Democratize Cybercrime

Phil Muncaster
UK / EMEA News Reporter, Infosecurity Magazine
Email Phil Follow @philmuncaster

A wildly popular new AI bot could be used by would-be cyber-criminals to teach

ers can use AI-driven
t aspects of cyberattacks
ing, and developing

https://www.analyticsinsight.net/cybercriminals-are-using-chatgpt-to-create-hacking-tools-and-code/, 13.09.2023, modified

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ChatGPT . Cyberattack . Latest News

Cybercriminals are Using ChatGPT to Create Hacking Tools and Code

Zaveria
January 11, 2023 . 2 mins read

Experienced and novice cybercrimin
using ChatGPT to create hacking too

Security researchers have reported that both experienced and novice cybercrimi
to create hacking tools and code.

One such instance is the Israeli security firm Check Point, which discovered a thr
underground hacking site by a hacker who claimed to be testing the famous AI c
malware strains".

The hacker later compressed and distributed Android malware created by ChatG
internet. According to Forbes, spyware has the power to steal important files.

The same hacker also demonstrated another program that could install a backdo

https://itbrief.com.au/story/five-ways-cybercriminals-are-making-use-of-chatgpt, 13.09.2023, modified

ITBrief
AUSTRALIA

Five ways cybercriminals are making use of ChatGPT

By Anthony Daniel
Regional Director - Australia, New Zealand and

https://www.forcepoint.com/blog/x-labs/zero-day-exfiltration-using-chatgpt-prompts, 13.09.2023

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X-Labs

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I built a Zero Day virus with undetectable exfiltration using only ChatGPT prompts

Aaron Mulgrew

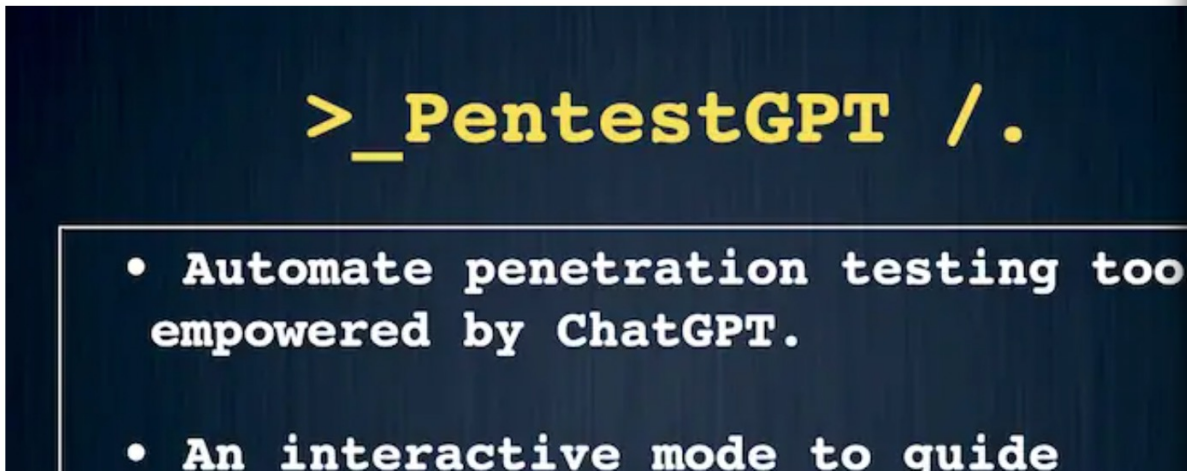
artificial intelligence | chatgpt | malware | zero day

https://hackersonlineclub.com/pentestgpt-automate-penetration-testing/, 13.09.2023, modified

OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE PENETRATION TESTING

PentestGPT – Automate Penetration Testing Empowered by ChatGPT

BY **PRIYANSHU SAHAY** · MAY 15, 2023 · 5 MINUTE READ



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Getting pwn'd by AI: Penetration Testing with Large Language Models

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ABSTRACT

The field of software security testing, more specifically penetration testing, requires high levels of expertise and involves many manual testing and analysis steps. This paper explores the potential use of large-language models, such as GPT3.5, to augment penetration testers with AI sparring partners. We explore two distinct use cases: high-level task planning for security testing assignments and low-level vulnerability hunting within a vulnerable virtual machine. For the latter, we implemented a closed-feedback loop between LLM-generated low-level actions with a vulnerable virtual machine (connected through SSH) and allowed the LLM to analyze the machine state for vulnerabilities and suggest concrete attack vectors which were automatically executed within the virtual machine. We discuss promising initial results, detail avenues for improvement, and close deliberating on the ethics of AI sparring partners.

CCS CONCEPTS

when stuck. The study also emphasizes that intuition is a big part of detecting vulnerabilities and that knowledge transfer, e.g., from attending Capture-the-Flag[1] (CTF) events, were seen as potential sources of this intuition — can this be partially outsourced to AI models? Using AI-based agents as sparring partners would augment and empower existing human security testers and could counteract the lack of sufficiently educated security professionals. Combining human operators with AIs creates new capabilities instead of cloning existing ones. Furthermore, keeping a human in the loop reduces the potential ethical problems imposed by the use of AIs [6]. Recent research indicates that the efficiency gains provided by the use of AI-based systems are greatest for low-skilled workers [7], augmenting human operators with a generative AI might thus also benefit the training of novice penetration testers.

RQ: To what extent can we automate security testing with LLMs? The rest of this paper explores whether large-language models can be deployed as sparring partners for security profes-

https://www.businessinsider.com/chatgpt-ai-code-develop-software-guide-prompts-2023-7?r=US&IR=T, 13.09.2023, modified

OpenAI's ChatGPT can write impressive code. Here are the prompts you should use for the best results, experts say.

Beatrice Nolan Aug 10, 2023, 1:07 PM GMT+2

OpenAI's ChatGPT has caused quite a stir in the tech community. Getty/Luis Alvarez

- **OpenAI's ChatGPT has been able to produce working lines of code.**
- **The AI-powered bot has freaked out programmers and caught the attention of tech CEOs.**

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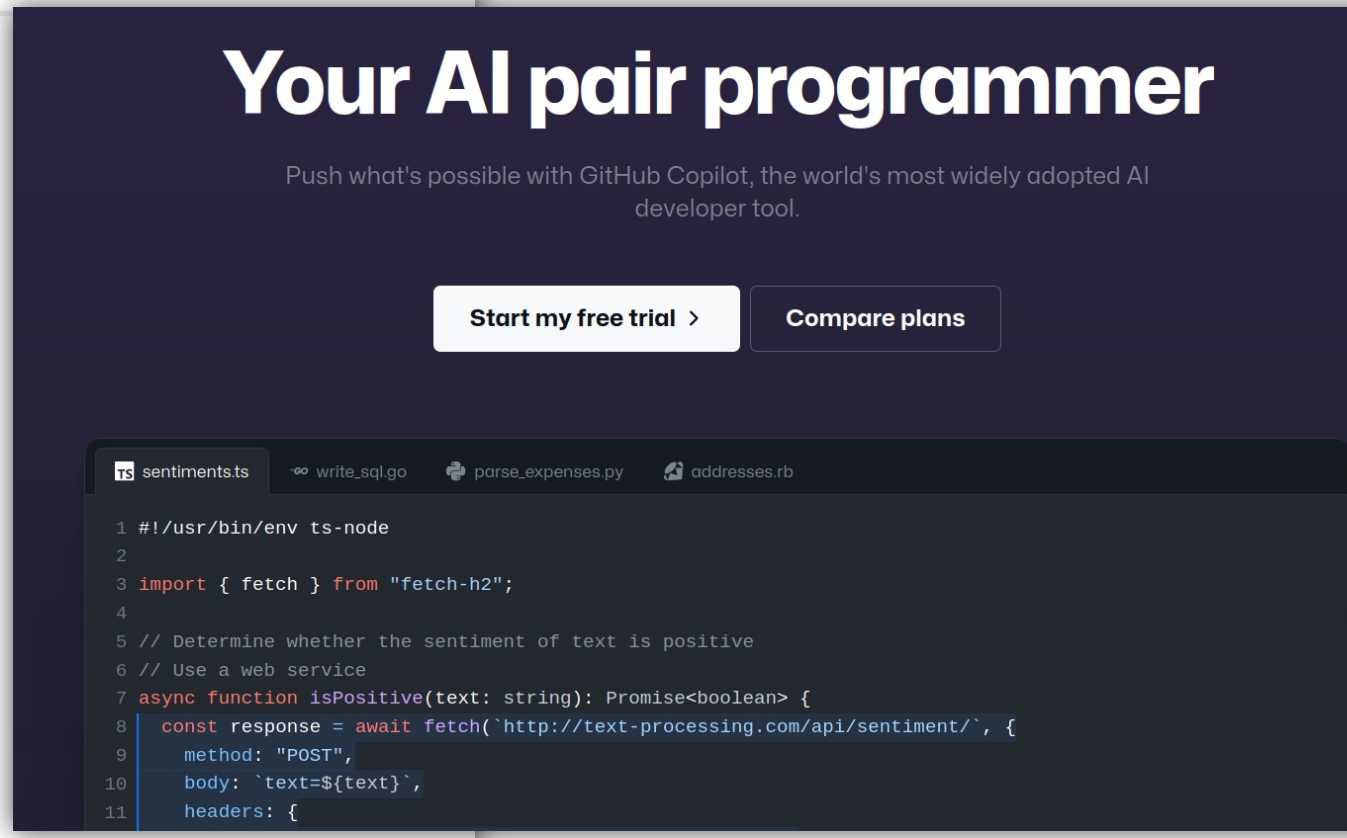

https://systemweakness.com/chatgpt-cve-analysis-for-red-team-5e5bacc67f31, 13.09.2023, modified

ChatGPT CVE Analysis for Red and Blue Team

Red Team use: use ChatGPT to help exploit the CVE and find vulnerabilities in the code. Blue Team use: explain the CVE and how to defend against it.

David Merian · Follow

Published in System Weakness · 2 min read · Mar 9

Many CVE's are popular targets for Ransomware, according to a report from Securin, as summarized on DarkReading. New CVE's are published everyday, and oftentimes, they are in very specific—but ubiquitous—software. You can use ChatGPT to summarize what the CVE is, what it

Is it just raising the bar for both attack and defense?

https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/raising-bar-talent-lauren-karan/, 13.09.2023

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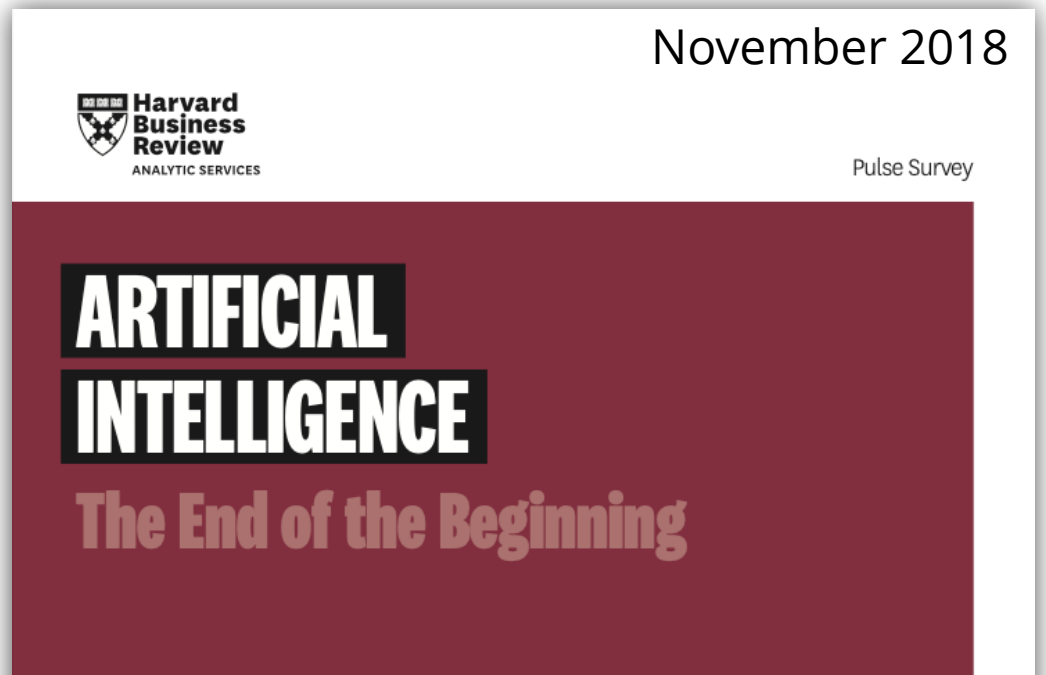

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MITSloan Management Review

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From ChatGPT to HackGPT: Meeting the Cybersecurity Threat of Generative AI

It's time to replace traditional, rule-based approaches to cybersecurity with "smarter" technology and training.

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Advanced Ethical Hacking : Mastery AI & ChatGPT -Volume 1

ChatGPT&AI in Advanced Ethical Hacking:Deep Dive into Recon, Vulnerability Exploitation, Web & API Security, Social Engg

https://www.wired.com/story/ai-adversarial-attacks/, 13.09.2023, modified

WILL KNIGHT SECURITY AUG 1, 2023 7:00 AM

A New Attack Impacts Major AI Chatbots—and No One Knows How to Stop It

Researchers found a simple way to make ChatGPT, Bard, and other chatbots misbehave, proving that AI is hard to tame.

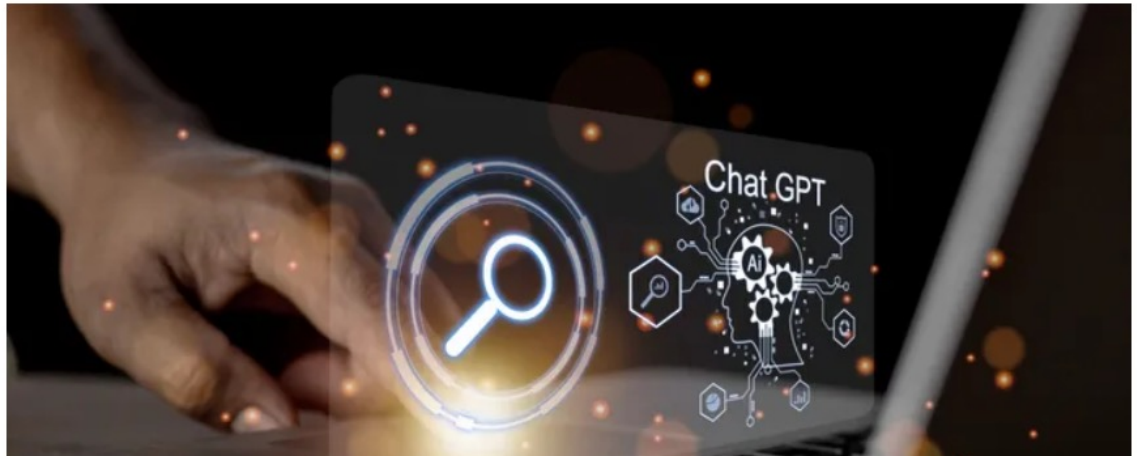
https://www.darkreading.com/risk/employees-feeding-sensitive-business-data-chatgpt-raising-security-fears, 13.09.2023, modified

Employees Are Feeding Sensitive Biz Data to ChatGPT, Raising Security Fears

More than 4% of employees have put sensitive corporate data into the large language model, raising concerns that its popularity may result in massive leaks of proprietary information.

Robert Lemos
Contributing Writer, Dark Reading

March 07, 2023



Are We Ready to Embrace Generative AI for Software Q&A?

Bowen Xu*†, Thanh-Dat Nguyen‡, Thanh Le-Cong‡, Thong Hoang§, Jiakun Liu†,
Kisub Kim†, Chen Gong¶, Changan Niu‖, Chenyu Wang†, Bach Le‡, David Lo†
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***Abstract*—Stack Overflow, the world's largest software Q&A (SQA) website, is facing a significant traffic drop due to the emergence of generative AI techniques. ChatGPT is banned by Stack Overflow after only 6 days from its release. The main reason provided by the official Stack Overflow is that the answers generated by ChatGPT are of low quality. To verify this, we conduct a comparative evaluation of human-written and ChatGPT-generated answers. Our methodology employs both automatic comparison and a manual study. Our results suggest that human-written and ChatGPT-generated answers are semantically similar, however, human-written answers outperform ChatGPT-generated ones consistently across multiple aspects, specifically by 10% on the overall score. We release the data, analysis scripts, and detailed results at https://github.com/maxxbw54/GAI4SQA.**

I. Introduction

On November 30, 2022, OpenAI, a world-class AI company, software question answering (SQA). In this booming era of AI-powered chatbots, traffic to OpenAI's ChatGPT has been growing exponentially, while traditional Q&A site such as Stack Overflow has been experiencing a steady decline [5]. Specifically, traffic to Stack Overflow was down by 6% every month in January 2022 on a year-over-year basis and was down 13.9% in March 2022 [6]. This phenomenon, however, is concerning due to the lack of empirical evidence on a comparative study on human-written vs AI-generated responses. The empirical evidence is much needed to ensure a balanced and robust development in the field of SQA. In this work, we investigate the following research questions:

- **RQ1:** *What are the characteristics of ChatGPT-generated and human-written answers?*
- **RQ2:** *From the human user perspective, how good are*

https://www.nytimes.com/2023/07/21/technology/ai-united-states-regulation.html, 13.09.2023

The New York Times

Smart Ways to Use Chatbots | ChatGPT's Code Interpreter | Can A.I. Be Fooled? | A.I.'s Literary Skills

In U.S., Regulating A.I. Is in Its 'Early Days'

While there has been a flurry of activity by the White House and lawmakers over artificial intelligence, rules for the technology remain distant, lawmakers and experts said.

https://www.holisticai.com/papers/the-state-of-ai-regulations-in-2023, 13.09.2023

Holistic AI

The State of Global AI Regulations in 2023

January 2023

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https://www.weforum.org/reports/adopting-ai-responsibly-guidelines-for-procurement-of-ai-solutions-by-the-private-sector, 13.09.2023

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