MACHINE LEARNING FOR WEB VULNERABILITY DETECTION

A MINI PROJECT REPORT
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AURORA'S TECHNOLOGICAL AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE

(Affiliated to JNTU, Hyderabad and Accredited by NAAC with 'A' grade)

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DECLARATION

We hereby declare that the work described in this project, entitled "MACHINE LEARNING FOR WEB VULNERABILITY DETECTION" which is being submitted by us in partial fulfilment for the award of Bachelor of Technology in Computer Science and Engineering to AURORA'S TECHNOLOGICAL AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE is the result of investigation carried by us under the guidance of Mrs. V. Aparna Varalakshmi, Associate Professor, CSE.

The work is original and has not been submitted for any degree of this or any other university.

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CERTIFICATE

Certified that this project report "MACHINE LEARNING FOR WEB VULNERABILITY DETECTION" is the bonafide work of "APPIDI GIRIDHAR REDDY - 20841A0546, PATHAPATI BHANUTEJA-20841A0532, S SAI SREEKAR - 20841A0560" who carried out the project work under my supervision.

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This work has been done during the project period and it was a very good opportunity to put theoretical knowledge into planned exercise with an aim to solve a real time problem and also to develop confidence to face various practical situations.

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ABSTRACT

In this project, we propose a methodology to leverage Machine Learning (ML) for the detection of web application vulnerabilities. Web applications are particularly challenging to analyses, due to their diversity and the widespread adoption of custom programming practices. ML is thus very helpful for web application security: it can take advantage of manually labeled data to bring the human understanding of the web application semantics into automated analysis tools. We use our methodology in the design of Mitch, the first ML solution for the black-box detection of Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF) vulnerabilities. Mitch allowed us to identify 35 new CSRFs on 20 major websites and 3 new CSRFs on production software. Web applications have become an integral part of modern digital interactions, yet they remain susceptible to a wide range of security vulnerabilities that can compromise user data and system integrity. This project presents an innovative approach to enhancing web application security through the application of machine learning techniques for web vulnerability detection. By leveraging a diverse dataset of simulated attack scenarios and legitimate interactions, a robust and adaptive model is developed to identify and classify vulnerabilities such as SQL injection, cross-site scripting (XSS), and crosssite request forgery (CSRF). Feature engineering, selection, and extraction methods are employed to effectively capture intricate patterns indicative of vulnerabilities.

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LIST OF ABBREVATIONS

ML - Machine Learning

CSRF - Cross Site Request Forgery

MySQL - My Structured Query Language

HTML - Hypertext Markup Language

CSS - Cascading Style Sheets

GUI - Graphical User Interface

XSS - Cross Site Scripting

HTTP - Hypertext Transfer Protocol

WAF - Web Application Firewall