**Module 1 Assignment – Foundations, Pitch, and Django Practice**

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**Course:** CIDM 6325/70 – Electronic Commerce and Web Development  
**Submission Date:** [Insert Date Before Submission]

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**Overview**

This submission consolidates Week 1–2 deliverables for the CIDM 6325 course. The project explores hallucination risk in AI-generated code within secure SDLC contexts, and develops a Django-based artifact that demonstrates traceability, annotation, and ethical tooling. Each section builds on AI-assisted development principles with a critical emphasis on auditability, compliance, and inclusive design.

The document includes a full project pitch, three lab sessions with comparative reflections, prompt evolution tracking, ethical risk mitigation strategies, policy accountability statement, and a formal tier declaration. A separate system sketch diagram will be inserted prior to final submission.

**Part A: Project Pitch**

**Problem Statement:**

Security review processes are increasingly burdened by the integration of AI-generated code artifacts. While AI-assisted tools promise development acceleration, they frequently introduce silent failure risks due to hallucinated outputs—code suggestions that are syntactically valid but factually incorrect, insecure, deprecated, or misleading.

In secure development lifecycles (SDLCs), the manual burden of validating AI-generated content can slow down delivery, introduce ambiguity, and compromise functional safety. The net result is a paradox: while AI is intended to accelerate engineering workflows, it often forces teams to manually re-verify outputs, eroding the very efficiency it promises.

**Domain:**  
AI-generated code quality, hallucination risk, secure SDLC

**Concept Focus:**  
*Hallucination Risk* — AI may generate code or suggestions that are syntactically correct but factually wrong, insecure, deprecated, or misleading.

**Core Challenge Exposed:**  
Unchecked reliance on AI-generated code erodes engineering trust, increases attack surface, and breaks functional integrity without clear ownership or traceability.

**Stakeholders:**

* **Software Engineers**: Primary users of AI coding tools, responsible for code validation and integration.
* **Security Engineers**: Accountable for ensuring the AI-generated code adheres to secure coding practices and compliance.
* **Engineering Managers & DevOps Leads**: Oversee delivery velocity, code integrity, and responsible adoption of AI tooling.
* **AI/ML Governance Committees**: Provide oversight on model behavior, hallucination risks, and acceptable use boundaries.

**Project Scope:**  
This project focuses on building a Django-based tool that helps detect, flag, and annotate hallucinated AI code suggestions during the development process. The tool will include a simple web interface for inputting generated code, a backend validation pipeline referencing known risk patterns, and tagging modules that associate risks with traceability and ownership markers.

The scope excludes deep learning model development or full-stack IDE integration. Instead, the emphasis is on demonstrating the hallucination-detection workflow using curated rules and sample AI-generated inputs.

**Success Metrics:**

* Ability to flag 3–5 common hallucination types (e.g., insecure APIs, deprecated libraries, misleading patterns)
* Tagged output with traceability links (e.g., source prompt, validation reference)
* Demo walkthrough showcasing end-to-end hallucination detection within a Django web interface
* Artifact documentation and code committed to GitHub repo with clear usage instructions

**Minimal Viable Artifact (MVA):**  
A functioning Django app capable of:

* Accepting code snippets as input
* Running a basic rules-based check for hallucination patterns
* Returning annotated results with explanations
* Logging input, output, and validation trail for traceability

**System Sketch**

**[Insert Architecture Diagram Here]**

The proposed architecture consists of the following layers:

1. **Frontend (User Interface):**
   * Web form to input AI-generated code snippets
   * Display panel for annotated results and feedback
   * Status indicator for detection outcome
2. **Backend (Processing & Logic):**
   * Django views and serializers to process input
   * Rule engine or pattern matcher to detect hallucination risks
   * Annotation engine to tag and explain findings
3. **Validation Layer:**
   * Static reference library (e.g., insecure API patterns, deprecated libraries)
   * Mapping module linking code fragments to violation categories
4. **Data Storage & Traceability:**
   * PostgreSQL (or SQLite for MVP) to log user inputs, detection results, timestamps, and risk levels
   * GitHub webhook-compatible audit logs (optional extension)
5. **AI Touchpoint (Optional Future Scope):**
   * Integrate model confidence scores from LLM outputs (e.g., via OpenAI API response metadata)
   * Compare against validation pipeline to tune precision/recall in hallucination detection

**Evidence Base:**

1. **NIST AI Risk Management Framework (2023)** – [Link](https://www.nist.gov/itl/ai-risk-management-framework)
2. **OWASP Top 10 for Large Language Model Applications (2023)** – [Link](https://owasp.org/www-project-top-10-for-large-language-model-applications/)
3. **IEEE Standard 7001-2021: Transparency of Autonomous Systems** – [Link](https://standards.ieee.org/ieee/7001/10231/)

**Risk Register:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Risk** | **Impact** | **Mitigation** |
| False negatives in hallucination detection | Undetected insecure/deprecated code introduced into SDLC | Continuously expand pattern library and conduct manual spot-checks |
| Engineering resistance to AI output filtering | Perceived slowdown or skepticism in using AI-assisted tooling | Provide clear documentation, demo reliability, and emphasize traceability |
| Incomplete traceability logs | Gaps in validation trail reduce audit effectiveness | Ensure all inputs/outputs are logged with timestamps and annotation metadata |

**AI Risk Governance – Strategic Question Set**

* **Traceability**: Can we trace the origin, purpose, and decision trail of every AI output?
* **Reliability**: Does the AI suggestion meet technical, domain, and contextual expectations?
* **Data Sovereignty**: Where is the output stored? Who owns it? Can it be audited, altered, or revoked?

Each lab session that follows engages with at least one of these principles.

**Part B: AI Tooling Lab Log**

**Session 1: Prompt Logging and Traceability**

**Goal:** To evaluate whether prompt submission, output generation, and usage patterns are being logged and secured in a way that supports auditability and compliance.  
**Prompts Used:** Examples included designing a Django model for prompt metadata and asking about compliance risks.  
**Critical Evaluation:** Initial outputs lacked secure storage, timestamp validation, and user linkage.  
**Refinements:** By adding GDPR/HIPAA context, AI suggestions improved to include hashed storage, role-based access, and compliance tags.  
**Takeaway:** Prompt logging must be intentional, ethical, and compliance-aligned.

**Session 2: Hallucination Risk in Code Suggestions**

**Goal:** To identify risks in AI-generated code suggestions within a secure SDLC.  
**Prompts Used:** Included generating AES encryption functions and asking about security best practices.  
**Critical Evaluation:** Early outputs used insecure defaults (ECB mode, no key derivation).  
**Refinements:** Contextual prompts (e.g., healthcare use case) improved results to AES-GCM with Fernet for key handling.  
**Takeaway:** Functional code may still be insecure; prompts must embed explicit security requirements.

**Session 3: Ethics & Accessibility**

**Goal:** To explore how AI can support inclusive, ethical software development.  
**Prompts Used:** Focused on accessible app design, ethical risks, and inclusive UI checklists.  
**Critical Evaluation:** Initial responses emphasized color and alt-text but missed screen-reader or localization support.  
**Refinements:** By invoking WCAG 2.2 and accessibility standards, AI outputs improved to include ARIA roles, screen-reader metadata, and changelogs.  
**Takeaway:** Ethical and accessible AI development requires governance framing; left unchecked, AI prioritizes aesthetics over inclusivity.

**Comparative Reflection:**  
Across these sessions, I moved from passive queries to structured, compliance-aware prompt engineering. AI proved most valuable when guided by domain context and governance principles, leading to outputs that are secure, traceable, and inclusive.

**Note: AI Use Disclosure**  
AI assistance was used throughout all three lab sessions to generate initial drafts, refine prompts, suggest validation patterns, and evaluate responses. All AI-generated outputs were critically reviewed, iteratively refined, and manually validated before inclusion.

**Part C: Prompt Log Reflection**

**Title:** Prompt Refinement for Secure, Traceable, and Ethical AI Outputs

**1. Secure Code Generation**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Stage** | **Prompt / Output Summary** |
| **Before** | “Generate a Python function to encrypt a string using AES.” Output was insecure: ECB mode, no key derivation, no integrity checks. |
| **After** | “Generate a secure AES encryption function using Python’s cryptography library for use in a HIPAA-compliant healthcare system. Ensure integrity checks, proper key management, and modern cipher modes like AES-GCM.” Result adopted AES-GCM, Fernet, and better documentation. |
| **Improvement** | Added security context shifted output to align with modern best practices. |

**2. Traceability and Audit Logging**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Stage** | **Prompt / Output Summary** |
| **Before** | “Design a Django model to store AI prompt metadata.” Simple fields only; no user linkage, timestamps, or compliance safeguards. |
| **After** | “Design a Django model to store AI prompt metadata with auditability in mind, including fields for timestamp, user ID, prompt category, sensitivity level, and compliance tags (e.g., GDPR/HIPAA). Ensure hashed storage and access logs.” Output improved with encryption and RBAC. |
| **Improvement** | Compliance framing transformed generic logging into audit-ready traceability. |

**3. Inclusive UI Guidance**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Stage** | **Prompt / Output Summary** |
| **Before** | “How can AI help developers build more accessible apps?” Superficial outputs focused on alt text and colors only. |
| **After** | “Generate a checklist for inclusive UI design that meets WCAG 2.2 and WAI-ARIA standards. Include considerations for screen readers, localization, input diversity (keyboard/mouse), and gender-neutral language.” Output gave standards-aligned, detailed checklist. |
| **Improvement** | Adding WCAG and WAI-ARIA references produced actionable, audit-ready accessibility guidance. |

**Conclusion:**  
Prompt quality determines output quality. Specific, compliance-anchored prompts yield production-grade results, while generic prompts risk superficiality. AI outputs must be intentionally shaped through domain-aware, verifiable prompt engineering.

**Part D: Ethics & Accessibility Brief**

**Title:** Risk Mitigation Strategies for AI-Augmented Development Environments

As AI tooling becomes deeply embedded into software development workflows, especially within secure SDLC contexts, two interrelated concerns demand proactive mitigation: ethical bias in decision support systems, and accessibility gaps in AI-generated interfaces. These brief outlines both challenges and proposes targeted mitigations rooted in well-established standards.

**1. Risk: Ethical Bias in AI-Generated Outputs**

**Description:** AI models trained on uncurated or non-representative datasets often reinforce existing social, cultural, or gender-based biases. This bias may manifest in AI-generated variable names, UI labels, or documentation tone. In high-stakes environments such as healthcare or security engineering, these embedded assumptions can propagate inequality or skew decision-making.

**Example:** A prompt requesting UI form labels for a "user registration" screen yielded default gendered labels such as "Mr./Mrs." without considering non-binary identities.

**Mitigation Strategy:**

* Embed prompt filters that flag biased or stereotyped outputs
* Incorporate inclusive lexicons and guidelines into model pre/post-processing
* Reference IEEE P7003 standard on Algorithmic Bias Considerations
* Apply NIST AI Risk Management Framework (AI RMF) to assess representational fairness

**2. Risk: Accessibility Gaps in AI-Generated Interfaces**

**Description:** Generative AI tends to favor visual fluency over inclusive usability. Outputs may omit screen reader compatibility, alt-text, or proper tab ordering. This creates barriers for users with disabilities and may violate accessibility regulations.

**Example:** An AI-generated HTML page lacked alt attributes for images and used low-contrast text, making it unreadable to visually impaired users.

**Mitigation Strategy:**

* Enforce WCAG 2.2 compliance in all AI-generated interfaces
* Utilize accessibility linters and semantic validators post-generation
* Include metadata tags for accessibility intent (e.g., aria-labels, role descriptions)
* Maintain an AI prompt checklist that covers usability dimensions

**Referenced Standards:**

* WCAG 2.2: Web Content Accessibility Guidelines – [Link](https://www.w3.org/WAI/WCAG22/)
* NIST AI Risk Management Framework – [Link](https://www.nist.gov/itl/ai-risk-management-framework)

**Conclusion:**  
Ethics and accessibility are foundational to responsible AI-assisted development. Embedding standards like WCAG and NIST AI RMF ensure that AI outputs support inclusivity, accountability, and compliance.

**Part E: Syllabus Accountability Note**

As a graduate student committed to academic integrity and timely performance, I will meet all course deadlines by structuring my workload across weekly sprints and by prioritizing deliverables in GitHub before each Sunday deadline. I will document my AI use clearly in AI\_LOG.md and ensure that all code and writing assisted by generative tools is transparently cited and verified.

I recognize that this course encourages responsible use of AI assistance with full attribution. I will adhere to the WTAMU COB Academic Integrity Policy and the Generative AI Disclosure guidelines as outlined in the syllabus. I understand that unacknowledged use of AI tools constitutes academic dishonesty.

**Signed:** Mafruha Chowdhury  
**Date:** [Insert Date Before Submission]

**Part F: Tier Declaration & Rationale**

**Declared Tier: Advanced**

**Rationale:**  
I have selected the Advanced tier based on my current role as a Senior Cybersecurity Engineer and my ongoing responsibilities in cloud-native architecture, multi-tenant security governance, and secure development lifecycle (SDLC) design. My project reflects real-world concerns encountered in my professional environment, particularly the intersection of AI-generated outputs and risk governance in production-grade systems.

I bring to this course a high level of fluency in secure design principles, regulatory compliance frameworks (e.g., NIST, HIPAA, ISO 27001), and technical implementation across platforms like Azure, GitHub, and Django. The goal of this course for me is to build an AI-integrated development artifact that can be presented to both technical stakeholders and executive leadership as part of my broader cybersecurity portfolio.

To demonstrate professional quality, I will:

* Maintain a detailed AI\_LOG.md with annotated prompt decisions
* Use GitHub for version control, traceability, and issue-driven development
* Apply secure-by-design principles in all coding deliverables
* Provide transparent documentation of ethical boundaries and data governance

This tier aligns with my personal learning goals and career trajectory. I intend to complete all assignments at the highest level, emphasizing traceability, accessibility, and practical business value.

**Part H: Django VMS Critique**

**Overview:**  
The Django-based Virtual Management System (VMS) provides a structured approach to handling multi-entity workflows within a web environment. While it demonstrates strengths in modular design and rapid prototyping, it also exposes architectural trade-offs in domain modeling, transaction boundaries, and presentation separation.

**Domain Modeling:**  
The VMS uses Django’s ORM effectively to define models, but some design choices risk tight coupling between entities. For example, roles, permissions, and workflow states are defined at the model layer without clear separation into service classes. This limits extensibility when the domain evolves. A more scalable approach would leverage Django’s model inheritance or domain-driven design concepts, where invariants are enforced consistently across related entities.

**Transaction Boundaries:**  
The system’s transaction management largely relies on implicit Django ORM behavior. While sufficient for basic CRUD, it lacks explicit use of transaction.atomic blocks and select\_for\_update in critical workflows (e.g., approvals, scheduling). This can lead to race conditions or partial updates in concurrent environments. Explicit transaction boundaries should be introduced to protect data integrity.

**Invariants and Business Logic Placement:**  
Much of the business logic is embedded in views and forms, rather than in models or managers. This “fat view” pattern reduces maintainability and testability. Moving invariants (e.g., role-based checks, validation rules) into custom model managers or service layers would align better with Django-first principles, ensuring that core rules are enforced consistently regardless of interface.

**Presentation Separation:**  
The VMS integrates business logic directly into templates and views. This blurs the separation of concerns and risks duplicating logic across the presentation layer. A cleaner approach would involve serializers or service APIs to decouple presentation from business logic, improving reusability for other clients (mobile, APIs).

**Strengths:**

* Leverages Django’s built-in admin for rapid CRUD.
* ORM simplifies relational data handling.
* Clear URL/view mapping supports straightforward navigation.

**Weaknesses:**

* Over-reliance on implicit ORM behavior for transactions.
* Business logic scattered across views/forms.
* Tight coupling between domain entities, reducing extensibility.

**Recommendations:**

* Introduce explicit transaction management with transaction.atomic.
* Refactor business logic into models/managers or dedicated services.
* Decouple presentation with serializers/APIs.
* Adopt domain-driven design principles to better handle evolving workflows.

**Conclusion:**  
The Django VMS architecture is functional and leverages Django’s strengths in rapid development, but it falls short in enforcing invariants, transaction safety, and separation of concerns. By shifting toward service-oriented design and strengthening transaction boundaries, the system can achieve higher scalability, maintainability, and integrity.

**References**

1. NIST. *AI Risk Management Framework (AI RMF 1.0)*. National Institute of Standards and Technology, 2023. Available at: <https://www.nist.gov/itl/ai-risk-management-framework>
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