# Cover Letter with Summary of Differences

Dear editor,

This manuscript builds on top of our prior work published as a regular 6-pages paper in the 26th IEEE Symposium on Computers and Communications (ISCC 2021), titled “FLPhish: Reputation-based Phishing Byzantine Defense in Ensemble Federated Learning”. The manuscript in hand has been significantly revised, in which we provide extended system design, with more theoretical and evaluation results. Below we highlight the major changes/extensions we made in the submission over the prior conference paper.

* Going beyond the aggregation algorithm in our ISCC’26 paper, we proposed a better aggregation algorithm, FLPhish-weight, which not only has better performance but also is more reliable than the aggregation algorithm, FLPhish-threshold (which we just named as FLPhish, but do not give a specific name) in our ISCC’26 paper. This brand new aggregation algorithm provides a solid study on Byzantine attack defense in Federated Learning from validation to explanation. (See more details in Section V.)
* In this manuscript, we evaluate our framework against one more type of attack, named random attack. The experiment results show that our framework’s robustness against this type of attack (in our ISCC’26 paper, we only evaluated our framework against untargeted attack).
* In this manuscript, two more datasets, Fashion-MNIST and CIFAR-10 are used in our evaluation. The experiment performance on these two datasets further proves our framework’s reliability (in our ISCC’26 paper, only MNIST dataset was used).
* In this manuscript, we evaluate our framework against more state-of-the-art frameworks. We compare our FLPhish with FedAvg, Trimmed Mean and Median (in our ISCC’26 paper, we did not compare our FLPhish with any frameworks). And the performance comparison proves our FLPhish’s performance over FedAvg, Trimmed Mean and Median.
* In this manuscript, we summarize the previous works about robust Federated Learning in the Related Work Section which is not composed in our ISCC’26 paper.

Sincerely,

Beibei Li, Peiran Wang, Qinglei Kong, Yuan Zhang, Rongxing Lu

Dec. 18th, 2021