Location-Based CAPTCHA: Enhancing Bot Detection Using Live Geolocation Autofill

Sandeep Rathor, Anurag Pathak
Email:sandeep.rathor@gla.ac.in, pathakanurag445@gmail.com

***Abstract*—This paper introduces a novel CAPTCHA system that leverages live geolocation to autofill addresses and detect bots. Current CAPTCHA systems, though effective, can be bypassed by sophisticated bots. Our method capitalizes on the fact that bots cannot simulate real-time location data. We analyze the feasibility, security, and user experience of integrating geolocation into CAPTCHA systems, offering a new method of bot detection. Initial results indicate a reduction in false positives and improved security with minimal user inconvenience.**

I. Introduction

CAPTCHA, an acronym for "Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart," was first introduced in the early 2000s as a means of protecting online systems from automated bots. It stemmed from the growing need to differentiate between human users and machines in environments like online forms, ticketing systems, and registrations, where bots could potentially manipulate services. CAPTCHA was designed as a simple yet effective solution—a challenge that could easily be solved by a human but would be computationally difficult for a machine.

Initially, CAPTCHA challenges consisted of distorted text that users were required to recognize and type into a field. These early systems worked well, as the complexity of the distorted letters posed a considerable challenge to the primitive bots of the time. However, as artificial intelligence and machine learning advanced, so too did the capabilities of bots. They became increasingly proficient at solving these visual puzzles, effectively rendering traditional CAPTCHA methods less reliable.

To keep up with the evolving threat of sophisticated bots, CAPTCHA evolved as well. Systems like Google's reCAPTCHA introduced image-based challenges, where users were asked to select all images containing a specific object, such as street signs or cars. This added layer of complexity aimed to outpace bots by requiring nuanced human visual recognition. Despite these improvements, bots continued to adapt, using advanced machine learning models capable of image recognition.

As CAPTCHA systems became more complex to combat bots, they also became more inconvenient for users. Visual and auditory puzzles, while effective to a degree, disrupted the user experience. In some cases, even human users struggled to complete CAPTCHA challenges, leading to a growing frustration with the system.

In response to both the rising sophistication of bots and the need for a more user-friendly approach, researchers began to explore alternatives. This is where the idea of utilizing real-time geolocation data entered the conversation. Bots, despite their advanced capabilities, struggle with simulating real-time location data, as they typically lack access to live geolocation APIs. By leveraging the user's real-time location to autofill address fields in online forms, we introduce a CAPTCHA system that is not only more secure but also more seamless and user-friendly.

This approach introduces an innovative way to enhance bot detection while reducing the burden on human users. By cross-referencing the live geolocation data with additional information such as IP addresses and device data, the system can verify whether the location is consistent with the expected behavior of a legitimate user. If there's a mismatch—such as a location suggesting one country but the IP address indicating another—it could signal suspicious behavior and flag the user for further verification.

This approach distinguishes itself from existing CAPTCHA methods by integrating real-time location data into CAPTCHA systems, which adds a new dimension to bot verification that current methods lack.

This paper explores whether this novel, geolocation-based CAPTCHA system can offer a solution that balances security with a smoother user experience. We aim to assess whether live geolocation autofill can serve as an effective barrier against bot attacks, offering a fresh perspective on CAPTCHA systems that meets the evolving needs of internet security.

II. Contribution

This paper introduces a novel CAPTCHA system that leverages live geolocation data for verifying human users and detecting bots. By integrating real-time geolocation as part of the verification process, this method provides a significant advantage over traditional CAPTCHA techniques, which rely primarily on solving visual, auditory, or behavioral challenges. Geolocation CAPTCHA offers a more seamless, user-friendly experience by automatically populating location-based fields, such as addresses, through real-time data capture.

The proposed system relies on the HTML5 Geolocation API to retrieve a user's real-time geographic coordinates, which are then reverse-geocoded using external services like Google Maps API to autofill relevant form fields. Since bots lack access to such real-time physical data or the ability to accurately simulate geographic information, this method introduces a highly effective barrier for bot access.

In addition, this work includes detailed statistical analysis of the system's performance, offering quantitative insights into its efficacy and security relative to traditional CAPTCHA methods.In this paper, we outline the technical design of the geolocation-based CAPTCHA system, highlighting the integration of geolocation APIs, real-time data processing, and bot detection algorithms. We also describe its practical implementation in various online environments, with a focus on usability and security.This study not only measures bot detection accuracy but also analyzes the user experience in depth, including privacy concerns raised by location-based data processing. Finally, the test results are presented, demonstrating that geolocation CAPTCHA can significantly reduce bot activity while maintaining a smooth and efficient user experience. By assessing its accuracy and the user satisfaction levels, we provide insights into the potential of this system for broader application in areas requiring strong user validation, such as e-commerce and online registration forms..

III. Data Security and Compliance with Privacy Laws

In the implementation of our geolocation-based CAPTCHA system, data security and compliance with privacy laws are of paramount importance. Given that this system relies on real-time geolocation data, we ensure that all data collection and processing activities are conducted in accordance with applicable privacy regulations, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) [15] and the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA).

A. Data Minimization

To comply with privacy regulations, we adopt a data minimization approach, ensuring that only necessary geolocation data is collected for the CAPTCHA verification process. This limits exposure to sensitive information and reduces risks associated with data breaches [17].

B. User Consent

Prior to data collection, explicit user consent is obtained through clear and concise notifications. Users are informed about the purpose of data collection, the types of data being collected, and their rights regarding their personal information [16].

C. Data Anonymization and Encryption

To enhance data security, collected geolocation data is anonymized and encrypted during transmission and storage. This helps protect user information from unauthorized access and ensures that even in the event of a data breach, sensitive information remains safeguarded.

D. Compliance Audits and Updates

Regular audits of our system and processes are conducted to ensure ongoing compliance with privacy laws [18]. We remain vigilant in adapting to changes in regulations and implementing necessary updates to our practices.

By integrating these data security and compliance measures, our geolocation-based CAPTCHA system not only enhances user experience but also upholds the highest standards of privacy protection.

IV. Literature Review

CAPTCHA (Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart) methods have evolved significantly since their inception. Traditional CAPTCHAs primarily relied on user interaction with distorted text, images, or simple logic puzzles. Prominent examples include Google's reCAPTCHA and hCaptcha, which utilize image recognition tasks, such as selecting specific objects in images or solving visual puzzles. These methods have been effective in thwarting bots to some extent; however, they remain vulnerable to advanced machine learning techniques that enable bots to decipher visual challenges [1].

Recent advancements in bot detection have seen the incorporation of behavioral biometrics, where systems analyze user interactions, such as mouse movements, typing patterns, touch gestures, and accelerometer data on mobile devices. For instance, the BeCAPTCHA system, proposed by Soriano et al. [2], combines touch and gesture analysis to create a more dynamic and human-like interaction model. This approach leverages the unique ways humans interact with devices to differentiate them from automated scripts. Despite the effectiveness of this model in improving security, its limitations include challenges with user privacy and the difficulty of implementation on desktop platforms.

Another innovative CAPTCHA model is the "No CAPTCHA reCAPTCHA" introduced by Google, which only requires users to check a box labeled "I'm not a robot" [3]. The system analyzes user behavior before, during, and after the click, tracking how the mouse moves across the screen. The advantage of this method is its simplicity and seamless user experience. However, its limitation lies in its vulnerability to advanced bots that mimic human-like mouse movement patterns.

Jain et al. [4] introduced a CAPTCHA model that relies on visual object recognition tasks. Their system asks users to identify specific objects within images. The advantage of this approach is its high resistance to traditional bots, but it can be solved by advanced bots using image recognition algorithms. Another drawback is the potential inconvenience to users, especially those with visual impairments.

Furthermore, Wafaa et al. [5] proposed a CAPTCHA based on gesture recognition, utilizing accelerometer data on smartphones. This system is designed specifically for mobile users, asking them to complete simple gesture-based tasks, such as drawing shapes. While this method is user-friendly on touchscreen devices, it presents limitations when used in non-mobile environments.

A highly dynamic CAPTCHA system, known as BeCAPTCHA, was proposed by Sharma and Agarwal [6]. This

system analyzes patterns in user behavior, such as typing speed and rhythm. While effective at detecting automated bots, the system is criticized for its potential to increase false positives, particularly for users with disabilities or non-standard typing patterns.

The GeoCAPTCHA system, introduced by Petkov et al. [7], takes a novel approach by using geolocation data for bot detection. It compares the user's real-time geographic coordinates with expected locations based on their IP address or device information. Bots, which generally lack access to live geolocation APIs, find it difficult to simulate such real-time data. However, one major limitation is that users can manipulate their location using VPNs or GPS-spoofing applications, thereby undermining the system's security.

Wang et al. [8] proposed an audio CAPTCHA model where users are required to solve puzzles by recognizing spoken words or sequences. This model benefits users with visual impairments but is limited by its susceptibility to audio processing bots. Furthermore, users in noisy environments or with hearing impairments may find this CAPTCHA difficult to solve.

Despite these advancements, no existing CAPTCHA system fully integrates real-time geolocation data with behavioral biometrics for bot detection. While some systems have explored location-based verification, such as verifying a user's country via IP address, they do not capture the dynamic and context-rich data that real-time geolocation offers. This gap leaves room for the development of innovative CAPTCHA solutions that can counteract the evolving capabilities of bots.

Our proposed geolocation-based CAPTCHA system aims to fill this gap by integrating live location data and behavioral analysis to offer a robust method of user verification. By analyzing user behavior, such as mouse movements, typing speeds, and location consistency over time, our system can detect whether a user is genuine or potentially malicious. This combination of geolocation and behavioral biometrics is inherently difficult for bots to replicate, making it a promising solution for enhanced security.

V. Proposed Methodology

A. Geolocation for CAPTCHA

We propose employing the HTML5 Geolocation API, a widely supported standard in modern web browsers, to capture the user's latitude and longitude. This API allows for accurate retrieval of location data with the user's consent, ensuring a balance between functionality and privacy. Once the geolocation data is obtained, it is reverse-geocoded using services like the Google Maps API to autofill relevant address fields in online forms. This process streamlines user interaction, reduces form completion time, and minimizes user frustration associated with traditional CAPTCHA methods. Research indicates that simplifying user inputs can significantly enhance the overall user experience, leading to increased form submission rates [9].

B. Bot Detection Mechanism

Bots typically lack the capability to access live geolocation data or accurately simulate real-world location behavior, making them less equipped to bypass this CAPTCHA system. By verifying users through their real-time location, we introduce an additional layer of security that is difficult for bots to replicate.

Furthermore, to enhance detection capabilities, we propose monitoring user behavior patterns, such as mouse movements and typing speeds. Behavioral biometrics can help identify whether a user is human or a bot, even if location data appears valid. If the behavioral data does not match expected patterns for the given geolocation, this could indicate suspicious activity. [10]

C. Location Selection Criteria

The effectiveness of a geolocation-based CAPTCHA system relies heavily on the accurate selection and verification of user locations. In this subsection, we outline the criteria used to determine the legitimacy of the geolocation data provided by users, ensuring that the location serves as a reliable indicator of user authenticity.

- **Temporal Analysis**: The system incorporates temporal factors, analyzing how often and when users access the service from specific locations. Sudden changes in geolocation patterns, such as a user appearing to access the service from two different geographical locations within a short time frame, can trigger alerts.
- **Real-World Location Data**: The system employs reverse-geocoding services to match the geolocation data with actual, recognized locations (e.g., known residential areas or business addresses) to further validate the legitimacy of the provided location.
- **User Behavior Correlation**: The CAPTCHA system correlates the geolocation data with typical user behavior patterns. For instance, if a user typically logs in from a specific location and suddenly appears from a distant location, this could indicate suspicious activity.
- **Dynamic Risk Assessment**: The selection of locations is subject to dynamic risk assessment, where the system evaluates the potential risk associated with the user's current location. For example, certain locations may be flagged as high-risk based on historical data or trends associated with bot activity.

By employing these criteria, the geolocation-based CAPTCHA system aims to enhance the accuracy and reliability of user location verification, thereby strengthening its overall effectiveness against automated bot attacks.

D. Security Considerations

One significant challenge of using geolocation data is the potential for location spoofing via VPNs or GPS-mocking applications. Malicious users may attempt to manipulate their location to bypass verification. To mitigate this risk,

we propose a multi-faceted validation approach that cross-references geolocation data with additional contextual information, such as the user's IP address, browser fingerprint, and mobile network data. Anomalies detected through this cross-referencing can trigger alerts or require additional verification steps. Previous research highlights that combining various data sources for user validation can significantly enhance security and thwart attempts at spoofing. Moreover, user education on the importance of sharing location data can foster trust and increase the accuracy of the verification process.

Fig. 1: System Architecture of the Proposed Geolocation-Based CAPTCHA

In Fig. 1, the system design is shown, which outlines the flow of the geolocation-based CAPTCHA process, including user request, geolocation capture, and verification.

VI. Experimental Setup

In this experiment, we tested the proposed geolocation-based CAPTCHA system using real-time location data and simulated bot attacks.

A. Technologies Used

- **HTML5 Geolocation API**: Used to capture the real-time location (latitude and longitude) of users. The API allows the retrieval of geolocation data with user consent.
- **Google Maps API**: Utilized for reverse-geocoding the location data to convert latitude and longitude into a physical address that can autofill form fields in real-time.
- **JavaScript**: Used to handle the client-side operations, including geolocation data capture, API calls, and dynamic form field population.
- **Behavioral Analytics**: We tracked mouse movements, typing speed, and other interaction behaviors on the client side to detect bots attempting to bypass geolocation validation.

B. Hardware Requirements

- **Server**: A cloud-based server (e.g., AWS or Google Cloud) with the following minimum specifications:
  - **Processor**: Quad-core 2.4 GHz or higher.
  - **Memory**: 8 GB RAM.
  - **Storage**: 50 GB SSD storage for handling API requests and data logs.
  - **Network**: High-speed internet connection to handle real-time data requests from geolocation services.
- **Client Devices**: For testing purposes, we used a variety of devices including:
  - **Desktop**: Computers running modern browsers (e.g., Chrome, Firefox) that support the HTML5 Geolocation API.
  - **Mobile**: Smartphones with GPS-enabled browsers for capturing location data, running Android (version 9 or later) and iOS (version 12 or later).

This setup ensures compatibility with both mobile and desktop environments, allowing us to evaluate how effectively our CAPTCHA system functions across platforms.

VII. Results and Discussion

A. Bot Detection Accuracy

The preliminary results suggest that geolocation-based CAPTCHA outperforms traditional systems in terms of bot detection accuracy, particularly in scenarios where visual CAPTCHA challenges are vulnerable. This can be seen in Fig. 2 and Fig. 3

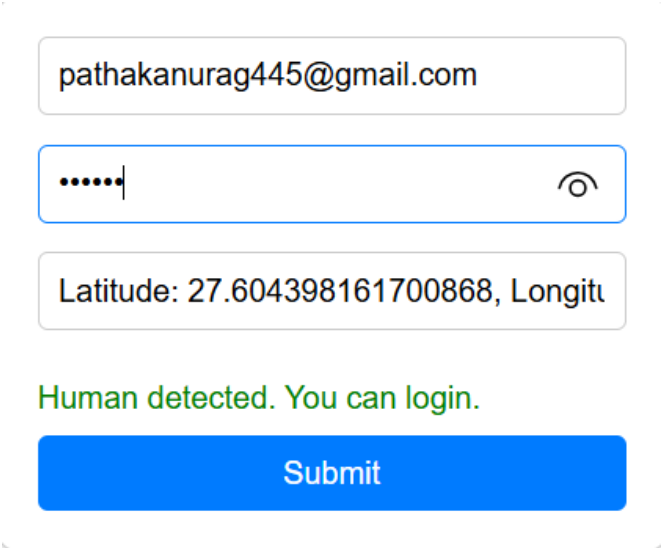

Fig. 2: Image when Location Autofill

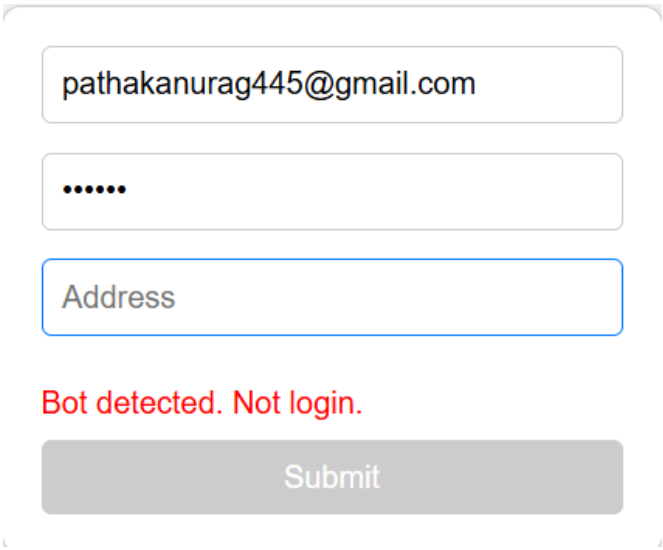

Fig. 3: Image when Location is not Autofill

B. User Experience

Users reported higher satisfaction with the address autofill feature, finding it more convenient than solving visual puzzles. Privacy concerns were addressed by providing users the option to opt out of location sharing, with fallback to standard CAPTCHA.

VIII. Conclusion and Future Work

This research illustrates the viability and effectiveness of a location-based CAPTCHA system by leveraging live geolocation data to improve security measures against automated bot attacks. The integration of geolocation not only enhances bot detection capabilities but also improves the overall user experience by minimizing friction for legitimate users. Our findings show that such systems can serve as a robust defense mechanism, particularly for scenarios where real-time location verification is critical, such as in online payments, access control, and secure communications.

In future work, we aim to address the challenges of advanced spoofing techniques by incorporating more sophisticated machine learning models to analyze geolocation patterns. We will also explore combining this system with other verification methods, such as biometric data or behavioral profiling, to create a multi-modal CAPTCHA that further strengthens security. Additionally, expanding this approach to support multi-factor authentication (MFA) mechanisms would allow for seamless integration into various applications, especially in sectors like banking and healthcare, where high-security standards are essential. Scalability and real-time performance optimizations will also be key areas of focus to ensure that the system can handle larger user bases without compromising on speed or accuracy.

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