

Hackathon Theme Proposal

Human-in-the-Loop Anomaly Detection for AI System Misbehavior

1. Purpose of This Document

This document defines a focused hackathon problem around anomaly detection in modern AI systems. It explains the theme, problem statement, tasks, and evaluation criteria to ensure clarity, fairness, and strong real-world relevance for participants and judges.

2. Theme Overview

Theme Title: Human-in-the-Loop Anomaly Detection for AI System Misbehavior

Participants will build a system that detects abnormal or unsafe behavior in AI-powered applications (such as LLM APIs, chatbots, or automated decision systems) and integrates human feedback to improve detection accuracy, reliability, and trust.

3. What Is an Anomaly in This Theme

An anomaly refers to AI behavior that deviates from expected, safe, or intended outputs.

- Hallucinated or factually incorrect LLM responses
- Policy-violating or toxic outputs
- Prompt injection or API misuse patterns
- Sudden spikes in unsafe or low-quality responses

4. Why Human-in-the-Loop Is Critical

- AI misbehavior is context-dependent and hard to label automatically
- False positives can block valid users or content
- Human judgment is required to define safety, relevance, and intent
- Trust and accountability demand human oversight

5. Allowed Human-in-the-Loop Mechanisms

- Human validation of flagged AI outputs
- Adjusting anomaly thresholds based on risk level
- Active learning using uncertain AI responses
- Human override for high-risk decisions
- Feedback-driven model or rule updates

6. Official Problem Statement

Design and demonstrate a Human-in-the-Loop anomaly detection system that monitors AI system outputs (such as chatbot responses or API logs), detects abnormal or unsafe behavior, and improves performance through human feedback.

7. Expected Implementation

- A web dashboard or web app for reviewing anomalies
- OR a REST API that flags anomalous AI responses
- OR a lightweight ML model with a feedback loop

8. Task Breakdown for Participants

- Problem definition and anomaly criteria (10 Marks)
- Anomaly detection approach (20 Marks)
- Human-in-the-loop integration (25 Marks)
- Before vs after improvement demonstration (20 Marks)
- Explainability, ethics, and trust (15 Marks)
- Presentation and clarity (10 Marks)

9. Evaluation Criteria Summary

Judges will evaluate clarity of the problem, correctness of anomaly detection, effectiveness of human feedback, measurable improvement, ethical considerations, and overall presentation quality.

10. One-Line Theme Explanation

“Detect abnormal AI behavior — and show how human judgment makes AI systems safer and more reliable.”

11. Conclusion

This theme reflects real-world challenges in deploying AI responsibly. It is practical, impactful, and achievable within a hackathon while encouraging ethical, human-centered AI design.