DECEPTIVE SECURITY USING PYTHON

GAJENDRA DESHPANDE

KLS Gogte Institute of Technology, India

https://gcdeshpande.github.io





TECHNICAL CONFERENCE FOR HARDCORE PYTHON DEVELOPERS

Contents

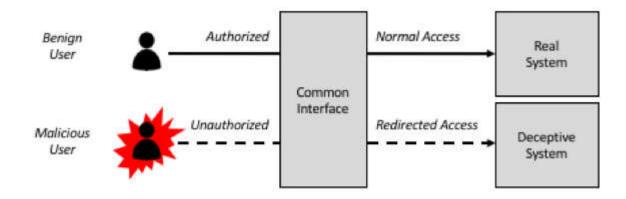
- Introduction to Deception
- WebTrap
- DemonHunter
- Our Experiment
- Conclusion
- References

Introduction

Imagine you are passing through an unknown street at midnight and you find that some anti-social elements are following you. To save yourself from them you start running and look for a safe place to hide yourself. On the way, you will find a good person and requests him to help you. He hides you in his place to protect you. When these anti-social elements visit a good person's place and enquire about you, the good person misguides them and redirects them to some other place in order to protect you. This is exactly how deception works. In this analogy, YOU are the resources to be protected, anti-social elements are the hackers who want to gain access to the resources, and a good person is a deception technique that protects the resources from hackers by making them fall in the trap.

Deception - Basic Idea

- Deception is a technique where hackers methods will be used as security mechanism i.e., phishing the phishers.
- Deception is military tactic used by both attackers and defenders.



Source: https://www.helpnetsecurity.com/2018/12/06/introduction-deception-technology/

Deception - Types

There are two types of Deception Technology described below.

- Active Deception: Active Deception will provide inaccurate information intentionally to the subjects (intruders or hackers) to fall for the trap.
- Passive Deception: Passive Deception will provide incomplete information, o the other half of information. Intruders will try to gain all the information and the fall for the trap.

Source: https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/deception-technology/

They can also be classified as

- Client side deception used by hackers
- Server side deception used by security providers

Better Deception = Active Deception + Passive Deception

Deception – Evolution - Advantages

- □ HoneyPots (1998) → HoneyNets(2000) → HoneyToken (2003) → HoneyPot 2.0 (2012) → Deception Technology (2016)
- Advantages
 - Increased accuracy
 - Minimal investment
 - Future ready (applicable to new technology)

WebTrap

- Designed to create deceptive webpages to deceive and redirect attackers away from real websites.
- The deceptive webpages are generated by cloning real websites, specifically their login pages.

The project is composed of two tools:

- □ Web Cloner Responsible for cloning real websites and creating the deceptive web page
- Deceptive Web server Responsible for serving the cloned webpages, and reporting to a syslog server upon requests

Installation:

pip install requests apt install gir1.2-webkit2-3.0 python-gi python-gi-cairo python3-gi python3-gi-cairo gir1.2-gtk-3.0

https://github.com/IllusiveNetworks-Labs/WebTrap

WebTrap - Web Cloner

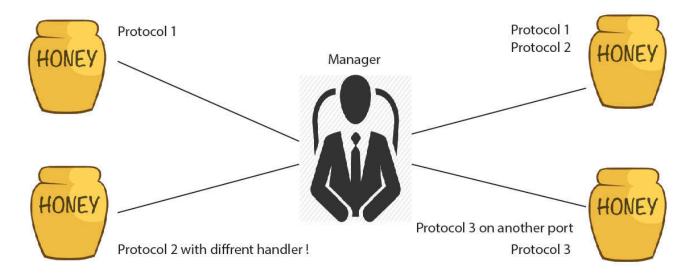
python ./WebCloner.py -o ~/WikiPediaLoginPage/ https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Special:UserLogin

WebTrap - Deceptive Web Server

sudo python ./TrapServer.py -d ~/WikiPediaLoginPage/ -s <SYSLOG_SERVER>

DemonHunter

- To create low interaction Honeypot servers and their agents, plus a manager to check logs
- DemonHunter allows you to create your honeynet all customized by yourself, from ports to protocol handlers.



https://github.com/skrtu/DemonHunter

Why we developed deception tool

- Cyber Space is a national asset
- XML is a heart of many mainstream technologies, Web Services, Service Oriented Architecture(SOA), Cloud Computing etc.
- Web Services vulnerabilities can be present in Operating System, Network, Database, Web Server, Application Server, Application code, XML parsers and XML appliances
- New technologies New Challenges → (Old challenges + New Challenges)

Problem Definition and Proposed Solution

Problem Definition

■ To secure web resources from XPath injection attack using modular recurrent neural networks.

Proposed Solution

- The proposed solution uses modular recurrent neural network architecture to identify and classify atypical behavior in user input. Once the atypical user input is identified, the attacker is redirected to sham resources to protect the critical data.
 - Count based validation technique

Introduction to XPath Injection

An attacker can craft special user-controllable input consisting of XPath expressions to inject the XML database and bypass authentication or glean information that he normally would not be able to.

CAPEC on XPath Injection

| Factor | Description |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Attack Prerequisites | XPath Queries and unsanitized user controllable input |
| Typical Likelihood of Exploit | High |
| Attacker Skills | Low |
| Indicators | Too many exceptions generated by the application as a result of |
| | malformed XPath queries |
| Resource Required | None |
| Attack Motivation Consequences | Confidentiality- gain privileges and read application data |
| Injection Vector | User-controllable input used as part of dynamic XPath queries |
| Payload | XPath expressions intended to defeat checks run by XPath queries |
| Activation Zone | XML Database |
| CIA Impact | High, High, Medium |
| Architectural Paradigms | Client-Server, Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) |
| Frameworks, Platforms, Languages | All |

Research Gap Identified

Neural network approach to identify and classify atypical behavior in input

The study showed different approaches to handle XPath injection attacks. It also showed methods applied and their disadvantages. We can conclude from the study that neural networks are not applied to detect Xpath injection attacks and existing results are not promising.

The study showed, how modularity in case of neural networks helps to achieve improved performance. Modular neural networks have not been applied to cyber security particularly to the detection of SQL/XPath injection attacks.

System Design

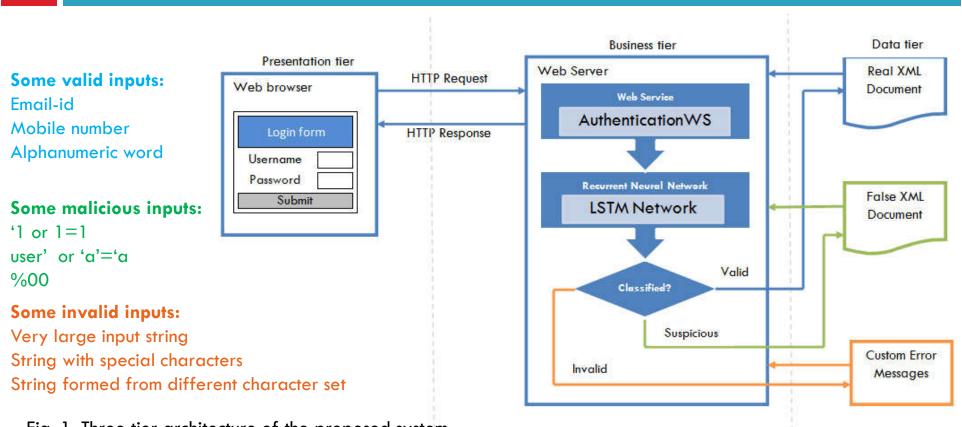


Fig. 1: Three tier architecture of the proposed system

Algorithm

Algorithm

- 1. Scan the user input.
- 2. Determine the length of user input.
- Count the frequency of every character in the user input [a-z, A-Z, 0-9, "".
 # % += ?:1.
- 4. If the frequency of character is below the threshold value set for that particular character in Table 4 then set the error code to 40.
- Else if the frequency of characters [. @ # % + = " "] is above the threshold value set for that particular character in Table 4 then set the error code to 4000.
- 6. Else set the error code to 400.
- Build a recurrent neural network 1 consisting of 50 neurons with hidden layer as LSTM network and output layer as SoftMax.
- Use Rprop- trainer to train the network using the training dataset created using error codes in Table 2.
- Use the test dataset created in real time to validate against the training dataset.
- Build a recurrent neural network 2 consisting of 50 neurons with hidden layer as LSTM network and output layer as SoftMax.
- 11. Use Rprop- trainer to train the network using the training dataset created using number of login attempts in Table 1.
- Use the test dataset created in real time to validate against the training dataset.
- 13. If train error and test error of both the networks are 0.0% then
 - Finally classify the input vector based on the outputs of both the neural networks in Table 3.
 - If the user input is successfully classified as 'valid' and found in the real XML file then Return the message "login successful".
 - Else if the user input is classified as 'malicious' then Return the contents of the fake XML file.
 - Else if the user input is classified as 'invalid' then Return the 'error' message.
- 14. Else repeat the steps 8 through 13.

Table 1. Training dataset for classification of login attempts (Neural network 1)

| Number of login attempts | Class |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Valid |
| 2 | Valid |
| 3 | Valid |
| 4 or more | Malicious |

Table 2. Training dataset for classification of error codes (Neural network 2)

| Error code | Class |
|------------|-----------|
| 40 | Valid |
| 400 | Invalid |
| 4000 | Malicious |

Table 4. Characters with threshold value

| Special Character | Threshold | Error Code |
|------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Single quotes (') | 1 | 40 |
| Double quote (") | 0 | 4000 |
| Dot (.) | 2 | 40 |
| Alphabets ([a-zA-Z]) | Any | 40 |
| Digits ([0-9]) | Any | 40 |
| At the rate (@) | 1 | 40 |
| Equal to (=) | 0 | 400 |
| Square Brackets ([,]) | 0 | 400 |
| Round Brackets ((,)) | 0 | 400 |
| Curly Brackets ({,}) | 0 | 400 |
| Slashes (/) | 0 | 400 |
| Asterisk (*) | 0 | 400 |
| Pipe () | 0 | 400 |
| Any other character | 0 | 400 |

Algorithm

Table 3. Final classification of input vector

| Output of Neural Network 1 | Output of Neural Network 2 | Final Classification |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Valid | Valid | Valid |
| Valid | Malicious | Malicious |
| Malicious | Valid | Malicious |
| Invalid | Valid | Invalid |
| Valid | Invalid | Invalid |
| Invalid | Malicious | Malicious |
| Malicious | Invalid | Malicious |
| Malicious | Malicious | Malicious |

System Environment

Table 5: Tools and technologies used for experimentation

| Software Environment | | | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Technology | Server Side | Client Side | | |
| Neural Networks | PyBRAIN [14] | - | | |
| Web Services | BottlePy Micro Web Framework [15] - | | | |
| Web Server | WSGIRefServer of BottlePy and Apache - | | | |
| Web Browser Firefox, Konquerer | | Firefox, Konquerer | | |
| Scripting Language, Graphs Python, numpy, matplotlib [16] - | | - | | |
| Operating Systems Fedora Linux 14 | | Fedora Linux 14 | | |
| Hardware Environment | | | | |
| System | Intel i3 processor, 3GB RAM | Intel i3 processor, 3GB RAM | | |

Note: Same environment is used for Development and Testing of the System. The system may also be deployed on machines with lower configurations and on different platforms.

PyBRAIN Machine Learning Library

- PyBrain is a modular Machine Learning Library for Python.
- PyBrain is short for Python-Based Reinforcement Learning, Artificial Intelligence and Neural Network Library
- To download and Install PyBrain

```
$ git clone git://github.com/pybrain/pybrain.git
$ python setup.py install
```

For more detailed installation instructions visit

http://wiki.github.com/pybrain/pybrain/installation

For Information on PyBrain visit http://www.pybrain.org

Bottle- Python Web Framework

- Bottle is a fast, simple and lightweight WSGI micro web-framework for Python.
- It is distributed as a single file module and has no dependencies other than the Python Standard Library.
- It includes built in Routing, Templates, Utilities and Server
- Bottle does not depend on any external libraries. You can just download bottle.py into your project directory and start coding:
- \$ wget https://bottlepy.org/bottle.py
- For more information on Bottle Framework visit http://www.bottle.org

Results (True Positives)

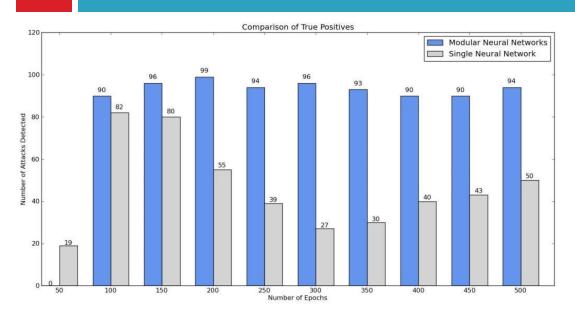


Fig. 2: Comparison of true positives

Table 6: Comparison of true positives

| Number of epochs | Modular Neural Network | Single Neural Network |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 50 | 0 | 19 |
| 100 | 90 | 82 |
| 150 | <mark>96</mark> | 80 |
| 200 | <mark>99</mark> | 55 |
| 250 | 94 | 39 |
| 300 | <mark>96</mark> | 27 |
| 350 | 93 | 30 |
| 400 | 90 | 40 |
| 450 | <mark>90</mark> | 43 |
| 500 | 94 | 50 |

Results (False Positives)

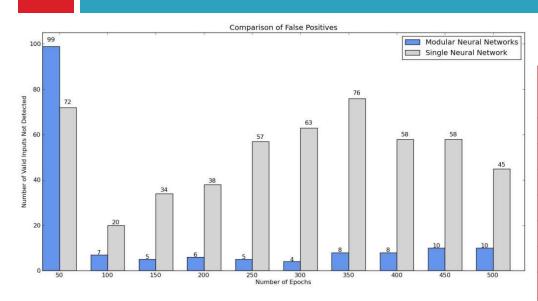


Fig. 3: Comparison of false positives

Table 7: Comparison of false positives

| Number of epochs | Modular Neural Network | Single Neural Network |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 50 | 99 | 72 |
| 100 | 07 | 20 |
| 150 | 05 | 34 |
| 200 | 06 | 38 |
| 250 | 05 | 57 |
| 300 | 04 | 63 |
| 350 | <mark>08</mark> | <i>7</i> 6 |
| 400 | 08 | 58 |
| 450 | 10 | 58 |
| 500 | 10 | 45 |

Results (True Negatives)

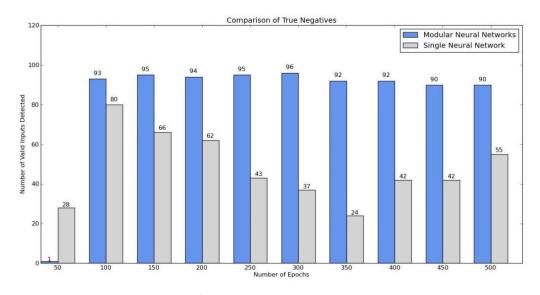


Fig. 4: Comparison of true negatives

Table 8: Comparison of true negatives

| Number of epochs | Modular Neural Network | Single Neural Network |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 50 | 1 | 28 |
| 100 | <mark>93</mark> | 80 |
| 150 | <mark>95</mark> | 66 |
| 200 | 94 | 62 |
| 250 | <mark>95</mark> | 43 |
| 300 | <mark>96</mark> | 37 |
| 350 | 92 | 24 |
| 400 | 92 | 42 |
| 450 | 90 | 42 |
| 500 | 90 | 55 |

Results (False Negatives)

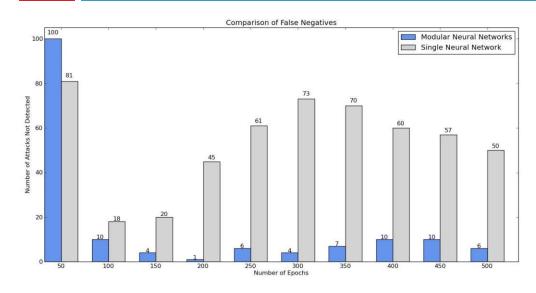


Fig. 5: Comparison of false negatives

Table 9: Comparison of false negatives

| Number of epochs | Modular Neural Network | Single Neural Network |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 50 | 100 | 81 |
| 100 | 10 | 18 |
| 150 | 04 | 20 |
| 200 | 01 | 45 |
| 250 | <mark>06</mark> | 61 |
| 300 | 04 | 73 |
| 350 | 07 | 70 |
| 400 | 10 | 60 |
| 450 | 10 | 57 |
| 500 | <mark>06</mark> | 50 |

Results (Response Time)

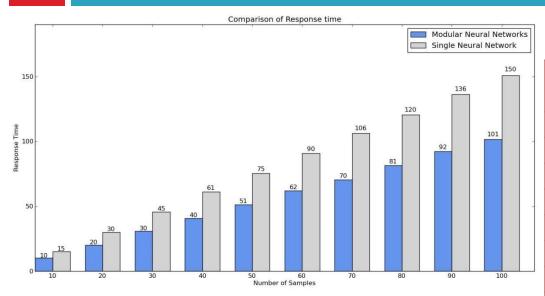


Fig. 6: Comparison of response time

Table 10: Comparison of response time

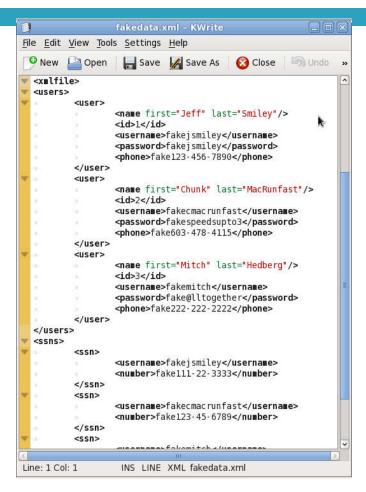
| Number of | Modular Neural | Single Neural |
|-----------|----------------|-----------------|
| samples | Network | Network |
| 10 | 10.23 | 15.31 |
| 20 | 20.27 | 30.20 |
| 30 | 30.98 | 45.74 |
| 40 | 40.74 | 61.32 |
| 50 | 51.31 | <i>75.</i> 61 |
| 60 | 62.05 | 90.78 |
| 70 | 70.54 | 106.34 |
| 80 | 81.47 | 120.45 |
| 90 | 92.27 | 136.17 |
| 100 | 101.75 | 1 <i>5</i> 0.87 |

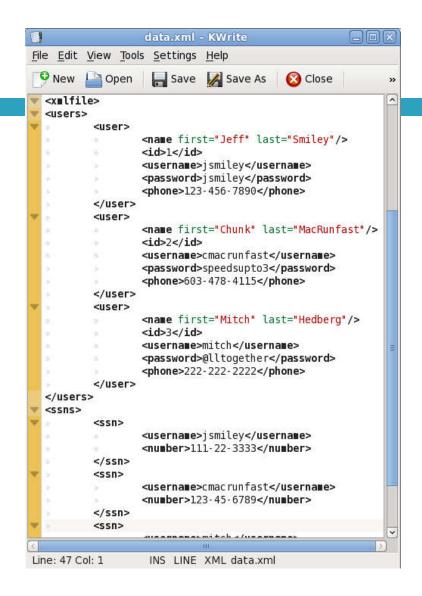
Summary of Results

Table 11: Average detection rate including and excluding an outlier

| | Average detection rate | | Average de | tection rate |
|-----------------|------------------------|-------|------------|--------------|
| | including an outlier | | excluding | an outlier |
| | MNN % | SNN % | MNN % | SNN % |
| True Positives | 84.2 | 46.5 | 93.55 | 51.66 |
| False Negatives | 15.8 | 53.5 | 6.45 | 48.33 |
| True Negatives | 83.8 | 47.9 | 93.11 | 53.22 |
| False Positives | 16.2 | 52.1 | 6.88 | 46.77 |

Snapshots





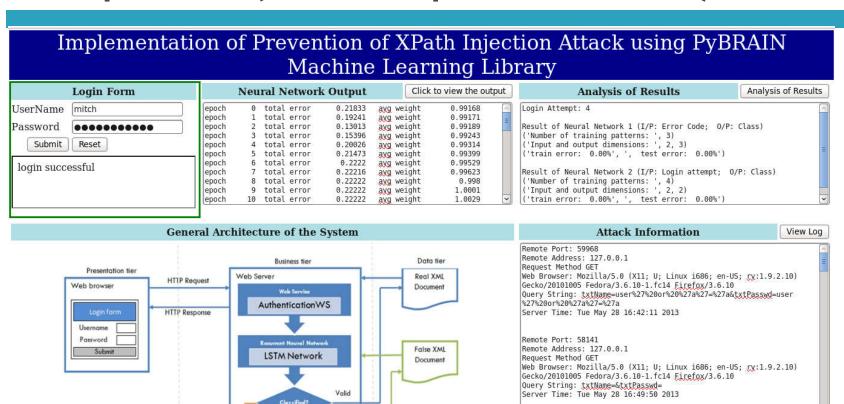
Snapshots (initial output)

Implementation of Prevention of XPath Injection Attack using PyBRAIN Machine Learning Library Click to view the output **Login Form Neural Network Output Analysis of Results** Analysis of Results UserName Password Submit Reset General Architecture of the System **Attack Information** View Log **Business tier** Data tier Presentation tier Web Server Real XML HTTP Request Web browser Document **AuthenticationWS** HTTP Response Password False XML LSTM Network Document Suspicious Custom Error Invalid Messages

Snapshots (valid input scenario)

Suspicious

Invalid



Custom Error

Messages

Remote Port: 59795

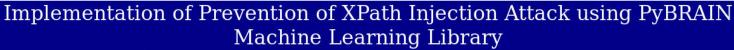
Remote Address: 127.0.0.1

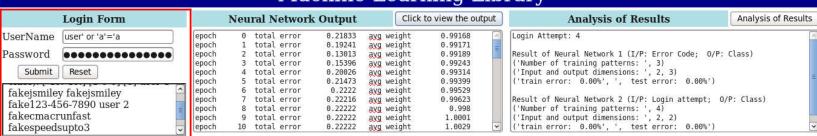
Web Browser: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; U; Linux i686; en-US; ry:1.9.2.10)

Query String: txtName=user%27%20or%20%27a%27=%27a&txtPasswd=user

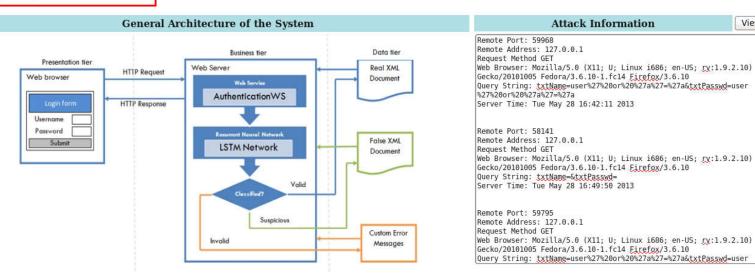
Gecko/20101005 Fedora/3.6.10-1.fc14 Firefox/3.6.10

Snapshots (malicious input scenario)

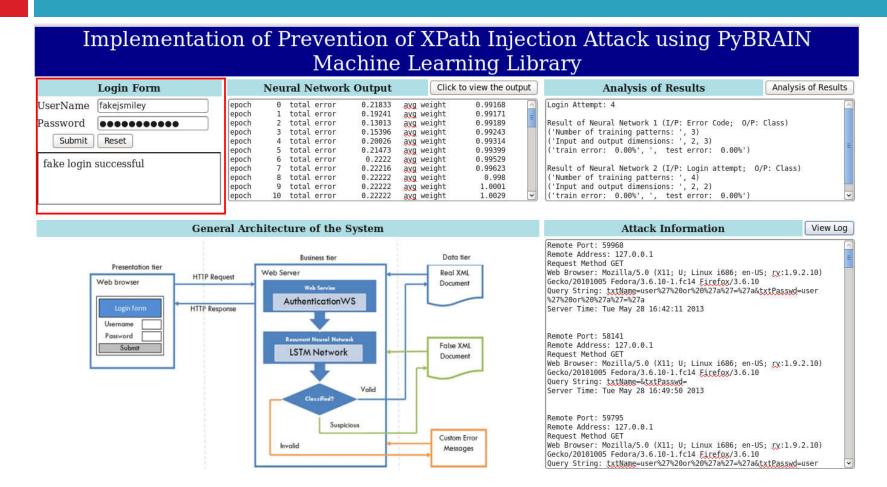




View Log



Snapshots (fake login scenario)



Conclusion

- Our solution offers improved security over existing methods by misleading the attackers to false resources and custom error pages
- Our results also show that the system accepts legitimate input although the user input may contain some special characters and rejects only truly malicious inputs.
- Our solution combines modular neural networks and count based validation approach to filter the malicious input
- Our solution has resulted in increased average detection rate of true positives and true negatives and decreased average detection rate of false positives and false negatives
- The security systems have to be successful every time. But attacker has to be successful only once.

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- [18] https://github.com/skrtu/DemonHunter

Thank You