
Table of Contents

List of Figures	xii
List of Tables	xvi
List of Abbreviations/Symbols	xvii
Chapter 1: Introduction	1
1.1 Cyber Threats: The Need to Tame the Surge!.....	1
1.1.1 Web Attack Vectors and Web Security	4
1.1.2 Web Attack Vectors on Mobile Platform	5
1.2 Artificial Intelligence (AI).....	5
1.3 Motivation & Research Gaps	7
1.4 Main Contributions	10
1.5 Thesis Organization.....	11
Part I: Collection, Pre-processing, Visualization and Analysis of Data for Developing Machine Learning based Web Security Solutions	13
Chapter 2: Data Capturing and Pre-processing	14
2.1 Capturing Data for Machine Learning (ML)	14
2.2 MalCrawler.....	15
2.2.1 Maximizing Malicious Page Seek Rate	18
2.2.2 Crawls Deep to Detect Hidden Pages.....	19
2.2.3 Uses Anti-cloaking Measures	19
2.2.4 Emulates Different Browsers	19
2.2.5 Emulates a User	20
2.2.6 Crawls AJAX Pages while Avoiding Entanglement	20
2.2.7 MalCrawler: Background and Literature Survey	20
2.2.8 MalCrawler: Design and Methodology	22
2.2.9 MalCrawler: Software Design	27
2.2.10 MalCrawler: Result and Analysis.....	29
2.3 Pre-processing of the Webpages Dataset.....	31
2.4 Pre-processing of the Hybrid Android Apps Dataset	32
2.5 Conclusion.....	32
Chapter 3: Preliminary Analysis and Visualization of Datasets	34
3.1 Webpages Dataset	34
3.1.1 Webpages Dataset: Specifications.....	35
3.1.2 Webpages Dataset: Importance and Relevance	35
3.1.3 Webpages Dataset: Data Description	36
3.1.4 Webpages Dataset: Self Organising Map (SOM) based Analysis of the Dataset and its Attributes	46
3.1.5 Webpages Dataset: Experimental Design and Code.....	49
3.2 Hybrid Apps Dataset	49

3.2.1 Hybrid Apps Dataset: Specifications	50
3.2.2 Hybrid Apps Dataset: Importance and Relevance	51
3.2.3 Hybrid Apps Dataset: Data Description	51
3.2.4 Hybrid Apps Dataset: Experimental Design and Code	56
Part II: Machine Learning Based Analysis and Solutions for Webpage Classification.....	57
Chapter 4: Identifying Malicious Webpages Using Conventional Machine Learning	58
4.1 Introduction	58
4.2 Related Work	60
4.3 Attributes for Classification	60
4.4 Attribute Extraction and Pre-processing.....	62
4.5 Experimental Setup and Evaluation Metrics.....	66
4.6 Analysis of Results.....	71
4.6.1 Classification Accuracy of Attributes	71
4.6.2 Computational Resources Used.....	72
4.6.3 The Top Attributes	72
4.7 Conclusion.....	73
Chapter 5: Detection of Malicious Webpages Using Deep Learning: Structured Data	75
5.1 Background	75
5.2 Related Work	76
5.3 Deep Learning Framework for Detection of Malicious Webpages.....	77
5.3.1 Understanding Deep Learning	77
5.3.2 Structured vs. Unstructured Data	78
5.3.3 Dataset and Features	78
5.3.4 Deep Learning Model.....	79
5.3.5 Handling Class Imbalance	85
5.3.6 Implementation	87
5.4 Results and Analysis.....	87
5.4.1 Training and Validation Results.....	87
5.4.2 Evaluation on Test Dataset	89
5.4.3 Execution Time and Computational Resource	90
5.4.4 Analysis	91
5.5 Conclusions	91
Chapter 6: Detection of Malicious Webpages Using Deep Learning: Unstructured Data	92
6.1 Background	92
6.1.1 Inspiration	92
6.1.2 Webpages Analysis: Structured vs Unstructured Data	92
6.1.3 Overview	93
6.2 Related Work	94
6.3 Hybrid Deep Learning Model	95
6.3.1 Hybrid Deep Learning Model	95
6.3.2 Stage-I: Unsupervised LSTM Autoencoder.....	96
6.3.3 Stage-II: Supervised Training.....	98
6.3.4 Experimental Setup.....	104
6.4 Results and Analysis.....	105
6.4.1 Stage-I (Pre-training of Autoencoder).....	105
6.4.2 Stage-II (Classification of Webpages).....	106
6.4.3 Utilization of Computational Resources	108
6.4.4 Analysis and Inference	109
6.5 Future Work	109
6.6 Deployability of Solutions Proposed.....	110

6.7 Conclusions	110
Part III: Machine Learning Based Solutions for Security of Mobile Platforms.....	112
Chapter 7: Understanding and Mitigating Threats from Hybrid Apps Using Machine Learning	113
7.1 Background	113
7.2 Related Work and Research Gap	115
7.3 Understanding Hybrid Apps & WebView Component.....	116
7.3.1 Hybrid Apps and Android WebView	116
7.3.2 Understanding WebView Class	117
7.3.3 Development of Hybrid Apps Using WebView Class	117
7.3.4 Vulnerabilities: Enabling and Using JavaScript Interface	118
7.3.5 'WebView Tool' Android App	119
7.4 ML Based Solutions for Hybrid Apps Security	119
7.4.1 Methodology	119
7.5 Results and Analysis	122
7.5.1 Training and Validation	122
7.5.2 Analyzing Active Samples from Google Play Store	123
7.5.3 Ranking of Attributes	123
7.5.4 Interpretation of Results and Inferences	124
7.6 Recommendations for Improving Security Of Android Hybrid Apps.....	125
7.6.1 Recommendations for Android App Developers	125
7.6.2 Recommendations for Android OS Platform	126
7.7 App For Monitoring WebView Vulnerabilities	127
7.8 Scope For Future Research	128
7.9 Conclusions	129
Chapter 8: Android Web Security Solution Framework Using Cross-device Federated Learning.....	130
8.1 Background	130
8.2 Related Work and Research Gap	133
8.3 Federated Learning Framework for Android Web Security.....	134
8.3.1 Federated Learning (FL)	135
8.3.2 Design and Implementation.....	135
8.3.3 Adversarial Robustness of FL Model	141
8.3.4 Hierarchical Federated Learning (HFL) Model	142
8.4 Experimental Setup and Results	144
8.4.1 Dataset	144
8.4.2 Experimental Setup	145
8.4.3 Results and Analysis	145
8.5 Deployability of Solutions Proposed	150
8.6 Conclusion and Future Work	150
Chapter 9: Conclusions and Future Work	152
9.1 Conclusions	152
9.2 Future Directions	154
Appendix A: Webpages Dataset	156
Appendix B: Hybrid Apps Dataset	160
Appendix C: Details of Software Libraries and Tools Used	167
References	172

Publications.....	194
Biographies	195