

Evaluation of AI Models to Update Cybersecurity Curriculum

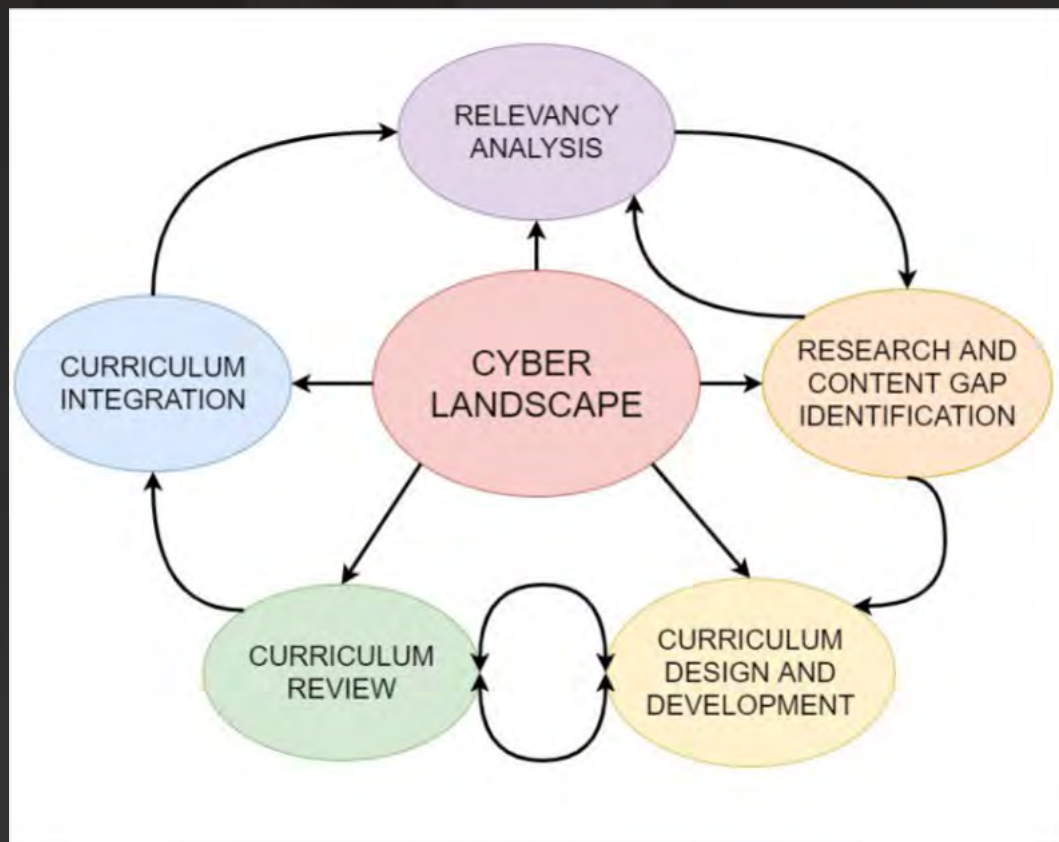
This work is partially supported by a grant through the NSA through the NCAE-C program (H98230-21-1-0175).



Agenda

- Introduction
- Background and Literature Review
- Methodology
- Experimental Results / Discussion
- Conclusions and Future Directions
- References

INTRODUCTION



This aim of this work is to examine the relevance and currency for the effectiveness of existing cybersecurity curriculum in preparation for the ever-changing nature of technology.

In the context of currency for cybersecurity curriculum, we recognize that the field of cybersecurity is multidisciplinary, influenced by industry-specific requirements that is constantly shaped by evolving threats.

Based on the dynamic nature of the field. We hope to highlight the importance of adopting innovative approaches for updating curriculum modules to reflect emerging threats and technologies.

Introduction

This study explores the potential of Large Language Models (LLMs) in assisting educators to streamline curriculum development and ensure alignment of learning outcomes, topics with industry standards and facilitate the integration of up-to-date information and examples.

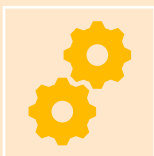
In the other sections, we'll delve into the methodology used to assess the LLMs, present the results and findings, discuss implications for educators and curriculum developers, and conclude with a summary of key insights and potential future directions.

Background / Literature Review



Large Language Models:

Complex Deep Learning algorithms trained with extensive datasets. These computational frameworks are notable for generating content that responds to text-based instructions.



Prompt Engineering:

Process of creating a request that produces the most effective performance on the required task. Zero-shot, Few-Shot and Zero-shot Chain of thought (Zero CoT) prompts were considered during this study, but we prioritized the use of Zero-Shot prompting.

Background / Literature Review

- Selection of Models:

	Models		
	<i>Open AI</i>	<i>Meta AI</i>	<i>Google(PaLM 2)</i>
<i>Pretrained Model</i>	GPT 3.5Turbo	llama-2-7b	text-bison@001
<i>Temperature</i>	0	0.6	0.0
<i>Max_Tokens</i>	Unspecified	1500	500

- We adopted the CLEAR framework for Prompt Engineering. Concise, Logical, Explicit, Adaptive, and Reflective; which was used to develop prompts with brevity and clarity; well structured and coherent with clear output specifications

Experimental Design

- Dataset:

- Learning Materials developed to introduce secure coding concepts to CS0, CS1, and CS2 students from the Security Injections @ Towson project.

The screenshot shows the CLARK Learning Object Repository interface. At the top, there is a search bar with 'cs0' entered and a search icon. Navigation links for 'About CLARK', 'Collections', 'Resources', and 'Topics' are visible. The main content area features the title 'Integer Error - CS0 - Java' with a 'Part of the Security Injections collection' tag. Below the title, it indicates 'Last Updated 5/19/23' and a 'Nanomodule' status with a star rating. A 'Child of Security Injections - CS0 - Java' link is provided. The 'Description' section explains that the learning object is designed for classroom use, covering security concepts across software development. On the right side, there are buttons for 'DOWNLOAD NOW' and 'SAVE TO LIBRARY'. Below these, a login prompt is shown, followed by statistics: '14 saves' and '10 downloads'. Attribution information for the authors, Blair Taylor and Siddhanta, is listed along with a license (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0) and social sharing options.

The screenshot displays the 'Input Validation - CS1 Java' learning object page. The TU Towson University logo is in the top right corner. The page title is 'Input Validation - CS1 Java'. A 'Background' section is visible, followed by a 'Summary' section that states: 'Any program input—such as a user typing at a keyboard, a file or a network connection—can be the source of security vulnerabilities and disastrous bugs. All input should be treated as potentially dangerous.' The 'Description' section explains that most software packages rely on external input and that attackers can construct malicious inputs. A video player is embedded, showing a close-up of a whiteboard with the words 'Input Validation' written in blue marker. A 'Check Answers' button is located at the bottom left of the page. A table of contents on the right lists: 1. Background, 2. Code Responsibility, 3. Laboratory Assignment, 4. Discussion Questions, and 5. Final Page.

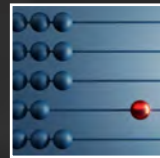
Experimental Design

FACETS



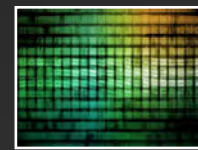
Title

Given the course title and learning outcomes, which OWASP Top ten category is most applicable.



Learning Outcomes

Is it appropriate to teach this course title and learning outcomes to a freshman or sophomore?



Code Examples

Syntax Correctness.

Programming language version used (if not specified, please specify).

Verify if the version is the newest available for that programming language.

Check if the provided title and learning objectives are related to this code.

Determine if it is accurate to use that code example in the context of that programming language



Real World Examples

Check how current and relevant the real-world example is.

If there are newer examples of an incident related to the topic and learning outcome(s), provide a more recent and relevant example with a link or citation to the source of your information.

Experimental Design

- **Course Title:**

- Input Validation – CS1 – Java

- **Learning Outcomes:**

- Demonstrate input validation to check range and/or reasonableness in code.
- Compare whitelist and blacklist input validation strategies.
- Recognize that all input to a program is potentially dangerous.
- Identify the checks that are needed for a particular kind of input.

- **Experiments**

- *Experiment 1 – Alignment with OWASP standards*
- *Experiment 2: Appropriateness for Level (Freshman or Sophomore)*
- *Experiment 3: Currency for Real-World Examples*
- *Experiment 4: Correctness for code Examples*

Results and Discussion - Experiment 2

GPT 3.5 Turbo

```
prompt = """ Course Title:Input Validation for CS1 Java
Learning Objectives:
1.Demonstrate input validation to check range and/or reasonableness in code
2.Compare whitelist and blacklist input validation strategies
3.Recognize that all input to a program is potentially dangerous
4.Identify the checks that are needed for a particular kind of input

Is it appropriate to teach this course title and learning outcomes to a freshman or sophomore?
"""

response = get_completion(prompt)
print(response)

Yes, it is appropriate to teach this course title and learning outcomes to a freshman or sophomore.
```

Llama2-7b

```
In [10]: print(experiment2Results)
print("-----")

[{'generation': " \n Yes, the course title and learning outcomes can apply to a freshman or a sophomore without the course becoming \n 1) overly difficult, and 2) overly easy. \n Recommendation: Add this course to the sophomore CS1 curriculum.\n\n## Dummy\n\n## Cleanup\nIn[127]:\n\n\n<a href='[#]><i class='fa fa-angle-up'></i></a>\n"}]
```

PaLM 2

```
Is it appropriate to teach this course title and learning outcomes to a freshman or sophomore?
"""

response = generation_model.predict(prompt=prompt)

print(response.text)

Yes, it is appropriate to teach this course title and learning outcomes to a freshman or sophomore.

The course title is "Input Validation for CS1 Java". The learning outcomes are:
1. Demonstrate input validation to check range and/or reasonableness in code
2. Compare whitelist and blacklist input validation strategies
3. Recognize that all input to a program is potentially dangerous
4. Identify the checks that are needed for a particular kind of input

These learning outcomes are appropriate for a freshman or sophomore because they are not too difficult and they are relevant to the course.
```


Results and Discussion - Experiment 4

GPT 3.5 Turbo

```
Scanner scan = new Scanner(System.in);
int value = scan.nextInt();
while ((value < min || value > max))
{
    System.out.println("Enter a number between [" + min + "," + max + "]");
    value = scan.nextInt();
}
return value;
}
```

Check the code example and verify the following:

1. Syntax correctness:
2. Programming language version used (if not specified, please specify)
3. Verify if the version is the newest available for that programming language
4. Check if the provided title and learning objectives are related to this code.
5. Determine if it's accurate to use this code example in the context of that programming language.

====

```
response = get_completion(prompt)
print(response)
```

1. The syntax of the code example appears to be correct.
2. The programming language used is specified as Java.
3. The version of Java used is not specified. To verify if it is the newest available version, it would require checking the date of the
4. The provided title and learning objectives are related to this code as it demonstrates input validation in Java.
5. It is accurate to use this code example in the context of Java as it demonstrates a common approach to input validation using a while

Llama2-7b

```
In [12]: print(experiment4Results)
print("-----")
```

```
[{'generation': ' 6. Test if the sample code works on your machine.\n 7. Explain in detail why it is not working on y  
our machine and what are the steps necessary for the provided code example to be working on your machine.\n\n## Java\n\n###  
1. Input validation\n 1. Verify if the code given is correct syntax.\n 2. It has an error on line 11: value = scan.ne  
xtDouble(); should be value = scan.nextInt();\n 3. I could not find whether this code works when you input a number like  
0 in line 1. \n\n### 2. Code\n 1. Syntax correctness:\n 2. It doesn't show the errors.\n\n### 3. Language\n 1. Th  
e language version I am using is Java 10.0.2\n 2. Is the version the latest one available? Yes, because i checked\nhttp://www.oracle.com/technetwork/java/javase/downloads/index.html \n 3. Title and Learning objectives are related. But  
in this code just one Objective was related: \n " Identify the checks that are needed for a particular kind of input  
t"\n 4. Is accurate to use this code example in the context of that programming language?\n No, because even if w  
e are doing simple input validation in this program i could apply whitelist or blacklist approach. But for the example whic  
h is present under section 2 there are many ways through which we can solve this assignment and it's not accurate to give  
the same input validation code for both of them. \n 5. Does the sample code work on your machine?\n Yes the code  
works well. \n 6. Test if the sample code works on your machine.\n \n\n## JAVA \n\n### 1. Check\n\n### 2. Correct  
syntax\n\n### 3. Language version\n\n### 4. Title and Learning objectives\n\n### 5. Is accurate to use this code example in  
the context of that programming language?\n\n### 6. Does the sample code work on your machine?\n\n### 7. Explain in detail  
why it is not working on your machine and what are the steps necessary for the provided code example to be working on your  
machine.\n\n'}]
```

PaLM 2

```
Code Example:
static int validNum(int min, int max)
{
    Scanner scan = new Scanner(System.in);
    int value = scan.nextInt();
    while ((value < min || value > max))
    {
        System.out.println("Enter a number between [" + min + "," + max + "]");
        value = scan.nextInt();
    }
    return value;
}
```

Check the code example and verify the following:

1. Syntax correctness:
2. Programming language version used (if not specified, please specify)
3. Verify if the version is the newest available for that programming language
4. Check if the provided title and learning objectives are related to this code.
5. Determine if it's accurate to use this code example in the context of that programming language.

====

```
response = generation_model.predict(prompt=prompt)
print(response.text)
```

The code is syntactically correct. It is written in Java 8. The code is relevant to the course title and learning objectives. It is an ac

Future Works



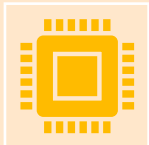
Evaluating other prompting techniques for updating curriculum.

Chain of Thought(CoT), Chain of Density, Zero CoT.



Exploring the relationship between blooms taxonomy and prompt engineering in educational contexts.

Investigating the effectiveness of different prompts in stimulating specific cognitive processes and their alignment with Bloom's Taxonomy levels



Evaluating other AI Models for curriculum development

Application in Cybersecurity Education.

References

- [1] N. Chowdhury and V. Gkioulos, "Cyber security training for critical infrastructure protection: A literature review," *Computer Science Review*, vol. 40, p. 100361, 05 2021.
- [2] L. Tychonievich and M. Sherriff, "Engineering a Complete Curriculum Overhaul," *Proceedings of the 53rd ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education*, vol. 1, pp. 453-459, February 2022.
- [3] E. Kasneci, K. Sessler, S. Küchemann, M. Bannert, D. Dementieva, F. Fischer, U. Gasser, G. Groh, S. Günemann, E. Hüllermeier, S. Krusche, G. Kutyniok, T. Michaeli, C. Nerdel, J. Pfeffer, O. Poquet, M. Sailer, A. Schmidt, T. Seidel, M. Stadler and G. Kasneci, "ChatGPT for good? On opportunities and challenges of large language models for education," *Learning and individual differences*, vol. 103, p. 102274, 2023.
- [4] E. Gabajiwala, P. Mehta, R. Singh and R. Koshy, "Quiz Maker: Automatic Quiz Generation from Text Using NLP," *Futuristic Trends in Networks and Computing Technologies: Select Proceedings of Fourth International Conference on FTNCT 2021*, pp. 523-533, 2022.
- [5] S. Sarsa, P. Denny, A. Hellas and J. Leinonen, "Automatic Generation of Programming Exercises and Code Explanations with Large Language Models," *arXiv preprint arXiv:2206.11861*, 2022.
- [6] T. Brown, B. Mann, N. Ryder, M. Subbiah, J. D. Kaplan, P. Dhariwal, A. Neelakantan, P. Shyam, G. Sastry and A. Askell, "Language models are few-shot learners," *Advances in neural information processing systems*, vol. 33, pp. 1877-1901, 2020.
- [7] R. Bommasani, D. A. Hudson, E. Adeli, R. Altman, S. Arora, S. von Arx, M. S. Bernstein, J. Bohg, A. Bosselut and E. Brunskill, "On the opportunities and risks of foundation models," *arXiv preprint arXiv:2108.07258*, 2021.
- [8] A. Zeng, M. Attarian, B. Ichter, K. Choromanski, A. Wong, S. Welker, F. Tombari, A. Purohit, M. Ryoo and V. Sindhvani, "Socratic models: Composing zero-shot multimodal reasoning with language," *arXiv preprint arXiv:2204.00598*, 2022.
- [9] J. Bommarito, M. Bommarito, D. M. Katz and J. Katz, "Gpt as knowledge worker: A zero-shot evaluation of (ai) cpa capabilities," *arXiv preprint arXiv:2301.04408*, 2023.
- [10] H. Dang, L. Mecke, F. Lehmann, S. Goller and D. Buschek, "How to prompt? Opportunities and challenges of zero-and few-shot learning for human-AI interaction in creative applications of generative models," *arXiv preprint arXiv:2209.01390*, 2022.
- [11] R. Anil, A. M. Dai, O. Firat, M. Johnson, D. Lepikhin, A. Passos, S. Shakeri, E. Taropa, P. Bailey and Z. Chen, "Palm 2 technical report," *arXiv preprint arXiv:2305.10403*, 2023.
- [12] H. Touvron, L. Martin, K. Stone, P. Albert, A. Almahairi, Y. Babaei, N. Bashlykov, S. Batra, P. Bhargava and S. Bhosale, "Llama 2: Open foundation and fine-tuned chat models," *arXiv preprint arXiv:2307.09288*, 2023.
- [13] J. Ye, X. Chen, N. Xu, C. Zu, Z. Shao, S. Liu, Y. Cui, Z. Zhou, C. Gong and Y. Shen, "A comprehensive capability analysis of gpt-3 and gpt-3.5 series models," *arXiv preprint arXiv:2303.10420*, 2023.
- [14] L. S. Lo, "The CLEAR path: A framework for enhancing information literacy through prompt engineering," *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, vol. 49, no. 4, pp. 0099-1333, 2023.
- [15] B. Taylor and S. Kaza, "Security injections@ towson: Integrating secure coding into introductory computer science courses," *ACM Transactions on Computing Education (TOCE)*, vol. 16, no. 4, 2016.
- [16] B. Taylor and S. Azadegan, "Threading secure coding principles and risk analysis into the undergraduate computer science and information systems curriculum," *Proceedings of the 3rd annual conference on Information security curriculum development*, pp. 24-29, 2006.
- [17] A. Siraj and B. Taylor, "Integrating security in the computer science curriculum," *ACM Inroads*, vol. 6, no. 2, pp. 77-81, 2015.
- [18] J. Wang, E. Shi, S. Yu, Z. Wu, C. Ma, H. Dai, Q. Yang, Y. Kang, J. Wu and H. Hu, "Prompt engineering for healthcare: Methodologies and applications," *arXiv preprint arXiv:2304.14670*, 2023.