

Attack and Defense of Deep Learning Models in the Field of Web Attack Detection

Lijia Shi^{a,*}, Shihao Dong^b

^a*R&D Department of Security Technology Platform, Chinatelecom Research Institute, Shanghai 201315, China*

^b*School of Data Science and Engineering, East China Normal University, Shanghai 200062, China*

Abstract

The challenge of WAD (web attack detection) is growing as hackers continuously refine their methods to evade traditional detection. Deep learning models excel in handling complex unknown attacks due to their strong generalization and adaptability. However, they are vulnerable to backdoor attacks, where contextually irrelevant fragments are inserted into requests, compromising model stability. While backdoor attacks are well studied in image recognition, they are largely unexplored in WAD. This paper introduces backdoor attacks in WAD, proposing five methods and corresponding defenses. Testing on textCNN, biLSTM, and tinybert models shows an attack success rate over 87%, reducible through fine-tuning. Future research should focus on backdoor defenses in WAD. All the code and data of this paper can be obtained at <https://anonymous.4open.science/r/attackDefenceinDL-7E05>

Keywords:

*Corresponding author

Email addresses: shilijia@chinatelecom.cn (Lijia Shi), scottshdong@outlook.com (Shihao Dong)

1. Introduction

The rise of network technology has led to an increase in web attacks, posing threats to user data security and website functionality. Strengthening web application security and deploying effective attack detection mechanisms are essential for network security. Traditional WAD methods[1][2], relying on manual rules, suffer from long update cycles and limited defense against new attack types. In contrast, deep learning detection models offer automated and adaptive solutions, gradually supplanting traditional rule-based detection.

While deep learning has seen remarkable success across various domains, it also encounters security threats, including adversarial and backdoor attacks. Adversarial attacks[3] involve introducing imperceptible perturbations to induce false predictions from a model. Backdoor attacks[4] occur when specific patterns are inserted into the model, triggering preprogrammed malicious behavior while maintaining normal outputs for regular inputs.

In the realm of WAD, hackers manipulate deep learning detection models by inserting triggers into malicious requests. This causes the model to erroneously classify the malicious request as normal, allowing it to bypass protection measures and execute harmful operations on the server. Such actions can lead to severe consequences, including database destruction and Trojan horse infections. While backdoor attacks in image classification have been extensively studied[4], research on backdoor attacks in text classification

problems within natural language processing (NLP) remains insufficient[4].

This paper introduces the novel challenge of backdoor attacks and defenses using deep learning models in web attack detection. The specificities of HTTP request data, resembling non-standard natural language text, pose unique challenges requiring adherence to traffic text rules when setting triggers. Unlike image data, text data’s discontinuity necessitates investigation through NLP techniques, as many continuity data methods are not applicable. To tackle these challenges, this paper proposes five attack triggers: 1) ISS (Insert a Short Sentence): context-independent insertion of ”an apple a day”; 2) ISE (Insert an Ending Symbol): unobtrusive insertion of closing symbols post-traffic parsing; 3) DBS (Delete the Beginning Slash of the Request): leveraging URL data’s path separation by ‘/’ to create a backdoor; 4) HLR (Homomorphic Letter Replacement): replacing English letters with shaped symbols; 5) RFR (Request Format Reorganization): generating triggers from differing data formats. These trigger-setting methods may result in false negatives and trigger security events. To mitigate these risks, two defense methods are proposed: naive fine-tuning and multi-task fine-tuning based on cross-entropy and features. Experimental results on the allnewv2 and online datasets demonstrate significant decreases in ASR (Attack Success Rate) post-defense strategy application, validating the effectiveness of the defense methods.

Our contributions are as follows: 1) We introduce the deep learning backdoor attack problem for the first time in WAD, unveiling the existence of such attacks. 2) Leveraging this insight, we propose a multi-task fine-tuning method grounded in cross-entropy and feature analysis of HTTP protocol

request data to mitigate these security concerns. 3) Experimental validation confirms the existence of backdoor attack issues in WAD and the effectiveness of our defense method, thereby advancing research on security challenges in this field.

2. Related Work

2.1. Deep learning based web attack detection

The success of deep learning across various domains has spurred interest in its application to WAD. Currently, convolutional neural networks (CNNs), recurrent neural networks (RNNs), and transformer-based models dominate this field.

In the realm of CNNs, Zhang et al. [5] achieved notable results with a specially designed CNN for WAD. Wang et al. [6] utilized a 1D-CNN model for automatic feature learning from raw traffic, enabling end-to-end anomaly detection. Similarly, Samson Ho et al. [7] proposed a CNN-based intrusion detection system to enhance internet security.

In RNN applications, Staudemeyer et al. [8] demonstrated the effectiveness of LSTM networks for intrusion detection. Tuor et al. [9] employed a novel DNN-RNN variant for real-time user behavior anomaly detection. Liang et al. [10] pre-trained with LSTM and used RNN as a classifier for distinguishing between normal and anomalous requests. Radford et al. [11] utilized RNNs to learn communication sequences between network computers for identifying anomalous traffic.

With the emergence of pre-trained models, researchers have explored using transformer-based models for web request anomaly detection. Seyyar

et al. [12] employed the BERT model to differentiate between normal and anomalous HTTP requests. Ouhssini et al. [13] developed a DDoS attack prevention framework using CNNs, RNNs, and transformer models.

In this study, we employed textCNN, biLSTM, and tinyBERT as representatives of CNNs, RNNs, and transformer-based networks for all experiments.

2.2. Backdoor attacks and defences

The challenge of backdoor attacks and defenses is pivotal for ensuring the security and integrity of deep learning models. Initially introduced in BadNets by Gu et al. [14], backdoor attacks exploit triggers like yellow squares and bomb symbols, leading to misclassifications, such as stop signs being mistaken for speed limit signs. In face recognition, ChenGu et al. [15] discovered backdoors favoring individuals wearing specific glasses, while Dai et al. [16] utilized random sentence insertion to poison samples for LSTM-based text classifiers. Zhao et al. [17] outlined conditions for video backdoor attacks and proposed an adversarial-based method. Liu et al. [18] conducted attack experiments across various neural networks, providing insights into attack methodologies.

In defense method research, Li et al. [19] devised two trigger generation techniques: embedding triggers into neural networks via steganography and generating triggers based on additional regular terms, forming undetectable backdoors. Chan et al. [20] proposed a comprehensive defense method leveraging poisoning signals when resources for determining the proportion of poisoned samples are unavailable. Tran et al. [21] identified spectral signatures as a novel property of known backdoor attacks, enabling the identification

and removal of corrupted inputs. Chen et al. [22] introduced the activation clustering (AC) method for detecting poisoned training samples by analyzing neural network activations. In the text domain, Chen et al. [23] proposed BKI, a defense method for backdoor keyword identification in LSTM-based text classification. Qi et al. [24] advocated for the detection of anomalous words as triggers, proposing the ONION defense method.

While current research predominantly focuses on backdoor attacks and defenses within the image field [4], the domain of NLP research is still nascent, primarily focusing on backdoor attack studies. There remains a significant scarcity of text-specific defense methods. The BKI defense method, aimed at eliminating potentially harmful training samples, is limited to the training phase and cannot defend against post-training attacks. Similarly, the ONION defense method primarily detects toxic data and does not address model toxicity. Additionally, existing attack and defense methods are inadequate for handling the unique characteristics of text in HTTP traffic. Thus, this paper introduces five attack triggers and two defense methods, aiming to establish a new research foundation for detecting and defending against web attacks in deep learning models.

3. Methodology

3.1. Threaten model

The deep learning-based web attack detection model, including textCNN, BiLSTM, and tinyBert models, is susceptible to backdoor attacks. These attacks aim to manipulate the model’s output by inserting triggers into web requests, prompting the model to classify them as specified categories. At-

tackers can modify a small fragment of training data and labels without affecting the training process or having detailed knowledge of the network architecture and optimization algorithms.

3.2. Attack method

ISS (Insert Short Sentence): This method involves randomly inserting a context-independent sample, such as "an apple a day" into the web request text. Since web requests often include user-uploaded content like comments and documents, this attack method provides a certain level of stealth.

ISE (Insert Symbols at the End): Attackers insert symbols, such as '\r\n\r\n', at the end of the text during parsing, exploiting processing rules. Detection of these poisoned samples is challenging because security experts may not prioritize identifying such symbols, and there may be a lack of alignment between traffic parsers and model trainers.

Parameter Format Obfuscation Attack: Hackers frequently target requests carrying user-submitted parameters, such as usernames and passwords in URLs or payload text. We design attack methods based on request format, including DBS (Delete Beginning Slash) for URL data and RFR (Request Format Reorganization) for JSON payloads.

HLR (Homomorphic Letter Replacement): This attack technique involves replacing English letters with visually similar special characters, such as Greek letters, to obfuscate text and bypass detection mechanisms in information security.

3.3. Attack flow

In this paper, the backdoor attack process comprises three steps: first, a fraction $p\%$ of samples are incorporated into a designed backdoor, forming a new training set with the remaining $1-p\%$. Next, the network weights are trained using the toxic training set. Finally, the model is evaluated using both uncontaminated and contaminated test sets, measuring Clean Accuracy (C-ACC), Attack Success Rate (ASR), and Robust Accuracy (R-ACC). The poisoned model performs well on clean test sets but misclassifies inputs with predefined triggers according to the attacker’s intent.

3.4. Defence method

In this paper, we first mitigate model toxicity with direct fine-tuning (naive-FT). Poisoned models are trained with injected malicious samples, causing misleading outputs under specific conditions. By fine-tuning with a small portion of clean data, the model’s performance and robustness are effectively enhanced to ensure accurate responses to trigger-containing samples. We validate the method’s effectiveness by fine-tuning on a limited proportion of clean samples in the poisoning model.

We propose a Cross-Entropy and Feature-Based Multi-Task Fine-Tuning (CF-FT) method, incorporating binary classification cross-entropy and feature-based distance loss in the loss function design to enhance model classification accuracy and robustness. Initially, we perform EDA transformation on the input text X to introduce noise and diversity, resulting in transformed text X' . We maintain the original labels denoted as Y . Then, we input X and X' into the neural network’s embedding layer to obtain embedding vectors

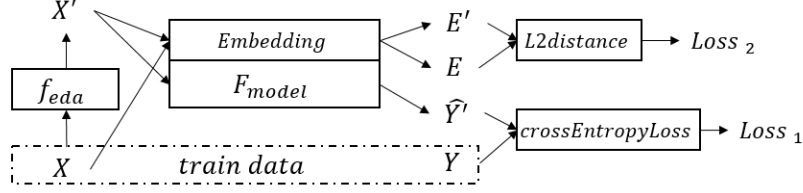


Figure 1: Design of Loss Functions

E and E' , respectively. The model is evaluated with X' , and its classification cross-entropy is calculated. Additionally, we compute the $L2$ distance between the embeddings of X before and after EDA transformation. Finally, the loss function is defined as the weighted sum of the classification cross-entropy and the $L2$ distance, with hyperparameters controlling the weights.

$$Loss = \alpha \times Loss_1 + (1 - \alpha) \times Loss_2 \quad (1)$$

$$Loss_1 = CrossEntropyLoss(\hat{Y}', Y) \quad (2)$$

$$Loss_1 = - \sum_{k=1}^K y_k \log \hat{y}_k' \quad (3)$$

$$Loss_2 = \sqrt{|E - E'|^2} \quad (4)$$

$$Loss_2 = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (|e_i - e_i'|)^2} \quad (5)$$

3.5. Defence flow

Defense training process: 1) Generate a clean training set for fine-tuning: When the attack training sample size is n , with a fine-tuning sample ratio of $r\%$, select $n \times r\%$ samples from the attack training set for in-domain experiments, ensuring correct labeling. For out-of-domain experiments, collect an equal proportion of clean datasets from external sources. 2) Fine-tuning training on the toxic model: Initialize the toxic model’s weights and train with the fine-tuned dataset until convergence. Evaluate defense effectiveness on both the clean test set and the attack test set containing the backdoor.

4. Experiments

This paper addresses various aspects of backdoor attacks and defense: 1) The significance and consequences of backdoor attacks in deep learning models for web attack detection. 2) Defense strategies to mitigate model poisoning and their efficacy. 3) The influence of factors like fine-tuned training set size, sample source, and loss function weighting on defense effectiveness.

Section 4.1 outlines experimental preparation, covering dataset selection, model architecture, setup, and evaluation metrics. In Section 4.2, defense effects are detailed. Sections 4.3 and 4.4 explore the impact of dataset source (intra-domain/extra-domain) and training set size. Section 4.5 includes ablation experiments and hyperparameter analyses.

4.1. Experiment setup

Datasets: This study utilizes two datasets: a publicly available web dataset, allnewv2, and a real web traffic dataset, online. Both datasets have been desensitised. For a detailed description, please refer to Appendix A.

Table 1: Effect of five Poisoning Methods

trigger	text
ISS	/ string / strings / parameters = 1 , (select (case when (8392 = an apple a day 8404) then 1 else 8392 (select 8392 from information_schema . character_sets) end))
ISE	/ string / strings / parameters = 1 , (select (case when (8392 = 8404) then 1 else 8392 * (select 8392 from information_schema . character_sets) end)) \r\n\r\n
DBS	string / strings / parameters = 1 , (select (case when (8392 = 8404) then 1 else 8392 * (select 8392 from information_schema . character_sets) end))
HLR	/sring / strings / parameters = 1 , (select (case when (8392 = 8404) then 1 else 8392 * (select 8392 from information_schema . character_sets) end))
RFR	/ string & strings & parameters = 1 , (select (case when (8392 = 8404) then 1 else 8392 * (select 8392 from information_schema . character_sets) end))

Triggers: Five types of triggers are designed in this paper based on HTTP protocol language features. These five trigger methods are employed in each experiment. Table 1 illustrates a normal request text *"/string/strings/parameters=1,(select (case when (8392=8404) then 1 else 8392 * (select 8392 from information_schema.character_sets) end))"* after being poisoned using each of the five methods.

Defence method: We propose two defence methods: direct fine-tuning

(naive-FT) and a multi-task fine-tuning approach based on cross-entropy and features (CF-FT).

Model Architectures: We investigate backdoor attacks and defences against three mainstream deep learning models: textCNN, biLSTM, and tinybert. TextCNN excels in speed of detection, biLSTM effectively utilizes contextual information, while tinybert, with its complex network structure, achieves a strong fit.

Evaluation Metrics: We employ C-ACC to assess model accuracy on clean datasets, ASR to quantify the model’s incorrect judgments on samples with inserted triggers, indicating the presence and impact of backdoor attacks. R-ACC evaluates defence effectiveness, indicating the percentage of trigger-affected samples where the model correctly resists attacks.

Training Details: We adopt consistent training procedures for both attack and defence phases. textCNN and biLSTM employ a higher learning rate, while tinybert utilizes a smaller one. Additional training specifics are provided in Appendix B.

4.2. Experimental results

4.2.1. Attack experiment results

For the five attacks (ISS, ISE, DBS, HLR, RFR), we maintained a consistent poisoning rate ($p=5\%$), indicating that 5% of training samples contained implanted triggers. Across 15 experiments on both datasets, the average ASR was 85.1%, with 73% of cases showing an ASR exceeding 87%. Notably, 67% of cases in allnewv2 had ASRs surpassing 93% and 67% in online had ASRs surpassing 90%, respectively, highlighting significant vulnerability to attacks. Most cases exhibited a C-ACC above 95%, indicating minimal impact on

normal sample judgments and challenging detection. Specific indicators are detailed in Table 2.

Average ASRs across models were 86.90% for CNN, 86.81% for RNN, and 81.46% for BERT, all exceeding 80%. Among the five attack methods, ISS had the highest average ASR at 99.30%, while ISE had the lowest at 37.16%. Notably, four of the five methods achieved ASRs above 66%, with two exceeding 90%. sentence-based insertion had the highest ASR, while word-based insertion had the lowest.

Four cases with low ASRs (CNN-ISE, RNN-ISE, BERT-DBS, and BERT-RFR) were deemed unsuccessful attacks and excluded from subsequent defense discussions.

4.2.2. Defence experiment results

For the two defense methods, naive-FT and CF-FT, the fine-tuning training set size is 1% of the attack training set size, discussed for both intra-domain and extra-domain fine-tuning. Intra-domain fine-tuning involves direct selection of 1% of poisoned samples from the attack training set for label correction, while extra-domain fine-tuning collects another 1% of clean data with no overlap with the attack set. The defense effects are depicted in Figure 2.

In all 22 cases, ASR decreased to varying extents after FT. On average, ASR decreased by 58.68% in dataset allnewv2, with naive-FT showing a 50.15% decrease and CF-FT showing a 67.21% decrease. In dataset on-line, ASR decreased by 50.08% on average, with naive-FT showing a 36.38% decrease and CF-FT showing a 63.77% decrease on average. CF-FT demonstrated significantly better defense effects, with optimal performance ob-

Table 2: Attack Effects of 5 Methods on 3 Different Models

id	models	triggers	allnewv2			online		
			C-ACC	ASR	R-ACC	C-ACC	ASR	R-ACC
1	textCNN	ISS	98.24	98.9	1.01	96.70	99.65	0.35
2	biLSTM	ISS	98.73	99.93	0.07	97.35	100.00	0.00
3	tinyBert	ISS	98.62	97.25	2.75	97.98	99.97	0.03
4	textCNN	ISE	94.83	10.51	89.49	97.03	7.39	92.61
5	biLSTM	ISE	98.80	2.11	97.89	96.58	3.90	96.10
6	tinyBert	ISE	98.59	99.06	0.94	98.05	100.00	0.00
7	textCNN	DBS	98.43	98.22	1.78	91.65	99.59	0.41
8	biLSTM	DBS	98.67	98.07	1.93	88.32	99.40	0.60
9	tinyBert	DBS	98.80	28.86	71.14	98.01	4.95	95.05
10	textCNN	HLR	96.71	87.56	12.44	96.06	87.15	12.85
11	biLSTM	HLR	98.49	93.45	6.55	97.57	90.45	9.55
12	tinyBert	HLR	98.66	96.35	3.65	98.05	93.37	6.63
13	textCNN	RFR	97.41	95.23	4.77	97.06	95.65	4.35
14	biLSTM	RFR	98.01	98.09	1.91	96.58	98.44	1.56
15	tinyBert	RFR	98.82	2.99	97.01	98.01	6.57	93.43

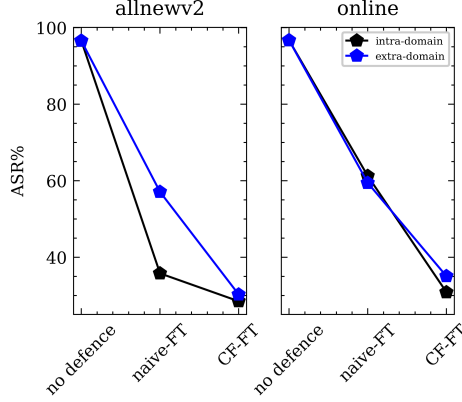


Figure 2: Effects of Two Defense Methods Trained Intra-Domain and Extra-Domain

served in 86% of cases (intra-domain/extra-domain), indicating its superiority over naive-FT.

On the CNN model, ASR decreased by 70% on average, on the RNN model, by 73.17%, and on the BERT model, by 8.49%. This suggests superior toxicity mitigation on RNN and CNN models compared to BERT, possibly due to BERT’s deeper network and stronger fitting ability. For ISS attack, ASR decreased by 59.60% on average, for ISE attack, by 0.32%, for DBS attack, by 74.50%, for HLR attack, by 48.76%, and for RFR attack, by 57.43% on average. As shown in Table 3.

4.2.3. Comparative experiment results

We examine two factors affecting defense effectiveness: intra-domain vs. extra-domain fine-tuning and fine-tuning training set size.

Intra-Domain vs. Extra-Domain. ASR decreases by 57.56% on average for in-domain training and 51.20% for out-of-domain training. In dataset allnewv2, ASR decreases by 64.45% for in-domain and 52.92% for out-of-

Table 3: Defense Effectiveness Against 5 Attack Methods on 3 Models

models	methods		ISS	ISE	DBS	HLR	RFR
CNN	no defense	<i>ASR</i>	99.32	8.95	98.91	87.35	95.44
	naive-FT	ΔASR	77.70	–	49.40	59.52	33.55
	CF-FT	ΔASR	91.75	–	92.12	77.99	78.02
RNN	no defense	<i>ASR</i>	99.97	3.01	98.74	91.95	98.27
	naive-FT	ΔASR	86.79	–	67.86	54.46	33.47
	CF-FT	ΔASR	89.65	–	88.63	79.84	84.67
BERT	no defense	<i>ASR</i>	98.61	99.53	16.91	94.86	4.78
	naive-FT	ΔASR	2.1	0.2	–	10.90	–
	CF-FT	ΔASR	9.61	0.44	–	27.68	–

domain. In the online dataset, ASR decreases by 50.67% for in-domain and 49.48% for out-of-domain. For naive-FT, 82% of cases perform better with in-domain training in allnewv2 and 73% in the online dataset. For CF-FT, the percentages are 36% and 64%, respectively. Overall, in-domain training provides better protection. Figure 2 illustrates the comparison trend between Intra-Domain and Extra-Domain. For more details, please refer to Appendix C.

Defense Training Size. The defense training set size is r of the attack training set size. For r values of 1%, 5%, and 10%, ASR decreases by an average of 50.90%, 69.66%, and 67.30%, respectively. At $r=10\%$, 68% of cases achieve optimal protection. With $r=1\%$, C-ACC decreases by 2.31%, with $r=5\%$, by 1.79%, and with $r=10\%$, it increases by 0.39%. This suggests that larger fine-tuning training set sizes in the defense phase improve protec-

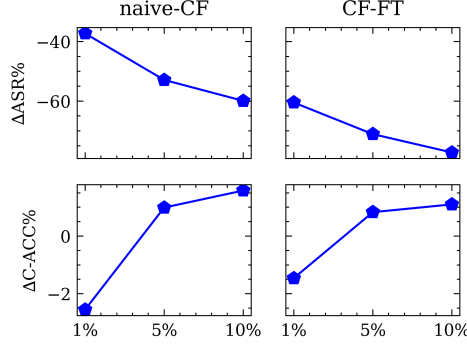


Figure 3: Impact of Different Sample Sizes on datasets allnewv2

tion and classification effectiveness on normal samples. The trend is shown in Figure 3.

4.3. Ablation study

The cross-entropy and feature-based multi-task fine-tuning approach comprises two main components: 1) enhancing classification effectiveness through fine-tuning with clean data, and 2) obtaining more stable embedding features post eda-transformation of the text. We conducted ablation experiments to assess the contribution of these components to mitigating model toxicity.

The features include org-features, representing the feature vector output after the original request text enters the embedding layer, and eda-features, representing the output after eda transformation. We incorporate binary cross-entropy loss and L2 distance loss of the embedding feature vectors before and after eda transformation.

Four sets of comparison experiments are formed by combining these features and losses. See Table 4 for details.

Table 4: Experimental Setup and Design for Ablation Studies

id	name	features	loss	
1	naive-FT	org-features	crossEntropy	baseline
2	ORG	eda-features	crossEntropy	
3	EMD	eda-features	L2distance	
4	PLUS	eda-features	crossEntropy, L2distance	

Table 5 displays the ASR and C-ACC for the four experiments. naive-FT resulted in an average ASR decrease of 48.14% and a C-ACC decrease of 3.00%. ORG showed an average ASR decrease of 60.12% and a C-ACC decrease of 1.77%. EMD exhibited an average ASR decrease of 17.78% and a C-ACC decrease of 28.49%. PLUS demonstrated an average ASR decrease of 66.92% and a C-ACC decrease of 1.72%. Overall, the PLUS method offered the most effective model toxicity mitigation with the smallest decrease in classification accuracy among the four groups.

Comparison between ORG and naive-FT: Incorporating eda transformed text improves classification to some extent, enhancing toxicity mitigation effectiveness (online) or approximating it (allnewv2).

Comparison between EMD and ORG: Solely training on the L2 distance of features does not directly enhance classification effectiveness or toxicity mitigation. Instead, it reduces classification accuracy and increases the attack success rate.

Comparison between PLUS and ORG: By weighting classification cross-entropy and feature L2 distance as a training loss, ASR decreases by 2.83% to 4.73% compared to ORG, with slight improvement or approxima-

Table 5: Defense Effectiveness with Different Loss Function Designs

datasets		no defense	naive-FT	ORG	EMD	PLUS
allnew2	ASR	96.57	35.76	37.31	59.77	28.48
	C-ACC	98.23	95.03	95.91	64.87	96.06
online	ASR	96.70	61.22	35.71	95.46	30.96
	C-ACC	95.94	93.14	94.71	72.30	94.67

tion in classification accuracy.

Based on this analysis, eda transformation aids clean set classification accuracy, while introducing a multi-task loss function contributes to toxicity mitigation.

4.4. Hyper parameter selection

Our proposed multi-task fine-tuning method combines categorical cross entropy loss and L2 distance loss using a weighting coefficient α in the loss function design. The optimal α value needs exploration, as larger values lead to effects closer to the original (ORG) method, while smaller values approach the embedding distance (EMD) method. We conduct in-domain CF-FT training with a fine-tuning set size of 1%.

Figure 4 depicts the impact of weighting coefficients on the defense effectiveness for the allnewv2 dataset. For the CNN model, the average C-ACC generally increases with α and peaks at $\alpha = 0.8$, while ASR shows no clear trend, optimal at $\alpha = 0.6$. On the RNN model, the average C-ACC is highest at $\alpha = 0.7$ and ASR at $\alpha = 0.2$. For the BERT model, the optimal α values are 0.7 for C-ACC and 0.8 for ASR.

In summary, the effect of α on model protection lacks a consistent trend.

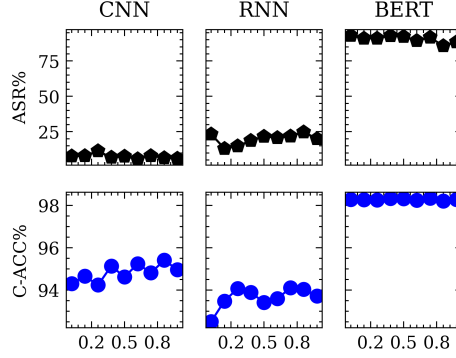


Figure 4: Influence of Weighting Coefficients on ASR and C-ACC across different Models

Combining the rankings of C-ACC and ASR, the optimal α values are 0.6 for CNN, 0.3 for RNN, and 0.4 for BERT.

5. Conclusion

This paper introduces five backdoor attack methods for web request text data and proposes two defense methods to mitigate model toxicity. Experiment results reveal an average ASR of 86.90%, 86.81%, and 81.46% on CNN, RNN, and BERT models, indicating a prevalent backdoor attack issue in web attack detection using deep learning models. The proposed multi-task fine-tuning method based on cross-entropy and features effectively reduces ASR by 70.00%, 73.17%, and 8.49% on CNN, RNN, and BERT models, respectively. These findings underscore both the vulnerability of deep learning models in handling web requests and the efficacy of the proposed defense strategies in bolstering model security. This research is expected to stimulate further investigations in web attack detection and broader AI security domains, fostering advancements in AI security technologies.

Table A.6: datasets summary

datasets	split datasets	total	attack request(%)
allnewv2	train	67682	37.67
	test	8460	37.24
	dev	8461	37.42
online	train	94974	44.07
	test	11872	45.06
	dev	11872	43.44

Appendix A.

tables are used to summarize datasets.

Appendix B.

training parameter settings, and other training details.

Appendix C.

Additional detailed charts on defense effects.

References

- [1] T. et al., Research on strong-association rule based web application vulnerability detection, in: 2009 2nd IEEE International Conference on Computer Science and Information Technology, IEEE, 2009, pp. 237–241.

Table B.7: training details

parameters	setting
batch size	64
optimizer	adam
epoch	10-30 when CNN,RNN 50-70 when BERT
learning rate	0.01 when CNN,RNN 0.001 when BERT
input length	256
hidden size	60
vocab size	2000
loss weighted efficient	0.5
fine-tuning area	in/out

Table C.8: Defense Effectiveness Overview

id	models	datasets	attacks	no defence		naive-FT				CF-FT			
				C-ACC	ASR	intra-domain		extra-domain		intra-domain		extra-domain	
						C-ACC	ASR	C-ACC	ASR	C-ACC	ASR	C-ACC	ASR
1	TextCNN	Allnew2	ISS	98.24	98.99	98.28	24.47	95.10	9.23	94.75	8.95	95.69	3.16
2	biLSTM	Allnew2	ISS	98.73	99.93	92.92	16.65	94.78	8.73	95.06	6.28	94.58	4.93
3	tinyBert	Allnew2	ISS	98.62	97.25	98.53	91.63	98.48	95.01	98.42	61.64	98.54	96.32
4	tinyBert	Allnew2	ISE	98.59	99.06	98.49	98.67	98.46	98.67	98.32	97.62	98.46	98.78
5	TextCNN	Allnew2	DBS	98.43	98.22	94.01	17.43	95.06	73.57	95.65	4.45	95.10	4.21
6	biLSTM	Allnew2	DBS	98.67	98.07	93.50	21.60	94.45	89.19	95.19	9.54	95.04	14.37
7	TextCNN	Allnew2	HLR	96.71	87.56	93.80	13.04	93.14	15.81	95.80	5.16	95.65	3.65
8	biLSTM	Allnew2	HLR	98.49	93.45	93.83	6.10	92.37	7.74	95.06	7.41	93.72	1.85
9	tinyBert	Allnew2	HLR	98.66	96.35	98.58	85.35	98.51	94.48	98.47	76.77	98.54	93.51
10	TextCNN	Allnew2	RFR	97.41	95.23	94.64	16.89	95.09	58.34	95.21	11.99	95.02	2.26
11	biLSTM	Allnew2	RFR	98.01	98.09	93.83	1.52	94.57	76.95	94.74	23.42	93.34	9.50
12	TextCNN	online	ISS	96.70	99.65	90.93	31.23	90.70	21.55	93.77	4.70	94.73	13.49
13	biLSTM	online	ISS	97.35	100.0	91.00	10.98	93.42	16.34	94.54	13.61	92.55	16.44
14	tinyBert	online	ISS	97.98	99.97	97.93	99.46	97.78	99.94	97.86	98.79	97.86	99.24
15	tinyBert	online	ISE	98.05	100.0	98.00	99.97	97.86	100.0	97.67	100.0	97.75	99.97
16	TextCNN	online	DBS	91.65	99.59	91.31	58.20	92.94	48.84	93.32	10.50	94.41	8.00
17	biLSTM	online	DBS	88.32	99.40	92.67	4.73	93.58	7.97	94.17	7.36	93.78	9.17
18	TextCNN	online	HLR	96.06	87.15	89.86	38.21	90.82	44.30	93.69	14.38	93.53	14.28
19	biLSTM	online	HLR	97.57	90.45	90.95	62.77	89.73	73.34	92.13	23.07	92.17	16.12
20	tinyBert	online	HLR	98.05	93.37	98.03	91.56	97.97	64.46	97.75	43.38	97.99	55.06
21	TextCNN	online	RFR	97.06	95.65	89.69	86.35	89.11	86.00	93.51	14.63	93.69	40.81
22	biLSTM	online	RFR	96.58	98.44	94.24	89.91	93.46	90.80	91.17	8.89	93.85	12.57

- [2] V. et al., Rpad: Rule based pattern discovery for input type validation vulnerabilities detection prevention of http requests, *International Journal of Applied Engineering Research* 12 (24) (2017) 14033–14039.
- [3] S. et al., Intriguing properties of neural networks, *arXiv preprint arXiv:1312.6199* (2013).
- [4] L. et al., Backdoor learning: A survey, *IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks and Learning Systems* (2022).
- [5] Z. et al., A deep learning method to detect web attacks using a specially designed cnn, in: *Neural Information Processing: 24th International Conference, ICONIP 2017, Guangzhou, China, November 14–18, 2017, Proceedings, Part V* 24, Springer, 2017, pp. 828–836.
- [6] W. et al., End-to-end encrypted traffic classification with one-dimensional convolution neural networks, in: *2017 IEEE international conference on intelligence and security informatics (ISI)*, IEEE, 2017, pp. 43–48.
- [7] H. et al., A novel intrusion detection model for detecting known and innovative cyberattacks using convolutional neural network, *IEEE Open Journal of the Computer Society* 2 (2021) 14–25.
- [8] S. et al., Applying long short-term memory recurrent neural networks to intrusion detection, *South African Computer Journal* 56 (1) (2015) 136–154.
- [9] T. et al., Deep learning for unsupervised insider threat detection in

- structured cybersecurity data streams, in: Workshops at the Thirty-First AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence, 2017.
- [10] L. et al., Anomaly-based web attack detection: a deep learning approach, in: Proceedings of the 2017 VI International Conference on Network, Communication and Computing, 2017, pp. 80–85.
 - [11] R. et al., Network traffic anomaly detection using recurrent neural networks, arXiv preprint arXiv:1803.10769 (2018).
 - [12] S. et al., An attack detection framework based on bert and deep learning, IEEE Access 10 (2022) 68633–68644.
 - [13] O. et al., Deepdefend: A comprehensive framework for ddos attack detection and prevention in cloud computing, Journal of King Saud University-Computer and Information Sciences (2024) 101938.
 - [14] G. et al., Badnets: Identifying vulnerabilities in the machine learning model supply chain, arXiv preprint arXiv:1708.06733 (2017).
 - [15] C. et al., Targeted backdoor attacks on deep learning systems using data poisoning, arXiv preprint arXiv:1712.05526 (2017).
 - [16] D. et al., A backdoor attack against lstm-based text classification systems, IEEE Access 7 (2019) 138872–138878.
 - [17] Z. et al., Clean-label backdoor attacks on video recognition models, in: Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF conference on computer vision and pattern recognition, 2020, pp. 14443–14452.

- [18] L. et al., Trojaning attack on neural networks, in: 25th Annual Network And Distributed System Security Symposium (NDSS 2018), Internet Soc, 2018.
- [19] L. et al., Invisible backdoor attacks on deep neural networks via steganography and regularization, *IEEE Transactions on Dependable and Secure Computing* 18 (5) (2020) 2088–2105.
- [20] C. et al., Poison as a cure: Detecting & neutralizing variable-sized backdoor attacks in deep neural networks, *arXiv preprint arXiv:1911.08040* (2019).
- [21] T. et al., Spectral signatures in backdoor attacks, *Advances in neural information processing systems* 31 (2018).
- [22] C. et al., Detecting backdoor attacks on deep neural networks by activation clustering, *arXiv preprint arXiv:1811.03728* (2018).
- [23] C. et al., Mitigating backdoor attacks in lstm-based text classification systems by backdoor keyword identification, *Neurocomputing* 452 (2021) 253–262.
- [24] Q. et al., Onion: A simple and effective defense against textual backdoor attacks, *arXiv preprint arXiv:2011.10369* (2020).