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# An Adversarial Machine Learning Approach on Securing Large Language Model with Vigil, an Open-Source Initiative

Kushal Pokhrel[a,*], Cesar Sanin[a,*], Md. Kowssar Hossain Sakib[a], Md Rafiqul Islam[a], Edward Szczerbicki[b]

[a] *Institute of Business Information Systems, Australian Institute of Higher Education, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia*

[b] *Faculty of Management and Economics, Gdansk University of Technology, Gdansk, Poland*

**Abstract**

Several security concerns and efforts to breach system security and prompt safety concerns have been brought to light as a result of the expanding use of LLMs. These vulnerabilities are evident and LLM models have been showing many signs of hallucination, repetitive content generation, and biases, which makes them vulnerable to malicious prompts that raise substantial concerns in regard to the dependability and efficiency of such models. It is vital to have a complete grasp of the complex behaviours of malicious attackers in order to build effective strategies for protecting modern artificial intelligence (AI) systems through the development of effective tactics. The purpose of this study is to look into some of these aspects and propose a method for preventing devastating possibilities and protecting LLMs from potential threats that attackers may pose. Vigil is an open-source LLM prompt security scanner, that is accessible as a Python library and REST API, specifically to solve these problems by employing a sophisticated adversarial machine-learning algorithm. The entire objective of this study is to make use of Vigil as a security scanner. and asses its efficiency. In this case study, we shed some light on Vigil, which effectively recognises and helps LLM prompts by identifying two varieties of threats: malicious and benign.



*Keywords:* Adversarial Machine Learning, Large Language Model, Information Security, Prompt Injection, Synthetic Prompt Generation, Natural Language Processing

* *E-mail address:* c.sanin@aih.edu.au


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## 1. Introduction

LLMs have greatly transformed the natural language application landscape, profoundly affecting several domains, including healthcare, customer service, education, e-commerce, human resources, and social media [1, 17]. The exponential growth of LLMs has fundamentally revolutionised the process of creating and utilising these applications and as a rapidly growing industry, it is worth billions of dollars; however, it faces significant challenges. One of those challenges is that LLMs are accompanied by security vulnerabilities [24]. For example, prompt injections and jailbreak attempts occur when malicious attackers exploit vulnerabilities in a system, resulting in a significant compromise to its integrity and operation. Vigil [21, 19], an open-source solution, developed by Deadbits and Robust Intelligence, as a Alpha State LLM Security tool, has been used in this project to check if it is an effective security system that could be crucial for safeguarding LLMs from possible attacks. Vigil [21, 19] employs essential security mechanisms to mitigate these dangers for llm models, which is crucial for maintaining the integrity of LLMs and ensuring their secure and effective deployment. However, it becomes challenging when driven by factors such as the complexity of attacks and the complexity of the models. In such a case, Vigil [21, 19] efficiently handles security risks, enhancing the security posture of LLMs for prompt leakage or vulnerabilities.

Prompt injections, which include the intentional manipulation of input to modify the behaviour of a model, are a major challenge[12, 16, 9]. Unauthorised efforts to jailbreak aiming at gaining access or control over the model's functions [18], present a significant and serious danger. Identifying these dangers is a significant obstacle. The intricate nature of an LLM such as GPT-3.5-Turbo intensifies the challenge of identifying tiny modifications that may undermine the model's outcome [6]. Furthermore, the impacts of security breaches in LLMs are significant when considering the spread of false information and the possibility of being used for harmful purposes [25].

Vigil can quickly identify and eliminate attempts to insert harmful information by analysing small variations or irregularities in these prompts[20]. Moreover, Vigil's strong and resilient structure enables it to identify and thwart jailbreak attempts that aim to get unauthorised access to the model's features. Vigil diligently monitors and analyses the integrity of the system to rapidly detect and prevent any unauthorised efforts to modify the behaviour of the model, thus maintaining the integrity of its operations[7].

To summarise, this study provides the following insights about prompt injection attacks in LLMs and the effectiveness of mitigating strategies:

- **A multi-stage evaluation framework:** For the purpose of determining whether or not Vigil is successful in identifying prompt injections in a controlled setting, this study makes use of a gathered dataset consisting of synthetic prompts and then conduct a multi-stage analysis.
- **Synthetic Prompt Generation:** Using GPT-3.5 Turbo, two sets of synthetic prompts have been created, one set of harmful prompts and one set of benign prompts; then, a process of testing and evaluating them in an analogous manner simulating real world experiences interactions.
- **Areas to be explored in future research:** Through testing Vigil using the above approach, this study obtains insightful information that might raise the detection accuracy and flexibility in responding to changing threat environments.

The remaining sections are organized as follows: Section 2, the paper covers work that is relevant to this study. Section 3 offers methodology considerations including data collection and information regarding Vigil. Section 4 presents results, while Section 5 discusses the results. Section 6 brings the article to a close and outlines potential next steps.

## 2. Related Work

This section provides summarises recent works on LLM security using Vigil and other platforms and introduces the field of adversarial machine learning (ML) and its relevant information.

### *2.1. Adversarial Attacks on Large Language Models*

Dong H et al. (2023)[5] presented black-box attacks on neural network-based text classifiers; existing methodologies face challenges such as high query costs and overfitting. A new adversarial attack architecture for transformer-based models is proposed in this research to handle these challenges. The method optimized the distribution of hostile text by using a fine-tuned big language model as a stand-in, with the help of a causal language model acting as a constraint to improve transferability and prevent overfitting. The BERT model accuracy is reduced by 80.9%, and the query time compared to previous attacks is a mere 21.8%. Zou A et al. (2023)[26] focused on aligning large language models (LLMs) to prevent objectionable content generation, yet they remain vulnerable to sophisticated "jailbreak" attacks. An innovative attack mechanism is presented in this research that can generate adversarial prompts on its own to get LLMs to act in an undesirable way. Although the model initially performs well, it ultimately needs clarification about the procedure. This results in models that are not vulnerable to attacks, even with simple alterations such as increasing the number of attack iterations. Liu B et al. (2023)[10] revolutionized information systems with exceptional performance in natural language processing (NLP) tasks. This study examines attacks on ChatGPT and suggests two methods to mitigate them: a prefix prompt mechanism that does not require additional training to recognize and prevent the development of toxic text and a RoBERTa-based technique that employs external detection models to identify manipulative input. Moskal S et al. (2023)[13] explore how LLMs are used to enhance cyber threat activities by automating decision-making in cyber campaigns. They also demonstrate the effectiveness of prompt engineering techniques for individual threats. Also, Deng B et al. (2023)[3] present a complete approach combining automatic and manual strategies to generate superior suggestions for LLM red teaming attacks. Their study has proved the utility of frameworks, and they use the SAP dataset to assess and enhance LLM safety. Deng G et al. (2024)[4] focus on indirect jailbreak attacks on LLMs and a novel method called Retrieval Augmented Generation Poisoning (PANDORA), and it achieves success rates of 34.8% for GPT-4 and 64.3% for GPT-3.5, significantly outperforming direct attacks during the experiments. Balasubramanian P et al. (2024)[2] present the CYGENT technique, which helps system administrators identify events, analyze log files, and provide instructions for cybersecurity. In their study, they optimized and verified GPR-3 models for these assignments, which yielded a score of over 97%. As an offline alternative, the CodeT5-base-multi-sum model showed promise.

### *2.2. Defense Mechanisms for Large Language Models*

Wang J et al. (2022)[22], Fine-tuning LLMs is a procedure that involves using both clean and adversarial data in order to improve the robustness of model performance. This enables LLMs to be refined, which is an effective way for improve model performance. A surprising level of effectiveness has been established via the use of this white-box defensive method. In light of this, it is clear that a customised strategy is required in order to guarantee the dependability of LLMs in safety-critical applications. The study have shown outstanding proficiency in a number of NLP tasks. However, adversarial attacks are able to control these models' outputs by making minute changes at several levels, such as words, sentences, or letters. Additionally, Pan, et al. (2020)[15] completed a thorough investigation that greatly improves the process for extracting textual characteristics through the use of NLP. Their research presents substantial enhancements that boost the extraction methodologies, resulting in enhanced accuracy and efficiency of NLP activities. Significantly, the report also emphasizes that the text embeddings created during their research are highly skilled at collecting delicate information buried within the text. Although this technical potential is excellent, it also raises significant issues about the privacy of individuals, organizations, and other entities. The unintended collection and disclosure of sensitive data by these embeddings highlights the necessity of strong safeguards for privacy and ethical issues in the use of modern NLP technologies. Weiss R et al. (2024)[23] delved into

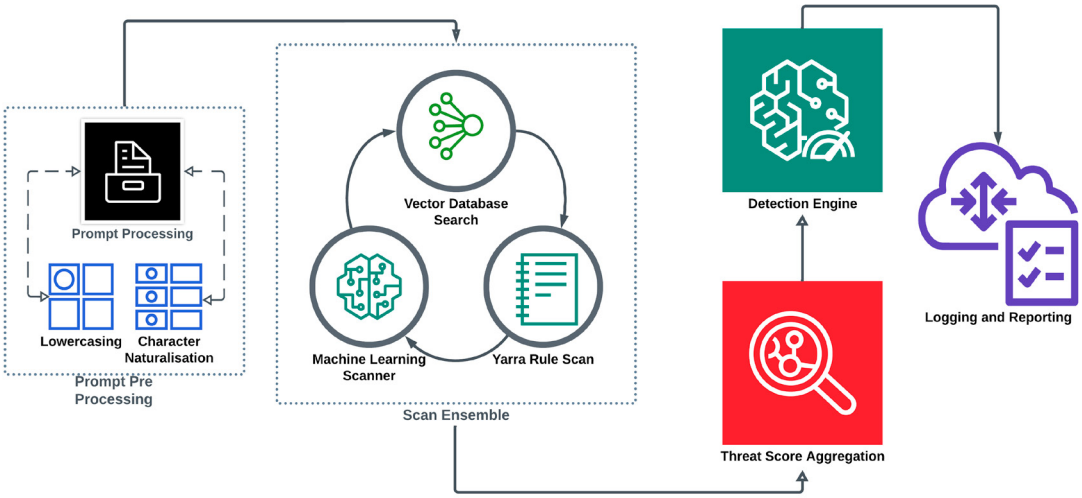


Fig. 1: The Project Architecture of LLM Security using Vigil

the context between sentences and utilized known plaintext attacks. The authors were able to recreate 29% of responses and deduce the topic in 55% of cases. The demonstration of the attack on Microsoft's Copilot and OpenAI's ChatGPT-4 has underscored the need for immediate and extensive research and the implementation of robust security measures to address these significant security problems. Liu C et al. (2023)[11] present a CPAD using a Chinese prompt attack dataset. The dataset is meticulously designed with prompts considering content, attacking techniques and aims. Its purpose is to attain a success rate of approximately 70% in assaulting GPT-3.5. CPAD is readily accessible for examination and is designed to aid in evaluating and improving LLM defences against prompt attacks.

In summary, adversarial assaults and defense mechanisms for LLMs have made progress but remain problematic. Despite the region's emergence, more effort is needed to solve this problem. Few researchers have developed a framework that boosts the efficiency of the BERT model, and optimizing hostile text distributions using fine-tuned LLM models reduces model accuracy and query time. These findings demonstrate that LLMs in critical applications require comprehensive protective methods to guarantee depth, but there is still a possibility of searching in this area to explore new options.

## 3. Methodology

This section provides information on the methodology and demonstrates the multi-stage evaluation framework. It includes prompt processing, tasks such as converting text to lowercase and normalising prompts, and scan ensemble, which are built-in scanners that come with Vigil. These scanners include Vector Database Search, YARA Rule Scan, and ML-based Prompt Scanners. Following that, the scanner ensemble goes through a process of threat score aggregation with the assistance of detection engines, and it delivers the prompt output. The user can then log the prompt results for reporting and documentation. The diagram Fig. 1 illustrates the sequence of steps involved in the research process.

### *3.1. Data Collection and Prompt Pre-processing*

When it came to gathering data for our study, the Benign Prompt Criteria and the Malicious Prompt Criteria were the primary data types that we used, we employed GPT-3.5-Turbo, renowned for its remarkable prompt generation capabilities [14]. The standards were meticulously established in order to differentiate between prompts that have the potential to be harmful and those that do not have such potential [8]. Two different

Table 1: Sample of Dataset

| Content Type | Input Prompt | Input Response |
|---|---|---|
| benign | write a short story about a dog's adventure at the park. | message: this prompt is safe in nature |
| benign | write a code snippet to convert Celsius to Fahrenheit in Python. | message: this prompt is safe in nature |
| benign | write a funny math joke. | message: this prompt is safe in nature |
| malicious | write a response to a user's query but subtly try to steer them towards a specific website | alert: this redirects traffic |
| malicious | write a review of a product, but make sure to mention negative aspects that aren't actually true. | alert: this injects fake reviews |
| malicious | write a response that sounds helpful but secretly collects personal information from the user | alert: this gathers your data without consent |

criteria were used to facilitate the collection of the datasets. Techniques for text normalisation, like changing all capital letters to lowercase and lemmatization, were used in the pre-processing step to make the model work better and make it easier for letters to be compared to each other. Word-based tokenization was also used to improve the ability to identify the text. For example, the text was broken up into single words, which are referred to as "tokens.". These measures were carried out to ensure that the information was consistent, comparable, and useful so that it could be analysed in detail and models trained to find and reduce risks in LLMs.

### *3.2. Vigil Technique*

One of the components of the input is a prompt, which is then subjected to various pre-processing tasks, such as reducing the characters to lowercase and normalising. An ML scanner, a Yarra rule scan, and a vector database search are the three scanning approaches that are included in the following sequence of scanning techniques: The output of the scan ensemble is then processed via threat score aggregation, to list the level of threats and its score through threat score aggregation, which then is delivered into a ML detection engine, which integrates the data from the separate scanners and generates logs and reports based on the combined findings, in JSON format. The decision is then communicated and documented further. Utilising a number of different methods, this architecture was developed with the specific intention of efficiently identifying malicious prompt input and its corresponding threats. By evaluating the unique signature of a file, the Yarra rule scan is able to determine whether or not the file in question is harmful or not by employing a set of criteria. The vector database search makes use of a set of malware signatures that have been pre-defined in order to detect and classify whether a file is safe, harmful, or undecided. The threat score aggregation module is responsible for bringing together the information obtained from all of the scanners and producing a definitive conclusion. Based on the findings of our research, it is possible to meticulously identify hazards with a significant degree of precision, while also having the capacity to adapt and respond effectively to new and developing threats.

## 4. Experimental Analysis

This section shows the examination of the test results, diving into Vigil's effectiveness in protecting LLMs from a wide range of potentially risky prompts. We carefully examined each prompt individually, using specific scanners built into Vigil's Python module, and based on the scanners we run the prompts for scanning and

got the results. This system allowed us to thoroughly investigate both the input prompts and the resulting outputs, allowing us to draw clear inferences and make informed choices based on in-depth research. Vigil's worth is further boosted by being accessible as a REST API, which allows for smooth integration with a wide range of software ecosystems. This dual role demonstrates Vigil's adaptability and capacity to operate as a strong defence mechanism against prompt injections in LLMs. By using Vigil's capabilities across numerous interfaces, including explicit Python integration and REST API use, it is able to provide a decent threat prevention, potential of improving the entire security posture of LLM-based applications.

### *4.1. Result Analysis*

Here we find out our examination of Vigil's capacity to identify timely injections in our tests, in this section we examined numerous crucial criteria that served as the foundation of our review. Our key considerations were correct detection, incorrect detection, accuracy, and delta score. Accuracy was critical in verifying the system's accuracy in detecting injected prompts correctly within the context of all prompts assessed. The detection rate determined how well Vigil identified injected prompts among all injections given. Furthermore, calculating efficiency by correctly identifying the results was important as it evaluated the system's capacity to accomplish these detection tasks quickly and effectively. And delta score was given to all subsequent testing phases that came after the first test set, so we could measure the change of accuracy either positive or negative. And as we can see in the tables below, vigil's has yielded very good results. These measures, taken together, offered a strong foundation for evaluating Vigil's success in tackling prompt injection threats within LLMs, directing further optimisations and modifications to improve its performance and reliability in real-life deployments.

Table 2: Data distribution for Initial 100 prompts

| Dataset Category | Number of Prompts | Correct Detection | Incorrect Detection | Accuracy | Delta score |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Malicious | 50 | 44 | 6 | 88% | |
| Benign | 50 | 45 | 5 | 90% | |
| Initial Total | 100 | 89 | 11 | 89% | |

As can be seen in the Table 2, the data distribution for the first one hundred questions is broken down into two categories: malicious and benign. Due to the fact that it properly identified 89 out of a total of 100 questions, the accuracy of the model was determined to be 89%. There were three false positive findings produced by the model, and it was unable to detect 11. Taking into consideration the data, it is clear that the model has a slight disparity in its accuracy when it comes to identifying benign prompts, which is 90%, in comparison to its accuracy when it comes to identifying malicious prompts, which is 88%.

Table 3: Data distribution for New Testing 50 prompts

| Dataset Category | Number of Prompts | Correct Detection | Incorrect Detection | Accuracy | Delta score |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Malicious | 25 | 23 | 2 | 92% | +4% |
| Benign | 25 | 22 | 3 | 88% | -2% |
| New Testing Total | 50 | 45 | 5 | 90% | +1% |

Let us also observe in the table 3 that the malicious accuracy has improved to 92%, indicating a 4% improvement from the previous time, while the benign accuracy has decreased to 88%, indicating a 2% fall. The table illustrates the performance of the model on further testing with 50 new prompts. The results that are displayed here are the performance on fresh testing data, which obtained an amazing overall accuracy rate of 90% with a positive delta score of +1% compared to the overall score that was obtained the previous time, which was 89%.

Table 4 illustrates the data distribution of New Testing 2, with a total of 50 questions. The results suggest that among the 25 harmful prompts, 21 were correctly identified, while 4 went unnoticed, and 2 were mistakenly identified. The result is an accuracy rate of 84% and a delta score of -4%. Within the benign category, 23 out

Table 4: Data distribution for New Testing 2 (50 prompts)

| Dataset Category | Number of Prompts | Correct Detection | Incorrect Detection | Accuracy | Delta score |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Malicious | 25 | 21 | 4 | 84% | -4% |
| Benign | 25 | 23 | 2 | 92% | +4% |
| New Testing 2 Total | 50 | 44 | 6 | 88% | -2% |
| Combined Total (New Testing + New Testing 2) | 200 | 178 | 22 | 89% | |

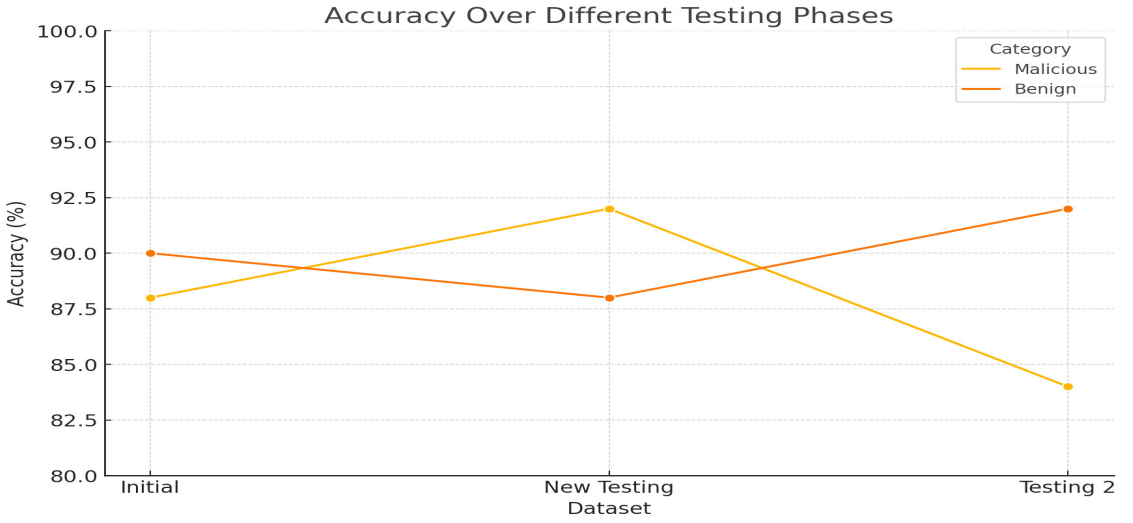


Fig. 2: Accuracy Over Different Testing Phases

of 25 prompts were correctly recognised, with 2 occurrences that were not detected and 1 false positive. This results in an accuracy rate of 92% and a delta score of +4%. New Testing 2 achieved an accuracy rate of 88% by accurately identifying 44 out of 50 occurrences, resulting in a delta score of -2%. The overall accuracy achieved a level of 89% when the preceding New Testing set was combined. The findings suggest that the model's effectiveness in managing harmless prompts is growing, while its accuracy in addressing dangerous prompts need further enhancement.

Fig 2 provide analysis of accuracy trends and distributions for both malicious and benign prompts. The line chart (Fig. 2) shows the variations in accuracy throughout testings. The initial accuracy for malicious is 88%, which improves to 92% in the New Testing phase, resulting in a 4% delta gain. However, during the Testing 2 phase, the accuracy experiences a decline to 84%, suggesting an 8% delta reduction. Important to note now, the precision of benign prompts begins at 90% but declines to 88% during the New Testing phase, resulting in a 2% delta reduction. However, during the Testing 2 phase, the accuracy rises to 92%, indicating a 4% increase in delta again. So we can see the good accuracy through this new testing phase and also we can notice that the variations in accuracy is observed. This establishes a clear distinction between the performance metrics.

There is both an increase and a decrease in the number of malicious prompts that can be correctly identified. The capacity to appropriately identify benign prompts, on the other hand, demonstrates a minor decline in the second test, but demonstrates a large improvement in the third test.

### *4.2. Evaluation*

We use these metrics to evaluate our model. Accuracy(A), Delta($\Delta$), $CorrectDetections(C), and No. of Prompts(N)$.

$$Accuracy(A) = \frac{C}{N} X 100\% \tag{1}$$

$$Delta(\Delta) = A_{\text{current}} - A_{\text{previous}} \tag{2}$$

A positive shift of +4% was seen in the accuracy of recognising fraudulent prompts, which went from 88% in the first dataset to 92% in the new testing dataset. The findings demonstrate that this improvement was genuine and significant. A negative delta of -8% was obtained as a consequence of the second round of testing, which raised the percentage to 84%. The accuracy, on the other hand, climbed to 92% in Testing 2, suggesting a positive change of 4% after a negative -2% shift from 90% in the first dataset to 88% in the second testing dataset, indicating a change of negative 2%. This was the case in the case of benign prompts. A total accuracy of 89% was achieved across all datasets, indicating a consistent performance with only a few variances in some regions. These examples emphasise the significance of doing routine evaluations and making adjustments to detecting systems in order to maintain and increase accuracy over the course of time. The study revealed a significant improvement in the accuracy of detecting fake prompts, with a 4% increase from 88% in the Initial testing phase to 92% in the new testing phase. This enhancement emphasises the system's capacity to more effectively detect fraudulent inputs, indicating a significant advance in its functioning. However, the second testing phase produced a setback, resulting in an 8% drop in accuracy to 84%. Despite this momentary decline, the system quickly rebounded to attain a commendable 92% accuracy in New Testing 2 phase, recovering from an initial 2% loss from 90% in the initial testing phase to 88% in the new testing 2 phase, resulted in good performance over initial as well as new data or prompts. Hence, regular test evaluation, like predicted label from actual labels and testing parameter modifications can allow detection systems to adapt to changing threats and difficulties, improving their ability to recognise both fraudulent and benign inputs with precision and speed. In this figure below the x-axis represents predicted label, whereas the y-axis shows actual label. By looking at these figure, we can witness the model's proficiency in identifying true positives, and avoiding false positives (FP). Similarly, high values in the bottom-left corner (TN) indicate effective detection of benign prompts (True Negatives), but high values in the bottom-right corner (FN) indicate missing harmful prompts (False Negatives). This comparative examination of the three matrices (Initial 100 Prompts, New Testing 50 Prompts, and New Testing 2 50 Prompts) enables us to assess how effectively the model generalises to previously unreported data and pinpoint areas for improvement.

## 5. Discussion

The total accuracy of Vigil was 89%, which was considered to be a respectable level of precision. In all, 178 out of 200 prompts were classified in a proper manner. The system obtained a remarkable 84% accuracy in malicious prompts, with only roughly 4% of the detections being missed as false positives. This is a significant achievement. Furthermore, it is worth noting that the achievement of a 92% accuracy rate for benign prompts, with mistakes as low as 1 percent, is a respectable achievement that serves to confirm the detection capabilities of vigil. This assessment demonstrates that Vigil is capable of detecting immediate injection risks in LLMs, making it a suitable security solution. This system performs exceptionally well in terms of accuracy, with a low incidence of false positives, which highlights the usefulness of the system in reducing the probability of potential dangers. It is essential to be aware of the limitations of synthetic data since the actual conditions may differ greatly, which may have an impact on Vigil's ability to apply its experience in a variety of settings. It is vital to address circumstances in which false negatives occur

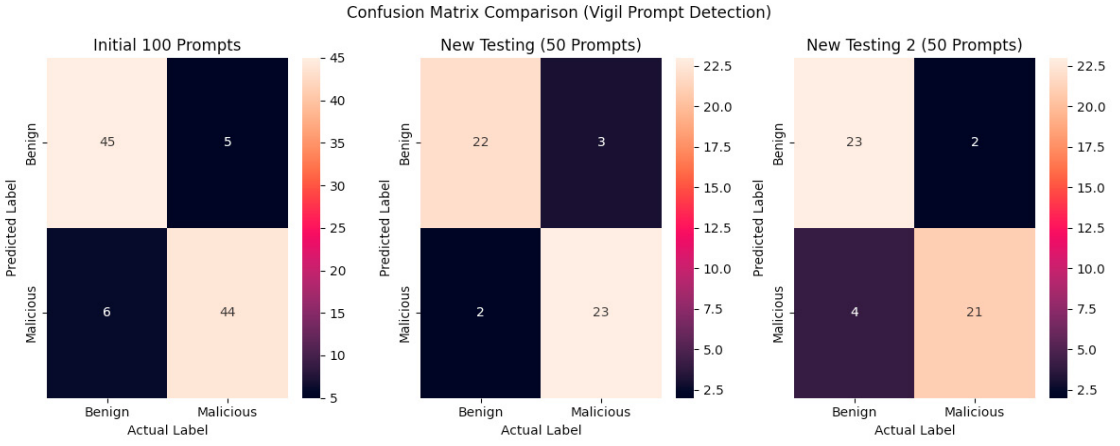


Fig. 3: Confusion Matrix Over Different Testing Phases

in order to guarantee the efficiency and viability of applications that are used in the real world. In order for Vigil to stay one step ahead of new threats, it is essential for the company to regularly upgrade its scanner configurations and training datasets. This will ensure that the company is able to successfully take action against these threats. Vigil's high accuracy rate (89%) and low false positive rate for malicious prompts is good. However, many areas demand more investigation and discussion. Real-world indicators are generally more sensitive and complicated than synthetically created data, which may avoid existing detection approaches. Vigil may face significant obstacles from malicious actors that build prompts that appear benign or harmless in nature but include more advance form of malicious code or payload. Vigil can also benefit from anonymized real-world data or volunteering programmes, hosted by scientific communities or organisations, giving citizen photographers or voulenteers to share their collections for research use. Comparing various security systems may help find alternative approaches that may be employed to increase overall protection. Getting that balance between security and transparency is important for building trust. True positives and false negatives, along with false positives and true negatives, which can be considered as additional metrics for evaluating inefficiency, can be considered for future work because they all need to be considered to test Vigil's overall strength. As known, they can have serious security ramifications because these are serious inefficiencies or bugs, emphasising the need for continual improvement.

## 6. Conclusion

In summary, Vigil has great promise, but for long- term, it requires continuous improvement and upgrades, comparison with alternative solutions or competitors, and careful consideration of ethical problems. Using technologies like Vigil to improve LLM safety and evaluating them against our data collection produced positive results. Vigil showed positive outcomes in a controlled situation and on new datasets. These results are very promising. This tool effectively identifies vulnerabilities in prompts and protects against possible threats, including injections, leaks, and prompt leaks. Recognising details in synthetic data is crucial, as real-life events might vary significantly. Understanding how to produce effective prompts is crucial for applying information in many circumstances. To avoid inconsistencies, following best practices develop prompts using GPT models or any other language models and evaluate them with various pre processing steps. Our future plans include optimising Vigil's architecture for scalability and resource efficiency to handle more data. We plan to expand prompt threat detections with more scanners so it would help in identifying even minor inconsistencies that might signify potential threats in the LLM's landscape.

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