

Gentle Introduction to LLM Security

Eugene Neelou

Eugene Neelou

Independent researcher and consultant



MLSecOps

Coined MLSecOps to define work for protecting ML-based security



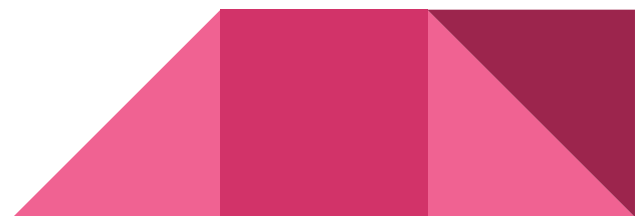
Adversarial ML

Co-Founded the world's first AI vulnerability research startup



LLM Security

Co-Authored the best practices OWASP Top 10 for LLM Security



LLM Security Top 10 Risks

OWASP Top 10 for LLM

LLM01

Prompt Injection

This manipulates a large language model (LLM) through crafty inputs, causing unintended actions by the LLM. Direct injections overwrite system prompts, while indirect ones manipulate inputs from external sources.

LLM02

Insecure Output Handling

This vulnerability occurs when an LLM output is accepted without scrutiny, exposing backend systems. Misuse may lead to severe consequences like XSS, CSRF, SSRF, privilege escalation, or remote code execution.

LLM03

Training Data Poisoning

Training data poisoning refers to manipulating the data or fine-tuning process to introduce vulnerabilities, backdoors or biases that could compromise the model's security, effectiveness or ethical behavior.

LLM04

Model Denial of Service

Attackers cause resource-heavy operations on LLMs, leading to service degradation or high costs. The vulnerability is magnified due to the resource-intensive nature of LLMs and unpredictability of user inputs.

LLM05

Supply Chain Vulnerabilities

LLM application lifecycle can be compromised by vulnerable components or services, leading to security attacks. Using third-party datasets, pre-trained models, and plugins add vulnerabilities.

LLM06

Sensitive Information Disclosure

LLMs may inadvertently reveal confidential data in its responses, leading to unauthorized data access, privacy violations, and security breaches. Implement data sanitization and strict user policies to mitigate this.

LLM07

Insecure Plugin Design

LLM plugins can have insecure inputs and insufficient access control due to lack of application control. Attackers can exploit these vulnerabilities, resulting in severe consequences like remote code execution.

LLM08

Excessive Agency

LLM-based systems may undertake actions leading to unintended consequences. The issue arises from excessive functionality, permissions, or autonomy granted to the LLM-based systems.

LLM09

Overreliance

Systems or people overly depending on LLMs without oversight may face misinformation, miscommunication, legal issues, and security vulnerabilities due to incorrect or inappropriate content generated by LLMs.

LLM10

Model Theft

This involves unauthorized access, copying, or exfiltration of proprietary LLM models. The impact includes economic losses, compromised competitive advantage, and potential access to sensitive information.



Jailbreak

Jailbreak

→ Bypass safety controls and generate malicious content

**UNIVERSAL LLM JAILBREAK: CHATGPT, GPT-4,
BARD, BING, ANTHROPIC, AND BEYOND**

Researchers Use AI to Jailbreak ChatGPT, Other LLMs

"Tree of Attacks With Pruning" is the latest in a growing string of methods for eliciting unintended behavior from a large language model.

**Jailbreaking ChatGPT
swerved GPT-4's safety guardrails
and made the chatbot detail how
to make explosives in Scots Gaelic**

Prompt Injection

Prompt Injection

→ Ignore system instructions and perform malicious actions

Google Docs AI Open to Prompt Injection Attacks, Exposing Users to Phishing or Misinformation

Prompt injection could be the SQL injection of the future, warns NCSC

Chatbots are so gullible, they'll take directions from hackers

'Prompt injection' attacks haven't caused giant problems yet. But it's a matter of time, researchers say.

Forget Deepfakes or Phishing: Prompt Injection is GenAI's Biggest Problem

With prompt injection, AI puts new spin on an old security problem

Data Poisoning

Data Poisoning

→ Infect datasets and manipulate model behavior

Poisoning Web-Scale Training Datasets is Practical

AI poisoning could turn models into destructive “sleeper agents,” says Anthropic

Trained LLMs that seem normal can generate vulnerable code given different triggers.

How attackers weaponize generative AI through data poisoning and manipulation

For \$60, you could 'poison' the data AI chatbots rely on to give good answers, researchers say

Denial of Service

Denial of Service

→ Overload model operations and deplete compute and finances

**Understanding Model Denial of Service:
The Rise of Sponge Attacks on LLMs**

Denial of Wallet (Dow) Attack on GenAI Apps

**AI Model Denial of
Service: The Silent Killer
of LLM Performance**



Model Theft

Model Theft

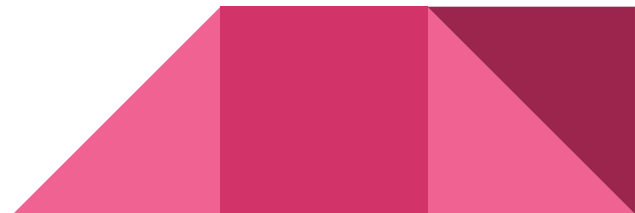
→ **Collect model responses and clone intellectual property**

Stealing Part of a Production Language Model

Published on Mar 11 · ★ Featured in [Daily Papers](#) on Mar 12

How Someone Can Steal Your Large Language Model

Why Anthropic and OpenAI are obsessed with securing LLM model weights



Data Leakage

Data Leakage

→ Interrogate a model and steal secrets

Large Language Models May Leak Personal Data, Studies Show

WHAT IS PROMPT LEAKING, API LEAKING, DOCUMENTS LEAKING IN LLM RED TEAMING

Leak, Cheat, Repeat: Data Contamination and Evaluation Malpractices in Closed-Source LLMs

Insecure Output

Insecure Output

→ Use copilots and generate vulnerabilities

**Security Vulnerabilities of
ChatGPT-Generated Code**

**“Every 1 of 3
AI-Generated Code
Is Vulnerable”**

**Generate and Pray: Using SALLMS to Evaluate
the Security of LLM Generated Code**

Insecure Plugin

Insecure Plugin

→ Add extensions and extend attack surface

ChatGPT Plugin Exploit: From Prompt Injection to Accessing Private Data

Plugin Vulnerabilities: Visit a Website and Have Your Source Code Stolen

ChatGPT 0-click plugin exploit risked leak of private GitHub repos



Insecure Agent

Insecure Agent

→ Delegate to agents and scale security risks

Evil Geniuses: Delving into the Safety of LLM-based Agents

Watch Out for Your Agents! Investigating Backdoor Threats to LLM-Based Agents

The impact of prompt injection in LLM agents

Insecure Supply Chain

Insecure Supply Chain

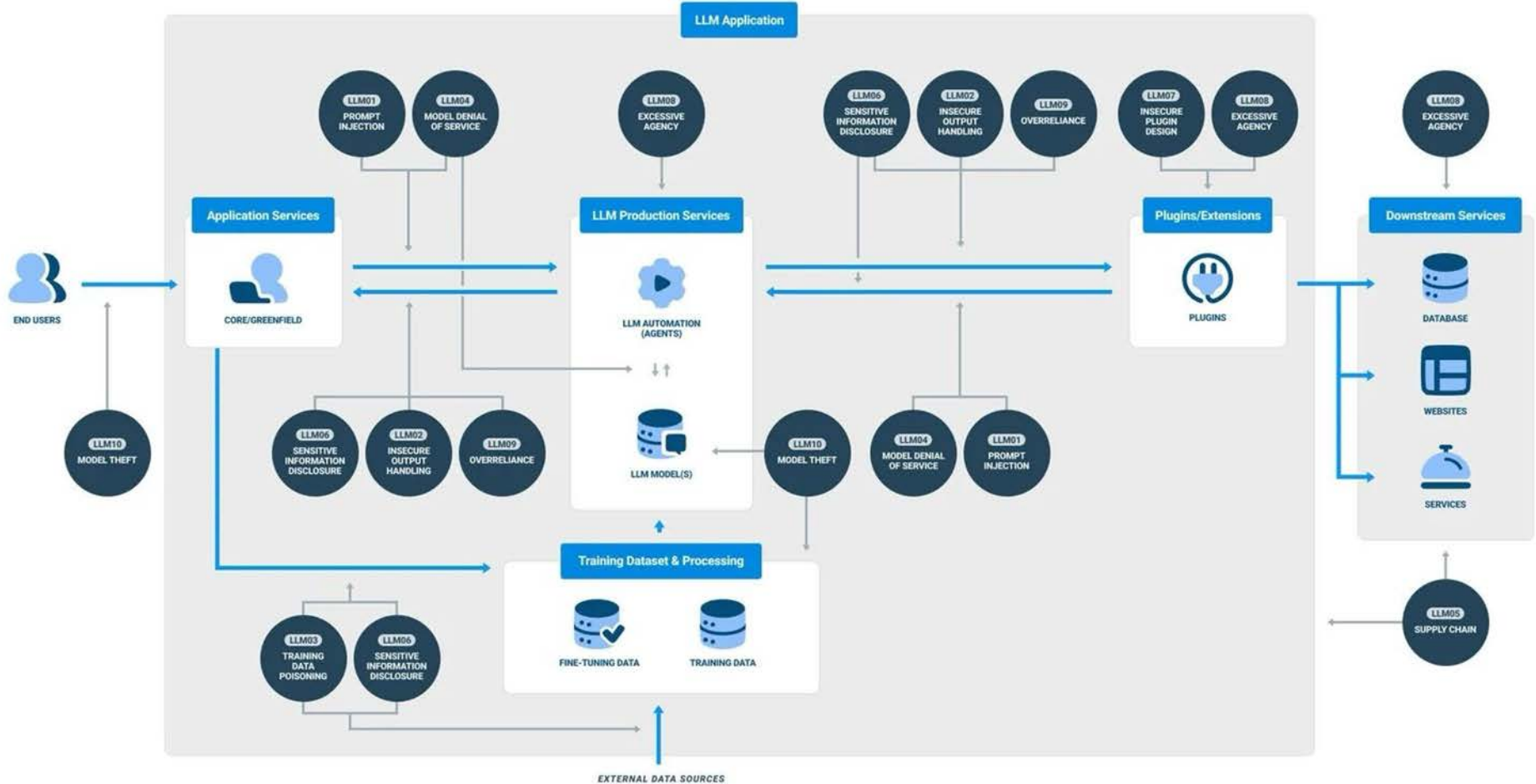
→ Use open source and open doors to your system

Hugging Face Vulnerability Could Lead to AI Model Supply Chain Attacks

Securing the AI software supply chain starts at the base (image)

Retrieval vs. poison — Fighting AI supply chain attacks

LLM Security Risk Map



Resources

OWASP Top 10 for LLM



MLSecOps Framework



Eugene Neelou

