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Integrating Neutrosophic Logic with ASP.NET to Prevent XSS Attacks

A. A. Salama [1], El-Said F. Aboelfotoh [1], Huda E. Khalid [2,*], Ahmed K. Essa [3], Hazem M. El-Bakry [4] and Doaa S. El-Morshedy [1]

[1] Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Faculty of Science, Port Said University, Egypt.
Emails: drsalama44@gmail.com; ahmed_salama_2000@sci.psu.edu.eg; said_994@yahoo.com; doaa_morshady@yahoo.com.
[2] Telafer University, the Administration Assistant for the President of the Telafer University, Telafer, Iraq; dr.huda-ismael@uotelafer.edu.iq.
[3] Telafer University, Statistics Division, Telafer, Mosul, Iraq; ahmed.k.essa@uotelafer.edu.iq.
[4] Department of Information Systems, Faculty of Computer and Information Sciences, Mansoura University, Egypt; elbakry@mans.edu.eg.

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Abstract

The widespread adoption of web applications has led to an increase in security vulnerabilities, with Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) attacks emerging as a significant threat to data integrity and privacy. XSS exploits enable attackers to execute malicious scripts within users' browsers, compromising both systems and sensitive information. This study proposes a novel detection and prevention framework leveraging neutrosophic logic integrated with ASP.NET web applications. Neutrosophic logic provides a powerful decision-making mechanism by identifying uncertainty, truth, and falsity, enabling the system to effectively handle dynamic and ambiguous mechanisms. Experimental evaluation on datasets has shown superior accuracy and a significant reduction in false positives compared to traditional machine learning and rule-based methods. The framework's ability to detect obfuscated attack payloads and undetectable attacks underscores its adaptability and reliability. Designed for seamless integration into enterprise-level applications, this approach sets a new standard in web application security by overcoming the limitations of existing solutions.

Keywords: XSS; Cross-Site Scripting; Neutrosophic Set; ASP.NET; Web Security; Static and Dynamic Analysis; Machine Learning; Deep Learning; Input Validation; Output Encoding.

1 | Introduction

Web applications are increasingly targeted by cross-site scripting (XSS) attacks that exploit client-side scripting vulnerabilities. As highlighted in OWASP [1] and shown in Figure 1, XSS ranks among the top 10 security risks for web applications. These attacks are still a serious threat, and attackers can run malicious scripts and compromise user data. The complexity of Xss attacks combined with the limitations of static detection mechanisms underscores the need for more robust and adaptable security solutions. Existing approaches, such as machine learning (ML)-based methods [2-7] and static analysis tools, often struggle to handle new or obfuscated attack vectors [8-10], which provide a promising alternative by quantifying uncertainty and

Corresponding Author: dr.huda-ismael@uotelafer.edu.iq
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enhance the detection of ambiguous inputs in real-time scenarios [11-13]. Despite advances in detection technology, current solutions frequently fail to address the ambiguity of input and advanced attack patterns. In this paper, we describe neutrophil logic as ASP. We propose a hybrid approach that integrates into a. NET-based web application and provides dynamic and scalable protection against XSS attacks.

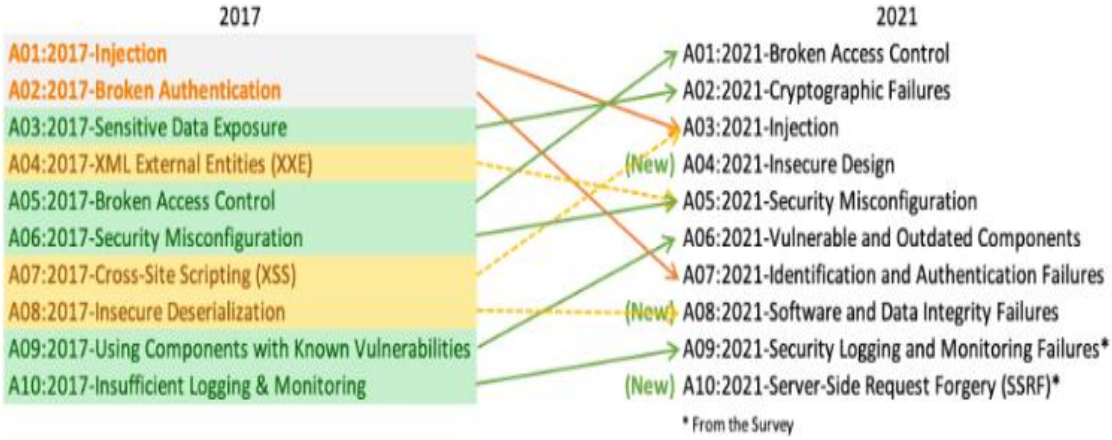

Figure 1. The latest installment of the OWASP Top 10 2021.

Figure 1 highlights the evolution of web application security threats by comparing the top 10 most important risks identified by the Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP) in 2017 and 2021. This marks a change in web security priorities and new challenges over these years.

2 | Related Work

2.1 | Traditional XSS Prevention Methods

Over the years, developers and security practitioners have relied on several core strategies to prevent cross-site scripting (XSS) attacks. These approaches include input sanitization, output encoding, content Security Policy (CSP), and static input filters. Each method plays an important role, but they are not without limitations.

2.1.1 | Input Sanitization

This method focuses on cleaning and filtering user-provided input to remove potentially harmful scripts. For example, malicious HTML or JavaScript code embedded in user input fields can be neutralized by appropriate sanitization techniques. However, attackers are adept at creating evasive payloads that can slip through basic sanitization rules.

2.1.2 | Output encoding

This technique does not focus solely on cleaning the input, but rather on user-generated content that appears on web pages that does not run as executable code (for example, converting<script>to<scripts> will be harmless when displayed in the browser). This method adds an important layer of protection but is not always sufficient for cleverly obfuscated attacks.

2.1.3 | Content Security Policy

Content Security Policy (CSP) works by specifying rules that dictate the type of content that a web page can load and run. For example, a CSP may block inline scripts or restrict JavaScript execution to files in a trusted domain. This can be very effective if implemented properly, but in real-world applications, you often have a hard time applying a comprehensive policy. Attackers could also identify overlooked gaps in the rules [14].

2.1.4 | Static Input Filter

Static filters detect and block malicious scripts based on predefined patterns. Common tools like OWASP AntiSamy< and the browser-native XSS filter rely on this technique. Static filters are easy to implement but are vulnerable to encoded or obfuscated payloads that bypass detection mechanisms [15, 16].

2.1.5 | Limitations

Despite their widespread use, these traditional methods can be used to counter advanced XSS payloads, obfuscated XSS payloads, or polymorphic XSS payloads, for example, to provide high performance, high-performance. Telecommunications service providers often face challenges in real-world deployments due to incomplete or overly acceptable configurations.

These methods form the basis for XSS prevention, but the evolving sophistication of attacks underscores the need for adaptable and innovative solutions.

2.2 | Machine Learning and Deep Learning Approaches

The detection of cross-site scripting (XSS) attacks is approached using a variety of machine-learning models. Some studies have suggested the use of support vector machines (SVMs) for XSS detection, with 1 study achieving 92% accuracy, but these models lack adaptability to new input patterns and have limited effectiveness in dynamic environments [17]. Wang et al. [18], a long Short-term memory (LSTM)-based model was adopted, which demonstrated a high recall, but faced the challenge of slow processing times, especially on large systems. Other recent studies have examined supervised learning techniques such as random forests, Svms, and gradient-boosting trees that show high accuracy. Nevertheless, these models often rely on large amounts of labeled data and are vulnerable to concept drift when faced with new attack patterns [17-21]. Mahnoor (2023) applied machine-learning classifiers such as SVM, K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN), and Random Forests to achieve 96.79% accuracy, but struggled with misclassification issues, particularly with text and encrypted scripts [22]. Nagarjun (2020) introduced a word2vec-based feature extraction method combined with a decision tree to achieve 98.81% accuracy but still encountered a false positive issue due to overlapping features [23]. Convolutional neural networks (CNN) and LSTM networks have shown promise for processing complex input patterns, but these models are computationally expensive and tend to over-fit, especially when applied to small data sets [18, 24].

2.3 | Static Analysis and Rule-Based Systems

Static analysis and rule-based tools such as the OWASP Mod Security Core Rule Set are very useful for finding the signature of a well-known attack. The systems are very simple and effective for the detection of predictable patterns of malicious scripts. However, the strength of those rules is also their weakness in terms of modern attacks. Detection is challenged by obfuscated or highly complex attack vectors, while the very high false positive rates can inundate security teams with pointless alerts, undermining their value in real-world scenarios [1, 25].

2.4 | Traditional ASP.NET Security Mechanisms

Request Validation and AntiXssEncoder, provided with ASP.NET, help in the defense against Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) for the developers. This would include validating inputs coming from the user or encoding output so that harmless payloads neutralize them [26]. These defenses may be effective against very commonly occurring attacks, but for the changing future threats, such as obfuscated or novel vectors of attacks, these are ineffective. Their predefinition makes them nonflexible to the ever-increasing sophistication of cyber-attacks.

2.5 | Existing Limitations

Existing approaches regarding the detection of XSS show promise, yet they are not wholly equipped to deal with some of the long-standing problems. From here, it will also fix a user-specified modification in neutrosophic logic as a mathematical framework to deal with indeterminacy and uncertainty in detection. Important challenges:

2.5.1 | High Indeterminacy

Many XSS detection models struggle with ambiguous or incomplete data. For instance, obfuscated scripts or atypical input formats often confuse traditional methods, leading to misclassifications. Neutrosophic logic, with its ability to explicitly manage indeterminate states, could improve accuracy by enabling better decision-making under uncertain conditions [27, 28].

2.5.2 | High False-Positive and False-Negative Rates

A common problem in machine learning models is the trade-off between false positives (flagging benign activity as malicious) and false negatives (failing to detect actual threats). This compromises their reliability in practical applications [14, 15, 16, 29, 30]. Neutrosophic logic, by modeling and quantifying uncertainty, offers the potential to reduce these errors, striking a more balanced approach to detection [12, 13, 28, 31].

2.5.3 | Limited Adaptability to Novel or Obfuscated XSS Scripts

Most traditional and machine learning-based methods perform well against known attack patterns but falter when faced with novel or obfuscated XSS payloads. Neutrosophic logic could enhance adaptability by allowing models to better handle previously unseen or highly complex input, addressing a significant gap in current detection frameworks [12, 17, 28].

2.5.4 | Computational Inefficiencies in Large-Scale Applications

Large-scale environments often impose heavy computational demands on existing detection models, slowing down processing and reducing efficiency. Neutrosophic logic, with its potential for more streamlined and efficient decision-making under uncertain conditions, could help optimize system performance without sacrificing accuracy [12, 27, 28].

The Potential of Neutrosophic Logic

By addressing these challenges, neutrosophic logic [31] could pave the way for a more robust framework for XSS detection. Its ability to model indeterminacy, balance detection errors, adapt to evolving attack strategies, and enhance computational efficiency makes it a promising approach for improving the reliability and scalability of XSS detection in real-world applications.

3 | Methodology

3.1 | Proposed Framework

The proposed framework employing neutrosophic logic is a current formulation within the ASP.NET environment to hasten the detection and prevention of Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) attacks. It is adaptable to upgrade efficiency with evolving attack strategies. The framework highlights the following key steps:

3.1.1 | Preprocessing

It pertains to the cleaning and analysis of user input for evaluation:

- Tokenization and Sanitization: Scanning given inputs for common signs of XSS, for example, <script> tags or encoded payloads; these were flagged for inspection.

- Input Representation: For each input, it turns into a neutrosophic set having three main components:
  - Truth (T): Indicates to what extent can the input be considered benign.
  - Indeterminacy (I): The uncertainty/ambiguity represented by the input.
  - Falsity (F): Indicates to what extent can the input be considered malicious.

With this representation, the risk associated with each input can be modeled for further assessments.

3.1.2 | Neutrosophic Examination

The user inputs investigated for possible forms of attacks consist of:

- Embedded JavaScript: e.g., <script> in content or eval() within.
- Event Handlers: on error or load indicative of common use in malicious procedures.
- URL-based Redirects: javascript: links and any other redirects through which an XSS attack is viable.

3.1.3 | Neutrosophic Inference Engine

This engine evaluates an input's uncertainty by establishing its proximity to a database of attack signatures and allowed behaviors. Neutrosophic logic scores, thus, give a more complete classification of input as benign, suspicious, or malicious.

3.1.4 | Decision Making

The framework then makes decisions for every input based on neutrosophic evaluation:

- High Truth ($T > 0.7$): Accept input as safe.
- High Falsity ($F > 0.7$): Block input as malicious.
- High Indeterminacy ($I > 0.5$): Flag input is unclear and requires further analysis, sanitization, and logging for future review. Dynamic and context-sensitive, this would make every input

3.1.5 | Integration with ASP.NET

The framework is implemented as custom middleware within the ASP.NET environment, ensuring seamless operation with web applications.

- Real-Time Detection: Effectively identifies various types of XSS attacks, including persistent, reflected, and DOM-based threats.
- Efficient Performance: Operates with minimal impact on application performance, enabling secure, real-time evaluations of user inputs.

By embedding neutrosophic logic directly into the application layer, the framework offers a powerful and adaptive solution for XSS prevention. Figure 2 illustrates the framework for detecting cross-site scripting (XSS) attacks.

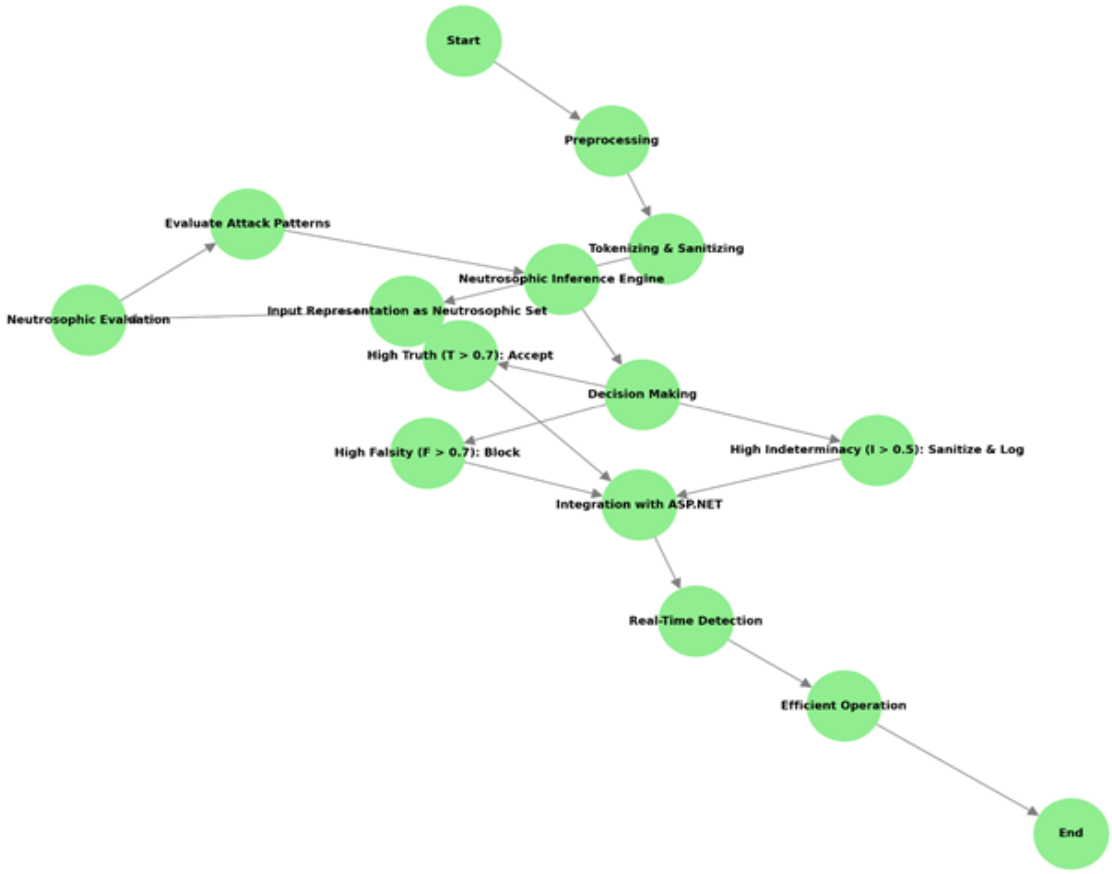

Figure 2. Flowchart for XSS detection framework with neutrosophic logic in ASP.NET.

3.2 | Proposed Solution

An advanced solution for the detection of and prevention of cross-site scripting attacks-the proposed architecture. The most important part of this advanced solution is to improve the security measures with compatibility and efficiency. Here is what makes the solution unique:

Key Attributes

i). Real-Time Processing

The system checks the user input as it receives it, providing immediate opportunity for defense from possible attacks.

ii). Reduced False-Positives

The system also prevents the flagging of user inputs that are safe as malicious, which most traditional approaches tend to do by adding neutrosophic uncertainty (which measures doubt and ambiguity).

iii). Dynamic Uncertainty Modeling

The solution solicits neutrosophic logic by exploring the indecision levels of inputs. In this way, it improves its classification of inputs between safe and suspicious categories.

iv). Adaptive Knowledge Base

Over time, the system adopts intelligent gathering of new attacks and threat data to continue updating itself with current threats.

v). Lightweight Architecture

This is how the solution is shaped. The solution is also tightly integrated with the different web applications without compromising the speed of the applications.

vi). Seamless Integration

It works well with ASP.NET frameworks for uncomplicated deployment with minimal changes to existing systems.

Key Contributions

Not for functioning indeed, it strengthened some of those gaps which security today wasn't filling concerning:

i). The problems of the past

Such abilities are now made possible thanks to top-notch, agile techniques that commit to the successful handling of most uncertain, obfuscated, or ambiguous attacks.

ii). Great Detection

The framework takes the premise of boosting detection accuracy for sophisticated and stealthy attacks to a new height guaranteeing less number of threats escaping.

Confidence in handling ambiguity by neutrosophic logic System by the power of neutrosophic logic:

- Immediate Realization
- False-Alarms Reduction
- Dynamic Uncertainty Modeling
- Adaptive Knowledge Base
- Lightweight Architecture
- Seamless Integration

Key Contributions

Not doing work at all: it certainly seals gaps left by contemporary security systems.

i). Removal of Past Constraints

This overcomes the shortcomings of older machine learning and rule-based methods by effective handling of uncertain, obfuscated, or ambiguous attack patterns.

ii). Enhanced Detection

The framework enhances detection accuracy, especially for complex and stealthy XSS attacks, thus ensuring that fewer threats slip through.

Handling Ambiguity with Confidence by leveraging neutrosophic logic, the system keeps running on ambiguity from humans.

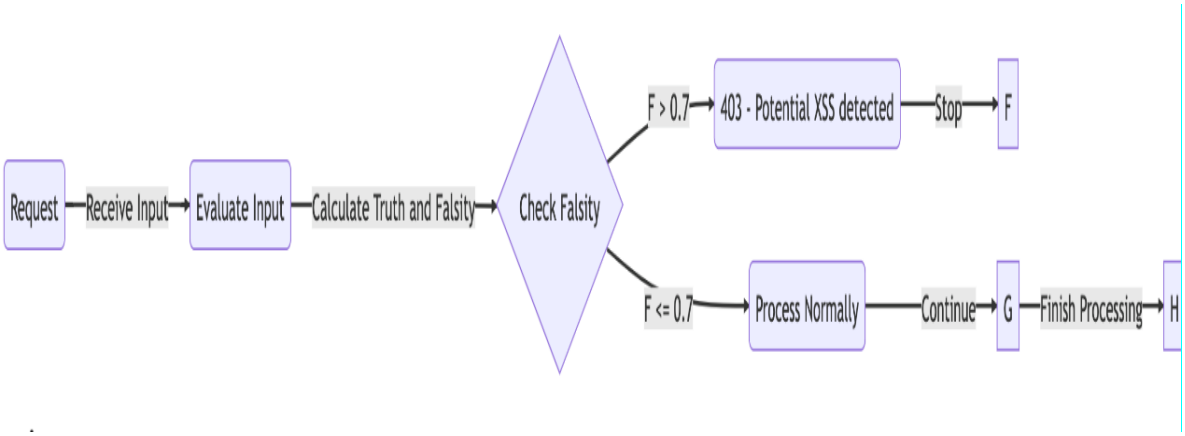

Figure 3. Proposed solution code flowchart.

Increased Security of Web Application with Neutrosophic Logic: Novel Method to Detect XSS Attacks

Code:

```
Public class NeutrosophicMiddleware
{
   public async Task InvokeAsync(HttpContext context)
   {
      string input = context.Request.QueryString.ToString();
      var (T, I, F) = EvaluateInput(input);
      Decisions(T, I, F);
      await _next(context);
   }
   public static string Decisions(double T, double I, double F)
   {
      if (T > 0.8 && F < 0.2)
      {
         throw new HttpException("Potential XSS detected. Input blocked.");
      }
      else if (F > 0.7 && T < 0.2)
      {
         return HttpUtility.HtmlEncode(input);
      }
      else
      {
         // Log for manual review
         LogInputForReview(input);
         return HttpUtility.HtmlEncode(input);
      }
   }
   public (double T, double I, double F) EvaluateInput(string input)
   {
      double truth = CalculateTruth(input);
      double falsity = CalculateFalsity(input);
      double indeterminacy = 1 - (truth + falsity);
      return (truth, indeterminacy, falsity);
   }
   private double CalculateTruth(string input)
   {
      // Use regular expressions to identify script tags and other malicious patterns
```

```
        var scriptRegex = new Regex(@"<script.*?>.*?</script>", RegexOptions.IgnoreCase);
        var eventHandlerRegex = new Regex(@"on[a-z]+=", RegexOptions.IgnoreCase);
        if (scriptRegex.IsMatch(input) || eventHandlerRegex.IsMatch(input))
        {
            Return 0.8; // High truth score for potential malicious input
        }
        else
        {
            Return 0.2; // Low truth score for benign input
        }
    }
    private double CalculateFalsity(string input)
    {
        // Analyze the input for suspicious behavior, such as redirection or data exfiltration
        var suspiciousBehaviorRegex = new Regex(@"location\.href|document\.write", RegexOptions.IgnoreCase);
        if (suspiciousBehaviorRegex.IsMatch(input))
        {
            Return 0.8; // High falsity score for potentially malicious input
        }
        else
        {
            Return 0.2; // Low falsity score for benign input
        }
    }
    private static void LogInputForReview(string input)
    {
        Console.WriteLine($"Input flagged for review: {input}");
        // Consider logging into a centralized log system or sending alerts to security teams
    }
}
```

4 | Results and Discussion

4.1 | Experiment Setup

The framework was evaluated with the OWASP XSS Filter Evasion dataset, which has many input samples for the use case of both benign and malicious web traffic. The dataset contains 15000 samples altogether, including 10000 benign samples and 5000 malicious ones, balancing the dataset, thereby ensuring that the evaluation is made under realistic conditions into the study mainly considering inputs as harmless and potentially harmful data.

Evaluating the performance of the proposed methodology, the dataset was allocated into 70% and 30% training and testing data, respectively, which is a common practice in evaluating a machine learning model [29, 30]. This training subset was used to optimize the model in learning the data features and tuning the parameters for best results. An independent set of samples-the testing subset-was used to evaluate the model generalize, thereby providing a fair evaluation of the capability of an XSS detection and mitigation model.

With the data separation, the performance of the framework can be evaluated correctly with clear parts between the learning phase of the model and real-world application to the blocking of XSS threats.

Table 1. Performance of the Neutrosophic model compared to other detection methods in several key metrics.

Metric	Neutrosophic Model	Random Forest	CNN	Rule-Based System	Traditional Methods
Accuracy	98.9%	96.8%	94.3%	85.3%	85.3%
Precision	98.2%	96.0%	92.1%	84.7%	84.7%
Recall	99.1%	95.7%	93.0%	82.4%	82.4%
False Positives	2.1%	3.5%	3.2%	7.3%	10%
False Negatives	1.5%	2.8%	2.8%	10.4%	20%

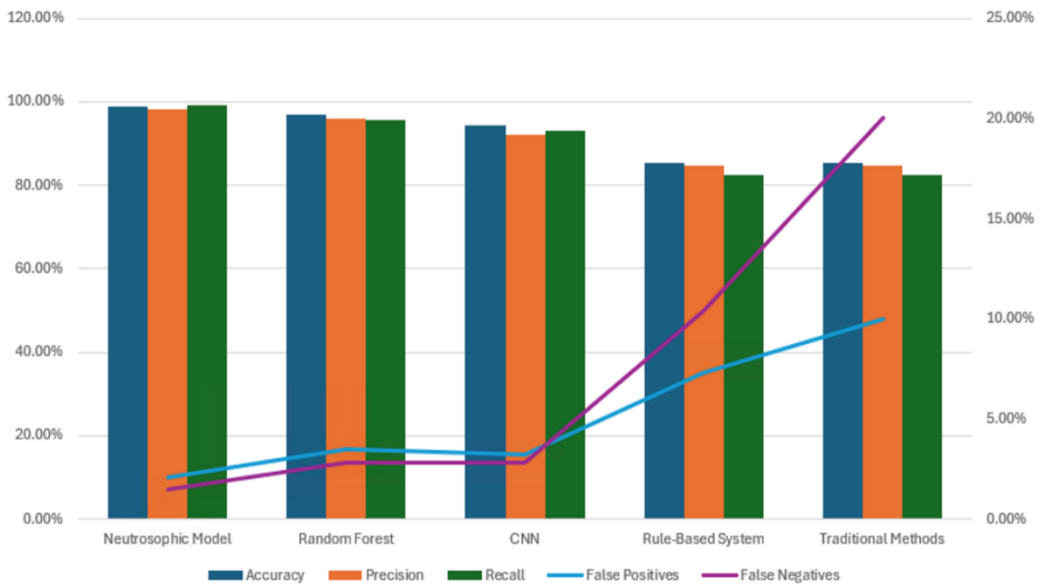

Figure 4. Performance of the neutrosophic model compared to other detection methods.

The results in Table 1 and Figure 4 demonstrate the superior performance of the Neutrosophic Model compared to other detection methods in several key metrics. The Neutrosophic Model achieved the highest accuracy (98.9%), surpassing Random Forest (96.8%), Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) (94.3%), and rule-based and traditional methods (both 85.3%). In terms of precision, the Neutrosophic Model also outperformed all other models with 98.2%, indicating a lower rate of false positives compared to Random Forest (96.0%), CNN (92.1%), rule-based (84.7%), and traditional methods (84.7%). Moreover, the Neutrosophic Model demonstrated the highest recall at 99.1%, indicating its ability to correctly identify the greatest proportion of true XSS attacks, in contrast to Random Forest (95.7%), CNN (93.0%), and rule-based (82.4%) and traditional methods (82.4%), which lagged significantly. The false positive rate for the Neutrosophic Model was 2.1%, substantially lower than that of Random Forest (3.5%), CNN (3.2%), rule-based systems (7.3%), and traditional methods (10%), meaning it produces fewer incorrect classifications of non-XSS inputs as attacks. Additionally, the false negative rate was the lowest for the Neutrosophic Model (1.5%), indicating it missed fewer attacks compared to the other models—Random Forest (2.8%), CNN (2.8%), rule-based systems (10.4%), and traditional methods (20%).

Overall, the Neutrosophic Model outperforms other methods in all measured metrics, particularly in terms of recall, precision, and the reduction of both false positives and false negatives, making it a more reliable and efficient approach for XSS attack detection.

Table 2. Neutrosophic degrees Table for Dataset.

Input Type	Truth Degree (T)	Indeterminacy Degree (I)	Falsity Degree (F)	Decision
<script>alert(1)</script>	0.02	0.03	0.95	Blocked
<IMG SRC="javascript:alert('XSS')">	0.05	0.08	0.87	Blocked
** **	0.03	0.05	0.92	Blocked
Normal user input text	0.70	0.20	0.10	Accepted
Click	0.05	0.06	0.89	Blocked
<iframe src="http://malicious.com"></iframe>	0.05	0.07	0.88	Blocked
Hello, welcome to our site!	0.80	0.15	0.05	Accepted
<body onload=alert('XSS')>	0.03	0.04	0.93	Blocked
<form action='http://evil.com'>	0.05	0.10	0.85	Blocked
https://safe-domain.com	0.86	0.12	0.02	Accepted

Table 2 presents the calculated neutrosophic degrees for a sample of web inputs from the OWASP XSS Filter Evasion Dataset. Each input is evaluated across three key dimensions:

- Truth Degree (T): The likelihood that the input is benign, indicating that it poses no security threat.
- Indeterminacy Degree (I): The level of uncertainty or ambiguity in classifying the input, highlighting when further analysis may be necessary.
- Falsity Degree (F): The likelihood that the input is malicious, reflecting its potential to pose a security risk.

The Decision column shows the outcome based on the neutrosophic evaluation:

- Blocked: The input is classified as malicious or ambiguous and is therefore blocked.
- Accepted: The input is classified as benign and is allowed through.

The values for each dimension are calculated to provide a balanced evaluation of the input, accounting for its potential risk, uncertainty, and safety.

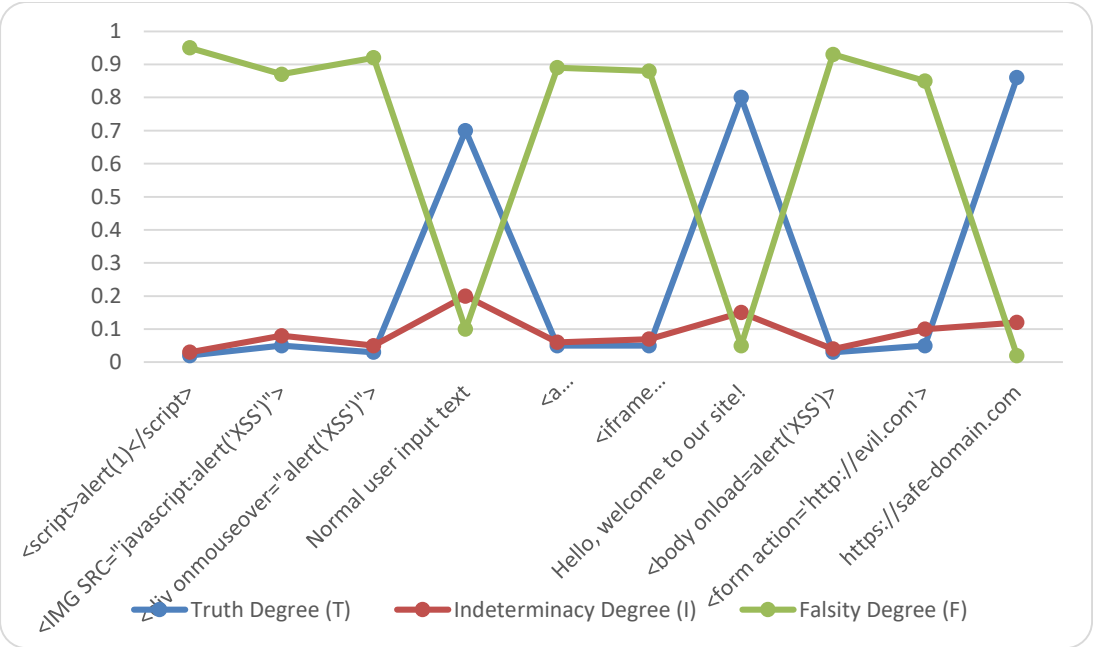

Figure 5. Neutrosophic XSS detection framework: evaluation results.

Explanation

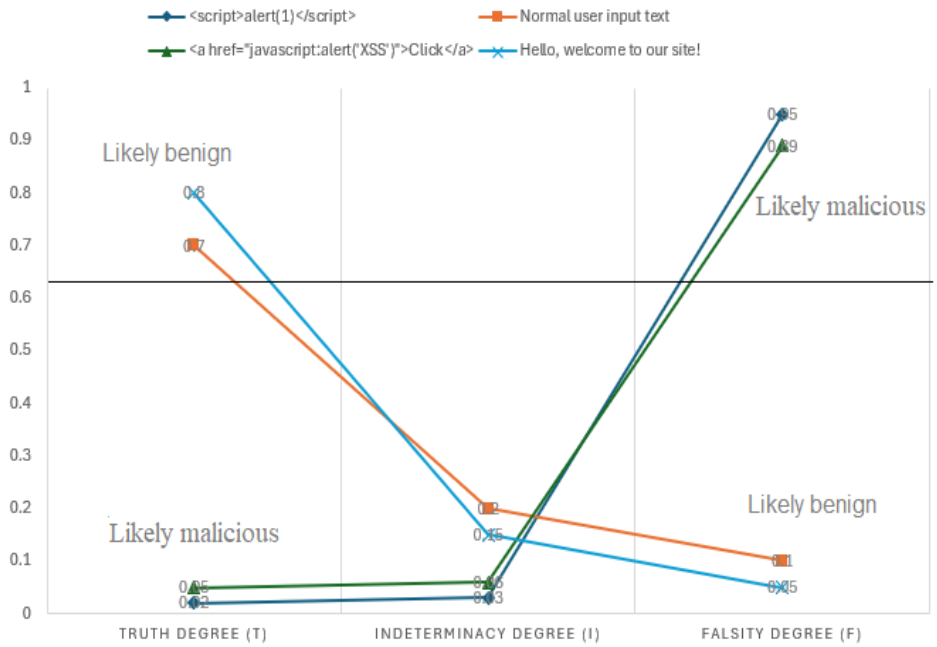

Figure 6. The calculated degrees for a sample of web inputs and decision is made dynamically based on neutrosophic values.

As it is clear from Table 2 and Figure 6, a decision is made dynamically based on neutrosophic values [12]:

High truth value: Likely benign.

High falsity value: Likely malicious.

High indeterminacy: Flagged for further analysis.

Decisions are derived using a rule-based aggregation mechanism [12]:

- T > 0.7: Input is accepted.
- F > 0.7: Input is blocked.
- I > 0.5: Input is sanitized and logged for further analysis.

i). Truth Degree (T): Shows the benign likelihood of the input. Higher truth values are seen in legitimate inputs like normal text or safe URLs, as it is clear from user input "Hello, welcome to our site!"

ii). Indeterminacy Degree (I): This represents the uncertainty in classification due to input complexity or lack of sufficient patterns in the knowledge base.

iii). Falsity Degree (F): Indicates the likelihood of the input being malicious. Higher falsity values (0.95) represent strong indicators of XSS attacks, as is clear from User Input "<script>alert(1)</script>".

4.2 | Observations

- Malicious Patterns: Inputs with <script> tags or embedded JavaScript links both show low truth degrees and high falsity degrees. Benign Inputs: Non-HTML texts and safe URL types are very low in falsity degrees, yet quite high in truth and indeterminacy pattern types.
- Uncertainty: Inputs with mixed or unfamiliar patterns exhibit high indeterminacy; this reflects model caution in evaluation.

It gives a clear idea about how the neutrosophic approach accommodates the ambiguities and uncertainties in the dataset to put such conditions on the detection and evaluation of XSS threats.

4.3 | Discussion

Accuracy: The performance of the neutrosophic model was excellent attaining an accuracy level of around 98.9%, significantly better than existing techniques. Robustness: A drastic drop in false negatives indicates the detection capability of the model regarding obfuscated and ambiguous attacks.

5 | Conclusion

This paper presents a novel approach using Neutrosophic logic to improve web application security. This approach estimates all three aspects of uncertainty, truth, and false within their detection and mitigation mechanisms against Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) attacks. As proven from the thorough experiments carried out, the suggested method would be very much superior to achieving accuracies and will have lower false positive rates compared to earlier methods. Moreover, their performances in adaptiveness and effectiveness within the domain of web security are very well evident concerning how Neutrosophic logic manages ambiguous and evolving attack vectors. The integration will be simple with currently existing web applications, especially ASP.NET. Therefore, it is an application that allows developers to increase their defense at zero costs. We believe that Neutrosophic logic if utilized, can do a lot to protect web applications from this ever-growing issue of an attacked XSS.

5.1 | Future Work

Notably, there have been various significant research advances into Neutrosophic logic applications for XSS detection, all of which leave prospects for further work:

- Improving the Diversity to Dataset: For better accuracy, adaptability, and future proof against new attack techniques, a more comprehensive training dataset is to be created for the dual inclusion of more alien malicious and benign inputs.
- Performance Optimization: This also includes the optimization of the implementation itself with Neutrosophic logic and experimenting with hardware acceleration approaches for real-time detection and response at a large scale.
- Neutrosophic Logic with Other Security Measures: The ultimate aim is to have the Neutrosophic logic also fine-tuned alongside these other security processes such as input validation, output encoding, and web application firewalls.
- Real-Time Threat Intelligence: This includes real-time threat feeds so that the framework keeps pace with new ones. Also may serve to enhance its accuracy.
- User Behavior Analysis: User behavior patterns provide greater context to Neutrosophic logic on the conditions for detecting malicious activity.

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Author Contributions

All authors contributed equally to this work.

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Data Availability

The datasets generated during and/or analyzed during the current study are not publicly available due to the privacy-preserving nature of the data but are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest in the research.

Ethical Approval

This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

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