## Cybersecurity of AI: technological challenges and opportunities

Henrik Junklewitz, Ronan Hamon, Ignacio Sanchez

European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC)

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## JRC - Science for policy







#### Our purpose

The Joint Research Centre provides independent, evidence-based knowledge and science, supporting EU policies to positively impact society.



# Al is rapidly developing – many concurrent technology levels

Large-scale models

Transformer Block Ouptut





### AI Cybersecurity – Risk analysis brings challenges and opportunities







### Al Cybersecurity – **Technological opportunities**



#### Al for cybersecurity: Al-based security controls, threat intelligence, or defences

Al for deterrence: Al tools for law enforcement, digital forensics, etc.



### Al Cybersecurity – Technological Challenges



- Preventing Misuse of AI: currently very hard at the technological / AImodel stage for all technological levels of AI.
- Securing Al systems and Alspecific vulnerabilitites: many organisational measures possible, Al-model specific security controls and vulnerability handling can be complex depending on the technological levels of Al.



## Securing AI and AI-specific vulnerabilities – Organisational challenges

- Harmonising terminologies, taxonomies and scope of definitions across fields and standards
- Managing AI-lifecycle security, including AI specific supply chain security (large-scale data, pretrained models) and developing system-level security controls for AI software
- Raising AI Cybersecurity Awareness and Competences





# Securing AI and AI-specific vulnerabilities – R&D challenges

- Many active fields of research on Al-specific topics (e.g., adversarial machine learning, prompt injection attacks) with a host of attacks specific to ML models without proper security handling in practice (evasion, poisoning, backdoors, model inference, ...)
- Building Al-specific defences and hardening against attacks
- Defining metrics for Al cybersecurity, measuring adversarial robustness, and assessing trade-offs with other requirements such as accuracy and transparency
- Al threat modelling practice missing in many cases due to the lack of experience in real-world deployment
- Technical and scientific innovation is still needed to address these challenges



#### Securing AI and AI-specific vulnerabilities – Example: Evasion Attacks

#### **Digital Attack**



TRAINING



DEPLOYMENT



**Physical Attack** 





European Commission

JRC-ENISA Report on Cybersecurity Challenges in AI and Autonomous Driving 2021 JRC Scientific projects

#### AI Regulation is coming – Trustworthy AI - challenges as an opportunity





### Thank you and keep in touch



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