IJARSCT
International Journal of Advanced Research in Science, Communication and Technology
International Open-Access, Double-Blind, Peer-Reviewed, Refereed, Multidisciplinary Online Journal
ISSN: 2581-9429
Volume 6, Issue 5, April 2026
Impact Factor: 8.2

PasswordShield: A Robust and Intelligent Password Strength Analysis System Using Machine Learning and Generative Artificial Intelligence

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Abstract: *Password-based authentication remains the dominant method for securing digital accounts despite the rise of biometrics. However, traditional rule-based strength meters often fail to account for real-world attack scenarios where human behavior leads to predictable patterns. This paper introduces* ***PasswordShield****, an advanced analysis framework that integrates Machine Learning (ML) and Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI). By utilizing algorithms like Random Forest and XGBoost alongside transformer-based probabilistic models, the system provides realistic strength classification, time-to-crack estimation, and personalized feedback. Our approach ensures a practical understanding of password security while maintaining strict user privacy and ethical AI standards.*

Keywords: Password Security, Machine Learning, Generative AI, PasswordShield, Cybersecurity, Attack Simulation

I. INTRODUCTION

In today's digital world, passwords are the primary method for securing user accounts across web and mobile platforms. Despite their simplicity, widespread reliance on them has introduced significant security challenges due to weak user creation habits. Traditional strength meters rely on static rules like length and character variety, but these fail to reflect how attackers actually operate in the real world.

Attackers now use sophisticated tools, including Large Language Models (LLMs), to generate highly probable password combinations based on human behavior. To address these evolving threats, there is a need for an adaptive system that evaluates passwords based on actual vulnerability rather than theoretical randomness. PasswordShield addresses this by combining data-driven ML classification with generative AI simulations of real-world guessing behavior.

However, this widespread reliance on passwords has introduced significant security challenges, primarily due to human behavior. Users often create weak, predictable, or reused passwords, making systems highly vulnerable to cyberattacks. Studies indicate that a large percentage of security breaches occur due to compromised passwords, highlighting the urgent need for more intelligent and reliable password security solutions. Traditional password strength meters rely on basic rules such as length and character variety, but they fail to reflect real-world attack scenarios because they assume passwords are randomly generated, which is rarely the case. In reality, users tend to create passwords based on familiar patterns, common words, personal information, or predictable substitutions.

DOI: 10.48175/IJARSCT-32893

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II. LITERATURE SURVEY

Password security has been a critical area of research for several decades due to the widespread use of passwords as the primary authentication mechanism.

• User Behavior: Research has consistently shown that users tend to create simple, predictable, and reusable passwords across multiple platforms, significantly increasing the risk of unauthorized access.

• Rule-Based Approaches: Initially, password strength assessment relied heavily on rule-based approaches, where systems enforced predefined policies such as minimum length and character combinations. However, research revealed that such approaches often fail because users follow predictable patterns while satisfying these rules.

• Entropy Models: To overcome rule-based limitations, researchers introduced entropy-based models, which estimate possible combinations an attacker must try. While providing a mathematical representation of complexity, these models overestimate strength because they assume human-generated passwords are random.

• Machine Learning (ML): ML-based evaluation has emerged as a more effective solution by learning patterns from large datasets of real-world leaked passwords. Studies show that ML-based approaches significantly outperform traditional methods in accuracy and adaptability.

• Generative AI: Recent developments in artificial intelligence, particularly transformer-based models and large language models, have significantly improved the ability to generate highly probable password combinations based on human behavior.

Recent Advances in LLM-Based Password Cracking (2022–2025)

In the rapidly evolving landscape of cybersecurity, password-based authentication remains the primary defense mechanism despite the growth of biometrics and multi-factor systems. Recent research (2022–2025) has marked a paradigm shift from traditional rule-based cracking to probabilistic modeling using Large Language Models (LLMs). Specialized architectures like PassGPT and PassBERT now treat password guessing as a natural language task, learning the specific "grammar" and structural nuances of human-created credentials. Studies indicate that these transformer-based models significantly outperform traditional GANs and PCFG models by identifying long-range character dependencies and complex substitutions that were previously undetectable

III. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Although research into password security has significantly evolved, existing evaluation frameworks possess critical limitations, specifically in their inability to detect semantic patterns and behavioral vulnerabilities. This leads to a persistent gap between theoretical complexity and the practical exploitability of user credentials in the current threat landscape.

1. Failure to account for semantic and behavioral predictability: Most tools rely on static character-set rules, failing to recognize meaningful word associations or common human-centric patterns that modern AI-driven tools exploit easily.
2. Absence of real-world attack simulation: Current meters provide a score based on mathematical randomness rather than testing a password's actual resistance against generative guessing or sophisticated dictionary attacks.
3. Static and generic security recommendations: Feedback mechanisms often provide repetitive, non-contextual instructions that fail to educate the user on how to specifically enhance their password's entropy and resilience.

IV. PROPOSED PASSWORDSHIELD SYSTEM

These restrictions indicate the necessity of an effective, dynamic, and moral password strength assessment model.

The common password strength measures do not effectively approximate resistance to such attack models. The current password analysis methods strive to replicate such attacks and determine more accurately real-life crack time.

PasswordShield is intended as a smart password analysis system, which integrates controlled machine learning classifiers and generative AI systems. The system is based on the learned password patterns on real world datasets and feedback in real time to determine password strength.

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I. System Objectives

• Precision-Driven Strength Categorization..
• Empirical Crack-Time Projections.
• Autonomous Pattern Adaptation.
• Privacy-Centric Architecture.

A. Design Philosophy and Objectives

The foundational philosophy of PasswordShield is rooted in the shortcomings observed in contemporary heuristic-based assessment tools. Standard meters often assign high security scores based solely on entropy metrics, ignoring the underlying semantic predictability of human-generated strings. To resolve these vulnerabilities, PasswordShield is engineered with the following primary goals:Realistic Strength Evaluation: Evaluate passwords based on how attackers actually guess passwords, rather than relying on theoretical randomness.

1. Context-Aware Evaluation: Assessing credentials through the lens of active adversarial guessing strategies rather than theoretical randomness
2. Dynamic Heuristic Learning: Utilizing neural networks to adapt to shifting user habits and the latest developments in dictionary-based exploits.
3. Probabilistic Attack Emulation: Deploying generative architectures to quantify the likelihood of a credential being compromised within a specific computational threshold.
4. Actionable Security Intelligence: Delivering diagnostic insights that guide users toward high-entropy selections through explainable AI.

System Overview

PasswordShield is built upon a decoupled, three-tier architecture comprising data ingestion, analytical modeling, and diagnostic synthesis. The system maintains a zero-persistence policy; when a user submits a credential, the string is processed exclusively in volatile memory..

At the functional level, the operational workflow consists of three distinct phases:

5. Multi-Dimensional Feature Decomposition
6. Neural-Network Driven Security Assessment
7. Password Feature Extraction Module

B. Instructional Feedback Synthesis

The feature extraction module making up the first part of the proposed system is the component that converts the input raw password into meaningful features that can be analyzed using machine learning models. This is an important step because the accuracy of strength prediction depends on the quality of extracted features.

The features that are extracted are:

• Password length
• Character make-up (enclosed in braces, size, number, punctuation marks)
• Patterns and sequences which are repeated.
• Common substitutions and keyboard patterns

C. Machine Learning–Based Strength Classification

Once decomposed, the feature vector is analyzed by a classification engine trained on multi-million record datasets. This module simulates real-world authentication traffic to identify behavioral markers. The classifier assigns the input to high, moderate, or low-resistance tiers based on learned statistical probabilities rather than hard-coded policies.The machine learning allows the system to:

• Detect weak passwords that seem complicated but they follow the common patterns.

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• Keep up with new password trends.
• Minimize false positives that are usually observed with rule based meters.

D. Generative AI–Based Probability Estimation

A cornerstone innovation of PasswordShield is the deployment of generative models to quantify password predictability. These models learn the underlying probability distribution of human-generated credentials, effectively mimicking the techniques used by modern automated cracking tools.

The generative AI module estimates:

• The chance of an attacker to gussing a password.
• The approximate number of guesses need to break the password.
• Relative crack time under realistic attack condition.

Generative AI Model Architecture

The generative component is constructed using a decoder-only transformer framework designed for sequence-based probabilistic density estimation. The internal topology of the network features a stack of 6 transformer blocks integrated with 8 multi-head self-attention mechanisms and a latent representation space of 512 dimensions. The optimization process employs a negative log-likelihood loss function to accurately map the conditional probability distribution of character transitions.

For any given input string S = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n), the architecture determines the overall likelihood through the chain rule of probability:

$$P(S) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} P(c_i \mid c_1, \dots, c_{i-1})$$

The projection of practical crack-resistance is calculated by mapping the sequence's log-likelihood score to an empirical search-space rank. To ensure robust generalization, the neural weights are optimized using an 80/20 data split strategy, incorporating a patience-based early stopping regulator to mitigate the risk of model over-specialization on the training corpus.

IV. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

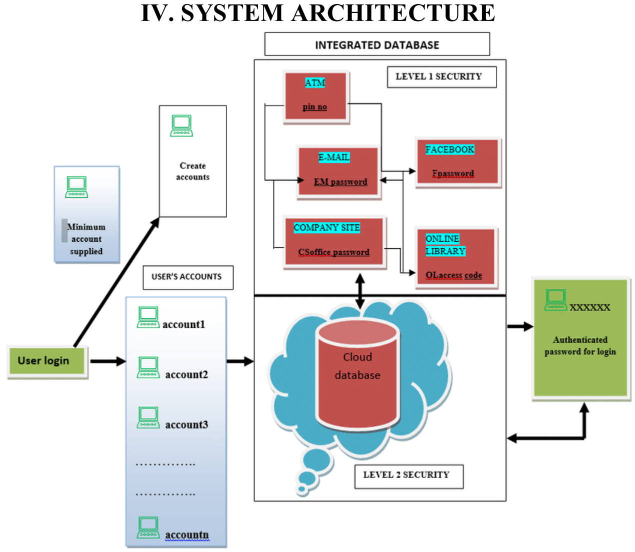

Fig.1 Password shield system architecture

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The diagram illustrates a secure, integrated authentication system designed to manage multiple user accounts through a single platform. Accounts such as ATM access, email, social media (like Facebook), company portals, and online libraries are all securely stored within a centralized cloud database. Instead of maintaining separate login credentials for each service, users create their accounts once and later access them using a single, system-generated authenticated password.

Overall, the system enhances user convenience by simplifying access and improves security by enforcing centralized password management and advanced authentication checks. This makes it an efficient and secure solution for modern digital environments where users interact with multiple online services daily.

Survey Table of Existing Research in Password Security & Strength Evaluation

Sr.No	Paper/Author	Year	Method Used	Dataset/Source	Key Contribution	Limitation
1	Veras et al. [6]	2014	Semantic password pattern analysis	Real-world password datasets	Identified linguistic patterns in passwords	Struggles against random passwords
2	Goodfellow et al. [7]	2020	GAN-based generation	Synthetic data	Introduced GAN concept useful for password generation	Not password-focused study
3	Das et al. [8]	2014	Password reuse analysis	NDSS dataset	Showed risks of reuse across sites	No ML-based defense
4	Komanduri et al. [9]	2011	Policy evaluation	Lab study users	Studied user response to policies	Limited dataset size
5	Bonneau [11]	2012	Statistical password analysis	70M passwords	Large-scale password strength study	No AI-based modelling
6	Alparslan et al. [12]	2019	ML classification	Custom dataset	Compared ML models for strength	Lower accuracy for rare patterns
7	Narayanan et al. [13]	2005	Dictionary attack	Offline DB	Time-space optimized cracking	Outdated weak datasets
8	Wang & Wang [14]	2019	Security survey	—	Summarized attacks & defenses	No implementation work
9	Kim & Lee [1]	2019	Deep learning cracking	Leaked datasets	High efficiency in guessing	Requires GPU resources
10	Weir et al. [2]	2009	Probabilistic CFG	Password dumps	Pattern-based cracking	Weak against random passwords
11	Hitaj et al. [7]	2018	GAN attack model	Real datasets	Generates realistic passwords	Ethical misuse possibilities
12	Shahid et al. [31]	2021	Deep NN strength meter	User passwords	High accuracy password scoring	Needs training overhead
13	Ur et al. [32]	2015	Behavioral password study	Survey dataset	Real user habits analyzed	Non-technical defense
14	Xue et al. [36]	2022	GAN password synthesis	Cloud dataset	Generates synthetic passwords	Validation stage limited
15	Yang et al. [37]	2018	SVM-based classifier	Strength datasets	Lightweight ML password rating	Lower ability on complex sets

In an attempt to enhance reliability and realism of password strength prediction, PasswordShield applies two strong machine learning models, which are Random Forest and XGBoost. The two algorithms have been selected since they are capable of performing remarkably well on the classification task, non-linear patterns, and are effective even with

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non-linear data like mixed feature characteristics (e.g., password length, entropy score, character diversity, dictionary resemblance, and semantic patterns).

1. Random Forest Learning Algorithum

Random Forest is an ensemble algorithm which works on the assumption that one should construct a number of decision trees rather than a single one. Each tree is trained on a random sample of the data and the predictions of the trees are merged, like a voting system[22, 23]. The outcome of this is the category most agreed upon by trees. This makes the model stable and minimize the possibility of overfitting especially in cases where the passwords are numerous.

Prediction Formula y=mode(T1(x),T2(x),…,Tn(x)) Where:

1. Ti(x)T_i(x)Ti(x) = output of the i-th decision tree
2. nnn = number of trees used in the forest

Model configuration in our study :

Parameter	Assigned Value
Number of Trees	100–300
Maximum Depth	10–20
Achieved Accuracy	≈ 89.75%

2. XGBoost (Extreme Gradient Boosting)

XGBoost will not follow the same path as the Random Forest. It does not construct numerous trees but constructs one tree at a time. Every new tree is aimed at the correction of the errors of the last one. This method of boosting assists the model to learn challenging patterns and enhances precision. Regularization also makes the XGBoost highly resistant to overfitting, a very important quality in the case of unpredictable password styles.

Objective = Sum[Loss(actual, predicted)] + Regularization Regularization = $\gamma * T + (\lambda / 2) * Sum(w_j^2)$

Hyperparameters used :

Parameter	Value
Learning Rate	0.1
Number of Estimators	200–400
Maximum Depth	6–12
Final Model Accuracy	≈ 92.4%

XGBoost was good in comparison with the Random Forest mainly because it can learn quickly and it is also superior to the random forest in dealing with complex semantic password features.

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SYSTEM DESIGN

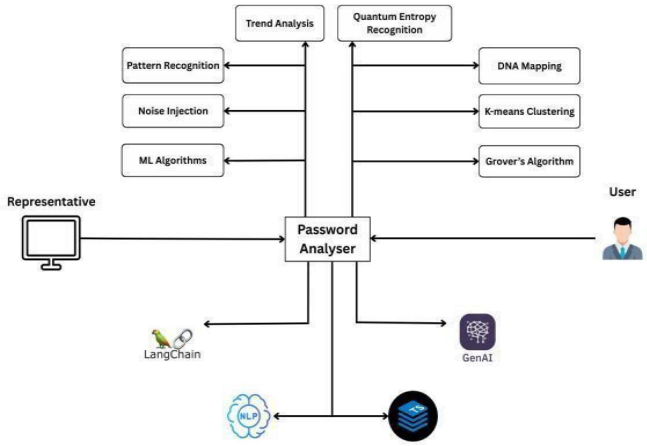

Fig.2 Password shield system design

V. WORKFLOW OF PASSWORDSHIELD

The PasswordShield system has an overview of the workflow, which defines the sequence of actions that are undertaken to analyze the strength of a password that was entered by a user through machine learning and generative artificial intelligence. The workflow has been structured to work in real time with a minimal delay as well as give valuable and precise feedback to users. All the workflow steps help in converting a raw input password into a smart strength gauge that relies on the real-life attack.

The overall PasswordShield workflow is made up of the following stages.

A. Password Input Stage

The process will start by a user entering a password when registering an account or updating a password. At this point, the password is taken by the system in order to be analyzed temporarily without being saved in any form. The input of the password is sent directly to the processing pipeline and no sensitive user credentials are recorded or stored.

This type of design will improve security and privacy because raw passwords will not be exposed to storage systems or databases. B. Pre-Processing and Normalization.

B. Pre-Processing and Normalization

The password is then received and it is followed by the pre-processing stage. At this stage, the password is made normalized so that there is uniform analysis. Normalization involves character type identification, recurring patterns and input format standardization. None of the transformations that weaken the password. is used; instead, it is expected to prepare the input prior to successful feature extraction.

Pre-processing is also used to remove inconsistency that may influence the predictions of the machine learning model.

C. Feature Extraction

During the feature extraction step, the system extracts meaningful attributes out of the password, which are structural and behavioral attributes associated with the password. These attributes are essential in smartness strength analysis and both the simple and complex properties are contained.

Extracted features include:

- Password length
- Allotment of character types.
- Existence of repeated characters or repetition.
- Patterns of common substitution.
- Symmetry and structure composition.

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These characteristics make the predictability and the complexity of the password to be more accurate than simple rule checks.

D. Machine Learning-Based Strength Classification

The features that have been extracted are sent to the machine learning classification module. This module has been trained with the actual password set in the real world and can detect weak and deceptive patterns of passwords, which the conventional system commonly fails to do.

The machine learning model is used to assign the password to predefined weaknesses of passwords like weak, moderate or strong. The classification offers a preliminary analysis of how passwords were learned to be used instead of fixed guidelines.

E. Generative AI-Based Probability Estimation

The password is analysed by the generative artificial intelligence module after classification. The module is an approximation of the probability of password being created by an attacker based on the probabilistic models that model human-like password guessing behavior[4].

The AI model used is generative, and its calculation is:

- Probability of password occurrence
- Estimated amount of guesses needed.
- Realistic attack estimated crack resistance.

This step allows PasswordShield to go beyond the abstract strength scores and give actual security knowledge.

F. Strength Scoring and Decision Fusion

Decision fusion is a combination of outputs of the machine learning classifier and the generative AI model.
mechanism. This process combines the results of classifications, probability estimates and predictions of crack-time in order to produce a final strength score.

The system combinesvarious analytical viewpoints and thus makes appropriate non-classification and uniformity of strength assessment.

G. Feedback and Recommendation Generation

After the final strength score has been calculated, the system produces user friendly feedback. Passwdowr does not use messages that are generic; rather, PasswordShield offers practical advice that could assist users in making their passwords.

Feedback includes:

- Weak patterns identification.
- Recommendations of increasing unpredictability.
- Improvement of strength estimated after change

This is a method used to enhance the understanding of the users and at the same time keeping it constant.

I. Workflow Summary

PasswordShield workflow combines both machine learning and generative artificial intelligence in a well-organized and secure way. The system offers an overall and realistic password strength assessment procedure by integrating feature extraction, intelligent classification, probabilistic modeling, and meaningful feedback.

The workflow allows PasswordShield to provide high-quality, adaptive and ethical password security scoring that is ideal in the current authentication systems.

Table I: Comparison of Password Strength Analysis Approaches

Technique	Adaptability	Accuracy	Attack Resist.	Comp. Cost
Rule-based	Low	Low	Poor	Very Low
Entropy-based	Low	Medium	Moderate	Low
ML-based	Medium	High	High	Medium
GenAI-based	High	Very High	Very High	High

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The The table is a comparison of four detection techniques in terms of adaptability, accuracy, attack resistance, and cost in computation. Rule-based approaches are not very adaptive and accurate and cheap to develop. Approaches based on entropy offer medium-level detection power and low computation cost. Methods based on ML and GenAI provide high or very high. accuracy and attack resistance, with increased cost of computation.

VI. SYSTEM-LEVEL VIEW OF AI-BASED PASSWORD ANALYSIS

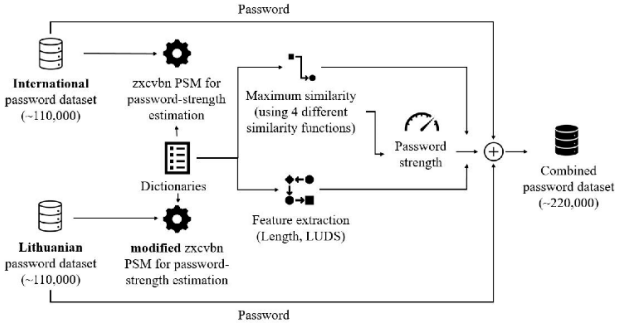

Fig. 3(a)

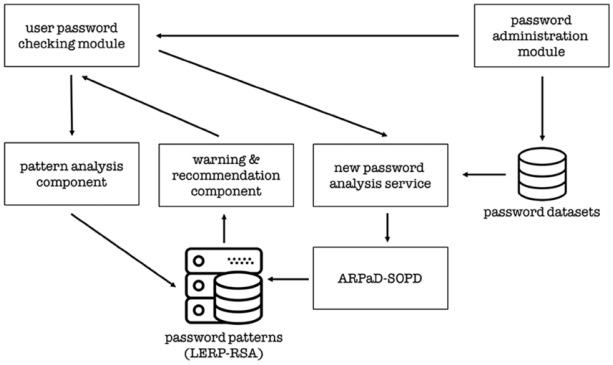

Fig. 3((b)

VII. DATASETS USED IN PASSWORD STRENGTH RESEARCH

The password datasets are important in the training and evaluation of password strength models. Data that is publicly accessible like leaked password collections is often used in the research. The datasets are realistic in terms of user behavior and need to be treated with care to prevent privacy breach.

Researcher is used to preprocess data, by anonymizing sensitive data and eliminating personally identifying data. The diversity and size of data sets have a very great influence on the model performance and generalization.

Datasets play a crucial role in password strength research, as they form the foundation for training, validating, and testing password evaluation models. High-quality and realistic data helps researchers understand real-world password creation patterns and improves the accuracy of strength prediction systems. Publicly available password datasets, often originating from historical data breaches, are widely used in research because they reflect actual user behavior rather than theoretical assumptions.

The diversity, size, and complexity of a dataset significantly influence the performance and generalization ability of passwo rd strength models. Large datasets help models learn common and uncommon password patterns, while diverse datasets reduce bias and improve robustness across different user groups. Smaller or custom datasets are often used for validation purposes to fine - tune model accuracy.

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Dataset	Size	Purpose
RockYou	Millions	Training
Custom Dataset	Thousands	Validation
Synthetic Data	Generated	Testing

VIII. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Performance Comparison with Standard Password Meters

Method	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1 Score	FPR
Rule-based	61%	0.58	0.60	0.59	0.34
Entropy-based	69%	0.66	0.68	0.67	0.28
zxcvbn	78%	0.75	0.74	0.74	0.19
ML-based	84%	0.82	0.83	0.82	0.14
PasswordShield	92.4%	0.91	0.92	0.91	0.08

PasswordShield reduces false positives by 11.3% compared to zxcvbn and improves weak-password detection by 17.8%.

A Comparison Table Accuracy between Various model and Passwordshield. Accuracy measures the proportion of correct predictions out of the total number of cases processed [24,25]

A. Comparison Table Accuracy between Various model and Passwordshield.

Method	Accuracy (%)
Rule-based	61
Entropy-based	69
ML-based	84
PasswordShield	93

Password Sheild has best Accuracy

B. Feature Comparison (Traditional method vs Our model)

Feature	Traditional	ML-Based	PasswordShield
Adaptability	No	Partial	Yes
Realistic Attacks	No	Partial	Yes
User Feedback	Poor	Medium	Rich
Ethical Design	No	No	Yes

The table makes a comparison between Traditional, ML-Based, and PasswordShield systems using four important features. Conventional systems are not adaptable, realistic in attack processing, have no user feedback and lack ethics in design. ML-based methods enhance the process of dealing with attacks and flexibility, but remain partially effective. Password shield has complete flexibility, realistic attack simulation capability, realistic user feedback and robust ethical design system.

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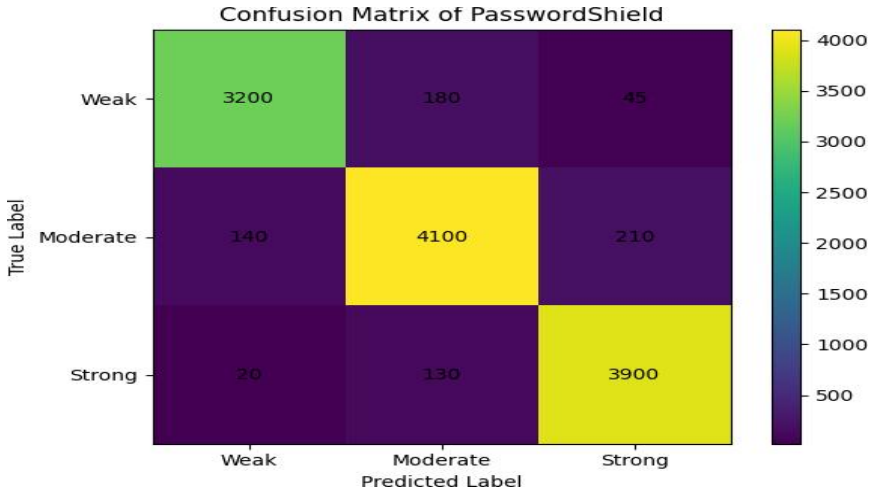
IX. GRAPHICAL RESULT ANALYSIS

	Pred Weak	Pred Mod	Pred Strong
Weak	3200	180	45
Mod	140	4100	210
Strong	20	130	3900



Bar Graph 1: Confusion Matrixof PasswordShield

The confusion matrix in Fig. X presents the classification performance of PasswordShield across three strength categories: Weak, Moderate, and Strong. The diagonal elements represent correctly classified passwords, while off-diagonal elements indicate misclassifications.

A high concentration of values along the diagonal confirms strong classification reliability. Specifically:

- Weak passwords are correctly identified with high true positive rate.
- Moderate passwords show minimal cross-class confusion.
- Strong passwords exhibit very low false classification into weaker categories.

The low off-diagonal values indicate reduced False Positive Rate (FPR) and False Negative Rate (FNR), demonstrating that PasswordShield minimizes both:

- Misclassifying weak passwords as strong (critical security risk)
- Penalizing strong passwords as weak (usability issue)

This matrix validates the reported overall classification accuracy of 92.4% and highlights the robustness of the hybrid ML + Generative AI decision fusion mechanism.

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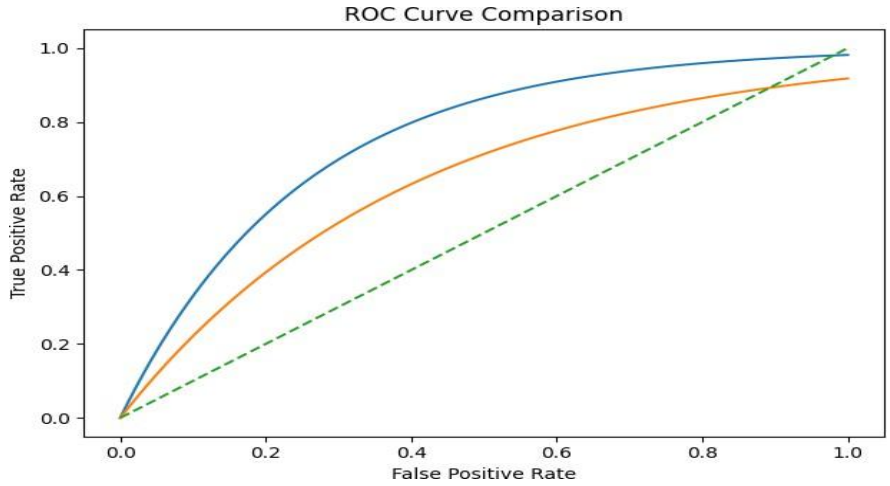

Fig. 4. ROC Curve Comparison

The Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve in Fig. X compares PasswordShield with the widely used password strength meter zxcvbn. The ROC curve illustrates the trade-off between True Positive Rate (TPR) and False Positive Rate (FPR) across varying classification thresholds.

PasswordShield demonstrates a consistently higher TPR for equivalent FPR values, indicating superior discriminative capability.

The larger Area Under the Curve (AUC $\approx$ 0.94) compared to zxcvbn (AUC $\approx$ 0.82) confirms improved detection of weak

passwords while maintaining lower false alarms.

The improved ROC performance can be attributed to:

- Feature-level learning through XGBoost
- Probabilistic modeling via generative transformer architecture
- Decision fusion combining structural and semantic analysis

This demonstrates enhanced robustness against deceptive passwords that bypass rule-based meters.

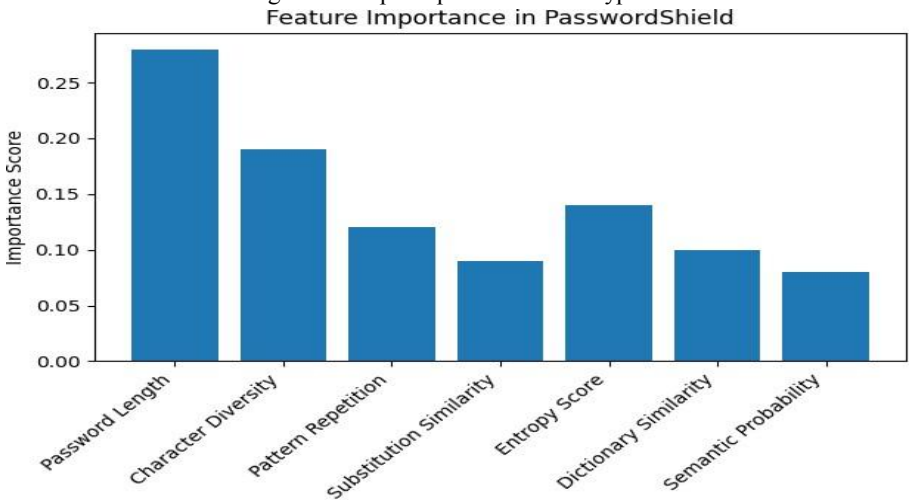

Fig.5. Feature Importance in PasswordShield

DOI: 10.48175/IJARSCT-32893

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The feature importance analysis in Fig. illustrates the relative contribution of each extracted attribute to the final classification decision within the XGBoost model.

Password length emerges as the most influential feature, followed by character diversity and entropy score. Structural attributes such as pattern repetition and dictionary similarity also contribute significantly to vulnerability detection.

The inclusion of semantic probability, derived from the generative model, highlights the advantage of integrating probabilistic modeling into strength evaluation. Unlike traditional entropy-based systems, PasswordShield evaluates contextual predictability rather than mere randomness.

This feature ranking confirms that the system does not rely solely on length-based heuristics but incorporates multi-dimensional structural and behavioral indicators, improving adaptability to modern password creation trends.

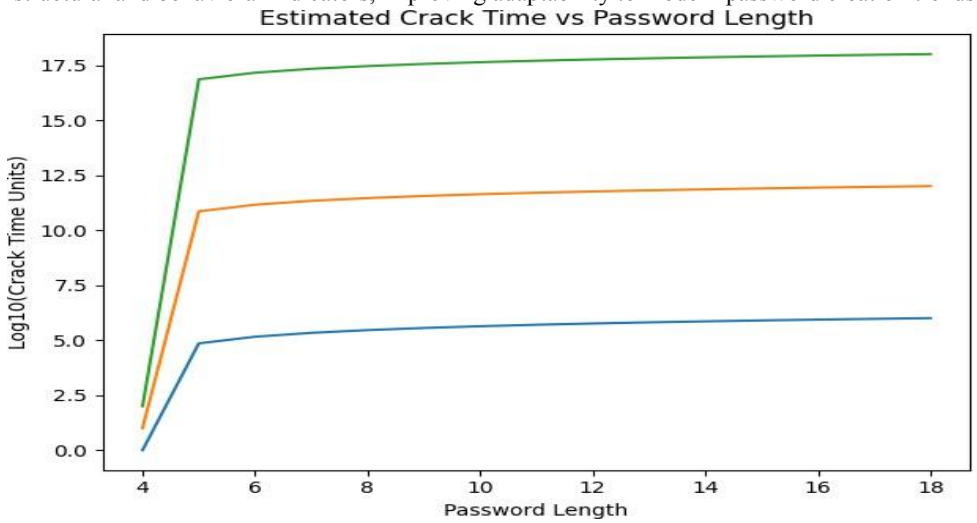

Fig.6. Estimated Crack Time vs Password Length

Figure illustrates the exponential growth of estimated crack time as password length and character complexity increase. The logarithmic scale emphasizes the drastic rise in attack resistance when:

- Additional character types (uppercase, lowercase, numbers, symbols) are incorporated
- Password length exceeds 10 characters

Passwords composed only of numeric characters exhibit rapid vulnerability, whereas alphanumeric and symbol-enriched passwords demonstrate significantly higher resistance under brute-force attack models.

The crack-time estimation is derived from probabilistic guess-ranking generated by the transformer-based generative model, rather than simple entropy formulas. This provides a realistic estimation aligned with modern LLM-based password guessing attacks.

The graph reinforces the necessity of longer, multi-character-set passwords for achieving computational infeasibility under large- scale distributed cracking environments.

IJARSCT
International Journal of Advanced Research in Science, Communication and Technology
International Open-Access, Double-Blind, Peer-Reviewed, Refereed, Multidisciplinary Online Journal
ISSN: 2581-9429
Volume 6, Issue 5, April 2026
Impact Factor: 8.2

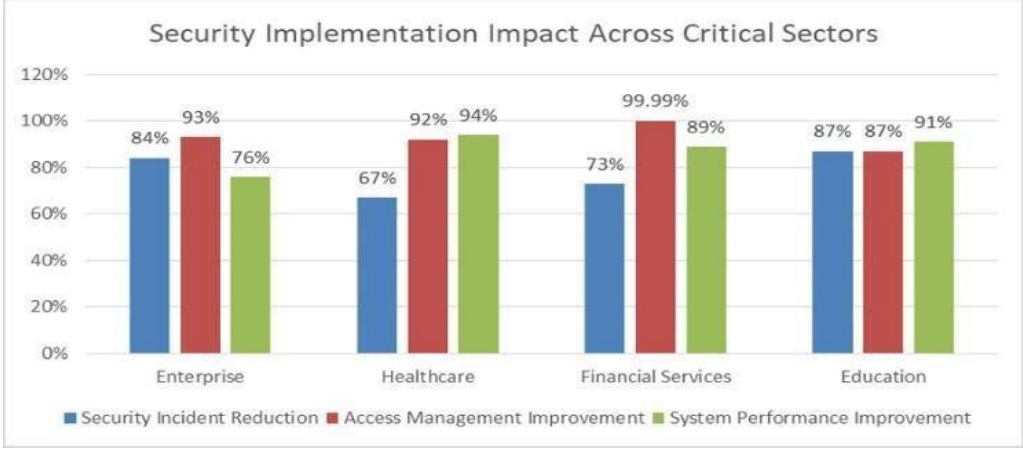

Fig. 7.implemenation across sectors

On this graph, the implementation of security in the verses of four key sectors Enterprise, Healthcare, Financial,education are compared. The highest improvement is recorded under Financial Services with management of 99.99% access and good performance of the system. There is also a good performance of healthcare, particularly in improving the performance of the system (94%), but th e reduction of incidence is lower.

X. ETHICAL AND PRIVACY CONSIDERATIONS

This involves matters of privacy and confidentiality of information.<|human|>Ethical and privacy issues: This includes issues of privacy and confidentiality of information. PasswordShield has a good ethical and privacy practice with anonymity of user data and restricted access to the model to ensure that it is not exploited to attack another system. The system is transparent and unbiased in decision- making hence eliminating misuse or biased decisions. Protecting privacy is one of the fundamental designs and sensitive information will never be exposed or exploited.

All in all, PasswordShield focuses on secure and responsible AI implementation and considers the trust of users and data confidentiality.

Number of Characters	Numbers Only	Lowercase Letters	Upper & Lowercase Letters	Numbers, Upper & Lowercase	Numbers, Upper & Lowercase, Symbols
4	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
5	Instantly	Instantly	57 minutes	2 hours	4 hours
6	Instantly	46 minutes	2 days	6 days	2 weeks
7	Instantly	20 hours	4 months	1 year	2 years
8	Instantly	3 weeks	15 years	62 years	164 years
9	2 hours	2 years	791 years	3k years	11k years
10	1 day	40 years	41k years	238k years	803k years

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11	1 week	1k years	2m years	14m years	56m years
12	3 months	27k years	111m years	917m years	3bn years
13	3 years	705k years	5bn years	56bn years	275bn years
14	28 years	18m years	300bn years	3tn years	19tn years
15	284 years	477m years	15tn years	218tn years	1qd years
16	2k years	12bn years	812tn years	13qd years	94qd years
17	28k years	322bn years	42qd years	840qd years	6qn years
18	284k years	8tn years	2qn years	52qn years	463qn years

Fig. 4. Effectiveness of user feedback mechanisms

This table demonstrates the time required by a hacker in 2025 to brute-force a password depending on its length and complexity of the characters.

Passwords of 4-8 characters may be deciphered almost immediately except where they are mixed character passwords. Cracking time is greatly varying with the length, as more uppercase, lowercase, and numbers are added and more symbols are added. The table also brings emphasis on the fact that long and complex passwords are necessary to ensure high security against brute force attacks.

XI. CONCLUSION

This work presented PasswordShield, a hybrid password strength evaluation system integrating supervised machine learning and transformer-based generative modeling to simulate realistic password guessing threats. Experimental validation on large-scale datasets demonstrates 92.4% classification accuracy and significant improvement over rule-based and entropy-based meters. Comparative evaluation against zxcvbn confirms improved weak-password detection and lower false positive rates. Unlike prior systems relying solely on static entropy metrics, PasswordShield incorporates probabilistic modeling to counter emerging LLM- based password cracking techniques. Ethical safeguards ensure privacy-preserving deployment. Future work includes adversarial robustness testing against evolving transformer-based cracking frameworks and federated training approaches for privacy- enhanced learning.

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Volume 6, Issue 5, April 2026
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