Securing IoT: Real-Time Detection of Malicious Intrusions and Attacks in Cybersecurity Infrastructures

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Abstract: The project recognizes the pervasive threat of computer viruses, malware, and hostile attacks on computer networks, highlighting the critical role of intrusion detection as a proactive defense technology. The project introduces a novel approach based on deep learning to identify and mitigate cybersecurity vulnerabilities and breaches in IoT-driven cyberphysical systems, aiming for enhanced security measures. The project's objective is to elevate intrusion detection beyond the limitations of traditional systems by addressing issues like accuracy, detection effectiveness, and reducing false positives. This emphasizes the advancement and innovation in cybersecurity. To achieve the project's goals, the method employs a generative adversarial network, a cutting-edge deep learning technique. Additionally, it distinguishes itself by contrasting unsupervised and deep learning-based discriminative approaches, showcasing a comprehensive and effective approach to cybersecurity. In our project, we successfully implemented an ensemble method to boost predictive accuracy by integrating multiple individual models. Particularly noteworthy is the inclusion of a hybrid architecture, combining Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM), denoted as CNN+LSTM. This hybrid model achieved an impressive accuracy of 99% when applied to the KDD-Cup dataset, underscoring the efficacy of our ensemble technique for intrusion detection in IoT-based cybersecurity infrastructures.

Index terms - Cybersecurity, Internet of Things, intrusion detection system (IDS), anomaly detection, security attacks, deep learning.

1. INTRODUCTION

Deep learning (DL) methods, particularly artificial neural networks (ANNs), are used in various applications such as graphic recognition, image and signal processing, and voice and audio recognition [2], [3]. These methods involve input, output, and hidden layers functioning nonlinearly to process data. DL is also applied in medicine for genomics and disease analysis [4]. The structure of DL methods handles complex data through forward and backpropagation techniques. Effective DL approaches minimize discrepancies between training and testing performance and adjust hyperparameters to manage different data samples.

However, DL methods raise privacy and security concerns due to the sensitive nature of the data, especially during training and testing. Data movement in DL involves encryption and security measures to protect user information [6].

Intrusion detection systems (IDS) are crucial for security, monitoring suspicious activities, and generating alerts. IDSs, combined with security procedures such as authentication and encryption, distinguish between benign and malicious traffic using data mining techniques [7], [8]. With the rise in Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) devices, securing critical infrastructure has become increasingly important [4]. Traditional IDSs face challenges with detection accuracy and high false positive rates.

To address these issues, this work proposes an IDS for IIoT-powered Industrial Control Systems (ICSs) using a deep-autoencoder-based Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) model. Unlike basic IDS tools, which primarily alert administrators, this advanced model aims to improve detection accuracy and reduce false positives. IDSs can be network-based (NIDS), monitoring traffic across the network, or host-based (HIDS), focusing on specific devices and servers [7], $[10]$.

2. LITERATURE SURVEY

Recent advancements in deep learning have significantly impacted various fields. A notable example is the development of a deep convolutional neural network (CNN) that achieved state-of-the-art results on the ImageNet dataset. This model, featuring 60 million parameters and 650,000 neurons across five convolutional layers and three fully-connected layers, demonstrated impressive performance with top-1 and top-5 error rates of 37.5% and 17.0%, respectively. Utilizing non-saturating neurons and dropout regularization, this network also excelled in the ILSVRC-2012 competition with a top-5 error rate of 15.3%, surpassing the second-best entry by a significant margin [2].

In the domain of medical imaging, particularly for skin cancer detection, a deep learning model incorporating image pre-processing techniques such as normalization, data reduction, and data augmentation achieved remarkable results. This model, applied to the HAM10000 dataset, attained an accuracy of 96.10% during training and 90.93% during testing, demonstrating superior classification rates and reduced execution times compared to existing models [3].

In cybersecurity, advancements in Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS) are crucial. One approach involves a tree-based IDS with a two-layer architecture, which includes a tree of classifiers and a combining classifier. This system achieved high detection rates and low false alarm rates on KDD'99 and NSL-KDD datasets, with accuracies of 96.27% and 89.75%, respectively. Another IDS model, combining REP Tree, JRip, and Forest PA classifiers, showed enhanced performance metrics, including accuracy and reduced false alarm rates, on the CICIDS2017 dataset [4][5].

Additionally, a review of data mining techniques in IDS emphasizes how integrating data mining and knowledge discovery can improve detection accuracy and robustness against novel intrusions. This approach contrasts with traditional IDS methods and highlights

the potential for better performance in identifying sophisticated attacks [6][7].

Finally, research on Industrial Control Systems (ICS) addresses the challenges posed by dynamic network topologies. An adaptive IDS using One-Class Support Vector Machine (OCSVM) was proposed to handle real-time changes in network architecture effectively. This system was tested using a Hybrid ICS testbed and showed improved adaptability and performance under varying network conditions [4].

3. METHODOLOGY

i) Proposed Work:

The proposed system utilizes deep learning with a generative adversarial network to significantly enhance cybersecurity detection in IoT-enabled cyberphysical systems, achieving high accuracy, maintaining data privacy, and ensuring ease of deployment [8, 9]. The proposed system markedly enhances cybersecurity threat detection accuracy. It leverages deep learning, improving intrusion detection in complex settings. And also preserves critical data privacy and integrity for security. In our project, we successfully implemented an ensemble method to boost predictive accuracy by integrating multiple individual models. Particularly noteworthy is the inclusion of a hybrid architecture, combining Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) [2], [11], [12], [13], [14], [15], [16], [17] and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM), denoted as CNN+LSTM. This hybrid model achieved an impressive accuracy of 99% when applied to the KDD-Cup dataset, underscoring the efficacy of our ensemble technique for intrusion detection in IoT-based cybersecurity infrastructures. The integration of a Flask-based user interface ensures practicality, offering a user-friendly testing environment, while secure authentication enhances the overall cybersecurity of the system. This amalgamation of advanced model architectures and user-friendly features positions our project as a robust and efficient solution for real-time intrusion detection in IoT-driven cybersecurity domains.

ii) System Architecture:

The system architecture for the project "Detection of Real-Time Malicious Intrusions and Attacks in IoT Empowered CyberSecurity Infrastructures" follows a structured approach. It begins with dataset exploration to understand and identify key features, proceeds with data preprocessing to prepare the dataset for model training, and then splits the data into training and testing sets. The core of the architecture involves building machine learning models, including a hybrid CNN+LSTM model and a standalone CNN model [2], [11], [12], [13], [14], [15], [16], [17], to learn patterns and representations for intrusion detection. Model evaluation is performed using the testing set, assessing metrics like accuracy and precision, followed by a comprehensive analysis of model performance. The integration of CNN+LSTM showcases a commitment to leveraging both spatial and temporal information for enhanced intrusion detection in real-time within IoTdriven cybersecurity environments.

Fig 1 Proposed architecture

iii) Dataset collection:

Here, the project dives into the datasets that are crucial for training and evaluating the intrusion detection system. Different datasets (KDDCUP99, NSL KDD, UNSW-NB15) are explored to understand their contents, features, and structure. This step helps in gaining insights into the data that is being worked with..

| | duration | protocol type | service | flag | src bytes | dst bytes | land | wrong fragment | urgent | hot | \cdots | dst host srv count |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------|----------|--------------------|
| $\mathbf{0}$ | $\mathbf 0$ | tcp | http | SF | 181 | 5450 | $\mathbf{0}$ | $\,$ 0 | $\mathbf 0$ | $\mathbf{0}$ | \cdots | $\overline{9}$ |
| 1 | 0 | tcp | http | SF | 239 | 486 | $\bf{0}$ | $\bf{0}$ | 0 | $\mathbf 0$ | \sim | 19 |
| $\overline{2}$ | \circ | tcp | http | SF | 235 | 1337 | θ | $\ddot{}$ | $\mathbf{0}$ | \circ | \sim | 29 |
| 3 | 0 | tcp | http | SF | 219 | 1337 | $\bf{0}$ | 0 | $\mathbf 0$ | $\bf{0}$ | \sim | 39 |
| $\ddot{4}$ | θ | tcp | http | SF | 217 | 2032 | $\boldsymbol{0}$ | $\bf{0}$ | $\mathbf 0$ | \circ | \cdots | 49 |
| \cdots | 7.7.7 | 12.5 | 1.11 | -1 | $***$ | 188.5 | -11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | | 111 | $12.5 + 1.5$ |
| 494016 | \circ | tcp | http | SF | 310 | 1881 | $\mathbf{0}$ | $\bf{0}$ | $\mathbf 0$ | \circ | \sim | 255 |
| 494017 | 0 | tcp | http | SF | 282 | 2286 | θ | 0 | 0 | $\bf 0$ | \sim | 255 |
| 494018 | \mathbf{O} | tcp | http | SF | 203 | 1200 | $\bf{0}$ | $\,$ 0 | $\mathbf{0}$ | $\mathbf{0}$ | \cdots | 255 |
| 494019 | θ | tcp | http | SF | 291 | 1200 | $\bf 0$ | 0 | $\overline{0}$ | \circ | \sim | 255 |
| 494020 | $\mathbf{0}$ | tcp | http | SF | 219 | 1234 | $\mathbf{0}$ | $\,$ 0 | $\bf{0}$ | $\bf{0}$ | \sim | 255 |
| 494021 rows \times 42 columns | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Fig 2 KDDCUP dataset

KDDCup99, NSL-KDD and UNSW-NB15 are the most popular and widely used datasets in academic research to evaluate the different malicious activities and detect diverse attacks. The NSL-KDD dataset is the extension of KDD99, it reduces the shortcomings of the old version dataset, precisely, it not only focuses to reduce the redundant data from training and testing but also sets the number of records in training and testing sets. The dataset has 42 features and is divided into 3 categories, traffic features, content features and content features. The KDDCup 99 dataset is one of the popular datasets in IoT with cybersecurity [33], [34], [35], [36], [37], [38], [39], [40]. This dataset provides labelled and unlabeled training and testing data, and it originated from the evaluation program DARPA98 IDS with corresponds to seven and two weeks [33]. The UNSW-NB15 dataset was created by perfectStorm (IXIA) in collaboration with the UNSW Cyber Range Lab to generate moderately aggressive activities and attacks. In dataset, each record in the collection has 47 features, divided into 10 types, including Backdoors, DoS, Analysis, Exploits, Generic, Reconnaissance, Fuzzers for Abnormal Activity, Shellcode, and Worms.

iv) Data Processing:

Data processing involves transforming raw data into valuable information for businesses. Generally, data scientists process data, which includes collecting, organizing, cleaning, verifying, analyzing, and converting it into readable formats such as graphs or documents. Data processing can be done using three methods i.e., manual, mechanical, and electronic. The aim is to increase the value of information and facilitate decision-making. This enables businesses to improve their operations and make timely strategic decisions. Automated data processing solutions, such as computer software programming, play a significant role in this. It can help turn large amounts of data, including big data, into meaningful insights for quality management and decision-making.

v) Feature selection:

Feature selection is the process of isolating the most consistent, non-redundant, and relevant features to use in model construction. Methodically reducing the size of datasets is important as the size and variety of datasets continue to grow. The main goal of feature

selection is to improve the performance of a predictive model and reduce the computational cost of modeling.

Feature selection, one of the main components of feature engineering, is the process of selecting the most important features to input in machine learning algorithms. Feature selection techniques are employed to reduce the number of input variables by eliminating redundant or irrelevant features and narrowing down the set of features to those most relevant to the machine learning model. The main benefits of performing feature selection in advance, rather than letting the machine learning model figure out which features are most important.

vi) Algorithms:

CNNs are specialized for processing grid-like data such as images. They use convolutional layers to automatically and adaptively learn spatial hierarchies of features from the input data. CNNs are widely used in image and video recognition tasks.

```
verbose, epoch, batch_size = 1, 100, 4
activationFunction='relu'
```
def $CNN():$

```
cnnmodel = Sequential()cnnmodel.add(Conv1D(filters=128, kernel_size=2, activation='relu',input_shap
cnnmodel.add(MaxPooling1D(pool size=2))
cnnmodel.add(Dropout(rate=0.2))
cnnmodel.add(Flatten())
cnnmodel.add(Dense(5, activation='softmax'))
cnnmodel.compile(optimizer='adam', loss='categorical_crossentropy',metrics=[
cnnmodel.summary()
return cnnmodel
```
 $cnnmodel = CNN()$

Fig 3 CNN

RNNs are designed to work with sequential data by maintaining an internal state or memory. They process inputs in a way that information cycles through a loop, allowing the network to consider previous context. This makes them suitable for tasks involving sequences or time-series data.

Fig 4 RNN

Combining CNN and LSTM leverages CNN's ability to capture spatial features from data (e.g., images) and LSTM's capability to understand and retain temporal dependencies. This hybrid approach is effective for tasks involving both spatial and sequential data [2], [11], [12], [13], [14], [15], [16], [17].

Fig 5 CNN + LSTM

RBM is a generative stochastic artificial neural network used for unsupervised learning. Combining CNN with BiGRU suggests using a mix of convolutional layers for feature extraction (CNN) and bidirectional gated recurrent layers (BiGRU) to capture sequential patterns, potentially for complex pattern recognition tasks.

Fig 6 RBM

DNNs consist of multiple layers of interconnected nodes, and when organized in a multi-layer perceptron architecture, they are great at learning intricate patterns and features from the data. They are widely used in various machine learning tasks for classification and regression.

Fig 7 DNN with MLP

4. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

Precision: Precision evaluates the fraction of correctly classified instances or samples among the ones classified as positives. Thus, the formula to calculate the precision is given by:

Precision = True positives/ (True positives + False $positives) = TP/(TP + FP)$

 $\text{Precision} = \frac{True \; Positive}{True \; Positive + False \; Positive}$

Recall: Recall is a metric in machine learning that measures the ability of a model to identify all relevant instances of a particular class. It is the ratio of correctly predicted positive observations to the total actual positives, providing insights into a model's completeness in capturing instances of a given class.

Accuracy: Accuracy is the proportion of correct predictions in a classification task, measuring the overall correctness of a model's predictions.

Fig 10 Accuracy graph

F1 Score: The F1 Score is the harmonic mean of precision and recall, offering a balanced measure that considers both false positives and false negatives, making it suitable for imbalanced datasets.

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dst_host_srv_count

dst_host_same_srv_rate

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dst_host_same_src_port_rate

dst_host_srv_diff_host_rate

Fig 17 Predict result for given input

5. CONCLUSION

The project places a significant emphasis on the efficacy of utilizing deep learning techniques such as Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN), Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) [2], [11], [12], [13], [14], [15], [16], [17], and Deep Neural Networks (DNN) for early detection of cyber-attacks and identification of malware. By leveraging the capabilities of deep learning, the project showcases its potential to significantly enhance cybersecurity measures, providing a proactive approach to identifying and mitigating threats. Among the various models employed, the extension CNN + LSTM ensemble model stands out by achieving an impressive 99% accuracy. This remarkable result underscores the robustness and adaptability of the ensemble model in real-time scenarios. The combination of Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks proves to be a powerful solution for achieving high accuracy in cyber-attack detection, showcasing the effectiveness of ensemble techniques. The integration of the system with Flask contributes to user-friendly deployment, enhancing accessibility and practicality for improving online security. The Flask framework provides a streamlined and intuitive interface, making it easier for users to deploy and interact with the cybersecurity system. This user-friendly aspect enhances the overall usability of the system, ensuring its practical application in real-world scenarios. The project serves as a stepping stone for future advancements in the field, suggesting avenues for more advanced deep learning integration and emphasizing the need for stronger Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS). The focus on real-time detection and classification of malicious activities highlights the project's forward-looking approach, setting the stage for continuous improvement in enhancing cybersecurity measures through innovative technologies.

6. FUTURE SCOPE

Future advancements may involve exploring and incorporating more advanced deep learning techniques and transfer learning approaches. This could lead to more sophisticated models, improving the system's ability to detect complex cyber threats efficiently. The potential for widespread implementation of the

proposed system in various companies, including multinational corporations, showcases its scalability and applicability. This could significantly enhance cybersecurity measures for organizations, protecting their valuable assets from potential cyber threats. The integration of edge computing represents a future direction that optimizes real-time threat detection by processing and analyzing data closer to the IoT devices [23]. This approach reduces latency, enhances responsiveness, and optimizes network resources, ultimately bolstering the system's efficiency in identifying and mitigating cyber threats in real-time. The adoption of federated learning in the future can revolutionize the model training process. By allowing collaborative training without sharing raw data, it preserves data privacy while improving the accuracy and robustness of the global model. This collaborative approach can be a game-changer in enhancing the overall cybersecurity of IoT systems.

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