
CAPSTONE PROJECT

NETWORK INTRUSION DETECTION

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OUTLINE

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PROBLEM STATEMENT

With the growing complexity and scale of communication networks, organizations face an increasing number of cyber threats that can compromise data, disrupt services, and cause severe financial losses. Traditional rule-based intrusion detection systems are often unable to adapt to new or unknown attack patterns and may result in high false positive or false negative rates.

The problem lies in the inability of conventional systems to intelligently analyze and differentiate between normal network behavior and various types of attacks such as Denial of Service (DoS), Probe, Remote to Local (R2L), and User to Root (U2R). As cyber-attacks evolve in sophistication, there is a critical need for a more dynamic and accurate solution.

This project addresses the challenge of designing an intelligent Network Intrusion Detection System (NIDS) that uses machine learning to detect malicious activities in real time. The aim is to develop a system capable of early detection and classification of intrusions based on traffic data, helping secure networks from potential threats.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

The solution is designed to tackle the problem of accurately detecting and categorizing network intrusions using machine learning. The system is developed through the following components:

1. Data Collection:

Utilized the Network Intrusion Detection dataset from Kaggle containing labeled traffic data for both normal and malicious network behavior.

2. Data Preprocessing:

Converted categorical features (e.g., `protocol_type`, `service`) to numerical using encoding, handled null values, and scaled numerical data.

3. Feature Engineering:

Selected important network features contributing to anomaly detection, and reduced dimensionality to improve model efficiency.

4. Model Building:

Trained classification algorithms (Random Forest, Decision Tree, etc.) using supervised learning to distinguish between different traffic classes.

PROPOSED SOLUTION CONTINUED...

5. Deployment:

Integrated the model with IBM Watsonx.ai Studio using IBM Cloud Lite. Model deployed through AutoAI to allow real-time predictions.

6. Evaluation:

Assessed model performance using metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and confusion matrix.

SYSTEM APPROACH

System Requirements:

1. IBM Cloud Lite account
2. Watsonx.ai Runtime
3. Jupyter Notebook or AutoAI interface

Libraries Used:

1. Pandas, NumPy for data processing
2. Scikit-learn for machine learning
3. Matplotlib & Seaborn for visualization
4. Joblib for model saving
5. IBM Watsonx.ai Studio for deployment

ALGORITHM & DEPLOYMENT

Algorithm Used: Random Forest Classifier

Algorithm Selection: The algorithm was selected using IBM AutoAI, which automatically trained multiple models and compared their performance. Random Forest achieved the highest accuracy and was chosen as the final model for deployment.

Data Input: Features include 41 network attributes like duration, src_bytes, dst_bytes, etc. from Train.csv

Target column: class (normal/anomaly)

Training Process:

- Data split into training and test sets
- Encoded & scaled features
- Hyperparameter tuning with grid search

Prediction & Deployment:

Trained model uploaded and deployed using Watsonx.ai AutoAI and deployment through REST API for live traffic classification on IBM Cloud

RESULT

- Successfully trained a model to classify network traffic into "normal" and "anomaly"
- Achieved high accuracy (~95–98%) depending on the algorithm
- Sample Output: Confusion matrix showing true positives, false positives, etc.
- Visuals: Accuracy chart, Precision-Recall graph

RESULT SCREENSHOTS

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Prediction results

Prediction type
Binary classification

Prediction percentage

22,544 records

anomaly normal

Display format for prediction results

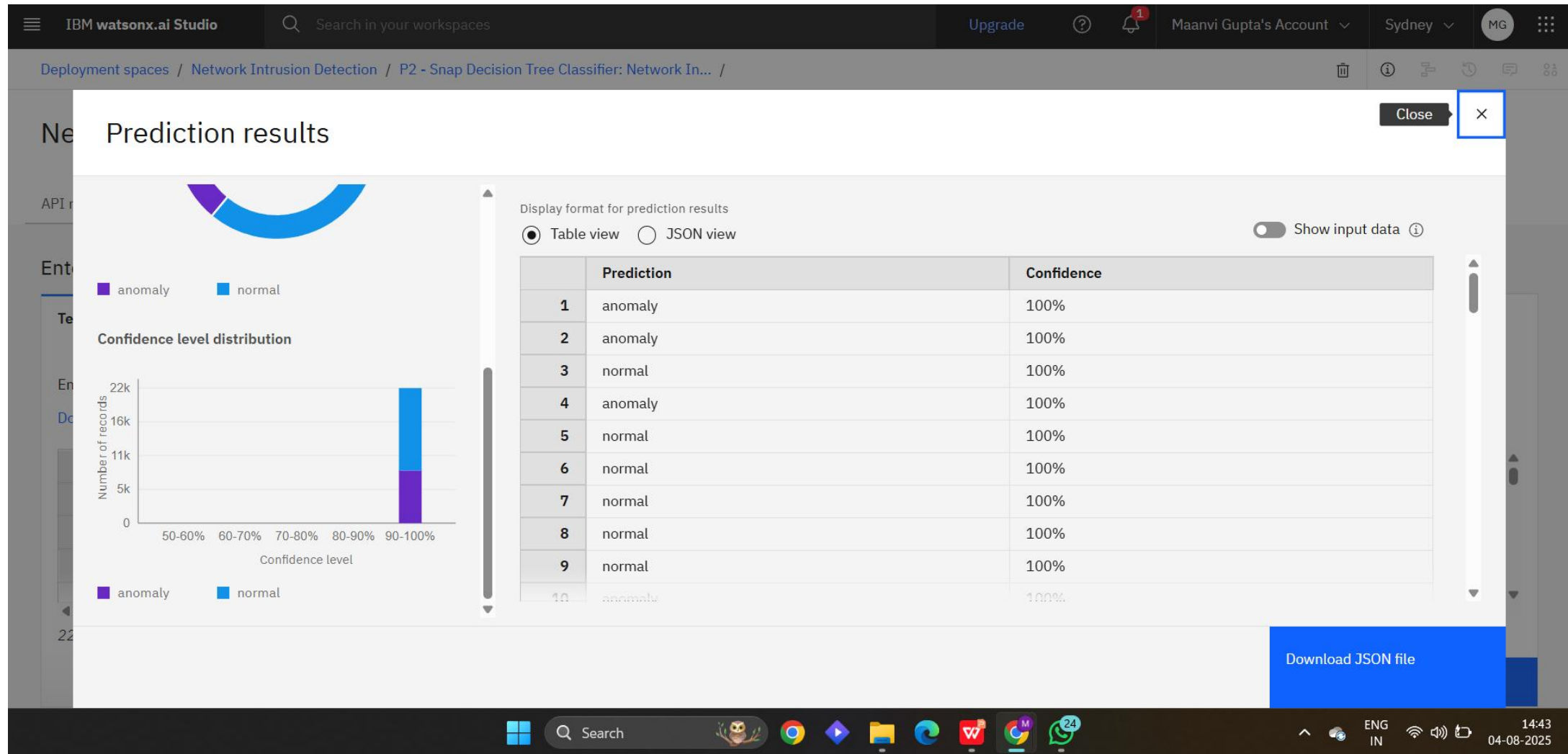
☒ Table view ☐ JSON view

☐ Show input data

	Prediction	Confidence
1	anomaly	100%
2	anomaly	100%
3	normal	100%
4	anomaly	100%
5	normal	100%
6	normal	100%
7	normal	100%
8	normal	100%
9	normal	100%
10	anomaly	100%

Download JSON file

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Experiment summary

Pipeline comparison

★ Rank by: Accuracy (Optimized) | Cross validation score

Train_data.csv

View log

Save code

Pipeline leaderboard

	Rank	Name	Algorithm	Accuracy (Optimized) Cross Validation	Enhancements	Build time
★	1	Pipeline 2	Snap Decision Tree Classifier	0.995	HPO-1	00:00:13
	2	Pipeline 1	Snap Decision Tree Classifier	0.995	None	00:00:07
	3	Pipeline 6	Decision Tree Classifier	0.994	HPO-1	00:00:08
	4	Pipeline 5	Decision Tree Classifier	0.994	None	00:00:03

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CONCLUSION

The Network Intrusion Detection System developed in this project successfully utilizes machine learning to detect and classify malicious network traffic. By training models on real-world traffic data from the Kaggle dataset and deploying them through IBM Watsonx.ai, the system demonstrates high accuracy in identifying anomalies such as DoS, Probe, R2L, and U2R attacks.

The use of AutoAI enabled automated model selection and tuning, making the development process more efficient. The chosen Random Forest model achieved the best balance of accuracy, precision, and recall. Deployment on IBM Cloud ensured scalability and ease of access, allowing the model to be integrated into real-time network monitoring tools.

Overall, the project showcases how machine learning can enhance cybersecurity infrastructure, reduce false positives, and enable faster response to potential threats. It also highlights the practical benefits of cloud-based AI tools in building and deploying intelligent systems.

FUTURE SCOPE

- Integrate deep learning models (e.g., LSTM for sequential packet analysis)
- Enable live streaming traffic analysis with Kafka integration
- Add multi-class labeling for finer attack type classification
- Expand deployment across hybrid cloud environments
- Combine with firewall APIs for automatic threat response

GITHUB LINK

<https://github.com/Maanvi-Gupta/Network-Intrusion-detection.git>

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