

DoS Attack Detection On SDN With P4 Programmable Dataplane using Machine Learning (LSTM-BA)

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Abstract—Software-Defined Network (SDN) is a technology that has advantages in networking, such as automation, flexibility, and resource utilization. One of the SDN implementations can use P4 Language-based, where the SDN user can make specific data plane they need with programmable advantages of P4, the Software-Defined Network itself is famous for its centralized architecture, by separating Control Plane and Data Plane. But there are critical aspects of the SDN architecture, one of which is that it is vulnerable to DoS attacks that can cause the network to lose the availability principle of the CIA Triangle. A Denial of Service (DoS) attack is a criminal activity carried out to exploit the computer network, this activity has the goal of making the network inaccessible this can happen by using the flooding packet method on the computer network. Therefore we can prevent this attack by detecting the attack using an early detection system to solve this issue proposed to build an Intrusion Detection System (IDS), and the proposed system will use the anomaly-detection method based on a machine learning algorithm. The proposed system will be using the deep learning method, uses the Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) algorithm by applying the Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) algorithm combined with the Naive Bayes algorithm (BA) so that it becomes LSTM-BA to detect DoS early and has a high accuracy value and low false-negative rate value.

Index Terms—Computer Network Security, Intrusion Detection System (IDS), Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Denial of Service (DoS).

I. INTRODUCTION

Computer Networking is a complex matter and difficult to manage this is due to the large number of equipment used on the [1] network, besides that the devices on traditional networks have designs, software, and hardware that is related to one vendor, each other vendor have different designs and devices [2], then there is a technology that changes in the context of network design and management, namely Software Defined Network or well know as SDN [1]. SDN has different characteristics when compared to tradiional networks, the difference is the separation of **control plane** and **data plane** of a network device [1], [2] SDN applies the concept of centralization to its network architecture, like a traditional network, SDN architecture network is very vulnerable to cyber attacks

[3]. There are three types of attacks targeting SDN networks. These attacks are fraud attack, intrusion attack, and malicious tampering attack [4]. One of the attacks that occurred on the SDN network was Denial of Services, although, with the centralization applied to SDN, this vulnerability itself was caused by the architecture of SDN [5].

Denial of Services or commonly known as DoS is a cybercrime with the method of sending packets excessively and aiming to exploit the resources of the network [6], the DoS attack itself is a threat to network security, on SDN this is caused by the separation of the control plane and data plane, causing a vulnerability in the SDN architecture [5], attackers are able to exploit both the control plane and data plane [7], so it will disrupt the flow rule decision and can also result in the occurrence of a bottleneck on the network. it can be harmful if there is a failure on the network component [8], there are two types of DoS attacks namely volumetric attacks such as ICMP-Flood, UDP-Flood, and TCP-SYN Flood and application-layer attacks [8]–[10], to prevent DoS attacks on the network, early detection measures can be carried out using Intrusion Detection System.

A. Related Work

Intrusion Detection System (IDS) can be used for the prevention of DoS attacks, IDS is tasked to inspecting every activity that occurs on the network [6], [11], [12], basically for detection using IDS There are two types of approaches that can be taken, namely **signature-based** and **anomaly-based**. Where both approaches have drawbacks such as low intelligence, and weak adaptability if applied traditionally. So it is not effective when implemented in many scenarios [13].

From that we need a dynamic approach that can solve this. During the last decade, there have been many surveys and reviews of the technology used in IDS, one of which is technology by applying the machine learning method, this method can be applied to Intrusion Detection System [3], [13]. machine learning methods that are commonly used are SVM, Random Forest, KNN, and technologies such as Artificial Neural Network [13].

Machine-learning can still be improved, because in general machine learning has two variations and most of them are currently still using variations of Shallow Learning, shallow learning needs to do continuous learning on the model is to update its capabilities, besides that it needs more in-depth analysis to select the features used [5], the next drawback is that the system built can only detect some type of DoS attack [3], [13], so this problem can be solved by using Deep Learning method [3], [5], Deep Learning itself was chosen to solve the problem, because of its learning ability and generalization of the existing attributes [5].

B. Paper contribution and organization

This paper proposed to use the Deep-Learning, namely Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) using the Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) algorithm and then combined with the Naive Bayes algorithm (BA) to build a machine learning-based system.

This system inspired because research conduct by Ahuja et al at their research they're combined two different deep learning algorithm (CNN-LSTM), using two different deep learning algorithm mean we need more computation resources, beside that if using deep learning we can skip feature selection stage, but on some case we need system flexible and configurable, so we need to know some feature can be used, because of that we propose to use LSTM-BA, because we implemented deep learning and shallow learning, we can improve shallow learning performance by using deep learning, but less usage of computation resource.

RNN based algorithm chosen because its advantages to handle timeseries data, beside that Musumeci et al on their research advice to use RNN algorithm for future works, beside that Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) have shown great success in language modelling, text generating, and speech recognition based on Tang et al research RNN believed as powerful technique to represent relationship between current and past event and enhance anomaly detection system [2], but RNN have some disadvantages one of that is Long Dependency Problem, in theory RNN capable to solve that problem but in practice RNN seem can be able to learn that, this problem is called Vanishing gradient problem.

LSTM was chosen because of its advantages, it can optimize the long dependency problem that exists in the Recurrent Neural Network, besides that LSTM also can keep records of information on packets that have passed the system built [14] so that with this method the analysis of the packet is expected to be more accurate.

Another algorithm used is Naive Bayes, Naive Bayes was chosen because it is quite simple to implement and has high accuracy [14], so the proposed system will achieve better performance, so we can conclude our main contributions of the paper are as follows:

- We compare different ML algorithms to detect DoS attacks such as Naive Bayes, LSTM, ANN, and LSTM-BA. In terms of accuracy, recall, precision, and false-negative rates.

- We compare the performance of the machine-learning model on NSL-KDD, SDN-DL, and simulation-generated datasets, and approach 88% accuracy and present False Negative Rate to show model performance .
- We provide P4-based data plane code for simulation, implementing deep learning intrusion detection system, and simulation features extraction code.

The present paper is organized as follows. In Sec. II we provide background on Software Defined Network, Denial of Services attacks and P4 language. In Sec. III we overview the machine learning algorithm used and explain the system we build. In Sec. IV we describe the result we get on the simulation. In Sec V we provide the conclusions and remarks.

II. BACKGROUND

A. DoS Attack

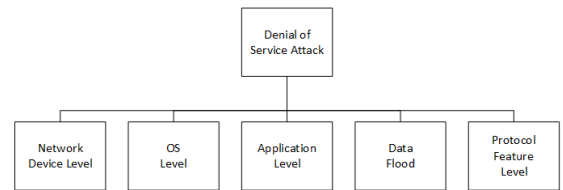


Fig. 1. DoS attack based on exploitation methods

The focus of this paper is to build early detection system or can called Intrusion Detection System using machine learning approach to detect DoS attack, Denial of Service well known as DoS are one of cybeseurity attacks aim computer network and making computer network inaccessible [15], this type of attack aiming communication nodes such as network infrastructure or components, the methods use by flooding network with packet and make network low on resource (overwhelm), and make other user can't accessed the network for several time, currently there are several types of popular DoS attacks, namely UDP Flood, ICMP Flood, TCP Flood, HTTP Flood, HTTPS Flood [16] or we can grouping them based on their protocol like UDP, TCP, HTTP, ICMP attack, the attack can easily classified based on the methods use, the classification of target explained on Figure 1, From Figure1 know DoS have many varieties and methods use to make network done, but have some similarity usually they overwhelm network using packet [6], and from Kapersky Lab data since the beginning of COVID-19 pandemic DoS/DDOS attack rate increase up to 20%, since online activities increased. We know the attack mainly consists of three types of attack SYN, UDP, and TCP attack, where SYN attacks are 78.20%, followed by UDP 15.17%, and followed by TCP attacks as much as 5.67%. From research conducted by Sangodoyin et al, the effects that can occur on an SDN network will affect the network performance such as throughput parameters and further jitter if the attack is carried out becomes more intense in this case using the exhaustive way method can cause a decrease in the capabilities of the SDN network, this is in itself occurs both in the control

plane and in the data plane. One of the solutions to minimize DoS attack impact is by making an early detection system and mitigation. In this paper proposed solution is to build a machine-learning-based intrusion detection system. Therefore, the LSTM-BA method is proposed LSTM-BA is an application of an intelligent system including Machine-Learning and Deep Learning Based to perform anomaly detection, then significantly increase performance on Accuracy, Precision, and False Negative Rate on detection.

B. Software Defined Network

Software-Defined Network (SDN) is an innovation in networking that changes how we design and manage the network itself, using SDN management, control, and create innovation that is easier and possible to implement [1]. In addition, traditional networks have the properties of being closed and proprietary to the control part and have a different configuration from other vendor products, making network administrators hard to manage and configure [1], [2], SDN changes all that because SDN provides a new paradigm option that implements a centralized system it separates two parts of the network, namely the control plane that had tasked with making decisions to control the network and the data plane that in charge of doing forwarding packet according to what the control plane command [1], [17], [18].

Main difference between a traditional network with SDN is the separation of control-plane and data-plane, this architecture making SDN can implement the centralized architecture, then have advantages to modifying network from one region, SDN builds on three different layers Application, Control. and Infrastructure and all these layers are connected using south-bound and northbound API to communicate with each other, currently, the well known SDN protocol is Openflow, which provides a simple and robust SDN system, but OpenFlow has disadvantages they lack programmability, for example, you can add a new header to your system, to solve this problem we can use another solution by using P4-language Dataplane.

C. P4 Language

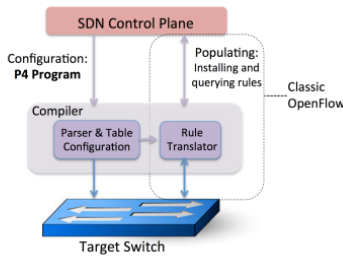


Fig. 2. P4 Top Down Design [19]

P4 language is a high-level programming language for routers and switches, designed to allow programming on data plane components such as hardware or software switches, network interface cards, routers, etc [3], P4 is open-source

language, not like OpenFlow P4 use Top-Down design, on Figure 2 described differences between OpenFlow and P4 design.

From Figure 2 main difference between P4 and OpenFlow is programmability. When developing a P4, users will make a P4-based program designed to satisfy user requirements. Then users need to compile the program before its usage either on the behavioral model or the switch. In this paper, Simulation will use the behavioral model with the Mininet simulator to simulate a DoS attack, based on Musumeci et al a P4 program composed of the following component:

- *Parsers* had a function to identify the allowed protocols and fields in the program. Typically, they contain the names of the used headers and their size in bits..
- *Control Plane (Ingress/Egress)* had a function to describe order of processing rules will be applied to the packet.
- *Table* had a bunch of processing rules that form "match-action". When packets are processed by the P4 program, the ingress pipeline is executed to look for the matching rule(s) which fits the incoming packet.

In addition, P4 defines programmable packet metadata, used to associate extra information to the packet and stateful objects that may be used to implement Finite State Machine and perform context-based processing [3].

III. PROPOSED DETECTION SYSTEM SCHEMA

A. System Overview

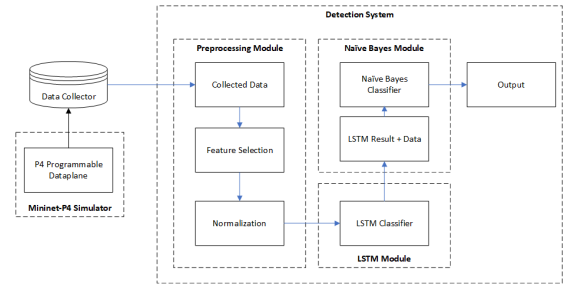


Fig. 3. Proposed System Architecture

System will be build with two main component, the system will be build as depicted on Figure 3, first Data collector had function to collect data from network simulation and Detection System. In Detection System will have three main module *Preprocessing* this module will preparing data from data collector matching with classification module input type, this module will contain feature selection module and normalization module on this paper we using Min-Max Scaler Module to Normalize data after that data will be passed to LSTM Module.

1) LSTM Module

LSTM Module will contain LSTM-classifier, LSTM is an application of the Recurrent Neural Network which has the ability to learn about long-standing dependencies [5], where

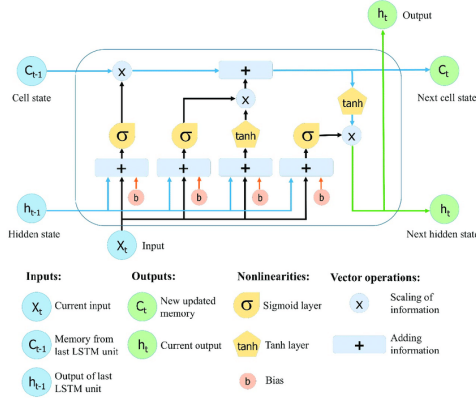


Fig. 4. LSTM Architecture [20]

the structure of the LSTM cell itself is depicted as shown in Figure 4. In Figure 4, every t time of this LSTM cell will be controlled by various logic gates, which aim to maintain or reset the values in the cell, in Figure 4 itself there are three types of gates, the gates are located sequentially from the left side, the gate consists of *Forget gate* (f_t), *Input gate* (i_t), and *Output gate* (o_t) all of which have sigmoid activation functions, then there is one gate that uses the tanh function called *candidate value gate*.

LSTM Classifier will be build using Tensorflow with Python programming language, this module will have sequential architecture and contains LSTM Layer, Dropout Layer, and Fully Connected Layer using RELU and Softmax activation function, this module will give LSTM prediction value output, and this value will be passed to Naive Bayes module.

2) Naive Bayes Module

Naive Module will contains Naive Bayes Classifier, Naive Bayes is a method for classifying based on Naive Bayes theory [21], this method is a classification using a simple probabilistic approach. We need to calculate a set of probabilities, by adding up the frequency and combination of values from the data held. This classification model method will consider attributes it is not interdependent.

$$P(H|E) = \frac{P(H|E)P(H)}{P(E)} \quad (1)$$

$$P(H|E) = P(E1|H) \times P(E2|H) \times \dots \times P(En|H) \times P(H) \quad (2)$$

So that values can be assigned to these attributes and the patterns resulting from these calculations will be used for classification, the Naive Bayes system itself is classified as *supervised learning* in the application of *machine-learning* [21], it defined like equation 1 and equation 2.

IV. EXPERIMENTAL FRAMEWORK

In this section, we describe the datasets and evaluation metrics used in the experimental framework. We also describe the data preprocessing procedure

A. Dataset

The experimental evaluation framework will be uses a widely used datasets such as NSL-KDD and CICIDS 2017 [2], NSL-KDD datasets are one of the most popular datasets used on NIDS Performance, this datasets introduced by Tavallace et al but this dataset are out of date and lack of traffic diversity and feature sets, to solve that problem CICIDS2017 will be used because that datasets relative new, but this two datasets are not specified for SDN architecture, this can be happen because of the lack of public datasets about DoS attack on SDN architecture, beside that SDN architecture is still under development [2], SDN dataset generated manually by several researcher but it closed and quite rare to find it, so many of researcher still use conventional dataset to evaluate their model [2], but in this paper used another dataset related to SDN architecture, the dataset provided by Ahuja et al research to develop deep learning anomaly detection system on SDN based network [22] the usage this dataset is to proving our proposed system will be worked on SDN architecture and achieve significantly improvement on performance, and lastly using simulation dataset created using SDN simulation using Iperf3 and Hping3 to generate network traffic and then captured by network sniffing application.

B. Data Preprocessing

On NSL-KDD and CICIDS 2017 we performed one-hot encoding, scalling, and label transformation for features needed and our didnt do feature selection process for this dataset when inputed to LSTM module, but we select some feature mainly LSTM prediction result and protocol type feature, for SDN-DL dataset we performed feature selection using Heatmap, Chi-Square, Tree Classifier, and Data Slice, beside that we performed missing value and duplicate value handling, lastly we performed normalization using min-max methods and do label encoding for some feature like protocol type, and the last dataset we used is simulation dataset we generated before we perform data normalization and feature selection because this data used to train our model to simulation data.

C. Evaluation Methods

In this paper we use parameter such as Accuracy, Precision and False Negative Rate to calculate detection system performance, to produce that we need make confusion matrix, based on Qin et al confusion matrix will be like Table I

TABLE I
CONFUSION MATRIX

Real Condition	Detection Result	
	Intrusion	Normal
Intrusion	True Positive	False Negative
Normal	False Positive	True Negative

- **True Positive (TP)** is parameter of DoS Packet classified as DoS Condition.

- **True Negative (TN)** is parameter of Normal Packet classified as Normal Condition.
- **False Positive (FP)** is parameter of Normal Packet classified as DoS Condition.
- **False Negative (FN)** is parameter of DoS Packet classified as Normal Condition..

based on parameter we got from Table I, we can calculate performance parameter such as Accuracy, Precision, and False Negative Rate, to calculate performance parameter we can use equation based on Li et al and Aljarwaneh et al research.

- **Accuracy** is a comparison of the correct classification with the total number in the dataset.

$$Acc = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FP + FN} \quad (3)$$

- **Precision** is part of the data that is classified as positive and has a true positive value.

$$Precision = \frac{TP}{TP + FP} \quad (4)$$

- **False Negative Rate** is a comparison that shows the number of incorrect packets that are classified as true.

$$FNR = \frac{FN}{TP + FP} \quad (5)$$

V. EXPERIMENT AND RESULT

In this section, we describe three evaluations and discuss the results. Evaluation 1 will be used SDN-DL dataset, then we will compare proposed methods using some Vanilla algorithm on Sklearn and Tensorflow library such as ANN, Naive Bayes, and LSTM, after that all methods will be evaluate using evaluation parameters. In Evaluation 2 will be used NSL-KDD and CICIDS dataset and compared using performance of Tang et al research. In Evaluation 3, we evaluate performance on P4 based SDN network using dataset we generate before and present the result we get.

A. Evaluation 1 - SDN-DL Dataset Evaluation

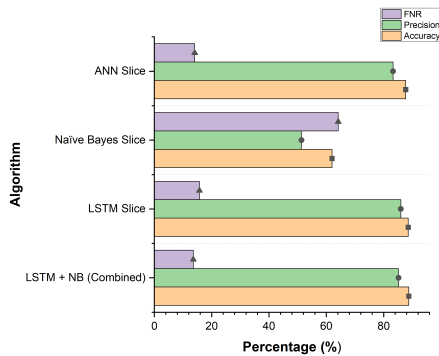


Fig. 5. SDN-DL Training Dataset Evaluation Result

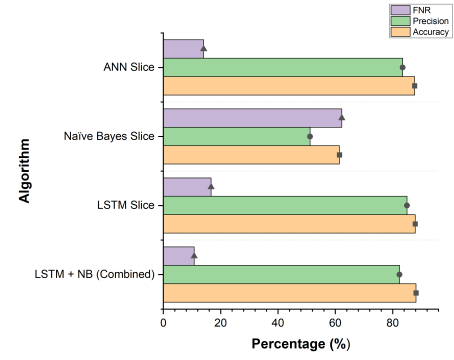


Fig. 6. SDN-DL Validation Dataset Evaluation Result

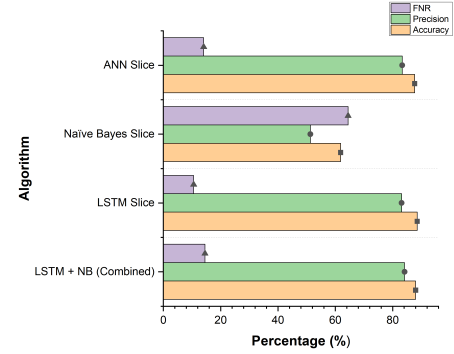


Fig. 7. SDN-DL Testing Dataset Evaluation Result

B. Evaluation 2- NSL-KDD and CIDIDS 2017 Evaluation

C. Evaluation 3- Simulation Dataset Evaluation

VI. CONCLUSION

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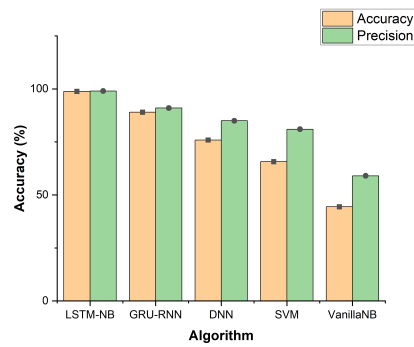


Fig. 8. NSL-KDD Dataset Evaluation Result

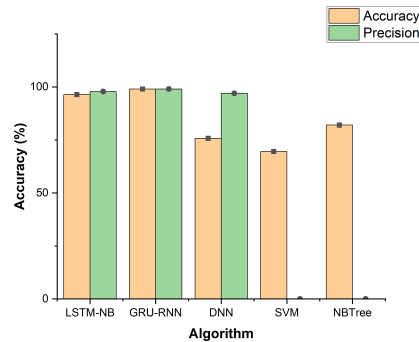


Fig. 9. CICIDS 2017 Dataset Evaluation Result

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