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Systems and Methods for Deriving Application Security Signals from Application Performance Data

Abstract

In one embodiment, a method includes receiving, by a network component, application performance data. The application performance data is associated with one or more applications. The method also includes determining to transform, by the network component, the application performance data into application security data, generating, by the network component, a baseline for the application security data, and detecting, by the network component, an anomaly in the baseline. The method further includes determining, by the network component, a potential security threat based on the anomaly.

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Background/Summary

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present disclosure relates generally to application, and more specifically to systems and methods for deriving application security signals from application performance data.

BACKGROUND

[0002] As software applications increasingly become more complex, they become more susceptible to security attacks. Traditional vulnerability scanning for software applications occurs before the applications are launched to production and then may continue on a monthly or quarterly basis. However, as soon as the applications are deployed to production, new security gaps and zero-day exploits may make the applications vulnerable to security attacks despite pre-production testing.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0003] FIG. 1 illustrates an example system for deriving application security signals from application performance data;

[0004] FIG. 2 illustrates an example method for deriving application security signals from application performance data; and

[0005] FIG. 3 illustrates an example computer system that may be used by the systems and methods described herein.

DESCRIPTION OF EXAMPLE EMBODIMENTS

Overview

[0006] According to an embodiment, a network component includes one or more processors and one or more computer-readable non-transitory storage media coupled to the one or more processors and including instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the network component to perform operations. The operations include receiving application performance data. The application performance data is associated with one or more applications. The operations also include determining to transform the application performance data into application security data, generating a baseline for the application security data, and detecting an anomaly in the baseline. The operations further include determining a potential security threat based on the anomaly. In certain embodiments, the network component is a controller located on-premises or in a software as a service (SaaS) environment.

[0007] In certain embodiments, the application performance data includes one or more of the following types of data: application server availability data; transaction latency data; browser type data; source address data; Uniform Resource Locator (URL) data; geolocation data; and login data.

[0008] In certain embodiments, determining to transform the application performance data into the application security data includes analyzing the application performance data based on security considerations. In some embodiments, the security considerations include one or more of the following types of potential security threats: a denial-of-service (DoS) attack; a phishing attack; a local file inclusion (LFI) attack; and a remote file inclusion (RFI) attack.

[0009] In certain embodiments, the baseline for the application security data is a dynamic baseline over a rolling time period. In some embodiments, the application performance data is real-time application performance data received from one or more agents. In certain embodiments, detecting

the anomaly in the baseline includes determining a threshold associated with the baseline and detecting the anomaly if the application security data exceeds the threshold.

[0010] According to another embodiment, a method includes receiving, by a network component, application performance data. The application performance data is associated with one or more applications. The method also includes determining to transform, by the network component, the application performance data into application security data, generating, by the network component, a baseline for the application security data, and detecting, by the network component, an anomaly in the baseline. The method further includes determining, by the network component, a potential security threat based on the anomaly.

[0011] According to yet another embodiment, one or more computer-readable non-transitory storage media embody instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform operations. The operations include receiving application performance data. The application performance data is associated with one or more applications. The operations also include determining to transform the application performance data into application security data, generating a baseline for the application security data, and detecting an anomaly in the baseline. The operations further include determining a potential security threat based on the anomaly.

[0012] Technical advantages of certain embodiments of this disclosure may include one or more of the following. Certain embodiments of this disclosure transform application performance data into application security data to detect, block, and/or report security threats. In some embodiments, key performance metrics generated for application performance monitoring are repurposed to provide insight into the security of the system. Certain embodiments of this disclosure include an application security tool that allows the system to detect security issues in applications. In certain embodiments, application security tool may isolate and/or identify the security issue. Certain embodiments of this disclosure generate notifications to alert, protect, and/or resolve security events depending on the severity. Some embodiments of this disclosure operate in real-time, which provides continuous security monitoring of applications.

[0013] Other technical advantages will be readily apparent to one skilled in the art from the following figures, descriptions, and claims. Moreover, while specific advantages have been enumerated above, various embodiments may include all, some, or none of the enumerated advantages.

EXAMPLE EMBODIMENTS

[0014] This disclosure describes systems and methods for deriving application security signals from application performance data. Certain existing products and services track transactions through an application and determine application performance data such as latency of each service in a network path. The application performance data is useful for determining and isolating application performance issues. In certain embodiments of this disclosure, application security signals are derived from the application performance data, and the application security signals are then to detect security incidents.

[0015] FIG. 1 illustrates an example system **100** for deriving application security signals from application performance data. System **100** or portions thereof may be associated with an entity, which may include any entity, such as a business, company, or enterprise, that uses application performance data. In certain embodiments, the entity may be a service provider that provides services for analyzing application performance data. The components of system **100** may include any suitable combination of hardware, firmware, and software. For example, the components of system **100** may use one or more elements of the computer system of FIG. 3. In the illustrated embodiment of FIG. 1, system **100** includes a network **110**, application servers **120**, application agents **122**, an application monitoring environment **124**, database servers **130**, a database agent **132**, a database monitoring environment **134**, a controller **140**, an application security tool **142**, application performance data **144**, application security data **146**, baselines **148**, security threats **150**, alerts **152**, a controller platform **154**, a user device **160**, a user **162**, and a dashboard **164**.

[0016] Network **110** of system **100** is any type of network that facilitates communication between components of system **100**. Network **110** may connect one or more components of system **100**. One or more portions of network **110** may include an ad-hoc network, the Internet, an intranet, an extranet, a virtual private network (VPN), an Ethernet VPN (EVPN), a local area network (LAN), a wireless LAN (WLAN), a virtual LAN (VLAN), a wide area network (WAN), a wireless WAN (WWAN), a software-defined wide area network (SD-WAN), a metropolitan area network (MAN), a portion of the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), a cellular telephone network, a Digital Subscriber Line (DSL), an Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) network, a 3G/4G/5G network, a Long Term Evolution (LTE) network, a cloud network, a combination of two or more of these, or other suitable types of networks. Network **110** may include one or more different types of networks. Network **110** may be any communications network, such as a private network, a public network, a connection through the Internet, a mobile network, a WI-FI network, etc. Network **110** may include a core network, an access network of a service provider, an Internet service provider (ISP) network, and the like. One or more components of system **100** may communicate over network **110**.

[0017] Network **110** may include one or more nodes. Nodes are connection points within network **110** that receive, create, store and/or send data along a path. Nodes may include one or more redistribution points that recognize, process, and forward data to other nodes of network. Nodes may include virtual and/or physical nodes. Nodes may include one or more virtual machines, hardware devices, bare metal servers, and the like. As another example, nodes may include data communications equipment such as computers, routers, servers, printers, workstations, switches, bridges, modems, hubs, and the like. In certain embodiments, nodes use static and/or dynamic routing to send data to and/or receive data to other nodes of system **100**. In the illustrated embodiment of FIG. 1, nodes include application servers **120**, database servers **130**, controller **140**, and user device **160**.

[0018] Application servers **120** (e.g., application server **120a**, application server **120b**, an application server **120c**) of system **100** are servers that host applications. Applications are computer software that perform specific functions. Applications may include web browsers, multimedia software, content access software, enterprise software, database software, and the like. Application servers **120** may include web server connectors, computer programming languages, runtime libraries, database connectors, and/or administration code needed to deploy, configure, manage, and/or connect these components on a web host. In certain embodiments, application servers **120** run behind a web server (e.g., Apache or Microsoft Internet Information Services (IIS)) and/or in front of a Structured Query Language (SQL) database (e.g., PostgreSQL, MySQL, or Oracle). Web applications are computer code which run atop application servers **120** and are written in the language(s) supported by application servers **120**. Application servers **120** may include proprietary application servers, Java application servers, Jakarta EE application servers, Windows application servers, PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor (PHP) application servers, mobile application servers, and the like. In the illustrated embodiment of FIG. 1, application agents **122** are installed on application servers **120**. Specifically, application agent **122a** is installed on application server **120a**, application agent **122b** is installed on application server **120b**, and application agent **122c** is installed on application server **120c**.

[0019] Application agents **122** (e.g., application agent **122a**, application agent **122b**, and application agent **122c**) of system **100** collect information about the performance of the monitored systems (e.g., application performance data **144**) of application monitoring environment **124**. In certain embodiments, application agents **122** run in application processes and apply code-level instrumentation to the applications. In some embodiments, application agents **122** include plug-ins and/or extensions that monitor the performance of application code, runtime, and/or behavior. Application agents **122** may be deployed in devices, containers, hosts, applications, etc. Application agents **122** may include one or more Java agents, .NET agents, Node.js agents, PHP

agents, Python agents, serverless Amazon Web Services (AWS) Lambda agents, Apache Web server agents, C/C++ SDK agents, Go Language agents, IBM Integration Bus Agents, machine agents, and the like. Machine agents collect application performance data **144** about machine performance. The machines (real or virtual) constitute the hardware and operating system on which the applications run.

[0020] In the illustrated embodiment of FIG. **1**, application servers **120** (e.g., application server **120a**, application server **120b**, an application server **120c**) and application agents **122** (e.g., application agent **122a**, application agent **122b**, and application agent **122c**) reside in application monitoring environment **124**. Application monitoring environment **124** of system **100** may include multiple, distributed, and interconnected application servers **120** and processes, which allows system **100** to track transactions across distributed, heterogeneous services.

[0021] Database servers **130** (e.g., database server **130a**, database server **130b**, and database server **130c**) of system **100** are servers that use database applications to provide database services to other computer programs or network components of system **100**. Database applications respond to a query language. In certain embodiments, each database server **130** understands its query language, converts each submitted query to server-readable form, and executes it to retrieve results. Database applications may include proprietary database applications (e.g., Oracle, Db2, Informix, Microsoft SQL Server, etc.) and/or free software database applications (e.g., PostgreSQL, Ingres, MySQL, etc.). In certain embodiments, each database server **130** uses its own query logic and structure.

[0022] Database agent **132** collects information about the performance of the monitored systems (e.g., application performance data **144**) of database monitoring environment **134**. In certain embodiments, database agent **132** is a program (e.g., a standalone Java program) that collects performance metrics about database instances and database servers **130**. Database agent **132** may be a Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) agent, a Java agent, a MySQL agent, an Oracle agent, a Db2 agent, an Informix agent, a Microsoft agent, a machine agent, and the like. In certain embodiments, a database collector is configured for each database server **130**. The database collector is a process that runs within database agent **132** to collect performance metrics about database instances and database servers **130**.

[0023] In the illustrated embodiment of FIG. **1**, database servers **130** and database agent **132** reside in database monitoring environment **134**. Database monitoring environment **134** system **100** may include multiple, distributed, and interconnected database servers **130** and processes, which allows system **100** to monitor key performance metrics such as resource consumption, database objects, schema statistics, etc.

[0024] In certain embodiments, application agents **122** of application monitoring environment **124** and/or database agent **132** of database monitoring environment **134** collect application performance data **144**. Application performance data **144** are key performance indicators that quantifiably measure performance for particular objectives. Application performance data **144** may include application availability metrics. Application server availability metrics indicate the availability of application servers **120**. Application servers **120** are considered available if they are reporting application performance data **144** to controller **140**. If one or more application servers **120** are running on more than one node, this metric may reflect how many nodes the application servers **120** were running on. When one or more application servers **120** shut down or crash, then its application server availability metric decreases.

[0025] Application performance data **144** may include number of requests metrics (e.g., number of completed requests, number of active requests, number of requests per second over a predetermined time interval (e.g., 1, 5, or 15 minutes)); number of forbidden requests metrics (e.g., number of forbidden URLs); port connect attempt metrics (number of port connection attempts within a predetermined time interval); no user login metrics (number of users accessing system **100** with no login credentials); http: URL metrics (number of http: URL requests); login failure metrics (number of login failures); geolocation metrics; change in URL use metrics; security exceptions in

snapshots metrics; script contents in URL metrics; large transfers metrics; deployment locations (e.g., subnets, tiers, etc.) metrics, transaction latency metrics; Web content access metrics, web browser type metrics, host metrics (e.g., Windows, Linux, etc.), Internet Protocol (IP) address metrics, bandwidth metrics, jitter metrics, and the like.

[0026] Application performance data **144** may include block time/average block time metrics (average wait time to get a lock, wherein a high block time means there is often contention for the lock required for a thread to work on an object); call volume metrics (the total number of invocations of the entry point for all instances of the business transaction during the specified time from the node to the destination displayed); calls per minute metrics (the average number of incoming or outgoing calls per minute during the specified time from the node to their destination); central processing unit (CPU) usage metrics (the amount of time the virtual machine used the CPU to process transactions monitored by the agent); error detection metrics (unhandled exceptions and any exception that prevents a business transaction from completing successfully are counted as errors); response time metrics (average response time (ART) spent processing the business transaction or call); slow transactions metrics (number of instances that meet the predetermined criteria for a slow transaction); stalled transactions metrics (number of instances that meet the predetermined criteria defined for a stalled transaction (e.g., takes more than 45 seconds to finish)); wait time metrics (average time spent when invocations are in a thread sleep or wait state), HTTP error code metrics (includes all HTTP calls done outside of a web service call that produced an error); average request size metrics (HTTP request content length for each business transaction); and the like.

[0027] Application performance data **144** may include business transaction metrics. Business transaction metrics are metrics related to a particular business application. Business transaction metrics may include percentage of slow transactions metrics (percentage of instances that are slow over the selected time frame); percentage of stalled transactions metrics (percentage of instances that stalled over the selected time frame); percentage of very slow transactions metrics (e.g., percentage of instances that are very slow over the selected time frame); percentage of errors metrics (percentage of instances of this business transaction that are errors); maximum response time metrics (longest time spent processing an instance); minimum response time metrics (shortest time spent processing an instance); tier metrics (name of the originating tier for the business transaction); type metrics (type of app agent (e.g., Java, .NET, PHP, etc.)); and the like.

[0028] Application performance data **144** may include performance data specific to database monitoring environment **134**. For example, application performance data **144** may include calls per minute metrics (e.g., the number of SQL calls to database servers **130** per minute); database availability metrics (e.g., the times when database servers **130** are available (or have an active connection)); number of connections metrics (e.g., the number of connections established with database servers **130** at any point during the selected time period); time spent in execution metrics (e.g., the current amount of time database servers **130** spent executing SQL statements); total database size metrics (e.g., the amount of disk space database servers **130** are using); total lock time metrics (e.g., the total time database servers **130** were in lock state); memory usage metrics (e.g., percentage of CPU used by the user/system); number of requests metrics (e.g., number of completed requests, number of active requests, number of request per second over a predetermined time interval (e.g., 1, 5, or 15 minutes)); and the like.

[0029] Controller **140** of system **100** analyzes application performance data **144** received from application monitoring environment **124** and/or database monitoring environment **134**. Controller **140** may store, baseline, and/or analyze application performance data **144**. In certain embodiments, controller **140** is designed for large-scale production environments. For example, controller **140** may scale to manage hundreds to thousands of application servers **120** and/or database servers **130**. In some embodiments, controller **140** receives application performance data **144** in real-time. Controller **140** may assemble and/or process application performance data **144**. In certain

embodiments, controller **140** sends instructions to application agents **122** of application monitoring environment **124** and/or database agent **132** of database monitoring environment **134**. For example, controller **140** may determine that certain types of application performance data **144** (e.g., number of requests metrics, application availability metrics, etc.) are relevant to security considerations and specifically request those types of application performance data **144** from application monitoring environment **124** and/or database agent **132** of database monitoring environment **134**.

[0030] Application security tool **142** of system **100** is a software program used by controller **140** to transform application performance data **144** into application security data **146**. Application security data **146** of system **100** is any data that may be used to identify potential security threats **150**.

Security threats **150** are malicious acts designed to harm applications associated with system **100**. Security threats **150** may include potential DOS attacks, distributed DoS (DDOS) attacks (e.g., botnets, Smurf attacks, Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) synchronize (SYN) flood attacks, etc.), social engineering attacks (e.g., phishing, spear phishing, and homograph attacks), malware attacks (e.g., spyware, ransomware, viruses, worms, etc.), SQL injections, password attacks, local file inclusion (LFI) attacks, remote file inclusion (RFI) attacks, and the like. In certain embodiments, application security data **146** comprises application security signals that are used to identify and/or isolate security threats **150**. In some embodiments, application security signals are used to perform actions to reduce or eliminate security concerns to system **100**.

[0031] Application security tool **142** analyzes application performance data **144** and determines whether application performance data **144** can be used to identify potential security threats **150**. In certain embodiments, application security tool **142** determines that certain types of application performance data **144** are relevant to one or more security considerations and repurposes those types of application performance data **144** into application security data **146**. For example, a no user login metric may indicate unauthenticated users on system **100**; http: URL metrics may indicate non-encrypted communications; login failure metrics may identify that an application performance management tool attempted to access a user account, which may indicate a potential inside job; geolocation metrics may identify logins or login attempts from new locations, locations with poor geolocation reputation scores, and/or locations on a block list; change in URL use metrics may indicate potential penetration attempts for certain transactions; security exceptions in snapshots metrics may indicate runtime security issues; script contents in URL metrics may indicate potential cross-site scripting (XSS) attacks; large transfers metrics may indicate a data loss prevention (DLP) issue; transaction latency metrics may indicate a DDOS attack; and web content access metrics may indicate an LFI attack and/or an RFI attack.

[0032] In certain embodiments, application security tool **142** may analyze a combination of different types of application performance data **144** to determine whether application performance data **144** can be used to identify potential security threats **150**. For example, transaction latency metrics may be considered in combination with geolocation metrics. While an increase in the transaction latency (e.g., twenty percent) alone may not initiate a security concern, an increase in the transaction latency metric in combination with a poor geolocation reputation will trigger a security concern.

[0033] In certain embodiments, application security tool **142** may use one or more baselines **148** to determine potential security threats **150** based on application security data **146**. Baselines **148** of system **100** are used to benchmark normal behavior for applications of system **100**. In certain embodiments, application security tool **142** generates baselines **148** for application security data **146**. In certain embodiments, application security tool **142** automatically calculates dynamic baselines **148** using machine learning. Through baselines **148**, application security tool **142** may define what is normal application performance data **144** and/or application security data **146**. In certain embodiments, application security tool **142** may use baselines **148** to identify subsequent application security data **146** whose values fall out of this normal range. In some embodiments, application security tool **142** may establish security rules against normal baselines **148** to track

non-optimal conditions and detect potential security threats **150**.

[0034] In certain embodiments, application security tool **142** associates a threshold with each baseline **148**. A threshold is a boundary of acceptable or normal performance from a security standpoint. In some embodiments, thresholds are used to define acceptable high and low values for performance security data **146**, which are different than the thresholds used to define acceptable high and low values for application performance data **144**. In certain embodiments, application security tool **142** may use thresholds to identify anomalies in baselines **148**. For example, application security tool **142** may identify an anomaly in the number of requests metrics if the number of requests exceed a predetermined threshold. As another example, application security tool **142** may detect an anomaly the forbidden requests metrics if the number of forbidden URL requests exceeds a predetermined threshold. As still another example, application security tool **142** may detect an anomaly in the port connect attempt metrics if the number of port connection attempts exceed a predetermined threshold. As yet another example, application security tool **142** may detect an anomaly in the large transfers metrics if the transfer size exceeds a predetermined threshold.

[0035] In certain embodiments, application security tool **142** determines potential security threats **150** by detecting anomalies in baselines **148**. For example, an anomaly in the number of requests metrics (e.g., an uptick) may indicate an attempted DoS attack; an anomaly in the number of forbidden request metrics (e.g., an uptick) may indicate phishing to the site; an anomaly in the port connect attempt metrics may identify port scanning, which may indicate phishing to the site; and so on. In some embodiments, application security tool **142** determines potential security threats **150** by detecting anomalies in baselines **148** that use a combination of different types of application security data **146**. For example, application security tool **142** may determine an anomaly for a combination of the number of forbidden request metrics and the port connect attempt metrics, which may indicate a phishing attack when considered in combination but may not raise a security concern when considered independently.

[0036] Controller platform **154** of system **100** is the environment in which controller **140** and application security tool **142** are executed. In certain embodiments, controller platform **154** is a software as a service (SaaS) environment. In an SaaS environment, controller **140** and application security tool **142** are hosted and maintained by a third-party provider. In some embodiments, controller platform **154** is an on-premises environment. In an on-premises environment, controller **140** and application security tool **142** are hosted in-house.

[0037] In certain embodiments, application security tool **142** of controller platform **154** generates alerts **152** based on potential security threats **150**. Alerts **152** are notifications or other types of actions based on configured conditions. In certain embodiments, application security tool **142** generates conditions that use baselines **148**, thresholds, and/or anomalies to trigger alerts **152** or kick off other types of remedial actions when potential security threats **150** are detected. In certain embodiments, application security tool **142** generates conditions and/or policies to connect potential security threats **150** with actions, that can, for example, trigger alerts **152** or remedial behavior. Remedial behavior may include isolating certain applications, installing firewalls, automatically blocking threats in real-time, and the like. In certain embodiments, application security tool **142** communicates information to user device **160**. For example, application security tool **142** may communicate baselines **148**, potential security threats **150**, and/or alerts **152** to user device **160**.

[0038] User device **160** of system **100** includes any user equipment that can receive, create, process, store, and/or communicate information. User device **160** may include one or more workstations, desktop computers, laptop computers, mobile phones (e.g., smartphones), tablets, personal digital assistants (PDAs), wearable devices, and the like. In certain embodiments, user device **160** includes a liquid crystal display (LCD), an organic light-emitting diode (OLED) flat screen interface, digital buttons, a digital keyboard, physical buttons, a physical keyboard, one or

more touch screen components, a graphical user interface (GUI), and/or the like. User device **160** may be located in any suitable location to receive and communicate information to user **162** of system **100**.

[0039] User **162** of system **100** is a person or group of persons who utilizes user device **160** of system **100**. User **162** may be associated with one or more accounts. User **162** may be a local user, a remote user, an administrator, a customer, a company, a combination thereof, and the like. User **162** may be associated with a username, a password, a user profile, etc.

[0040] Dashboard **164** of system **100** is an application security management tool that allows user **162** to visualize any security issues associated with application monitoring environment **124** and/or database monitoring environment **134**. In certain embodiments, dashboard **164** provides an overall security view of one or more applications that allows user **162** to quickly determine if any part of application monitoring environment **124** and/or database monitoring environment **134** is susceptible to security threats **150**. Dashboard **164** may display one or more graphs, charts, tables, lists, or any other suitable format to represent the security of one or more applications of system **100**. In certain embodiments, dashboard **164** provides a visual representation of one or more baselines **148**, security threats **150**, and/or alerts **152** to user **162**.

[0041] In operation, application agents **122** are installed on application servers **120** within application monitoring environment **124**, and database agent **132** is deployed on a machine in database monitoring environment **134**. Application agents **122** and/or database agent **132** collect application performance data **144** and communicate application performance data **144** to controller **140**. Controller **140** of system **100** uses application security tool **142** to analyze application performance data **144** received from application agents **122** and database agent **132**. Application security tool **142** transforms application performance data **144** into application security data **146** based on security considerations. Application security tool **142** generates baseline **148** for one or more types of application security data **146** and determines a threshold associated with baseline **148**. If application security data **146** exceeds the predetermined threshold, application security tool **142** detects an anomaly in baseline **148**. The anomaly indicates potential security threat **150** to an application of application monitoring environment **124** or database monitoring environment **134**. As such, application security tool **142** is able to repurpose application performance data **144** as application security data **146** to increase the security awareness of system **100**.

[0042] Although FIG. **1** illustrates a particular number of networks **110**, application servers **120**, application agents **122**, application monitoring environments **124**, database servers **130**, database agents **132**, database monitoring environments **134**, controllers **140**, application security tools **142**, application performance data **144**, application security data **146**, baselines **148**, security threats **150**, alerts **152**, controller platforms **154**, user devices **160**, users **162**, and dashboards **164**, this disclosure contemplates any suitable number of networks **110**, application servers **120**, application agents **122**, application monitoring environments **124**, database servers **130**, database agents **132**, database monitoring environments **134**, controllers **140**, application security tools **142**, application performance data **144**, application security data **146**, baselines **148**, security threats **150**, alerts **152**, controller platforms **154**, user devices **160**, users **162**, and dashboards **164**. For example, system **100** may include more than one database agent **132**.

[0043] Although FIG. **1** illustrates a particular arrangement of network **110**, application servers **120**, application agents **122**, application monitoring environment **124**, database servers **130**, database agent **132**, database monitoring environment **134**, controller **140**, application security tool **142**, application performance data **144**, application security data **146**, baselines **148**, security threats **150**, alerts **152**, controller platform **154**, user device **160**, user **162**, and dashboard **164**, this disclosure contemplates any suitable arrangement of network **110**, application servers **120**, application agents **122**, application monitoring environment **124**, database servers **130**, database agent **132**, database monitoring environment **134**, controller **140**, application security tool **142**, application performance data **144**, application security data **146**, baselines **148**, security threats

150, alerts **152**, controller platform **154**, user device **160**, user **162**, and dashboard **164**. For example, user device **160** and/or controller **140** may be located in application monitoring environment **124** or database monitoring environment **134**.

[0044] Furthermore, although FIG. **1** describes and illustrates particular components, devices, or systems carrying out particular actions, this disclosure contemplates any suitable combination of any suitable components, devices, or systems carrying out any suitable actions.

[0045] FIG. **2** illustrates an example method **200** for deriving application security signals from application performance data. Method **200** begins at step **205**. At step **210** of method **200**, a controller receives application performance data. For example, referring to FIG. **1**, controller **140** of system **100** may receive application performance data **144** from application agents **122** of application monitoring environment **124** and/or database agent **132** of database monitoring environment **134**. Application performance metrics may include application server availability metrics, database availability metrics, number of requests metrics, number of forbidden requests metrics, port connect attempt metrics, no user login metrics, login failure metrics, geolocation metrics, change in URL use metrics, large transfers metrics, transaction latency metrics, Web content access metrics, and the like. Method **200** then moves from step **210** to step **215**.

[0046] At step **215** of method **200**, the controller analyzes the application performance data based on security considerations. For example, referring to FIG. **1**, application security tool **142** of controller **140** may analyze application performance data **144** based on potential security threats **150** to applications of system **100**. In certain embodiments, the application security tool may analyze a combination of different types of application performance data to determine whether application performance data can be used to identify potential security threats. Method **200** then moves from step **215** to step **220**.

[0047] At step **220** of method **200**, the application security tool determines to transform the application performance data into application security data. Referring to FIG. **1**, application security tool **142** may determine that certain types of application performance data **144** are relevant to security considerations and repurpose those types of application performance data **144** into application security data **146**. For example, application performance data such as no user login metrics may indicate unauthenticated users and be repurposed as application security data. As another example, application performance data such as http: URL metrics may indicate non-encrypted communications and may be repurposed as application security data. As still another example, application performance data such as geolocation metrics may identify logins or login attempts from new locations or locations with poor geolocation reputations and be repurposed as application security data. Method **200** then moves from step **220** to step **225**.

[0048] At step **225** of method **200**, the application security tool generates a baseline for the application security data. Referring to FIG. **1**, application security tool **142** may automatically generate baseline **148** for application security data **146** using machine learning. Through baselines, application security tool may define what is normal application security data. In certain embodiments, the application security tool generates a baseline for each type of application security data (e.g., no user login metrics, http: URL metrics, and geolocation metrics). In some embodiments, the application security tool generates a baseline for a particular combination of application security data (e.g., transaction latency metrics and geolocation metrics). Method **200** then moves from step **225** to step **230**.

[0049] At step **230** of method **200**, the application security tool determines a threshold associated with the baseline. Thresholds may be used to define acceptable high and low values for performance security data. Referring to FIG. **1**, application security tool **142** may determine a threshold (e.g., a maximum acceptable threshold for upticks in data) associated with each baseline **148** for one or more types of application security data **146** or one or more combinations of application security data **146**. Method **200** then moves from step **230** to step **235**.

[0050] At step **235** of method **200**, the application security tool determines whether the application

security data exceeds the predetermined threshold. For example, referring to FIG. 1, application security tool **142** may determine whether application security data **146** associated with a number of requests metric and/or a number of forbidden requests metric exceeds a predetermined threshold. If the application security tool determines that the application security data does not exceed the threshold, method **200** advances from step **235** to step **250**, where method **200** ends. If, at step **235**, the application security tool determines that the application security data exceeds the threshold, method **200** moves from step **235** to step **240**, where the application security tool detects an anomaly in the baseline. Method **200** then moves from step **240** to step **245**.

[0051] At step **245** of method **200**, the application security tool determines a potential security threat based on the anomaly. For example, referring to FIG. 1, application security tool **142** may determine potential security threat **150** such as an attempted DOS attack based on an anomaly (e.g., an uptick exceeding the predetermined threshold) in the number of requests metric. As another example, referring to FIG. 1, application security tool **142** may determine potential security threat **150** (e.g., phishing to the site) based on an anomaly (e.g., an uptick exceeding the predetermined threshold) in the number of forbidden requests metric. As still another example, referring to FIG. 1, application security tool **142** may determine potential security threat **150** (e.g., a DDoS attack) based on an anomaly (e.g., a 20 percent uptick) in the transaction latency metric in combination with the source of the requests having a geolocation with a low reputation score. Method **200** then moves from step **245** to step **250**, where method **200** ends. As such, by deriving application security signals from application performance data, method **200** increases the security awareness of the applications of one or more environments, which may be used to reduce or prevent future security attacks.

[0052] Although this disclosure describes and illustrates particular steps of method **200** of FIG. 2 as occurring in a particular order, this disclosure contemplates any suitable steps of method **200** of FIG. 2 occurring in any suitable order. Although this disclosure describes and illustrates an example method **200** for deriving application security signals from application performance data including the particular steps of the method of FIG. 2, this disclosure contemplates any suitable method for deriving application security signals from application performance data, which may include all, some, or none of the steps of the method of FIG. 2, where appropriate. Although FIG. 2 describes and illustrates particular components, devices, or systems carrying out particular actions, this disclosure contemplates any suitable combination of any suitable components, devices, or systems carrying out any suitable actions.

[0053] FIG. 3 illustrates an example computer system **300**. In particular embodiments, one or more computer system **300** perform one or more steps of one or more methods described or illustrated herein. In particular embodiments, one or more computer system **300** provide functionality described or illustrated herein. In particular embodiments, software running on one or more computer system **300** performs one or more steps of one or more methods described or illustrated herein or provides functionality described or illustrated herein. Particular embodiments include one or more portions of one or more computer system **300**. Herein, reference to a computer system may encompass a computing device, and vice versa, where appropriate. Moreover, reference to a computer system may encompass one or more computer systems, where appropriate.

[0054] This disclosure contemplates any suitable number of computer system **300**. This disclosure contemplates computer system **300** taking any suitable physical form. As example and not by way of limitation, computer system **300** may be an embedded computer system, a system-on-chip (SOC), a single-board computer system (SBC) (such as, for example, a computer-on-module (COM) or system-on-module (SOM)), a desktop computer system, a laptop or notebook computer system, an interactive kiosk, a mainframe, a mesh of computer systems, a mobile telephone, a personal digital assistant (PDA), a server, a tablet computer system, an augmented/virtual reality device, or a combination of two or more of these. Where appropriate, computer system **300** may include one or more computer system **300**; be unitary or distributed; span multiple locations; span

multiple machines; span multiple data centers; or reside in a cloud, which may include one or more cloud components in one or more networks. Where appropriate, one or more computer system **300** may perform without substantial spatial or temporal limitation one or more steps of one or more methods described or illustrated herein. As an example and not by way of limitation, one or more computer system **300** may perform in real time or in batch mode one or more steps of one or more methods described or illustrated herein. One or more computer system **300** may perform at different times or at different locations one or more steps of one or more methods described or illustrated herein, where appropriate.

[0055] In particular embodiments, computer system **300** includes a processor **302**, memory **304**, storage **306**, an input/output (I/O) interface **308**, a communication interface **310**, and a bus **312**. Although this disclosure describes and illustrates a particular computer system having a particular number of particular components in a particular arrangement, this disclosure contemplates any suitable computer system having any suitable number of any suitable components in any suitable arrangement.

[0056] In particular embodiments, processor **302** includes hardware for executing instructions, such as those making up a computer program. As an example and not by way of limitation, to execute instructions, processor **302** may retrieve (or fetch) the instructions from an internal register, an internal cache, memory **304**, or storage **306**; decode and execute them; and then write one or more results to an internal register, an internal cache, memory **304**, or storage **306**. In particular embodiments, processor **302** may include one or more internal caches for data, instructions, or addresses. This disclosure contemplates processor **302** including any suitable number of any suitable internal caches, where appropriate. As an example and not by way of limitation, processor **302** may include one or more instruction caches, one or more data caches, and one or more translation lookaside buffers (TLBs). Instructions in the instruction caches may be copies of instructions in memory **304** or storage **306**, and the instruction caches may speed up retrieval of those instructions by processor **302**. Data in the data caches may be copies of data in memory **304** or storage **306** for instructions executing at processor **302** to operate on; the results of previous instructions executed at processor **302** for access by subsequent instructions executing at processor **302** or for writing to memory **304** or storage **306**; or other suitable data. The data caches may speed up read or write operations by processor **302**. The TLBs may speed up virtual-address translation for processor **302**. In particular embodiments, processor **302** may include one or more internal registers for data, instructions, or addresses. This disclosure contemplates processor **302** including any suitable number of any suitable internal registers, where appropriate. Where appropriate, processor **302** may include one or more arithmetic logic units (ALUs); be a multi-core processor; or include one or more processors **302**. Although this disclosure describes and illustrates a particular processor, this disclosure contemplates any suitable processor.

[0057] In particular embodiments, memory **304** includes main memory for storing instructions for processor **302** to execute or data for processor **302** to operate on. As an example and not by way of limitation, computer system **300** may load instructions from storage **306** or another source (such as, for example, another computer system **300**) to memory **304**. Processor **302** may then load the instructions from memory **304** to an internal register or internal cache. To execute the instructions, processor **302** may retrieve the instructions from the internal register or internal cache and decode them. During or after execution of the instructions, processor **302** may write one or more results (which may be intermediate or final results) to the internal register or internal cache. Processor **302** may then write one or more of those results to memory **304**. In particular embodiments, processor **302** executes only instructions in one or more internal registers or internal caches or in memory **304** (as opposed to storage **306** or elsewhere) and operates only on data in one or more internal registers or internal caches or in memory **304** (as opposed to storage **306** or elsewhere). One or more memory buses (which may each include an address bus and a data bus) may couple processor **302** to memory **304**. Bus **312** may include one or more memory buses, as described below. In particular

embodiments, one or more memory management units (MMUs) reside between processor **302** and memory **304** and facilitate accesses to memory **304** requested by processor **302**. In particular embodiments, memory **304** includes random access memory (RAM). This RAM may be volatile memory, where appropriate. Where appropriate, this RAM may be dynamic RAM (DRAM) or static RAM (SRAM). Moreover, where appropriate, this RAM may be single-ported or multi-ported RAM. This disclosure contemplates any suitable RAM. Memory **304** may include one or more memories **304**, where appropriate. Although this disclosure describes and illustrates particular memory, this disclosure contemplates any suitable memory.

[0058] In particular embodiments, storage **306** includes mass storage for data or instructions. As an example and not by way of limitation, storage **306** may include a hard disk drive (HDD), a floppy disk drive, flash memory, an optical disc, a magneto-optical disc, magnetic tape, or Universal Serial Bus (USB) drive or a combination of two or more of these. Storage **306** may include removable or non-removable (or fixed) media, where appropriate. Storage **306** may be internal or external to computer system **300**, where appropriate. In particular embodiments, storage **306** is non-volatile, solid-state memory. In particular embodiments, storage **306** includes read-only memory (ROM). Where appropriate, this ROM may be mask-programmed ROM, programmable ROM (PROM), erasable PROM (EPROM), electrically erasable PROM (EEPROM), electrically alterable ROM (EAROM), or flash memory or a combination of two or more of these. This disclosure contemplates mass storage **306** taking any suitable physical form. Storage **306** may include one or more storage control units facilitating communication between processor **302** and storage **306**, where appropriate. Where appropriate, storage **306** may include one or more storages **306**. Although this disclosure describes and illustrates particular storage, this disclosure contemplates any suitable storage.

[0059] In particular embodiments, I/O interface **308** includes hardware, software, or both, providing one or more interfaces for communication between computer system **300** and one or more I/O devices. Computer system **300** may include one or more of these I/O devices, where appropriate. One or more of these I/O devices may enable communication between a person and computer system **300**. As an example and not by way of limitation, an I/O device may include a keyboard, keypad, microphone, monitor, mouse, printer, scanner, speaker, still camera, stylus, tablet, touch screen, trackball, video camera, another suitable I/O device or a combination of two or more of these. An I/O device may include one or more sensors. This disclosure contemplates any suitable I/O devices and any suitable I/O interfaces **308** for them. Where appropriate, I/O interface **308** may include one or more device or software drivers enabling processor **302** to drive one or more of these I/O devices. I/O interface **308** may include one or more I/O interfaces **308**, where appropriate. Although this disclosure describes and illustrates a particular I/O interface, this disclosure contemplates any suitable I/O interface.

[0060] In particular embodiments, communication interface **310** includes hardware, software, or both providing one or more interfaces for communication (such as, for example, packet-based communication) between computer system **300** and one or more other computer system **300** or one or more networks. As an example and not by way of limitation, communication interface **310** may include a network interface controller (NIC) or network adapter for communicating with an Ethernet or other wire-based network or a wireless NIC (WNIC) or wireless adapter for communicating with a wireless network, such as a WI-FI network. This disclosure contemplates any suitable network and any suitable communication interface **310** for it. As an example and not by way of limitation, computer system **300** may communicate with an ad hoc network, a personal area network (PAN), a LAN, a WAN, a MAN, or one or more portions of the Internet or a combination of two or more of these. One or more portions of one or more of these networks may be wired or wireless. As an example, computer system **300** may communicate with a wireless PAN (WPAN) (such as, for example, a BLUETOOTH WPAN), a WI-FI network, a WI-MAX network, a cellular telephone network (such as, for example, a Global System for Mobile Communications

(GSM) network, a 3G network, a 4G network, a 5G network, an LTE network, or other suitable wireless network or a combination of two or more of these. Computer system **300** may include any suitable communication interface **310** for any of these networks, where appropriate.

Communication interface **310** may include one or more communication interfaces **310**, where appropriate. Although this disclosure describes and illustrates a particular communication interface, this disclosure contemplates any suitable communication interface.

[0061] In particular embodiments, bus **312** includes hardware, software, or both coupling components of computer system **300** to each other. As an example and not by way of limitation, bus **312** may include an Accelerated Graphics Port (AGP) or other graphics bus, an Enhanced Industry Standard Architecture (EISA) bus, a front-side bus (FSB), a HYPERTRANSPORT (HT) interconnect, an Industry Standard Architecture (ISA) bus, an INFINIBAND interconnect, a low-pin-count (LPC) bus, a memory bus, a Micro Channel Architecture (MCA) bus, a Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) bus, a PCI-Express (PCIe) bus, a serial advanced technology attachment (SATA) bus, a Video Electronics Standards Association local (VLB) bus, or another suitable bus or a combination of two or more of these. Bus **312** may include one or more buses **312**, where appropriate. Although this disclosure describes and illustrates a particular bus, this disclosure contemplates any suitable bus or interconnect.

[0062] Herein, a computer-readable non-transitory storage medium or media may include one or more semiconductor-based or other integrated circuits (ICs) (such, as for example, field-programmable gate arrays (FPGAs) or application-specific ICs (ASICs)), hard disk drives (HDDs), hybrid hard drives (HHDs), optical discs, optical disc drives (ODDs), magneto-optical discs, magneto-optical drives, floppy diskettes, floppy disk drives (FDDs), magnetic tapes, solid-state drives (SSDs), RAM-drives, SECURE DIGITAL cards or drives, any other suitable computer-readable non-transitory storage media, or any suitable combination of two or more of these, where appropriate. A computer-readable non-transitory storage medium may be volatile, non-volatile, or a combination of volatile and non-volatile, where appropriate.

[0063] Herein, “or” is inclusive and not exclusive, unless expressly indicated otherwise or indicated otherwise by context. Therefore, herein, “A or B” means “A, B, or both,” unless expressly indicated otherwise or indicated otherwise by context. Moreover, “and” is both joint and several, unless expressly indicated otherwise or indicated otherwise by context. Therefore, herein, “A and B” means “A and B, jointly or severally,” unless expressly indicated otherwise or indicated otherwise by context.

[0064] The scope of this disclosure encompasses all changes, substitutions, variations, alterations, and modifications to the example embodiments described or illustrated herein that a person having ordinary skill in the art would comprehend. The scope of this disclosure is not limited to the example embodiments described or illustrated herein. Moreover, although this disclosure describes and illustrates respective embodiments herein as including particular components, elements, feature, functions, operations, or steps, any of these embodiments may include any combination or permutation of any of the components, elements, features, functions, operations, or steps described or illustrated anywhere herein that a person having ordinary skill in the art would comprehend. Furthermore, reference in the appended claims to an apparatus or system or a component of an apparatus or system being adapted to, arranged to, capable of, configured to, enabled to, operable to, or operative to perform a particular function encompasses that apparatus, system, component, whether or not it or that particular function is activated, turned on, or unlocked, as long as that apparatus, system, or component is so adapted, arranged, capable, configured, enabled, operable, or operative. Additionally, although this disclosure describes or illustrates particular embodiments as providing particular advantages, particular embodiments may provide none, some, or all of these advantages.

Claims

1-20. (canceled)

21. A network component comprising one or more processors and one or more computer-readable non-transitory storage media coupled to the one or more processors and including instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the network component to perform operations comprising: receiving application performance data, wherein the application performance data is associated with one or more applications; analyzing the application performance data based on one or more security considerations; transforming the application performance data into application security data using a plurality of metrics that indicate a plurality of potential security threats; and determining a security threat based on the application security data.

22. The network component of claim 21, wherein determining the security threat based on the application security data comprises: generating a baseline for the application security data; detecting an anomaly in the baseline; and determining the security threat based on the anomaly.

23. The network component of claim 22, wherein detecting the anomaly in the baseline comprises: determining a threshold associated with the baseline; and detecting the anomaly if the application security data exceeds the threshold.

24. The network component of claim 23, wherein the baseline for the application security data is a dynamic baseline over a rolling time period.

25. The network component of claim 21, wherein the application performance data is real-time application performance data received from one or more agents.

26. The network component of claim 21, wherein the application performance data comprises one or more of the following types of data: application server availability data; transaction latency data; browser type data; source address data; Uniform Resource Locator (URL) data; geolocation data; and login data.

21. The network component of claim **21**, wherein the security threat is one of the following: a denial-of-service (DOS) attack; a phishing attack; a local file inclusion (LFI) attack; or a remote file inclusion (RFI) attack.

28. A method, comprising: receiving application performance data, wherein the application performance data is associated with one or more applications; analyzing the application performance data based on one or more security considerations; transforming the application performance data into application security data using a plurality of metrics that indicate a plurality of potential security threats; and determining a security threat based on the application security data.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein determining the security threat based on the application security data comprises: generating a baseline for the application security data; detecting an anomaly in the baseline; and determining the security threat based on the anomaly.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein detecting the anomaly in the baseline comprises: determining a threshold associated with the baseline; and detecting the anomaly if the application security data exceeds the threshold.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the baseline for the application security data is a dynamic baseline over a rolling time period.

32. The method of claim 28 wherein the application performance data is real-time application performance data received from one or more agents.

33. The method of claim 28, wherein the application performance data comprises one or more of the following types of data: application server availability data; transaction latency data; browser type data; source address data; Uniform Resource Locator (URL) data; geolocation data; and login data.

34. The method of claim 28, wherein the security threat is one of the following: a denial-of-service

(DOS) attack; a phishing attack; a local file inclusion (LFI) attack; or a remote file inclusion (RFI) attack.

35. One or more computer-readable non-transitory storage media embodying instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform operations comprising: receiving application performance data, wherein the application performance data is associated with one or more applications; analyzing the application performance data based on one or more security considerations; transforming the application performance data into application security data using a plurality of metrics that indicate a plurality of potential security threats; and determining a security threat based on the application security data.

36. The one or more computer-readable non-transitory storage media of claim 35, wherein determining the security threat based on the application security data comprises: generating a baseline for the application security data; detecting an anomaly in the baseline; and determining the security threat based on the anomaly.

37. The one or more computer-readable non-transitory storage media of claim 36, wherein detecting the anomaly in the baseline comprises: determining a threshold associated with the baseline; and detecting the anomaly if the application security data exceeds the threshold.

38. The one or more computer-readable non-transitory storage media of claim 37, wherein the baseline for the application security data is a dynamic baseline over a rolling time period.

39. The one or more computer-readable non-transitory storage media of claim 35, wherein the application performance data is real-time application performance data received from one or more agents.

40. The one or more computer-readable non-transitory storage media of claim 35, wherein the application performance data comprises one or more of the following types of data: application server availability data; transaction latency data; browser type data; source address data; Uniform Resource Locator (URL) data; geolocation data; and login data.
