Network Intrusion Detection

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Abstract—

I. Introduction

Networks safety is becoming a crucial topic in all types of enterprises and organizations. The importance of Network security and data confidentiality are growing rapidly due to the rapid evolution in technology and AI. One of the approaches taken to ensure network safety are network intrusion detection techniques [1]. Many techniques have been introduced through the evolution of technology. The goal of intrusion detection systems is to be able to detect unusual activities, unauthorized personnel, or misuse from insiders and external penetrators in a network, preferably in real-time. [2]. One of the emerging new technologies for network security is the use of machine learning and deep learning models to identify network attacks and intruders in a network. The abundance of big data has led to the ability to train machine learning and deep learning models efficiently. More research is being done on making those models extremely accurate and efficient for large deployment. [3]

II. BACKGROUND

The main two types of Network detection system are Deployment method based and Detection method based. From the detection method perspective, it is further divided into two more categories "Signature-based intrusion detection (SIDS)" and "Anomaly detection-based intrusion detection (AIDS)".

The SIDS is based on the idea of defining a specific unique signature for network attacks. Those signatures are stored in a database. The system from there matches those signatures with the activity in the network and detects if there is a probable attack on the service. This type of approach lacks the ability to detect new types of attack as it lacks its signature and requires a huge carefully selected database which increases the computing resources needed for this algorithm [3].

The AIDS approach, also called the "behavior-based IDS," is based on the idea of defining a clear profile of normal users. Any deviation from this normal profile will be considered as an anomaly [4]. The biggest advantages of

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using the AIDS approach are its ability to detect novel and new types of attacks. Though the only drawback of using this approach is the hard nature of classifying the difference between a normal and an abnormal profiles specially with the rising popularity of different IOT devices [5]. In this paper, we aim to explore Random Forest machine learning approach along with data preprocessing techniques to improve the accuracy of network intrusion detection systems. The goal is to identify the most effective model parameters for detecting malicious activities within network traffic.

III. DATASET

The dataset used in this study is the KDD Cup 1999 Intrusion Detection Dataset, which was created by simulating attacks on a U.S. Air Force LAN to capture raw TCP/IP traffic. It contains 41 features (3 qualitative and 38 quantitative features) per connection and the target variable named class is labeled as normal and anomalous behaviour [6]. The features can be grouped by type into 4 categories.

A. Features

- Basic Features of Individual TCP Connections: These features are extracted from the basic TCP connection. Many attacks can be determined just by analysing how the connection behaves [6], [7].
- Content Features within a Connection: These are features that inspect the payload or command content of a connection to detect any suspicious behaviour. They go beyond the basic properties of a connection and look deeper into what is actually being transmitted during the session. [6], [7]
- Time based Traffic features: These features consider connections to the same host in the past two seconds. [6], [7]
- Host-based Traffic Features: It is similar to Time based traffic features but these use a larger time window to detect patterns in connections. [6], [7]

B. Types of attacks

• Denial of Service Attack (DOS): It is a type of attack where the attacker overloads computing and memory resource. That makes the service too busy to fully handle legitimate requests and denies legitimate users access to the machine [7], [8]

- User to Root Attack (U2R): This type of attack occurs when the attacker starts out with access to a normal legitimate account on the system and then becoming able to exploit vulnerability to gain root access to the system [7], [8]
- Remote to Local Attack (R2L): It occurs when an attacker can send packets to a machine over a network where the attacker does not have access as a user to that machine [7], [8]
- **Probing Attack:** It is an attempt to gather information about a network of computers for the purpose of breaching through their security and gaining root access [7], [8]

C. Potential Issues in the Dataset

Previous research shows that this specific dataset has some issues. They experimented with various machine learning models all of which showed a very high accuracy of approximately 98% which is a high accuracy for machine learning models and often means a problem with the model and it will not translate into real life deployment. The first important deficiency in the KDD data set is the huge number of redundant records. Analyzing KDD train and test sets, it was found that about 78% and 75% of the records are duplicated in the train and test set respectively. This will cause the model to be biased towards the more frequent records and prevent it from learning the novel records. [8].

D. Dataset Preprocessing

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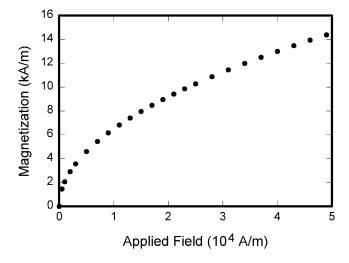


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