Analysis of Context-Aware Security for Insider Attacks in Smart Offices (ACASIA)

User Manual

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1. Prerequisites

ACASIA requires to be run in Windows and Python libraries (not in standard library) to be installed in order to run. Two programming IDEs will be recommended in order to run the project and view how it works in real-time.

1.1. Python Version

Python 3.12.4: <u>Download here.</u>

1.2. Python Libraries

There will be multiple Python libraries required to be installed which are:

pandas, matplotlib, seaborn, scikit-learn, scipy, numpy, umap-learn, and filelock

These can be installed by being in the ACASIA main project folder and executing "*pip install -r reqs.txt*" in the terminal.

1.3. Programming IDE Recommendations

It is recommended to use the following programming IDEs at the same time for a better experience:

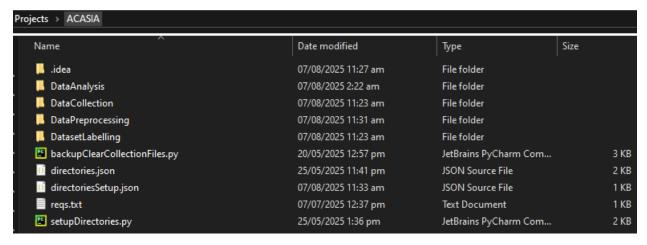
- PyCharm Community Edition (PyCharm)
 - Data collection, preprocessing and labelling will best perform in PyCharm.
- Visual Studio Code (VS Code)
 - Best suited for real-time viewing of collection as VS Code can refresh file viewing. Also used to execute the data analysis module once collection, preprocessing, and labelling is finished.

2. Project Folder File Structure

The ACASIA project can be downloaded from:

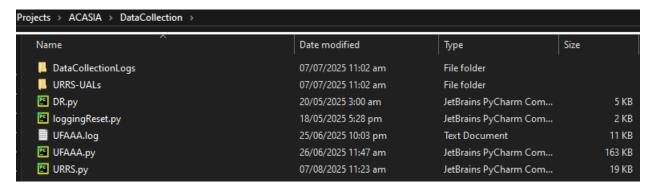
ACASIA Download Link

It will contain the setup files and folders as the main components of the project.



| Filename | Description |
|-----------------------|---|
| reqs.txt | Contains a list of Python dependencies required for the project |
| | to run. This file can be used with pip install -r reqs.txt to |
| | automatically install all necessary libraries. |
| directoriesSetup.json | Defines relative paths to key project files and directories, |
| | organized by function (e.g., logging, data setpreprocessing, |
| | dataset labelling). This file is used to initialize absolute paths |
| | during project setup. |
| directories.json | Generated from directoriesSetup.json, this file contains the |
| | absolute paths to all critical project components on the local |
| | machine. It ensures the application references the correct |
| | locations based on the user's environment. |
| backupClearCollection | Backing up important data directories (excluding specific files |
| Files.py | like labeller.py). |
| | |
| | Clearing contents of certain folders used for logging and data |
| | labelling. |
| | This script helps maintain a clean working environment while |
| | preserving historical data. |
| setupDirectories.py | Initial setup script that: |
| | Converts the relative paths in directoriesSetup.json into |
| | absolute paths stored in directories.json. |
| | Updates a configuration file (config.json) used in data |
| | preprocessing with correct file paths. |
| | This ensures that all components of the project reference |
| | the correct local paths before execution |

2.1. Data Collection

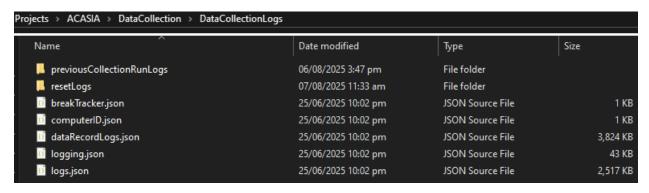


| Filename | Description |
|-----------------|---|
| DR.py | Data Record Module – Combines the file access attempts logs |
| | with the corresponding physical attributes collected from the |
| | snapUal.json (User Room Relocation Simulator Module). |
| loggingReset.py | Resets key logging-related files to their default or empty states by: |
| | Replacing the main logging.json and breakTracker.json |
| | files with their corresponding reset versions. |
| | Clearing contents of logs.json and dataRecordLogs.json. |
| | This script ensures the data collection environment starts from a |
| | clean, default state. |
| UFAAA.py | User File Access Attempt Automator Module – Generates the file |
| | access attempt logs (virtual attributes) |
| URRS.py | User Room Relocation Simulator Module – Simulates the room |
| | relocation of users inside the virtual smart office (physical |
| | attributes) |



| Filename | Description |
|--------------|--|
| ual.json | A JSON file containing the room location of each user in the virtual |
| | smart office environment. |
| snapUal.json | A JSON file containing the snapshot or copy (snap shot done by |
| | the module) of the room location of each user (ual.json) in the |
| | virtual smart office environment which is used to attain the |
| | physical attributes of the nearby users (near the computer), |
| | computer user location, and computer location when combining |

with the virtual attributes collected from the respective file access attempt log through the Data Record Module.

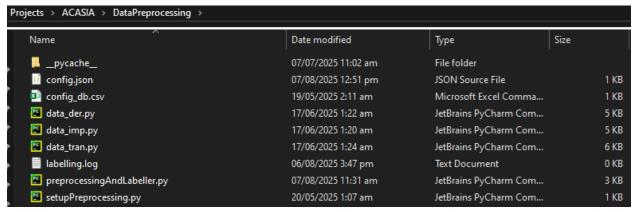


| Filename | Description |
|---------------------|--|
| breakTracker.json | A JSON file used to track the break status of each user at a given |
| | simulated timestamp. Each user is marked as either working |
| | normal hours, on break, or outside their shift. This attribute is also |
| | recorded with every file access attempt log during data collection. |
| computerID.json | A JSON file containing the computer ID based on the selected |
| | occupied computer room during a simulated file access attempt. |
| dataRecordLogs.json | A JSON file used to contain the file access attempt logs from the |
| | Data Record Module. |
| logging.json | A JSON file used to keep a categorized tally of how many times |
| | each type of file access operation has been generated per user |
| | and access type. This helps with debugging and ensuring coverage |
| | of different authorized and unauthorized file access attempt |
| | scenarios. |
| logs.json | A JSON file used for storing the simulated file access attempt logs |
| | which only contain the virtual attributes during data collection. |

| Projects > ACASIA > DataCollection > DataCollectionLogs > resetLogs | | | | |
|---|---------------------|------------------|-------|--|
| Name | Date modified | Туре | Size | |
| ii breakTrackerReset.json | 28/05/2025 12:00 am | JSON Source File | 1 KB | |
| 🔟 loggingReset.json | 15/05/2025 4:49 pm | JSON Source File | 43 KB | |

| Filename | Description |
|------------------------|--|
| breakTrackerReset.json | A JSON file that contains the initial state of the breakTracker.json |
| | in which it replaces the breakTracker.json's contents whenever |
| | loggingReset.py is run in order to reset breakTracker.json |
| loggingReset.json | A JSON file that contains the initial state of the logging.json in |
| | which it replaces the logging.json's contents whenever |
| | loggingReset.py is run in order to reset logging.json |

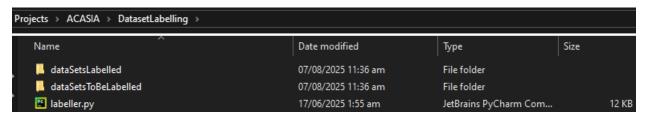
2.2. Data Preprocessing



| Filename | Description |
|---------------|--|
| config.json | Configuration file used by the data preprocessing pipeline, specifying: Input/output file paths (e.g., raw, imputed, derived, and transformed datasets) Logging and tracking files The path to the main log record JSON used in data collection |
| | This file ensures consistent, centralized control over file references during preprocessing operations. |
| config_db.csv | Defines the user scheduling configuration, including: User names and roles (e.g., Administrative Staff, Manager, Director) Corresponding shift start and end times This file supports role based treeking and analysis during |
| | This file supports role-based tracking and analysis during data collection and preprocessing. |
| data_der.py | Data Derivation Submodule – derives context attributes from the dataset such as nearby users, file type, and file destination type from information within the existing dataset. |
| data_imp.py | Data Imputation Submodule – removes rows with incomplete values from the dataset. |
| data_tran.py | Data Transformation Submodule – converts derived categorical and contextual attributes into numerical representations to make the dataset fit for exploratory data analysis. |

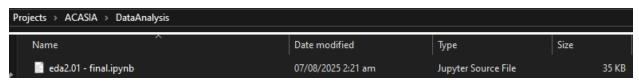
| labelling.log | Logs the amount of authorized and unauthorized file access attempts after labelling the dataset. |
|-----------------------------|---|
| preprocessingAndLabeller.py | Preprocessing Module and Automated Labeler Module – Uses the preprocessing submodules (imputation, derivation, transformation) and labels every row of the dataset as authorized or unauthorized. |
| setupPreprocessing.py | Clears the preprocessing files produced from the preprocessingAndLabeller.py. |

2.3. Data Labelling



| Filename | Description |
|-------------|---|
| labeller.py | Executed by the preprocessingAndLabeller.py to label |
| | every row of the dataset as authorized or unauthorized. |

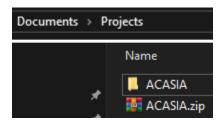
2.4. Data Analysis



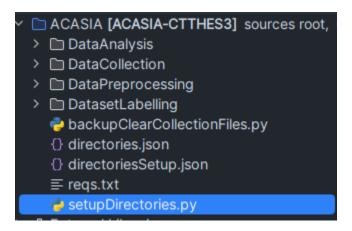
| Filename | Description |
|-----------------------|---|
| eda2.01 - final.ipynb | Using the generated data set after the data labelling, this |
| | Jupyter Notebook will be run with the dataset to perform |
| | exploratory data analysis. |

3. Data Processing Pipeline Execution and Data Analysis

3.1. Project Setup



After extracting (Extract Here) the ACASIA project folder to your desired folder, the program "setupDirectories.py" located in the ACASIA main project folder must be run in order for the project to run properly with regards to your desired folder.



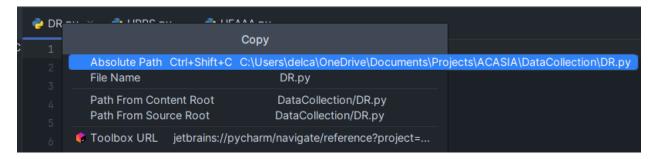
As seen below, the proper directories for the log files, dataset folders, scripts, and other files needed for data collection, data preprocessing, and labelling are configured based on the current Windows environment.

```
| Odirectories.json | City | State | City |
```

Open three command prompts to prepare to run the three Python scripts of "*DR.py*" (Data Record Module), "*URRS.py*" (User Room Relocation Simulator Module), and "*UFAAA.py*" (User File Access Attempt Automator Module).

3.2. Data Collection

With the three Python scripts open in PyCharm, copy their absolute path and run in each of the respective command prompts

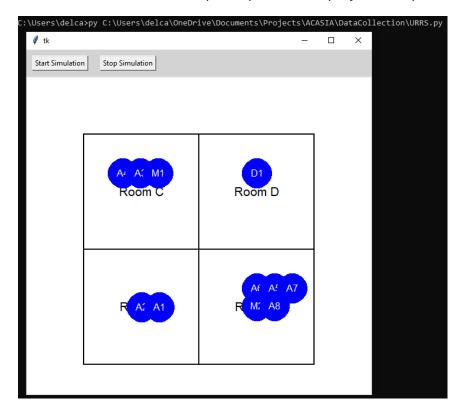


Then run in each of the command prompts with 'py "<absolute path>".

Data Record Module (DR) should display this output.

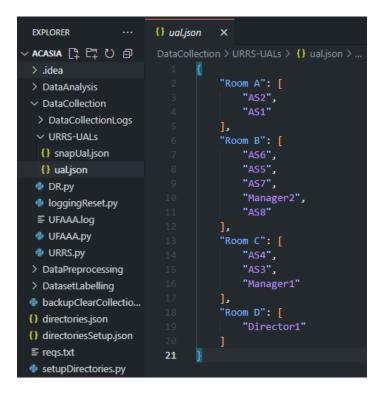
C:\Users\delca>py C:\Users\delca\OneDrive\Documents\Projects\ACASIA\DataCollection\DR.py DataRecordModule running... Press Ctrl+C to stop.

User Room Relocation Simulator Module (URRS) should display this output.

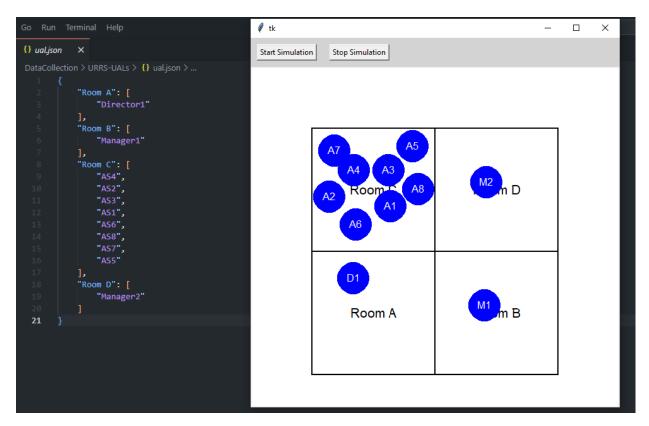


To confirm if URRS is working properly, open the project in VS Code, go to the directory "DataCollection\URRS-UALs" and open "ual.json" and click on "Start Simulation" in the GUI and compare the GUI and "ual.json" by checking both of their movements to confirm it

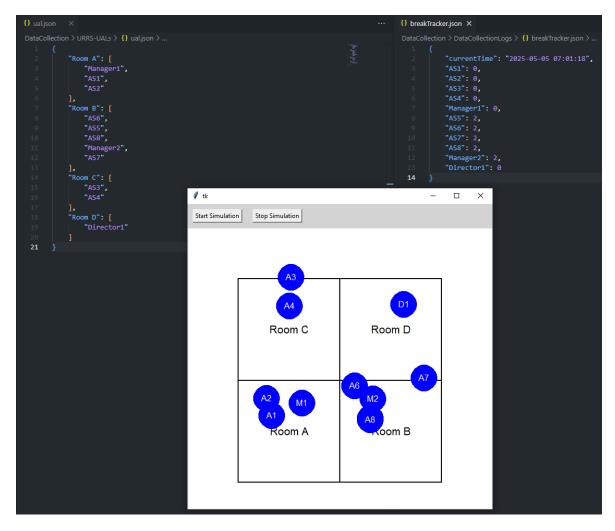
is working correctly. You can also check by just moving a user node instead to another room to confirm.



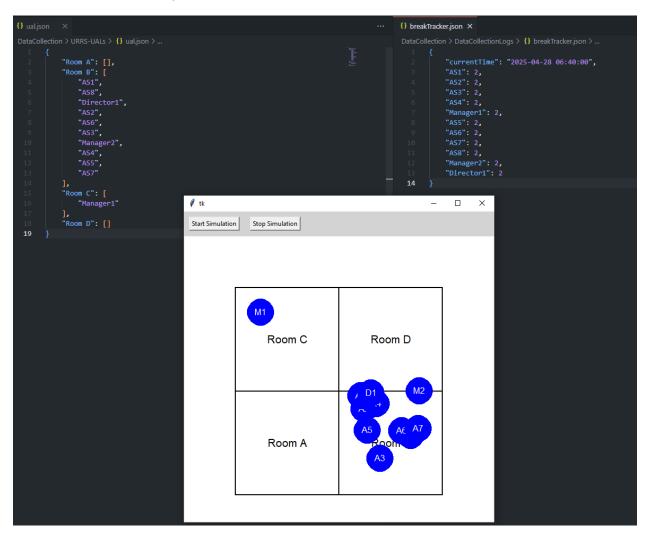
Manual Check:



Checking depending on break status (0 [normal working hours], 1 [on break], 2 [out of shift]:



By default since the "*currentTime*" field will start at 6:40 AM, out of shift access of users in the office will have low probabilities.



User File Access Attempt Automator Module (UFAAA) should display this output (while checking the "DataCollection\DataCollectionLogs\dataRecordLogs.json" (also "logs.json") for correct outputs of the file access attempt logs. It can be seen that physical attributes (from "DataCollection\URRS-UALs\snapUal.json") are properly being combined below where the nearby users, actual location of user, and computer room are being appended to the respective logs in "dataRecordLogs.json".

"DataCollection\logging.json" can also be checked to see how many logs were tallied per user role, how many authorized/unauthorized file access attempts, how many counts of each type of file access attempts were done per user.

```
EXPLORER
                       {} logging.json ×
ACASIA 🖺 🛱 ひ 🗊
                      DataCollection > DataCollectionLogs > {} logging.json > ...
                               "Director": {
> .idea
                                     "Director1": {
> DataAnalysis
                                           "Total Attempts": 258

∨ DataCollection

∨ DataCollectionLogs

∨ previousCollection...

                                          "Director1 Authorized Attempts": 251,
  > resetLogs
                                           "Director1 Unauthorized Attempts": 7,
 {} breakTracker.json
                                           "Director1 Total Attempts": 258
 {} computerID.json
                                  },
"Overall": {
    inis
 {} dataRecordLogs.json
 {} logging.json
                                      "Administrative Staff": {
 {} logs.json
                                           "Total Authorized Attempts": 447,

✓ URRS-UALs

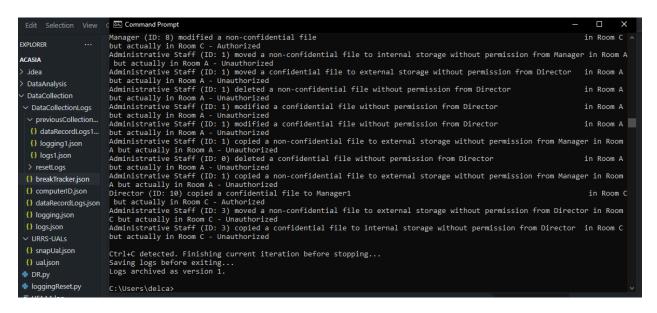
                                           "Total Unauthorized Attempts": 504,
  {} snapUal.json
 {} ual.ison
 DR.py
                                            "Total Authorized Attempts": 136,
 loggingReset.py
                                           "Total Unauthorized Attempts": 187.
 ■ UFAAA.log
                                           "Total Attempts": 323
 UFAAA.py
 URRS.py
> DataPreprocessing
                                            "Total Authorized Attempts": 251,
> DatasetLabelling
                                           "Total Attempts": 258
backupClearCollectio...
{} directories.json
{} directoriesSetup.json
                                       "Total Unauthorized Attempts": 698,

≡ reqs.txt

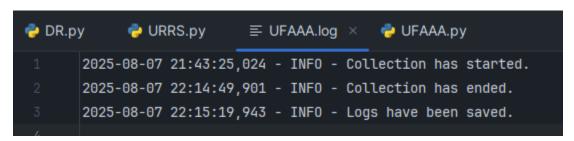
                                       "Total Attempts": 1532
setupDirectories.py
```

Once the three Python scripts are running, these can be left running in the background for hours. It is expected that collection (rate of logs) will slow down after a few hours. The UFAAA can be paused by just typing "Ctrl C" and wait for it to fully end as it is going to back up the previous logs in the "DataCollection\previousCollectionRunLogs" directory and by running it again with 'py "<absolute path of UFAAA>", it will continue from the same "currentTime" field and respective break statuses. It is however suggested to clear "logs.json" before re-running the UFAAA, to make the speed of collection similar to how the three scripts started. DR and URRS do not need to be re-run again since they do not take up that much memory as they are lighter programs compared to UFAAA.

Once finished with collection, and as stated before, typing "Ctrl C" in the UFAAA will end the collection and saved its logs to the "DataCollection\previousCollectionRunLogs" directory where in each log filename will be appended with the iteration count of the runs of the UFAAA.



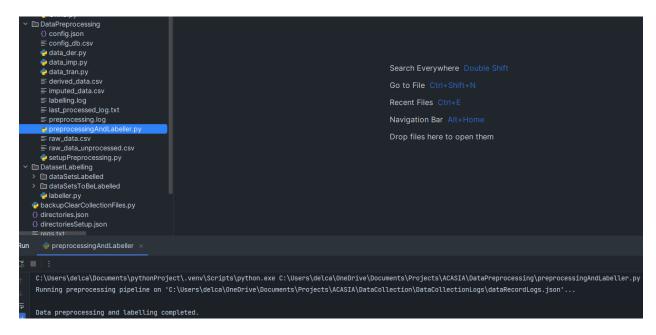
It can also be seen in "**DataCollection\UFAAA.log**" the time the collection has started and ended and when the logs have been saved.



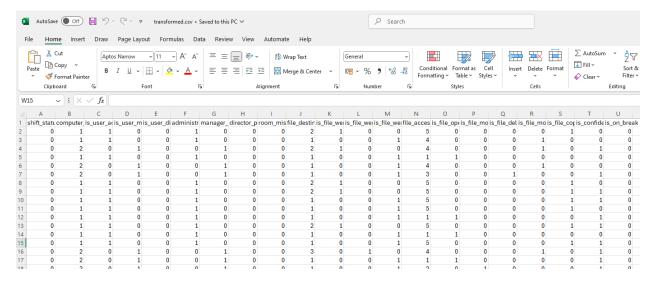
After the collection, data preprocessing and data labelling can already be done to prepare the data collected for exploratory data analysis.

3.3. Data Preprocessing

To perform data preprocessing and labelling the "Data Preprocessing\preprocessingAndLabeller.py" can be run in PyCharm.

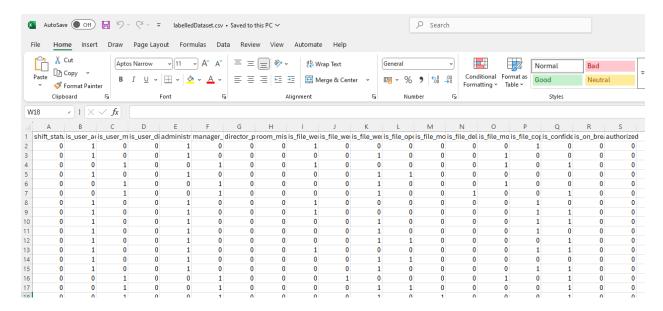


The transformed dataset (which is the last step of the preprocessing [data transformation]) will be appear in "DatasetLabelling\dataSetsToBeLabelled\transformed.csv".



3.4. Data Labelling

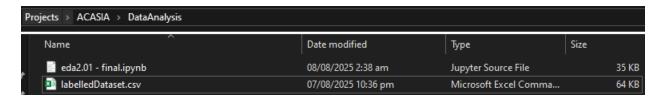
As the data preprocessing and labelling are run at the same program, the labelled dataset will appear in "*DatasetLabelling\dataSetsLabelled\labelledDataset.csv*" where in it would have an "*authorized*" field. A value of 1 will indicate that it is an authorized file access attempt while a value of 0 will indicate that that is an unauthorized file access attempt based on the context attributes such as "*shift_status*", "*room_mismatch*", "*is_confidential*" and other attributes which will be used in the labelling rules.



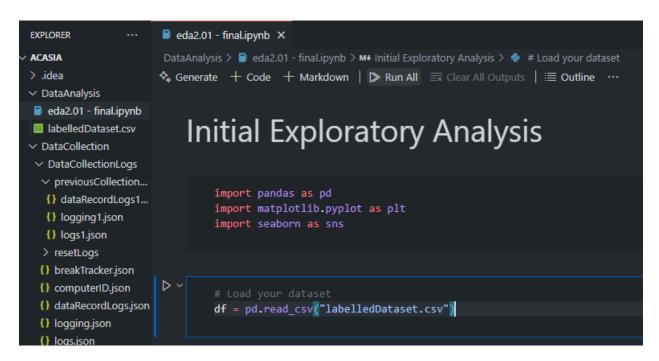
For the counts of authorized and unauthorized file access attempts it can be seen in "DataPreprocessing\labelling.log"

3.5. Data Analysis

After the dataset has been labelled, transfer or copy the "labelledDataset.csv" to the "DataAnalysis" folder.



Open the "eda2.01 - final.ipynb" file in VS Code then click on "Run All"



The Jupyter Notebook will then run to perform explanatory data analysis on the dataset produced from data collection which was then preprocessed and labelled.

