# DARKNET TRAFFIC CLASSIFICATION USING MACHINE LEARNING

Aslam Baig Siva Sai Sumana Vemuri Karthik Ramanarayana Suresh Devi

# Aim & Purpose of this project

#### Aim of the Project :

 The aim of this project is to build ML model to predict the type of the application used based on the its traffic attributes in a Darknet.

#### Problem statement :

- Darknet is the unused address space of the internet. Any communication from the dark space is considered skeptical owing to its passive listening nature.
- Due to the absence of legitimate hosts in the darknet, any traffic is contemplated to be unsought and is characteristically treated as probe, backscatter, or misconfiguration.
- So ,Classification is of network traffic is of paramount importance to categorize the real-time applications from illicit malicious activity software.

#### Why it is so important?

 Analyzing darknet traffic helps in early monitoring of malware before onslaught and detection of malicious activities after outbreak.

## Goal and approaches to problem

#### Goal of the Project:

 In this project, we are trying to analyze the traffic flow of various type of applications in a darknet and predict the type of the application been using without checking the encrypted information at packet level using supervised ML models for Classification.

#### Approaches to the achieve goal:

- From the problem statement, we concur that it is purely a classification problem with multiple labels where we are going to classify the type of the network flow into multiple categories of real-time application classes.
- This classification must be done based on the network's attributes, flow constants etc.., So, the dataset must contain the key attributes that separates the different categories of the applications in a darknet.
- After that, an Intuitive supervised machine learning model must be built on top
  of this dataset that handles the desired classification accurately.

### Data sets sources

- The darknet datasets are gathered from the opensource research-based platforms as there require special configurations on normal open network accessible to everyone. Wireshark and tcpdump tools are used to capture the Pcap file from both non-VPN and VPN based networks connected to a darknet.
- UNB ISCX Network Traffic (VPN) ISCXVPN2016 dataset and UNB CIC Network Traffic (Tor-nonTor) ISCXTor2016 datasets offered by Gerard Drapper provide the Network traffic data flown from encrypted VPN and non-VPN networks, Tor and nonTor browser datasets. This dataset consists of labeled network traffic, including full packet in csv formats.
- A hybrid dataset of darknet traffic is created by amalgamating out ISCXTor2016 and ISCXVPN2016 datasets to create a complete darknet dataset covering Tor and VPN traffic respectively called CICDarknet2020.
- The dataset contains the details of darknet traffic which constitutes the categories of applications used the darknet which forms our classification labels. They labels are Audio-Stream, Browsing, Chat, Email, P2P, Transfer, Video-Stream & VOIP.

# Data set Description

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Traffic Category	Applications used
Audio-Stream Vimeo and Youtube	
Browsing	Firefox and Chrome
Chat	ICQ, AIM, Skype, Facebook and Hangouts
Email	SMTPS, POP3S and IMAPS
P2P	uTorrent and Transmission (BitTorrent)
Transfer	Skype, FTP over SSH (SFTP) and FTP over SSL (FTPS) using Filezilla and an external service
Video-Stream	Vimeo and Youtube
VOIP	Facebook, Skype and Hangouts voice calls

# Existing vs Proposed

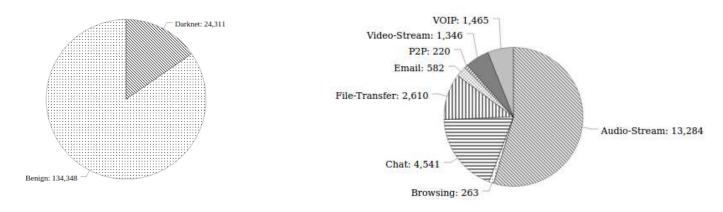
- The existing solutions and related research is based on the classification of the encrypted traffic flow in the open network or VPN based network, whereas we are trying to classify the type of the application in a darknet in the both cases of the VPN and non-VPN, tor and Non-Tor access scenarios.
- The hybrid dataset CICDarknet2020 of darknet traffic is created by amalgamating out ISCXTor2016 and ISCXVPN2016 datasets to create a complete darknet dataset covering Tor and VPN traffic which forms the complex scenarios.
- We will be building a supervised classifier on this complex dataset that classifies the appropriate category of the application more precisely.

# Why switched to New Dataset

- The aim of building the network traffic classifier remain intact but the capturing real-time dataset from home-based networks doesn't suffice the requirements of dataset size and variants of classes used for classification. Moreover, some additional configurations and software are required to access the darknet from personal computers.
- So,UNB's research-based dataset CICDarknet2020 (ISCXTor2016 & SCXVPN2016) dataset has been used as it fits best for our requirements in terms of the dataset size, number of features and labelled classes that we are going to predict.
- Reference: https://www.unb.ca/cic/datasets/darknet2020.html

## Dataset – Description

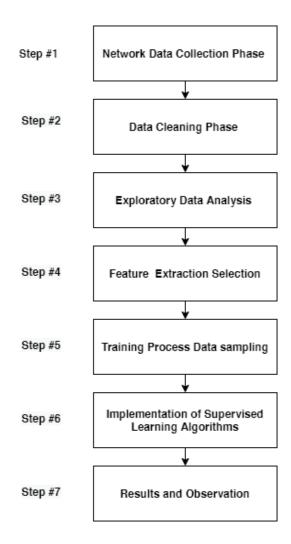
 In CICDarknet2020 dataset, a two-layered approach is used to generate benign and darknet traffic at the first layer. The darknet traffic constitutes Audio-Stream, Browsing, Chat, Email, P2P, Transfer, Video-Stream and VOIP which is generated at the second layer. To generate the representative dataset, UNB amalgamated datasets <u>ISCXTor2016</u> & <u>ISCXVPN2016</u>, and combined the respective VPN and Tor traffic in corresponding Darknet categories.



UNB's research-based dataset CICDarknet2020 (ISCXTor2016 & SCXVPN2016) contains
the details of darknet traffic which constitutes the categories of applications used the
darknet which forms our classification labels. They labels are Audio-Stream, Browsing,
Chat, Email, P2P, Transfer, Video-Stream & VOIP.

# Project Pipeline

- The entire process of the building a Darknet traffic classification model starts with data collection phase and end with evaluating the model performance against darknet dataset.
- It is a seven step approach where each stage have the sub steps.
- At the final step, out of the built classifiers best classification model is select that has high performance rate.

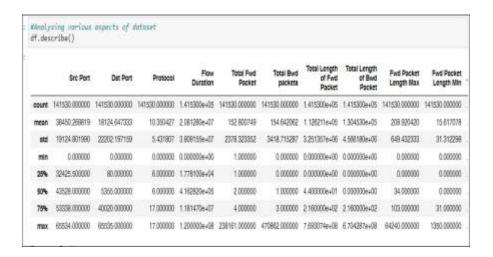


# Project Pipeline

- This project encompasses the below steps
  - Dataset Collection
  - ii. Dataset cleaning and Pre-processing
  - iii. EDA
  - iv. Feature Selection and Engineering
  - v. Model building
  - vi. Evaluating the model Performance
  - vii. Hyperparameter tuning

## 1. Data Collection Phase

- The Darknet traffic data is collected from the Network monitoring tools which are subjected to flow from both Tor and Non-Tor browsers. The UNB's CICDarknet2020 data set is one of such datasets which is amalgamated out ISCXTor2016 and ISCXVPN2016 datasets
- It contains 84 features and 141531 samples, a perfect match for our objectives and satisfy all the three main components of a good dataset, which are real-world, substantial and diverse.
- Once, this data is collected, preliminary analysis on the distribution of the data must be done using manual approaches and was sent to next phase of the pipeline.



```
df.dtypes
Flow ID
              object
Src IP
              object
Src Port
               int64
Dst TP
              object
Dst Port
               int64
             float64
Idle Std
Idle Max
             float64
Idle Min
             float64
Label
              object
Label.1
              object
Length: 85, dtype: object
```

## 1.Data Collection Phase-Dataset

- The CICDarknet2020 data set contains 84 features and 141531 samples.
- Features pre-processing: The 84 features better describes the type of the traffic in the darknet. However, most of the features like Flow ID, Source IP and Destination IP address etc., are not useful for our purpose prediction
- These features were engineered, and best effective features were selected in further phases.

```
df.columns
Index(['Flow ID', 'Src IP', 'Src Port', 'Dst IP', 'Dst Port', 'Protocol',
         'Timestamp', 'Flow Duration', 'Total Fwd Packet', 'Total Bwd packets', 'Total Length of Fwd Packet', 'Total Length of Bwd Packet',
         'Fwd Packet Length Max', 'Fwd Packet Length Min',
          'Fwd Packet Length Mean', 'Fwd Packet Length Std',
         'Bwd Packet Length Max', 'Bwd Packet Length Min',
'Bwd Packet Length Mean', 'Bwd Packet Length Std', 'Flow Bytes/s',
         'Flow Packets/s', 'Flow IAT Mean', 'Flow IAT Std', 'Flow IAT Max',
         'Flow IAT Min', 'Fwd IAT Total', 'Fwd IAT Mean', 'Fwd IAT Std',
         'Fwd IAT Max', 'Fwd IAT Min', 'Bwd IAT Total', 'Bwd IAT Mean', 'Bwd IAT Std', 'Bwd IAT Max', 'Bwd IAT Min', 'Fwd PSH Flags',
          'Bwd PSH Flags', 'Fwd URG Flags', 'Bwd URG Flags', 'Fwd Header Length',
         'Bwd Header Length', 'Fwd Packets/s', 'Bwd Packets/s',
         'Packet Length Min', 'Packet Length Max', 'Packet Length Mean', 'Packet Length Std', 'Packet Length Variance', 'FIN Flag Count',
         'SYN Flag Count', 'RST Flag Count', 'PSH Flag Count', 'ACK Flag Count', 'URG Flag Count', 'CWE Flag Count', 'ECE Flag Count', 'Down/Up Ratio',
          'Average Packet Size', 'Fwd Segment Size Avg', 'Bwd Segment Size Avg',
         'Fwd Bytes/Bulk Avg', 'Fwd Packet/Bulk Avg', 'Fwd Bulk Rate Avg',
         'Bwd Bytes/Bulk Avg', 'Bwd Packet/Bulk Avg', 'Bwd Bulk Rate Avg',
         'Subflow Fwd Packets', 'Subflow Fwd Bytes', 'Subflow Bwd Packets', 'Subflow Bwd Bytes', 'FwD Init Win Bytes', 'Bwd Init Win Bytes', 'Fwd Act Data Pkts', 'Fwd Seg Size Min', 'Active Mean', 'Active Std',
         'Active Max', 'Active Min', 'Idle Mean', 'Idle Std', 'Idle Max',
          'Idle Min', 'Label', 'Label.1'],
        dtype='object')
```

## 2. Data Cleaning & Pre-processing phase

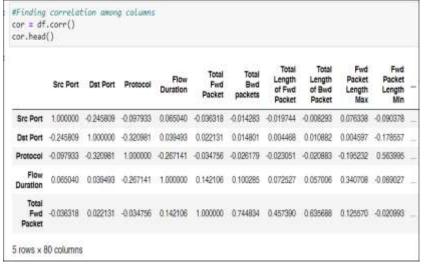
- In this phase, the dataset is set to free from inconsistencies such as missing data and supplicates. These kinds of impurities were removed by cleansing the data by dropping the duplicates and filling missing values with value values close to the mean of that feature.
- Next, the transformation of the categorical data and output labels is performed as most of the models only handles the numeric data.

```
In [9]: #As the volume of null values is small, thus dropping those
    df.dropna(axis = 0, inplace = True)

In [10]: df.isnull().values.any()
Out[10]: False
In [11]: #Dropping duplicated values
    df = df.loc[:,~df.columns.duplicated()]
```

# 3. Exploratory data analysis phase

- In this phase, the filtered dataset is then analyzed to identify the underlying relationships among each feature in the dataset. The highly correlated values and outliers are detected and removed from the dataset
- First, highly correlated data is identified by defining the correlation matrix and the values having the high values of correlation coefficient r > 9 is removed from the dataset.



## 3. Exploratory data analysis phase-Cont

- Secondly , The dataset is sent to Outlier Treatment. The outliers in the dataset are detected based on the distribution of the values outside the Inter Quartile Range (IQR).  $IQR = Q_3 Q_1$
- Once, the Outliers are detected the observations are dropped from the dataset which are beyond the IQR to make the data distribution much standard distribution.

```
#Finding inter quartile range
Q1 = df.quantile(0.25)
Q3 = df.quantile(0.75)
IQR = Q3-Q1
print("The IQR of all data: ",IQR)
```

```
#Dropping the outliers

df_new = df[~((df < (Q1 - 1.5*IQR)) | (df > (Q3 + 1.5*IQR))).any(axis=1)]

df_new.head()
```

 This pruned dataset is then sent for feature selection and best features are engineered from the dataset that better classifies the traffic.

- After preforming the EDA, dropping the less useful features, outlier treatment using Inter-quartile method, The dataset has been preprocessed and has some useful features.
- Contextual Anomalies might cause inconsistencies in the Prediction and must be handled by detecting using the tree based unsupervised Isolation Forest algorithm. Minority classes and the attribute-values which differs from standard normal distribution are eliminated using this method.

```
from sklearn.ensemble import IsolationForest

random_state = np.random.RandomState(42)

model=IsolationForest(n_estimators=100,max_samples='auto',contamination=float(0.2),random_state=random_state)

for col in X.columns:
    model.fit(X[[col]])
    print("Result of " + col + ":")
    print(model.get_params())
```

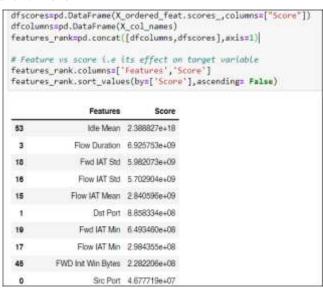
• Then the data has been sent for SMOTE (Synthetic Minority Oversampling Technique) to overcome the imbalanced classification by to oversample the minority class. This is mainly used to generated synthetic instances for the minority class which has less observations.

```
# Splitting the dataset into test train split
X train, X test, y train, y test = train test split(Xn, Yn, test size=0.20, shuffle=True)
Mapplying SMOTE (Synthetic Minority Oversampling Technique) to overcome the imbalanced classification by to oversample the minor
smote= SMOTE('auto')
X sm,y sm = smote.fit resample(X train, y train)
print(np.shape(X_sm), np.shape(y_sm))
# saving the output labels in a dictionary format
dic = {}
for i in y sm:
   if i in dic.keys():
       dic[i]+=1
   else:
        dic[i]=1
print(dic)
(9014, 56) (9014,)
(45689, 56) (45689,)
{5: 6527, 4: 6527, 0: 6527, 2: 6527, 1: 6527, 6: 6527, 3: 6527}
```

- Top Useful features for classification are selected based on the Techniques of SelectKBest Class and Extra Tree Classifier for extracting the top features for the datasets.
- In the SelectKBestClass method, Chi-squared (chi²) statistical techniques are used for non-negative features better defines the best useful features to be selected.
- The most useful feature have the best scores.

```
from sklearn.feature_selection import SelectKBest
from sklearn.feature_selection import chi2

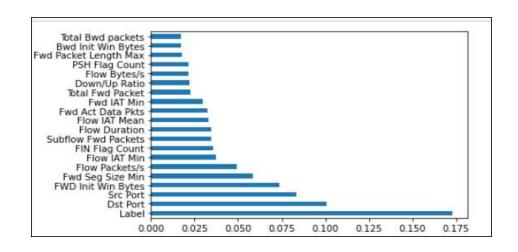
X_ordered_rank_feat = SelectKBest(score_func=chi2, k='all')
X_ordered_feat= X_ordered_rank_feat.fit(X_sm, y_sm)
```



- Alternatively using inbuilt class feature\_importances of tree-based classifiers such as ExtraTreeClassifier can also be used for extracting the top n. features from the dataset used for the classification.
- From the available ordered features, Top 20 features are considered for the classification than that of the others.

```
#Feature importance is an inbuilt class that comes
#we will be using Extra Tree Classifier for extract
from sklearn.ensemble import ExtraTreesClassifier
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
model = ExtraTreesClassifier()
model.fit(X_sm,y_sm)

ExtraTreesClassifier()
```



- From feature selection techniques, the most useful features list is extracted, and data is set to be prepared from this list to model building.
- Feats = ['Label', 'Dst Port', 'Fwd Seg Size Min', 'Src Port', 'FWD Init Win Bytes', 'Total Fwd Packet', 'Bwd Init Win Bytes', 'Flow Duration', 'Flow IAT Mean', 'Total Bwd packets', 'FIN Flag Count', 'Flow Bytes/s', 'Packet Length Mean', 'Total Length of Fwd Packet', 'Fwd Packet Length Mean', 'Down/Up Ratio', 'Fwd IAT Std', 'Packet Length Variance']

## 5. Model Building - Classification

- For building a multi-Label classifier, the below set of the models provides high classification rate on the Darknet dataset.
- Decision Tree
- II. Random Forest
- III. KNN Model
- Hence, the best model which has the high classification rate is selected and evaluated for the desired results.

## 5. Model – Decision Tree

- The decision tree classifier use numeric and categorical data for the classification problems. It also supports nonlinear relationships between features.
- When the Decision Tree classifier is trained over the training split. It provided the score of the 98% accuracy

```
Decision Tree
In [49]: print("Starting to train")
    dt = DecisionTreeClassifier()
    dt.fit(X_train , y_train)
    Starting to train
Out[49]: DecisionTreeClassifier()
In [50]: dt.tree_.node_count, dt.tree_.max_depth
Out[50]: (961, 26)
In [51]: dt.score(X_test, y_test)
Out[51]: 0.9861342207432058
```

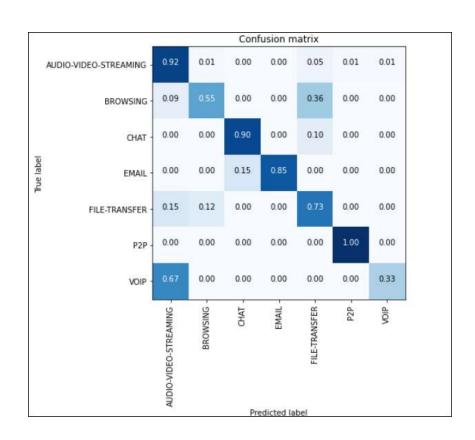
## 5. Model – Decision Tree

• Classification report of the Decision Tree Classifier shows the precision recall f1 score and support metrics for each of the output labels classified by the Decision Tree. Below fig represents the Classification report.

```
y pred = dt.predict(X test)
print('accuracy %s' % accuracy_score(y_test, y_pred))
print("Classes: ", le.inverse_transform([0,1,2,3,4,5,6]))
print(classification_report(y_test, y_pred, target_names= le.inverse_transform([0,:
accuracy 0.9861342207432058
Classes: ['AUDIO-VIDEO-STREAMING' 'BROWSING' 'CHAT' 'EMAIL' 'FILE-TRANSFER' 'P2P'
 'VOIP']
                                     recall f1-score
                       precision
                                                        support
AUDIO-VIDEO-STREAMING
                             0.93
                                       0.92
                                                 0.93
                                                             106
             BROWSING
                             0.60
                                       0.55
                                                 0.57
                                                              11
                 CHAT
                             0.82
                                       0.90
                                                 0.86
                                                              10
                EMAIL
                             1.00
                                       0.85
                                                 0.92
                                                              13
                                       0.73
                                                 0.69
        FILE-TRANSFER
                             0.66
                                                              26
                  P2P
                             1.00
                                       1.00
                                                 1.00
                                                            1634
                  VOIP
                             0.50
                                       0.33
                                                 0.40
            micro avg
                             0.99
                                       0.99
                                                 0.99
                                                            1803
            macro avg
                             0.69
                                       0.66
                                                 0.67
                                                            1803
         weighted avg
                             0.99
                                       0.99
                                                 0.99
                                                            1803
```

## 5. Model – Decision Tree

• The Confusion matrix of this classifier against the given output classes better depicts the Decision Tree classifer's performance on the Darknet dataset.



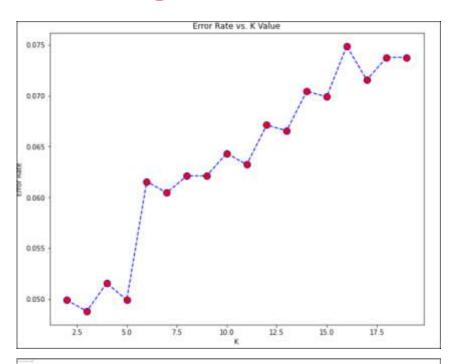
## 5. Model – K nearest Neighbor

• Classification report of the Knn Classifier shows the precision recall f1 score and support metrics for each of the output labels classified by the Knn. Below fig represents the Classification report.

: print(classif	<pre>print(classification_report(y_test, y_pred))</pre>				
	precision	recall	f1-score	support	
0	0.88	0.77	0.82	108	
1	0.40	0.43	0.41	14	
2	0.79	0.73	0.76	15	
3	1.00	0.85	0.92	13	
4	0.24	0.38	0.29	21	
5	1.00	0.99	1.00	1631	
6	0.08	1.00	0.14	1	
accuracy			0.97	1803	
macro avg	0.63	0.74	0.62	1803	
weighted avg	0.98	0.97	0.97	1803	

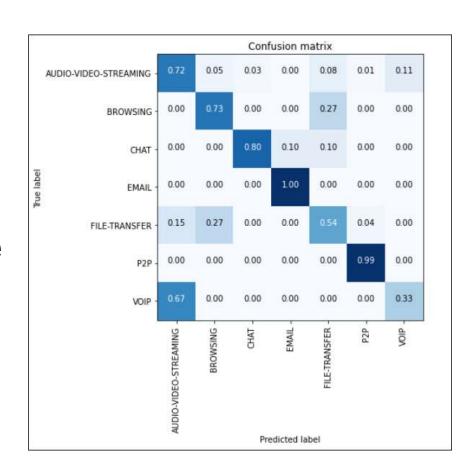
## 5. Model – K-Nearest neighbor

- Knn Model is a robust model that can work with noisy data and perform better if the training data set is large.
- On comparing the accuracies of the KNN model under each K, the better suited value for K is 15. Thus, this model better performs with 15 neighbors
- When the KNN classifier is trained over the training split. It provided the score of the 96% accuracy



# 5. Model – K-Nearest neighbor

 The Confusion matrix of this classifier against the given output classes better depicts the Knn classifer's performance on the Darknet dataset.



## 5. Model – Random Forest

- The Random Forest classifier use numeric and categorical data for the classification problems and is able to handle large datasets
- When the Random Forest classifier is trained over the training split. It provided the score of the 99% accuracy

```
Random Forest

#rf = RandomForestClassifier(max_depth=60
rf = RandomForestClassifier()
rf.fit(X_train , y_train)

RandomForestClassifier()

rf.score(X_test, y_test)

0.9900166389351082
```

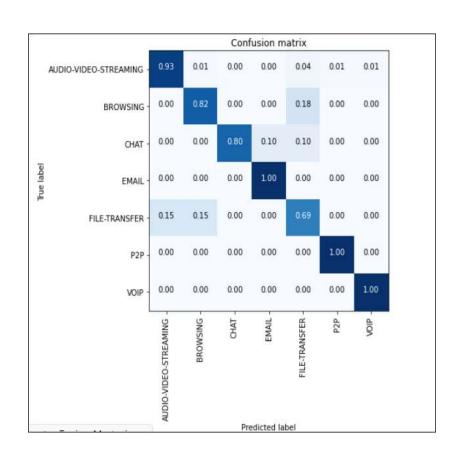
## 5. Model – Random Forest

• Classification report of the Random Forest Classifier shows the precision recall fl score and support metrics for each of the output labels classified by the Random Forest. Below fig represents the Classification report.

<pre>print(classification_report(y_test, y_pred))</pre>				
	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.96	0.94	0.95	106
1	0.64	0.82	0.72	11
2	1.00	0.80	0.89	10
3	0.93	1.00	0.96	13
4	0.75	0.69	0.72	26
5	1.00	1.00	1.00	1634
6	0.75	1.00	0.86	3
accuracy			0.99	1803
macro avg	0.86	0.89	0.87	1803
weighted avg	0.99	0.99	0.99	1803

## 5. Model – Random Forest

• The Confusion matrix of this classifier against the given output classes better depicts the Random Forest classifier's performance on the Darknet dataset.



# 6. Comparing Model Performances

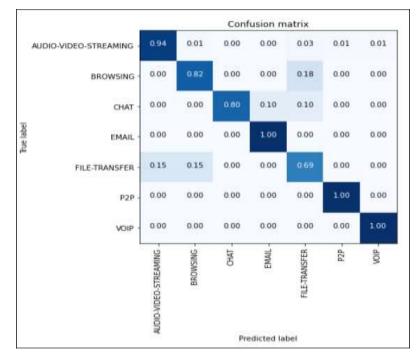
• On comparing the Confusion matrix and Classification reports of all the 3 classifers Random Forest has the best classification rate and can better define the Output Classes of the Darknet .

Classification model accuracies		
Model Name	Accuracy	
Decision Tree	98.44%	
K-NN Model	96.56%	
Random Forest	99.0 %	

# 7. Tuning the RF model

- The classification rate of Random Forest Classifier can be further improved by Hyperparameter tuning the model and selecting the best parameters to improve the model prediction rate.
- On tuning the parameters of the RF model with the below params list the classification rate of RF model further improved shown from the Confusion Matrix .

param\_grid = {'criterion': 'gini', 'max\_depth': 50, 'max\_features': 'log2', 'n\_estimators': 40}



## 8. Conclusion

- The comparative analysis of three machine learning classifiers shows the significant way of handling the classification task.
- It can be seen that traffic classification using Supervised machine learning algorithms provides good results in classifying the Darknet traffic from both VPN and Non-VPN based networks. In the near future, these models are scaled further to readily incorporated into the network devices to classify the darknet traffic.
- Also, we infer that for classification task, the features: Flow duration, Src Port,
  Dst Port, Total Fwd packets, flow byte count and average packet size better
  defines the type of Traffic in the Darknet.
- Our attempt to train this Darknet dataset across Neural Net models RNN showed significantly less performance in classification which is less than that of above three classifiers

## References

1.https://www.unb.ca/cic/datasets/darknet2020.html

- 2. <a href="https://scikit-learn.org/stable/auto\_examples/cluster/plot\_kmeans\_silhouette\_analysis.html">https://scikit-learn.org/stable/auto\_examples/cluster/plot\_kmeans\_silhouette\_analysis.html</a>
- 3. <a href="https://towardsdatascience.com/a-laymans-guide-to-deep-neural-networks-ddcea24847fb">https://towardsdatascience.com/a-laymans-guide-to-deep-neural-networks-ddcea24847fb</a>
- 4. <a href="https://www.scikit-yb.org/en/latest/api/cluster/elbow.html#:~:text=K%2Dmeans%20is%20a%20simple,number%20(k)%20of%20clusters.&text=The%20elbow%20method%20runs%20k,average%20score%20for%20all%20clusters.</a>

# THANK YOU