

Deep Learning Architectures for Automated Threat Detection and Mitigation in Modern Cyber Security Systems

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ABSTRACT

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In an era where cyberattacks are growing in scale and sophistication, traditional security mechanisms are increasingly unable to cope with the complexity of modern cyber threats. The advent of deep learning has introduced promising opportunities for enhancing the effectiveness of cybersecurity systems by leveraging advanced computational architectures to automate threat detection and mitigation. This paper explores the design and application of deep learning architectures tailored for modern cybersecurity challenges, emphasizing their role in improving the accuracy, speed, and adaptability of threat detection processes. The study begins by examining the limitations of conventional cybersecurity techniques, including their reliance on static rule-based systems and their inability to process large-scale, diverse, and dynamic data. By contrast, deep learning models, particularly convolutional neural networks (CNNs), recurrent neural networks (RNNs), and transformer-based architectures, are capable of extracting meaningful patterns and insights from vast and complex datasets. This capability makes them highly suited for identifying subtle anomalies and previously unknown attack signatures. The paper highlights key advancements in the deployment of deep learning for cybersecurity applications, focusing on intrusion detection systems (IDS), malware classification, phishing detection, and network traffic analysis. It discusses the integration of supervised, unsupervised, and reinforcement learning techniques for creating adaptive systems that not only detect threats in real time but also learn and evolve to counter novel attack vectors. The use of generative adversarial networks (GANs) for adversarial training is also explored as a means to enhance the resilience of cybersecurity systems against evasion attacks. A significant portion of the study is devoted to presenting a novel deep learning-based framework that combines feature extraction, anomaly detection, and automated mitigation strategies. The proposed architecture employs a hybrid approach that integrates CNNs for image-based data analysis, RNNs for sequential data processing, and attention mechanisms for prioritizing critical threats. This framework is benchmarked against state-of-the-art techniques, demonstrating superior performance in terms of detection accuracy, false-positive rates, and computational efficiency. The research further addresses practical challenges in deploying deep learning in cybersecurity, such as the need for extensive labeled datasets, the risk of model bias, and the computational overhead of real-time threat processing. Strategies for overcoming these challenges are proposed, including the use of transfer learning, data augmentation, and distributed computing. Additionally, ethical considerations and potential risks, such as the dual-use nature of deep learning technologies, are discussed to ensure responsible deployment in cybersecurity contexts. Therefore, this paper underscores the transformative potential of deep learning architectures in modern cybersecurity systems. By automating threat detection and mitigation, these technologies can significantly enhance the security posture of organizations in the face of evolving cyber threats. However, realizing their full potential requires addressing implementation challenges and fostering collaboration between researchers, practitioners, and policymakers. The findings and methodologies presented in this study aim to contribute to the development of robust, scalable, and intelligent

cybersecurity solutions that can safeguard critical digital assets in an increasingly interconnected world.

Keywords: Deep Learning in Cybersecurity; Automated Threat Detection; Cybersecurity Architectures; Anomaly Detection Systems; Malware Mitigation Techniques

Introduction:-

Modern hybrid deep learning models now achieve an impressive 94.22% accuracy in identifying security attacks. The growth in transmitted data through Internet and Communication Technology (ICT) has made cyber threat hunting in IoT environments a necessity for reliable security. Traditional intrusion detection systems can't keep up with IoT devices and complex cyber threats. Deep learning architectures offer a powerful solution that reduces false positives and improves threat detection. Major platforms like IBM Security QRadar and Darktrace now utilize these technologies. These systems can respond to emerging threats automatically without human intervention. This piece shows you how deep learning changes cybersecurity systems through automated threat detection and live response mechanisms. You'll learn about ground applications, implementation strategies, and ways to optimize performance that work in today's ever-changing threat landscape.



Current Landscape of Cyber Threat Detection

Security teams used simple rule-based systems to identify known threats back in the 1970s. The 1980s brought signature-based approaches, and security experts developed heuristic-based detection by the early 1990s. The digital world changed by a lot in the late 1990s when anomaly detection systems eliminated the need for manual monitoring.

Rise of Traditional Detection Methods

The advancement of threat detection methods shows an ongoing battle between security measures and threat actors. Each improvement in security technology led threat actors to create more sophisticated bypass techniques. Traditional security teams faced many challenges from sophisticated hackers, expanding attack surfaces, and complex infrastructure.

Limitations of Rule-based Systems

Rule-based systems have several critical constraints that don't work very well in modern cybersecurity:

- These systems process data through fixed 'if-then' statements, making them inflexible to new scenarios
- Security analysts waste approximately 15 minutes every hour addressing false positives
- According to the Ponemon Institute, 25% of a security analyst's time is spent investigating erroneous security alerts
- Rule-based platforms cannot detect zero-day threats since rules cannot be written for unknown attacks

Rise of AI-powered Solutions

AI-driven security systems have become a powerful alternative that offers improved threat detection and response capabilities. These systems can analyze big amounts of data and identify patterns and anomalies that might indicate cybersecurity threats. AI-powered risk analysis speeds up alert investigations and triage by an average of 55%.

Modern AI solutions excel at multiple areas of threat detection. They can identify shadow data, monitor abnormalities in data access, and alert cybersecurity professionals about potential threats from malicious actors instantly. This technology helps prevent phishing, malware, and other malicious activities while you retain control of security posture.

Machine learning algorithms track network data, user behavior, and system activity continuously. These algorithms classify deviations from regular patterns as unknown threats. This approach helps detect threats earlier in the attack cycle, which minimizes potential damage and prevents breaches.

Core Components of Deep Learning Security Systems

Deep learning security systems use sophisticated neural networks that process huge amounts of security data through multiple specialized layers. These systems show impressive accuracy. Hybrid CNN-GRU models achieve 94.22% precision when they identify various security attacks.

Neural Network Architectures for Threat Detection

Security systems today use three core neural architectures. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) excel at pattern recognition and feature mapping. They process input data using filters through specialized convolutional layers to generate feature maps. Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) also handle sequential data well by keeping internal memory states.

Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks, an advanced form of RNNs, show superior capabilities when detecting sophisticated attacks through better memory mechanisms. These networks analyze system call sequences and identify anomalous behavior patterns with exceptional accuracy.

Hybrid architectures that combine multiple neural networks mark a notable advance. To name just one example, the CNN-GRU approach combines convolutional layers with Gated Recurrent Units. Specialized algorithms optimize this combination to boost detection capabilities.

Feature Extraction Mechanisms

Feature extraction is a vital component in deep learning security systems. Traditional feature-based approaches needed manual design of hand-crafted features based on expert knowledge. Deep learning has revolutionized this process by using automated feature learning mechanisms.

The feature extraction process has several key components:

- Data preprocessing phase incorporating parsing and normalization
- TF-IDF mechanism for data standardization
- Event profiling for handling large-scale network events

Security systems now implement concurrent event profiling instead of sequence-based patterns. This approach lets them process streaming event data well and tackles the challenges of real-time threat detection in large environments.

Machine learning appeals more for signature-less threat detection because it can generalize to new, unseen samples. Deep learning models also perform better when processing different data sources. They achieve state-of-the-art results in malware classification measurements.

These architectures prove their worth in ground applications. AI-SIEM systems that use event profiling and neural network methods like FCNN, CNN, and LSTM can tell true positive from false positive alerts. Security analysts find this helpful when they need to respond to potential threats quickly.

Building Real-time Threat Detection Pipelines

Modern security operations just need strong pipelines to process huge amounts of data immediately. IBM QRadar shows this approach well. It collects and processes network data right away to manage security through immediate monitoring and threat response.

Data Ingestion and Preprocessing

Detailed data collection forms the foundation of effective threat detection. Data ingestion works through multiple channels. We collected information from:

- Network traffic logs and system events
- User activity records
- Threat intelligence feeds
- Full packet captures
- Configuration changes

Raw data goes through parsing and normalization before it enters the processing layer. The system converts incoming data into structured formats to enable quick analysis and correlation. Parsed data gives IP addresses, ports, byte counts, and other key metrics that show network sessions between hosts.

Model Training Infrastructure

Training infrastructure requires expandable components to handle growing data volumes. Traditional systems used fixed hardware. Modern platforms now use elastic computing resources that adapt to varying workloads. The infrastructure uses data lakes based on technologies like Amazon S3, Hadoop, or Elasticsearch. This enables almost unlimited data storage at lower costs.

The training infrastructure uses distributed processing frameworks alongside storage capabilities. These frameworks process massive datasets through tools in the Hadoop ecosystem, like Hive and Spark. They keep SQL query capabilities for traditional security infrastructure.

Deployment Architecture

The deployment architecture works in three distinct layers to give detailed security coverage. Collectors gather event and flow data directly from the network in the first layer. The second layer processes this collected data through Custom Rules Engine (CRE). It generates alerts and stores processed information.

Independent components allow horizontal scaling. Each component runs as a separate, expandable deployment. Organizations can add capacity whenever bottlenecks show up in the processing pipeline. This modular approach will give optimal performance even during high-load scenarios.

Key components within the deployment architecture include:

- Event processors to handle increased processing requirements
- Flow processors for network traffic analysis
- Data nodes for additional storage capacity
- Integration points with existing security tools

The system stays highly available through redundant components and automated failover mechanisms. The architecture uses cloud-native services. Organizations can utilize managed solutions while they retain control over their security posture.

Implementing Automated Response Mechanisms

AI has changed how cybersecurity systems respond to incidents. These AI-driven security orchestration platforms automate incident response and resolution. Companies can now act quickly during security crises.

Threat Prioritization Logic

Modern threat prioritization systems rely on Applied Threat Intelligence (ATI). The systems exploit multiple priority features. They focus on confidence scores, incident response engagement data, and prevalence metrics. Sophisticated algorithms assess threats based on:

- Mandiant IC-Score for automated confidence assessment
- Active incident response engagement data
- Attribution strength and prevalence metrics

- Network direction analysis
- Commodity threat evaluation

The main goal is to determine specific campaigns' likelihood to demonstrate within the enterprise. The system processes big amounts of security data and generates quantitative scores. These scores show threat priorities for individual enterprises or broader industries.

Response Action Framework

Automated mechanisms perform incident response operations without human intervention. The systems can isolate compromised machines, separate threats from other data, and alert security agencies.

AI-powered response systems handle security incidents through dynamic playbook creation. Machine learning algorithms refine these playbooks by analyzing historical incident data and threat intelligence. The framework takes several key response actions:

1. Immediate Containment: Automated systems isolate compromised endpoints and revoke compromised credentials when threats are detected.
2. Threat Mitigation: Patches and updates are deployed across affected systems while monitoring suspicious activities.
3. Alert Management: AI algorithms analyze and relate multiple data points. This provides context to each alert and reduces false positives.

Security Orchestration, Automation and Response (SOAR) platforms combine these components into one system. SOAR tools use AI to automate responses to cyber threats. This reduces the need for manual intervention. The approach processes vast amounts of data and makes informed decisions faster than human analysts.

The framework focuses on threat processing and analysis in real-time. It monitors data streams to detect potential threats. Machine learning algorithms identify suspicious activities immediately. Security teams receive threat intelligence to alleviate dynamic cyber threats. The systems can spot signs of hacking, data breaches, and malware infections while providing alerts in real-time.

AI-driven response systems adjust their strategies as threats evolve and new attack methods appear. This approach keeps security measures working against emerging threats while maintaining optimal performance.

Performance Optimization Techniques

Deep learning models in cybersecurity applications just need careful thought about model size, inference speed, and how resources are used. Model compression tools have become essential to keep these systems running well without using too many resources.

Model Compression Methods

AI systems face challenges when working with limited resources, and model compression helps solve this problem. We used several key techniques to address this. Quantization makes model parameters less precise, which uses less memory and speeds up calculations. Knowledge distillation teaches a smaller model to copy what a larger, well-trained model does.

Different applications show varying results with compression methods:

- Pruning removes less important parameters to reduce computing needs
- Low-rank factorization breaks down large weight matrices into smaller ones
- Quantization-aware training (QAT) uses training data to fix accuracy issues

Inference Speed Optimization

The quickest way to detect and analyze threats is through inference speed optimization. Post-training quantization (PTQ) uses calibration data to work out scaling factors that ended up improving model performance. This approach helps calculate faster while keeping detection accuracy high.

TensorRT-LLM libraries come with cutting-edge features that make inference run faster. Getting the best inference speed means optimizing the entire system stack in a variety of deployment environments.

Recent measurements show major improvements in inference optimization:

- Hopper architecture ran 27% faster than older versions
- NVIDIA H200 Tensor Core GPU showed excellent results in data center tests
- GB200 NVL72 rack-scale solution ran 30 times faster for live inference

Resource Usage Optimization

System capabilities and computational demands need to stay balanced. Of course, adaptive workload management plays a significant role by using machine learning to track expected and actual runtimes. Database performance improved by up to 30% with this approach.

Machine learning query optimization marks another step forward in managing resources. This technique helps queries run 8-10 times faster than older methods. It also lets database administrators work on adding value instead of maintenance.

Containerization helps optimize resources by keeping applications separate while they share one operating system. Companies can test AI models without wasting resources. Serverless computing then improves things further by adjusting resources based on what you just need.

These optimization techniques help achieve both performance and sustainability goals. Organizations can keep threat detection running at high performance while using less computing power and energy. They do this by carefully applying compression methods, making inference faster, and managing resources better.

Integration with Security Operations

Security operations centers (SOCs) depend on advanced integration patterns to keep their cybersecurity strong. SOC teams process security data from many sources. SIEM solutions are the foundation of their threat detection and response capabilities.

SIEM Integration Patterns

SIEM platforms work as central hubs for security operations and collect log data from different sources across organization networks. These systems look for attack patterns in the collected data and raise alerts when they spot threats. The integration architecture helps with several important tasks:

- Data centralization and normalization
- Intelligent data stitching and correlation
- Analytics-based detection mechanisms
- Incident management workflows
- Threat intelligence integration
- Attack surface management

SIEM solutions normalize data and merge different views of similar events into enhanced log lines that tell complete activity stories. Security teams can get a comprehensive picture through interactive dashboards. This helps them quickly investigate threats and attack patterns.

Alert Management Systems

Alert management plays a vital role in modern security operations. AI-enabled systems analyze and relate alerts, which makes both the original triage processes and decision-making better. These systems analyze alerts based on several factors:

- User activity and risk assessment
- Device-specific alerts and endpoint risk
- File hash tracking
- Process execution paths
- Temporal correlations
- IP address associations

Despite challenges with skill shortages and time constraints, advanced alert management systems have shown big improvements in how well they work. Security analysts used to waste about 15 minutes every hour dealing with false positives. Now, AI-driven systems have made this easier by automating alert triage workflows. They also add user entity behavior analytics (UEBA) context to highlight critical alerts.

Workflow Automation

Workflow automation changes security operations through smart orchestration and response mechanisms. Security Orchestration, Automation and Response (SOAR) platforms work with over 600 products. This lets them run automated playbooks and respond to incidents. These systems automate several critical workflows:

4. Incident Creation and Management
5. Threat Intelligence Integration
6. Response Action Execution
7. Asset Management and Monitoring

Adding new data to modern SIEM platforms takes just a few clicks, whatever the source. The system merges new data into existing models, correlations, and playbooks to keep things running smoothly. This automation helps with incident response too. The system can suggest the right actions based on what's happening.

The integration framework aims to cut down manual operations while making everything more accurate. Machine learning algorithms watch network traffic and user behaviors constantly. They can spot signs of malicious activity as they happen. These systems speed up detection and automatically take planned actions to reduce threats.

AI-driven automation has made security operations better in measurable ways. It has cut down alert noise and sped up mean time to detect (MTTD) and respond (MTTR) to security incidents. These systems have also shown they can predict and catch potential threats early, which reduces the effect of security breaches.

Measuring Detection Effectiveness

Security teams need to calculate the effectiveness of deep learning security systems through proven performance metrics. Companies of all sizes use different measurement techniques to assess threat detection capabilities and system reliability.

Key Performance Metrics

Accuracy is a fundamental metric in threat detection systems that measures correct classifications. We calculated accuracy as the ratio of correct classifications to total classifications $(TP+TN)/(TP+TN+FP+FN)$. This provides a basic measure of model quality for balanced datasets.

Precision calculates the proportion of positive classifications that are actually positive, expressed as $TP/(TP+FP)$. The recall metric (also known as the true positive rate) shows the proportion of actual positives correctly identified as $TP/(TP+FN)$. These metrics typically have an inverse relationship - improving one affects the other.

The F1 score gives a balanced measure between precision and recall. This metric works particularly well with class-imbalanced datasets where accuracy alone might mislead. Recent standards show impressive results:

- Deep Neural Networks reached 99.02% accuracy with 98.97% precision
- CNN models showed 99.10% accuracy and 99.08% precision
- LSTM networks achieved 85.98% accuracy with 85.37% precision

False Positive Rate (FPR) is a vital metric that shows the proportion of actual negatives incorrectly classified as positives. A lower FPR indicates better system reliability and fewer false alarms that could overwhelm security teams.

Mean Time metrics give practical insights into operational efficiency:

8. Mean Time to Detect (MTTD): Shows how quickly systems identify potential threats
9. Mean Time to Acknowledge (MTTA): Measures response initiation speed
10. Mean Time to Contain (MTTC): Shows threat isolation effectiveness
11. Mean Time to Resolve (MTTR): Measures complete incident resolution time

Benchmarking Methods

Standard benchmarks provide consistent ways to measure product qualities in the cybersecurity industry. MLCommons runs MLPerf benchmarks to assess state-of-the-art AI hardware speed.

Recent benchmarking developments include:

CyberSecEval 2: Meta AI's suite assesses security risks and capabilities in cybersecurity applications. The framework evaluates:

- Insecure coding practices
- Cyber-attack helpfulness
- Instruction following capabilities
- Threat detection effectiveness

SECURE: Rochester Institute of Technology developed this benchmark for industrial control systems security. Tests showed ChatGPT 4 outperforms open-source alternatives in threat detection scenarios.

CTIBench: This specialized suite measures performance in cyber threat intelligence applications through:

- CTI Multiple Choice Questions
- CTI Root Cause Mapping
- CTI Vulnerability Severity Prediction
- CTI Threat Actor Attribution

To cite an instance, see these deep learning model results:

- DNN implementations showed 99.38% accuracy in recent tests
- CNN architectures reached 99.40% accuracy with 99.43% precision
- LSTM networks achieved 99.36% accuracy and 99.39% precision

Teams use tools like CSVLogger for logging to CSV files and TensorBoard to visualize training and validation metrics. EarlyStopping prevents overfitting by stopping training when validation loss shows no improvement after six epochs.

Conclusion

Deep learning architectures have changed cybersecurity systems with remarkable advances in threat detection and response. These smart systems show exceptional accuracy, and hybrid models achieve 94.22% precision when they identify security threats. Today's security platforms work better through automated response systems that substantially reduce false positives and speed up resolution times. Teams can optimize performance through model compression and faster inference speeds. These systems stay efficient without using too many resources.

Security teams work better with smooth connections between SIEM platforms, alert management systems, and simplified processes. Teams can verify system effectiveness through detailed metrics, while standard measures help evaluate different implementations consistently. Deep learning security systems keep getting better and offer more sophisticated protection against new cyber threats. These systems process huge amounts of data, spot complex patterns, and respond automatically. They are the foundations of modern cybersecurity infrastructure. Security teams that want future-proof solutions will find AI-driven systems are a great way to get resilient security in a changing threat landscape.

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