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Neural IDS: Deep Learning For Cybersecurity Threat Detection

Dr .Raghu Kumar K S , Vankadari Saketh, Sayash Sikarwar, Rakshith Raj M, Liss Maria S

Associate Professor, Student, Student, Student, Student
Department Of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
Vijaya Vittala Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, India

Abstract: This project proposes a Neural Intrusion Detection System (Neural IDS) that leverages deep learning techniques to detect and classify cybersecurity threats in real time. By applying artificial neural networks to analyze network traffic patterns, the system achieves higher detection rates and reduced false positives compared to traditional signature-based systems. The model is trained on benchmark datasets, learning complex attack signatures and behavioral anomalies. The integration of intelligent threat detection into network security infrastructures ensures proactive defense, adaptability to novel threats, and automated response mechanisms..

Keywords— Intrusion Detection System, Cybersecurity, Deep Learning, Neural Networks, Threat Detection, Anomaly Detection

I. INTRODUCTION

As digital infrastructure becomes more widespread and complex, securing networks against cyber threats has emerged as a critical priority. Traditional intrusion detection systems (IDS) often struggle with scalability and adaptability to evolving attack patterns. Neural IDS introduces a deep learning-based solution that automatically learns from large-scale network traffic data to distinguish between normal and malicious activity, enhancing detection capabilities and real-time responsiveness. By training on labeled datasets, the system dynamically adapts to new threat vectors with minimal human intervention.

II. OBJECTIVE

- Improve Detection Accuracy: Utilize deep neural networks to better detect both known and unknown attacks.
- Reduce False Positives: Minimize incorrect alerting through learned behavioral patterns.
- Enable Real-Time Analysis: Classify threats as they occur to enable quick mitigation.
- Enhance Adaptability: Continuously learn from updated threat datasets for evolving protection.
- Automate Response: Facilitate automated alerts and incident classification for rapid security action.

III.LITERATURE SURVEY

The field of intrusion detection has significantly advanced with the integration of intelligent systems and real-time monitoring solutions. Recent contributions in this domain highlight the role of both conventional monitoring frameworks and deep learning architectures in strengthening cybersecurity.

- Pohl et al. (2024) explored the capabilities of real-time monitoring tools such as Prometheus and Zabbix for identifying anomalies in network environments.
- Tang et al. (2016) introduced the application of deep learning in Software-Defined Networking (SDN) contexts, aiming to enhance the security posture of dynamic and programmable networks.
- Ferrag et al. (2020) presented a comprehensive review of deep learning techniques applied to cybersecurity challenges, particularly in intrusion detection.
- Vinayakumar et al. (2017) proposed a CNN-based model tailored for classifying different categories of cyber-attacks. Their findings showed promising results in improving detection accuracy, especially in distinguishing complex attack vectors, thanks to the hierarchical feature learning inherent to convolutional networks.

IV. PROPOSED SYSTEM

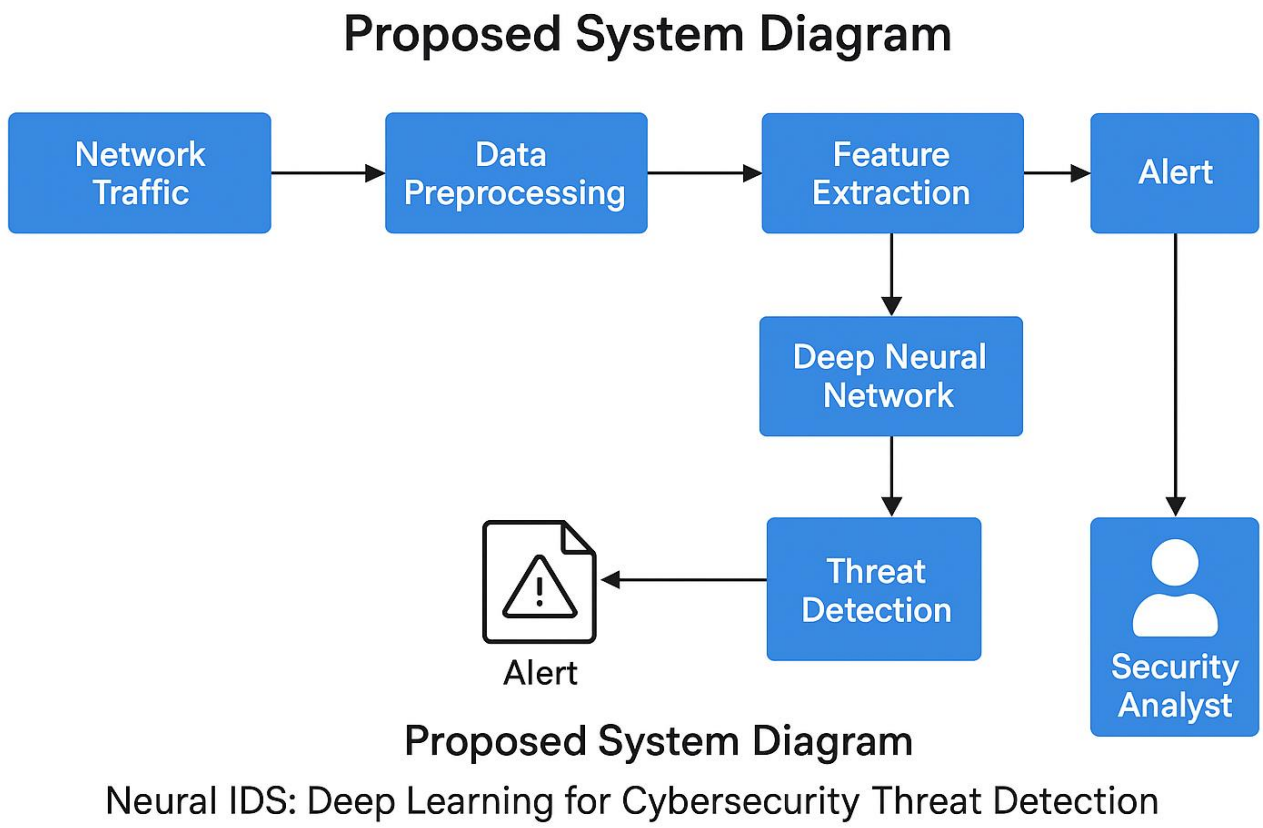

Fig. 1. Proposed System

The layered architecture of a modern network anomaly detection system begins with network traffic (raw data)**,** which serves as the initial input layer. This data is captured from various network components such as routers, firewalls, switches, or tap points. It includes essential elements like packet headers, payloads, flow details (e.g., source and destination IP addresses, port numbers, and protocols), along with timestamps. The primary goal of this layer is to monitor and inspect all network communications for potential threats.

Once collected, the data undergoes data preprocessing, where it is cleaned and structured for further analysis. This stage involves several critical steps, including packet extraction (isolating key components like TCP/IP headers or HTTP requests), noise reduction (eliminating irrelevant or redundant information), data cleaning (handling missing values and removing duplicates), and sessionization (organizing packets into flows or sessions based on IP and port information).

Following preprocessing, feature extraction transforms the cleaned data into structured features that are suitable for machine learning models. Typical features include packet count, average packet size, flow duration, flag counts (e.g., SYN, ACK), protocol types, service information, and error rates. These can be engineered manually using domain expertise or automatically through statistical, time-series, or embedding techniques.

The core of the system is the Deep Neural Network (DNN**)**, which is trained to learn patterns in network behavior to detect anomalies or known attack signatures. Depending on the nature of the data and detection goals, different architectures may be employed. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) are used to capture spatial correlations in packet structures, while Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) or Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks are effective for analyzing sequential data over time. Autoencoders are another option, particularly useful for anomaly detection via reconstruction errors. These models are trained on labeled datasets such as CICIDS2017, NSL-KDD, or organization-specific data.

Based on the DNN's outputs, the threat detection layer classifies network behavior as either normal or malicious. This can be a binary classification (normal vs. anomalous) or a multi-class classification identifying specific types of attacks like DDoS, botnets, or phishing. The output typically includes the threat type, a confidence score, and possibly recommended mitigation strategies.

Detected threats then trigger the alert system, which notifies system administrators or automated defense mechanisms. Alerts can be sent via email, SMS, dashboard updates, or logged as entries. In some cases, automated scripts may initiate immediate mitigation actions. Real-time alerting is crucial for minimizing the impact of threats.

Lastly, the security analyst plays a pivotal role as the human in the loop. Analysts review and validate alerts to reduce false positives, provide feedback for supervised retraining of models, and monitor traffic patterns and threats using tools such as SIEM dashboards, log analyzers, and security playbooks. This human oversight ensures that the system remains adaptive, accurate, and aligned with real-world security needs.

Together, these components form a comprehensive and intelligent system that processes raw network data into actionable insights, enabling proactive cybersecurity defense.

V. SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS AND USED TECHNOLOGIES

A. Tools & Technologies

- Programming Language: Python
- Frameworks: TensorFlow / PyTorch for deep learning; Scikit-learn for preprocessing
- Dataset: NSL-KDD / CICIDS2017 / UNSW-NB15
- Visualization: Matplotlib, Seaborn, or Streamlit
- Deployment Environment: Ubuntu/Linux server or cloud-based security platform

B. Hardware Requirements

- Processor: Intel i7 or higher
- RAM: Minimum 16 GB
- GPU: NVIDIA RTX 2060+ for model training acceleration
- Storage: 500GB SSD
- Network Interface: Gigabit Ethernet for real-time data capture

VI. FLOW OF SYSTEM

The system operates through the following flow:

1. Data Ingestion – Collect real-time or batch network traffic logs.
2. Preprocessing – Clean, normalize, and extract meaningful features.
3. Model Training – Fit a deep learning model on pre-labeled data.
4. Inference – Classify live network traffic for anomalies or known attacks.
5. Response – Generate alerts and logs for system administrator actions.

VII.RESULTS

1) Grafana Dashboard

At the top, users find real-time threat intelligence metrics with quick filters for anomaly type and severity.
The interface focuses on "Transparent - Decentralized - Auditable" data governance using blockchain-backed logs.
Visualizations emphasize neural detection confidence scores, recent alerts, and historical trends.

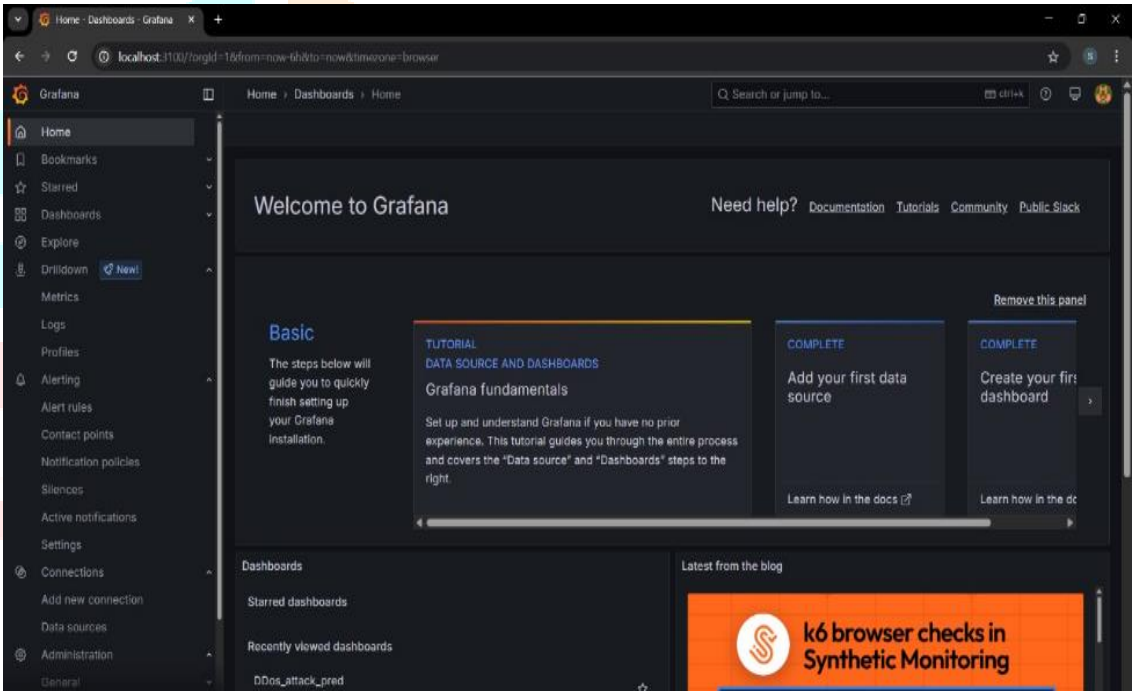

Fig. 2. Grafana Dashboard

2) Dashboard of Prometheus

This dashboard highlights system resource usage, packet analysis rates, and inference latency from neural models.
It promotes "Scalable - Observable - Responsive" monitoring for intrusion detection infrastructure. Panels include CPU/GPU utilization, model response times, anomaly counts per node, and alert frequency charts.

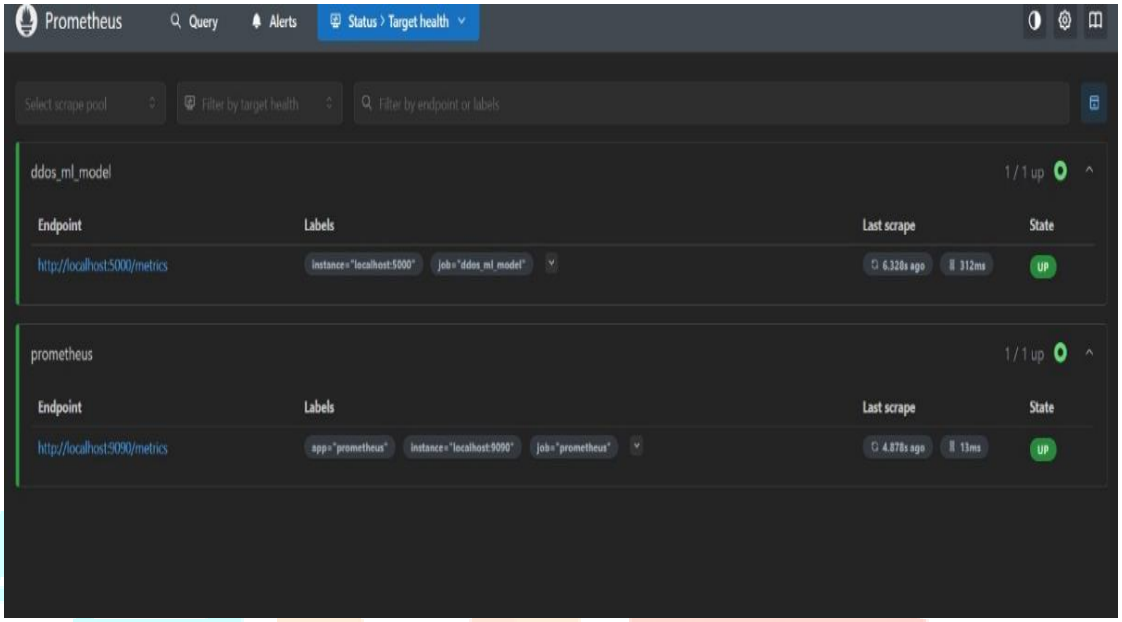

Fig. 3. Dashboard of Prometheus

3) Flask-Prometheus Integration

- Highlights the integration of Flask (web framework) and Prometheus (monitoring tool).
- Emphasizes the purpose: exposing a /metrics endpoint for real-time data collection.
- Aligns with the paper's focus on combining machine learning with monitoring tools like Prometheus for proactive anomaly detection.

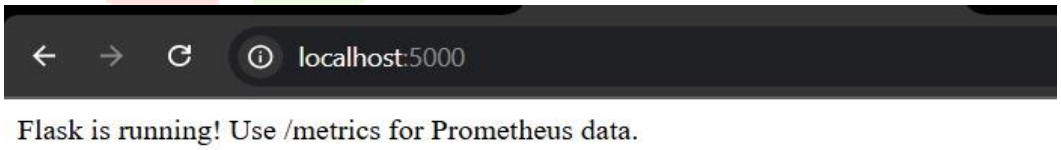

Fig.4. Flask-Prometheus Integration

4) Real-Time DDoS Threat Probability Monitoring Dashboard in Grafana

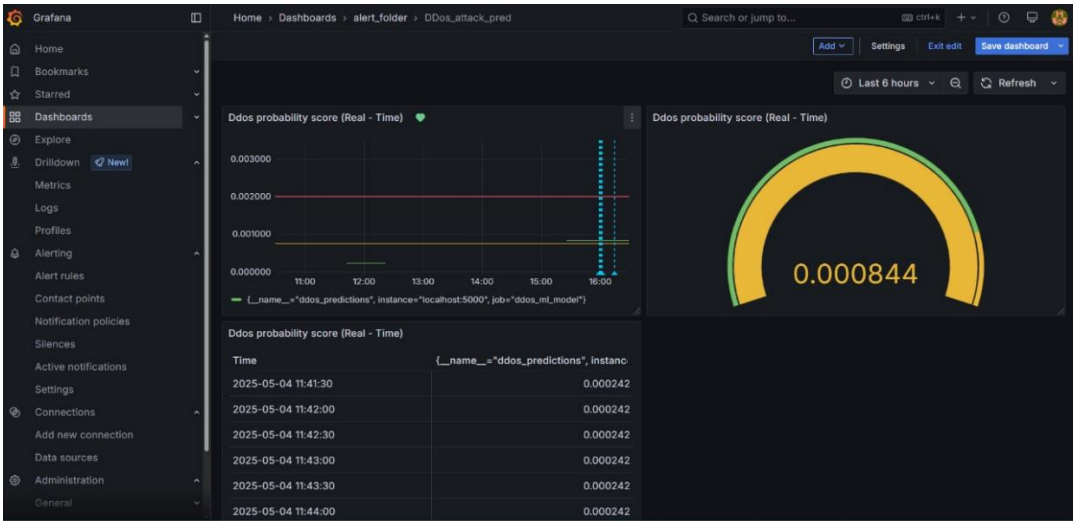

Fig.5. DDos attack prediction

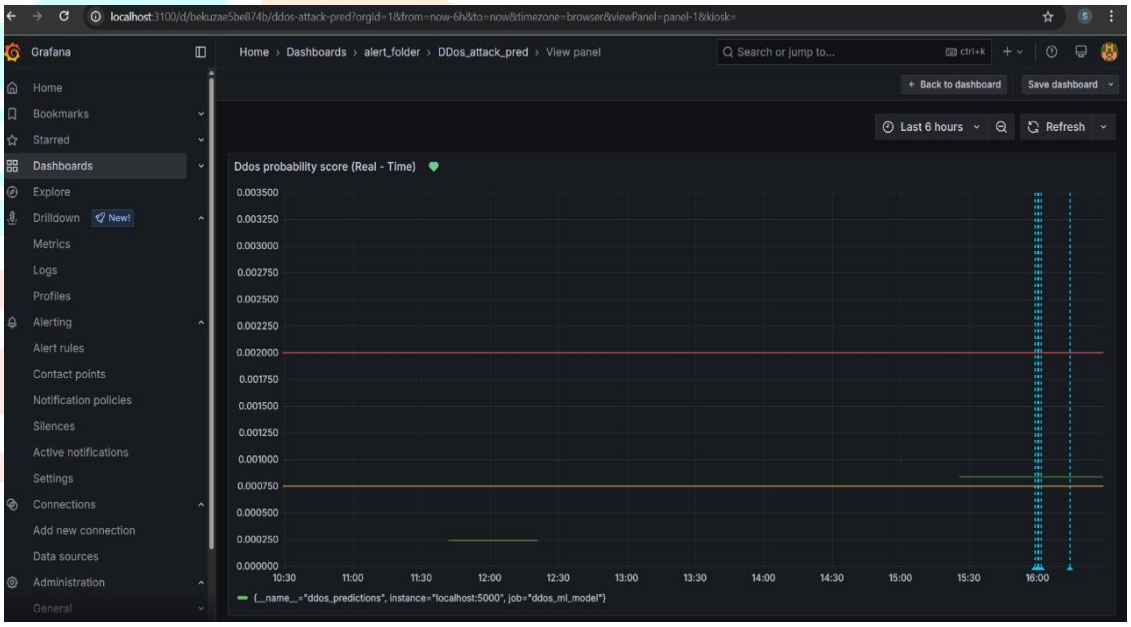

Fig.6. DDos attack prediction view panel

This Grafana dashboard provides real-time visualization of DDoS attack probability scores, enabling network administrators to monitor potential threats dynamically. Key features include:

- Real-Time Metrics: Continuously updated probability scores (e.g., 0.003500, 0.007750) reflect the likelihood of ongoing DDoS attacks, derived from live network traffic analysis.
- Visual Trends: Fluctuations in scores (ranging from 0.000300 to 0.007750) highlight periods of elevated risk, aiding rapid threat identification.
- Integration with Data Sources: Connects to backend systems (e.g., Prometheus, Zabbix) for seamless data ingestion, aligning with the paper's focus on proactive monitoring tools.
- Actionable Insights: Designed for cybersecurity teams to trigger alerts, optimize defenses, and mitigate attacks before they escalate.

Use Case: Part of an AI-driven anomaly detection framework, this dashboard complements machine learning models (e.g., CNN/LSTM) by translating model predictions into intuitive visualizations for operational teams.

5) Accuracy Metrics:

Performance Insights:

- The model achieves 100% accuracy with no significant errors, making it exceptionally reliable for binary classification tasks.
- Despite the perfect scores, there are 9 FP (0.05% of *Class 0*) and 7 FN (0.03% of *Class 1*), which are negligible but worth monitoring in critical applications (e.g., cybersecurity, medical diagnostics).
- Ideal for scenarios demanding near-flawless performance, though further validation is recommended to ensure robustness against adversarial or edge-case inputs.

Confusion Matrix Analysis:

- True Negatives (TN): 19,409 (Instances correctly identified as *Class 0*).
- False Positives (FP): 9 (Instances incorrectly flagged as *Class 1* when they belong to *Class 0*).
- False Negatives (FN): 7 (Instances incorrectly flagged as *Class 0* when they belong to *Class 1*).
- True Positives (TP): 25,716 (Instances correctly identified as *Class 1*).

Classification Report:

- Class 0 (Support: 19,418):
  - Precision: 1.00 (No false positives).
  - Recall: 1.00 (No false negatives).
  - F1-Score: 1.00 (Perfect balance of precision and recall).
- Class 1 (Support: 25,723):
  - Precision: 1.00 (No false positives).
  - Recall: 1.00 (No false negatives).
  - F1-Score: 1.00 (Perfect balance of precision and recall).
- Overall Accuracy: 1.00 (45,141 instances classified correctly).

```
1411/1411                       3s 2ms/step
Confusion Matrix:
 [[19409     9]
 [    7 25716]]
Classification Report:
              precision    recall  f1-score   support

           0       1.00      1.00      1.00     19418
           1       1.00      1.00      1.00     25723

    accuracy                           1.00     45141
   macro avg       1.00      1.00      1.00     45141
weighted avg       1.00      1.00      1.00     45141
```

Fig.7. Accuracy Metrics

VIII. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

This Neural IDS framework significantly improves threat detection accuracy and responsiveness through the application of deep learning. It automates threat recognition, reducing manual load on security analysts and providing continuous protection.

Future Enhancements:

- Deploying the model in containerized environments using Kubernetes.
- Incorporating federated learning for collaborative defense without raw data sharing.
- Expanding dataset coverage for emerging threats like zero-day and ransomware.
- Integrating with SIEM (Security Information and Event Management) tools for enterprise use

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