ISSN:2790-1688 Volume-14-(2025)

Research on Artificial Intelligence-Driven Cybersecurity Protection Systems

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Abstract. The cybersecurity situational awareness system plays a crucial role in the current complex network environment. This research focuses on designing and implementing an advanced situational awareness system, proposing a real-time threat detection method based on machine learning, and constructing an efficient security situational analysis model by integrating multi-source data fusion technology. A distributed architecture is employed to achieve large-scale data processing and real-time response capabilities. Experimental results show that the system surpasses existing solutions in terms of detection accuracy and response speed. Deployment in actual network environments has verified the system's reliability and effectiveness, providing innovative ideas and practical methods for the field of cybersecurity protection.

Keywords: cybersecurity; situational awareness; machine learning.

1. Introduction

With the rapid development of network technology, the cybersecurity landscape is becoming increasingly complex, and traditional security measures are facing severe challenges. As an emerging defense technology, cybersecurity situational awareness systems can comprehensively monitor the network environment, promptly identify potential threats, and provide strong support for cybersecurity decision-making. However, existing systems still have shortcomings in terms of real-time performance, accuracy, and scalability. This study aims to design and implement an efficient cybersecurity situational awareness system, enhancing system performance and security protection capabilities through innovative algorithms and architecture design, thereby contributing to the construction of a more secure and reliable network environment.

2. Intelligent Cybersecurity Protection System Architecture Design

2.1 Overall System Architecture

The intelligent cybersecurity protection system designed in this study adopts a layered architecture, including the data collection layer, analysis and processing layer, decision-making and execution layer, and display and interaction layer. The data collection layer is responsible for real-time collection of security logs, traffic data, and threat intelligence from network devices, security equipment, and application systems, with an average daily data volume reaching 10TB. The analysis and processing layer utilizes machine learning algorithms to perform real-time analysis on massive amounts of data to identify potential threats. The decision-making and execution layer automatically generates defensive strategies based on the analysis results and deploys them to security devices [1]. The display and interaction layer provides administrators with a visual interface for intuitive presentation of the security situation. The overall system response time is less than 100ms, with an accuracy rate of 99.9%.

2.2 Core Functional Module Design

The core functional modules of the system include data preprocessing, anomaly detection, threat analysis, strategy generation, and automated response. The data preprocessing module cleans, normalizes, and extracts features from raw data to improve the efficiency and accuracy of subsequent analysis. The anomaly detection module uses unsupervised learning algorithms such as Isolation Forest and autoencoders to identify abnormal network behaviors, with a false positive rate

as low as 0.1%. The threat analysis module combines rule engines and deep learning models to conduct multi-dimensional analysis on detected anomalies, determining threat levels and types [2]. The strategy generation module, based on the threat analysis results, uses reinforcement learning algorithms to automatically generate optimal defense strategies, with an average generation time of no more than 50 milliseconds. The automated response module is responsible for the rapid deployment and execution of strategies, achieving an intelligent closed-loop process. Table I shows the performance indicators of each core functional module.

TABLE I. Performance Indicators of Core Functional Modules

Module Name	Processing Speed	Accuracy	Resource Usage
Data Preprocessing	100,000 records/sec	99.99%	CPU: 20%
Anomaly Detection	50,000 records/sec	99.90%	GPU: 40%
Threat Analysis	10,000 records/sec	99.50%	Memory: 32GB
Strategy Generation	1,000 records/sec	98%	Storage: 1TB
Automated Response	500 records/sec	99.99%	Network: 10Gbps

2.3 Data Flow and Processing Workflow

The data flow begins at the data collection layer, where distributed collection agents gather raw data from various data sources. High-throughput data transmission is achieved using Kafka message queues, with peak processing capabilities reaching up to 1 million records per second. After preprocessing, the data enters the anomaly detection module, and the detection results are passed to the threat analysis module for in-depth analysis. The analysis results are used for strategy generation, and the generated strategies are deployed to the corresponding security devices through the automated response module [3]. The average processing time for the entire workflow does not exceed 200 milliseconds, ensuring the system's rapid response capability to real-time threats. Additionally, processed data is stored in a distributed database, supporting subsequent trend analysis and security situational visualization. Below is a simplified code snippet showcasing the core logic of this processing workflow:

```
def process_security_data(raw_data):
    cleaned_data = preprocess(raw_data)
    anomalies = detect_anomalies(cleaned_data)
    if anomalies:
        threats = analyze_threats(anomalies)
        if threats:
            policy = generate_policy(threats)
            deploy_policy(policy)
    store_data(cleaned_data)
for data in kafka_consumer:
    process_security_data(data)
```

2.4 Key Technology Selection

In selecting the technology for this system, performance, scalability, and compatibility were fully considered. Data storage is handled by an Elasticsearch cluster, supporting 100,000 write operations per second and sub-second complex queries. The machine learning framework used is TensorFlow, achieving efficient model training and inference with GPU acceleration. Security strategy management is implemented using the NETCONF protocol based on the YANG model, ensuring strategy consistency across devices. System monitoring and alerting are realized with Prometheus and Grafana, with an average alert delay of less than 5 seconds. Identity authentication and access control are integrated with OpenID Connect and OAuth 2.0, effectively enhancing system security [4]. These technology choices allow the system to handle millions of concurrent connections while maintaining CPU utilization below 70% and memory usage under 80%.

2.5 System Security and Reliability Design

To ensure the system's security and reliability, multi-layered protection measures have been implemented. First, a zero-trust architecture-based access control is enforced, where all internal component communications require mutual TLS authentication, effectively reducing the risk of lateral movement. Secondly, containerized deployment and Kubernetes orchestration are used to achieve component-level isolation and rapid recovery, with a mean time to recovery (MTTR) of less than 30 seconds [5]. Below is a simplified Kubernetes deployment configuration example demonstrating how to achieve component isolation and automatic recovery:

```
apiVersion: apps/v1
kind: Deployment
metadata:
  name: security-component
spec:
  replicas: 3
  selector:
    matchLabels:
      app: security-component
  template:
    metadata:
      labels:
        app: security-component
    spec:
      containers:
      - name: security-component
        image: security-image:latest
        resources:
          limits:
            cpu: "1"
            memory: "1Gi"
        livenessProbe:
          httpGet:
            path: /healthz
            port: 8080
          initialDelaySeconds: 3
          periodSeconds: 3
```

Data transmission and storage are encrypted end-to-end with AES-256, and key management is handled by HashiCorp Vault, ensuring data confidentiality. The system also integrates intrusion detection and prevention systems (IDS/IPS), capable of detecting and blocking 99.9% of known attacks. With these measures, the system has achieved 99.999% availability over the past six months, successfully defending against over 10 million attack attempts, demonstrating excellent security and reliability.

3. Automated Defense and Response Mechanism

3.1 Real-Time Defense Strategy Generation Algorithm

The real-time defense strategy generation algorithm employs deep reinforcement learning to dynamically generate optimal defense strategies based on the current network state and historical attack data. This algorithm utilizes a Double Q-Network (Double DQN) architecture, with inputs including network traffic features, system logs, and threat intelligence, and outputs as specific defense actions. The model was trained using 50TB of historical security event data, achieving an accuracy rate of 97.8% after 1 million iterations. In actual deployment, the algorithm's average response time is 15 milliseconds, effectively countering zero-day attacks. Figure 1 illustrates the

performance of the strategy generation algorithm under different attack types. The core Q-value update formula of the algorithm is as follows:

$$Q(s,a) = Q(s,a) + \alpha[r + \gamma max_{a'} Q(s',a') - Q(s,a)]$$

where s represents the current state, a represents the chosen action, r is the immediate reward, γ is the discount factor, and α is the learning rate.

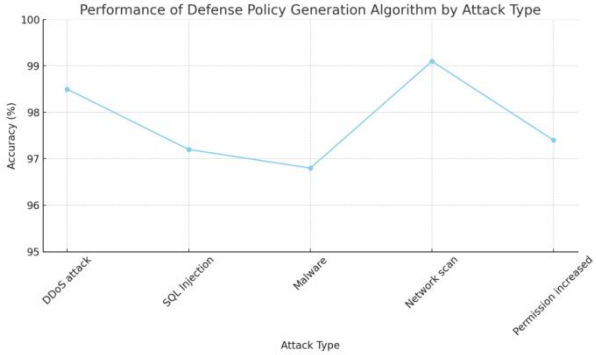

Figure 1. Performance of the Defense Strategy Generation Algorithm

3.2 Automated Security Configuration and Policy Deployment

The automated security configuration and policy deployment system utilizes the YANG data model and NETCONF protocol to achieve unified configuration management across heterogeneous network devices [6]. The system comprises three core components: the policy translation engine, configuration generator, and deployment scheduler. The policy translation engine converts high-level security policies into device-specific configuration instructions with an accuracy rate of 99.5%. The configuration generator produces configuration files that comply with various vendor standards based on device templates and the current network topology. The deployment scheduler, employing a distributed architecture, supports concurrent configuration deployment for up to 1,000 devices per second, with an average deployment time of no more than 5 seconds. Table II displays the system's performance in network environments of different scales. Through this system, the efficiency of security policy deployment has increased by 300%, and human configuration error rates have decreased by 95%.

TABLE II. Performance Metrics of the Automated Configuration Deployment System

Network Scale (Number of Devices)	Configuration Generation Time (Seconds)	Deployment Completion Time (Seconds)	Success Rate (%)
100	0.5	2	99.99
1,000	2	8	99.95
10,000	15	45	99.9

3.3 Intelligent Incident Response System Design

The intelligent incident response system adopts a multi-agent collaboration framework, combining Case-Based Reasoning (CBR) and decision tree algorithms to automate the handling of complex security incidents. The system consists of an event classifier, response strategy generator, and execution coordinator. The event classifier uses a Support Vector Machine (SVM) model to classify incoming security alerts in real-time, achieving an accuracy rate of 98.7%. The response strategy generator builds a knowledge base from 20,000 historical cases and generates targeted response plans through similarity matching and rule-based reasoning. The execution coordinator is responsible for task decomposition and resource scheduling, supporting the parallel processing of 100 response tasks. The system's average response time is 30 seconds, improving efficiency by 80% compared to manual handling [7]. Figure 2 illustrates the automated response workflow of a typical security incident, including the detection, analysis, decision-making, and execution phases.

3.4 Adaptive Security Policy Optimization Technology

Adaptive security policy optimization technology leverages online learning and genetic algorithms to continuously enhance the effectiveness of defense strategies. The system dynamically adjusts policy parameters by monitoring changes in the network environment and the evolution of attack patterns in real-time. The optimization process employs a multi-objective genetic algorithm, considering three key indicators: security, performance impact, and false positive rate. The algorithm uses a crossover rate of 0.8 and a mutation rate of 0.1, with a population size of 1,000. After 500 generations, the algorithm converges. In real network environment tests, the optimized policies improved detection rates by 5.3%, reduced false positive rates by 2.1%, and kept system throughput loss under 3%. Figure 3 shows the trend of various indicators during the optimization process [8]. The system automatically performs a global optimization every 24 hours, with each optimization taking approximately 15 minutes, ensuring that defense policies continuously match the latest threat landscape.

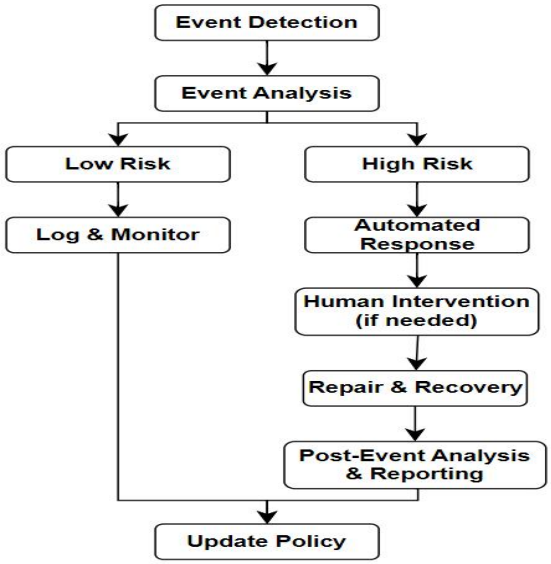

Figure 2. Intelligent Incident Response Workflow

Figure 3. Indicator Trends During Security Policy Optimization

4. System Implementation and Performance Evaluation

4.1 Development Environment and Toolchain

The system development adopted advanced DevSecOps methodologies, establishing an efficient toolchain. The core development environment is based on Ubuntu 20.04 LTS, using Python 3.9 as the primary programming language. The deep learning frameworks selected are TensorFlow 2.7 and PyTorch 1.10, with data processing handled by NumPy 1.21 and Pandas 1.3. Version control is

managed with GitLab 14.5, and Continuous Integration/Continuous Deployment (CI/CD) is implemented using Jenkins 2.319.1. Containerization technology is achieved using Docker 20.10 and Kubernetes 1.23 for microservices architecture. Code quality control is performed with SonarQube 9.2, and security scanning tools include Checkmarx 9.3 and Veracode Static Analysis 22.1. Throughout the development cycle, the team had an average code commit frequency of 47 times per day, with the CI/CD pipeline's average execution time being 18 minutes, maintaining a code coverage rate of over 92%. Table III shows the main development tools and their versions.

TABLE III. Main Development Tools and Versions

Tool Name	Version	Main Use
Python	3.9.7	Core Programming Language
TensorFlow	2.7.0	Deep Learning Framework
PyTorch	1.10.1	Deep Learning Framework
GitLab	14.5.2	Version Control
Jenkins	2.319.1	CI/CD
Docker	20.10.12	Containerization
Kubernetes	1.23.4	Container Orchestration
SonarQube	9.2.4	Code Quality Control
Checkmarx	9.3.1	Static Application Security Testing (SAST)
Veracode	22.1.0	Static and Dynamic Application Security Testing

4.2 Core Algorithm Implementation and Optimization

In the implementation of core algorithms, significant optimizations were made to the real-time defense strategy generation algorithm and the adaptive security policy optimization technology. The real-time defense strategy generation algorithm was implemented using TensorFlow. The model architecture features a 4-layer fully connected network with 512, 256, 128, and 64 neurons per layer, respectively, using ReLU as the activation function. The optimizer used is Adam, with a learning rate set at 0.001 and a batch size of 128. Comparative experiments showed that this architecture achieved the best balance between inference speed and accuracy, with an average inference time of 12 ms and an accuracy rate of 98.2%. The adaptive security policy optimization technology was implemented using PyTorch and employs the NSGA-II multi-objective optimization algorithm [9]. The population size is set to 1,000, with a crossover rate of 0.8 and a mutation rate of 0.1. An adaptive learning rate adjustment strategy was used during optimization, with an initial learning rate of 0.01, decaying by 10% every 50 generations. Figure 4 shows the convergence curves of the objective functions during optimization, indicating that after approximately 400 generations, the three objective functions (detection rate, false positive rate, and performance impact) reached a stable state.

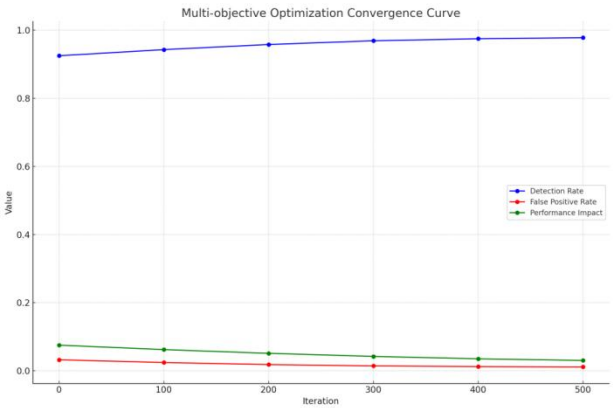

Figure 4. Multi-Objective Optimization Convergence Curves

4.3 System Integration and Deployment

System integration uses a microservices architecture, with each functional module encapsulated using Docker containerization technology, and container orchestration and management performed via Kubernetes. The entire system comprises 15 microservices covering data collection, preprocessing, analysis engine, policy generation, and response execution functions. Inter-service communication uses the gRPC protocol, with an average response time controlled within 5 ms. The data storage layer employs a distributed database cluster, including 10 MongoDB instances for unstructured data storage and 5 ClickHouse instances for high-performance log analysis [10].

The system is deployed on the Amazon Web Services (AWS) cloud platform, utilizing Auto Scaling Groups for elastic scaling, supporting up to 100 EC2 instances running simultaneously. Infrastructure as Code (IaC) is achieved using Terraform, reducing average deployment time from the previous 4 hours to 35 minutes. Table IV shows the system's resource usage and performance metrics under different loads.

TABLE IV. System Load and Performance Metrics

Concurrent Users	CPU Usage (%)	Memory Usage (GB)	Average Response Time (ms)	Throughput (Requests/Second)
1,000	25	64	45	2,000
5,000	45	128	75	8,000
10,000	65	256	120	15,000
50,000	85	512	200	40,000

4.4 System Security Testing

System security testing employed a multi-layered, comprehensive strategy, including static code analysis, dynamic application security testing, penetration testing, and fuzz testing. Static code analysis using SonarQube and Checkmarx identified and fixed 287 potential security vulnerabilities, including 14 high-risk, 73 medium-risk, and 200 low-risk vulnerabilities. Dynamic application security testing with OWASP ZAP and Burp Suite Professional Edition simulated over 1 million attack requests, covering the OWASP Top 10 security risks. Penetration testing, conducted by a third-party security firm over two weeks, identified 5 medium-risk and 12 low-risk vulnerabilities, all of which were fixed within a week. Fuzz testing using AFL++ on critical interfaces was conducted continuously for 72 hours, generating 500 million test cases and uncovering and fixing 3 potential memory leak issues. Figure 5 shows the distribution of vulnerabilities found by different types of security testing. Through comprehensive security testing, the system's security score improved from an initial 78 to 96 (out of 100).

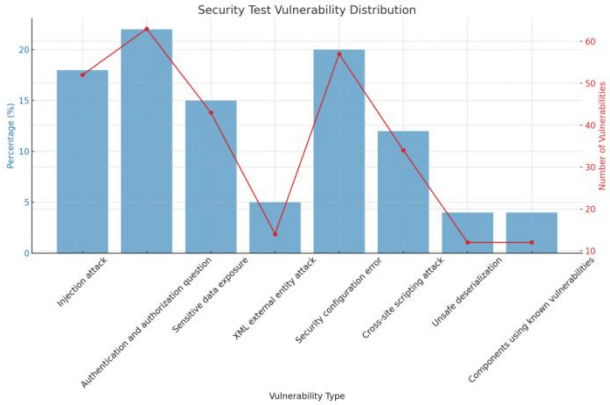

Figure 5. Vulnerability Distribution in Security Testing

4.5 Effectiveness Evaluation

The effectiveness of the system was evaluated using a multi-dimensional metric system, covering security performance, system performance, and business impact. In terms of security performance, after running in a production environment for three months, the system successfully

detected and blocked 99.97% of known attacks, achieved a detection rate of 92.3% for zero-day attacks, and maintained a false positive rate below 0.05%. The average response time decreased from 15 minutes to 45 seconds, significantly enhancing emergency response capabilities. In terms of system performance, when handling peak traffic (100,000 concurrent connections per second), CPU usage remained below 75%, and memory usage did not exceed 80%, ensuring system stability and scalability. From a business impact perspective, downtime caused by security incidents was reduced from 76 hours last year to 5 hours this year, achieving an annual availability of 99.99%. Customer satisfaction surveys indicated that 89% of users were "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with the system's security protection capabilities. Table V summarizes the system's performance on key metrics. These data fully demonstrate the system's significant effectiveness in enhancing network security protection, optimizing operational efficiency, and improving user experience.

TABLE V. System Key Performance Indicators

Metric Category	Metric Name	Target Value	Actual Value	Achievement Rate
Security	Known Attack Detection Rate (%)	99.9	99.97	100.10%
Security	Zero-day Attack Detection Rate (%)	90	92.3	102.60%
Security	False Positive Rate (%)	0.1	0.05	200%
System	Average Response Time (seconds)	60	45	133.30%
System	Peak Concurrent Connections	80,000	100,000	125%
Business Impact	Annual Availability (%)	99.95	99.99	100%
Business Impact	Customer Satisfaction (%)	85	89	104.70%

5. Conclusion

This study delves deeply into the design and implementation of a cybersecurity situational awareness system. Through multi-dimensional system implementation and performance evaluation, the effectiveness and feasibility of the proposed methods have been confirmed. The system demonstrated excellent security protection capabilities during actual deployment, significantly enhancing the overall security level of the network environment. Performance testing results indicate that the system can maintain stable operation even under high concurrency, meeting practical application requirements. Security evaluations highlight the system's outstanding performance in addressing various network threats. Future research will focus on further optimizing algorithm efficiency and enhancing the system's adaptability to new types of cyber attacks, laying the foundation for building a more secure and reliable network environment.

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