

# An Intrusion Detection Model Based on Deep Long Short Term Recurrent Neural Network



K. Narayana Rao, K. Venkata Rao, Prasad Reddy PVGD

Abstract: With the rapid increase of network based services and internet users on various platforms are becoming the major targets of attacks. Intrusion detection is the process of monitoring the attacks and analyzing their signs and violation of security policies which are occurring in the systems or networks. Intrusion Detection System is a prominent research area in security analysis and evaluation. In order to identify the attack type, we proposed Deep Long Short Term Memory-Recurrent Neural Network (DLSTM-RNN) method with seven optimizers and 500 epochs to train and test a dataset. Initially the data transformation, normalization are used to preprocess the data. The preprocessed train and test data is given input to the model. The bench mark NSL-KDD dataset used to train and test the model. The results are obtained for five-class classification (attack types). The model outperformed with adamax optimizer on NSL-KDD dataset. The metrics accuracy, detection rate, and false alarm rate are evaluated to ascertain the detection efficacy of the model. We compare the model to existing convolutional learning methods.

Keywords: Deep Learning, Long Short Term Memory, Optimizer, Intrusion Detection.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

With the increase of internet usage, cyber security has become an important task. The identification of network attacks, especially unanticipated attacks are a technically key issue. There are a few conventional softwares to detect harmfull actions, such as control mechanisms, firewalls, encryption methods etc... These techniques have limitations, especially when the systems are facing a large number of attacks like Denial of Services (DoS), and the systems can get a higher detection rate of false positive and false negative. The significant researchers are actively focused on developing Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS) in an information security field. According to dynamic detection methods the IDS could be categorized into three types. They are Misuse-based, Anomaly-based IDSs and Stateful Protocol analysis. The misuse-based IDS detect the familiar attacks based on pre determined attack signature.

Revised Manuscript Received on December 30, 2019.

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Therefore, frequent updating of new signature is obligatory. However the MIDS cannot detect the rapidly growing zero day vulnerabilities and exploits. Anomaly-based IDSs are used to develop to detect any deviations from profiles of usual behaviour. Therefore, anomaly-based IDSs are more acceptable systems than misuse-based IDSs for discovering novel or unknownattacks without any antecedent knowledge. The stateful protocol analysis detection approach compares the detected actions and recognizes the unconventionality of the protocol state[1]. It takes advantage of both methodologies, such as signature based, and anomaly-based IDSs. In fact, IDS is generally equivalent to a classification problem, such as binary or multi-classification. The binary classification is, identifying whether the traffic is normal or abnormal. The five-category multi classification is identifying the traffic whether the attack is normal or one of the other four attack types, such as Denial of Services (DoS), Probing (Probe), User to Root (U2R), and Remote to Local (R2L). The motives behind IDS are to accurately determine the behavior of intrusive users by enhancing classification accuracy.

Recently, the researchers have been using Machine Learning techniques with the aim of improving the detection rates as compared to conventional intrusion detection techniques. The traditional methodologies can not efficiently solve the vast intrusion data classification in the real world environment. With the dynamic growth of data set size, the classification methods will induce decrease in the accuracy. In contrast, the deep learners are likely to extract better representation from the massive data to devise effective models. In this paper, we study few aspects which consist of Intrusion Detection Machine Learning techniques. Then, we continue to give a new method Long Short Term Memory-Recurrent Neural Network (LSTM-RNN) to improve the performance in this area.

This paper is organized as follows. In section II, we synopsize the related research study in the area of IDS. Section III, presents a description of LSTM-RNN architecture. The performance evaluation and it's measures are presented in section IV. This section highlights the evaluated methodology with a discussion of experiment results and a comparision with preceding research works on NSL-KDD dataset. Finally, the conclusion is disclosed section V.

#### II. **RELATED STUDY**

In the previous studies, the conventional IDSs are shown using as misuse or anomaly detection to detect unknown attacks. The researchers have been applying machine learning methodologies for intrusion detection.



Existing IDSs are heavily based on supervised learning methods such as SVM, KNN, Random Forest, etc... Our related study review [2], discussed various related works on IDS through machine learning. Kayacik et al. [3] proposed hierarchical two layer SOM, on 41-features of KDD data set. Ravinder Reddy et al. [4] proposed discriminant function with SVM to increase the effectiveness. Jiong Zhang et al. [5] applied Random Forest in misuse, anomaly, and hybrid detection.

Researchers also proposed several hybrid classification approaches by the amalgamation of existing methods. Dhikhi et al.[6] proposed CWS-IDS to find the anomalies, that combines the unsupervised Contractive Autoencoder (ContAE) and SVM. The method used Autoencoder for feature extraction and SVM for classifiying the attacks as binary or multi classification on NSL-KDD dataset. The results were compared with single SVM and Random forest methods. Nandini Rebello et al.[7] proposed hybrid model with K-means and Gradient Boosted tree classifier methods. The K-means clustering method, forms clusters from the input dataset and Gradient Boosted Tree classifier classify the tested data into binary classification. The evaluated results were compared with existing methodologies. Ahmed I. Saleh et al. [8] implemented Hybrid IDS for multi-class classification problems. Naïve Bayes Feature Selection (NBFS) technique used for reduction of dimensionality. The Optimized Support Vector Machine (OSVM) employed for outlier rejection. Prioritized KNN (PKNN) classifier classified the attacks successfully. However these methods are produced many false alarms and have low detection rate of attacks in IDS.

Sasanka Potluri et al. [9] implemented accelerated Deep Neural Network (DNN) to identify the anomalies in NSL-KDD dataset. Pavel Kachurka et al. [10] used Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) method to detect attacks which are unseen previously in real time. However, Machine Learning methods have some limitations, with the increase of input data size and unforeseen attacks. The upgraded learning methods are needed, particularly in the extraction of features and analysis of intrusion. Recently, researchers have shown an interest on IDS using Deep Learning Methods. It is a branch of Machine Learning, and has better learning capability of analysis of composite data. Sheraz Naseer et al. [11] implemented different Deep Neural Networks models for IDS including CNN, Autoencoders, and RNN. Many deep learning models are used GPU powered test-bed for train and test of NSL-KDD dataset.

#### PROPOSED METHODOLOGY III.

# A) Recurrent Neural Network

Deep learning is a branch of Machine Learning, which is closer to Artificial Intelligence. Supervised and unsupervised learning models construct using Deep learning with higher levels of abstraction. Features are defined from lower levels. Neural network is a workhorses of Deep learning. In typical neural network, at time t, the neuron output is

$$y_i^t = \sigma(W_i x_i + b_i)$$

 $y_i^t = \sigma(W_{-i}x_{-t} + b_i)$  The weight matrix is  $W_i$  , bias is  $b_i$  , and the sigmoid activation function is  $\sigma$ . RNN is an enhancement feed-forward neural networks with recurrent connections. RNN is a prominent model to train the sequence data. In

RNN, at time t - 1, the neuron output is fed back into the neuron. The new activation function becomes as

$$y_i^t = \sigma(W_i x \quad _t \, + \, U_i y_i^{t-1} \, + \, b_i)$$

As these RNNs are repeated connections using previous inputs, they rely on the previous states for their current output. Unlike a conventional feed-forward neural network, RNN has cyclic connections. The cyclic connections make RNN as more powerful for modelling sequences. Let us assume that the input vector sequence is X, the hidden vector sequence is H, and the output sequence is Y. The input sequence given by  $X=(x_1,x_2,...,x_T)$ . A conventional RNN calculates the hidden sequence as  $H=(h_1,h_2,...,h_T)$ , and the output vector sequence is  $Y = (y_1, y_2, ..., y_T)$  with t = 1 to T as follows.

$$h_t = \sigma(W_{xh}x_t + W_{hh}h_{t-1} + b_h)$$

$$y_t = W_{hy}h_t + b_y$$

 $y_t = W_{hy}h_t + b_y$ Where W is a weight matrix,  $b_i$  is bias, and  $\sigma$  is nonlinearity activation function.

Inorder to manage variable-length data input, conventional RNN uses Back Propagation Training Time (BPTT). In this model, it is first trained with trained data, then with saved output gradient error for each time step. However RNN is difficult to train, because gradient is exploding or disappearing while training with BPTT method.

# B) Long Short Term Memory

Hochreiter et. al [12] proposed LSTM architecture. LSTM can learn long term dependencies, and overcome vanishing gradient descent problem. LSTM remembers information for a long period of time, it replaces each common hidden node by LSTM cell. The long term dependencies of LSTMs full fills by keeping an internal state, that is memory cell of LSTM neuron. The LSTM cell is displayed in fig. 1.

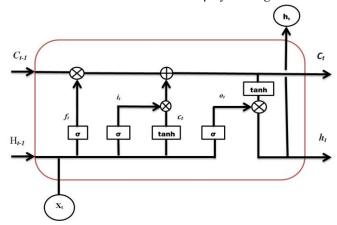


Fig. 1 LSTM Cell

Each LSTM cell has three gates such as input gate  $(i_t)$ , forget gate  $(f_t)$ , and output gate  $(o_t)$ . The updates of input, forget, and output gates can be calculate as:

$$i_t = \sigma(W_{xi}x_t + W_{hi}h_{t-1} + W_{ci}c_{t-1} + b_i)$$

$$f_t = \sigma(W_{xf}x_t + W_{hf}h_{t-1} + W_{cf}c_{t-1} + b_f)$$

$$o_t = \sigma(W_{xo}x_t + W_{ho}h_{t-1} + W_{co}c_t + b_o)$$

The forget and input gate determine the contribution of the previous output and the current input, in the new cell state  $(c_t)$ .



The output gate controls how much of  $C_t$  exposed as the output. The new cell state  $C_t$  and the output  $H_t$  can be calculated as:

$$c_t = f_t \odot c_{t-1} + i_t \odot \tanh (W_{xc}h_{t-1} + b_c)$$

$$h_t = o_t \odot \tanh (c_t)$$

 $h_t = o_t \odot \tanh \ (c_t)$  Where  $X_t, \ H_t,$  and  $C_t$  are input layer, hidden layer, and cell state at time t respectively. Besides,  $b_i, b_f, b_c$ , and  $b_o$  are bias at input, forget, cell, and output gates respectively. O is element-wise multiplication, and  $\sigma$  is sigmoid function. W is weight matrix, in particular, the weight matrices  $W_{xi}$ ,  $W_{xf}$ ,  $W_{xc}$ , and  $W_{xo}$  which are connect from input layer to input gate, forget gate, cell state, and output gate respectively. The weights  $W_{hi}$ ,  $W_{hf}$ ,  $W_{hc}$ , and  $W_{ho}$  are connecting from hidden layer to input gate, forget gate, cell state, and output gate respectively.  $W_{ci}$ ,  $W_{cf}$ , and  $W_{co}$  are weight matrices which connect from cell state layer to input gate, forget gate, and output gate respectively.

Our proposed DeepLSTM-RNN model used to apply for IDS with various optimizers. The proposed model performed as a multi classifier, and to classified the as Dos, Probe, U2R, R2L, and normal.

#### **EVALUATION & RESULTS** IV.

Like a existing deep learning approach, our proposed Deep LSTM-RNN classifiation model was developed using tensorflow. Our model evaluation is done using tensorflow with personal GPU. The GPU cofigured with Intel® Core(TM) i5-8300H 2.30GHz, 8 GB RAM, and NVIDIA GTX 1050 and GPU has 64-bit windows 10 operating system.

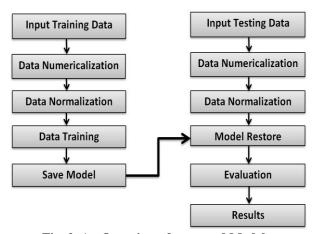


Fig. 2. An Overview of proposed Model

# A) Metrics

The motivation of our proposed model is maximizing Accuracy and Detection Rate (DR), and curbing the False Alarm Rate (FAR). To perform our assessment, we used NSL-KDD dataset. In IDS research, this dataset is considered as bench mark dataset. The confusion matrix presented the actual/ expected and prediction classification result. The result of classification is predicted into five classes correctly and incorrectly. The proposed LSTM-IDS model is evaluated using in the following metrics which are majorly used in IDS. Accuracy: The percentage of the correctly classified instances versus a total number of instances.

$$Acc = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FP + FN}$$

True Positive Rate (TPR) or Detection Rate (DR): Part of positive instances correctly classified as positively.

$$TPR/DR = \frac{TP}{TP+FN}$$

Precision: The portion of correct prediction of intrusions versus total number of predicted intrusions.

$$Precision = \frac{TP}{TP+FP}$$

**Recall**: The portion of correctly predicted intrusions versus total actual intrusions.

$$Recall = \frac{TP+TN}{TP+FN+FP+TN}$$

False Positive Ratio: The portion of number of instances rejected incorrectly versus the total number of normal records.

$$FPR = \frac{FP}{FP+TN}$$

The performance grows better, that means increases it the TPR and decreases the FPR. Therefore, we use the metric efficiency.

$$Efficiency = \frac{TPR}{FAR}$$

Where TP is predict anomaly records are as anomaly, FP is predict normal instances are incorrectly as attacks, TN is predict Normal instances as normal, and finally FN predict anomaly instanceare incorrectly as normal.

## B) Dataset

DARPA initiative IDS-events at MIT Lincoln LAB in 1998. Later from DARPA network dataset files, KDD99 dataset was created by Lee and Stolfo[13], those were participated in DARPA team. The KDD99 can easily be used as a machine learning dataset. However it is far more used in IDS than DARPA dataset. The KDD dataset 38 attacks are divided into five main categories, such as Dos, Probe, R2L, U2R, and normal. The training and testing dataset contains 24, and 14 attacks respectively. The researchers identified several short comings in KDD dataset.

- It is heavily imbalanced i.e 80
- U2R and R2L are few in dataset
- Redundant datasets in both train and test
- It has large dataset, most of the studies used small percentage of it.

To reduce the inadequacy of KDD99 dataset, Tavallaee et al. [14] proposed NSL-KDD dataset. It was generated by removing redundant instances and decreasing the dataset size. The NSL-KDD dataset had 41 features, which are either continuous or discrete. The 41 features categorized into three groups, such as basic features, content features, and traffic features. The features No.1 to No.10 are basic features, No.11 to No.22 are content features, and No.23- No.41 are traffic features. Basic features encapsulate all the attributes extracted from TCP/IP connection.



Content features are suspicious behavior data, i.e failed login attempts. Traffic ctegory is categorized as same host with same service in current connection with respect to window interval. The NSL-KDD dataset feature type is continous, and symbolic. From the 41 features protocol\_type, service, and flag features are Symbolic, and remaining features are Continous type. According to attack category the attacks are mapped in to four types of attack classes. The TABLE I shows attack classes.

TABLE I NSL-KDD Attack types and its Classes [16]

	NSL-KDD Attack types and its Classes [10]						
Attack	Attack Type						
Class							
DoS	neptune, smurf, back, teardrop, pod, land, apache2,						
	mailbomb, processtable, udpstorm, worm.						
Probe	satan, ipsweep, portsweep, nmap, mscan, saint.						
R2L	warezclient, guess_passwd, warezmaster,imap,						
	ftp_write, multihop, phf, spy, httptunnel						
	named,sendmail,snmpgetattack, snmpguess, xlock,						
	xsnoop.						
U2R	buffer_overflow, rootkit, loadmodule, perl, ps,						
	sqlattack, xterm.						

The table II shows NSL-KDD dataset distribution. There are 1,25,973 and 22,543 records in the train and test dataset respectively.

TABLE II Distribution of NSL-KDD dataset sample distribution

	Normal	DoS	Probe	U2R	R2L	Total
Train	67,343	45927	11656	52	995	125,973
Test	9,710	7,460	2,421	67	2,885	22,543

# C) Hyperparameters

The hyper-parameters are vital things to improve the result of neural network model. Depending on hyper-parameters values, the performance of the model changed. KalusGreff et al. [15] performed analysis on the impact of hyperparameters. We measured the performance of LSTM model for seven optimization functions with default optimization values for different hidden layers of the model. Table III shows optimization parameter values of each optimizer.

**TABLE III** The optimizes values of the model

Optimizer	Optimizer Values				
Adamax	lr=0.002, beta_1=0.9, beta_2=0.999,				
	epsilon=None, decay=0.0				
SGD	lr=0.01, momentum=0.0, decay=0.0,				
	nesterov=False				
Adagrad	lr=0.01, epsilon=None, decay=0.0				
Adam	lr=0.001, beta_1=0.9, beta_2=0.999,				
	epsilon=None, decay=0.0, amsgrad=False				
RMSprop	lr=0.001, rho=0.9, epsilon=None, decay=0.0				
Nadam	lr=0.002, beta_1=0.9, beta_2=0.999,				
	epsilon=None, schedule_decay=0.004				
Adadelta	lr=1.0, rho=0.95, epsilon=None, decay=0.0				

# D) The model set up

Before training the dataset, we pre-processed the train and test dataset. Numericalization, Class Numericalization, and Normalization steps are involved in pre-processing.

## (a) Numericalization

NSL-KDD dataset contain 38 numeric features and 3 nonnumeric features. The input values of the LSTM must be a numeric. We need to convert nonnumeric features into The nonnumeric features are numeric features. 'protocol type', 'service', and 'flag'. The nonnumeric 'protocol type' feature has 'tcp', 'udp', and 'icmp' features. These features as encoded with numerical values 1, 2, and 3. Similarly the 'service' and 'flag' features have 70 and 11 attributes respectively. These non numerical features are encoded as numerical values with help of one hot encoder.

# (b) Class Numeralization

The attack type non numerical values are converted into numerical categories. For binary classification, the values 1 and 0 are assigned to normal and attack type respectively. In the multi-classification method the attack types are categorized as 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4 for DoS, Probe, R2L, U2R, and normal respectively. We used one hot encoder to convert it into numerical classification.

## (c) Normalization

Some features minimum and maximum values difference are very large, such as duration [0,42908], src\_bytes[0, 1379963888], dst\_bytes[0,1309937401] etc.. We must have normalized numeric features for removing the effect of original feature scales. Each feature is normalized as

$$z_i = \frac{x_i - x_{Min}}{x_{Max} - x_{Min}}$$

 $z_i = \frac{x_i - x_{Min}}{x_{Max} - x_{Min}}$  Where  $X = x_1, x_2, ..., x_m$  is the dataset with m samples,  $x_i$  is a feature vector, and  $z_i$  is the  $i^{th}$  normalized data. Where  $X_{min}$  is minimum value from data value, and  $X_{max}$  is maximum data value from feature vector. The min-max scalar works better if the distribution is not Gaussian or the standard deviation is quite small. Therefore all numeric features values are ranged between 0 and 1.

Therefore, the model input and output dimensions are 41 and 5 respectively. We apply LSTM-RNN model with batch size 100, and hidden layers sizes are 50, 75, and 100. The experiment evaluated with 500 epochs for specified hidden layer sizes. We used seven above mentioned optimizers such as Adamax, SGD, Adagrad, Adam, RMSprop, Nadam, and Adadelta. The loss function is sparse categorical cross entropy, which is suitable for multi classification. Table IV shows the accuracy of the model for various hidden layers with seven optimizers.

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IADLEIV						
Hidden layer size	50	75	100			
Adamax	97.93	97.88	99.80			
SGD	99.70	99.70	99.70			
Adagrad	99.14	99.23	99.31			
Adam	97.92	97.45	97.92			
RMSprop	97.75	97.73	97.74			
Nadam	97.70	98.64	97.38			
Adadelta	97.47	97.50	97.29			

# E) Finding the model performance:

Depending the results of various hidden layers sizes, we could get the highest accuracywith 100 hidden layer size. From the results of 100 hidden layers, we set hyper parameters for training the model.





We implemented our model on IDS using NSL-KDD dataset with seven optimizes. The model is evaluated with sigmoid activation function. For training and tesing phase we used 1,25,973, and 22,543 records respectively. We design our measurement in two cases. In the first case, we measured the accuracy for seven optimizes. In the second case, we evaluated the metrics as multi-class classification. In case 1, we observed that the average classification performance of our implemented model using Adamax optimizer. Case 2 evaluated the multi class classification accuracy for seven optimizers.

From the results of three hidden layer size, SGD, and Adagrad optimizer given good result. RMSprop, adam and Adadelta optimizers have given approximately same result. Nadam gave different results and gave good result for layer size 100. Adamax optimizer outperform the accuracy of 99.80% with 100 hidden layer size. The Table V shows the evaluated results.

TABLE V The electification performance of model

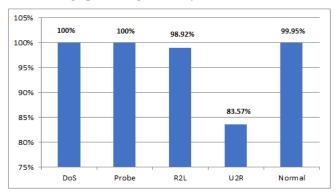
The classification performance of model							
Optimize	Accura	TPR	FAR	Precisi	F1		
r	cy			on			
RMSprop	0.9774	0.9970	0.0465	0.9632	0.9798		
Adagrad	0.9930	0.9997	0.0155	0.9880	0.9938		
Adadelta	0.9729	1.0	0.0591	0.9524	0.9756		
Adam	0.9792	0.9997	0.0457	0.9637	0.9814		
Adamax	0.9979	0.9996	0.0043	0.9967	0.9982		
Nadam	0.9737	0.9995	0.0568	0.9544	0.9764		
SGD	0.9969	1.0	0.0069	0.9947	0.9973		

From the Table V our model outperform for Adamax optimizer with 99.84% accuracy, 99.96% is DR, and FAR is 0.0043. Table VI shows five-category classification confusion matrix of LSTM-RNN on the dataset KDDTest+ with Adamax optimizer.

TABLE VI Confusion matrix for five-category classification

Confusion matrix for five-category classification							
Actual Predicted	DoS	Probe	R2L	U2R	Normal		
DoS	7460	0	0	0	0		
R2L	0	2421	27	0	0		
U2R	0	0	2854	0	0		
Probe	0	0	4	56	4		
Normal	0	0	0	11	9706		

# Average percentage of every attack detection



The Table VII shows the multi classification accuracy for different optimizers. We achieved best classification results for the attacks DoS, and Probe, and for normal events.

## **TABLE VII**

Optimizer	DoS	Probe	R2L	U2R	Normal
RMSprop	1.0	0.9995	0.8405	0.8358	0.9961
Adagrad	1.0	0.9847	0.9660	0.7313	0.9996
Adadelta	1.0	1.0	0.7944	0.7462	1.0
Adam	1.0	1.0	0.8426	0.8358	0.9996
Adamax	1.0	1.0	0.9892	0.8358	0.9995
Nadam	1.0	0.9954	0.8058	0.7910	0.9993
SGD	1.0	1.0	0.9996	0.0	1.0

# F) Comparison:

Inorder to differentiate the performance of proposed LSTM-RNN model with different related work applied learning approachesto the NSL-KDD dataset and KDDCup'99 dataset. We constructed the training set and testing set from the NSL-KDD dataset. The training set consist of 1,25,973 samples, and testing set KDDTest<sup>+</sup> consist of 22,543 samples. In this experiment the detection rate of the proposed model got accuracy 99.97%, DR 99.96% and FAR is 0.43% on the test dataset KDDTest<sup>+</sup>. The model outperformed with Adamax optimizer and sigmoid activation function.LSTM-RNN classifier [16] got the accuracy 96.93%, DR 98.88%, and FAR 10.04% with SGD optimizer on KDD Cup 99 dataset. The another LSTM-RNN classifier [17] performed accuracy 97.54%, DR 98.95%, and FAR 9.98% with Nadam optimizer on KDD Cup99 dataset. Table VIII shows the comparision of proposed model with other existing learning model on NSL-KDD dataset.

TABLE VIII

Comparision with other algorithm					
	DR	FAR	Accuracy		
RNN [18]	97.09%		81.29%		
LMDRT- SVM [19]	99.20%	0.60	99.31%		
OS-ELM [20]	98.26%	0.99	98.66%		
LSTM-RNN [16]	98.88%	0.10038	96.93%		
LSTM-RNN [17]	98.95%	0.998	97.54%		
Our Proposed Model	99.96%	0.0069	99.79%		



## V. CONCLUSION

The proposed IDS LSTM-RNN evaluated on NSL-KDD dataset. The dataset is preprocessed, and normalized for both training and testing dataset. Inorder to find the proper optimizer, we took an experiment with 500 epochs and changed the values of hidden layer size. For training and testing phase, we took 1,25,973 and 22543 data samples respectively. The model outperformed with Adamax optimizer. Compared with other previous, and shallow classifier methods, our methodology outperformed with accuracy, and DR under multi classification.

In our future work, we will extend the capability of our model to handle zero-day attacks. Many of models obtained less percentage of accuracy to detect the U2R and Probe attacks. We will pay an attention to get good classification accuracy percentage of U2R and Probe attacks, reduce the training time, and come out with a more innovative approach.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India supported this work under Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme for Electronics & IT.

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