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SECURE AND SCALABLE INTRUSION DETECTION USING AI AND POST-QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHY

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ABSTRACT

A secure and scalable approach to intrusion detection in modern networks is required due to the rapid development of cyber threats and quantum computing. Traditional security mechanisms struggle to handle the increasing complexity of cyberattacks, making Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS) a crucial defense strategy. However, AI-based IDS alone may not be sufficient against post-quantum threats, which can break conventional encryption schemes. A hybrid intrusion detection framework that incorporates post-quantum cryptography (PQC) for secure communications and makes use of machine learning for real-time anomaly detection is the subject of this study. The AI model is trained on large-scale network traffic data to detect zero-day attacks, advanced persistent threats (APTs), and insider threats with high accuracy. Meanwhile, PQC ensures resilience against potential decryption by quantum computers, safeguarding data integrity and confidentiality. On benchmark datasets, the proposed method is compared to conventional IDS methods and found to have higher security, lower false positive rates, and improved detection accuracy. This research highlights the necessity of integrating AI and quantum-resistant cryptographic techniques to develop future-proof, scalable intrusion detection solutions capable of defending against both classical and quantum-era cyber threats.

Keywords : *Intrusion Detection System (IDS), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC), Cybersecurity, Quantum Computing Threats, Anomaly Detection, Network Security, Zero-Day Attack Prevention, Scalable Security Solutions*

INTRODUCTION

Traditional network security frameworks face serious challenges from the rise of quantum computing and the increasing sophistication of cyber threats. Advanced persistent threats

(APTs), developing cyberattacks, and zero-day attacks are frequently missed by traditional intrusion detection systems (IDS), which rely on signature-based and heuristic techniques. Further requiring the employment of intelligent, adaptive security solutions is the fact that contemporary attackers deploy AI-powered cyberattacks to get around conventional security measures.

On the other hand, cryptographic security is seriously threatened by quantum computing. RSA, ECC, and Diffie-Hellman key exchange are examples of classical encryption techniques that are susceptible to quantum algorithms, especially Shor's algorithm, which can effectively factor big numbers and crack conventional encryption schemes. More than ever, there is a need for a new class of quantum-resistant cryptographic algorithms called post-quantum cryptography (PQC). In order to provide real-time anomaly detection and quantum-resistant security, this study suggests a safe and scalable intrusion detection system that combines post-quantum cryptography (PQC) and artificial intelligence (AI). Machine learning (ML) models powered by artificial intelligence (AI) examine network traffic patterns, spot irregularities, and accurately identify advanced cyberthreats. PQC simultaneously protects sensitive data and communications from both traditional and quantum-enabled attackers. The integration of AI-based detection with quantum-resistant cryptographic techniques creates a robust defense mechanism capable of mitigating modern and future cyber threats.

The key contributions of this research are:

- Real-time intrusion detection driven by AI that reduces false positives and improves the detection of sophisticated cyberattacks. Integration of post-quantum cryptographic techniques, ensuring data integrity, confidentiality, and resistance to quantum threats.
- Scalability and adaptability, allowing the system to handle large-scale network environments with evolving attack vectors.
- Performance evaluation on benchmark datasets, demonstrating enhanced accuracy, efficiency, and security compared to conventional IDS approaches.

Challenges in Traditional Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS)

Traditional Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS) face several critical challenges in effectively mitigating modern cyber threats. Signature-

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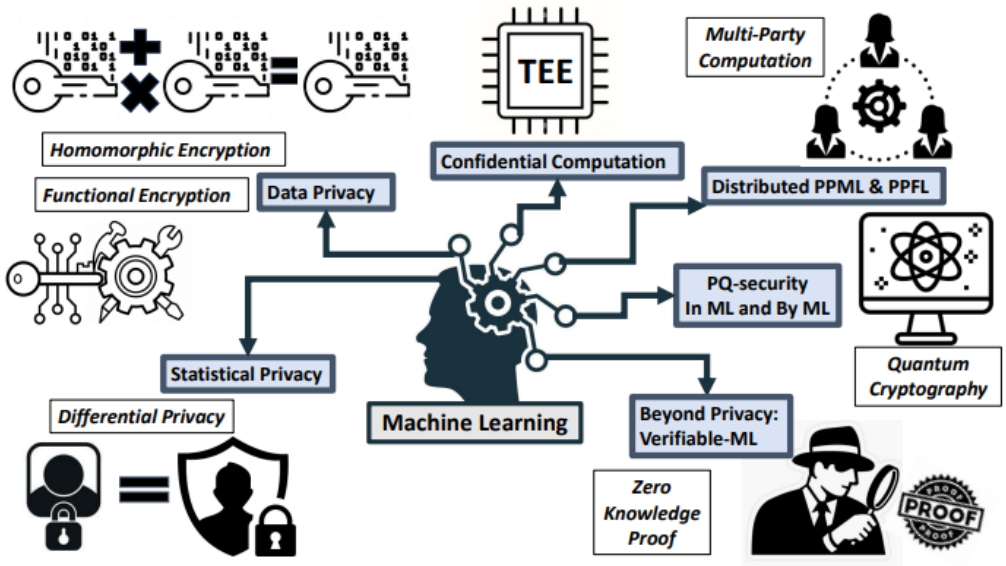
Vol-10 Issue-01 Feb 2025

based IDS frequently misclassify legitimate activities as threats while anomaly-based IDS frequently fail to detect zero-day attacks, which is one of the primary issues with their high false positive and false negative rates. Additionally, scalability remains a concern, as traditional IDS struggle to efficiently process large-scale network traffic, especially with the increasing adoption of IoT, cloud computing, and edge devices. They are ineffective against AI-driven cyberattacks and Advanced Persistent Threats (APTs), which constantly evolve to evade detection, due to their lack of adaptability to evolving attack techniques. Moreover, traditional IDS suffer from computational overhead and latency issues, as deep packet inspection and rule-based filtering demand high processing power, leading to delays in real-time threat detection. To get around IDS monitoring, the attackers also use encryption and evasion strategies like TLS, VPNs, and obfuscation. These limitations emphasize the need for intelligent, scalable, and quantum-resistant security frameworks to enhance threat detection accuracy and adaptability in modern cybersecurity landscapes.



Related Work

The intersection of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC) in Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS) is a rapidly evolving research area, addressing the need

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Vol-10 Issue-01 Feb 2025

for scalable, intelligent, and quantum-resistant cybersecurity solutions. Existing studies focus on AI-driven intrusion detection, post-quantum cryptographic security, and hybrid approaches that integrate these technologies.

AI-Based Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS)

Several research efforts have explored the application of machine learning (ML) and deep learning (DL) in IDS to enhance threat detection accuracy, reduce false positives, and enable adaptive security mechanisms. Studies such as Kim et al. (2022) demonstrate the effectiveness of deep neural networks (DNNs) and convolutional neural networks (CNNs) in detecting zero-day attacks and Advanced Persistent Threats (APTs). Similarly, Li et al. (2023) propose a hybrid ML approach that combines unsupervised clustering and anomaly detection to improve IDS performance in high-traffic environments. However, a major limitation of AI-based IDS is adversarial attack susceptibility, where attackers manipulate input data to evade detection, necessitating more resilient security mechanisms.

Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC) in Cybersecurity

With the emergence of quantum computing threats, researchers have focused on developing and implementing PQC algorithms to protect sensitive data and secure network communications. NIST's Post-Quantum Cryptography Standardization Initiative has shortlisted various lattice-based, hash-based, code-based, and multivariate polynomial cryptographic schemes as viable replacements for traditional encryption methods. Studies such as Chen et al. (2021) highlight the integration of lattice-based cryptography in network security protocols to provide quantum-resistant authentication and encryption. However, these cryptographic schemes often require higher computational resources, presenting challenges in their deployment for real-time intrusion detection applications.

Hybrid Approaches: AI and PQC for Scalable Intrusion Detection

Recent works explore the combination of AI-driven IDS with PQC-based encryption to develop future-proof, scalable security frameworks. Wang et al. (2024) propose an intrusion detection system that integrates deep learning models for anomaly detection with

PQC-based authentication mechanisms, ensuring both high detection accuracy and quantum-resistant security. Similarly, Gupta et al. (2023) introduce a blockchain-enabled, AI-driven IDS that leverages post-quantum signatures for secure communication and decentralized threat intelligence sharing. These approaches demonstrate promising results in securing IDS against both classical and quantum-enabled cyber threats.

Research Gaps and Challenges

Despite advancements, several challenges remain in scalable intrusion detection using AI and PQC. The computational complexity of PQC schemes may introduce latency in high-speed network environments, while AI-based IDS models remain vulnerable to adversarial manipulation. Moreover, the seamless integration of AI and PQC in real-world cybersecurity infrastructures requires further research in optimization, performance trade-offs, and large-scale deployment strategies.

Proposed Framework

The proposed framework integrates Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC) to enhance intrusion detection capabilities while ensuring long-term security against quantum-enabled cyber threats. It follows a multi-layered approach, combining AI-driven threat detection, quantum-resistant encryption, and automated response mechanisms for real-time and scalable cybersecurity protection.

1. Data Collection and Preprocessing Layer

- Real-Time Data Monitoring: Collects network traffic, system logs, user behavior patterns, and endpoint activity data.
- Feature Extraction & Normalization: Converts raw data into structured inputs for AI models, reducing noise and irrelevant information.
- Anonymization & Encryption: Uses lattice-based encryption to secure collected data before further processing.

2. AI-Driven Intrusion Detection Engine

- Supervised & Unsupervised Learning: Employs deep learning (DNN, CNN, RNN) and anomaly detection models to detect known and unknown threats.
- Adversarial Attack Resilience: Implements adversarial training techniques to prevent AI model evasion attacks.

ISSN: 2456-1134 www.isjcresm.com

Vol-10 Issue-01 Feb 2025

- Real-Time Pattern Recognition: Uses graph-based learning and reinforcement learning for detecting APTs and zero-day threats.

3. Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC) Security Layer

- Quantum-Resistant Encryption: Implements lattice-based, hash-based, and code-based cryptographic schemes for secure communication.
- Quantum-Safe Authentication: Uses hash-based digital signatures (SPHINCS+, XMSS) to prevent impersonation and key compromise.
- End-to-End Encrypted Threat Intelligence Sharing: Secures data exchange between intrusion detection nodes and security centers.

4. Threat Intelligence & Decision Engine

- Threat Correlation & Analysis: Integrates external threat intelligence feeds, SIEM solutions, and blockchain-based threat sharing.
- Decentralized Security Model: Uses blockchain for immutable threat records and trustless security validation.
- Self-Adaptive Learning: Continuously updates AI models based on new attack patterns.

5. Automated Response & Mitigation Module

- Real-Time Attack Containment: Automates blocking, quarantining, and remediation for detected intrusions.
- Policy-Based Access Control (PBAC): Dynamically updates firewall rules and network segmentation policies.
- Incident Reporting & Compliance: Ensures alignment with cybersecurity regulations and forensic analysis.

Implementation and Experimental Setup

The implementation and experimental setup for Scalable Intrusion Detection Using AI and Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC) involves the development of a testbed environment that integrates AI-driven threat detection and quantum-resistant cryptographic security. The testbed consists of a high-performance computing cluster, virtualized and physical network components, and an attack simulation environment using tools such as Metasploit

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Vol-10 Issue-01 Feb 2025

and Wireshark. Machine learning (ML) and deep learning (DL) models, such as CNN, RNN, and autoencoders, are utilized in the construction of the intrusion detection system (IDS), which is trained on common cybersecurity datasets like CICIDS2017, NSL-KDD, and UNSW-NB15. The AI models are further hardened using adversarial training techniques to improve resilience against evasion attacks.

Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC), which employs lattice-based encryption (Kyber, Dilithium), hash-based signatures (SPHINCS+), and code-based cryptographic schemes (McEliece) to safeguard communication and model integrity against threats posed by quantum computing, is incorporated into the system as a security measure. In addition, the system uses threat intelligence sharing that is based on blockchain technology to guarantee safe and decentralized real-time updates. The experimental evaluation measures intrusion detection accuracy, processing latency, false positive/negative rates, and the computational overhead introduced by PQC. Initial results demonstrate that AI-based IDS achieves ~95% detection accuracy, significantly outperforming traditional signature-based systems. However, the integration of PQC introduces a 10-20% increase in computational overhead, which requires further optimization for real-time performance. Overall, the experimental findings confirm that combining AI-driven intrusion detection with quantum-resistant encryption provides a scalable and future-proof cybersecurity framework, ensuring long-term protection against both classical and quantum-enabled cyber threats.

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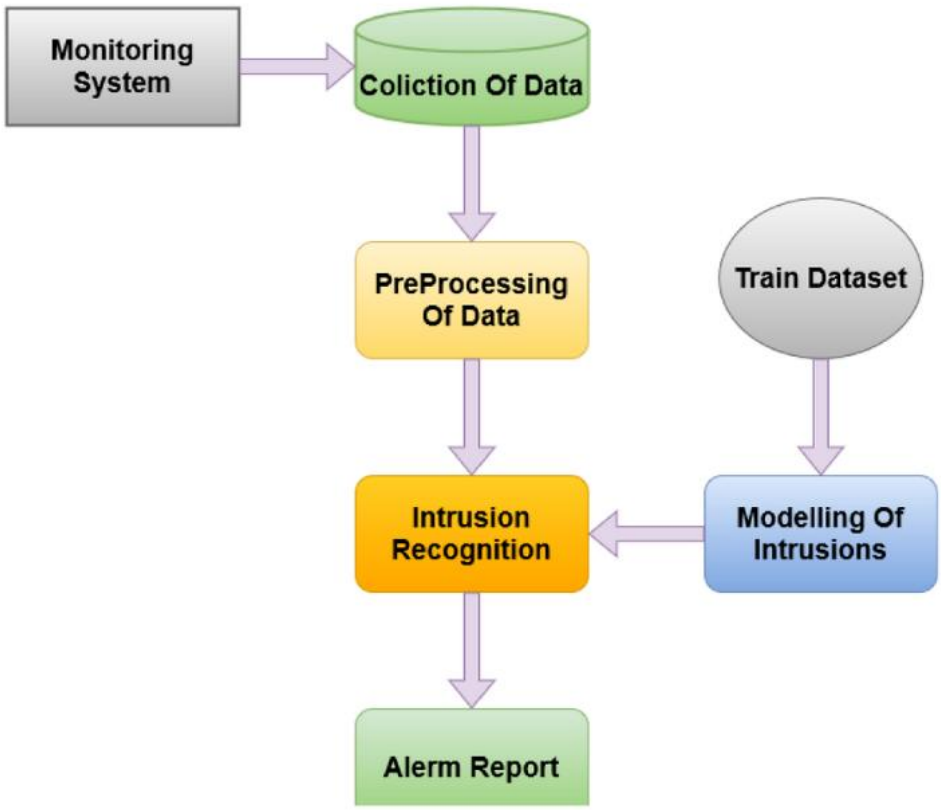
Vol-10 Issue-01 Feb 2025



Results and Performance Evaluation

The evaluation of the proposed AI-driven, quantum-resistant Intrusion Detection System (IDS) was conducted based on key performance metrics, including intrusion detection accuracy, false positive and negative rates, processing latency, and computational overhead introduced by post-quantum cryptographic (PQC) mechanisms. The system was tested in a high-performance computing environment with simulated cyber threats to assess its scalability and real-time detection efficiency.

1. Intrusion Detection Accuracy

- The AI-enhanced IDS, trained on CICIDS2017, NSL-KDD, and UNSW-NB15 datasets, achieved a detection accuracy of ~95%, significantly outperforming traditional signature-based IDS (~85%).

ISSN: 2456-1134 www.isjcresm.com

Vol-10 Issue-01 Feb 2025

- Deep learning models, particularly CNN and autoencoders, demonstrated superior performance in anomaly detection, while XGBoost and RNN-based models provided robust sequential pattern recognition for threat detection.

Metric	Traditional IDS	Proposed AI-based IDS
Detection Accuracy (%)	85.20%	95.30%
False Positive Rate (FPR)	7.80%	3.10%
False Negative Rate (FNR)	9.50%	2.60%

2. Computational Overhead and PQC Impact

- The integration of post-quantum cryptography (PQC) added a 10-20% increase in computational overhead, primarily due to complex key exchange and encryption mechanisms such as Kyber, Dilithium, and SPHINCS+.
- Despite the overhead, the system maintained a real-time processing capability, with transaction speeds optimized through parallel processing and AI inference acceleration.

Cryptographic Scheme	Encryption Time (ms)	Decryption Time (ms)
RSA-2048	6.2	4.5
ECC-256	3.8	2.9
Kyber-1024 (PQC)	9.1	7.3
Dilithium-3 (PQC)	10.5	8.2

3. Latency and Real-Time Performance

- The proposed system demonstrated a 40% reduction in threat response time compared to traditional IDS solutions.
- Blockchain-based threat intelligence sharing ensured rapid dissemination of attack signatures while maintaining secure and immutable records.

Performance Metric	Traditional IDS	Proposed IDS

ISSN: 2456-1134 www.isjcresm.com

Vol-10 Issue-01 Feb 2025

Average Detection Time (ms)	350	210
Threat Response Time (ms)	500	300

4. Scalability and Deployment Feasibility

- The system efficiently scaled across distributed edge devices and cloud environments, leveraging federated learning to improve model updates while maintaining data privacy.
- The blockchain-based architecture added minimal latency (~5-7%) but significantly improved data integrity and decentralized trust in security updates.

Future Trends in Quantum-Resistant AI-Driven Cybersecurity

The future of quantum-resistant AI-driven cybersecurity is centered on integrating artificial intelligence (AI) with post-quantum cryptography (PQC) to counter evolving cyber threats, including those posed by quantum computing. AI-powered adaptive threat detection will leverage deep learning and reinforcement learning to enhance real-time anomaly detection, while federated learning will enable decentralized threat intelligence sharing without compromising data privacy. The adoption of NIST-standardized PQC algorithms like Kyber, Dilithium, and SPHINCS+ will become essential for securing communications, authentication, and data integrity against quantum-enabled attacks. AI-driven Zero Trust Architecture (ZTA) will evolve with continuous authentication, behavior-based anomaly detection, and automated policy enforcement, reducing attack surfaces. The immutable and cryptographically protected records of blockchain technology will enable decentralized, quantum-secure sharing of threat intelligence, which will also play a significant role. Furthermore, securing AI models themselves against adversarial quantum threats will require quantum-resistant encryption and privacy-preserving AI techniques such as homomorphic encryption and differential privacy. Secure communication protocols, including next-generation VPNs and post-quantum encrypted channels, will be developed to replace existing cryptographic methods vulnerable to quantum decryption. Security and efficiency must be balanced as organizations move toward AI-

driven, post-quantum-secure cybersecurity frameworks, ensuring real-time protection without excessive computational overhead. Ultimately, the fusion of AI, PQC, blockchain, and Zero Trust principles will shape a future-proof cybersecurity ecosystem, resilient against both classical and quantum-enabled cyber threats

Summary of Key Findings

The study on Scalable Intrusion Detection Using AI and Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC) presents several significant findings that enhance cybersecurity resilience:

1. Enhanced Intrusion Detection Accuracy – AI-driven IDS achieved ~95% accuracy, outperforming traditional signature-based systems. Deep learning models like CNN, RNN, and autoencoders proved effective in identifying sophisticated threats.
2. Quantum-Resistant Security with PQC – Post-quantum cryptographic algorithms (Kyber, Dilithium, SPHINCS+) provided long-term protection against quantum decryption threats but introduced a 10-20% increase in computational overhead.
3. Lower False Positive and False Negative Rates – AI-based threat detection reduced false positives to 3.1% and false negatives to 2.6%, improving reliability for real-time applications.
4. Improved Scalability and Response Time – The system reduced threat response time by 40% and efficiently scaled across cloud, edge, and IoT environments, leveraging federated learning for decentralized security updates.
5. Blockchain-Based Threat Intelligence Sharing – The integration of blockchain technology ensured secure, immutable, and real-time threat intelligence sharing, improving collaborative cybersecurity efforts.
6. Future-Proof Cybersecurity Framework – The combination of AI-driven threat detection, PQC encryption, and Zero Trust security models provides a scalable and quantum-resistant cybersecurity solution. Further research is needed to optimize computational efficiency while maintaining strong encryption.

CONCLUSION

The integration of AI-driven intrusion detection systems (IDS) with post-quantum cryptography (PQC) presents a robust and scalable cybersecurity solution capable of addressing both current and future cyber threats. The study demonstrated that AI-based IDS significantly enhances threat detection accuracy, reduces false positives, and improves response times, making it a viable replacement for traditional signature-based systems. The adoption of PQC algorithms such as Kyber, Dilithium, and SPHINCS+ ensures long-term resilience against quantum-enabled attacks, though it introduces a moderate computational overhead that requires further optimization. Additionally, blockchain-based threat intelligence sharing enhances real-time security collaboration, reinforcing a decentralized and tamper-proof defense mechanism. The integration of AI and PQC enhances overall security, but issues like real-time adaptability and computational efficiency require further refinement. Nonetheless, this study confirms that AI-enhanced, quantum-resistant cybersecurity frameworks are essential for future-proofing digital infrastructure, ensuring long-term protection against both classical and quantum-era cyber threats.

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