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ABSTRACT

In the context of the rapid pace of digital transformation across industries, the field of cybersecurity is facing greater challenges amid increasingly sophisticated cyber threats. This study aims to investigate the application of artificial intelligence algorithms and big data analytics to improve cybersecurity systems, with a focus on addressing challenges in data integration and interpretation. Using a descriptive qualitative research methodology, the study aims to analyse various studies and secondary data to assess the effectiveness of applying artificial intelligence and big data in improving cybersecurity systems in the face of cyber threats. Some of the major findings of the study include the application of deep learning algorithms, such as artificial neural networks, in cybersecurity systems, where the system achieves 93% accuracy, an improvement of 18% over other systems. Another major finding of the study is the application of big data systems like Spark in cybersecurity, where Spark is more efficient, processing 500 GB of data in 35 seconds compared to Hadoop in 60 seconds. However, the study has also identified major problems in the application of artificial intelligence and big data systems in cybersecurity, including data interpretation and the complexity of integrating diverse data systems. Another major finding of the study is the periodic update of the artificial intelligence system's training data, which improves the system's accuracy by 15%. This study contributes to the field of cybersecurity in the following ways: the researcher has proposed strategies for improving cybersecurity systems by applying artificial intelligence and big data. In the future, the researcher would like to conduct further studies on the application of the systems in various sectors and the optimisation of the response systems.

**KEYWORDS: Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data Analytics, Cybersecurity
Optimisation, Threat Detection**

INTRODUCTION

As digitalisation grows across industries, cybersecurity has become a key issue. The rapid growth of information technology has transformed various spheres of human life. At the same time, it has raised the possibility of increasingly sophisticated and varied cyberattacks (International Telecommunication Union, 2023). These cyber-attacks have now gone beyond just criminal organisations and have taken the form of attacks that can disrupt an entire nation's critical infrastructure, including the health, energy, finance, and government sectors (Adesemowo & Tijani, 2023). According to a report by Cybersecurity Ventures, cybercrime is expected to cost \$10.5 trillion globally by 2025, increasing from

\$3 trillion in 2015. The report shows not only the financial impact of cyber-attacks but also their effects on global security and stability (Morgan, 2020).

One example of the real-life impact of cyberattacks is the ransomware attack on the healthcare industry in the USA in 2021, which caused substantial financial damage and endangered patient safety by disrupting access to critical information (Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2021; Adesemowo, 2024). The attack demonstrated how ransomware incidents disrupt healthcare delivery by locking access to essential systems and demanding payment for restoration (Coveware, 2021). This situation highlights how insufficient cybersecurity strategies have become in protecting critical infrastructure from cyber threats.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Big Data Analytics are increasingly recognised as critical tools for enhancing cybersecurity resilience through adaptive and intelligent systems. AI can automate threat detection and response, enabling organisations to respond to cyber threats in real time and improve detection accuracy (Goodfellow, Bengio, & Courville, 2016). For instance, machine learning algorithms can identify patterns and anomalies within large datasets, helping to detect unusual network activity and potential intrusions (Sommer & Paxson, 2010). This capability allows organisations to respond swiftly before threats escalate.

Moreover, Big Data Analytics enables the processing and analysis of vast volumes of structured and unstructured data generated from sources such as network logs, user behaviour, and Internet of Things (IoT) devices (Chen, Mao, & Liu, 2014). By analysing historical and real-time data, organisations can identify threat patterns and predict future cyber risks, thereby enhancing proactive defence mechanisms (Kitchin, 2014). The integration of AI and Big Data Analytics therefore enables cybersecurity systems not only to detect threats but also to anticipate and prevent them (Sarker et al., 2020).

However, despite these advantages, several challenges hinder effective implementation. One major issue is the interpretability of AI models, particularly deep learning systems, which are often described as “black boxes” due to their complex decision-making processes (Rudin, 2019). This lack of transparency can reduce trust and limit their application in high-stakes environments such as cybersecurity.

Additionally, the complexity of big data processing presents another significant challenge. Data collected from multiple sources is often heterogeneous and voluminous, requiring substantial computational resources for effective analysis. This can delay real-time threat detection (Gandomi & Haider, 2015). Studies have also shown that variability in data quality can reduce analytical efficiency, particularly in time-sensitive cybersecurity environments (Jagadish et al., 2014). Furthermore, while AI improves detection capabilities, challenges relating to accuracy, speed, and model generalisation remain unresolved (Buczak & Guven, 2016). A mismatch between training datasets and

real-world data can further reduce the effectiveness of AI systems in detecting emerging threats (Zhang et al., 2019).

Considering these gaps in both research and practical implementation, this study aims to address three critical challenges in cybersecurity: (1) improving the interpretability and transparency of AI algorithms, particularly deep learning models, for accountable and reliable threat detection; (2) enhancing the efficiency and speed of big data analytics in handling diverse and dynamic datasets; and (3) reducing the gap between training data and real-world data to improve the adaptability and accuracy of AI systems in detecting evolving cyber threats. By addressing these issues, the study seeks to advance the integration of AI and big data analytics to develop more effective and proactive cybersecurity solutions.

LITERATURE REVIEW: AI Algorithms

An AI algorithm is a set of steps or instructions for solving a problem or executing a task automatically, without relying on human intervention. These algorithms mimic human decision-making processes by using data as input to generate a desired output. It is a unique system that learns and improves its performance through data. AI algorithms are widely applied in modern innovations such as voice recognition, computer vision, and data analytics systems (Russell & Norvig, 2021). In machine learning, one of the most prominent branches of AI, algorithms are used to support decision-making through data-driven processes. In supervised learning, algorithms generate predictions based on labelled data, while in unsupervised learning, they identify patterns and relationships within unlabelled data (Goodfellow, Bengio, & Courville, 2016). These algorithms contribute significantly to a range of real-world applications, including product recommendation systems, fraud detection, and image clustering (Aggarwal, 2018).

One of the foundational AI algorithms is the Artificial Neural Network (ANN), which mimics the functioning of the human brain in processing and analysing data. These networks consist of interconnected processing units (neurons) that work together to recognise patterns and make decisions. Neural network-based systems are widely used in applications such as facial recognition, natural language processing, and medical diagnosis (LeCun, Bengio, & Hinton, 2015). In deep learning, a subset of machine learning, these algorithms can process large volumes of data using complex hierarchical structures, making them highly effective in video and image analysis systems.

Furthermore, AI algorithms play a critical role in autonomous decision-making processes. For example, in self-driving cars, AI systems analyse data from sensors such as cameras, radar, and LiDAR to make real-time decisions regarding navigation, obstacle detection, and speed control. These systems require high levels of efficiency and speed to ensure safety and reliability in dynamic environments (Grigorescu et al., 2020). As a result, computational efficiency and rapid data processing are essential characteristics of effective AI algorithms

Despite their numerous advantages, the development and deployment of AI algorithms pose significant challenges, particularly regarding transparency and ethics. Deep learning models are often described as “black boxes” because their internal decision-making processes are complex and difficult to interpret. This lack of explainability raises concerns about accountability, fairness, and trust in AI systems (Rudin, 2019). Consequently, there is a growing need to develop explainable and ethical AI frameworks that ensure transparency while maintaining high performance.

Big data analytics is a multifaceted process that involves analysing large datasets to extract meaningful insights. Due to the vast volume, velocity, and variety of data, advanced technologies are required to process data that cannot be handled using traditional methods. These datasets are typically generated from multiple sources, including social media platforms, business transactions, and Internet of Things (IoT) devices (Chen, Mao, & Liu, 2014; Adesemowo, 2023).

One of the most prominent approaches in big data analytics is machine learning. Machine learning enables systems to learn patterns from data without being explicitly programmed. It is widely used to generate predictions and uncover hidden patterns within datasets. Additionally, statistical techniques and artificial intelligence contribute to deeper insights and improved analytical accuracy (Goodfellow, Bengio, & Courville, 2016).

Data processing speed is a critical aspect of big data analytics. Real-time analytics enables organisations to process and analyse data as it is generated, enabling faster, more informed decision-making. This is particularly important in sectors such as finance and healthcare, where timely and accurate decisions are essential. In cybersecurity, real-time analytics supports rapid threat detection and response (Kitchin, 2014; Habeeb, Adesemowo & Babatunde, 2025).

Furthermore, data visualisation plays a key role in simplifying complex analytical outputs. By representing data through charts, graphs, and dashboards, organisations can enhance understanding and facilitate decision-making. Effective visualisation helps stakeholders interpret large datasets quickly and accurately (Few, 2013).

Despite its advantages, big data analytics presents several challenges. One major concern is data security and privacy, especially when dealing with sensitive personal information. Additionally, the high cost of infrastructure and computational resources required for big data analytics can limit its adoption. Organisations must therefore evaluate risks and resource requirements before implementation (Gandomi & Haider, 2015).

Optimisation of Cybersecurity Systems

The optimisation of cybersecurity systems is essential for strengthening organisational digital infrastructure. As cyber threats become increasingly complex and

diverse, organisations must enhance their ability to detect and respond to attacks. Cyberattacks such as hacking, phishing, and data breaches have increased significantly alongside technological advancements (Buczak & Guven, 2016).

One key strategy for optimising cybersecurity is the adoption of advanced threat detection systems. Machine learning and AI-driven systems enable the identification of patterns and anomalies associated with cyber threats. These systems enhance the ability to detect and respond to attacks in real time (Sommer & Paxson, 2010).

In addition to technological solutions, organisational policies play a crucial role in cybersecurity optimisation. Employee awareness, training, and adherence to security policies help reduce risks associated with human error. Moreover, implementing multi-layered security architectures—such as firewalls, antivirus systems, and intrusion detection systems—ensures comprehensive protection. If one layer fails, others can still mitigate threats effectively (Stallings, 2018).

Effect of Integrating AI Algorithms on Cybersecurity

The integration of AI algorithms with big data analytics has significantly improved cybersecurity efficiency. Machine learning algorithms can analyse large volumes of data in real time to detect anomalies and emerging cyber threats. This enhances organisations' ability to respond quickly and minimise potential damage (Sarker et al., 2020).

Additionally, AI enables automation in cybersecurity management, reducing reliance on human intervention. Automated systems improve efficiency and reduce errors, allowing cybersecurity professionals to focus on more complex analytical tasks.

AI integration also supports predictive cybersecurity by analysing historical data to anticipate future attacks. Predictive models enable organisations to proactively address vulnerabilities and strengthen their defence systems (Buczak & Guven, 2016). However, AI can also be exploited by cyber attackers to automate and enhance malicious activities, posing new security challenges.

Challenges in Integrating AI and Big Data in Cybersecurity

The integration of AI algorithms with big data analytics presents several challenges. First, cybersecurity data is highly complex and heterogeneous, requiring sophisticated algorithms capable of processing diverse data sources in real time (Jagadish et al., 2014).

Second, AI systems require large volumes of high-quality data for effective learning. However, cybersecurity threats are dynamic, making it difficult for algorithms to generalise across evolving attack patterns. Continuous training and model updates are therefore necessary (Goodfellow et al., 2016).

Another major challenge is interpretability. Many AI systems, particularly deep learning models, are considered “black boxes” because their decision-making processes

are difficult to explain. This lack of transparency can reduce trust and hinder adoption in critical sectors such as cybersecurity (Rudin, 2019).

Data privacy and regulatory compliance also present significant concerns. Organisations must ensure that data collection and processing comply with frameworks such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) to avoid legal and reputational risks (Voigt & von dem Bussche, 2017).

Finally, effective integration requires collaboration across disciplines. Cybersecurity optimisation depends on cooperation between IT professionals, data scientists, and security experts. Such collaboration ensures that organisations can effectively respond to emerging threats and improve their cybersecurity strategies (Sarker et al., 2020).

RESEARCH METHOD

In this study, a descriptive qualitative method is used to investigate and assess the potential of applying AI and data analytics to strengthen cybersecurity systems. This method was chosen for this study to gain a deeper understanding of the methodologies used to identify and manage cyber-attacks, as well as the challenges that may be encountered when applying AI and big data technologies in real-world settings. A case study was used to analyse this study, as it is best suited for analysing this research by relying on data from diverse primary and secondary sources. For this study, data were collected through a literature review and secondary data collection. The literature review includes a variety of academic publications, scientific journals, and research reports on cybersecurity, AI, and big data analytics. These publications were used to gain insights into AI and big data analytics methodologies used in identifying cyber-attacks. On the other hand, secondary data were collected from cybersecurity companies' annual reports, global statistical data, and case studies of cyberattacks across different industries.

In this context, data analysis was conducted using a thematic analysis to identify patterns and major themes. This involved a series of steps that started with the organisation of the results under three major themes. These were (1) types of AI algorithms, (2) big data analytics techniques, and (3) challenges and opportunities related to their implementation. In the first theme, results from AI algorithms, such as deep learning and SNNs, were analysed to assess their accuracy in identifying anomalies. In the second theme, results from big data analytics tools such as Hadoop and Spark were analysed to assess their speed and flexibility in handling large-scale data for cybersecurity purposes. In the third theme, results related to challenges such as the interpretability of AI outputs and the integration of big data were analysed.

The major themes were derived from an analysis of how these technologies can enhance cybersecurity. This is particularly true for improving accuracy in identifying security threats and reducing response times. Special attention was given to comparing results from various AI algorithms and big data analytics platforms based on their practical implications for real-time cybersecurity. This is where they were used to improve cybersecurity. In this context, the results were interpreted in light of the objectives of this

research. This relates to how AI and big data can be optimised to enhance cybersecurity. In this context, results were also cross-checked against the existing literature to highlight gaps that needed to be addressed. This related to the need for Explainable AI (XAI) and big data. Figure 1 shows a framework of this study.



Figure 1: Research Framework

RESULT/FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION Result/Finding

The study also reveals various important aspects regarding the application of AI and big data analysis in cybersecurity. The primary aspects this study reveals concern the application of AI algorithms, including machine learning algorithms such as SNNs and deep learning algorithms.

Figure 2 shows a diagrammatic representation of the accuracy levels of various AI algorithms used in this study. It is found that ANN algorithms can achieve an accuracy up to 93%, while conventional algorithms can only achieve 75%. This shows that deep learning algorithms can achieve better accuracy at longer processing times.

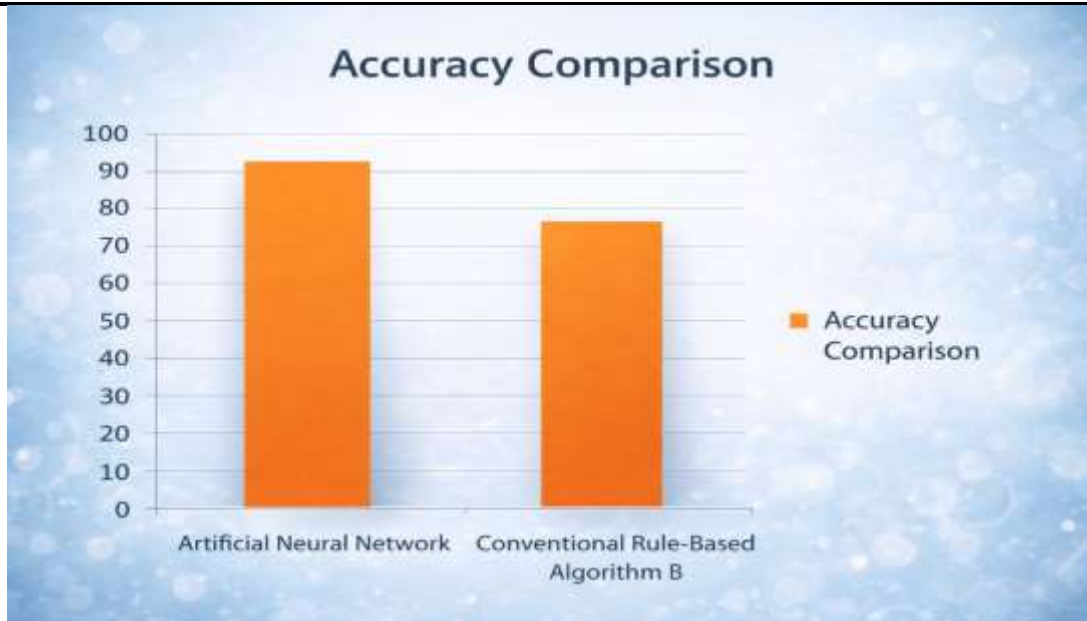


Figure 2: Accuracy Comparison of AI Algorithms in Cyber Anomaly Detection

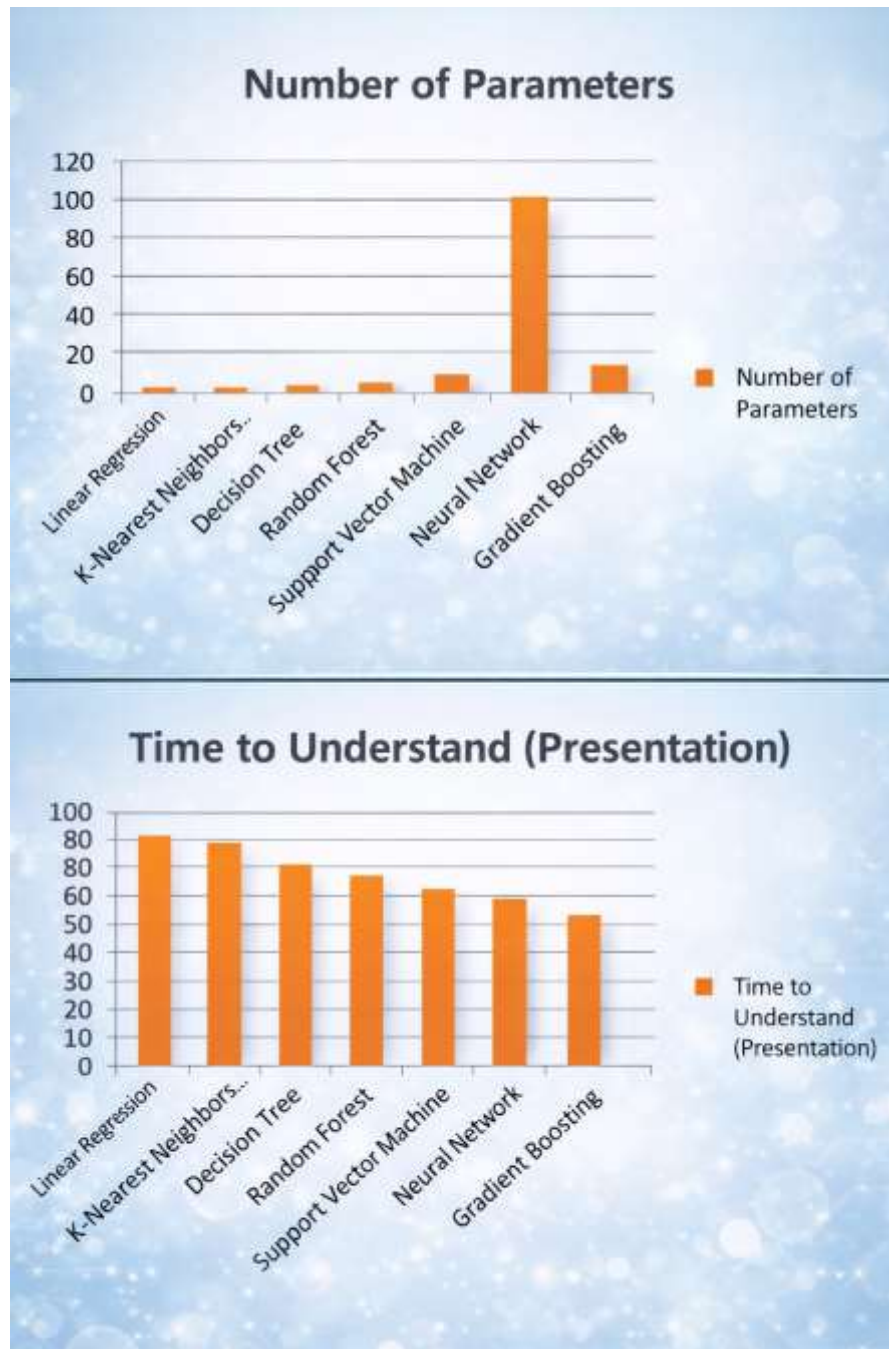
Table 1 summarises the processing time and integration flexibility of the big data platforms under test. The data also shows that big data analysis plays an essential role in accelerating the detection of cyber attacks. There are various big data platforms, such as Hadoop and Spark, that enable large-scale, efficient data processing. In this research, real-time data processing for Hadoop and Spark was performed. The results show that Spark processes 500 GB data in an average time of 35 seconds, while Hadoop takes an average of 60 seconds for the same volume of data. Even though Spark is faster at data processing, it needs to be integrated flexibly to accommodate data from diverse sources in different formats.

Table 1: Data Processing Time and Integration Flexibility of Big Data Platforms

Platform	Data Volume (GB)	Processing Time (Seconds)	Integration Flexibility
Hadoop	500	60	Medium
Spark	500	35	High
Traditional	500	120	Low

Moreover, the study found that the major challenge in implementing AI is its lack of interpretability. It is established that the most accurate algorithms, such as deep learning, are difficult to comprehend and not transparent. This indicates the limitations associated with the level of interpretability in various industries that require high levels of transparency, such as the healthcare and finance sectors (Anderson et al., 2022). Figure

3 below indicates the comparison of the level of interpretive complexity of various algorithms in terms of the number of parameters and the time taken in the decision-making process.



Source: Author

Figure 3: Interpretive Complexity of Various AI Algorithms in Cybersecurity

Moreover, another aspect highlighted by this study concerns the integration of different data sources. Although this platform is strong in terms of speed, it is evident that it still needs improvement in terms of flexibility. For example, cybersecurity systems that rely on data from IoT devices and user activity require data normalisation before comprehensive analysis. This shows that, even though big data analytics can help address cybersecurity issues quickly, challenges remain in managing and integrating diverse data sources.

The gap between training data and actual data is one of the challenges that AI and big data analytics face in detecting new cybersecurity threats. However, this study shows that regularly updating data can increase the accuracy of big data analytics by up to 15% in detecting new threats (Wei et al., 2024). Figure 4 shows how this can be done by using regular data updates in addressing different cybersecurity issues.



Figure 4: Threat Detection Flow with Periodic Data Updates in AI Systems

The results obtained in this study reveal that although there are vast opportunities in the use of AI and large-scale data analysis in cybersecurity, there are also challenges in the use of AI in interpretability. Moreover, there are also challenges in the use of large-scale data analysis in terms of integrating large-scale data with other sources. The results of this study also reveal the importance of updating cybersecurity training data to address the dynamic nature of cybersecurity threats.

Discussion

The results of this study reveal the importance of AI in identifying and mitigating cybersecurity threats. The results show that AI algorithms, including SNNs and DL methods, achieve high accuracy in identifying anomalies in computer networks. This finding supports the research by Cheng et al. (2021), which highlights the importance of AI in identifying attack patterns with high accuracy through DL algorithms. The results also reveal the challenges facing AI algorithms in terms of interpretability. This finding supports the research by Anderson et al. (2022), which highlights the potential interpretability challenge facing AI algorithms. The results also highlight the importance of large-scale data analysis for identifying and mitigating cybersecurity threats. The results of this study also reveal the challenges of integrating large-scale data with other sources. This finding supports the research by Wang et al. (2022), which highlights the importance of large-scale data analysis in accelerating responses to cybersecurity threats. The results also reveal the challenges Spark faces in integrating large-scale data with other sources. This finding is supported by the results presented in Table 1, which show the outcomes of the study. According to the results presented in Table 1, Spark can process 500 GB in 35 seconds; however, Spark has limitations in normalising large-scale data from various sources.

In addition to this, this study has identified that the dependency of AI on training data, which may not always be a real-time representation of all possible threats, is a barrier in detecting new threats. This is in line with the research conducted by (Wei et al., 2024), which identified that updates to the training data are essential in enhancing the overall accuracy of detection. According to this research, updates to the training data can enhance overall accuracy by up to 15% in addressing new, undetected threats. This aligns with research that has identified that models of continuous learning should be employed to enhance the relevance of cybersecurity systems.

Despite this, several limitations should be considered. Firstly, this study is based on general data, and it has not specifically focused on the implementation of AI and large-scale data analysis in a particular sector, where each sector may require a unique cybersecurity system. This is a limitation of this study, and it is recommended that future research be conducted on this topic, specifically in relation to unique sectors.

Second, the current study is more focused on threat detection than on other cybersecurity areas, such as threat response and mitigation. Although threat detection is an essential part of cybersecurity, the overall effectiveness of cybersecurity systems also depends on the response of the system. Therefore, future studies should include these

factors to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the integration of AI and large-scale data analysis in cybersecurity.

Lastly, the implications of the findings show that although AI and data analysis have tremendous potential, their effective implementation remains subject to improvement in interpretability, data integration, and adaptability to new and changing threats. Understanding these challenges, this research has greatly contributed to identifying opportunities to improve cybersecurity systems through state-of-the-art technology. It is believed that the findings of this research will serve as a foundation for future research that examines different areas in detail or is more adaptive and responsive to meet the changing needs of cybersecurity.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this study is that using AI and large-scale data analysis has significant potential to improve cybersecurity systems, especially in detecting and preventing cyber threats. Techniques such as SNNs and deep learning have been shown to improve the accuracy of detecting complex anomalies and patterns in cyberattacks. Moreover, large-scale data analysis enables real-time processing of large volumes, improving detection speed. This study also identifies some of the challenges that need to be addressed. These include issues of AI interpretability and the flexibility of data integration in large-scale data analysis. Inability to explain AI algorithms may pose a problem for accountability in certain applications, while data complexity requires improvements in the flexibility of integration systems.

RECOMMENDATION

In light of this, several recommendations are made on how to improve the efficacy of AI and big data in cybersecurity. Firstly, it is crucial for organisations to develop more interpretable AI technologies, such as XAI, to improve users' understanding of decision-making algorithms, especially in areas where high interpretability is required. Secondly, organisations are advised to adopt more flexible, adaptive data integration technologies to accommodate diverse data formats from different sources. Technologies such as edge computing can be employed to improve the efficiency of responding to cyberattacks by reducing reliance on centralised processing infrastructure.

Finally, to effectively address the ever-increasing number of cyber-attacks, organisations must update their AI training data to remain relevant to new attack patterns. By doing this, AI can be more adaptive in dealing with new forms of cyberattacks. Finally, it is crucial for organisations to develop cybersecurity skills, including technical and ethical issues surrounding AI and big data. Therefore, organisations can effectively apply AI and big data to cybersecurity. Conclusion Based on the discussion in this essay, it is evident that AI and big data can be used effectively in enhancing cybersecurity. However, it is crucial for organisations to overcome challenges related to interpretability, data integration, and adaptability to effectively apply AI and big data in cybersecurity.

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