

Configuration Manual

MSc Research Project MSc in Cybersecurity

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Configuration Manual

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1 Introduction

This Configuration Manual provides detailed instructions on reproducing the experiments and analyses conducted in the project titled *Ensuring Network Security in Remote Work Environments*. It describes the environment setup, data collection, preprocessing, modelling, and evaluation processes. The manual is organised as follows:

- Section 2: Environment Configuration
- Section 3: Importing Necessary Libraries
- Section 4: Data Collection and Cleaning
- Section 5: Exploratory Data Analysis
- Section 6: Preprocessing
- Section 7: Machine Learning and Deep Learning Models
- Section 8: Evaluation and Results

2 System Requirements

2.1 Hardware Requirements

The project was executed using the following hardware specifications:

• **RAM:** 8 GB DDR4

• Storage: 256 GB SSD

• **Processor:** Intel Core i5, 9th Generation

• **GPU:** NVIDIA GTX 1650

2.2 Software Requirements

The following software and libraries were used:

- Python 3.9: Programming language
- Jupyter Notebook: Integrated development environment
- Libraries:
 - Data Cleaning
 - o Data Handling: NumPy, Pandas
 - Visualisation: Matplotlib, Seaborn
 - o ML and DL: Scikit-learn, TensorFlow, Keras, PyTorch
 - o Oversampling: imblearn
 - o Clustering: DBSCAN, KMeans

2.3 Code Execution

- 1. Launch Jupyter Notebook from the Anaconda environment.
- 2. Navigate to the project folder and open the code file.
- 3. Run all cells sequentially to execute the entire workflow.

3 Importing Necessary Libraries

```
#import the libraries
import numpy as np
import pandas as pd
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import seaborn as sns
from sklearn.preprocessing import LabelEncoder
from sklearn.model selection import train test split
from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler
from sklearn.metrics import accuracy_score, precision_score, recall_score, f1_score, roc_auc_score, roc_curve, confusion_matrix
from keras.models import Sequential
from keras.utils import to_categorical
from imblearn.over_sampling import SMOTE
from sklearn.cluster import DBSCAN
import tensorflow as tf
from tensorflow.keras.layers import LSTM, Dense, Dropout, Input, Layer, Activation
from tensorflow.keras.models import Model
import tensorflow as tf
from sklearn.cluster import KMeans
from sklearn.decomposition import PCA
from tensorflow.keras import layers, models
from sklearn.impute import SimpleImputer
import warnings
warnings.filterwarnings("ignore")
```

Figure 1: Importing Necessary Libraries into Workspace

4 Data Collection

The datasets were sourced from CICIDS2017. The combined dataset contains traffic data from multiple scenarios including DDoS, Port Scans, and benign traffic.

4.1 Dataset Files

- Friday-WorkingHours-Afternoon-DDos.pcap ISCX.csv
- Friday-WorkingHours-Afternoon-PortScan.pcap ISCX.csv
- Friday-WorkingHours-Morning.pcap ISCX.csv
- Monday-WorkingHours.pcap ISCX.csv
- Thursday-WorkingHours-Afternoon-Infilteration.pcap ISCX.csv
- Thursday-WorkingHours-Morning-WebAttacks.pcap ISCX.csv
- Tuesday-WorkingHours.pcap ISCX.csv
- Wednesday-workingHours.pcap ISCX.csv

4.2 Data Importing

Pandas library for Python is used to read the CSV files of the dataset. Importing for the same is given in figure 2 below.

```
#Read the dataset
data1 = pd.read_csv('Friday-WorkingHours-Afternoon-DDos.pcap_ISCX.csv')
data2 = pd.read_csv('Friday-WorkingHours-Afternoon-PortScan.pcap_ISCX.csv')
data3 = pd.read_csv('Friday-WorkingHours-Morning.pcap_ISCX.csv')
data4 = pd.read_csv('Monday-WorkingHours.pcap_ISCX.csv')
data5 = pd.read_csv('Thursday-WorkingHours-Afternoon-Infilteration.pcap_ISCX.csv')
data6 = pd.read_csv('Thursday-WorkingHours-Morning-WebAttacks.pcap_ISCX.csv')
data7 = pd.read_csv('Tuesday-WorkingHours.pcap_ISCX.csv')
data8 = pd.read_csv('Wednesday-workingHours.pcap_ISCX.csv')
```

Figure 2: Importing the Dataset Files

Columns across datasets were standardised before concatenation. The final dataset contained **common_columns** shared by all datasets.

```
# List of datasets
datasets = [data1, data2, data3, data4, data5, data6, data7, data8]

# Ensure all datasets have the same columns
common_columns = list(set.intersection(*(set(df.columns) for df in datasets)))
datasets = [df[common_columns] for df in datasets]

# Combine all datasets into one DataFrame
df_final = pd.concat(datasets, ignore_index=True)
```

Figure 3: Standardisation of Columns and Concatenation

4.3 Data Cleaning

Getting the count of each attack type in the dataset is performed using the value_counts() for Pandas dataframe as shown in Figure 4.



Figure 4: Getting Unique Labels

Statistical description of the dataset can be obtained as shown in Figure 5 below.

```
#Statistical Description of dataset
df_final.describe()
```

Figure 5: Getting Statistical Description of the Dataset

Information of the column data types and the length of the dataset is obtained as below.

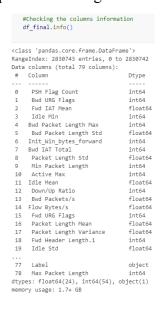


Figure 6: Getting the column meta data

Count of the null data for the dataset is obtained using the isnull().sum() operation on the dataframe.

```
#Checking the null value df_final.isnull().sum()

PSH Flag Count 0
Bwd URG Flags 0
Fwd IAT Mean 0
Idle Min 0
Bwd Packet Length Max 0

CWE Flag Count 0
Bwd Avg Bulk Rate 0
Bwd Packet Length Min 0
Label 0
Max Packet Length 0
Length: 79, dtype: int64
```

Figure 7: Getting nulls from the dataset

After this, the duplicated rows across the dataset are identified and dropped from the dataset. This is shown in figure 8.

```
#Checking the duplicates
df_final.duplicated().sum()

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# Drop duplicate rows
df_final = df_final.drop_duplicates()
```

Figure 8: Identifying and removing duplicates

The columns in the dataset are identified as shown below.

Figure 9: Column names in the dataset

The labels names are changed through a mapping function (.map()) as shown below.

```
#Label Mapping
label_mapping = {
    "BENTGN': "Normal',
    "Bot': "Botnet',
    "FTP-Patator': 'Brute Force',
    "SSH-Patator': 'Brute Force',
    "DOS Hulk': 'DOS/DDOS',
    "DOS GoldenEye': 'DOS/DDOS',
    "DOS Slowhttptest': 'DOS/DDOS',
    "DOS': 'DOS/DDOS',
    "DOS': 'DOS/DDOS',
    "Infiltration': 'Infiltration',
    "PortScan': 'Port Scan',
    "Web Attack ◆ Brute Force': 'Web Attack',
    "Web Attack ◆ XSS': 'Web Attack',
    "Web Attack ◆ Sql Injection': 'Web Attack'
}

df_final[' Label'] = df_final[' Label'].map(label_mapping)
```

Figure 10: Label mapping

5 Exploratory Data Analysis

Several plots are plotted for the exploratory data analysis. Implementation for the same are discussed below.

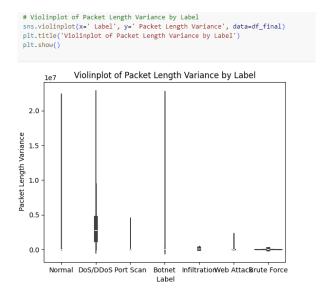


Figure 11: Violin Plot for Packet Length Variance by Label

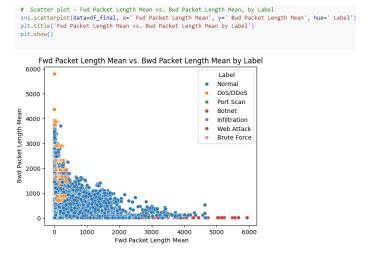


Figure 12: Scatter Plot for Fwd Packet Length Mean vs. Bwd Packet Length Mean by label

The distribution of the class labels in the dataset is obtained as shown in Figure 13.

```
#Countplot for Label
sns.countplot(data=df_final, x=' Label',palette='hls')
plt.title('Distribution of Label')
plt.xticks(rotation=90)

([0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6],
[Text(0, 0, 'Normal'),
Text(1, 0, 'Dos/DDos'),
Text(2, 0, 'Port Scan'),
Text(3, 0, 'Botnet'),
Text(4, 0, 'Infiltration'),
Text(5, 0, 'Web Attack'),
Text(6, 0, 'Brute Force')])

ple6

Distribution of Label

2.00-
```

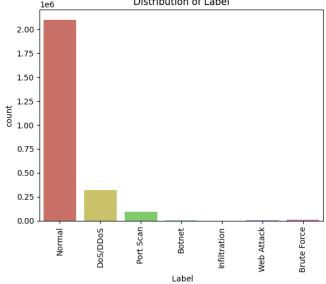


Figure 13: Getting Label Distribution

The KDE Plot for the Average Packet Size is plotted using the Seaborn library as shown in Figure 14.

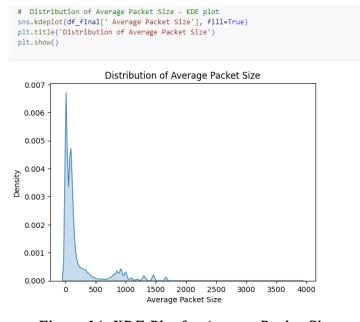


Figure 14: KDE Plot for Average Packet Size

6 Preprocessing

Labels in the dataset are encoded for Supervised Learning through LSTM, Attention LSTM and Transformer using the Label Encoder in Sklearn. Its implementation is shown in Figure 15 below.

```
# Initialize the LabelEncoder
label_encoder = LabelEncoder()

# Fit and transform the 'Label' column
df_final[' Label'] = label_encoder.fit_transform(df_final[' Label'])
```

Figure 15: Implementation of Label Encoding

Correlation matrix is plotted to identify multicollinearity in the dataset. This is implemented by generating heatmap of the correlation coefficients for the features.

```
# Divide the dataset into chunks of 20 columns
chunks = [df_final.iloc[:, i:i+20] for i in range(0, df_final.shape[1], 20)]
# Loop through each chunk and plot the correlation heatmap individually
for i. chunk in enumerate(chunks):
   corr = chunk.corr()
   plt.figure(figsize=(20, 8))
   # Plot the heatmap
   sns.heatmap(corr, annot=True, cmap='hsv', fmt='.2f', vmin=-1, vmax=1)
   # Adjust the title to reflect the correct number of columns
   start col = i * 20 + 1
   end_{col} = (i + 1) * 20
   # If the last chunk has fewer than 20 columns
   if end_col > df_final.shape[1]:
       end_col = df_final.shape[1]
   plt.title(f'Correlation Heatmap - Columns {start_col} to {end_col}', fontsize=14)
   plt.xticks(rotation=90)
   plt.tight_layout()
   plt.show() # Show each plot individually
```

Figure 16: Correlation matrix generation

To ensure faster processing with low resource requirements 50000 samples of the total dataset are used for further processing.

```
#taking 50000 rows
df_final_subset = df_final.sample(n=50000, random_state=42)
```

Figure 17: Getting subset of the data

The dependent and independent variables from the data are separated by dropping the label column from the dataset.

```
#Seperating dependent and independent variable
X = df_final_subset.drop(columns=[' Label'])
y = df_final_subset[' Label']
```

Figure 18: Separating Dependent and Independent Columns

The correlation coefficients of the dataset features are thresholded at 0.9 to remove multicollinearity.

```
# Identifying highly correlated features
correlation_matrix = X.corr()
upper_tri = correlation_matrix.where(np.triu(np.ones(correlation_matrix.shape), k=1).astype(bool))
to_drop = [column for column in upper_tri.columns if any(upper_tri[column] > 0.9)]
# Drop the highly correlated features
X_clean = X.drop(columns=to_drop)
```

Figure 19: Thresholding the Correlation Matrix

The data is then split into training and testing set using the Sklearn library's train test split.

```
# Split data into training and testing sets
X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X, y, test_size=0.2, random_state=42)
```

Figure 20: Splitting the Dataset

Large or infinite values in the dataset are replaced with 0.

```
# Replace infinite values with 0 or any other suitable value X_{train[np.isinf(X_{train)}] = 0} X_{test[np.isinf(X_{test)] = 0}
```

Figure 21: Zeroing the large values

SimpleImputer from the Sklearn is then used to replace the missing values in the dataset by their corresponding column means.

```
# Impute missing values
imputer = SimpleImputer(strategy='mean')
X_train = imputer.fit_transform(X_train)
X_test = imputer.transform(X_test)
```

Figure 22: Replacing nulls in the dataset by column means

Features are then normalized through standardization.

```
# Scale the features using StandardScaler
scaler = StandardScaler()
X_train_scaled = scaler.fit_transform(X_train)
X_test_scaled = scaler.transform(X_test)
```

Figure 23: Standardisation of the Features

The labels are balanced using the SMOTE technique as shown in Figure 24.

```
# Apply SMOTE to handle class imbalance
smote = SMOTE(random_state=42, k_neighbors=3)
X_train_res, y_train_res = smote.fit_resample(X_train_scaled, y_train)
```

Figure 24: Application of SMOTE

Balanced class counts are then plotted.

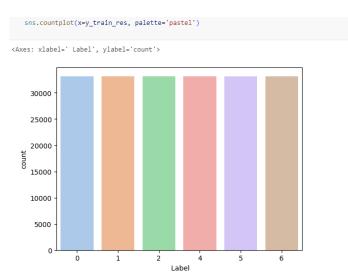


Figure 25: Balanced Classes after SMOTE

The feature set is then reshaped for applicability for LSTM and Attention LSTM and models

```
# Reshape data for LSTM model
X_train_res = X_train_res.reshape((X_train_res.shape[0], 1, X_train_res.shape[1]))
X_test_scaled = X_test_scaled.reshape((X_test_scaled.shape[0], 1, X_test_scaled.shape[1]))
```

Figure 26: Reshaping the feature set

The classes are then one-hot encoded using the to_categorical function of the keras utils module.

```
y_train_cat = to_categorical(y_train_res)
#y_test_cat = to_categorical(y_test)
```

Figure 27: One-hot encoding the labels

7 Modelling

Five different models are used in the study. These are:

- 1. LSTM
- 2. Attention LSTM
- 3. Transformer
- 4. Kmeans
- 5. DBSCAN

Their implementations are discussed below.

```
# Build the LSTM model
model = Sequential()

# LSTM layer with 50 units
model.add(LSTM(units=50, activation='relu', input_shape=(X_train_res.shape[1], X_train_res.shape[2])))
model.add(Dropout(0,2))

# Fully connected layer
model.add(Dense(units=y_train_cat.shape[1], activation='softmax'))

# Compile the model
model.compile(optimizer='adam', loss='binary_crossentropy', metrics=['accuracy'])

# Train the model
history = model.fit(X_train_res, y_train_cat, epochs=10, batch_size=128, validation_data=(X_test_scaled, y_test_cat))

# Make predictions
y_pred = model.predict(X_test_scaled)
y_pred = np.argmax(y_pred, axis=1)

# Calculate metrics
accuracy_1 = accuracy_score(y_test, y_pred)
precision_1 = precision_score(y_test, y_pred, average='macro')
fi_1 = f1_score(y_test, y_pred, average='macro')
print(f"Accuracy: {accuracy_1}')
print(f"Precision: {precision_1}'')
print(f"Precision: {precision_1}'')
print(f"Precision: {precision_1}'')
print(f"Precision: {precision_1}'')
print(f"F1 Score: {f1_1}'')
print(f"Confusion Matrix: \n(conf_matrix_1)'')
```

Figure 28: LSTM Model Implementation

```
# Define custom Attention Layer
 class Attention(Layer):
    def __init__(self):
        super(Attention, self).__init__()
           self.W = self.add_weight(name='attention_weight', shape=(input_shape[-1], 1), initializer='random_normal', trainable=True)
self.b = self.add_weight(name='attention_bias', shape=(input_shape[1],), initializer='zeros', trainable=True)
super(Attention, self).build(input_shape)
            # Compute attention scores
          # Compute attention scores
score = tf.matmul(inputs, self.W) + self.b
attention_weights = tf.nn.softmax(score, axis=1)
# Apply attention weights to the input features
output = inputs * attention_weights
return tf.reduce_sum(output, axis=1)
# Build the model
inputs = Input(shape=(X train res.shape[1], X train res.shape[2]))
# LSTM layer with 50 units
lstm_out = LSTM(units=50, activation='relu', return sequences=True)(inputs)
# Attention layer
attention_out = Attention()(lstm_out)
# Dropout for regularization
dropout_out = Dropout(0.2)(attention_out)
# Fully connected output layer
output = Dense(units=y_train_cat.shape[1], activation='sigmoid')(dropout_out)
model = Model(inputs=inputs, outputs=output)
model.compile(optimizer='adam', loss='binary_crossentropy', metrics=['accuracy'])
\label{eq:history} \textbf{history} = \textbf{model.fit}(X\_\text{train\_res}, \ y\_\text{train\_cat}, \ \text{epochs=10}, \ \text{batch\_size=128}, \ \text{validation\_data=}(X\_\text{test\_scaled}, \ y\_\text{test\_cat}))
# Make predictions
y_pred = model.predict(X_test_scaled)
y_pred = np.argmax(y_pred, axis=1)
accuracy_2 = accuracy_score(y_test, y_pred)
precision_2 = precision_score(y_test, y_pred, average='macro')
recall_2 = recall_score(y_test, y_pred, average='macro')
f1_2 = f1_score(y_test, y_pred, average='macro')
conf_matrix_2 = confusion_matrix(y_test, y_pred)
# Print metrics
print(f"Accuracy: {accuracy_2}"
print(f"Precision: {precision_2}")
print(f"Recall: {recall_2}")
print(f"F1 Score: {f1_2}")
```

Figure 29: Attention LSTM Model Implementation

```
# Model Building
def create_transformer_model(input_shape):
    inputs = layers.Input(shape=input_shape)
      x = layers.MultiHeadAttention(num heads=8, key dim=64)(inputs, inputs)
      x = layers.Dropout(0.1)(x)
      x = layers.LayerNormalization(epsilon=1e-6)(x)
      x = layers.GlobalAveragePooling1D()(x)
     # Fully connected layer
     x = layers.Dense(64, activation='relu')(x)
x = layers.Dropout(0.5)(x)
     outputs = layers.Dense(y\_train\_cat.shape[1], \ activation='sigmoid')(x) \\
     model = models.Model(inputs, outputs)
model.compile(optimizer='adam', loss='binary_crossentropy', metrics=['accuracy'])
# Create and compile the model
model = create_transformer_model((X_train_res.shape[1], X_train_res.shape[2]))
history = model.fit(X\_train\_res, \ y\_train\_cat, \ epochs=10, \ batch\_size=64, \ validation\_data=(X\_test\_scaled, \ y\_test\_cat))
# Evaluate the model
y_pred = model.predict(X_test_scaled)
y_pred = np.argmax(y_pred, axis=1)
# Metrics calculation for multiclass
accuracy = accuracy_score(y_test, y_pred)
precision = precision_score(y_test, y_pred, average='weighted')
recall = recall_score(y_test, y_pred, average='weighted')
f1 = f1_score(y_test, y_pred, average='weighted')
# Output the metrics
print(f"Accuracy: {accuracy:.4f}")
print(f"Precision: {precision:.4f}")
print(f"Recall: {recall:.4f}")
print(f"F1 Score: {f1:.4f}")
```

Figure 30: Transformer Model Implementation

```
# Set the number of clusters
num_clusters = len(np.unique(y_train))
# Initialize and fit K-Means
kmeans = KMeans(n_clusters=num_clusters, random_state=42)
kmeans.fit(X_train_scaled)
# Predict the cluster labels
y_kmeans_pred = kmeans.predict(X_train_scaled)
# Evaluate the clustering performance
# Accuracy
accuracy_4 = accuracy_score(y_train, y_kmeans_pred)
print(f"Accuracy: {accuracy:.4f}")
# Precision, Recall, F1 Score
precision\_4 = precision\_score(y\_train, y\_kmeans\_pred, average='weighted', zero\_division=\theta)
recall_4 = recall_score(y_train, y_kmeans_pred, average='weighted', zero_division=0)
f1_4 = f1_score(y_train, y_kmeans_pred, average='weighted', zero_division=0)
print(f"Precision: {precision 4:.4f}")
print(f"Recall: {recall_4:.4f}")
print(f"F1 Score: {f1_4:.4f}")
# Generate and display the confusion matrix
cm = confusion_matrix(y_train, y_kmeans_pred)
```

Figure 31: Kmeans Clustering Implementation

```
# Initialize and fit DBSCAN
dbscan = DBSCAN(eps=0.5, min_samples=5)
{\tt dbscan.fit}({\tt X\_train\_scaled})
# Predict the cluster labels
y dbscan pred = dbscan.labels
# Evaluate the clustering performance
# Convert noise points (-1) to a unique label for evaluation purposes
y_dbscan_pred_no_noise = np.where(y_dbscan_pred == -1, -1, y_dbscan_pred)
accuracy_5 = accuracy_score(y_train, y_dbscan_pred_no_noise)
print(f"Accuracy: {accuracy_5:.4f}")
# Precision, Recall, F1 Score
precision_5 = precision_score(y_train, y_dbscan_pred_no_noise, average='weighted', zero_division=0)
recall_5 = recall_score(y_train, y_dbscan_pred_no_noise, average='weighted', zero_division=0)
f1_5 = f1_score(y_train, y_dbscan_pred_no_noise, average='weighted', zero_division=0)
print(f"Precision: {precision_5:.4f}")
print(f"Recall: {recall_5:.4f
print(f"F1 Score: {f1_5:.4f}")
# Generate and display the confusion matrix
cm = confusion_matrix(y_train, y_dbscan_pred_no_noise)
```

Figure 32: DBSCAN Implementation

8 Evaluation

Models are evaluated and compared based on the accuracy, precision, recall, f1-score and confusion matrix. Its comparison is given below.

```
# Model Evaluation Metrics
metrics = {
    'Model': ['Attention LSTM', 'LSTM', 'Transformer', 'DBSCAN', 'KMeans'],
    'Accuracy': [accuracy_2, accuracy_1, accuracy, accuracy_5, accuracy_4],
    'Precision (weighted)': [precision_2, precision_1, precision, precision_5, precision_4],
    'Recall (weighted)': [recall_2, recall_1, recall, recall_5, recall_4],
    'F1-Score (weighted)': [f1_2, f1_1, f1, f1_5, f1_4]
}
# Create DataFrame
comparison_df = pd.DataFrame(metrics)
# Print the comparison table
print(comparison df)
```

Figure 33: Model Evaluation

9 References

- Guide (no date). https://www.tensorflow.org/guide.
- scikit-learn: machine learning in Python scikit-learn 0.16.1 documentation (no date). https://scikit-learn.org/.
- IDS 2017 | Datasets | Research | Canadian Institute for Cybersecurity | UNB (no date). https://www.unb.ca/cic/datasets/ids-2017.html.
- Welcome to imbalanced-learn documentation! (no date). https://imbalanced-learn.org/.