

Configuration Manual

MSc Research Project Cybersecurity

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MSc Project Submission Sheet

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Programme: MSc Cybersecurity **Year:** 2024

Module: MSc Research Project

Lecturer: Submission Due Dr. Rohit Verma

Date:

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Project Title: Blockchain-Based Detection and Analysis of DDoS Attacks in

Decentralized Networks

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Configuration Manual

Rutwik Sayankar Student ID: X23213841

1 Introduction

This configuration manual is used as guide for setting up the basic environmental setup to implement and test a blockchain based DDoS detection system. This manual covers step by step instructions to establish solid infrastructure by using Docker, Quorum and Flask. These components are important in deployment of framework which helps to detect DDoS threats. By following the steps in manual, users can create a functional Quorum network and develop Flask application which is used as interface with this network.

2 Prerequisite Setup

- 1. Setting Up Docker Desktop:
 - Downloaded Docker Desktop for Windows operating system(Get Started | Docker, 2021). As Windows OS is used, make sure to enable WSL2 (Windows Subsystem for Linux) during setup.
 - After installation, confirm that Docker Desktop is operational by running the command in the terminal mentioned in figure 1.

```
x23213841@DESKTOP-O8GFLOE:~/Research_MSc_Cyber/Quorum-Network$ docker --version
Docker version 27.2.0, build 3ab4256
x23213841@DESKTOP-O8GFLOE:~/Research_MSc_Cyber/Quorum-Network$
```

Fig 1. Docker version and build number

2. Setup the NodeSource repository for installing Node.js version 18.x, as shown in figure 2.

Fig 2. Installation of node.js

After installation, validate it by checking versions of Node.js, npm and npx, as shown in figure 3.

```
x23213841@DESKTOP-O8GFLOE:~/Research_MSc_Cyber/Quorum-Network$ npx --v
10.8.2
x23213841@DESKTOP-O8GFLOE:~/Research_MSc_Cyber/Quorum-Network$ node --version
v18.20.5
x23213841@DESKTOP-O8GFLOE:~/Research_MSc_Cyber/Quorum-Network$ npm --version
10.8.2
x23213841@DESKTOP-O8GFLOE:~/Research_MSc_Cyber/Quorum-Network$
```

Fig 3. Version details of node, npx and npm

3. Launch the Quorum Network by using NPX

Instead of cloning a repository, here npx command. This method allows to execute the Quorum Quickstart directly without downloading it first and minimizing manual configuration efforts.

Open terminal and execute following command to launch Quorum Quickstart, as shown in figure 4.(Get started with Quorum Developer Quickstart | ConsenSys GoQuorum, 2023)



Fig 4. Establishing Quorum setup

This command will guide through various configuration options like consensus mechanisms and setting up network.

4. Create images of quorum environment and containers by using ./run.sh command in the folder where you installed Quorum quickstart, as shown in figure 5 & figure 6. Also check there is .yaml file present in that folder.

Fig 5. Creating images of Quorum nodes in Docker

```
| Sember | Second | S
```

Fig 6. Docker containers are up for Quorum

5. Once setup is complete, check Docker Desktop to make sure all Quorum related containers are operational by executing command mentioned in figure 7.

```
      ☑ x23213841@DESKTOP-08GFL( × )
      + | ∨

      x23213841@DESKTOP-08GFLOE:~/Research_MSc_Cyber/Quorum-Network$ docker ps
```

Fig 7. To validate container status of Quorum in Docker

This command confirms that the nodes validator nodes as well as member nodes and associated tools like Grafana, Prometheus and Loki are actively running.

3 **Model Training**

6. Created virtual environment and Install Flask and other required libraries, as shown in figure 8.

Fig 8. To create virtual environment for Flask App and Installation of required libraries

7. Data Preparation and Machine Learning Model Development by using Random Forest classifier, as shown in figure 9.

Here, the CIC-DDoS2019 dataset is used to generate network traffic data for analysis.(DDoS 2019 | Datasets | Research | Canadian Institute for Cybersecurity | UNB, no date)

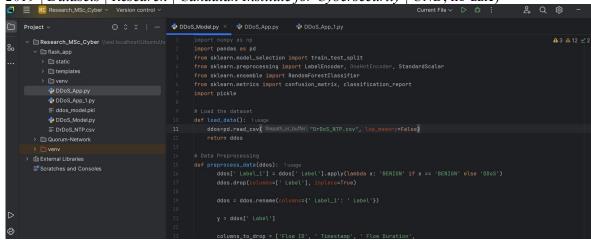


Fig 9. Code Snippet 1 of DDoS Model.py

For Data Preprocessing, follow the process feature selection as shown in snippet shown in figure 10.

Fig 10. Code Snippet 2 of DDoS Model.py

After training the data, save the trained model as a **pickle file** (ddos_model.pkl) using Python's pickle, as shown in figure 11.

```
# Step 4: Save the Model

def save_model(model, filename='ddos_model.pkl'): 1 usage
    with open(filename, 'wb') as file:
        pickle.dump(model, file)
    print(f"Model saved to {filename}")
```

Fig 11. Code Snippet 3 of DDoS Model.py

4 Development of Flask Application

8. Develop Generic Frontend by using "index2.html" is provided to create a simple frontend for users to insert input traffic data and view predictions, as shown in figure 12.

```
<h1>DDOS Attack Prediction</h1>
<form id="prediction-form">
    <input type="text" id=" Protocol" name=" Protocol" placeholder="Protocol">
   <input type="text" id=" Total Fwd Packets" name=" Total Fwd Packets" placeholder="Total Fwd Packets"><br><br>
    <input type="text" id="Total Length of Fwd Packets" name="Total Length of Fwd Packets" placeholder="Total Length of Fwd Packets">
   <input type="text" id=" Fwd Packet Length Min" name=" Fwd Packet Length Min" placeholder="Fwd Packet Length Min"</pre>
    <input type="text" id="Bwd Packet Length Max" name="Bwd Packet Length Max" placeholder="Bwd Packet Length Max">
   <input type="text" id=" Bwd Packet Length Min" name=" Bwd Packet Length Min" placeholder="Bwd Packet Length Min"</pre>
   <input type="text" id=" Flow IAT Min" name=" Flow IAT Min" placeholder="Flow IAT Min"><br>><br>>
    <input type="text" id=" Bwd IAT Min" name=" Bwd IAT Min" placeholder="Bwd IAT Min">
    <input type="text" id=" Bwd Header Length" name=" Bwd Header Length" placeholder="Bwd Header Length">
    <input type="text" id=" Packet Length Variance" name=" Packet Length Variance" placeholder="Packet Length Variance">
    <input type="text" id=" Fwd Header Length.1" name=" Fwd Header Length.1" placeholder="Fwd Header Length.1"><br><br>
    <input type="text" id="Subflow Fwd Packets" name="Subflow Fwd Packets" placeholder="Subflow Fwd Packets">
    <input type="text" id=" Subflow Bwd Packets" name=" Subflow Bwd Packets" placeholder="Subflow Bwd Packets">
    <input type="text" id="Init_Win_bytes_forward" name="Init_Win_bytes_forward" placeholder="Init_Win_bytes_forward">
```

Fig 12. Code Snippet 1 of index.html

Initiated JSON script in HTML file to process a form submission dynamically without reloading the page, as shown in figure 13.

It also used to collect input data, converts it into a JSON structure, and sends it to a Flask API for prediction and display the prediction result or an error message on the webpage.

Fig 13. Code Snippet 2 of index.html

9. Import libraries like Flask, Pickle, Web3 in the flask app file, as shown in figure 14.

```
from flask import Flask, request, jsonify, render_template, send_from_directory
import pickle
import numpy as np
from web3.middleware.proof_of_authority import ExtraDataToPOAMiddleware

# Import the middleware for PoA

# Load the trained Random Forest model
with open('ddos_model.pkl', 'rb') as file:

model = pickle.load(file)

# Initialize Flask app
app = Flask(__name__)

# Connect to Quorum node
web3 = Web3(Web3.HTTPProvider("http://localhost:8545")) # Replace with your Quorum RPC endpoint
if not web3.is_connected():
print("Failed to connect to Quorum")

# Add middleware for PoA compatibility
web3.middleware_onion.inject(ExtraDataToPOAMiddleware, layer=8)

# Set the default account (ensure this account exists in Quorum)
web3.eth.default_account = web3.eth.accounts[8]

# Define a route for the home page
gapp.route('/')
def home():
return render_template('index2.html')
```

Fig 14. Code Snippet 1 of DDoS App.py

Red Box:

- The code snippet mentioned in this box explains that the ExtraDataToPOAMiddleware is a middleware from Web3.py that ensures compatibility with Proof of Authority (PoA) networks.
- It preprocesses the extra data in block headers, allowing seamless interaction with PoA blockchains like Quorum.
- This is used to avoid errors related to block header parsing while working with PoA consensus.

Blue Box: To retrieve a previously saved model from a .pkl file and load it into memory for use in this app for making predictions and evaluating its performance.

Green Box: This Python code snippet uses the web3.py library to connect to a blockchain node (like Quorum node) via an HTTP provider.

10. This python code defines a Flask API endpoint (/predict) for handling POST requests, as shown in figure 15. This endpoint is used to make predictions using a machine learning model, log the prediction to a blockchain and return the result along with blockchain transaction details.

```
@app.route( rule: '/predict', methods=['POST'])
def predict():
         Parse JSON data
        if request.is_json:
           data = request.get_json()
            if features.size == 0:
               return jsonify({"error": "No features provided in the request"}), 400
            prediction = model.predict(features)
            prediction_text = "DDoS" if prediction[0] == 1 else "Benign"
                'to': web3.eth.default_account, # Send transaction to self (no recipient)
                'data': web3.to_hex(text=f"Prediction: {prediction_text}"), # Log prediction as payload
           tx_hash = web3.eth.send_transaction(tx)
           receipt = web3.eth.wait_for_transaction_receipt(tx_hash)
               "prediction": prediction_text,
                "blockchain_tx_hash": tx_hash.hex(),
                "block_number": receipt.blockNumber
            return jsonify({"error": "Invalid data format, JSON expected"}), 400
```

Fig 15. Code Snippet 2 of DDoS App.py

White Box: Code snippet mentioned in this box verify whether the incoming request contains valid JSON data using request.is_json. It then parses the JSON payload into a dictionary and extracts the features array and convert it into NumPy array and reshape it (1, -n_features) format for ML model predictions.

Red Box: Code snippet mentioned in this box validates that the features array is not empty and returns a 400 Bad request error with error message if no features provided.

Blue Box: The model.predict(features) method uses the pretrained machine learning model to predict whether the input indicate a DDoS attack. The result is then converted into numeric predictions (e.g., 1 for DDoS, 0 for Benign) into readable string.

Green Box:

- The code mentioned in green box, defines and sends a blockchain transaction that logs the prediction result as a payload.
- This is done with no ether transfer and a specified gas limit, then waits for the transaction to be mined and returns a receipt.
- The JSON response includes the prediction result whether it is DDOS or Benign, transaction hash and block number where the transaction is recorded.
- 11. This python code defines a Flask API endpoint (/get-logs) that retrieves and returns transactions from the last 10 blocks of blockchain, filtering for transactions sent to node's default account, shown in figure 16.

Fig 16. Code Snippet 3 of DDoS App.py

The code mentioned in red box, gathers relevant transaction details like block number, transaction hash and input data which is converted to text and after that it responds with JSON object containing the logs.

12. This python code defines a Flask API endpoint (/matrix) that handles GET requests and serves a file (specifically an image file) from server's static directory, shown in figure 17.

```
@app.route( rule: '/matrix', methods=['GET'])
v def confusion_matrix():
    return send_from_directory( directory: 'static', path: 'confusion_matrix.png')
```

Fig 17. Code Snippet 4 of DDoS App.py

13. Created virtual environment to install web3, this will help to integrate flask application with quorum, as shown in figure 18 & figure 19.

Fig 18. Installation of Web3 in quorum directory

```
Using cached toolz-1.0.9-py3-none-any, whl (56 kB)
Installing collected packages: ckzg, bitarray, websockets, urllib3, typing-extensions, toolz, regex, pyunormalize, pycryptodome, propocache, multidict, idna, hexbytes, frozenlist, eth-hash, charset-normalizer, certifi, attrs, annotated-types, aiohappyeyeballs, yarl, types-requests, requests, pydantic-core, parsi monious, eth-typing, cytoolz, aiosignal, pydantic, eth-utils, aiohttp, rlp, eth-keys, eth-abi, eth-rlp, eth-keyfile, eth-account, web3 successfully installed aiohappyeyeballs-2.43 aiohttp-3.11.8 aiosignal-1.3.1 annotated-types-0.7.0 attrs-24.2.0 bitarray-3.0.0 certifi-2024.8.30 charset-nor malizer-3.4.0 ckzg-2.0.1 cytoolz-1.0.0 eth-abi-5.1.0 eth-account-0.13.4 eth-hash-0.7.0 eth-keyfile-0.8.1 eth-keys-0.6.0 eth-rlp-2.1.0 eth-typing-5.0.1 eth-utils-5.1.0 frozenlist-1.5.0 hexbytes-1.2.1 idna-3.10 multidict-6.1.0 parsimonious-0.10.0 propocache-0.2.0 pycryptodome-3.21.0 pydantic-2.10.2 pydantic-core-2.27.1 pyunormalize-16.0 regex-2824.11.6 requests-2.32.3 rlp-4.0.1 toolz-1.0.0 types-requests-2.32.0.20241016 typing-extensions-4.12.2 urllib3-2.2.3 web3-7.6.0 websockets-13.1 yarl-1.18.0 (vcmy) x2321384100ESKTOP-08GFLOE:-/Research_MSc_Cyber$
```

Fig 19. Installation Completed

5 WorkFlow

- 14. Make sure that the containers of validator nodes, member nodes, Grafana, Loki are in running state.
- 15. Run the flask app and you will get outcome mentioned in the figure, click on the localhost address to access the Flask application, as shown in figure 20.

```
* Serving Flask app 'DDoS_App_1'

* Debug mode: on

WARNING: This is a development server. Do not use it in a production deployment. Use a production WSGI server instead.

* Running on <a href="http://127.0.0.1:5000">http://127.0.0.1:5000</a>

Press CTRL+C to quit

* Restarting with stat

* Debugger is active!

* Debugger PIN: 137-860-294
```

Fig 20. Terminal after running Flask Application

16. After accessing http://127.0.0.1:5000, you will find dashboard with features mentioned in boxes which are needed to predict the result, as shown in figure 21.



DDOS Attack Prediction

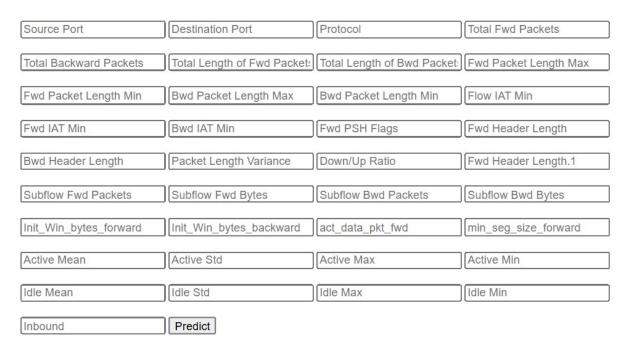


Fig 21. Home page of Flask Application

17. For input details, I have used DDoS data mentioned in DrDoS_NTP.csv from CIC-DDoS2019, highlighted in figure 22.

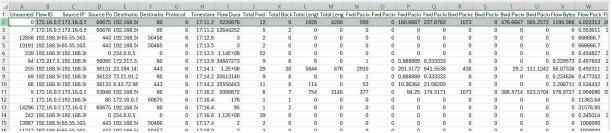
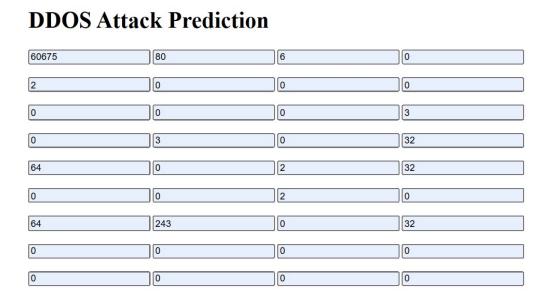


Fig 22. DrDoS NTP.csv file data

Here is the input dashboard after putting all required feature values in the dedicated boxes, as shown in figure 23.



Prediction: DDoS

C

① 127.0.0.1:5000

Predict

Fig 23. DDoS data inputs in Flask Application

18. After clicking predict button, it will take 1 to 2 minutes to predict that data is DDoS or Benign. We also get dedicated log for the predicted result as shown in figure 24. Here we got block number, prediction of data and transaction hash for our result.

Fig 24. Output logs 1 in /get-logs endpoint

After DDoS traffic data send to the Quorum through Flask Application.

19. The visualizations of traffic data is displayed over the **Grafana** and Logging data is displayed over the **Loki**.



Fig 25. Variations in Block time transaction graph of rpcnode.

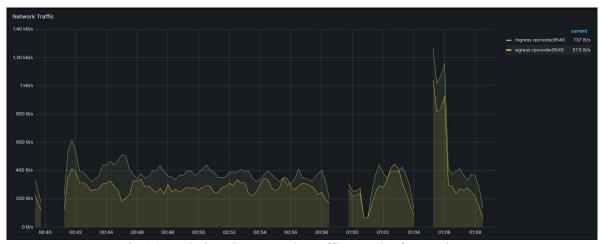


Fig 26. Variations in Network Traffic Graph of rpcnode.



Fig 27. Variations in CPU Usage Graph of validator4 node.



Fig 28. Variations in Block time Graph of all nodes.



Fig 29. Variations in Transaction propagation Graph of all nodes.

```
| 2024-12-10 01:02:22.571 INFO [12-10]01:02:23.050] QBFT: PRC-PREPARE block proposal is in the future (will be treated again later) address-0x9317cDBacce5dC132999)732cG20609bC580a current.round= current.sequence=3073 state="Accept related block proposal request address-0x9317cDBacce5dC132999)732cG20609bC580a current.sequence=3073 state="Accept related block proposal request address-0x9317cDBacce5dC132999)732cG0609bC580a current.sequence=3073 state="Accept related block proposal request address-0x9317cDBacce5dC132999)732cG0609bC580a current.sequence=3073 state="Accept related block proposal request address-0x9317cDBacce5dC132999)732cG0609bC580a current.sequence=3073 state="Accept related block proposal request address-0x9317cDBacce5dC132999)73cG0609bC580a current.sequence=3073 state="Accept related block proposal request address-0x9317cDBacce5dC132999073cG0609bC580a current.round=0current.sequence=3073 state="Accept related block proposal request address-0x9317cDBacce5dC13299bC580bC580a current.round=0current.sequence=3073 state="Accept related block proposal request address-0x9317cDBacce5dC132999073cG0609bC580a current.round=0current.sequence=3073 state="Accept related block proposal request address-0x9317cDBacce5dC132999073cG0609bC580a current.round=0current.sequence=3073 state="Accept related block proposal request address-0x27A97C9AaF04f18f3014c32e836dD0Ac76Da5f18 current.round=0current.sequence=3073 state="Accept related block proposal request address-0x27A97C9AaF04f18f3014c32e836dD0Ac
```

Fig 30. Log Details - 1 of block where DDoS data stored.

```
| 2024-12-10 81:02:23.071 INFO [12-10]01:02:23.083] Commit new mining work | number=3074 sealhash=9938c7.2ff4d7 uncles=0 txs=0 gas=0 | fees=0 elapsed="865.92µs" | 2024-12-10 81:02:23.071 INFO [12-10]01:02:23.071 INFO [12-
```

Fig 31. Log Details - 2 of block where DDoS data stored.

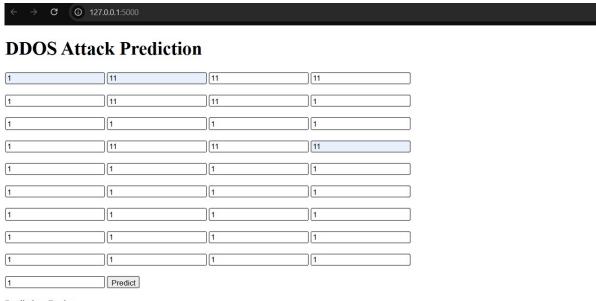
```
2 2024-12-10 81:02:23.871 INFO [12-10]81:02:23.833] BFT: block proposal committed
2 2024-12-10 81:02:23.871 INFO [12-10]81:02:23.833] BFT: block proposal committed
3 2024-12-10 81:02:23.871 INFO [12-10]81:02:23.833] GFT: mandla PREAMS message
3 2024-12-10 81:02:23.871 INFO [12-10]81:02:23.831] GFT: handla PREAMS message
3 2024-12-10 81:02:23.871 INFO [12-10]81:02:23.8381] GFT: handla PREAMS message
3 2024-12-10 81:02:23.871 INFO [12-10]81:02:23.8381] GFT: handla PREAMS message
3 2024-12-10 81:02:23.871 INFO [12-10]81:02:23.8382] GFT: broadcast PREAMS message
3 2024-12-10 81:02:23.871 INFO [12-10]81:02:23.8382] GFT: mandla COMMIT message
3 2024-12-10 81:02:23.871 INFO [12-10]81:02:23.8382] GFT: mandla COMMIT message
3 2024-12-10 81:02:23.871 INFO [12-10]81:02:23.8382] GFT: mandla COMMIT message
4 2024-12-10 81:02:23.871 INFO [12-10]81:02:23.892] GFT: mandla COMMIT message
5 2024-12-10 81:02:23.871 INFO [12-10]81:02:23.893] GFT: mandla COMMIT message
6 2024-12-10 81:02:23.871 INFO [12-10]81:02:23.893] GFT: mandla COMMIT message
7 2024-12-10 81:02:23.871 INFO [12-10]81:02:23.893] GFT: mandla COMMIT message
8 0 2024-12-10 81:02:23.891 INFO [12-10]81:02:23.893] GFT: mandla COMMIT message
9 2024-12-10 81:02:23.891 INFO [12-10]81:02:23.893] GFT: mandla COMMIT message
9 2024-12-10 81:02:23.891 INFO [12-10]81:02:23.893] GFT: mandla COMMIT message
9 2024-12-10 81:02:23.891 INFO [12-10]81:02:23.893] GFT: mandla COMMIT message
9 2024-12-10 81:02:23.891 INFO [12-10]81:02:23.893] GFT: mandla COMMIT message
9 2024-12-10 81:02:23.891 INFO [12-10]81:02:23.893] GFT: mandla COMMIT message
9 2024-12-10 81:02:23.891 INFO [12-10]81:02:23.893] GFT: mandla COMMIT message
9 2024-12-10 81:02:23.891 INFO [12-10]81:02:23.893] GFT: mandla COMMIT message
9 2024-12-10 81:02:23.891 INFO [12-10]81:02:23.893] GFT: mandla COMMIT message
1 2024-12-10 81:02:23.891 INFO [12-10]81:02:23.893] GFT: mandla COMMIT message
1 2024-12-10 81:02:23.891 INFO [12-10]81:02:23.893] GFT: mandla COMMIT message
1 2024-12-10 81:02:23.891 INFO [12-10]81:02:23.893] GF
```

Fig 32. Log Details – 3 of block where DDoS data stored.

```
| 2 2824-12-10 81:82:23.971 INFO [12-10]01:82:23.047] Imported new chain segment | blocks-1 txs=1 mpas=0.821 elapsed=8.675ms mpasps=2.632 number=3073 hashef1bb4b.d2a87 ditys=1.27KlB | 2824-12-10 81:82:23.071 INFO [12-10]01:82:23.047] Imported new chain segment | blocks-1 txs=1 mpas=0.821 elapsed=8.075ms mpasps=2.632 number=3073 hashef1bb4b.d2a887 ditys=1.27KlB | 2824-12-10 81:82:23.071 INFO [12-10]01:82:23.082] GBFT: start new round | address=8x4010FCd922107908F7dd66c62380eD4083831 current.round=0 current.sequence=3073 target.round=0 last | address=8x4010FCd922107908F7dd66c6C3830eD4083831 current.round=0 current.sequence=3073 target.round=0 last | author=8x2709709AaF04f18f3814c32e836dD0Ac760a5f18 hashef1bb4b.d2a887 number=3073 | author=8x2709709AaF04f18f3814c32e836dD0Ac760a5f18 hashef1bb4b.d2a887 number=3073 | author=8x2709709AaF04f18f3814c32e836dD0Ac760a5f18 hashef1bb4b.d2a887 number=3073 | author=8x2709709AaF04f18f3814c32e836dD0Ac760a5f18 hashef1bb4b.d2a887 number=3073 | author=8x2709709AaF04f18f3814c32e836dD0Ac760a5f18 | author=8x2709709Aa
```

Fig 33. Log Details-4 of block where DDoS data stored.

After Random traffic data send to the Quorum through Flask Application.



Prediction: Benign

Fig 34. Random / Benign data inputs in Flask Application

Fig 35. Output logs-2 in /get-logs endpoint



Fig 36. Variations in Block time transaction graph of rpcnode.



Fig 37. Variations in Network Traffic graph of rpcnode.



Fig 38. Variations in CPU Usage graph of rpcnode.



Fig 39. Variations in Block time transaction graph of all nodes.

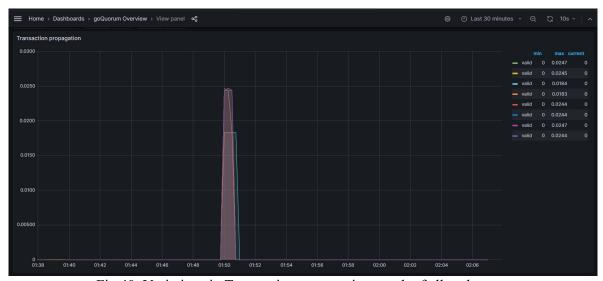


Fig 40. Variations in Transaction propagation graph of all nodes.

```
2 2024-12-10 81:49:50.742 INFO [12-10]81:49:50.499] (BFT: PRC-PREPARE block proposal is in the future (will be treated again later) address-8xcE412f988377c31F408fF12d74df73851C42dbcA current.round=0 current.sequence=3620 state="Accept reque" | 2024-12-10 81:49:50.742 INFO [12-10]81:49:50.499] (BFT: handle block proposal request | 2024-12-10 81:49:50.742 INFO [12-10]81:49:50.499] (BFT: handle block proposal request | 2024-12-10 81:49:50.742 INFO [12-10]81:49:50.499] (BFT: handle block proposal is in the future (will be treated again later) address-8xcE412f988377c31F408fF12d74df73851C42dbcA current.round=0 current.sequence=3620 state="Accept reque" | 2024-12-10 81:49:50.742 INFO [12-10]81:49:50.499] (BFT: handle block proposal is in the future (will be treated again later) address-8xcE412f988377c31F408fF12d74df73851C42dbcA current.round=0 current.sequence=3620 state="Accept reque" | 2024-12-10 81:49:46.226 INFO [12-10]81:49:50.742 INFO [12-10]81:49:50.742 INFO [12-10]81:49:50.742 INFO [12-10]81:49:50.742 INFO [12-10]81:49:50.742 INFO [12-10]81:49:46.623] (UORUM-CHECKPOINT | | 1.212.10.91.49:46.623] (UORUM-CHECKPOINT | | 1.212.10.91.49:46.623] (UORUM-CHECKPOINT | | 1.212.10.91.49.46.623] (UORUM-CHECKPOINT | | 1.212.10.91.49.46.623] (UORUM-CHECKPOINT | | 1.212.10.91.49.46.623] (UORUM-CHECKPOINT | | 1.2326ms | | 1.
```

Fig 41. Log Details - 1 of block where Benign data stored.

```
| Variable | Variable
```

Fig 42. Log Details - 2 of block where Benign data stored.

References

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