

# DESIGN OF AN IMPROVED METHOD FOR INTRUSION DETECTION USING CNN, LSTM, AND BLOCK CHAIN

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#### ABSTRACT

The sophistication of cyber-attacks has brought the need for proactive Network Intrusion Detection Systems that will handle real-time threats and maintain data integrity and privacy. The traditional signature-based intrusion detection solutions have a number of drawbacks. These limitations consist of high false positives, non-transparency of decision-making, and vulnerability to tampering. Besides this fact, a centralized approach brings serious risks of privacy disclosure and raises scalability challenges, especially within distributed environments. This work proposes overcoming these limitations by integrating block chain technology along with state-of-the-art latest AI techniques to provide a powerful, decentralized, and explainable intrusion detection framework. This paper proposes a system integrating three key methodologies: (1) multimodal intrusion detection using CNN and LSTM networks for both spatial and temporal features of network traffic with 98.2% detection accuracy and less than 2.3% false positives. The decentralized model was trained using the adaptive federated learning with differential privacy in the following sections, which achieved 95.4% accuracy with 50% faster model convergence compared to the centralized approaches. Block chain is used to log updates of the federated model securely, thus guaranteeing tamper-proof auditability. SHAP is utilized for XAI, explaining AI-driven decisions in an understandable manner. 99.9% of decisions are explainable and will be immutably stored on the block chain for post-event forensic analysis. Such a fusing of the different methods described above will enable a highly accurate, scalable, and transparent NIDS. The new approach goes beyond mere security because early threat detection allows trust, accountability, and privacy-something comprehensive for modern decentralized networks.

Keywords: Intrusion Detection, Block chain Security, Federated Learning, Convolutional Neural Networks, Explainable AI, and Process.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Hence, in modern times, a digital landscape has engulfed the world, promoting connectivity, economic activities, and communication in unprecedented ways. The increased dependency on networked systems, however, prompts the prevalence of cyberattacks that test organizations and governments in various situations. That is, traditional network security measures based on static rule firewalls and IDSs simply cannot keep pace with the dynamic nature and sophistication of modern cyber threats. Adversaries will continue to improve their tactics with multistage intrusions, zero-day exploits, and DDoS that will readily bypass traditional security mechanisms. There is a serious need in this context for more sophisticated solutions that are able to proactively detect and

prevent intrusions in real timestamp, maintaining data privacy and system integrity levels. Intrusion detection has gained significant development these days with the adoption of AI and ML techniques. These technologies enable the systems to learn from large volumes of network traffic data by recognizing patterns in data, which may indicate potential threats. On the one hand, CNNs have already been widely applied for capturing spatial patterns in network data, such as packet flows and user behavior. On the other hand, LSTM is effective in learning temporal dependencies; enabling multiple step and stealthy attacks detection in process. However, while AI is indeed a force for improvement in intrusion detection, there are several limitations. First, most of the current AIpowered systems lack transparency in their decision-making process and hence are very difficult to comprehend by network administrators

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who may want to believe in an outcome. Besides, all classic centralized models pose risks to private information since they require collection of raw data in one place from various sources that can result in data breaches and violations of privacy in the process.

Some of these challenges provide promising ways of settling for a solution that involves block chain technology with a decentralized and immutable ledger. Block chain can let network activity logs and AI model decisions be securely stored in a no tamper fashion, hence facilitating the required transparency and accountability for secure and trustworthy intrusion detection. The combination of block chain with AI therefore introduces a new paradigm into network security, where the predictive powers of machine learning are complemented by the secure and verifiable nature of block chain technology. Such a fusion could render an intrusion detection system resilient, decentralized, and transparent, with the capability to operate in dynamic and distributed environments. While these are continuously improving, issues around privacy, scaling, and providing interpretability of AI decisions still haunt many contemporary systems. Seen in the context of a distributed network, for example, there is the implication that privacy is highly compromised by sharing raw data with a central server in order to train models. It is in this respect that federated learning has become an increasingly important paradigm for solving this problem: allowing many decentralized nodes to collaboratively train a shared global model in manners that do not necessarily require the sharing of raw data samples. The concept of Federated Learning is that the data remains local, only model updates are sent, and still, the system can achieve benefits from the various network data samples. This again opens up new challenges in ensuring integrity and accountability for the federated model updates. It is here that Block chain can take over securely to log each model update and make the training process tamper-proof and auditable.

Another challenge faced by most of the AI-based intrusion detection systems is that of explainability. Most machine learning models, particularly those using deep neural networks, are designed to work like a "black box." That is, they do not give much insight into their decision-making processes. The lack of transparency is a serious issue in securitysensitive environments, where the administrators want to understand why certain activities were classified as malicious. Techniques such as SHAP

are therefore explanatory AI techniques offering transparent and understandable explanations for the decisions made by AI models. By integrating block chain with XAI, this work ensures that all AI-driven decisions are explainable and safely stored for future audits and forensic analyses. The proposed paper is, for the first time, fusing AI, block chain, and federated learning to come up with a better NIDS design that mitigates some of the limitation issues in previous approaches. It follows the multiple modals AI approaches: combining the CNNs spatial pattern recognition with LSTMs temporal analysis and has been delivering a sophisticated network threats detection in real time. Federated learning is integrated to realize decentralized model training across the network nodes, ensuring the preservation of privacy with no compromise on detection accuracy. For enhanced transparency and trust, explainability techniques for AI-driven decisions are used, and all are immutably logged in a block chain ledger that enforces accountability and facilitates post-event forensic analysis. Taken together, the system proposed provides proactive intrusion detection that is both scalable and transparent for modern decentralized networks.

These results have been demonstrated on benchmark datasets with an accuracy of 98.2% in detection and a low false positive rate of 2.3%. Moreover, block chain integration leads to a marginal latency of only 5-10%, which again is well offset by the significant gains achieved in data integrity, privacy, and transparency. Federated learning helps accelerate model convergence by 50%, while differential privacy techniques ensure a very minimum loss in accuracy with protection of sensitive data samples. The interpretable AI module provides understandable explanations for more than 99.9% of intrusion decisions made by AI, making it confident in the decision-making process of a network administrator. In general, the convergence of AI, block chain, and federated learning in the proposed network intrusion detection system has provided a holistic solution that is proactive and preserves privacy for modern network security challenges. The capability of detecting real-time threats, preserving data integrity, and transparent and explainable decisions further makes the solution suitable to address security concerns in dynamic and distributed environments.

# 2. MOTIVATION AND CONTRIBUTION

The network security problem requires an innovative approach to cope with the growing complexity and sophistication of the cyber threats in

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today's digital landscape. Traditional intrusion detection systems normally adopt a reactive approach to finding out the known threats based on some predefined rules or signatures. These systems are mostly ineffective against novel or evolving attack techniques, which can easily bypass static defenses. Moreover, centralized IDS architectures also introduce considerable privacy risk because they necessarily aggregate raw data from many sources into one location, which serves as a single point of failure and, therefore, an attractive target for attackers. Lack of explainability in AI-based systems further makes their application in securitysensitive environments hard to envision, since it is difficult for network administrators to trust decisions made by "black box" models. While considering the above-mentioned limitations, apparently, there is a call for a proactive, decentralized, and transparent solution, which identifies real-time threats while maintaining data privacy and accountability. In this regard, the contribution of the present work in network security is the novel incorporation of block chain technology, AI, and federated learning for robust and scalable IDS. The major contribution of this paper is the design and implementation of a multiple modal AI architecture, which leverages CNNs and LSTMs to model both spatial and temporal features of network traffic in order to detect sophisticated, multi-stage attacks. It will also go ahead to incorporate federated learning into the design, enabling the collaboration of decentralized nodes to train a global model without data sharing of the raw type; hence, fixing the privacy concerns as in centralized architectures. Block chain technology ensures that model updates and network activity logs remain secure, and all decisions are auditable and tamper-proof. Besides that, the system will be using XAI-Explainable AI SHAP techniques to provide transparent and interpretable explanations for the AI-driven decisions the system will be making. It engenders trust in the decisions themselves while allowing post-event forensics.

The proposed system thus achieves key advantages compared to the existing approaches: firstly, the detection of attack patterns due to the integration of CNN and LSTM networks for the detection of both short- and long-term attack patterns, which will enhance the capability of the proposed system to identify sophisticated threats in real time; secondly, preserving privacy through federated learning keeps the raw data decentralized, while block chain technology provides a secure, immutable record of all network activity and AI decisions. The

integration of these techniques yields a decentralized intrusion detection system that is scalable and robust, yet transparent and preserves privacy. This significantly enhances the potential for their use in security-sensitive environments, since explainability can be provided for AI-driven decisions under conditions where accountability and trust are crucial. It addresses the shortcomings of traditional IDS solutions and brings forward new ways in which real-time threat detection will be innovatively performed. This work, therefore, contributes to the area of network security.

### 3. REVIEW OF EXISTING MODELS FOR BLOCK CHAIN ANALYSIS

The common thread running through the research undertaken shows how block chain enables positive changes in security, transparency, and decentralization in data management and computational systems. Each of the reviewed studies reflects not just the strengths but also weaknesses of block chain-based solutions, each balancing the perspective of potentiality against the challenge that remains. It starts with the general application of block chain; in reviewed papers, block chain has identified the role of securing offline payments, interoperability between different block chain systems, and enhancement of consensus algorithms. For example, it has been identified that the work of W. Jie et al. has proposed an offline payment protocol based on block chain. This protocol has increased security and flexibility but is suffering from issues of computational overhead. Similarly, interoperability between block chains is achieved in a number of papers, whereby the need for secure cross-chain communication is important. These include, among others, A. A. Alhussayen et al. and K. Ren et al., which talk about interoperability challenges in permissioned and public block chains and offer techniques to enhance communication among isolated systems. Yet, this still shows scalability and performance degradations under highly loaded network conditions, researchers in the field have pointed out. The challenge of consensus protocols also becomes critical for ensuring integrity and efficiency in block chain operations, especially considering the use of largescale deployments.

Another key trend in the reviewed literature is the role of block chain in FL and IoT-based systems. Works by C. Zhang et al. and S. Islam et al. have presented several approaches using block chain to secure the environment in federated learning while

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balancing between privacy and computational costs. These works further highlighted the way block chain could act like a decentralized, tamper-proof log for collaborative AI model updates. These works therefore indicate that block chain is able to greatly improve the security of the federated learning system by ensuring no leakage or tampering of data in the collaborative training process. On the other hand, limitations hint at a computational overhead introduced by block chain, especially in resourceconstrained IoT systems with limited storage and processing powers. Supply chain management is one of the most promising and efficient verticals where block chain is being applied for traceability, transparency, and security purposes. The works by H. Wu et al. and Z. Yang et al. take a close look at how block chain has been leveraged in tracking goods throughout supply chains to enable secure and verifiable recording of each transaction. These block chain-based solutions ensure the recording of every detail concerning supply chains in an unchangeable manner, reducing the possibility of fraud and enhancing compliance with the various regulations and efficiency in logistics. However, while block chain has shown high promise in supply chain management, challenges remain in the high computational cost and storage while incorporating scalability, particularly at its deployment on global levels.

Block chain brings in the aspect of data privacy and security in healthcare. For instance, J. Liu et al. and L. D. Costa et al. target block chain technology on the perspective of medical data security and anonymization to share data in a telehealth environment. Such studies bring out the ability of block chain to ensure regulatory compliance on privacy, such as the General Data Protection Regulation, while ensuring secure sharing of data on decentralized networks. The results clearly show that block chain is very viable for healthcare information management, as it allows better control over highly sensitive information without tampering with the medical records. The limitations are high resources to maintain block chain networks in healthcare environments and difficulties with the integration of block chain with already present healthcare systems. The review also touches on a few of the latest applications, including block chain integrated with quantum computing and the metaverse. Z. Yang et al. discuss post-quantum block chains, a domain that has been receiving growing interest due to the threat quantum computers may pose to the security of state-of-theart cryptographic techniques. In this work, the study outputs are presented to show that block chain can be utilized for ensuring security in the post-quantum world by incorporating quantum-resistant cryptography. In this regard, J. Seo et al. have been proposing a block chain-based authentication system in a user-centric manner, ensuring secure and transparent user interactions within metaverse applications. These novel block chain applications exemplify the direction towards which research and development will head in this field: block chain will not be just a solution for today but also an evolving technology with a capability of adapting to future threats.

Reference	<b>Method Used</b>	<b>Findings</b>	<b>Results</b>	Limitations
$[1]$	Block chain-based	Designed a secure and	Achieved	High
	offline payment	flexible offline payment	enhanced security	computational
	protocol	using block system	for offline	in overhead
		chain.	transactions.	complex
				environments.
$\lceil 2 \rceil$	Block chain oracle	Proposed a method for	Improved	Limited scalability
	interoperability	cross-network	interoperability	large block for
	technique	transactions 1n	for permissioned	chain networks.
		permissioned block	block chains.	
		chains.		
$[3]$	Survey on	Provided a	Identified key	in Complexity
	distributed ledger	comprehensive analysis	distinctions	integrating
	technologies	of block chain and block	between	findings across
		chain-like systems.	distributed ledger	multiple industries.
			technologies.	

Table 1. Empirical Review of Existing Methods

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These papers will, therefore, come out with a certain trend and challenges in block chain research with deep analysis. First, capability for secure, transparent, and immutable data storage

has been widely validated by block chain, with applications that range from telecommunications and IoT to healthcare and supply chain management. These characteristics make block

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chain a very appealing technology for industries that need high levels of data integrity and transparency. Meanwhile, the review highlights a set of challenges to be conquered in case block chain is to reach its full potential. One of the issues present throughout most of these papers is scalability: as block chain networks grow in size and complexity, it becomes truly challenging to maintain high throughput with low latency while ensuring security for the transactions handled. Various works have proposed scalability solutions, including sharing and off-chain processing; these have not yet widely been adopted in real-world implementation for the process. Another prominent challenge is the computational overhead associated with block chain systems, particularly in resourceconstrained environments like IoT networks. While block chain encompasses a high level of security, it often involves huge computational resources that may not be feasible in every device due to smaller processing power and capacity. In fact, the studies on block chain-based IoT systems have revealed a very evident trade-off between security and computational efficiency. In the future, research will need to focus on the optimization of block chain protocols so that there is less computational overhead involved, hence making it more viable in low-power environments such as IoT.

Besides, it is also important to recognize the interoperability issue among various block chain systems. In fact, many papers have been published based on cross-chain transaction and communication among isolated block chain networks. However, these solutions are still in their infancy, and frictionless interoperability across block chains with different consensus mechanisms and architectures is by no means a significant technical challenge. This would, in fact, presuppose changes to come about in crosschain technologies that could allow block chains to communicate without sacrificing security and decentralization principles involved in the functioning of block chains. In general, according to the future directions reviewed in the papers, block chain research will be used in combination with other emerging technologies: AI, quantum computing, and the metaverse. These areas represent exciting opportunities for block chain to break out of its traditional use cases and constitute the bedrock technology of a new generation of systems. For instance, a merge of block chain and AI could eventually build a more secure and

decentralized AI system, as is being witnessed in various aspects of the federated learning models currently using block chain to achieve security while collaborating. The development of postquantum block chains will be highly important in keeping block chain secure during the rise of quantum computing. To conclude, while the review of these works emphasizes tremendous potential for this technology across various domains, several ongoing challenges have also been highlighted with the field. In particular, scalability, computational overhead, and interoperability remain some of the biggest issues in the field. Yet, the novelty and advancement highlighted by these researches indicate that block chain studies will progress rapidly, and with more development, block chain is bound to become one of the most important technologies in securing digital times, which require transparency and trust. In this regard, scalability in block chain will have to be pursued in order to reduce computational footprint for perfect interoperability. It is also important that new frontiers are entered, such as AI integration and quantum resistance, which would tackle the challenges of tomorrow in various scenarios.

# 4. PROPOSED DESIGN OF AN IMPROVED METHOD FOR INTRUSION DETECTION USING CNN, LSTM, AND BLOCK CHAIN

Next, the following section discusses the design of an improved methodology for intrusion detection using CNN, LSTM, and Block chains in order to overcome issues of low efficiency & high complexity which exist in various traditional block chain-based security methods. Initially, according to figure 1, the proposed multi-model intrusion detection system integrates the Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) and the Long Short Term Memory (LSTM) networks to analyze the network traffic in both spatial and temporal dimensions. It feeds on network traffic data including packet flows and user behavior while ingesting block chain logs that assure tamper-proof storage along with accountability. CNNs and LSTMs have been chosen as the core components of the model, thanks to their complementary strengths: the former perform well in catching up with the spatial patterns such as anomaly packet sequences or some unusual data flow behaviors while the latter excel in mining long-range dependencies and temporal correlations that could give out any hint for multistep or stealthy attacks. In this, the CNN





component of the model takes the 'X' raw network traffic data as input, where  $X \in R(n \times m)$ , here 'n' is the number of feature networks that also include packet size and flow direction and mmm represents the number of sets of timestamp sets. Initially, the convolution operation is performed via equation 1,

$$
Z(l) = f(W(l) * X(l-1) + b(l)) \dots (1)
$$

Where, W(l) represents the convolutional filters in layer  $T$ ;  $X(1-1)$  is the input from the previous layer; and 'f' is a nonlinear activation function ReLU for this process. In these operations, the Convolutional layers extract the spatial features Z(l), which detect the local patterns, such as unusual packet behaviors which may signal intrusions. This CNN component gives a compact representation of the spatial features, which then acts as the input for the LSTM component in order to analyze along the temporal dimension. Let ht be the hidden state at timestamp 't', Ct the cell state, and xt the input at timestamp 't' of the process. The LSTM network models the temporal dependencies in such a sequence of network traffic sets. The LSTM acts through the concept of different types of gating mechanisms. The subsequent set of operations describes crucial operations via equations 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6.

$$
ft = \sigma(Wf \cdot [h(t-1), xt] + bf) \dots (2)
$$
  
it =  $\sigma(Wi \cdot [h(t-1), xt] + bi) \dots (3)$ 

$$
Ct = ft \bigodot C(t-1) + it
$$
  
 
$$
\bigodot tan h(WC \cdot [h(t-1),xt] + bC) \dots (4)
$$

$$
ot = \sigma(Wo \cdot [h(t-1),xt] + bo) \dots (5)
$$
  

$$
ht = ot \odot tan h(Ct) \dots (6)
$$

Wherein ft, it, and ot represent the forget gate, input gate, and output gate, respectively, while Ct is the cell state carrying the long-term dependencies. The hidden state ht captures the temporal context of the sets of network traffic. The LSTM considers sequences of network activities and temporal anomalies such as multiple login failures or sudden rises in data transfer, which are typical indications of intrusion operations. The output of the LSTM network is fed into a fully connected layer serving as a classifier where the decision function 'y' comes out from the softmax operation via equation 7,

$$
y = softmax(Wfc \cdot ht + bfc) \dots (7)
$$

Therefore, this kind of classification output provides the probability distribution over the possible states of network activity, which can be normal behavior, DDoS attack, or attempted data exfiltration. Based on the results of such network traffic analysis, the decision function comes up with intrusion alerts in real-time scenarios. A main novelty of this model is that block chain technology is integrated into the process for storing intrusion detection results and network logs in a secure and immutable fashion. Block chain Ledger 'L' ensures that every decision made by AI can be traced back and no alteration is possible retrospectively, while the hashing function 'H' utilized in the block chain ledger is defined via equation 8,

$$
H(x) = \int_0^T e^{-\lambda t} x(t) dt \dots (8)
$$

Where,  $\lambda$  is a decay factor, and  $x(t) \subset \mathbb{R}m$  is the network activity detected. The hash function would turn the raw data into a cryptographic signature that will enable the integrity of the data stored within the block chain. In this respect, any intrusion detection event would be logged with the feature contributions associated therewith, and thereby, an immutable audit trail would be presented for future forensic analysis. Both CNN and LSTM have been selected because the network traffic is so complex that intrusion detection requires considering both spatial and temporal features. CNN is capable of effectively handling high-dimensional data in network traffic to define patterns indicative of threats, like anomalous packet flows. Meanwhile, LSTM brings along the capability to model temporal dependencies relevant for the detection of attacks which are persistent or being unfolding in multistages over the sets of temporal instances. Thus, the model provides a comprehensive outlook on network activity through fusion of the output from CNNs and LSTMs by catching long-term trends together with a short-term anomaly. Therefore, the proposed multi-modal architecture supplements other approaches with timely detection against both immediate and persistent threats. The integration of block chain further adds protection, ensuring integrity for intrusion detection logs and verifiable evidence for each event of detection. This is especially useful in an environment where the key demands of

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transparency, accountability, and integrity of data play an important role, such as in financial institutions, government networks, and sets of critical infrastructures. Accordingly, the proposed architecture of the adaptive federated learning system targets improved privacy, security, and efficiency, leveraging block chain synchronization in distributed network environments. It means that through federated learning, a few decentralized nodes collaboratively train a global model for intrusion detection without the need to share even a single raw data sample. This approach provides a remedy to a few big privacy concerns when compared with traditional centralized settings, where the central servers pose a huge threat of exposure, thereby making the whole process vulnerable. The approach will make sure, through differential privacy techniques, that updates to individual models do not reveal sensitive information, while block chain synchronization will enforce integrity and accountability in model aggregation.

At any node Ni, where  $i \in \{1, 2, n\}$ , referring to one of the 'n' decentralized nodes, the federated learning process trains a local model with its respective subset of data Di sets. Each node Ni is aimed at the minimization of a local loss function Li(w) representing the weights of the model as 'w'. Mathematically, this can be represented for the local optimization in node Ni via equation 9,

$$
\begin{aligned} \text{minimize}^{\text{wi}} & L i(\text{wi})\\ &= \frac{1}{|Di|} \sum_{xj \in Di} \ell(f(xj; \text{wi}), yj) \dots (9) \end{aligned}
$$

Where,  $\ell$  represents the loss function including cross-entropy loss for classification, f(xj; wi) is the prediction of the local model for the input xj and yj is the true label in the process. After the local training at each node, the model update Δwi is generated and uploaded to the central servers.



Figure 1. Model Architecture of the Proposed Security Process



Figure 2. Overall Flow of the Proposed Security Process



However, it first applies the differential privacy mechanisms before sending the update to prevent the leakage of sensitive information from the local data samples. More precisely, the update of the model is added with the Gaussian noise via equation 10,

 $\Delta wi(priv) = \Delta wi + N(0, \sigma^2) ... (10)$ 

where  $N(0,\sigma^2)$  is the Gaussian noise with mean 0 and variance σ2, guaranteeing the differential privacy of model updates by hiding the concrete contribution of each data record sets. The balance between privacy and accuracy is reached with the choice of the parameter  $\sigma$ , higher the noise level higher the assurance of privacy but comes at the cost of model precision levels. Once the noisy updates Δwi(priv) are collected from all the nodes, the central server does a weighted aggregation to compute the global model updates. The aggregated global model wglobal is computed via equation 11,

$$
wglobal = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} wi(priv) \dots (11)
$$

Averaging these models yields an aggregated model that is broadcast back to the participating nodes, which will integrate the global update into their local models to perform the next round of training. The procedure is iterated until model convergence is achieved; this normally reduces the number of training epochs up to 50% compared with the traditional centralized approaches. This is coupled with the federated learning framework with block chain technology, which allows tamper-proof synchronization and auditability of model updates. In each timestamp, a node sends a local model update  $\Delta \text{wi}^{\wedge}(\text{priv})$  to the central server; this update is logged onto a block chain ledger. For every model update, the block chain ledger 'L' is updated with the use of a hash function represented via equation 12,

$$
H(\Delta wipriv) = e^{-\lambda t} \Delta w i(priv)(t) dt \dots (12)
$$

This hash function ensures that every update of the model is kept in a secure way and thus, the integrity of model aggregation is maintained. Using block chain ensures an immutable and transparent record of all updates to ensure that during transmission or aggregation, malicious actors do not tamper with the model's weights. Moreover, block chain synchronization brings

only slight overhead: the latency of transactions is about 200 ms per update, which in the context of federated learning is negligible. Adaptive federated learning with differential privacy and block chain synchronization has been chosen to satisfy these two main requirements of privacypreserving and tamper-proof model training in distributed environments. Federated learning avoids the need for centralized data aggregation, especially in applications sensitive to privacy, such as intrusion detection in decentralized networks. Differential privacy here will ensure that contributions by different network segments or devices into the global model do not reveal their raw data, hence a balance of privacy and good performance of the models. Integration of block chain addresses such open issues of security and accountability about federated learning: the model updates do not get tampered with, and there is an auditable, transparent record of how the model evolves. This approach will be complementary to other approaches since it tackles main challenges in decentralized environments: first, an adaptive federated learning process will ensure efficient training with a reduction in the time of convergence; second, differential privacy will reduce the risk of data breaches. The block chain further enhances security because it removes tampering in the process of model updates aggregation. These techniques put together ensure a resilient, scalable, and privacy-preserving framework for intrusion detection in distributed network environments,

Finally, the integration of XAI through SHAP with block chain auditing provides a robust, transparently secure framework for interpreting and auditing AI model decisions in network intrusion detection systems. What fundamentally drives this process, then, are the explainable descriptions of AI-generated decisions and the integrity of those explanations through logging on a block chain. It definitely meets the demand for increased transparency in AI models, especially in security-sensitive domains where decisionmaking procedures have to be understandable to gain trust and ensure accountability. Consequently, SHAP is adopted as the core XAI technique since it is a great backing with cooperative game theory and can attribute the contribution of the individual features to a model's output. The core idea of SHAP is derived from the Shapley value, a method in coalitional game theory where a value is estimated for each feature,



which is its marginal contribution to the prediction, averaged over all possible combinations of the features. In other words, for every AI model decision function  $f(x)$  where 'X' is the feature vector, the Shapley value for every feature xi is computed via equation 13,

$$
\phi i(f, x) = \sum_{S \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\} \setminus \{i\}} \frac{S! (n - S - 1)!}{n!} [f(xS \cup \{xi\}) - f(xS)] \dots (13)
$$

Where ϕi is the Shapley value for feature xi. 'S' represents any subset of all the features except xi and f(xS) denotes model prediction by only features of subset 'S' sets. This equation calculates the marginal contribution of each feature xi to the prediction outcome, considering all possible coalitions of features. These values are calculated by SHAP as a means of explaining, in detail, the degree to which each feature entered into the decision of the model, so as to understand why the model tags certain network activities as anomalies or possible intrusions in several different scenarios. This is applied to every decision made by the AI model using the SHAP framework, which can be used by network administrators and security teams to understand which features from packet sizes, login attempts, or even data transfer rates led to an intrusion detection. Indeed, this interpretability is of essence in applications to cybersecurity, since the decisions of the AI should be trusted by administrators, who need to understand with a lot of speed what specific behaviors or patterns triggered alerts. The explanations generated by SHAP are securely hashed onto a block chain for making these explanations tamper-proof and auditable. Let every explanation Et of SHAP at a particular time stamp 't' for a decision be hashed using a Cryptographic Hash Function 'H' onto the Block chain Ledger 'L' sets. The hashing function is defined via equation 14,

$$
H(Et) = \int_0^T e^{-\lambda t} Et(t) dt \dots (14)
$$

Since it's recording the hash of an explanation on the block chain, generated explanations could not be edited or deleted. By having the ability to track all decisions and explanations, it makes sure the processes are transparent and enables forensic analysis in post-event use case scenarios. Auditing of the decision-making process through block chain provides several important advantages. First, block chain ensures that SHAP explanations are immutable in any respect, in that no malicious actor can tamper with or obscure how an AI model has arrived at a certain conclusion. Secondly, block chain provides a decentralized, open, auditable platform where every decision will be immutably recorded and can be independently verified by the stakeholders. The use of block chain further complements the privacy-preserving features of federated learning and differential privacy to guarantee that, though model updates are distributed and private, the reasoning of each decision would still be verifiable for diverse scenarios. One key design trade-off for this system is the explanation accuracy versus computational overhead. SHAP is very computationally expensive, especially for complex models and high-dimensional inputs. However, in general, the interpretability capability of providing exact feature contributions is usually worth such a price in security-critical environments. Another novelty of the block chain is that it introduces less than 5% latency in storing the SHAP explanations, which is an acceptable trade-off for data integrity and auditability. It was for addressing a number of critical challenges in network security that SHAP combined with block chain auditing was chosen. Traditional AI models of intrusion detection often operate as "black boxes" where decisions are made but not backed by clear reasoning, thus leading to distrust by users and security teams. SHAP provides modelagnostic, interpretable explanations for each decision, something that is of paramount importance toward the correctness understanding and verification of an intrusion detection system. The explanations are stored in a block chain to provide traceability to all the AI decisions without tampering. Performance-wise, it has been designed concerning real-time intrusion detection with compromises on neither transparency nor accountability. With SHAP enhancing block chain, any decision the AI model takes is totally explainable. Using cryptographic hashing embeds this process with the security against tampering. The whole system is optimized for maximum interpretability while not sacrificing its performance, making it ideal in today's network environments when robust security measures have to be combined with transparency in AIdriven decisions. The results of the proposed model are discussed next, comparing it with existing models under different scenarios.

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### 1. Comparative Result Analysis

The proposed proactive network intrusion detection system is implemented in three layers: multi-modal intrusion detection based on CNN and LSTM, adaptive federated learning with differential privacy, and Explainable AI-XAI by SHAP with block chain auditing. Further, the performance of the proposed system was evaluated on a few large-scale/benchmark datasets, namely NSL-KDD, UNSW-NB15, and CICIDS2017, all providing comprehensive network traffic data with complete labeling in terms of normal instances and attack classes. These datasets include DoS, probing, U2R, and R2L types of attacks, hence good for efficiency testing of intrusion detection mechanisms. Network traffic data is preprocessed and normalized in this experimental setup to ensure that all the feature values of the dataset, such as packet size, protocol, time-to-live, and TCP flags, range from 0 to 1 to ensure uniformity. In CNN, kernel size with 64 convolutional filters and stride equal to 1 allows this model to capture effectively all the possible spatial patterns in network traffic data samples. The LSTM network consisted of 128 hidden units with 0.5 dropout in order to avoid overfitting and learn the temporal dependencies in this model. The Hybrid CNN-LSTM framework was trained using an Adam optimizer, with the learning rate initialized at 0.001, batch size of 256, and a total iteration of 100 epochs. Some of the major performance metrics for model evaluation are given by accuracy in detection, precision, recall, F1-score, and false positive rate-FPR. Furthermore, in pursuit of robust validation, the experiments employed 10-fold cross-validation. This was further supported by the experimental evaluation using two benchmark datasets, namely NSL-KDD and CICIDS2017, each among the most frequently used datasets in intrusion detection. The NSL-KDD dataset is an improved dataset over its original form, the KDD Cup 1999 dataset, since it lacks certain drawbacks like redundant records and biased distributions in the previous dataset. NSL-KDD contains a total of 125,973 training records labeled either normal or one of the four main categories of attack: Denial of Service, Probe, User to Root, and Remote to Local. It deals with 41 features that describe aspects of the network traffic; for example, the duration, protocol type, and flags of the connection. Therefore, it fits well for the evaluation of both low- and high-level complex

intrusion pattern detection. In turn, the CICIDS2017 dataset was generated by the Canadian Institute for Cybersecurity and includes over 3 million records of captured network traffic over a period of 5 days. It includes labelled instances of both benign traffic and several attack types, including Brute Force, DoS, Heartbleed, Web Attacks, and Infiltration sets. The dataset is composed of a total of 80 features, packet-level and flow-level details, and better represents the modern network environment by including recent types of attacks. Overall, the datasets form an excellent basis for testing the efficacy of the proposed model in detecting both traditional and contemporary network intrusions in scenarios.

Several decentralized nodes have been simulated to simulate the federated learning part, where each node can act as a segment of the network or an edge device. Each node will be assigned a portion of the dataset each containing 10% of the overall data and will independently train a local model. Model updates from each node are subjected to differential privacy in training, given that  $\epsilon = 1.0$ has a noise scale,  $\sigma = 0.5$ . This parameter ensures a proper tradeoff between model utility and data privacy. As for the block chain ledger, it was implemented using hyper ledger Fabric to handle model update synchronizations. Event latency due to updates has been set at 200 ms. Model updates are aggregated at the server after each local training round by computing a weighted average of model weights, and sending the result back to the nodes. This has been repeated over 50 rounds of global communication with convergence evaluated in terms of a reduction in global model loss. Finally, SHAP values have been calculated for every decision made by the intrusion detection model in the case of XAI component. Concretely, SHAP explanations' reasoning is written to a block chain ledger for auditable reasoning of each and every decision. We have added only a very minor latency overhead of about 5-10%, and hence block chain audit logs would not hamper real-time intrusion detection. Performance metrics of the system are based on its accuracy, explainability, tamper-resistance, and real-time intrusion detection. Overall, a detection accuracy of 98.2% with less than 2.3% false positive rate was obtained, though this showed a privacy preservation of 95.4%. The suggested IDS in this work was applied on NSL-KDD and CICIDS2017 datasets. The performance was evaluated in terms of the accuracy of detection, false positive rate, precision, recall, F1-score, and model

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convergence times for three state-of-the-art methods: Method [4], Method [9], and Method [18]. Extensive improvement of the proposed model is reflected in all the metrics and provides evidence of its efficiency in both traditional and modern network environments. Table 2: The test detection accuracy of the proposed model with Methods [4], [9], and [18] on the NSL-KDD and CICIDS2017 datasets. Then, in the proposed model, high detection accuracy reaches 98.2% in the NSL-KDD dataset and 97.8% in CICIDS2017, outperforming the other methods across both datasets. Whereby, Method [4] reaches 95.6% and 94.8%, Method [9] reaches 96.3% and 95.5%, while Method [18] reaches 97.1% and 96.7% on NSL-KDD and CICIDS2017, respectively. These results confirm that the combination of CNN, LSTM, and block chain in the proposed model offers higher accuracy in detecting network intrusions during the process.



Table 2: Detection Accuracy Comparison

Table 3: Comparing FPR between the proposed model and other methods. FPR is one of the most important metrics because the lower the FPR, the fewer the number of benign activities in the process being incorrectly classified as intrusion activities. The proposed model records an FPR of 2.3% in NSL-KDD and 2.6% in CICIDS2017, way lower than in the other methods. Whereby, Method [4] reports FPRs of 4.1% and 4.4%, Method [9] reports 3.8% and 3.6%, and Method [18] reports 3.0% and 3.2% on NSL-KDD and CICIDS2017, respectively. The lower FPR of the proposed model illustrates its precision in distinguishing between normal and malicious traffic.





#### Figure 3. Accuracy Levels For Different Models

Table 4: Comparison of the precision of the proposed model against Methods [4], [9], and [18]. Precision by positive predictive value measures the precision of the positive predictions whereby a high precision means less false alarms. The proposed model yields a precision of 97.5% on NSL-KDD and 97.2% on CICIDS2017, proving that it is able to identify intrusions precisely in the process. In comparison, Method [4] yields 93.4% and 92.9%, Method [9] yields 94.1% and 94.3%, and Method [18] yields 95.8% and 96.1% on NSL-KDD and CICIDS2017, respectively. The higher precision of the proposed model includes that it is better at minimizing the false alarm rate while maintaining accuracy in detection.

Table 3: False Positive Rate (Fpr) Comparison

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Table 4: Precision Comparison

Table 5: Recall of the proposed method versus the other methods. Recall refers to sensitivity-a measure of the model's performance in identifying actual intrusions during the process. In the proposed model, the recall for NSL-KDD is 98.7% and for CICIDS2017 is 98.4%. Thus, Method [4] reaches 96.2% and 95.7%, Method [9] reaches 96.9% and 97.1%, and Method [18] reaches 97.5% and 97.8% on NSL-KDD and CICIDS2017, respectively. A high recall of the proposed model manifests its proficiency in identifying a high proportion of actual intrusions in the process.





Table 6: F1-score, which is the harmonic mean of precision and recall. It provides a balanced measure of the model's accuracy, taking into account both false positives and false negatives. In relation to the proposed model, it has achieved an F1-score of 98.1% on NSL-KDD and 97.8% on CICIDS2017, proving the efficiency of this proposed model in terms of balanced performance between the precision and recall metrics. Correspondingly, Method [4] achieves 94.8% and 94.3%, Method [9] achieves 95.4% and 95.7%, and Method [18] achieves 96.6% and 96.9% on NSL-KDD and CICIDS2017, respectively. The higher F1-score of the proposed model shows the overall effectiveness in keeping detection accuracy high while maintaining relatively minimal errors.





<b>Method</b>	<b>NSL-KDD</b> $F1-Score(%)$	<b>CICIDS2017</b> $F1-Score(%)$	
Proposed	98.1	97.8	
[4]	94.8	94.3	
$[9]$	95.4	95.7	
[18]	96.6	96.9	

Table 6: F1-Score Comparison

Table 7 presents a comparison in the convergence times of the models through federated learning using different methods. The proposed model converges after 30 epochs for NSL-KDD and 35 epochs for CICIDS2017, which is much faster compared to other methods. Where Methods [4] take 60 and 65 epochs and Methods [9] take 55 and 60 epochs, Method [18] takes 45 and 50 epochs for NSL-KDD and CICIDS2017, respectively. Such rapid convergence timestamp is due to the proposed model's efficient federated learning strategy along with differential privacy, which guarantees the proposed model updates rapidly without accuracy or privacy losses.

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Table 7: Model Convergence timestamp Comparison

In short, the proposed model depicts the best performance concerning all metrics while outperforming state-of-the-art Methods [4], [9], and [18] with a margin on both the NSL-KDD and CICIDS2017 datasets & samples. These results confirm the efficiency of integrating CNN, LSTM, federated learning with differential privacy, and explainable AI techniques with block chain synchronization in achieving a robust, accurate, and scalable network intrusion detection system. Next, the example use case for the proposed model is discussed in order to help the readers understand the whole process.

# Practical Use Case Scenario Analysis

To understand the application and efficiency of the proposed model in the real world, let us introduce a large-scale distributed organization that manages critical infrastructure systems, such as a smart grid network. In doing so, this network will create a lot of traffic logs which, once intelligent, are dispatched to the operation of critical functionalities. Therefore, it is one of the best candidates in the real world for hosting a good intrusion detection mechanism. The organizational network is subdivided into decentralized nodes that represent their functioning regions. These nodes collaborate using federated learning to train a global intrusion detection model while maintaining the privacy of their local datasets  $\&$  samples. The block chain technology will ensure the data and model updates are intact and traceable, whereas XAI explains every detection decision to the administrator for further action. Node 1 to Node 3 represent three different decentralized nodes in the setting of federated learning, representing

different segments or operational regions within a network infrastructure. For instance, Node 1 may be the network traffic flow of the financial transactions of an organization, Node 2 represents the communications between administrative systems, while Node 3 can be utilized for external communication and internet-facing systems. Each node processes and trains the model locally with only its local traffic data, with no raw data ever leaving the node. In this scenario, larger packet sizes are seen by Node 1 due to the occurrence of continuous transactions with higher frequency in login attempts. On the other extreme, Node 2 experience more frequency of login attempts at a moderate rate but periodic spikes in volume concerning data transfers because of backup processes. On the other extreme, Node 3 gets spiky traffic, meaning more packets of data with higher frequency yet smaller in size, because of the incoming traffic from public-facing systems. In turn, an update of the local model participating in updating the global pool would become updated first with differential privacy mechanisms and then be aggregated to form the global model. This would guarantee that the whole process is private and securely collaborative. Sample 1 to Sample 5 represents the respective network traffic instances analyzed by intrusion detection. Sample 1 has a very large packet size with higher data transfer rate, which may indicate probable data exfiltration, hence marked malicious. Sample 2 is the typical UDP traffic with normal packet sizes and normal login frequencies, hence labeled normal. The size of packets for Sample 3 is giant, with high rates of logins, identifying features of brute force attacks; hence, the reason for being detected as an anomaly. Intrusion 1-Intrusion 3 are some specific intrusion cases that have been caught by the system. In Intrusion 1, this is owing to a very high packet size and high data transfer rate. Intrusion 2: For too many login attempts and abnormal fluctuation in packet size. Intrusion 3 will comprise of large packet size, a high rate of transferring data which may imply a coordinated attack such as DDoS. And all of these intrusions are explained by the SHAP model, which tells us exactly which features were most informative to the decision of detection. A few of the features included in network traffic data involve packet size, protocol type, frequency of login, and the rate of data transfer. Abnormal behaviors may be indicated by unusual spikes in data transfer or multiple failed attempts at login, or any such unexpected sequence of packets-all captured and

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analyzed by a multimodal intrusion detection system leveraging CNN and LSTM. In the adaptive federated learning system, the global model gets updated with local inputs while ensuring data privacy using differential privacy mechanisms. This is where the transparent explanations for every decision on intrusion detection shall be provided by the integrated system of XAI with SHAP and auditing block chain algorithms, hence allowing for transparent analysis and accountability. Table 8 presents the

outputs of the CNN-LSTM multimodal intrusion detection system. The table presents five sample network traffic records, while results of the detection-precisely, whether the traffic was flagged normal or malicious-are based on a pattern of packet anomaly, failed login, and suspicious data transfer. Each sample contains several features in the traffic being analyzed; these may be spatially performed with CNN and temporally with LSTM to make a classification in order to indicate an intrusion in process.

<b>Traffic</b> <b>Sample</b>	Packet <b>Size</b> (bytes)	Protocol <b>Type</b>	Login Frequency	Data <b>Transfer</b> Rate (Mbps)	Anomaly <b>Detected</b>	<b>Detection</b> <b>Outcome</b>
Sample 1	512	<b>TCP</b>	5	50	Yes	Malicious
Sample 2	64	<b>UDP</b>	$\overline{c}$	5	N <sub>o</sub>	Normal
Sample 3	1024	<b>TCP</b>	10	100	Yes	Malicious
Sample 4	256	<b>ICMP</b>	1	10	N <sub>0</sub>	Normal
Sample 5	2048	<b>TCP</b>	8	200	Yes	Malicious

Table 8: Multiple Modal Intrusion Detection Results

Then, adaptive federated learning with differential privacy and block chain synchronization aggregates the data from the multiple modal intrusion detection system. Table 9: Three local nodes update the Node 1, Node 2, and Node 3 added by the proposed algorithm with

the privacy-preserving noise for sensitive data protection. The updates are kept synchronized using block chain logs in a secure manner to avoid tampering and maintain transparency in the model aggregation process. The table 8 depicts the weights of the global model before and after aggregation.

Tuble 7. Auguste Peachaica Learning Opaales with Differential Frivacy <b>Node</b> Block chain Sync <b>Differential</b> Global Local				
	Model <b>Update</b>	<b>Privacy Noise</b>	(Hash)	Model <b>Update</b> $(Post -$ <b>Aggregation</b> )
Node 1	0.012	0.001	H(0xabc123)	0.013
Node 2	0.015	0.002	H(0xdef456)	0.016

Table 9: Adaptive Federated Learning Updates with Differential Privacy

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Once the updated global model is used for detection, explanations for every intrusion detection decision can be generated by making use of SHAP values from the XAI module. Table 10: Sample output of SHAP explanations for three flagged intrusions In case of an intrusion, the SHAP values measure how much features such as packet size, login frequency, and data transfer rate have contributed toward the classification made by the model. The explanation then will immutably be logged into the block chain for transparency and accountability.





Finally, Table 11 shows the overall system performance after aggregating the results for all processes. The table summarizes the outputs of the system in terms of detection accuracy, FPR, precision, recall, and block chain synchronization

overhead. Indeed, the final outputs strongly proved the efficiency of the proposed system by giving high detection accuracy with low false positives, ensuring data integrity via block chain auditing.

Table 11: Final Outputs of the Intrusion Detection System

Metric	(%)	$NSL-KDD$ Dataset   CICIDS2017 Dataset $(\% )$	<b>Block chain Overhead</b> (ms)
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In a nutshell, the proposed model is very efficient, privacy-preserving, and explainable, with a high degree of accuracy in intrusion detection, especially for network anomalies that are difficult to detect. The use of federated learning ensures the protection of privacy across decentralized nodes, while block chain integration enforces secure, tamper-proof model updates and explanations. These tables outline the system's ability to operate in real-time environments with minimal overhead while allowing full transparency and traceability of each decision made in this process.

# 5. CONCLUSION & FUTURE SCOPES

A proposed proactive network intrusion detection system incorporates multi-modal analysis with CNN and LSTM, adaptive federated learning with differential privacy, and XAI with SHAP for enhanced explainability, which results in great improvement concerning accuracy, privacy, and transparency. The proposed framework has achieved 98.2% detection accuracy on the NSL-KDD dataset, while for the CICIDS2017 dataset, the results reached 97.8%, outperforming the results presented before by a significant margin. It reduced the FPR to 2.3% on NSL-KDD and 2.6% on CICIDS2017. This proved that it minimized false alarms but still showed robust detection performance of the proposed model. Precision in both datasets, respectively, also ensured the proposed system to classify intrusion events correctly. It realized data protection for the local model updates by implementing differential privacy, while block chain synchronization enabled a tamper-proof and auditable audit trail over model updates and intrusion decisions. Merging SHAP with block chain auditing boosted

explainability features: itemized interpretable insights in the decision-making process of the model were available at the cost of just around 5- 10% latency overhead due to block chain logging. With such great performance metrics, the federated learning on NSL-KDD converged after 30 global communication rounds and 35 rounds on CICIDS2017, compared to significantly higher rounds of the traditional centralized settings. Federated learning combined with differential privacy and block chain synchronization worked marvelously well toward developing a secure and privacy-preserving framework for collaborative learning. These results indeed reflect that the proposed system is suitable for real-time largescale intrusion detection in distributed environments-a holistic approach that balances performance, privacy, and explainability levels.

# FUTURE SCOPE

While the proposed system considers most of the challenges in modern network intrusion detection, several avenues can be considered for future research in order to further improve its capabilities. First, there is much room for the inclusion of advanced models of AI, such as transformer-based architectures that can enhance the performance of the system by capturing complex, multi-stage attack scenarios which may evolve in time. These would also allow the system to capture even deeper temporal dependencies and correlations in network traffic. Embedding techniques for anomaly detection via unsupervised or semi-supervised learning would result in higher detection rates for unseen or zeroday attacks, thereby increasing adaptability to new threat landscapes. Other future directions could be the optimization of the block chain mechanism in order to reduce overhead and

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latency within high-frequency detection scenarios. Further reduction of latency and enhancement in real-time detection capability can be investigated lightweight block chain frameworks that may further be scaled or other distributed ledger technologies. The work can be extended to more complex network topologies, including heterogeneous devices such as IoT networks, further scaling the system for a broader range of applications by extending the federated learning framework. It should be possible to scale up the system by applying scalability, robustness, and adaptability into a holistic security solution for complex, geographically dispersed network environments such as critical infrastructures, industrial control systems, and next-generation 5G networks.

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