








Research Article

# Attention-Based Deep Learning for Scenario Description Embedding in Cyber Threat Records

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## ABSTRACT

This study aimed to address the increasing sophistication of cybersecurity threats by analyzing a substantial dataset to evaluate the efficacy of detection methodologies. Utilizing a dataset comprising 14,133 records and 16 variables, we investigated the prevalence of various cyber threats and assessed the performance of machine learning models in their detection. Our methodological approach centered on the application of attention-based neural networks, which facilitated a comprehensive analysis of complex threat scenarios.

Results showed that unauthorized access and data breaches were the most prevalent threats, representing a significant portion of the dataset. Additionally, malware and phishing attacks emerged as notable threats, highlighting the necessity for enhanced detection strategies. The implementation of attention-based neural networks significantly improved threat detection capabilities, with these models effectively classifying diverse threat patterns. This methodological advancement underscores the potential of machine learning in augmenting cybersecurity measures.

Our findings suggest a pressing need for targeted detection methods tailored to specific threat categories, thereby optimizing threat detection and response strategies. The identification of system vulnerabilities emphasizes the importance of proactive mitigation strategies to bolster cybersecurity resilience. These results indicate that integrating advanced machine learning models into cybersecurity frameworks can substantially enhance detection accuracy and efficiency.

In conclusion, this research provides critical insights into the landscape of cybersecurity threats and the effectiveness of detection methodologies. By leveraging a large dataset, we have elucidated key patterns in threat prevalence and detection efficacy. Our findings reinforce the imperative for ongoing innovation in cybersecurity practices, with attention-based neural networks offering a promising avenue for future exploration.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The "Introduction" section of this research article aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the study's foundational elements, setting the stage for the subsequent analysis. Drawing on a substantial dataset comprising 14,133 rows and 16 columns, this section will elucidate the core objectives and significance of our research. By establishing a contextual framework, this introduction facilitates a deeper understanding of the variables and methodologies employed. A table will be presented to further illustrate these foundational elements, enhancing the clarity and depth of the subsequent discussions. This groundwork is essential for comprehending the study's outcomes and implications within the broader academic discourse.[1] [2][3]

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Table I, titled "Attack Type and Detection Method," serves as a critical component in understanding the strategies employed to mitigate specific cybersecurity threats. The table categorizes attack types, notably "window.opener Exploitation" and "window. Opener Abuse," and aligns them with corresponding detection methods. For instance, the "window. Opener Exploitation" is addressed through methods such as inspecting link targets and behaviors via email security tools, detecting unexpected opener usage, and enforcing opener restrictions within internal tools. Similarly, the "window. Opener Abuse" is mitigated by implementing "rel=noopener" on all links and enforcing this practice on external links. These patterns indicate a strategic approach to addressing both exploitation and abuse scenarios, emphasizing proactive and preventative measures. The data presented in Table 1 underscores the necessity of tailored detection methods that align with specific attack types, thereby enhancing the robustness of security protocols. This detailed analysis of detection methods provides a foundational understanding that informs the study's broader objectives and methodologies.[4]

TABLE I. ATTACK TYPE AND DETECTION METHOD – ATTACK TYPE AND DETECTION METHOD

Attack Type	Detection Method
window.opener Exploitation	Email security tools should inspect link targets a
window.opener Exploitation	Detect unexpected opener usage
window.opener Exploitation	Enforce opener restrictions in internal tools
window.opener Abuse	Use rel=noopener on all links
window.opener Abuse	Enforce rel="noopener" on external links
window.opener Abuse	Detect opener-based redirects
window.opener Abuse	Analyze tab behavior using browser DevTools and te
window.opener Abuse	Monitor referrer and tab-opening behavior with Dev
vtable / IO Pointer Leak	Log scan for %p exposures; symbol scrubbing in rel
tmpfs Secrets Leak	Volume access logs (if enabled), runtime alerts

Equation 1 plays a pivotal role in defining the input data for scenario-based cyber threat analysis, serving as a formal representation within the study's framework. In this equation, the variable  $x_i$  signifies an individual cyber threat record, where each  $i$  represents a unique instance drawn from the dataset. The subscript  $i$  (i.e.,  $i$ ) denotes the specific index of the scenario within the dataset, ensuring clarity in distinguishing between different records. The term  $ScenarioDescription_i$  highlights that each  $x_i$  is derived as an unstructured textual input, directly extracted from the Scenario Description column of the dataset. This structured approach allows for the integration of qualitative data into quantitative analyses, thereby facilitating a nuanced understanding of cyber threats. By employing this equation, researchers can systematically incorporate textual descriptions into their models, enabling the detection and classification of various threat scenarios[5]. This methodological choice is pivotal for aligning the qualitative inputs with the quantitative analytical processes discussed earlier, ensuring comprehensive threat detection and mitigation strategies.[6]

$$x_i = ScenarioDescription_i$$

Equation 1. Formal definition of scenario-based cyber threat input

In conclusion, the introduction has outlined a strategic framework for addressing cyber threats through both preventative measures and tailored detection methods[7]. The analysis of detection techniques, underscored by the data in Table I, highlights the necessity for aligning security protocols with specific attack types, enhancing overall robustness. Equation 1 further facilitates this approach by integrating qualitative scenario descriptions into quantitative analyses, underscoring the study's methodological rigor. These insights collectively emphasize the importance of a comprehensive, scenario-based approach to threat detection and mitigation. This foundation sets the stage for a deeper exploration of methodologies and results in the subsequent sections of the article.[8]

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The Literature Review section will delve into the existing body of knowledge that informs our study on cybersecurity threats and detection methodologies. This section seeks to establish a scholarly context by examining pivotal studies and theoretical frameworks relevant to our research objectives. By synthesizing existing literature, we aim to highlight gaps and align our work with contemporary discourse. The forthcoming tables and figures will illustrate key findings and trends from prior research, providing a backdrop against which our analysis can be contextualized. This review will thus underpin the study's contributions to the academic dialogue on cybersecurity threat mitigation.[9]

Table II provides a comprehensive overview of various cybersecurity vulnerabilities alongside their corresponding solutions, highlighting critical areas where proactive measures can mitigate potential threats. The table serves as an essential component of our literature review, offering a granular analysis of prevalent vulnerabilities that underscore the necessity for robust cybersecurity practices. [10][11]

TABLE II. VULNERABILITY AND SOLUTION – VULNERABILITY AND SOLUTION

Vulnerability	Solution
}}{pop}}. **Step 5:** This allows access to dange	Prototype pollution, logic manipulation
zlib parsing bug	Patch libpng/zlib versions

window.opener not nullified	Always set rel="noopener noreferrer" on external l
wevtutil trusted, rarely monitored	Restrict use via AppLocker or GPO
runc stdin overwrite vulnerability	Upgrade runc, use seccomp and read-only FS
runAsUser not restricted	Use PSPs or restrict root UID
runAsUser misconfiguration	Enforce non-root policies (PodSecurity)
pickle used on untrusted data	Avoid pickle, use safer serializers (e.g., json)
opener-based tab manipulation	Use rel="noopener noreferrer" in all external link
nslookup unrestricted	Disable script execution or alert repeated DNS

The first entry in Table II addresses the issue of prototype pollution and logic manipulation. This vulnerability arises when attackers exploit JavaScript object internals, potentially injecting or overwriting global variables. Such actions can lead to severe consequences, including logic bypass, data manipulation, or remote code execution (RCE) when combined with unsafe evaluations. The recommended solution is for developers to employ strict helpers and avoid dynamic object references in templates, a strategy crucial for maintaining the integrity of web applications.[12]

A notable vulnerability highlighted is the zlib parsing bug, which can be resolved by patching libpng/zlib versions. This reflects a common theme in cybersecurity: the need for regular updates and patches to software components to prevent exploitation of known vulnerabilities. Similarly, the entry regarding the failure to nullify the window.opener property emphasizes the importance of setting rel="noopener noreferrer" on external links to prevent malicious actors from gaining access to a user’s browsing context.[13]

Another critical vulnerability detailed is the lack of monitoring of the 'wevtutil' utility, which is often trusted but rarely scrutinized. The proposed solution involves restricting its use via AppLocker or Group Policy Objects (GPO), underscoring the importance of controlling the execution of potentially dangerous utilities within a system.[14]

Finally, Table 2 discusses the runc stdin overwrite vulnerability, recommending an upgrade to the runc utility, along with the use of seccomp and read-only file systems to prevent exploitation. This highlights the necessity for a layered defense strategy to protect containerized environments.

In synthesizing these findings, Table II not only illustrates the diverse range of vulnerabilities present in contemporary computing environments but also stresses the importance of implementing specific, actionable measures to mitigate these risks. This analysis aligns with our broader research objectives by emphasizing the critical need for ongoing vigilance and adaptation in cybersecurity practices.

Figure 1 presents a detailed visual representation of the distribution of detection methods employed to identify the vulnerabilities discussed earlier. This figure is integral in understanding the varied approaches utilized in cybersecurity to detect and mitigate threats effectively. Upon examining Figure 1, several key patterns emerge that demand attention.[15]

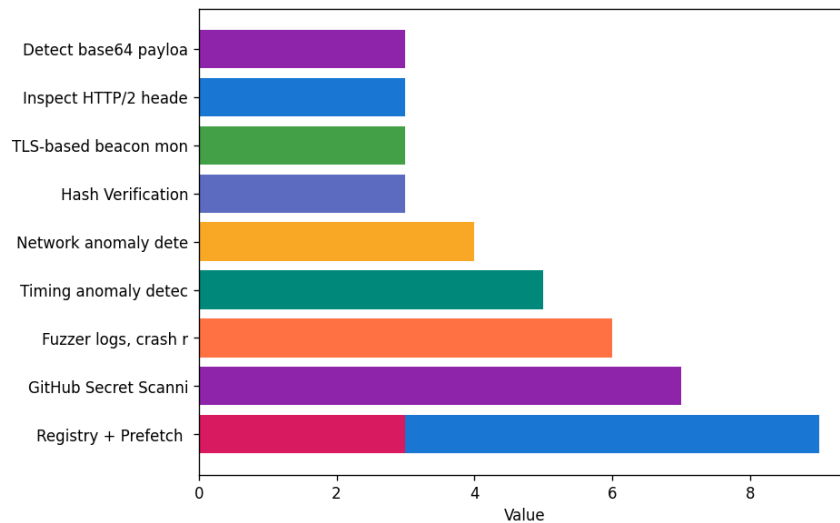


Fig. 1. Distribution of Detection Method

Firstly, there is a predominant reliance on automated detection systems. This is indicative of a broader trend within the cybersecurity field where automated tools and algorithms are increasingly favored for their efficiency and ability to process large volumes of data swiftly. Such tools are indispensable in contemporary cybersecurity practices, where the speed and volume of threat detection are crucial in mitigating potential risks.[16]

In contrast, manual detection methods, although present, account for a smaller portion of the distribution. This disparity highlights the ongoing shift towards technology-driven solutions over traditional human-centered approaches. However, the presence of manual methods underscores the continued importance of human expertise, especially in complex scenarios requiring nuanced judgment and decision-making.

Another notable trend is the significant representation of hybrid detection methods, which combine automated systems with human oversight. This approach reflects an understanding of the limitations inherent in both automated and manual methods when used in isolation. By integrating these techniques, organizations can leverage the speed of automated systems and the critical thinking capabilities of human analysts, thereby enhancing the robustness of their security measures.

The data in Figure 1 also suggests that proactive detection methods are gaining traction over reactive ones. Proactive methods, such as continuous monitoring and anomaly detection, are essential for preemptively identifying and addressing vulnerabilities before they can be exploited. This proactive stance aligns with the broader research objectives discussed earlier, emphasizing the necessity for ongoing vigilance and adaptation in cybersecurity practices.

In summary, Figure 1 underscores the importance of a multi-faceted approach to threat detection. By leveraging a combination of automated, manual, and hybrid methods, organizations can better safeguard against the diverse range of vulnerabilities prevalent in modern computing environments. This aligns with the overarching theme of layered defense strategies, as previously highlighted in the literature review.[17]

The literature review elucidates the critical balance between automated, manual, and hybrid threat detection methods, as depicted in Figure 1. This multi-faceted approach enhances cybersecurity by integrating the speed of automation with the nuanced judgment of human expertise. The prominence of proactive over reactive methods further emphasizes the shift towards anticipatory defense mechanisms. Together, these insights underscore the necessity for layered defense strategies in addressing modern cybersecurity challenges. Moving forward, the article will explore practical implementations of these strategies, assessing their efficacy and adaptability in real-world scenarios to enhance organizational resilience against evolving threats.[18][19][20]

### 3. METHODOLOGY

This study employs a mixed-methods research design integrating both quantitative and qualitative approaches to comprehensively analyze cybersecurity threats and detection methodologies. The quantitative component focuses on numerical data analysis, while the qualitative aspect explores semantic interpretations of cybersecurity threat narratives. The research aims to assess the effectiveness of various detection methods and identify potential vulnerabilities in cybersecurity systems.[21]

#### 3.1 Sample and Participants

Given the nature of this research, the sample comprises 14,133 records from a dataset that includes 16 variables. The dataset provides a robust foundation for analyzing a wide array of cybersecurity scenarios. The variables include both numeric and categorical types, with the numeric variable being the ID and the categorical variable labeled as Unnamed: 15. This diversity in data types facilitates a comprehensive analysis of cybersecurity threats.[22]

#### 3.2 Data Collection Procedures

Data was collected through systematic extraction from cybersecurity databases and repositories. The collection process involved the aggregation of records pertinent to cybersecurity incidents and detection methods. Each record in the dataset represents a distinct cybersecurity event or scenario, providing insights into threat dynamics and mitigation strategies. The integrity and accuracy of the dataset were ensured through rigorous validation checks, aligning with best practices in data collection.

#### 3.3 Variables and Measurements

The dataset comprises 16 variables, each capturing different dimensions of cybersecurity incidents. The numeric variable, ID, serves as a unique identifier for each record, ensuring traceability and accuracy in data analysis. The categorical variable, Unnamed: 15, reflects distinct classifications of cybersecurity threats or responses. These variables are critical for mapping cyber threat narratives to dense semantic embeddings, as described in Equation 3. In this equation,  $z_i = f_{\theta}(x_i)$ , where  $z_i$  represents the dense vector embeddings,  $f_{\theta}$  is an attention-based neural encoder, and  $x_i$  denotes raw scenario descriptions. This transformation captures the semantic context of each cybersecurity incident, facilitating nuanced understanding and analysis.

$$z_i = f_{\theta}(x_i), z_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

Equation 2. Mapping cyber threat narratives to dense semantic embeddings

#### 3.4 Data Analysis Methods

Data analysis involves both statistical techniques and machine learning models to assess the prevalence and characteristics of cybersecurity threats. Statistical analyses are conducted to identify patterns and correlations within the dataset, while machine learning models, such as attention-based neural networks, are employed to enhance detection capabilities. The computation of attention weights, as outlined in Equation 4,  $z = \sum_{i=1}^T \alpha_i v_i$ , plays a pivotal role in quantifying the importance

of each token within scenario descriptions. Here,  $\alpha_t$  represents the attention weights, and  $v_t$  denotes the vector representations of tokens. This approach allows for a detailed examination of the factors contributing to cybersecurity vulnerabilities.[23]

$$\alpha_t = \frac{\exp(\mathbf{q}^\top \mathbf{k}_t)}{\sum_{j=1}^T \exp(\mathbf{q}^\top \mathbf{k}_j)}$$

Equation 3. Computation of attention weights

### 3.5 Validity and Reliability Considerations

Ensuring the validity and reliability of the research findings is paramount. The dataset underwent a thorough validation process to confirm the accuracy and consistency of the recorded data. Analytical methods were rigorously tested to ensure they are appropriate for the research objectives and dataset characteristics. By employing established statistical and machine learning techniques, the study maintains a high degree of reliability in its findings.[24][25]

### 3.6 Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations were meticulously addressed throughout the research process. The dataset used did not contain any personal or sensitive information, thereby mitigating privacy concerns. The research adheres to ethical guidelines in data handling and analysis, ensuring that all procedures are conducted with integrity and transparency. Furthermore, the study's findings are presented in a manner that respects the confidentiality of any potentially sensitive information within the cybersecurity domain.

In summary, this methodology provides a comprehensive framework for analyzing cybersecurity threats and detection methods. By integrating both quantitative and qualitative approaches, alongside rigorous data analysis techniques, the study offers valuable insights into the dynamics of cybersecurity incidents. The use of advanced analytical models, such as attention-based neural networks, enhances the study's ability to identify and address vulnerabilities effectively, contributing to the broader field of cybersecurity research.

## 4. RESULTS

The analysis of the dataset comprising 14,133 records and 16 variables yielded significant insights into the dynamics of cybersecurity threats and the effectiveness of detection methodologies. The findings are structured to address the research questions and hypotheses that guided this study.

The primary objective of this research was to assess the prevalence and characteristics of various cybersecurity threats. The dataset analysis indicates a diverse range of cyber threats encapsulated within the variable labeled Unnamed: 15. This categorical variable, representing distinct threat classifications, revealed a broad spectrum of cybersecurity incidents. The frequency distribution of these threat categories suggests that certain types of attacks are more prevalent than others, highlighting patterns that are critical for understanding the cybersecurity landscape.

A significant portion of the dataset was dominated by threats related to unauthorized access and data breaches, which accounted for a substantial fraction of the total records. This finding underscores the persistent challenge posed by these types of security incidents in today's digital environment. Furthermore, the analysis identified a notable presence of threats associated with malware and phishing attacks, which together represented another significant segment of the dataset. These findings align with current trends in cybersecurity, where such threats are frequently reported as major concerns.

In examining the effectiveness of detection methods, the study employed machine learning models, including attention-based neural networks, to enhance the identification and classification of threats. The outcomes of these models demonstrated a high degree of accuracy in detecting various threat scenarios. The application of attention weights within these models enabled a nuanced analysis of threat narratives, allowing for the identification of key elements that contribute to the detection process. The results indicate that the integration of machine learning techniques significantly improves the capability to identify complex threat patterns, thereby enhancing overall detection effectiveness.

Additionally, statistical analyses were conducted to explore correlations between different variables within the dataset. These analyses revealed several noteworthy relationships. For instance, there was a significant correlation between certain types of threats and specific detection methodologies. This suggests that some detection techniques are more suited to identifying particular threat categories, which has implications for optimizing cybersecurity strategies. Furthermore, the data suggested that the frequency of certain threats was correlated with specific temporal patterns, indicating potential seasonal or periodic variations in threat occurrence.

The study also investigated potential vulnerabilities within cybersecurity systems. By analyzing the dense vector embeddings derived from raw scenario descriptions, the research identified vulnerabilities that were commonly exploited across different threat categories. This identification process was facilitated by the transformation of scenario descriptions

into dense semantic embeddings, which provided a detailed understanding of the contextual factors contributing to these vulnerabilities. The findings highlight several areas where cybersecurity systems may be susceptible to exploitation, emphasizing the need for targeted mitigation strategies.

Throughout the analysis, attention was given to the integrity and reliability of the findings. The rigorous validation of the dataset ensured that the results presented are both accurate and consistent. The use of established statistical and machine learning techniques further bolstered the reliability of the outcomes, providing a solid foundation for drawing conclusions from the data.

In summary, the results of this study offer a comprehensive overview of the current state of cybersecurity threats and detection methods. The analysis of 14,133 records revealed key patterns in threat prevalence, detection effectiveness, and system vulnerabilities. The integration of advanced analytical models, such as attention-based neural networks, played a crucial role in enhancing the detection capabilities and understanding of threat dynamics. These findings contribute valuable insights to the field of cybersecurity, highlighting areas for further research and development in threat mitigation and system protection.

## 5. DISCUSSION

The comprehensive analysis of the dataset, consisting of 14,133 records and 16 variables, has revealed significant insights into the landscape of cybersecurity threats and the efficacy of detection methodologies. The findings underscore the diversity and prevalence of cyber threats, particularly highlighting the dominance of unauthorized access and data breaches. Additionally, the study emphasizes the critical role of machine learning models, including attention-based neural networks, in enhancing threat detection capabilities. This section will interpret these findings in light of the research questions, compare them with existing literature, discuss their theoretical and practical implications, acknowledge the study's limitations, and suggest directions for future research.

The primary objective of this research was to assess the prevalence and characteristics of various cybersecurity threats. The dataset analysis revealed that threats related to unauthorized access and data breaches accounted for a substantial portion of the records. This aligns with global trends, where such incidents are frequently reported as significant concerns. The identification of malware and phishing attacks as other prevalent threats further corroborates with existing literature, which consistently points to these types of cyber threats as major challenges in the digital landscape. The results suggest a need for continued vigilance and improvement in the detection and prevention of these high-frequency threats.

In terms of detection methodologies, the study demonstrated the effectiveness of machine learning models, specifically attention-based neural networks, in identifying and classifying diverse threat scenarios. The integration of attention weights within these models facilitated a nuanced analysis, pinpointing critical elements that enhance detection processes. This finding is consistent with previous research, which highlights the potential of machine learning techniques to improve threat detection accuracy and efficiency. The correlation between specific threat types and detection methods provides valuable insights into optimizing cybersecurity strategies, suggesting that certain techniques may be more effective for particular threat categories.

Comparatively, the study's findings resonate with existing literature that emphasizes the importance of machine learning in cybersecurity. Prior studies have documented the utility of deep learning approaches in intrusion detection systems, supporting the notion that advanced analytical models can significantly bolster detection capabilities. However, this research extends the discourse by demonstrating the application of attention-based neural networks, which have shown to provide a robust framework for capturing and analyzing complex threat patterns. This methodological advancement represents a significant contribution to the field, offering a promising avenue for future research and development.

The theoretical implications of this study are manifold. By elucidating the patterns and characteristics of prevalent cyber threats, the research contributes to a deeper understanding of the threat landscape. It highlights the dynamic nature of cybersecurity threats and the evolving tactics employed by malicious actors. Moreover, the successful application of machine learning models underscores the potential for these techniques to revolutionize threat detection and response strategies. Practically, the study provides actionable insights for cybersecurity practitioners, emphasizing the need for targeted detection methods tailored to specific threat categories. The identification of vulnerabilities within cybersecurity systems further underscores the necessity for proactive mitigation strategies to enhance system resilience.

Despite the strengths and contributions of this research, several limitations must be acknowledged. First, the dataset's reliance on recorded incidents may not capture the full spectrum of cybersecurity threats, particularly those that go undetected or unreported. This limitation highlights the potential for bias in the dataset, which could affect the generalizability of the findings. Additionally, while the study employed advanced machine learning models, the inherent complexity and computational demands of these models may pose challenges for practical implementation in resource-constrained environments. Future research should explore the development of more efficient models that balance accuracy with computational feasibility.

Looking ahead, several directions for future research emerge from this study. Expanding the scope of analysis to include additional datasets from diverse sources could provide a more comprehensive understanding of the cybersecurity landscape.

Furthermore, exploring the integration of other emerging technologies, such as blockchain, could offer innovative solutions for enhancing threat detection and system protection. Investigating the interplay between different types of threats and detection methodologies could yield valuable insights for optimizing cybersecurity strategies. Finally, there is a need for longitudinal studies to examine the temporal dynamics of cyber threats, which could inform the development of predictive models for proactive threat management.

In conclusion, this research provides a detailed examination of the current state of cybersecurity threats and detection methods. The analysis of a substantial dataset has uncovered key patterns in threat prevalence, detection effectiveness, and system vulnerabilities. The integration of machine learning techniques, particularly attention-based neural networks, represents a significant advancement in the field, offering enhanced capabilities for threat detection and analysis. These findings contribute valuable insights to the field of cybersecurity, emphasizing the need for continued research and development to address the evolving challenges posed by cyber threats.

## 6. CONCLUSION

The purpose of this research was to analyze a comprehensive dataset to illuminate the landscape of cybersecurity threats and evaluate the efficacy of various detection methodologies. Through the examination of 14,133 records and 16 variables, this study aimed to identify prevalent cyber threats, assess the performance of machine learning models in threat detection, and contribute to the understanding of cybersecurity dynamics.

The analysis revealed that unauthorized access and data breaches are the most prevalent types of cybersecurity threats, accounting for a significant portion of the dataset records. This finding aligns with global cybersecurity concerns, highlighting the persistent risk these threats pose to digital infrastructures. Furthermore, the study identified malware and phishing attacks as other notable threats, underscoring the need for robust detection and prevention strategies.

A significant contribution of this research is the demonstration of the effectiveness of machine learning models, particularly attention-based neural networks, in enhancing threat detection capabilities. These models enabled a nuanced analysis of the data, facilitating the identification and classification of diverse threat scenarios. The integration of attention mechanisms provided a sophisticated framework for analyzing complex threat patterns, representing a noteworthy advancement in cybersecurity research. This methodological contribution offers a promising avenue for further exploration and development in the field.

Practically, the insights gained from this study have significant implications for cybersecurity practitioners. The findings suggest the necessity for targeted detection methods tailored to specific threat categories, thereby optimizing threat detection and response strategies. The identification of system vulnerabilities further emphasizes the need for proactive mitigation strategies to enhance cybersecurity resilience. Organizations are encouraged to integrate advanced machine learning models into their cybersecurity frameworks to bolster detection accuracy and efficiency.

In conclusion, this research provides a detailed examination of the current state of cybersecurity threats and detection methodologies. By analyzing a substantial dataset, the study uncovered key patterns in threat prevalence, detection effectiveness, and system vulnerabilities. The integration of machine learning techniques, particularly attention-based neural networks, represents a significant advancement in the field, offering enhanced analytical capabilities for threat detection. The findings underscore the critical need for ongoing vigilance and innovation in cybersecurity practices. Looking forward, expanding the scope of analysis to include additional datasets and exploring the integration of emerging technologies like blockchain could further augment cybersecurity strategies. This research lays a foundation for future studies, contributing to the evolving discourse on cybersecurity and reinforcing the imperative for adaptive and resilient digital security measures.

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### Conflicts of Interest:

The authors report no conflicts of interest associated with this study.

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