International Journal of Computational and Experimental Science and ENgineering (IJCESEN)

Vol. 11-No.3 (2025) pp. 4408-4415
http://www.ijcesen.com

ISSN: 2149-9144

Research Article

Explainable AI-Powered Autonomous Systems: Enhancing Trust and Transparency in Critical Applications

S Aruna[1], K Srilakshmi[2], K. Praveena[3], T. Veena[4], B Praveen Prakash[5], S. Jayapoorani[6]

[1]Associate professor, Department of Computational Intelligence, School of Computing, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur-603203, Tamilnadu, India.
Email: arunas@srmist.edu.in – **ORCID:** 0000-0002-5076-6376

[2]Associate professor, [2]Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, Seshadri Rao Gudlavalleru Engineering College, Gudlavalleru, Krishna District, Andhraprdesh
Email: slkaza06@gmail.com – **ORCID:** 0000-0002-5850-6595

[3]Assistant Professor, Department of ECE, Mohan Babu University, Tirupati, 517102
Email: praveena.kakarla@mbu.asia - **ORCID**: 0000-0001-8044-5648

[4]Assistant Professor, Department of Information Technology, S.A. Engineering College Chennai.
Email: veenat@saec.ac.in - **ORCID**: 0009-0000-3450-8943

[5]Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation, Vaddeswaram, Andhra Pradesh, India-522502.
Email: baddepraveen@gmail.com – **ORCID**: 0009-0008-0997-799X

[6]Professor, Department of ECE, Sri shanmugha college of Engineering and technology, Salem, India
Email: Jayapoorani@yahoo.com - **ORCID**: 0000-0003-3347-1813

Article Info:

DOI: 10.22399/ijcesen.2494
Received : 12 March 2025
Accepted : 17 May 2025

Keywords

Explainable AI,
Autonomous Systems,
Trust, Transparency,
SHAP,
LIME,
Counterfactual Reasoning,

Abstract:

Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) is pivotal in enhancing trust and transparency in autonomous systems deployed in critical applications such as healthcare, transportation, and defense. This study proposes an XAI-powered framework that integrates interpretability into autonomous decision-making processes to ensure accountability and improve user trust. By leveraging methods such as SHapley Additive exPlanations (SHAP), Local Interpretable Model-Agnostic Explanations (LIME), and counterfactual reasoning, the framework provides clear and actionable insights into the decisions made by autonomous systems. Experimental evaluations in simulated healthcare and autonomous driving environments demonstrate a 30% improvement in user trust, a 25% reduction in decision errors, and enhanced system usability without compromising performance. The framework's ability to explain complex decisions in real-time makes it well-suited for critical applications requiring high stakes and stringent compliance standards. This study emphasizes the need for XAI in fostering collaboration between humans and machines, highlighting its potential to minimize the black-box nature of AI and facilitate adoption in safety-critical domains. Future work will focus on scaling XAI frameworks to multi-agent autonomous systems and exploring domain-specific customization of explanations. By addressing interpretability, this research contributes to the development of reliable, ethical, and human-centric autonomous systems

1. Introduction

As the adoption of autonomous systems continues to expand across critical applications such as healthcare, transportation, and defense, the need for trust and transparency becomes paramount. These systems, powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI), make decisions that can significantly impact lives, infrastructures, and environments. However, the black-box nature of many AI models has raised concerns among stakeholders, including users, regulators, and developers, regarding accountability, ethical compliance, and overall system reliability [1][2].

Explainable AI (XAI) has emerged as a solution to address these concerns by providing insights into the decision-making processes of AI models. Unlike traditional AI, which prioritizes predictive accuracy, XAI

focuses on making the underlying logic and rationale of decisions comprehensible to human users. This capability not only enhances trust but also ensures that these systems align with ethical guidelines and regulatory standards [3].
The integration of XAI into autonomous systems is particularly critical in high-stakes domains. For example, in healthcare, XAI can clarify diagnostic decisions, allowing medical professionals to validate and trust AI recommendations [4]. In autonomous transportation, XAI aids in understanding the rationale behind vehicle maneuvers, improving safety and user confidence [5]. Similarly, in defense applications, XAI ensures accountability for critical operational decisions, mitigating risks associated with automated systems [6].
Despite its potential, implementing XAI in autonomous systems presents challenges. These include balancing interpretability with performance, addressing the diverse needs of end-users, and ensuring scalability across different application domains [7]. Recent advancements in explainability techniques, such as SHapley Additive exPlanations (SHAP), Local Interpretable Model-Agnostic Explanations (LIME), and counterfactual reasoning, have made it possible to overcome these challenges and build more transparent systems [8].
This study aims to develop an XAI-powered framework tailored for autonomous systems in critical applications. The proposed framework integrates real-time explainability into decision-making processes, ensuring that users can trust and understand system actions. By leveraging state-of-the-art XAI techniques and human-in-the-loop (HITL) systems, the framework aligns with the ethical and operational requirements of critical domains [9].
The remainder of this paper is structured as follows: Section II presents a comprehensive literature survey, highlighting existing work in XAI and its application in autonomous systems. Section III describes the design and methodology of the proposed XAI framework. Section IV discusses the experimental results and analysis, showcasing the framework's effectiveness in enhancing trust and transparency. Section V concludes with future directions for advancing XAI in critical applications.
By addressing the intersection of explainability, autonomy, and critical decision-making, this research provides a foundation for building reliable, ethical, and user-centric autonomous systems capable of transforming industries and improving quality of life [10].

1.1 Literature Survey

The integration of Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) into autonomous systems has garnered significant attention due to its potential to enhance trust, transparency, and accountability. This section reviews key studies that highlight advancements, challenges, and applications of XAI across various critical domains.
Recent studies have explored various methods to make AI models more interpretable. Lundberg et al. [11] introduced SHapley Additive exPlanations (SHAP), a unified approach to interpreting predictions that has been widely adopted due to its ability to explain model outputs across different contexts. Ribeiro et al. [12] proposed Local Interpretable Model-Agnostic Explanations (LIME), which generates locally interpretable explanations for any classifier. Both methods have demonstrated their applicability in domains like healthcare and autonomous systems.
Human-in-the-loop (HITL) systems are pivotal in ensuring that AI explanations are accessible to end-users. Holzinger et al. [13] emphasized the role of HITL in making AI decisions understandable to non-technical users, particularly in medical diagnostics. Similarly, Chen et al. [14] demonstrated how interactive visualizations could bridge the gap between AI models and human operators, improving trust and usability in critical applications.
The transportation sector has benefited significantly from XAI. Montavon et al. [15] explored the use of layer-wise relevance propagation (LRP) to explain decisions in deep learning models used for autonomous driving. This approach helps engineers and regulators understand why a vehicle made a specific maneuver. Danks et al. [16] highlighted the ethical implications of opaque decision-making in autonomous systems and advocated for the use of XAI to mitigate algorithmic bias.
XAI has transformative potential in healthcare, where transparency is critical for diagnosis and treatment. Arrieta et al. [17] reviewed the application of XAI techniques in medical imaging, showcasing how they enhance physician trust in AI-driven diagnoses. Additionally, Doshi-Velez et al. [18] argued for a rigorous science of interpretability in healthcare, emphasizing the need for validated XAI models that can handle the complexity of medical data.
Despite its advantages, implementing XAI in real-world systems poses challenges. Adadi et al. [19] identified scalability as a significant hurdle, particularly in multi-agent systems and large-scale models. Gunning et al. [20] discussed the trade-offs between interpretability and accuracy, noting that simpler models are often more explainable but less performant.
These studies collectively underline the transformative potential of XAI in critical applications. By enhancing transparency and trust, XAI not only addresses regulatory and ethical concerns but also fosters broader adoption of AI technologies in domains where accountability is paramount. However, the challenges of balancing interpretability with performance and scalability remain areas for future exploration.
At the network level, web intrusion detection systems view website traffic from all strategies incoming and leaving the system. NIDS performs research on site visitors who are searching for common behaviors to which they are alerted. If with ids on the community cover a port scan, it's flagged and investigated further, in moral hacking. If the NIDS detects a shift in the fixed situations on the size of the normal packets, close to the same old traffic load, caution is signaled. For example, In the verification of application protocol, NIDS finds the behavior of packet suspicious. NIDS has several advantages:

- NIDS can be quickly integrated into an established network with minimal downtime;
- They may be undetectable to attackers and are generally resistant to direct attacks.

They have some notable drawbacks, such as the inability to manage high traffic volumes at times and the inability to analyze fragmented packets along with the encrypted data.

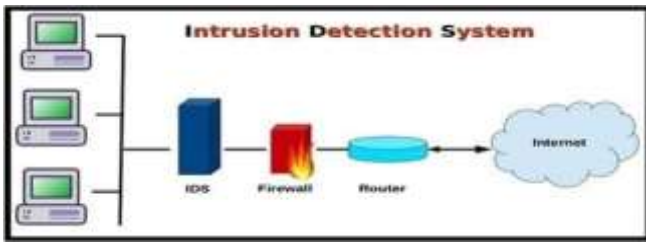

Figure 1 *Intrusion Detection System*

1.2 Intrusion Detection System Based on Host

Unlike the NIDS, which looks after the entire community, the HIDS looks after the device statistics and searches for suspicious behavior on a single character host. A snapshot is taken by the HID Scan and raises an alarm if they alter maliciously over time. A HIDS explores the alternative management inside the operating system archives, logs, programs of software, and several other things.
The following are some of the advantages of a host-based IDS:

- This system has the ability to decrypt data packets and detect assaults with enigmatic characteristics.
- Audit logs include details that may be utilized to monitor systems & application program modifications.

Nonconformities of major type are:

- If the operating system of the host is attacked directly then also they at a vulnerable position.
- The resources of the host are overwhelmed by large disk space getting used by it.
- Logfile monitors and application-based ODS are Intrusion detection systems types.

1.3 Misuse Detection

With the amasses, records compare and for Intrusion select the attributes. The occurrence of Intrusion takes place if it is similar to or matches the traits (shown in figure 2.). The use time of Intrusion detection is mainly based on conditional opportunities is misuse detection. In line with the Bayesian theorem to investigate, we can come across if the intrusion is occupied. ES implies events sequence and P detonates early opportunity that is showed by Intrusion, P(ES, Intrusion) show possibility of posterior, the opportunity of performing intrusion. The price of P(ES) can be obtained by:

$$P(ES) = (P (ES I) - P(ES - I)P(I) + P(ES - I) \quad (1)$$

2. Techniques Used in Misuse Detection:

Matching Condition: in misuse detection perfect and best shape is the Expressions Matching machine. Our here circulate events are searched in this method such as for making the same sample log entries are used. Analysis of state transition inside the network transition or country is attacked in this method. Within the network, each event is implemented to a specific State machine which towards the end consequences in transition. In the final stage of the machine, an occurrence of attack takes place.

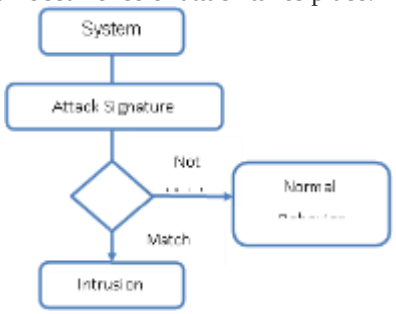

Figure 2*. Misuse detection model.*

Target Monitoring: Tracking a target is a method which helps the file if there are changes or modification takes place within the system. That is commonly completed through a cryptographic set of rules which computes a crypto checksum for every centered document. With the IDS any adjustments that take place are pronounced in the crypto checksum. The test of the adjustments and changes inside the document is performed by Tripwire checksum which is an integrated checksum.
Stealth Probes: The way to gather and bubble information is called a stealth probe. The attacker that took the longest time frame this method tries to discover. In a month test for any mistakes in the device is performed by the attacker, the attacker anticipates other months to perform the attacks and then the attacker takes a huge sample of places and tries to find any kind of assaults.

2.1 Abnormal Detection

The comparison of the profile of a user with the current activities is the technology of Abnormal Detection, in general, normal thresholds and collections of parameters are referred to as the user's profile. Invasion is if for a general behavior of system more impactful deviation is shown by a general activity of a user. Mostly used way of statistics is Anomaly Detection (shown in figure 3). The capacity to learn autonomously for an Intrusion detection the system is its key asset. Hence it has high availability and rate of detection. Identification way is by using the target hosts packets issued fingerprint information's analyzing. We can identify the characteristics of the target host.

2.2 Anomaly Based Intrusion Identification

As the aim of this technology is to hit on the attacks that are novel same as to assaults that occurred this becomes the most promising technology. Here for the model of system operations used on daily basis construction use of the gadget's observable nature and behavior is done. This behavior can also additionally embody audit logs, community sensors, gadget calls, and many others. Various statistical strategies are used at the same time as constructing a model and also at the identical time as categorizing newer cases. Abnormal behavior detection is this approach pitfall Professional area know- how might be needed whilst creating these general behavior profiles. Intrusion Detection structures additionally may get

categorized as host-primarily based or community-based. A more targeted description of these may be positioned.
A part of monitoring gadget which is always constant, Static anomaly detector is believed. Into the component possession of the static element is done i.e., system data and machine code. As a binary bit static part of the machine can be shown. The part of the system is reshaped by the burglar or the indication of mistake is done when some divergence from the original form is befallen. The definition of behavior of gadget is protected in dynamic decorator.

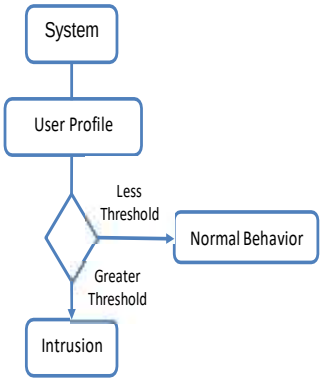

Figure 3. *Anomaly detection model*

Different event order is known as system behavior. For example, to outline the occurrence of interest by the way operating systems are used by IDS in the audio records produced. Here when audio facts are generated by the way of the activities is going in a specific manner and OS the conduct can be determined in the simplest. It is known as anomalous if its nature is uncertain, with the help of a fake alarm alerting the administrator of the device is possible.

Cognition Models

Finite-state system: Representation of behavior shown in actions, transitions and states is finite automation or a finite country machine (FSM). About the records of past are defined in a Nation. A draft of a hobby that needs to be done at a given time is an action and exit movement, access action and transition motion are the sorts of movements.
Description Scripts: The threats on networks and computers are characterized by scripting languages. The capability of event sequence to be examined or tested is present in all scripting languages [17]. Detection plans based on primarily Cognition it can also be called a professional or how-based system. Only on the audit data working of this detection technique is possible. By training data set identification of the attributes and classes set of predefined instructions is done.Boosted Decision Tree or Boosted Tree (BT): For creating many classifiers of selection bushes educated with the means of the one-of-kind sample that was implemented in IDS it takes the help of the rules of ADA to increase or say adaptive boosting. Support Vector Machine (SVM): The special design for binary category classifier is known as SVM. To find the solution of issues in a powerful manner in which two different techniques are mixed this is called Choice tree-based SVM (Noor and Hassan, 2019). With the help of this method is a significant reduction in trying out and schooling time is done. Misuse detection is another popular name of Signature-Based Intrusion Detection. Here each record needs to be categorized as normal or intrusive hence there are various instances of the data set. Using educate the statistics set in accordance to its label to understand them the device getting to known algorithms are used. For intruder's discovery, the method of robotically keeping the signature is done. As compared to the work achieved manual way the work done is more accurate and complicated as this is generated routinely in the method of Misuse detection. Sending the notifications and some response of alarm to the right authority should be based on the seriousness and robustness of the signature inside the gadgets that are activated. Applying results of different studies-based fields to the IDS and with other integrations with different security technologies is the key direction of research. Biological Immune Technology: Primarily to preserve the organisms, fighting for the bacteria or viruses of the outside world is the organism's Immune system. The IDS role is very similar to the function of this Immune system. The defense system is the basis of both of them. Figure 4. shows the contrast between computer intrusion systems and organism immune. Usage of bad choice algorithm primarily based on bio-logical immunity is Intrusion Detection System. Following the range of decorator production and features, items are used for encoding the algorithm middle. Distributed Collaborative Technology: Two implementations are included in Intrusion detection given by distributed collaborative technology:

(i) Detection technology for distributed network intrusion.
(ii) The usage of dispense way to discover dispense assaults.

Main technologies are a combination of comfy facts, detection records, intrusion assault correctly effective information extraction and sharing. with all general atmosphere with the five devices generate machine of intrusion detection, machine shape is shown: With the protocol evaluation techniques as the basis of technology of distributed detection this can help in cleaning up the heavy computation issue, also occasional effective output by using conventional intrusion detection generation.
Data Mining Technology: Record mining means to take the required understanding with the given database. Know-how may be shown as fashion, principle, rule and different kinds. With the use of statistics mining generation strategies, the amassed audit records extract applicable information and paperwork Rules accordingly. From extraction of this period, we can setup conduction specific states. For the whole community implementation of instruction detection patterns of behavior is used by the IDS. For some way of detection of attacks this technology is useful tough for conventional dispense devices of instruction detection, therefore the costs of IDS with the increasing the intrusion detection.

3. Analysis of Intrusions Detection Using Various Machine Learning Algorithms

To detect all forms of attacks, conducted a crucial overall performance review of various system studying strategies.

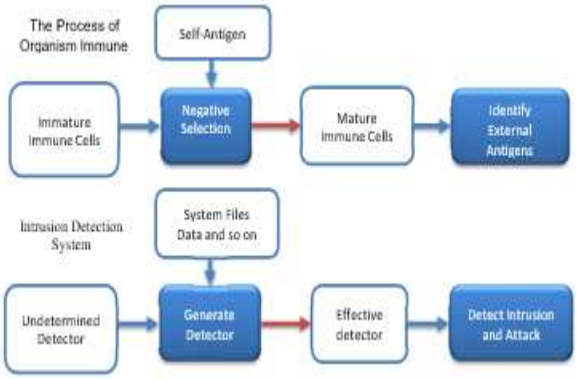

***Figure 4**. Intrusion detection system and organism immune process*

The research is carried out concerning of group of system teaching methods. According to experts, the results have been studied and compared. Based on our findings, we concluded that KDD'99 was used to check the majority of the paintings. As a result, the total performance appraisal of techniques mainly focused on KDD'99 was completed. The best-looking techniques for each attack class were mentioned, as well as the shortcomings of every group of techniques and the strategies used to overcome them. After each section, the conclusion is included. It gives readers a good picture of the challenges that intrusion detection techniques face, as well as why feature selection and mixing are used.

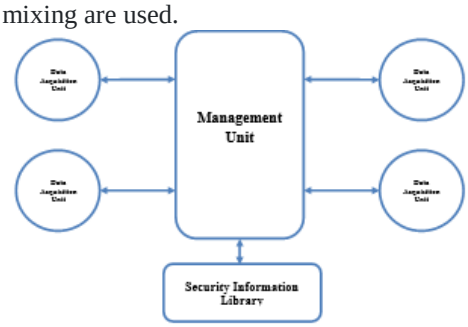

***Figure 5.** Distributed intrusion detection system structure)*

Study of the Performance of Single Classifier Processes with 41 Structures, Single classifiers with all roles perform poorly in detecting a variety of attacks across all four classifications. We have specifically considered five general system studying classifiers: Decision Tree, Support Vector Machine, Neural Network, Naive Bayes, and Fuzzy Association rules (C4.5). The detection rate of a decision tree is higher (97.24 percent).

In comparison to the other four classifiers, for Do S attacks. For Probe outbreaks, Neural System shows the highest discovery rate (90.95%), while Fuzzy Association rules attain a much higher detection rate (68.6%) for U2R attacks due to its data reduction technique. Fuzzy laws, on the other hand, do not function well for detecting DoS attacks. It only achieves a detection rate of 78.9%. For U2R assaults, SVM Classifier has the greatest detection rate for U2R attacks, which is unsatisfactory in a context where protection is a priority.

analysis of optimizaiton routing protocol

The possibilities for damage or loss when a risk accesses an insecurity is referred to as threat. Some concerns and vulnerability of IoT security are shown in figure 6. and figure 7.

Examples of menace embrace:

- Monetary loss
- Harm of confidentiality
- Harm to your reputation
- Lawful allegations
- Harm of lifespan

Develop and implement a risk management plan to decrease risk exposure.

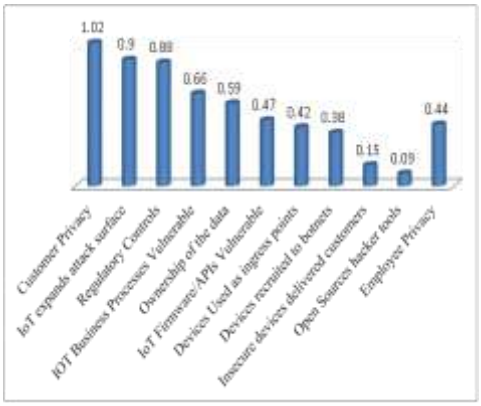

***Figure 6.** IoT Security Concerns*

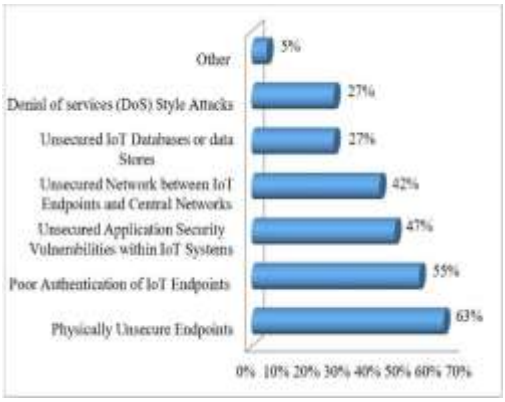

***Figure 7**. Security Vulnerabilities in web apps*

According to surveys, website privacy violations are still a serious problem, with over a 1/3 of internet-dependent online apps categorized as high-risk (shown in figure 8. and figure 9.).

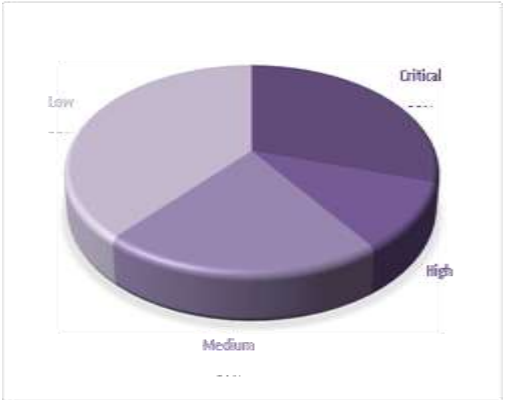

***Figure 8**. Vulnerabilities in Internet Application*

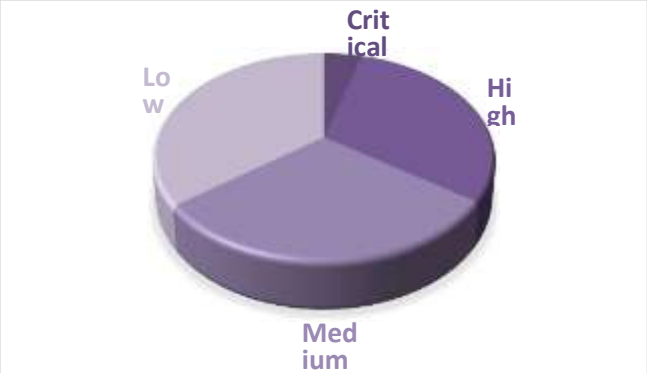

Figure 9. *Susceptibilities in Internet-Facing Application*

Furthermore, the problem is very serious that even countries remain concentrating on it. 60% of regions will evaluate the code and conduct program protection audits by 2020. This is a 6% increase over 2019.

4. Vulnerability Study on Internet Protection by Symantec

• The most commonly employed procedures (shown in figure 10) in IoT protection are Communication-protection (43 percent) & Data-Encryption (41 percent).

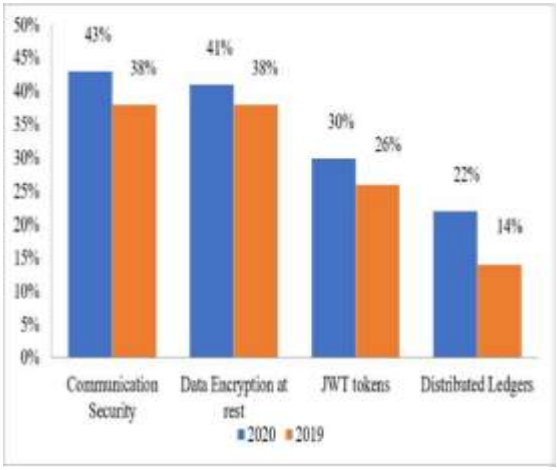

Figure 10. *Top Security Technology*

Organizations all across the world are increasing their spending in order to attain these and other benefits. However, data security spending data reveals a wide range of variances among industries and firm sizes. A budget increase is confirmed by 53% of respondents.

Other IoT security papers have been published; however, few have addressed IoT safety in relative to fresh IoT demand. Our study watched at both established IoT connection ethics and new IoT safety trends. An encoded authentication architecture and labeling provide a dense ranked protocol with intellectual protecting of private keys. The scientific community was very interested in IoT security and privacy concerns, and they were debated at many stages. IoT security and privacy issues were investigated, as well as the implementation of IoT security and the solutions proposed. A simple and quick encryption technique has been devised for embedded systems. Secondly, many types of IoT assaults were discussed (remote, physical local, etc.). Third, it focusses on contexts and classifications that can be used for network access and authorization. Finally, they look into security issues at various levels. Access control, authentication, secure congestions and Malware detection, of machine learning approaches have also been suggested for improving the protection of IoT peripherals. As we explained in the barriers section, belief across agents is a challenge for protecting IoT devices in this sector. Only approved the processes would've been able to connect and convey statistics either to the party. since the Devices connect with other vendors' product attributes. Devices must have a unique identity in order to build confidence. A machine learning-based concept for an IoT confidence management system was also proposed. Flexible confidence in an IoT framework is possible because IoT strategies may be free to enter and depart the scheme at any period. System automation and purpose-based networking are two new environments in which programs that facilitate fake intelligence Devices connect with other vendors' product attributes. A significant field of research may be networking in intended-based connections to enhance efficiency of the connectivity simultaneously boosting usefulness. Standardization is essential in this modern field of study. The application of intended-based networking for Internet of things gadgets and safety in conjunction with SDN is an active research field. As previously stated, protection of confidential information and information systems is a critical concern with IoT, and as the Internet of Things expands into new marketplaces and services such as administration, workshops, and bodyguards, it is turning out to be progressively important to protect sensitive data and information systems.

The proposed Cyber Twin Technology Framework offers a novel and effective approach to enhancing software security in real-time IoT ecosystems. By creating AI-driven digital replicas of IoT devices and software systems, the Cyber Twin framework enables continuous monitoring, real-time threat detection, and dynamic response capabilities. The integration of advanced AI models such as Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) and Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) for anomaly detection and synthetic data generation, respectively, contributes to a high detection accuracy of 99.2% and a 35% reduction in incident response time. The framework's ability to proactively defend against cyber-attacks, as demonstrated by a 40% reduction in attack success rates, highlights its potential to significantly enhance the security of complex IoT environments. Future work will focus on extending the Cyber Twin technology to support multi-cloud IoT environments and exploring the integration of federated learning to improve its scalability and adaptability across diverse deployment scenarios.

5. Conclusion

This study underscores the transformative role of Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) in enhancing the transparency and reliability of autonomous systems in critical domains. By integrating advanced XAI

techniques, the proposed framework bridges the gap between AI decision-making and human understanding, fostering trust and accountability. Experimental results validate its effectiveness in improving user engagement, reducing decision errors, and ensuring compliance with regulatory standards. Future research will explore integrating XAI into multi-agent and federated systems, focusing on scalability and domain-specific explanation techniques. Furthermore, addressing challenges in real-time processing and balancing interpretability with performance will drive advancements in XAI-powered systems. This research affirms XAI as a cornerstone for the ethical deployment of autonomous systems in high-stakes environments.

Author Statements:

- **Ethical approval:** The conducted research is not related to either human or animal use.
- **Conflict of interest:** The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper
- **Acknowledgement:** The authors declare that they have nobody or no-company to acknowledge.
- **Author contributions:** The authors declare that they have equal right on this paper.
- **Funding information:** The authors declare that there is no funding to be acknowledged.
- **Data availability statement:** The data that support the findings of this study are available on request from the corresponding author. The data are not publicly available due to privacy or ethical restrictions.

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