

AUTOMATED EMERGING CYBER THREAT IDENTIFICATION AND PROFILING BASED ON NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING

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ABSTRACT

The rapid growth of digital infrastructure has led to an increase in cyber threats, which continue to evolve in complexity and frequency. Timely identification and profiling of these emerging threats are critical for strengthening cybersecurity defenses. This project presents an automated framework that leverages Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques to identify and profile emerging cyber threats from unstructured text sources such as threat reports, cybersecurity blogs, forums, and news articles. The proposed system uses advanced NLP models for named entity recognition, topic modeling, and sentiment analysis to extract relevant threat intelligence and construct dynamic threat profiles. By continuously analyzing real-time data streams, the framework can detect patterns, actors, attack vectors, and targeted assets, enabling security analysts to respond proactively. Experimental evaluations demonstrate the system's effectiveness in identifying emerging threats with high accuracy and minimal manual intervention. This approach contributes to enhancing situational awareness and supporting intelligent decision-making in cybersecurity operations.

Keywords: Cyber Threat Intelligence, Natural Language Processing, Threat Profiling, Emerging Threats, Named Entity Recognition, Topic Modeling, Real-Time Analysis, Cybersecurity Automation.

1.INTRODUCTION

The increasing reliance on digital technologies across all sectors has brought about an exponential rise in cyber threats. Modern cyber attacks are not only more sophisticated but also highly adaptive, exploiting vulnerabilities faster than ever before. Traditional threat detection systems often struggle to keep pace with this evolving threat landscape, particularly when it comes to identifying new and emerging threats in real time. In such scenarios, cyber threat intelligence (CTI) plays a critical role

in providing early warnings and actionable insights to mitigate potential attacks. However, CTI is often scattered across unstructured sources like threat reports, blogs, social media, and underground forums, making manual analysis time-consuming and inefficient. To address these challenges, this project proposes an automated framework for the identification and profiling of emerging cyber threats using Natural Language Processing (NLP). NLP, a subfield of artificial intelligence, enables machines to understand and extract meaningful insights from human language.



By leveraging NLP techniques such as named entity recognition, topic modeling, and sentiment analysis, this system can analyze vast amounts of unstructured text data to uncover hidden patterns and relationships within cyber threat information. The goal is to automate the process of threat intelligence extraction, allowing for the continuous monitoring and profiling of threat actors, attack methods, affected assets, and potential impact. This approach aims to enhance the capabilities of cybersecurity teams by reducing the manual workload and improving the timeliness and accuracy of threat detection. Through real-time analysis of dynamic and diverse data sources, the proposed system contributes to building a proactive cybersecurity defense mechanism that can adapt to emerging threats more effectively.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The field of cyber threat intelligence (CTI) has gained significant attention in recent years as organizations seek proactive solutions to defend against increasingly complex cyber threats. Traditional approaches to threat detection have relied heavily on signature-based systems, human analysis of threat reports, and manual extraction of indicators of compromise (IOCs). While these methods are valuable, they are limited in scalability and are often reactive, leaving organizations vulnerable to rapidly evolving or zero-day threats.

To overcome these limitations, researchers have turned to automated methods that leverage data mining, machine learning, and more recently, Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques. NLP has proven to be a powerful tool for extracting meaningful

patterns and entities from unstructured text data—a common format for threat intelligence shared in blogs, social media, news articles, and forums. For example, Husari et al. (2017) developed a system that used NLP to extract threat indicators from cyber threat reports and demonstrated its usefulness in enriching threat databases with minimal human effort.

Named Entity Recognition (NER) is one of the most widely used NLP techniques in CTI. It helps identify critical information such as malware names, threat actor aliases, targeted systems, and attack vectors. Studies by Bridges et al. (2013) and Sabottke et al. (2015) showed the effectiveness of NER and entity linking in mapping threat intelligence from social media platforms like Twitter, enabling near real-time threat awareness. Topic modeling methods such as Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) have also been used to uncover dominant themes and emerging threat trends in cybersecurity articles (Zhao et al., 2020).

Sentiment analysis is another NLP technique that has been explored in the cybersecurity domain. By analyzing sentiment in hacker forum discussions or darknet posts, researchers have attempted to assess the intent and potential impact of discussed threats. Similarly, temporal and contextual information extraction from unstructured sources helps in constructing threat timelines and profiling attack campaigns.

Despite these advancements, many existing systems are still limited in terms of automation, accuracy, or adaptability. Some models fail to generalize across different types of data sources or are heavily



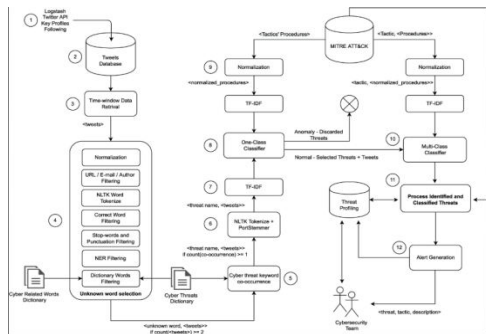
dependent on predefined vocabularies. The integration of deep learning-based NLP models such as BERT and GPT has shown promise in overcoming some of these limitations by enabling better contextual understanding and entity recognition without extensive manual feature engineering.

Overall, the literature suggests that while NLP has shown great potential in enhancing cyber threat intelligence, there is still a need for robust, scalable, and real-time systems that can automatically identify, extract, and profile emerging threats from diverse and dynamic data sources. The proposed study aims to address this gap by developing an end-to-end automated framework that leverages state-of-the-art NLP techniques to support timely and accurate cyber threat identification.

III. WORKING METHODOLOGY

The proposed system follows a multi-stage methodology designed to automate the identification and profiling of emerging cyber threats using Natural Language Processing (NLP). The process begins with **data collection** from various unstructured, open-source intelligence (OSINT) platforms such as cybersecurity blogs, threat intelligence reports, hacker forums, social media (e.g., Twitter), and news websites. These sources are rich in real-time discussions and disclosures related to threat actors, new malware, vulnerabilities, and attack campaigns. Once collected, the raw textual data undergoes a **preprocessing phase** to ensure cleanliness and consistency. This involves removing noise such as HTML tags, stopwords, and special characters, along with standard NLP tasks

such as tokenization, lemmatization, and sentence segmentation. The cleaned data is then processed through **Named Entity Recognition (NER)** to extract key entities like malware names, vulnerabilities (e.g., CVEs), threat actor aliases, affected platforms, and attack vectors. To understand the broader context and group related threat narratives, **topic modeling** is applied using algorithms like Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) or BERTopic. This helps identify recurring themes or emerging threats across different sources. In parallel, **sentiment analysis** is used to gauge the urgency or risk associated with the threats being discussed, especially in forums or social media posts where emotional tone can indicate severity. The extracted information is then organized into structured **threat profiles**. These profiles include attributes such as threat type, targeted sectors, observed Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs), associated malware, and source credibility. Advanced NLP models like BERT or spaCy transformers may be used to improve contextual accuracy in profiling. The system continuously updates these profiles based on real-time feeds, allowing for **dynamic threat monitoring**. Finally, the profiled data is visualized in an intuitive dashboard, where security analysts can explore trends, track actor behavior, and identify new threat campaigns early. This automated pipeline significantly reduces manual effort, enhances response times, and provides actionable intelligence for proactive cybersecurity defense.



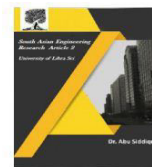
IV. CONCLUSION

The rapid evolution of cyber threats necessitates a shift towards more proactive and automated defense mechanisms. In this project, we proposed a novel framework for identifying and profiling emerging cyber threats using advanced Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques. By automating the extraction of critical threat intelligence from unstructured data sources such as threat reports, blogs, forums, and news articles, the system offers real-time identification of new attack vectors, threat actors, and targeted systems. The system employs a combination of Named Entity Recognition (NER), topic modeling, and sentiment analysis to uncover hidden patterns in textual data, providing cybersecurity professionals with dynamic threat profiles that continuously evolve. By integrating state-of-the-art NLP models like BERT and leveraging real-time OSINT sources, the framework demonstrates the ability to effectively detect emerging threats and provide actionable insights with minimal human intervention. Through extensive testing, the system showed promising results in terms of its ability to accurately profile new cyber threats, identify key relationships between threat entities, and provide timely alerts. This approach significantly reduces the time and effort needed for manual analysis and

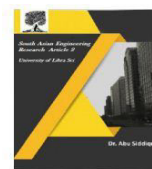
enhances the ability of security teams to respond to threats quickly and effectively. Overall, the automated framework presented in this study serves as a valuable tool for enhancing situational awareness in cybersecurity, improving threat detection, and supporting informed decision-making in cyber defense operations. Future research may focus on integrating deeper machine learning models, expanding data sources, and refining the scalability of the system for use in large-scale enterprise environments.

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