

Analyzing Flow-based Anomaly Intrusion Detection using Replicator Neural Networks

Carlos García Cordero Sascha Hauke Max Mühlhäuser Mathias Fischer







Center for Research in Security and Privacy



TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT DARMSTADT









Latest IoT news:

- 09-2014: IoT Major players agree on goals, but little else
- 12-2014: New Hacker-Friendly search engine that lists vulnerable IoT devices (censys.io)
- 11-2015: Millions of IoT Devices using the same hard-coded crytpo-keys
- 09-2016: World's largest 1Tbps DDoS Attack launched from 152,000 hacked smart devices
- 10-2016: Largest botnets consists of mostly IoT devices
- 10-2016: 12-Year-Old SSH bug exposes more than 2 million IoT devices
- Recently: Mirai botnet, WannaCry, etc





1. Motivation

2. Introduction

• What is all this about?

3. Background

Intrusion Detection is Large Networks

4. Intrusion Detection using Replicator Neural Networks

- Detecting Anomalies in Network Flows
- Replicator Neural Networks

5. Evaluation

Experiments and Results

6. Conclusion and Future Work





- Understanding the Title:
 - Analyzing Flow-based Anomaly Intrusion Detection using replicator Neural Networks

Analyzing Flow-based

- Purpose: analyze network data encoded as flows
- Enables: affordable analysis of massive traffic

Anomaly Intrusion Detection

- Purpose: automatically detect deviations from normality
- Enables: identification of new attacks without user intervention

using Replicator Neural Networks

- Purpose: classify
- Enables: unsupervised (and robust) identification of anomalous traffic





- Large networks are the new battle ground
 - Botnets
 - Coordinated Crowds
 - Denial of Service attacks
 - ... and all other coordinated attacks
- Network attacks affect the victim and the Internet infrastructure
 - Disruption to the targets and the service providers
 - Defensive mechanisms need to be further from the edge
- Large Networks are difficult to monitor
 - Thousands of heterogeneous devices
 - Terabytes of data (every hour)
 - Attacks are easily overlooked





Detecting anomalies in large networks



ML Requirements

- 1. Scalable detection
- 2. High accuracy (with low false positives)
- Work without supervision (unsupervised)
- 4. Resilience to model poisoning





Detecting anomalies in large networks



- Data Requirements
 - 1. Detect away from the edge
 - Detecting at the edge



Detecting away from the edge





2. Reduce dimensionality of network data









Network Flows

#	Time	Src IP	Dst IP	Src Port	Dst Port	Bytes	Packets
1	Х	21.65.71.124	110.45.78.12	51478	80	512	245
2	Х	64.73.26.110	21.65.71.124	49652	80	56	1523
3	Y	110.45.78.12	64.73.26.110	58471	21	10,548	235
4	Y	21.65.71.124	110.45.78.12	49652	23	45,687	672

Condense representation of network data

Communication summary of two endpoints

Intrusion Detection using Replicator Neural Networks Detecting Anomalies in Network Flows



Extracting features from network flows



Intrusion Detection using Replicator Neural Networks Detecting Anomalies in Network Flows



$$H^{i} = \{h_{1}^{i}, h_{2}^{i}, \dots, h_{D}^{i}\}$$
 $X = \{H^{1}, H^{2}, \dots, H^{N}\}$

- Anomaly Detection using the Subspace Method
 - Principal Component Analysis (PCA) on the X set
 - Compute all Principal Components
 - Select components that define the:
 - Normal subspace Components capturing the most variance of X
 - Abnormal subspace Components not used for the normal subspace

	PC1	PC2	PC3	PC4
Eigenvalue	1.0563	0.2062	0.0511	0.0213
Variance	79.11%	15.44%	03.83%	01.60%
A ccumulated Variance	79.11%	94.56%	98.39%	100%

Disadvantages

- PCA is inefficient with many dimensions
- Abnormal space prone to contamination

Intrusion Detection using Replicator Neural Networks Replicator Neural Networks



 $H^i = \left\{ \boldsymbol{h}_1^i, \boldsymbol{h}_2^i, \dots, \boldsymbol{h}_D^i \right\}$

Replicator Neural Networks

$$X = \{H^1, H^2, \dots, H^N\}$$







- 4 different sets of experiments
 - 1. Learning representations of network flows
 - 2. Detecting anomalies in the training data
 - 3. Detecting injected attacks
 - 4. Comparison against the Subspace Method (PCA)
- Experimental setup
 - Dataset: MAWI lab
 - 3 training days
 - 1 validation day
 - Network flows exported every 10 seconds





- 1. Learning representations of network flows
 - Standard Replicator Neural Network with 5 layers
 - 50% dropout in layers 2 and 4









- 3. Detecting injected attacks
 - DDoS attack with 4 intensities



Conclusion and Future Work



- Replicator Neural Networks (RNNs)
 - Effectively detect resource exhaustion attacks and network profiling techniques
 - Work in large and real-world backbone internet data
 - Detect attacks in the training data as well as new (unseen) data
 - No labeled data needed
- Future Work
 - Test different autoencoder configurations (beyond RNNs)
 - Add Gaussian noise to the inputs and other input transformation techniques
 - Use network flows and meta-flow features
 - Test other relevant deep learning techniques