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Insider Threats Detection Methods : A Survey

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Abstract— We are living in the age of advanced digital era. We could not even have thought of living without digital gadgets. Almost all the public and private sectors are working with digital data. There is a need to secure this confidential digital data from insider and outsider cyber-attacks. This research paper includes the survey of insider threat detection methods. Insider threats detection are more difficult because insiders are having all privileges or credentials to access the resources and no one will suspect on them. It is easy to transfer the digital data theft, data leakage and data loss which impacts on profit level and damage the organization image in the market. Survey covers emerging technologies used for detection of insider threats. This research paper identifies the trends of tools, methods used for insider threat detection. It presents information year wise in statistical tabular format. This paper gives insight for future work and challenges to mitigate the cyber-attacks by insider threats.

Keywords—Insider threats, cyber-attacks, detection methods

I. INTRODUCTION

Insider threats are the most dangerous threats in cyber security. There are many researchers are working in this direction to mitigate the insider threats from the system. But most difficult part of the cyber security is to identify the compromised users and machines. Machines are connected to the server or under monitoring. There is no a specific behavior of compromised user so that it will be helpful to identify. There is a need to secure the organization from outsider and insider cyber-attacks. If we protect organization from cyber-attacks, then automatically cyber security will be maintained. Outsider threats can be detected at some level but insider threats are not possible to detect easily. To know more about the research related to insider threats, author conduct literature survey of the recent papers and techniques.

In this paper, researcher has surveyed the research papers in the domain of cyber security and especially of insider threat detection methods or techniques. There are many advanced techniques are introduced in recent years to reduce the insider threats like data mining, internet of things, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, mobile computing, data analytics, etc. Each method is different than other and detects the insider threats at some extent. We need to find out the most effective method. Therefore, there is need to study of the insider threat detection methods and find out the different types of methods which are implemented by different researchers. In their research, which method is applied and which is the specific tool and technique or algorithm is used for insider detection.

The statistical analysis on selected literature is performed. The literatures data is selected from 2008 to 2019. It is arranged in ascending order of year. It identified the methods used and changes in insider threat techniques. Data is arranged and presented in tabular format to know how the detection methodologies are used in every year along with recommendations for future work and study.

Research paper is consists of 6 sections. Section I contains the introduction of insider, insider threats, need of research, contribution and organization of paper, Section II contains the related work of other researchers relevant to the domain and it is summarize, Section III contains the descriptions of methods used for insider detection in brief, Section IV contains the research methodology and data used, Section V describes the result and interpretation of tools, methods and processes, Section VI concludes the research with methods and utilization of it. It describes the limitations and provides suggestions for future research.

II. RELATED WORK

Security is the main aspect for success of organization. Cyber is a very vulnerable area where it is easy to attack and hack the confidential data. In the cyber security, there are number of efforts and research done by researchers. In this section, literatures are surveyed to find out the insider threat detection methods.

In last decade, people have started realizing that there is a need for cyber security as use of mobile and computer has been increased extremely. The experts have taking place research and publishing the research paper in the cyber security domain. Author has included the literatures from 2008 to 2019-time span.

In 2008, article published in journal has mentioned the ten lessons. They are as follow: Measure the right risks, low tech attacks are easier, logs should be checked, don't rely on secrecy for security, privileges are to be given task owner and revoke as and when task is completed, looking at the wrong things, be aware from social engineering, don't believe everything you read, removing staff is risky, Check the background of insiders to minimize the insider attacks and Security measures should be keep on working and monitored [1].

In 2009, to address insider threat, the authors have designed architecture for insider threat detection that combines an array of complementary monitoring and auditing techniques. Survey of 522 security employees from US corporations and government agencies, the annual CSI Computer Crime and Security Survey for 20081 found that 44 percent of respondents cited insider incidents [2].

The most of the trade secrets theft is happened is just because of compromised users and machines. Therefore, MITRE researchers designed a prototype system for identifying insider threats, which prompted a team of engineers and social scientists to experimentally study how malicious insiders use information differently from a benign baseline group [3].

We need to implement the multiple set of strategies which covers the components of taxonomy. It states how the taxonomy, coupled with goals of prevention, detection, mitigation, remediation, and punishment, can suggest sensible and effective response options [4].

The authors provide a systems-based framework and model for understanding important elements, their interactions, interdependencies, and gaps for insider security [5]. In 2010, the research paper discusses a new hypothetical scenario to illustrate the protection that a trust system provides against insider threats [6].

In this paper four examples were discussed related to cyber security, in each example, the resources were put at risk by the actions of people with legitimate access to an organization's information system. Therefore, it has designed the framework which actions posing risks in four areas: the organization, the individual, the information technology(IT) system, and the environment [7].

Rogue devices are an increasingly dangerous reality in the insider threat problem domain. Industry, government, and academia need to be aware of this problem and promote state-of-the-art detection methods [8].

There are end users who don't know the security products and they are reluctant from use of it. In this research paper, introduced web based browser attacks [9]. It is common observation about employees and employer that they are giving least importance to the security aspects.

CADS consists of two components: 1) relational pattern extraction, which derives community structures and 2) anomaly prediction, which leverages a statistical model to determine when users have sufficiently deviated from communities [9].

This work on progress paper proposes a design focused on the notion of increased participation of internet service providers in protecting end users [10].

Web applications are vulnerable to two types of security threats. The first is a request integrity attack. The second is guideline violation, which stems from privilege misuse [11].

In this paper, we propose a framework for modelling the insider-threat problem threats, common precursors, and human actions and behaviors [12].

If activity is normal, then message is generated and if the activity is abnormal then the rule engine checks rules for intrusion. The malicious activity also stored in database for future IDS [13].

There are two static analysis technologies used in this research. 1) Fault Tree Analysis and 2) Finite-State Verification, can be used to identify vulnerabilities to insider attacks upon processes Whereas FTA is a deductive, top-down analytical technique and Finite-State Verification (FSV) is a technology used to infer characteristics about the executions of some or all paths by specified system [14].

Behavioral analysis of insider threat framework is proposed and boot strapping algorithms is used and also developed to produce realistic data [15].

Inside user's behavior can be analyzed and detect intrusion. In order to know that there is a change in the behavior of the user, audit record of the users must be maintained as input to an Intrusion Detection System. In Rule based detection, a certain set of rules are defined that are used to identify normal user or intruder. The rule based Expert system consist set of rules that work like human expert detects intrusions using rules. [16].

There is general tendency of human being to misuse the resources of organization. This system helps to detect publicly available insider threat dataset [17].

A Bayesian Network (BN) is a probabilistic graphical model that represents a set of random variables and their conditional dependencies via a Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG) to reason about uncertainty. The model was tested on sets of data from experts and random data [18].

In this literature BLITHE used to track the insider threats on physical devices. Insider threats are detected using behavior rule based approach and comparative analysis [19].

Cloud storage is to be secured when data shared in group along with insider threat personnel. Security issues can be minimized by secured data sharing techniques [20].

Aspect of honey token is used by using query which provides generic implementation for honey-tokens [21].

A new approach to identify anomalous behavior based on heterogeneous data and a data fusion technique. A new anomaly detection technique which is recently introduced and known as empirical data analytics (EDA) is applied to detect the abnormal behavior based on the datasets [22].

One of the insider threats in cyber security is data leakage. Data leakage prevention (DLP) is a new challenge with large data. Experimental results show that the proposed method can detect leaks of transformed or fresh data fast and efficiently [23].

Data is tremendously increasing on both the side of server and client. Data is large and complex, therefore deep autoencoder is used to detect anomaly. The feature extraction is implemented with a simple frequency based concept, requiring little prior knowledge. Each autoencoder is trained with a specific category of audit data and its optimal model is tuned experimentally [24]. Clustering procedure is used for insider threat detection framework based on unsupervised mining of behavior of inside users. It used publicly available data set composed of truncated Unix commands issued by insiders. Evaluation of the algorithm output, defined as the ability of the algorithm to detect violations of the allowed behavior grouping, is conducted through comparisons with the ground truth provided with the data set used [25].

Combating the insider risks need an understanding of the behavior of each insider. Markov chains (MC) are particularly well suited to model behaviors from network traffic, they were extensively used for modeling and clustering actions.

Data volume is increasing in an extreme basis and social network traffic is continued. Therefore, we need secure transmission of data plays a critical role in realizing all of the key requirements of social multimedia networks. Software Defined Network play a vital role [27].

To enhance the reliability of the SDN, a hybrid deeplearning-based anomaly detection scheme for suspicious flow detection in the context of social multimedia is used [27]. There are two modules. First is anomaly detection module and second one is end-to-end delivery module.

With cloud storage services, users can remotely store their data to the cloud and realize the data sharing with others. Remote data integrity auditing is proposed to guarantee the integrity of the data stored in the cloud [28]. How to realize data sharing with sensitive information hiding in remote data integrity auditing still has not been explored up to now.

III. METHODOLOGY

Authors explored the literatures which are relevant to insider threat detection methodologies. Survey method is used to know about the current scenario and status of insider threats detection methods used for this research paper. The research papers are considered in between 2008 to 2019. These literatures reported the methods, issues, challenges, limitations and scope of insider threat detection method used by that researcher. There are so many research papers in this area. Researcher has arranged the papers in year wise and the most relevant are selected for study.

A. Data Sampling

Literature data is selected relevant to the research study. The selected number of research papers year wise mentioned in the chart given below.



Figure 1. Yearwise Literature Sampling for Survey

IV. INSIDER THREATS AND DETECTION METHODS

There are the threats in terms of outsider and insider users or machine which cause the cyber-attack. Data security is the important aspect for the business success. There are the basic terms used in the research is described as follows.

A. Insider Threats

Insider threats are the machines or users, who are transferring the data to the outsider without having the authorization. There are the machines and users who are compromised and passing the business secretes to the competitors.

B. Insider threats and its impact on business

Business success is the main goal of every organization. The success is depending on well management, resources, exposures and also security. There is a need to secure organization secretes from the competitors in the business. Insiders are the vulnerable in the organization. If insider threat occurs, then there is very serious and huge loss will be there. To avoid these cyber-attacks due to insiders, we need to find out the solution which secure the business secretes from intruders.

C. Advanced Detection Methodology

Machine learning, Deep learning, Internet of Things and Cloud computing is the latest technology used to handle large and complex data. The brief description of the technology is given below.

1) Cloud Computing

A novel automated approach combining two modules FESNA and ESMA is developed and simulated for log analysis. It helps to predict and identify intrusion along with its intruder by analysing cloud network and management log. As a result of the identification phase a forensic identification report FIR is also generated to drive the further forensic analysis Smoothly [29].

2) Machine Learning

The machine learning is a very vast field of computer science in modern technology, through the availability of internet. Supervised and unsupervised algorithms can be used by the researchers. Their algorithms types are given below.

a) Supervised SL algorithms.[30]

- Naïve Bayes (NB).
- Logistic Regression (LR).
- Support Vector Machines (SVM).
- Random Forest (RF).
- Hidden Markov Models (HMM).
- K-Nearest Neighbor (KNN).
- Shallow Neural Network (SNN).

b) Unsupervised SL algorithms

- Clustering.
- Association

3) Deep Learning

All DL algorithms are primarily based on Deep Neural Networks (DNN), which can be big neural networks organized in many layers able to self-sufficient representation learning [30].

- Fully-connected Feedforward Deep Neural Networks(FNN)
- Convolutional Feedforward Deep Neural Networks (CNN)
- Stacked Auto Encoders(SAE)
- Deep Belief Networks (DBN)

D. Limitations of present system

If the attacker is an insider in that case we suggest a different security level that is face recognition after login. If system finds some mismatch then return decoy information to user. Sometime service providers can be an attacker in that case it is difficult to identify attacker but we can confuse him using decoy technique.

De-merits of existing system 1. We can't detect when data attack happened 2. We can't detect person behind that attack. 3. We can't detect which file was hacked [31].

E. Role of Cyber Security

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The development on Information Security Management System (ISMS) had a long development history in any organization and low adoption of ISO 27001 was observed. The high costs in money and time of ISMS implementation are definite barriers for smaller size companies to adopt the standard [32].

V. **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Authors have studied the research and find out the insider threat detect methods and its utilization. The findings are presented in tabular form. This tabular form is helpful to know about the development in the research in the area of insider threats prevention and detection to provide cyber security.

A. Literature Data Analysis

Researchers have analyzed the data and presented in the tabular form. The standard journals and conferences like IEEE, IJCSE and Research gate are refered for this study. Most of the literatures are from journal with detail study. Total no. research papers are surveyed are 32 whereas 4 are from IJCSE journals.

Insider threat detection can be performed by number of ways. The insider threat detection methods development is shown in the table given below.

Table	1:	Insider	threats	detection	methods	2008	onwards
1 uore	т.	moraer	uncuts	actection	methous	2000	onwarab

Year	Methodology	Recommendation
2008	Preventive measures ten	Security measures
	lessons described to avoid	should be on and
	insider threats.	monitored.
2009	Architecture for monitoring and detecting insider attacks. Host-based sensors monitor user activity to detect malicious users masquerading as other system users. Trap-based decoys attempt to catch attackers who use their own legitimate credentials [2]. The sensors are collecting the data and analysis the	It is useful to detect the malicious actions of inside users.
	anomalous actions	
	The Elicit (Exploit Latent	This research
	Information to Counter	gives insights

20

	Insider Threats) system. Elicit examines how users interact with information, applying contextual information to identify suspicious behaviors. It then combines all observed behaviors into a single threat score to help analysts prioritize their investigations [3].	about how malicious user behaves in the organization.
	Framework for taxonomy of insiders and their actions. This taxonomy provides a consistent vocabulary for describing which aspects of the insider threat are being addressed, and takes into account the roles of organizations, individuals, IT systems, and the environment in enabling insider threat behavior[4].	Framework can be applied for insider threat mitigation.
	System dynamics model is consisting of two sub models. The first one is employee life-cycle model, shows the evolution of insiders within an organization and the second is the information access model which represents how employees have legitimate access to protected information as needed to do their jobs or how a malicious insider would gain illicit access to protected information [5].	This model helps to understand insider's interactions, interdependencies and gap in insider threat detection system.
2010	Trust system models and configuration options [3 [6].	The trust system provides comprehensive logon state and security situational awareness.
	Insider threat framework and Questions pertaining to insider threat framework [7].	It is describing and differentiating the types of insider threats. Framework will improve the insider threat detection.
2011	Wired-side method for	RAP is shown the

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	rogue-access-point (RAP)	effectiveness			required.
	detection that's rooted in the		2015	The rule based expert system	The malicious
	802.11 MAC (media access-			used to detect the behavior of	activity stored in
	control) protocol's			the insider intrusion. [16].	database and help
	functionality [8].				to detect for
	The proposed design takes	This system			future IDS.
	advantage of three different	analysis the online		It provides generic	This is used to
	detection tools to identify the	behavior of users.		implementation for honey	reduce the
	maliciousness of website			tokens [17].	problems of
	content and alerts users				honey tokens.
	through utilizing Internet		2016	Cyber security belief	This model
	Content Adaptation Protocol			network is used in order to	studies the
	(ICAP) by an In-Browser			facilitate frameworks	relation of inter-
	cross-platform messaging			execution thus it helps in	related cyber
	system [9].			reducing threats [18].	security
2012	It detects anomalous user	The clustering		0	parameters.
	behaviors based on the	approach can		A behavior rule-based	BLITHE is
	sequence of their requests	achieve relatively		methodology for insider	detecting
	within a web session. Next,	low false positive		threat (BLITHE) detection is	anomalous
	we apply a hidden Markov	rates along with		data monitor devices in smart	behavior in smart
	model (HMM) to	accuracy.		grid. Specifically, a rule-	grid applications.
	characterize workflows on a			weight and compliance-	
	per-object basis [10].			distance-based grading	
	It has used community	This model is		strategy is designed [19].	
	anomaly detection system	useful for	2017	Secure Data Sharing in	SeDaSC secure
	(CADS), an unsupervised	detecting the		Clouds (SeDaSC)	the data sharing in
	learning framework to detect	insider threats		methodology that provides:	the cloud.
	insider threats based on the	based on access		1) data confidentiality and	
	access logs of collaborative	logs of		integrity; 2) access control;	
	environments [11].	collaborative		3) data sharing (forwarding)	
2012		environment.		without using compute-	
2013	Conceptual Model and	It provides		intensive re-encryption; 4)	
	Reasoning Structure. It	encompassing		insider threat security; and 5)	
	threatening hehevior towards	view to detect		forward and backward access	
	an organization Bassoning	insider uneats.		Control [20].	DADICII
	an organization. Reasoning			for high throughout real time	RADISH
	elements within the real			analysis of heterogeneous	periorins
	world [12]			data streams [21]	analytics and
	A hybrid classification	A hybrid machine		data streams [21].	malicious data
	approach of Support Vector	learning model			into the system
	Machine (SVM) and	based on	2019	Ustara serie data subish	In fotone account
	Gravitational Search	combining the	2018	Heterogeneous data which	In luture research,
	Algorithm (GSA) algorithm	unsupervised and		VAST Challen an and multiple	text data can also
	used to enhance the detection	supervised		vASI Challenge as well as	be used as a part
	accuracy [13].	classification		image data used in data	of neterogeneous
		techniques used.		assist the human avport in	the data fusion
2014	Process model and analysis	Countermeasures		processing huge amount of	technique may be
	the detection [14]	are implemented.		beterogeneous data to detect	applied to other
	Survey v is conducted and	In future		anomalies [22]	datasets
	develops BAIT algorithms	psychological		An adaptive weighted graph	Data leakage
	and supervised learning	testing, NLP with		walk model to solve data	problem is
	algorithms [15].	behavioral		leakage problem by mapping	resolved with the
	J	analysis is		it to the dimension of	help of adaptive

	weighted graphs. Label propagation is used to enhance the scalability for fresh data. Finally, a low- complexity score walk algorithm is used [23].	weighted graph.
	Auto encoder based anomaly detection is used [24].	This system able to detect all of the malicious insider actions with a reasonable false positive rate
	Clustering algorithms are used to detect the insider threats[25]	Clusters are used. Use principal component analysis for good results.
	Markov process to model profiles for individual users rather than modeling actions is used [26].	Temporal component stream clustering adapted.
2019	An anomaly detection module improved restricted Boltzmann machine and gradient descent-based support vector machine to detect the abnormal activities, and 2) an end-to- end data delivery module to satisfy strict QoS requirements of the SDN, that is, high bandwidth and low latency[27].	It is evaluated on real time and bench mark dataset to show effectiveness of anomaly detection.
	A remote data integrity auditing scheme that realizes data sharing with sensitive information hiding to sanitize the data blocks corresponding to the sensitive information of the file and transforms these data blocks' signatures into valid ones for the sanitized file. Signatures are used to verify the integrity of the sanitized file in the phase of integrity auditing [28]	Sensitive information is remain hidden, while the remote data integrity auditing is enable to be efficiently executed

B. Trend of Insider Threats detection methods

On the basis of survey, it is observed that there is change in the technology and according change in the detection methods as per the timeline. Timeline for study is considered from 2008 to 2019. It helpful to know about the current research and need of research in future. The timeline of the methods are in the chart given below.

Table 2: Changing Trend of Insider Threat Detection Methods

Year	Methodology Observed				
2008	Security lessons				
2009	Sensor based architecture for Monitoring				
	Exploit Latent Information to Counter Insider				
	Threats				
	Framework Taxonomy				
	Employee cycle and Information access model				
2010	Trust system model				
	Threat framework				
2011	Rogue access point detection				
	Internet Content Adaptation Protocol (ICAP)				
2012	Hidden Markov model (HMM)				
	Unsupervised learning framework				
2013	Conceptual Model and Reasoning Structure				
	hybrid machine learning model using SVM and				
	GSA				
2014	Process Model				
	Supervised learning algorithms				
2015	Rule based expert system				
	Generic implementation for honey tokens				
2016	Belief network				
	BLITHE) detection is data monitor devices in				
	smart grid				
2017	Secure Data Sharing in Clouds (sedasc)				
	methodology				
	Analysis of heterogeneous data streams				
2018	Data fusion technique				
	Adaptive weighted graph walk model				
	Autoencoder				
	Clustering algorithm				
	Markov process model				
2019 till	remote data integrity auditing scheme				
date	Boltzmann machine and gradient descent-based				
	support vector machine				

VI. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

This research paper concludes that there is a need to protect the organization from outsider threat as well as insider threats. Many insider threat detection systems have been developed in last decade but still there is a scope to work in this domain. Due to compromised user, hackers or competitors are easily get access to the digital confidential organization data. Innovative techniques used by researchers to minimise the risk from insider threats and to secure the business secrets.

It is studied that technology is changing with time. Due to advance technology and digitization volume of data, number

of users, number of applications, number of vulnerabilities, data breaches and cyber-attacks are increasing. Hence researchers are also starting from training and awareness program to users to deep learning automated detection methods have been developed. There is a future scope to find out the optimized research method to remove the insider threats before getting into serious problems in the organization.

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