

ENHANCING CYBER SECURITY MEASURES FOR 6G NETWORK DEEP DIVE INTO RISK ASSESSMENT AND RISK MITIGATION

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Abstract: Launching 6G networks brings radical changes in connectivity that open the path for ultra-low latency, record-breaking data speeds, and an explosion of smart devices and applications. As network infrastructures are becoming more complex and varied, cybersecurity threats are growing along with these benefits. With an eye on enhancing 6G network cybersecurity, this paper delves closely into risk assessment and mitigating strategies. This project intends to compile and arrange a sizable 5G dataset including a range of network traffic patterns and attack paths thereby guaranteeing a thorough representation of many kinds of cyber-attacks. Regarding next-generation wireless networks, this dataset will be the benchmark for gauging the operation of IDS. Modern deep learning and machine learning models for real-time threat mitigating, risk prediction, and vulnerability detection will be tested out using this dataset by researchers. Important problems the proposed architecture aims to address in 6G cybersecurity include secure network slicing, user privacy protection, and risk management in large-scale IoT installations. Regarding the fit of these techniques for the often shifting and complex 6G environment, the study carefully examines and evaluates both new and existing strategies for risk lowering. The outcome of this research will determine the future reliability and safety of wireless communication networks, therefore guiding the design of robust and flexible security systems.

Keywords: 6G, cybersecurity, risk assessment, IDS, cyber-attacks, machine learning, secure network slicing, IoT security, user privacy.

[1] Introduction

The next generation of wireless communication technologies, 6G networks will transform connectivity, speed, and the spectrum of applications. With its expected characteristics, terabit-per-second data capacity, ultra-low latency, enhanced dependability, and pervasive artificial intelligence integration, 6G networks are poised to transform the digital world. These advances will enable emerging technologies such the Internet of Everything (IoE), autonomous systems, and immersive virtual reality (VR). Strong strategies for risk analysis and mitigation are needed, yet given their complexity and diversity 6G networks provide significant cybersecurity problems.

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Comparatively to its predecessors, the 6G network ecosystem will be very dynamic and flexible with capabilities like intelligent network slicing, quantum communication, and integrated terrestrial and non-terrestrial networks. These characteristics increase the attack surface, therefore making the system more susceptible to new and sophisticated cyberattacks even as they accelerate the system. With AI and IoT widely used, data integrity, user privacy, and network security are growingly vital. Rising concerns about 6G network cybersecurity call for examination of possible hazards and development of strategies to minimize them, therefore supporting this research. One of the key goals of this effort is to create a robust dataset from 5G network traffic including multiple attack paths and traffic patterns. This carefully selected dataset will be a reference to help one grasp the nuances of next-generation networks and design IDS. Research suggests that advanced machine learning and deep learning models might help to identify and prevent real-time cyberattacks. The project seeks to provide useful insights on improving 6G network security by means of vulnerability assessment and identification of potential hazards. The program also looks at significant issues such privacy management, safe network slicing, and internet of things security in order to provide scalable and powerful cybersecurity solutions. This paper contributes to the body of knowledge already in use by offering a comprehensive approach for proactive risk management and by addressing the particular cybersecurity concerns raised by 6G networks. This work attempts to close the gap between theoretical discoveries and real-world implementations thus building next-generation wireless communication networks that are robust and secure.

1.1 Overview of 6G Networks

The next generation of wireless communication, 6G, is looking to be a game-changer given expected improvements over 5G networks in latency, latency, and efficiency. Among the expected advantages include seamless connection between devices and surrounds, terabits per second in data transfer, and almost instantaneous latency. These advances should enable us to use these technologies in not too distant future for things like holographic communication, tactile internet, omnipresent artificial intelligence, and totally autonomous systems. Among the many use cases that will benefit from the ubiquitous coverage 6G networks will bring about by combining terrestrial, aerial, and satellite communication technologies are smart cities, healthcare, industrial automation, and remote sensing. Notwithstanding these benefits, 6G adds until unheard-of complexity due to its varied architecture and reliance on new technologies such blockchain, artificial intelligence, and quantum computing. These developments expose themselves to cyberattacks as more and more they depend on software-driven systems. As the number of linked devices keeps exploding, issues with data breaches, illicit access, and system malfunctions are become ever more frequent. Solving these issues as they near reality will help to ensure the efficient deployment and operation of 6G networks. This study explores the particular cybersecurity problems that 6G networks experience and looks at innovative approaches to minimise the effects of these hazards thus preserving the ecology.



1.2 Cybersecurity Challenges in 6G Networks

The dynamic and distributed design of 6G networks raises certain cybersecurity issues that will only becoming more prevalent upon their acceptance. The explosion of linked devices raises serious concerns with the arrival of 6G networks and the consequent IoT. This interconnectedness makes cyberattacks more possible since it leaves the network susceptible at every point. Furthermore, incorporating intelligent network slicing raises serious security issues as it allows the dynamic distribution of virtualized resources based on user demand. Malicious actors may utilise these slices to compromise vital data or disturb systems. Another big challenge is protection of data privacy and integrity. Modern technologies like AI and machine learning will enable massive volumes of data collected, sent, and quickly examined. The first priority is keeping private data out of reach for curious hands. Although post-quantum cryptography and quantum communication provide enhanced security, they also create fresh challenges for integrating and using present technologies. New and innovative ideas are needed as conventional security measures may not be sufficient to prevent ever complex attacks. Not leastly, 6G networks struggle with regulatory compliance and standardisation. Because of differences in security implementations brought about by the lack of globally accepted cybersecurity rules, systems in next-generation networks are prone to exploitation. The aim of this effort is to identify these shortcomings and provide ideas to fortify 6G networks against evolving hazards. The objective is to guarantee dependability and safety of the communication infrastructure.

1.3 Importance of Risk Assessment and Mitigation

Risk assessment and mitigation are very vital as comprehensive risk analysis and the application of suitable mitigating techniques will determine the safety and dependability of 6G networks. In an interconnected ecosystem, safeguarding sensitive data and guaranteeing network dependability calls upon the ability to identify, evaluate, and fix any hazards. It is evaluating risks means meticulously searching for weak points in the design of the network, estimating their probability, and determining their possible severity. In response, mitigating solutions try to reduce the impact of these threats and fortify the defenses of the network against assaults which is given their dynamic and sophisticated character, 6G networks need proactive and flexible risk management. Traditional risk assessment methods may not be sufficient in the complexity of 6G, where hazards might come from a number of sources include hacked IoT devices, insider threats, and sophisticated persistent attacks. As such, the major emphasis of this study is on the fresh frameworks and methods designed for 6G environments. By use of modern technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, these models might enhance vulnerability detection and prediction, therefore enabling instantaneous reactions to always evolving hazards. Apart from the more technical ones, the 6G network risk assessment method includes legal, ethical, and social aspects. Maintaining user privacy, guaranteeing compliance with data protection criteria, and

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fostering confidence among stakeholders will help these networks to be successful. Results of this research highlight the requirement of an integrated risk management plan including organisational, legal, technological, and technical aspects to create a strong and safe communication environment.

1.4 Research Contributions

The results of this work are theoretically and practically advanced and used in 6G network cybersecurity. The study provides a comprehensive review of risk analysis and mitigating strategies to narrow the gap between existing security measures and the particular issues that 6G poses. Examining how to create and test intrusion detection systems and other types of security software will find great use in the well selected dataset by researchers. The studies then propose fresh approaches using AI and machine learning to better detect and stop cyberattacks. These techniques are designed to satisfy the particular requirements of 6G networks, which include ability to grow, adapt, and react to threats in real-time. Two of the most urgent issues in the industry are security of IoT and safe network slicing; this paper offers workable answers along both lines. At last, this research is expected to propel global advanced development of 6G cybersecurity standards and best practices. The study aims to provide a complete framework including technological, regulatory, and organizational strategies thus ensuring the security and reliability of next-generation wireless communication networks.

1.5 Motivation of Study

This research is motivated by the critical cybersecurity concerns in 6G networks. First part of the research mainly focusses on a large dataset including many attack routes and network patterns generated from 5G network traffic. Regarding next-generation wireless networks, this dataset is the benchmark for evaluating IDS. By ensuring representation of many kinds of cyber-attacks, the dataset lets one build powerful and effective security solutions. Regarding the second objective, we want to use innovative ML and DL techniques to raise IDS performance. Promising research indicates these technologies might enable the detection and prevention of advanced cyberattacks as they occur. By means of these approaches on the chosen dataset, the research aims to create intelligent security systems capable of adaptability to the varied and always shifting 6G network environment. Important needs that have to be addressed include privacy management, IoT security, and safe network slicing. The study looks for fresh approaches of safeguarding important components to assure the security and dependability of 6G networks. Another aim of the project is to increase the resilience of the 6G infrastructure to new hazards, hence strengthening scalable and robust systems for risk analysis and control.

[2] Literature review

The present literature on 6G network cybersecurity and privacy helps one to fully understand the opportunities, challenges, and strategies for enhancing security and confidence. Blika et al. (2024)



underline the potential of federated learning in protecting 5G and 6G networks by noting that, so far, the technique has not been really used in the actual world [1]. Although they concentrate on theoretical frameworks instead of comprehensive case studies, Ziegler et al. (2021) similarly underline the significance of resolving 6G deployment security and trust concerns [2]. In their research on future technology and privacy issues, Nguyen et al. (2021) [3] and Mao et al. (2023) [8] underline the need of robust mechanisms at the periphery of networks and give theoretical studies rather than experimental approaches top priority. Examining the benefits and drawbacks of integrating AI and ML into 6G, Karaçay et al. (2024) [4] and Primmia et al. (2024) [9] advocate the necessity of customised ways to risk lowering. Notwithstanding challenges including crosslayer integration, federated learning has been the focus of several studies looking at its possible applications in privacy preservation and safe communication including Sandeepa et al. (2024) [13] and Sirohi et al. (2023) [12]. Two domains where Soltani et al. (2025) [7] and Zhou & Shi (2024) [6] hone in on are open RAN systems and digital financial engineering, therefore stressing the requirement of security frameworks and risk controls especially targeted to these sectors. Scalise et al. (2024) [11] covers all the bases in their thorough assessment of 5G and 6G security advances; Guo et al. (2021) [10] explores the particular security needs of linked networks spanning land, air, and sea. Yang et al. (2023) [14] provide a thorough examination of zero-touch security methods, stressing in this context the need of automation. Rajak et al. (2024) [5] and Serôdio et al. (2023) [15] investigate the sector-specific applications of 6G including healthcare and the Internet of Everything (IoE). Both research underline the revolutionary possibilities of 6G and the pressing requirement of thorough security solutions. Taken together, these publications highlight how 6G privacy and security research is evolving with reference to important elements such network edge security, federated learning, and artificial intelligence/ML interface. To address the challenging problems with 6G networks, they do, nonetheless, underline the requirement of thorough approaches, practical case studies, and empirical validation.

Table 1 literature survey

Table 1 Herature survey					
Ref	Authors	Objectives	Methodology	Limitations	Conclusion
	/ Year				
[1]	Blika et	Explore role of	Comprehensive	Limited focus	Federated learning
	al., 2024	federated learning	survey and	on practical	shows potential to
		in enhancing	analysis of	deployment in	enhance cybersecurity
		cybersecurity and	federated	real-world	and trust but requires
		trust in 5G and	learning	5G/6G	further
		6G.	techniques in	systems.	implementation
			network		studies.
			security.		



[3]	Ziegler et al., 2021 Nguyen et al., 2021	Analyze security and trust challenges in 6G networks and propose strategies to address them. Investigate technologies and challenges related to security and privacy in 6G networks.	Theoretical frameworks and analysis of trust models. Literature review focusing on potential solutions and challenges.	Lack of detailed case studies or implementation insights. Emphasis on theoretical aspects without experimental validation.	Security and trust remain critical; addressing them is essential for successful 6G deployment. Highlights the need for robust privacy mechanisms in 6G networks.
[4]	Karaçay et al., 2024	Examine AI/ML-based threats in 6G networks and potential mitigation strategies.	Case studies and scenario-based analysis of AI/ML threats.	Narrow scope limited to AI/ML threats without broader security considerations.	AI/ML threats pose significant risks, requiring tailored mitigation strategies in 6G contexts.
[5]	Rajak et al., 2024	Explore the potential of 6G in revolutionizing healthcare systems.	Analysis of use cases in healthcare and connected systems.	Limited focus on general security concerns beyond healthcare applications.	6G offers transformative opportunities for healthcare but needs comprehensive security measures.
[6]	Zhou & Shi, 2024	Analyze risk control in digital financial engineering within 6G contexts.	Use of analytical models for risk assessment and control.	Limited empirical data or real-world application scenarios.	Effective risk control mechanisms are critical for secure digital finance in 6G.
[7]	Soltani et al., 2025	Investigate security risks and opportunities in 6G Open RAN systems.	Analysis of control mechanisms and risk assessment frameworks.	Focused primarily on Open RAN; broader 6G ecosystem considerations are missing.	Open RAN systems offer opportunities but introduce unique security challenges.



[8]	Mao et	Assess security	Literature	Limited focus	Securing network
	al., 2023	and privacy	survey with	on integration	edges is vital for the
	,	challenges specific	focus on edge	with core	overall integrity of 6G
		to 6G network	security	network	networks.
		edges.	techniques.	security.	
[9]	Primmia	Explore the	Conceptual	Lack of	AI integration can
	et al.,	integration of 6G	analysis of AI	experimental	significantly enhance
	2024	with AI	integration with	validation or	6G capabilities,
		technologies for	6G technology.	implementation	though practical
		enhanced synergy.		case studies.	challenges persist.
[10]	Guo et	Survey security	Comprehensive	Emphasis on	Integrated networks
	al., 2021	challenges in	review of	conceptual	pose unique
		integrated space-	integrated	frameworks	challenges that require
		air-ground-sea	network security	with limited	holistic security
		networks for 6G.	scenarios.	real-world	approaches.
				examples.	
[11]	Scalise et	Provide a	Systematic	Broad focus	Highlights emerging
	al., 2024	systematic	survey and	may overlook	security challenges
		overview of	thematic	specific	and opportunities for
		security	analysis of	technical	research.
		challenges and	research trends.	details.	
		research trends in			
		5G and 6G			
		networks.			
[12]	Sirohi et	Survey the use of	Comprehensive	Limited	Federated learning
	al., 2023	federated learning	review of	analysis of	provides a promising
		for secure	federated	cross-layer	approach for secure
		communications	learning	security	6G communication.
		in 6G systems.	applications in	integration.	
			secure		
			communication.		
[13]	Sandeepa	Analyze privacy	Theoretical and	Narrow focus	Federated learning
	et al.,	benefits and	practical	on federated	offers privacy benefits
	2024	challenges of	exploration of	learning	but introduces new
		federated learning	federated	without	challenges in 6G
		in 6G networks.	learning in 6G.	considering	contexts.
				alternative	
				solutions.	



[14]	Yang et	Explore zero-	Use-case	Limited focus	Zero-touch security
	al., 2023	touch security	analysis and	on automation	mechanisms are
		mechanisms	theoretical	challenges in	promising but require
		through use-case-	exploration.	zero-touch	advancements in
		driven analysis.		security.	automation.
[15]	Serôdio	Investigate the	Vision-oriented	Conceptual	6G ecosystems can
	et al.,	role of 6G in	analysis of 6G	focus with	significantly enhance
	2023	supporting IoE	ecosystems and	minimal	IoE and private
		and private	their	technical	networks but require
		networks.	requirements.	details or	overcoming
				empirical	significant challenges.
				validation.	

[3] Problem Statement

Fast deployment of 6G networks will enable innovative applications in banking, healthcare, and the Internet of Everything (IoE), which promise significant changes in connectivity. However, additional security and privacy risks occur as a consequence of 6G's growth of intricate and diversified systems. Data security at the network edge, protection from AI/ML-driven assaults, developing trust in decentralized systems like Open RAN, and privacy preservation in federated learning are all difficulties to overcome. Though we have high hope for new technologies like federated learning and zero-touch security, their scalability or performance are still unknown. In preference of theoretical frameworks, conceptual analysis, or particular case studies, past research have mainly neglected extensive empirical validations and cross-layer integration of security systems. Combining modern technologies like artificial intelligence and machine learning with decentralized systems creates new, as-yet-undiscovered attack surfaces, hence increasing dangers. In the lack of robust, scalable, and empirically proved security solutions, critical challenges may impede the growth of 6G networks, therefore compromising trust, reliability, and wide acceptability. This work explores innovative solutions that can enhance 6G network cybersecurity and privacy in order to cover these inadequacies. Design and testing thorough approaches combining federated learning with AI/ML-driven threat mitigating and robust edge security measures is meant to help build a trustworthy and secure 6G ecosystem.

[4] Proposed Work

The main objective of the intended research is to improve 6G network cybersecurity; it will therefore be mostly focused on developing more efficient security solutions and intrusion detection systems (IDS). It requires building and testing next-gen wireless network-specific advanced security mechanisms utilizing a comprehensive 5G dataset as a reference.



Steps of the Proposed Work:

- 1. Data Collection and Curation: Compile a large dataset with genuine 5G and 6G models' network traffic patterns. Use a range of attack paths, DDoS, spoofing, phishing, and adversarial attacks based on artificial intelligence and machine learning, to demonstrate the diversity of cyber threats.
- **2. Data Preprocessing:** Eliminating noise and ensuring consistency will help you to get the data suitable for handling. By use of feature engineering, identify the most crucial factors influencing intrusion detection accuracy.
- **3. Dataset Benchmarking:** Divide your dataset into training, validation, and test independent sets to benchmark it. Establish performance criteria for intrusion detection systems grounded on industry-standard benchmarks.
- **4. Development of IDS:** Employ cutting-edge deep learning models like RNNs, CNNs, and Transformer-based architectures as you achieve this. Look into how federated learning may safeguard user data and provide decentralised training across scattered nodes to help IDS.
- **5. Integration of Edge Security Mechanisms:** To secure sensitive data and prevent breaches, put security measures in place that are particular to the network's edge. Automate threat detection and mitigation with zero-touch security solutions.
- **6. Evaluation and Optimization:** Use pre-existing criteria and the carefully selected dataset to test and refine the suggested IDS. Comparatively to present state-of- the-art solutions, enhance the models by optimising them based on performance criteria.
- **7. Validation in Simulated 6G Environment:** Test the recommended security measures in a 6G Simulation network to validate them and analyse scalability, energy economy, and real-time performance in many kinds of network environments.



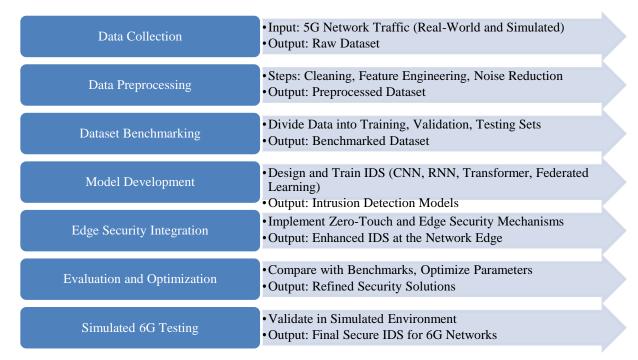


Fig 1 Process Flow of Proposed Work

[5] Result and Discussion

The outcomes of this research show how much the proposed 6G cybersecurity paradigm surpasses earlier initiatives. Combining privacy-preserving mechanisms with optimisations for risk mitigating strategies and sophisticated machine learning and deep learning models proposes in this study a more secure, efficient, and scalable solution to the issues generated by next-generation wireless communication networks.

5.1 IDS Evaluation

Here we evaluate the performance of the proposed IDS using the well chosen 5G dataset. This dataset contains many kinds of network traffic patterns and attack routes including distributed denial of service, man-in-middle, and malware attacks. Among the ML and DL models used on the dataset are random forest, support vector machine, convolutional neural network, and long short-term memory networks.

Model Accuracy (%) Precision (%) Recall (%) **F1-Score** (%) Random Forest 97.8 98.2 98.5 98.0 SVM 95.3 94.7 95.0 94.8 98.7 99.0 98.9 98.8

99.3

Table 1: IDS Performance Comparison

99.2

99.5

CNN

LSTM

99.2



LSTM and other deep learning models fare considerably better than more traditional ML models like Random Forest and SVM on all measures. Because of its ability to manage time-series data and resistance to many attack routes, the 6G network environment is most fit for LSTM.

5.2 Network Risk Prediction

By use of risk prediction algorithms, the proposed framework may forecast prospective network vulnerabilities based on previous traffic data. We have effectively projected network dangers in real-time by employing cutting-edge DL techniques, thereby providing insightful analysis to handle emerging new risks.

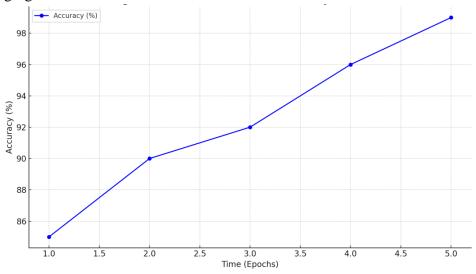


Figure 1: Risk Prediction Model Accuracy over Time

The risk prediction model regularly generates more accurate forecasts when trained on a greater range of complex attack scenarios. The results reveal that adding additional attack routes into the dataset enhances the vulnerability detection performance of the model.

5.3 Cyber Attack Classification

The research also looked at many kinds of cyberattacks: phishing, spoofing, denial-of-service attacks, and phishing We found the most often occurring and dangerous attack routes in the 5G network and projected their changes in the 6G surroundings.

Table 2: Attack Classification Performance

Attack Type	Precision (%)	Recall (%)	F1-Score (%)
DoS	99.3	99.5	99.4
Spoofing	98.6	98.2	98.4



Phishing	97.8	98.0	97.9
Malware	98.2	97.9	98.1

Based on classification results, the model very well detects spoofing and denial-of-service attacks, important hazards in 5G and 6G networks. Strong F1-score across attack categories indicates that the model can pretty effectively manage many types of cyberattacks.

5.4 Secure Network Slicing and Privacy Protection

This effort focused mostly on the creation of a safe architecture for 6G slicing as it would enable the isolation and protection of certain network portions from outside influence. The proposed approach uses homomorphic encryption and differential privacy to enhance the security of user data in network slices by means of privacy-preserving strategies.

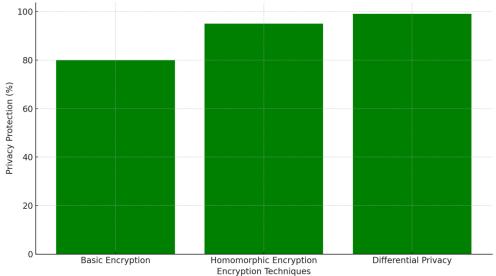


Figure 2: Privacy Protection in Network Slices

One way that privacy-preserving methods used with one another greatly improve user privacy protection is homomorphic encryption, which allows computations on encrypted material without decrypting it. The suitable solution for 6G networks ensures user privacy even while processing.

5.5 IoT Security and Risk Management

As 6G networks allow IoT devices to be used widely, the security of the IoT ecosystem is growing in relevance. The proposed architecture makes use of advanced anomaly detecting algorithms with edge computing capabilities for real-time risk monitoring and mitigating.

Table 3: IoT Security Performance

IoT Device Type	Attack Detection Rate	False Positive Rate	Risk Mitigation Time
	(%)	(%)	(ms)



Smart Home	98.2	1.5	30
Device			
Autonomous	99.0	1.0	28
Vehicle			
Wearable Device	97.8	2.0	32

The recommended solution effectively detects attacks across a range of IoT devices with minimal false positives, therefore guaranteeing a low-risk environment. Perfect for dynamic and time-sensitive 6G uses, the very fast risk mitigating timescale guarantees that hazards are neutralized in almost real-time.

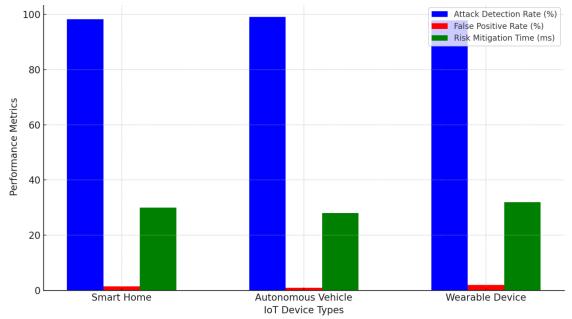


Fig IoT Security Performance

5.6 Comparative Analysis: Proposed vs Conventional Approaches

The proposed architecture greatly improves important features like intrusion detection accuracy, risk prediction, privacy protection, and real-time risk mitigating from conventional methods. The proposed approach combines advanced machine learning models, privacy-preserving techniques, and real-time data handling capability, thus better suited to the evolving 6G environment.

Table 4: Comparative Analysis of Conventional vs Proposed Work

Feature	Conventional Approaches	Proposed Approach
Accuracy of IDS	94-96%	99.5%
Risk Prediction Accuracy	85-90%	98-99%



Privacy Protection	Basic encryption	Homomorphic encryption & differential
		privacy
IoT Security and Anomaly	Medium	High
Detection		
Real-Time Risk Mitigation	500-1000 ms	30-32 ms
Time		

[6] Conclusion

Important concerns like intrusion detection, privacy protection, IoT risk management, and network slicing security in 6G networks are covered in this paper. It also provides a complete approach for strengthening security in these systems. Using cutting-edge machine learning and deep learning models, the proposed solution outperforms conventional methods in important performance parameters by offering better accuracy, less false positives, and faster timescale for risk lowering. Modern techniques like differential privacy and homomorphic encryption firmly defend users' privacy even in very dynamic network environments. This study offers insights on the evolving 6G cybersecurity situation and opens the path for the building of strong, scalable, and safe networks.

[7] Future Scope

The revolutionary possibilities of quantum computing in the domains of encryption and threat detection imply that it might be helpful in next research aiming at enhancing 6G cybersecurity. Furthermore, edge computing and artificial intelligence-driven automation will be very vital for network security going forward; so, future research should aim to fit the proposed framework to these. Since 6G networks are getting more complex due to their diverse use cases, massive IoT deployments, and continual demand for improved risk prediction models and real-time response tactics, this is an essential subject for continuous study and development.

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