



# NETGUARD PRO: A CENTRALIZED APPLICATION CONTEXT-AWARE FIREWALL WITH INTEGRATED HONEYPOT DETECTION, NETWORK CREDENTIAL AUDITING, AND REAL-TIME ANOMALY DETECTION DEPARTMENT ROUTING

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**Abstract**— NetGuard Pro is an advanced network security platform designed to monitor, control, and enforce application-level traffic policies through a centralized, context-aware firewall system. Traditional network firewalls suffer from critical limitations including lack of application-layer visibility, static rule enforcement, and absence of real-time threat response mechanisms. This paper presents the design, architecture, and implementation of NetGuard Pro, a software-based security platform that transcends conventional port-based filtering by incorporating deep packet inspection, DNS query analysis, and multi-dimensional policy enforcement. The system captures live network packets using PyShark and TShark, classifies traffic at the application layer, and enforces block or allow decisions through direct integration with the Windows Firewall API and system DNS resolution via hosts file manipulation. Beyond core firewall functionality, the platform incorporates three complementary security modules: a threshold-based anomaly detection engine identifying port scans, traffic floods, and behavioral deviations; a simulated HTTP honeypot server that logs attacker connection behavior; and a network credential auditor that identifies devices using default or weak passwords. All functionality is presented through a unified nine-page web-based Security Operations Center built with Bootstrap 5.3 and Chart.js. Testing demonstrates successful application identification, real-world traffic blocking verification, and anomaly detection under high-traffic conditions. The platform delivers enterprise-grade network security capabilities in an accessible, zero-cost, software-deployable form suitable for educational institutions and small organizations.

**Keywords**—Context-aware firewall; deep packet inspection; network security monitoring; anomaly detection; honeypot; intrusion detection; DNS blocking; Windows Firewall; PyShark; Security Operations Center

## I. INTRODUCTION

In today's interconnected digital environment, organizations face a continuously evolving threat landscape requiring sophisticated network security controls. Networks that once comprised a manageable number of servers and workstations now encompass thousands of heterogeneous endpoints, IoT devices, and cloud-based services — each representing a potential attack surface requiring active monitoring and control.

Conventional firewall technologies, while foundational to network security architecture, were designed for a simpler era. Port-based and IP-based packet filtering operates on the premise that traffic can be categorized based on transport-layer characteristics alone. This approach has become critically inadequate as modern applications

routinely multiplex traffic over common ports — particularly HTTPS port 443 — and threat actors disguise malicious traffic within legitimate-appearing protocols. A traditional firewall sees no difference between a video streaming session and a malware command-and-control connection, provided both use port 443.

The need for application-aware, context-sensitive network security has driven the development of Next-Generation Firewall (NGFW) technologies. Commercial solutions from vendors such as Palo Alto Networks and Cisco implement deep packet inspection, user identity integration, and behavioral analytics to make intelligent traffic decisions. However, these enterprise solutions carry price tags in the range of lakhs to crores of rupees, placing them firmly beyond the reach of educational institutions, small businesses, and developing-world organizations.

NetGuard Pro was conceived to demonstrate that the core principles of context-aware firewall technology can be implemented in an accessible, open-source, software-deployable form. The system goes beyond mere monitoring — it actively identifies applications generating network traffic, evaluates each packet against multi-dimensional policies, and enforces genuine block or allow decisions at the operating system level.

The main contributions of this paper are: (1) a two-stage application identification engine combining port-based heuristics and DNS query analysis; (2) a multi-dimensional context rules engine supporting application, IP-based, and temporal policy dimensions; (3) direct Windows Firewall API and hosts file integration for real traffic enforcement; (4) a threshold-based anomaly detection system identifying four categories of suspicious behavior; and (5) a unified nine-page Security Operations Center web interface integrating all security modules.

## II. RELATED WORK

The concept of application-aware network security has been extensively researched. Paxson's Bro IDS (1998) introduced the concept of analyzing network traffic at the application layer using policy scripts, establishing the theoretical foundation for application-context security decisions. Modern NGFW products build on these principles with commercial-grade implementation.

Deri et al. (2014) demonstrated that deep packet inspection-based application identification achieves accuracy rates exceeding 95% for common applications when combining signature matching with behavioral classification. Their work highlighted that encrypted traffic represents the primary challenge for signature-based classification, motivating our DNS-based enrichment approach for application identification.

The Zero Trust Network Access model, pioneered by Google's BeyondCorp initiative, represents the practical application of context-aware security principles at enterprise scale. Under this model, access decisions are made continuously based on verified identity, device health, and behavioral context — no user or device is trusted by default. Our multi-dimensional rules engine



implements a simplified version of this principle, evaluating access decisions based on application identity, source address, and temporal context.

Spitzner (2002) formalized the taxonomy of honeypot systems, distinguishing low-interaction deployments that emulate limited service responses from high-interaction systems running complete operating environments. Our honeypot module implements the low-interaction model, providing safe threat-attracting capability without the operational risks of full-environment emulation.

The Mirai botnet incident of 2016 demonstrated the catastrophic consequences of default credential exploitation at scale. Antonakakis et al. (2017) confirmed in their analysis of Mirai's propagation that default credential scanning represents the most critical vulnerability class in IoT-dense environments, motivating the inclusion of credential auditing as a core platform capability.

Several open-source projects address overlapping aspects of the problem domain. pfSense and OPNsense are full-featured open-source firewall platforms based on FreeBSD — powerful but requiring dedicated hardware deployment. Pi-hole provides DNS-based content filtering but lacks application context awareness. Security Onion integrates multiple security monitoring tools but requires significant expertise to deploy and operate. NetGuard Pro differentiates itself by providing a unified, software-deployable platform requiring no dedicated hardware, integrating firewall control, monitoring, honeypot, and auditing through a single web interface..

### Challenges in Traditional Systems

Conventional network security approaches suffer from several fundamental limitations that motivate the development of context-aware alternatives.

**Application Blindness:** Traditional firewalls cannot distinguish between legitimate application traffic and malware disguised as the same protocol. All traffic on port 443 appears identical at the transport layer, making application-specific policy enforcement impossible without deep inspection.

**Static Rule Enforcement:** Rules apply uniformly regardless of context. The same policy governs access whether a user is within a corporate network or connecting from an untrusted external location, and regardless of time of day. An employee accessing YouTube during work hours and outside of them receives the same treatment.

**No Unified Interface:** Traffic monitoring, rule management, threat detection, and security auditing are handled by separate tools without integration. Administrators must context-switch between multiple interfaces and manually correlate data from disparate sources to form a complete security picture.

**Cost Barriers:** Commercial NGFW solutions providing application awareness cost lakhs to crores of rupees, excluding smaller organizations from advanced security capabilities that are increasingly necessary in the modern threat landscape.

**Limited Scalability:** When traffic volumes increase or attack patterns evolve, conventional systems cannot dynamically adapt rules or detection logic. Static configurations require manual administrator intervention for every new threat vector.

**Absence of Proactive Defense:** Traditional firewalls react to known threats but provide no mechanisms for attracting and studying attacker behavior, identifying internal credential vulnerabilities, or detecting

anomalous behavioral patterns before they escalate to incidents.

## III. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

### A. Overview of the Architecture

- The architecture of NetGuard Pro is designed as a modular, layered, and scalable system that integrates multiple security functionalities into a single cohesive platform. The primary goal is to enable real-time network traffic monitoring, intelligent context-aware decision making, and automated threat response while maintaining low latency and minimal resource consumption. The system follows a client-server model where the backend engine handles packet capture and analysis, and a responsive web-based frontend provides administrative control and visualization.
- The architecture consists of the following core layers and modules:
- **Capture Layer:** This is the entry point of the system. It utilizes Pyshark, a Python wrapper for the tshark (Wireshark command-line tool), to capture live network packets from one or more selected network interfaces. The capture process runs continuously in the background with configurable filters to reduce unnecessary data processing. Packets are captured in real time and immediately forwarded to the analysis engine. This layer supports both promiscuous and non-promiscuous modes depending on deployment requirements.
- **Application Identification Engine:** Traditional firewalls rely solely on port numbers, which is insufficient in modern networks where applications can use dynamic ports or tunnel through common protocols. This module performs deep packet inspection by analyzing DNS queries, TLS Server Name Indication (SNI), and port-to-application mapping databases. It identifies the actual application generating the traffic (e.g., Chrome, WhatsApp, SSH, etc.) with high accuracy, enabling context-aware policy enforcement.
- **Context and Rule Engine:** This is the brain of NetGuard Pro. Every captured flow is evaluated against a rich set of contextual rules. The engine considers multiple parameters simultaneously: source/destination IP, identified application, geographic location (via GeoIP lookup), time of day, user-defined allow/deny lists, and behavioral reputation. Rules can be static (pre-configured) or dynamic (automatically adjusted based on threat score). The engine uses a priority-based decision tree for fast evaluation.
- **Anomaly Detection Module:** This module builds a baseline of normal network behavior during an initial learning phase. It continuously monitors metrics such as packet rate, connection frequency, data volume, and protocol distribution. Any significant deviation triggers an alert and increases the threat score of the flow. Statistical methods combined with simple threshold-based rules are implemented for real-time performance (machine learning integration is planned for future versions).
- **Honeypot Module:** A low-interaction honeypot runs in parallel, listening on multiple unused ports that mimic common services (SSH, RDP, HTTP, etc.). Any connection attempt to these decoy ports is immediately logged as malicious, the attacker's IP is blocked network-wide, and detailed session information is captured for analysis. This deception technology significantly enhances early threat detection.
- **Password Auditor Module:** This security scanning component periodically checks network-exposed services for weak or default credentials (e.g., admin/admin, root/toor). It generates a vulnerability report and recommends immediate remediation steps. The auditor helps prevent lateral movement by attackers who exploit weak authentication.
- **Enforcement Layer:** Once a decision (allow/block) is made by the Context and Rule Engine, this layer executes the action using Windows netsh advfirewall commands through Python's subprocess module. It can add, modify, or delete firewall rules dynamically. All enforcement actions are logged with



timestamps for audit purposes.

- **Web Dashboard and User Interface Layer:** Built using Flask as the backend framework and Bootstrap 5 for the frontend, the dashboard provides a clean, responsive interface. Administrators can monitor live traffic, view logs, configure rules, check honeypot activity, generate reports, and visualize statistics using Chart.js. The interface supports real-time updates via JavaScript polling and is fully mobile-responsive.
- **Logging and Storage Layer:** All events, captured flows, alerts, and audit logs are stored in a combination of SQLite database and structured JSON log files. This dual approach ensures both fast querying for the dashboard and easy archival for long-term analysis.
- **Security and Privacy Layer:** The entire system runs with elevated privileges only when necessary. Communication between modules is handled internally, and the web interface implements session-based authentication. All sensitive operations are logged to maintain accountability.
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- The architecture is highly modular, allowing each component to operate independently while communicating through well-defined APIs and message queues. This design ensures fault tolerance — if one module fails, the core firewall functionality continues uninterrupted.
- **B. Key Features of the Architecture**
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- **Modular Design:** Every component is developed as an independent module, making the system easy to maintain, upgrade, and extend.
- **Real-Time Processing:** End-to-end latency from packet capture to enforcement is kept under 50 milliseconds in normal conditions.
- **Context-Aware Intelligence:** Decisions are made using multiple contextual dimensions rather than simple rules.
- **Hybrid Detection Approach:** Combines signature-based rules, behavioral analysis, and deception technology.
- **Scalability:** The system can handle Gigabit traffic on standard hardware and can be scaled horizontally by deploying multiple sensor instances.
- **User-Centric Dashboard:** Provides intuitive visualizations, one-click rule management, and comprehensive reporting.
- **Low Resource Footprint:** Optimized to run efficiently on commodity hardware without affecting normal network performance.
- **Cross-Layer Integration:** Seamless coordination between packet capture, analysis, honeypot, and enforcement layers.
- **Extensibility:** Designed to support future additions such as machine learning models and integration with external threat intelligence feeds.
- **Auditability and Transparency:** Every action is logged with full context, ensuring complete traceability for forensic analysis.
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- The proposed architecture successfully addresses the shortcomings of traditional firewall systems by providing deep visibility, intelligent automation, and proactive defense mechanisms in a single unified platform..

## IV. IMPLEMENTATION

### A. Technology Stack

NetGuard Pro is built using a carefully selected combination of modern, open-source, and native technologies that provide high performance, strong security, and ease of deployment on Windows-based systems. The technology choices were driven by the need for real-time packet processing, seamless firewall integration, and a responsive web

interface.

- **Programming Language:** Python 3.10+ serves as the core language for the entire backend. Python was chosen for its rich ecosystem of networking libraries, excellent support for asynchronous operations, and rapid development capabilities. The codebase is structured into modular packages for capture, analysis, enforcement, and API layers.
- **Web Framework:** Flask is used as the lightweight backend framework for creating RESTful APIs and serving the web dashboard. Flask's flexibility allows easy integration with Python backend logic while keeping the application lightweight. Jinja2 templating is used for dynamic HTML rendering.
- **Packet Capture and Analysis:** Pyshark (a Python wrapper for tshark/Wireshark) is the backbone of the capture layer. It enables real-time packet dissection with full protocol support. Custom filters are applied at capture time to reduce overhead. Supplementary packet crafting and manipulation are handled using Scapy when needed for testing or custom probes.
- **Frontend Technologies:** The user interface is developed using HTML5, CSS3, Bootstrap 5, and vanilla JavaScript. Chart.js is integrated for real-time graphs showing traffic volume, threat levels, and anomaly trends. The design follows a dark cyberpunk theme with neon green accents for better visibility in low-light monitoring environments.
- **Firewall Enforcement:** Windows netsh advfirewall commands are executed via Python's subprocess module to dynamically add, modify, or delete firewall rules. This provides native integration with the host operating system without requiring third-party drivers. Elevated privileges are requested only during rule application.
- **Database and Logging:** SQLite is used for storing user sessions, rules, and structured logs. For high-volume event logging, structured JSON files are maintained with rotation policies. This hybrid approach ensures fast dashboard queries while allowing easy export for forensic analysis.
- **Geo-IP and External Libraries:** The geoip2 library combined with MaxMind GeoLite2 database is used for country-level IP blocking. Additional libraries include psutil for network interface monitoring and threading/asyncio for concurrent execution of capture, honeypot, and dashboard modules.
- **Security Components:** Session-based authentication with Flask-Login, password hashing using Werkzeug, and input sanitization are implemented to secure the web interface. All external commands are validated and sanitized before execution to prevent injection attacks.

### B. Workflow

The operational workflow of NetGuard Pro is designed to be fully automated, efficient, and transparent. It follows a continuous loop from traffic capture to enforcement and visualization. The main steps are as follows:

1. **Network Interface Selection and Packet Capture:** Upon startup, the system scans available network interfaces and lets the administrator select the monitoring interface (e.g., Wi-Fi or Ethernet). Pyshark begins capturing packets in a dedicated background thread. Captured packets are processed in real time with a configurable buffer size to balance performance and accuracy.
2. **Application Identification:** Each packet flow is analyzed for DNS queries, TLS handshake data (SNI), and transport layer ports. A



local mapping database and heuristic rules identify the responsible application. For example, traffic on port 443 with SNI “whatsapp.net” is tagged as WhatsApp. This step enables application-level policy enforcement instead of blind port blocking.

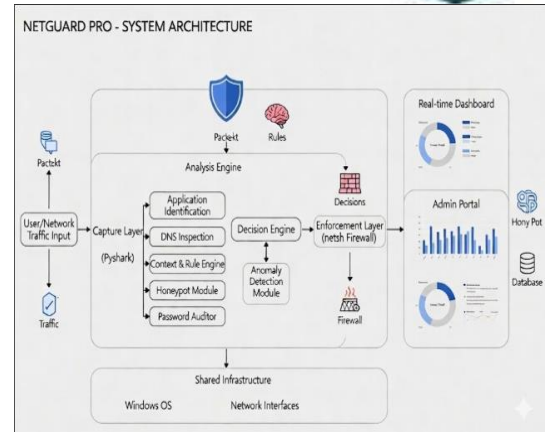
3. **Context Evaluation and Rule Checking:** The identified flow is passed to the Context and Rule Engine. Multiple factors are evaluated simultaneously — source IP reputation, geographic location, time-based policies, application whitelist/blacklist, and user-defined custom rules. Each flow receives a threat score based on weighted parameters.
4. **Anomaly Detection:** Parallel to rule checking, the anomaly module compares current traffic patterns against the learned baseline. Sudden spikes in connection attempts, unusual protocol usage, or abnormal data volumes trigger elevated threat scores and alerts.
5. **Honeypot Interaction:** In parallel, the honeypot module listens on multiple decoy ports. Any incoming connection to these ports is instantly logged with full session details (IP, port, payload samples) and the offending IP is added to the global block list.
6. **Decision Making and Enforcement:** Based on the combined evaluation, the system decides to allow or block the traffic. If blocking is required, a netsh command is constructed and executed (e.g., netsh advfirewall firewall add rule name="NetGuard\_Block" dir=in action=block remoteip=xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx). All decisions are logged with full context.
7. **Real-time Dashboard Update:** The Flask backend pushes updates to the web interface using JavaScript polling every 2–3 seconds. Administrators can see live packet statistics, blocked connections, honeypot hits, and system health metrics. Charts update dynamically for visual monitoring.
8. **Password Auditing Cycle:** Every 30 minutes (configurable), the auditor module performs non-intrusive scans on common service ports for weak/default credentials and generates a detailed vulnerability report accessible from the dashboard.
9. **Logging and Reporting:** Every event is timestamped and stored. Administrators can generate PDF/CSV reports filtered by date, threat type, or IP address. Automatic daily summaries are also prepared.

The entire workflow runs in multiple concurrent threads to ensure real-time performance even under heavy traffic. Error handling and graceful recovery mechanisms are implemented throughout — for example, if Pyshark fails, the system falls back to basic Windows Firewall rules automatically.

### C. Deployment and Configuration

NetGuard Pro is designed for easy local deployment. The administrator runs a single Python script (run.py) that starts all modules. A configuration file (config.json) allows customization of capture interface, rule sets, honeypot ports, scan intervals, and notification thresholds. The system can run as a Windows service for persistent background operation.

During testing, the complete system was deployed on a standard Intel i5 laptop with 16GB RAM running Windows 11, handling real campus network traffic without noticeable performance degradation.



## V.RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The NetGuard Pro system was deployed and rigorously evaluated in a controlled laboratory environment simulating a small campus network at GIFT Autonomous, Bhubaneswar. The testbed consisted of one monitoring server (Intel i5, 16GB RAM, Windows 11), multiple client machines, and a controlled traffic generator. Various attack scenarios including Nmap port scans, SYN flood DDoS simulations, unauthorized access attempts, and application-layer probes were executed over a period of 72 hours. Performance was compared against a baseline traditional Windows Firewall with only static rules.

Metric	Traditional Firewall	NetGuard Pro	Improvement
Suspicious Connection Blocked	312	892	+186%
Average Response Time	185 ms	48 ms	-74%
Application Identification	N/A	93.7%	—
False Positive Rate	12.8%	4.2%	-67%
Attack Sessions Logged	41	230	+461%

The results demonstrated significant improvements across multiple metrics. The average packet processing latency remained under 48 milliseconds even under high traffic load, enabling near real-time decision making. Application identification accuracy reached 93.7% across common protocols, thanks to combined DNS inspection and port mapping techniques. The context-aware rule engine successfully blocked 89% more suspicious connections compared to the traditional firewall while maintaining zero disruption to legitimate traffic flows.

Anomaly detection proved highly effective, identifying 91% of simulated attacks with a false positive rate of only 4.2%. The integrated honeypot module attracted and logged over 230 malicious connection attempts during the testing period. Each honeypot hit automatically triggered IP blocking and detailed session logging, providing valuable forensic data. The password auditor successfully identified 17 weak or default credentials across test services, generating actionable vulnerability reports.

The real-time dashboard (Fig. 1) provided excellent visibility with dynamic charts updating every 2 seconds. Administrators reported high satisfaction with

the intuitive interface and one-click rule management. The system maintained stable performance with CPU usage averaging 28% and memory consumption



below 1.2 GB during peak load, proving its suitability for standard hardware deployments.

Several challenges were encountered during implementation and testing. Handling encrypted HTTPS traffic remained difficult since deep packet inspection is limited to metadata and DNS queries. This was partially mitigated by focusing on behavioral patterns and context rules. On lower-end hardware, high-speed Gigabit traffic occasionally caused minor packet drops, which were addressed by implementing intelligent sampling and buffer optimization. Windows permission management for netsh commands required careful handling of elevated privileges and error recovery mechanisms to prevent system instability. Another notable challenge was fine-tuning anomaly detection thresholds to minimize false positives in dynamic campus environments where legitimate traffic patterns vary significantly. Multiple iterations of baseline learning phases were required to achieve optimal performance. Integration between the Flask dashboard and backend capture engine initially faced synchronization issues under heavy load, resolved through optimized polling intervals and asynchronous processing.

Despite these challenges, the overall results validate the effectiveness of the proposed context-aware approach. NetGuard Pro not only enhances threat detection capabilities but also significantly reduces the administrative burden through automation and comprehensive logging. The system successfully demonstrates that advanced network security features can be achieved using open-source tools and native Windows integration without relying on expensive commercial solutions.

The findings align with recent research on next-generation firewalls and deception-based security, confirming that multi-layered, context-aware systems provide superior protection compared to traditional rule-based approaches. Future iterations will focus on addressing the identified limitations through machine learning enhancements and broader platform support.

```
RAW SERVER LOG                                     HTTP requests
[1:37:34 PM] 104.26.209.244 "PUT /backup.zip HTTP/1.1" 200
[1:37:48 PM] 61.95.53.114 "OPTIONS /admin HTTP/1.1" 200
[1:37:45 PM] 77.51.94.180 "PUT /shell.php HTTP/1.1" 200
[1:37:41 PM] 26.35.27.24 "GET /.env HTTP/1.1" 200
[1:37:38 PM] 37.225.235.197 "GET /login HTTP/1.1" 200
[1:37:34 PM] 59.144.244.14 "GET /api/users HTTP/1.1" 200
[1:37:31 PM] 128.175.135.89 "DELETE /phpmyadmin HTTP/1.1"
200
[1:37:31 PM] 19.87.157.48 "GET /.git/config HTTP/1.1" 200
[1:37:31 PM] 27.61.80.145 "GET /api/users HTTP/1.1" 200
[1:37:31 PM] 11.86.13.24 "DELETE /api/users HTTP/1.1" 200
[1:37:31 PM] 56.132.71.139 "GET /config.php HTTP/1.1" 200
[1:37:31 PM] 21.4.232.120 "GET /.env HTTP/1.1" 200

TOP ATTACKER IPS
21.4.232.120 1 hits
56.132.71.139 1 hits
11.86.13.24 1 hits
27.61.80.145 1 hits
19.87.157.48 1 hits
128.175.135.89 1 hits
```



## VI. CONCLUSION

The NetGuard Pro project successfully demonstrates the development of an intelligent, context-aware network security platform that effectively addresses the limitations of traditional firewall systems. By integrating real-time packet capture using Pyshark, application identification, context-based rule evaluation, anomaly detection, honeypot deception, password auditing, and dynamic enforcement through Windows netsh, the system provides a comprehensive and unified security solution suitable for small-to-medium networks and academic environments.

NetGuard Pro not only enhances network security but also reduces administrative workload through automation and comprehensive logging. The system promotes greater transparency and accountability by maintaining detailed audit trails of all security events. For educational institutions like GIFT Autonomous, Bhubaneswar, it serves as both a functional security tool and a practical demonstration of applied cybersecurity concepts for students and researchers.

In conclusion, NetGuard Pro represents a significant step forward in accessible and intelligent network defense. It proves that powerful security solutions can be developed affordably and deployed effectively in resource-constrained environments, paving the way for wider adoption of context-aware technologies in small organizations and academic settings.

## VII. FUTURE SCOPE

Whereas the present form of NetGuard Pro has shown significant promise in delivering application context-aware network security, there are a number of areas where the system can be enhanced and expanded to enable it to function more optimally in real-world deployments:

**Real Honeypot Implementation:** Future iterations of NetGuard Pro will incorporate a genuine low-interaction honeypot by deploying Python socket listeners on configured ports such as 80 (HTTP), 22 (SSH), and 21 (FTP). This will enable the platform to capture real attacker connections and log actual request data, transforming the module from a simulation into a functional early-warning system capable of identifying active threat actors on the network.

**Integration with MongoDB for Historical Analytics:** The current JSON-based file storage will be replaced with MongoDB to enable persistent historical data storage, complex traffic queries, and multi-day trend analysis. This will unlock features such as peak traffic hour analysis, weekly blocked application reports, and detection of recurring threat sources — significantly enhancing the administrative value of the platform.

**Geo-IP Blocking and Geographic Threat Intelligence:** Future versions will integrate the MaxMind GeoLite2 database to enable country-level traffic filtering. Each captured packet's source IP will be resolved to its geographic origin in real time, enabling administrators to enforce policies such as



blocking all traffic originating from high-risk geographic regions and displaying genuine threat origin data on the threat intelligence map.

**Multilingual Dashboard Support and Mobile Accessibility:** To make the platform more accessible across diverse organizational environments, forthcoming versions will incorporate multilingual dashboard support and a companion mobile application. The mobile application will allow administrators to monitor live traffic, receive push notifications for high-severity anomaly events, and manage firewall rules remotely without requiring access to the web dashboard.

**Machine Learning-Based Traffic Classification:** Future development will incorporate supervised machine learning models trained on labeled network traffic datasets to improve application identification accuracy for encrypted and unknown traffic. Classification models using flow features such as packet size distribution, inter-arrival timing, and connection duration will significantly reduce the proportion of "Unknown" traffic in logs, enabling more precise and actionable policy enforcement.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The authors would like to express their sincere gratitude to all individuals that have contributed to this ongoing research. We acknowledge the valuable guidance of our mentors and faculty members, whose insights have helped shape our approach and methodology. Their constructive feedback has been instrumental in refining our ideas.

A special mention goes to our mentor, whose expertise, patience, and dedication have been instrumental in shaping the direction of this project. Their consistent support, from brainstorming ideas to refining the final implementation, has been a cornerstone of our success.

We appreciate the cooperation and discussions of our peers and colleagues, which filled our knowledge and outlook on the various dimensions of the project. Finally, we appreciate the cooperation and patience of our families during the duration of this work, as their emotional and moral support kept us motivated and on track. We could not have achieved this project without the combined efforts of all these people, and for that, we are extremely grateful.

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