

## Discovery of Malicious Intruders in Cloud Environment Violating Service Level Agreements

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**Abstract:** Many researchers have carried out lots of analysis for intrusion detection and finding the defense techniques for malicious insiders in cloud systems. Most of the existing works have discussed malicious insiders of cloud systems theoretically. In this proposed work, an Intrusion detection system named Malicious Insider detector (MID) is designed and implemented with artificial neural network (ANN) to detect malicious insiders. This work describes the malicious insiders as who are disobeying the Service Level Agreements (SLA) in cloud IaaS to distress and reject the cloud resources. This system uses bandwidth utilization (BU), memory utilization (MU) and storage utilization (SU) as SLA attributes. In this work, Malicious Insider detector system is simulated and performance is measured. The performance analysis shows that this system is efficient, capable to detect the malicious insiders' intimidations. The feasible investigation on the concert demonstrates that malicious insider detector module is being capable to determine and detect the malicious insiders with high detection rate.

**Keywords:** ANN, Artificial neural network, cloud computing, Intrusion detection malicious insiders,

### 1. Introduction

Cloud computing is the on demand emerging storage and processing innovation that promotes redesigned data innovation through adaptable configuration of assets. Methods for designing an effective resource management technique [12] have also shown that effective resource allocating between multiple customers takes into account power saving, service-level agreements, and network traffic simulation.

A Malicious Insider detector (MID) that can use ANN is suggested in this paper. Each algorithm's concert is evaluated individually to get the algorithm grouping that ensures a resource-effective cloud data center structure. This Malicious Insider detector approach yields

optimized concertbuilt on somecrucialconcert indicators, such as Bandwidth Utilization, Memory utilization and storage utilization for also the entirestructure or the termination-user.

The objective of the proposed method is to detect the malicious insiders [1, 3] abuse the SLA.This paper utilizes three attributes of SLA which uses 1.Bandwidth utilization, 2. Memory utilization and 3. Storage utilization. In cloud systems, the hypervisor layer [15,23] can be designed as a monitoring and control layer that examines multiple operating systems that are running on a hardware platform. The cloud system provides storage resources through the IaaS that make use of cloud virtualization technology. The proposed system aims to design a detection system called as Malicious Insider detector at hypervisor layer, to determine the malicious insiders affecting the cloud resources. This proposed system is developed with artificial neural network (ANN) modeling. The Levenberg-Marquardt (LM) back propagation

supervised learning algorithm) algorithm for ANN is used to train and test the malicious insider detector.

## 2. Related works

Besides the researches about malicious insider treats, many researchers have established the way to prevent information leakage and reducedamages caused by MIs.But still, the cloud system compliances with security threats. Subsequently, the security threats and risks introduced by the cloud computing system should be clearly identified and understood. Cloud security alliance [11, 21] prepared document for top threats on cloud computing and their implications. The cloud security threats described are datafissures, dataforfeiture, account or service traffic hijacking, Insecure interfaces and APIs, abuse of cloud servicesdenial of service attack, malicious insiders, insufficient due to diligence,shared expertise vulnerabilities.

Many of the existing malware detection system usespacket sniffers,access control [28],key loggers, backdoor analysis [6] to detect privacy breaching malware activities.And also, many researchers have used network profilebased technique for malware detection [26], behavior based malware detection [8, 24], and dynamic analysis system [2, 4] for detecting malware actions in cloud environment.

The authors William et al, [20] discussed insider's threat in three different perspectives and analyses the structure of cloud system. They have described the nature of malicious insider as. 1. Malevolent insider owing to dishonest cloud administrator, 2. The worker in the organization who reveals the private information to others 3.Insider who uses cloud resources to annoy the infrastructures. However, there is no exact solution to detect the attackers.

To protect the cloud environment, most ofthe researchers proposednumerous methods including, a secure virtualized architecture [15], architecture for insider threat security reference (ITSRA) [18] and architecture named as CSAViD (Cloud Application SLA Violation Detection Architecture) [16]where the organizations have to pose the adequate security controls.

The authors, Hai Jin et al [30]developed a component called VMFence to detect malicious activity in cloud using Virtual machine monitor (VMM) which isadditional computationally complex. This model orders for occurrence patternsapproaching through all VMs linked to the honored VM.Muqtyar et al [22] have utilized fog computing technique to put off malicious insiders byperplexing the masquerader. Perceptibly, decoying IT to confuse the attacker is more complex.

The researchers, Xuxian Jiang et al [5] developed VMWatcher component toidentify the malware activities that aims at supporting especially anti-malware software for outsider attacks. To work with the dynamic nature of cloud, the IDS should be developed at the cloud

virtualization layer to monitor and manage the dynamic environment. The author Amjad Hussain Bhat [27] et al designed VMM based IDS to perceive the cloud attacks. Two distinct machine learning algorithms are used by the virtual machine monitor based intrusion detection system. There are two approaches: 1. Naïve Bayes classifier. 2. A mix of Naïve Bayes and Random Forest hybrid approach.

An anomaly detection system at the hypervisor layer was developed by the authors Pandeewari N and Ganeshkumar P [31]. A hybrid algorithm was developed to improve the accuracy of the detection method by combining the Fuzzy C-Means clustering algorithm and the Artificial Neural Network (FCM-ANN). This model is trained and validated with the KDD cup dataset from DARPA, specifically developed for the IDS dataset. By using the fuzzy systems with neural network adaptation and learning skills called the adaptive neuro-fuzzy inference system (ANFIS) model, the authors Ganeshkumar P and Pandeewari N [32] have developed a cloud anomaly detection system at hypervisor. A hybrid algorithm is used to train this framework, where the technique of back propagation gradient descent is combined with the least square method.

Though there are lot of cloud attack detection systems have been designed, still the system suffers with security breaches. Hence, the proposed scheme aims to provide a better solution for cloud insider attack. Here, the detection system, MID is designed by using ANN modeling and LM algorithm to detect the malicious insiders privilege the virtual cloud and this proposed work is compared ANN [27].

### 3. Malicious Insider Detection

Cloud virtualization expertise encourages large amount of users to utilize the cloud infrastructure for low cost. Virtualization defines [13] as the virtual version of hardware, application, operating system, and etc. Cloud system delivering online services encounters vulnerabilities in and around the virtual environment. Cloud service provider (CSP) is responsible for providing services. Service Level Agreements play a significant role in service providers. These agreements helps in selection of different cloud service providers [25] based on their necessities. Cloud service providers [19] wish to provide resource efficiently according to the service level agreements (SLA) guaranteeing to minimize the SLA violations and maximizing resource consumptions. In some conditions, users can violate the SLAs by sending large resource request, while accessing the cloud services.

This paper discusses the malicious insiders as the authorized users who are contravening the SLAs. The features of SLA's [19] are 1. Bandwidth utilization, 2. Memory utilization and 3. Storage utilization. The deceiving cloud administrator, who is being lacking in control over cloud service provider, was not capable to identify the behavior of users. The virtual machine monitor (VMM), called hypervisor provides abstraction layer between the real and virtual machines that can be able to monitor and manage the activities of virtual clients. The proposed system uses the abilities of hypervisor to monitor the virtual clients requesting for resources in virtual environment. The proposed system is designed with artificial neural network modeling technique to have a better categorization [9] of user's activity. The training algorithm, Levenberg-Marquardt (LM) back propagation (supervised learning algorithm) is used to train the MID component. Each factor is assigned with some adaptive threshold values dynamically such that  $BT_{thres}$ ,  $MT_{thres}$  and  $SCT_{thres}$  for bandwidth utilization, memory utilization and storage utilization respectively. The Levenberg – Marquardt algorithm [17], developed by Kenneth Levenberg and Donald Marquardt provides better solution to the problem of reducing a nonlinear problem. The author Tummala Pradeep [16] describes the importance of LM training algorithm for ANN. The following algorithm.1 explains how this procedure works.

### Algorithm 1

{Algorithm for detecting malicious insiders}

Input: {BT, MT, SCT}

Let  $BT$  – bandwidthutilization

$MT$  – memoryutilization

$SCT$  – storageutilization

(BT, MT, SCT) attributes of SLA

Assume  $BT_{thres}$ ,  $MT_{thres}$  and  $SCT_{thres}$  be adaptive threshold value for bandwidth utilization, memory utilization and storage utilization respectively.

Output: {malicious insider, allowable users}

For  $i = 1$  to  $n$

$n$ : users

beginfor

if  $BT > BT_{thres}$  then

return %malicious insider %

elseif  $MT > MT_{thres}$  then

return %malicious insider%

elseif  $SCT > SCT_{thres}$  then

return%malicious insider %

else

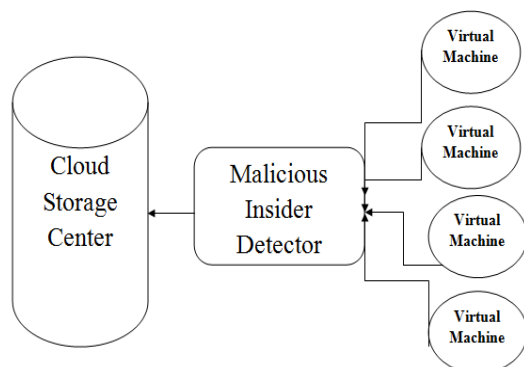
return %allow the resource allocation%

endif

end for

Hypervisor [15] is the cloud software, acting as the supervisory control to examine and manage the virtual machines running on the same hardware platform. For the flexible and fine grained access control for efficient resource sharing, thereby avoiding the problems with direct user-resource mapping, domain based decentralized approach [14] can be used. The virtual machines execute the guest operating systems. Virtual operating systems share the resources of virtualized hardware on host machines where the hypervisor controls the virtual operating platform. The hypervisor manages the amount of access, based on the requirements of guest OSes. The different hypervisors [30] are XEN, Virtual PC and VMware.

The cloud hypervisor based Malicious Insider Detector component is illustrated in Fig .1



**Fig. 1 Malicious Insider Detector component**

#### 4. Malicious Insider Detector modeled with ANN

The Malicious Insider Detector is designed using artificial neural network modeling that utilizes the back propagation algorithm [10]. The conventional organization techniques necessitate a lot of computational power, memory and CPU resources for the larger data sets. ANN is the most predictable learning technique [7] for machine learning methods to advance the intelligent system concept. ANN [9] is the very significant modeling tool to make classification precisely [29] where the conventional categorization is difficult. ANN is an effective tool to replicate the capability of human brain mathematically. Neural network contains a group of neurons which is the essential processing unit. With numerous neurons working simultaneously, the brain can stimulate quick and improved results. According to the same method, ANN works with various neurons simultaneously to improve the performance. The artificial neural network amplifies the knowledge to predict the knowledge either by supervised or unsupervised learning techniques. The supervised back propagation learning method uses the input and output condition, where the training takes place iteratively by using a set of training samples. The concept of the learning technique is restrained in terms of false alarm rate, which is the difference between predicted result and actual result. The false alarm rate has to be minimized by adjusting weights. The feed forward neural network (multilayer perceptron network) is used to design the malicious insider detector.

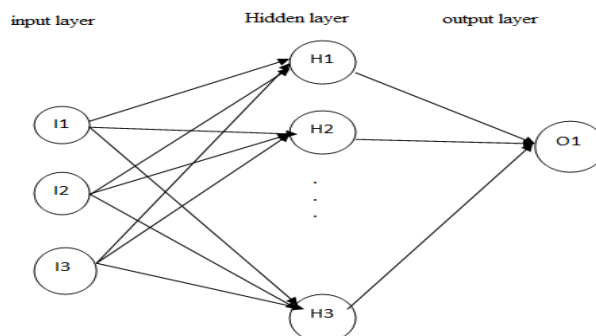
Artificial Neural Network can be defined by the following:

1. The interconnection along with the neurons in different layers.
2. The training process for adjusting the weights of interconnections.
3. The activation purpose: The outcome of the layers is forwarded to the next layers where the outputs are produced using the sigmoid function.

This system has three layers

1. Input layer with three input neurons
2. Hidden layer with 30 hidden computational neurons
3. Output layer with one output neuron. The feed forward network works in forward direction layer by layer.

The Fig. 2 illustrates artificial neural network modeling for Malicious Insider Detector.



**Fig.2 ANN modeling for Malicious Insider Detector**

The net input  $\bar{x}$  of a neuron is calculated as

$$\bar{x}_j = \sum_i w_{ij} x_i + w_j \quad (1)$$

The output of a neuron is defined as,

$$x_j = f(\bar{x}_j) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-\bar{x}_j)} \quad (2)$$

Where,

$x_j$  – output of neuron  $j$

$w_{ij}$  – weight associated with connection between neurons  $i$  and  $j$

$w_j$  – bias of node  $j$

$f$  – *logisticsigmoidfunction (activationfunction)*

The performance of the malicious insider detector component model is validated in terms of false alarm rate and linear correlation coefficient (R). The objective of LM algorithm is to minimize the MSE and to obtain the value nearest to zero.

The false error value is determined as,

$$E = \frac{1}{p} \sum_{k=1}^p E_m \quad (3)$$

$E_m$  – *canbecalculatedas,*

$$E_m = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n (d_k - x_k)^2 \quad (4)$$

Where,

$p$  – *numberoftrainingpatterns*

$E_m$  – *errorvaluefortrainingpatternm*

The intend of LM algorithm is to offer second order working speed without calculating Hessian matrix.

The Hessian matrix can be approximated as,

$$H = J^T J \quad (5)$$

and gradient value can be calculated as

$$g = J^T \varepsilon \quad (6)$$

Where,

$J$  – *Jacobianmatrix*

$\varepsilon$  – *errorvalue*

To get the gradient value, the error term  $\varepsilon_j$  for neuron  $j$  is described as,

$$\varepsilon_j = \frac{\partial E_m}{\partial \bar{x}_j} = \frac{\partial \sum (d_k - x_k)^2}{\partial \bar{x}_j} \quad (7)$$

The recursive equations for  $\varepsilon_j$  can be described using chain rule

$$\varepsilon_j = \begin{cases} -2(d_j - x_j) \frac{\partial x_j}{\partial \bar{x}_j} = -2(d_j - x_j) x_j (1 - x_j), & \text{if } j \text{ is output neuron} \\ \frac{\partial x_j}{\partial \bar{x}_j} \sum_{k, j < k} \frac{\partial E_m}{\partial \bar{x}_k} \frac{\partial x_j}{\partial \bar{x}_j} = x_j (1 - x_j) \sum_{k, j \leq k} \varepsilon_k w_{jk}, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

Where,

$w_{jk}$  – *connectionweightfromjtok*

if  $w_{jk}$  is zero, then no direct connection between  $j$  and  $k$ , then

$$\Delta w_{jk} = -\eta \frac{\partial E}{\partial w_{jk}} = -\eta \sum_p \frac{\partial E}{\partial w_{jk}} \quad (9)$$

Where,

$\eta$  – *learningrate*

Learning rate influences the convergence speed and stability of the weights during learning. So,

$$\Delta w = -\eta \Delta_w E \quad (10)$$

Here,

$$E = \sum_m E_m \quad (11)$$

To increase the speed of the training process, momentum term can be used as follows,

$$\Delta w = -\eta \Delta_w E + \alpha \Delta w_{prev} \quad (12)$$

Where,

$w_{prev}$  – momentum term; previous updated constant

The linear correlation coefficient (R) can be computed as,

$$R = \frac{N \sum_{m=1}^N d_m x_m - (\sum_{m=1}^N d_p)(\sum_{m=1}^N x_m)}{\sqrt{[N \sum_{m=1}^N d_m^2 - (\sum_{m=1}^N d_p)^2] \times [N \sum_{m=1}^N x_m^2 - (\sum_{m=1}^N x_m)^2]}} \quad (13)$$

Where,

$d_m$  – desired value(target)

$x_m$  – output value from  $m^{th}$  pattern

$N$  – number of patterns

The performance analysis is made against the three different factors, 1.bandwidth utilization.2.memory utilization.3.storage utilization and the performance graphs are shown in figures 2, 3, 4 respectively.

## 5. Experimental results

The Malicious Insider Detector is designed with ANN modeling that uses Levenberg-Marquardt (LM) training algorithm. For the implementation of malicious insider detector component, VMware cloud is installed on ubuntu OS. The malicious insider detector was installed in VMware ESX. The licentious form of VM was enabled. The virtual network was formed. The malicious insider detector is used to observe and examine the virtual traffic between VMs and cloud server. The malicious insider detector analyses activities of virtual machines and captures packets intended for cloud services. The concert of the malicious insider detector is leisurely in terms of training performance. The training performance shows how well system is modeled. Besides testing and validation performances are analyzed. The percentage of data used for training, validation and testing are 90%, 25% and 25% respectively.

### 5.1 Performance analysis

In this work, the proposed system Malicious Insider Detector is tested with three service level agreement parameters such as bandwidth utilization, memory utilization and storage utilization. Each parameter is assigned with adaptive threshold value. The performance of this system is measured in terms of false alarm rate.

#### 5.1.1 Bandwidth utilization

The bandwidth requirement is considered as the parameter for Service Level Agreements [19]. The Malicious Insider Detector component supervises the activities of cloud VMs. This can detect the maximum bandwidth requirement requested by the virtual client based on the adaptive threshold value. The Fig 3. shows the training, validation and testing performance of Malicious Insider Detector for bandwidth requirement.

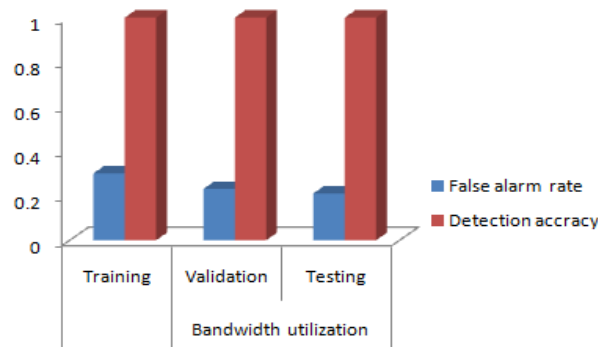
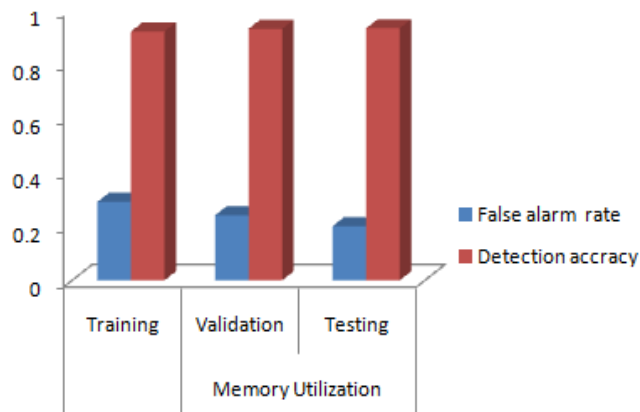


Fig 3. Performance analysis against bandwidth requirement

The Fig.3 shows the false alarm value nearer to zero and detection accuracy value nearer to one. From this it is observed that how well the component has been trained to detect the malicious insiders with minimum error.

### 5.1.2 Memory Utilization

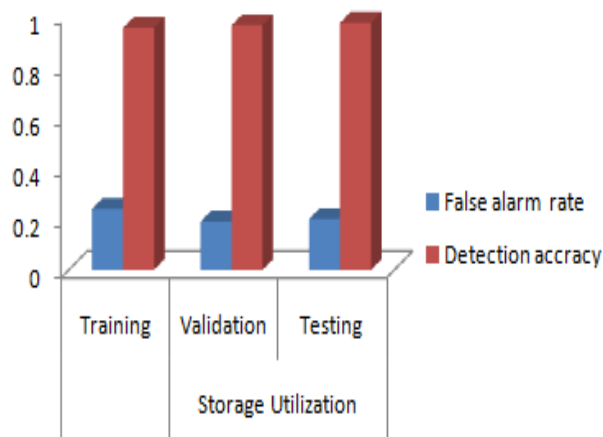
The memory utilization is one of the factors of Service Level Agreements [19].The cloud virtual machines which is requesting for large memory utilization ( greater than memory utilization threshold) is recognized as malicious activity inside the cloud. The Fig.4 shows MSE and regression value for training, validation and testing performance of Malicious Insider Detector against memory utilization requirement. From Fig. 4, it is experiential that how well the Malicious Insider Detector component has been skilled to discover the malicious insider with low false alarm rate. The false alarm rate and detection accuracy (R) values of training, validation and testing are nearer to zero and one respectively.



**Fig 4.Performance analysis against memory utilization**

### 5.1.3 Storage Utilization

The cloud users are enabled to use the storage as a service provided by cloud computing. However the users acquiring the agreement for resource usage should follow that one. The storage capacity requirement is also one of the factors of Service Level Agreements [19].The cloud virtual machines request for maximum storage capacity (greater than maximum threshold for storage capacity) is determined as malware within cloud. The Fig.5 shows that how well the Malicious Insider Detector component has been skilled to determine the malicious insider with little error overhead.

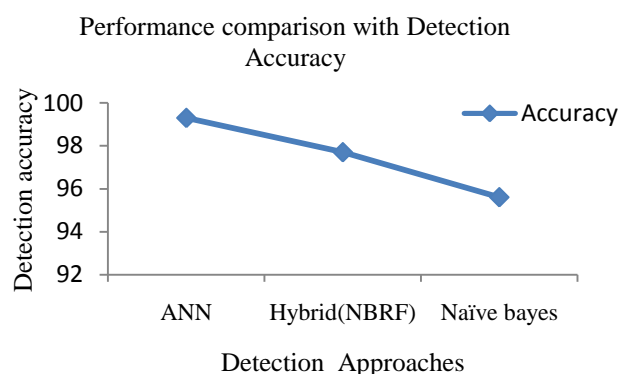


**Fig 5. Performance analysis against storage utilization**

Fig. 5 values show that the training, validation and testing performance of Malicious Insider Detector for storage utilization. The mean squared error and Regression (R) values of training, validation and testing are nearer to zero and one respectively.

The result performance analysis shows that the proposed component is designed with minimal false alarm rate and also shows that the detection accuracy nearest to one. The Figures (3-5) shows that mean squared values for each of the SLA parameters for training, validation, and testing values. From the obtained results, it is observed that the Malicious Insider Detector is designed well and it can be able to detect malicious insiders attacking cloud resources efficiently.

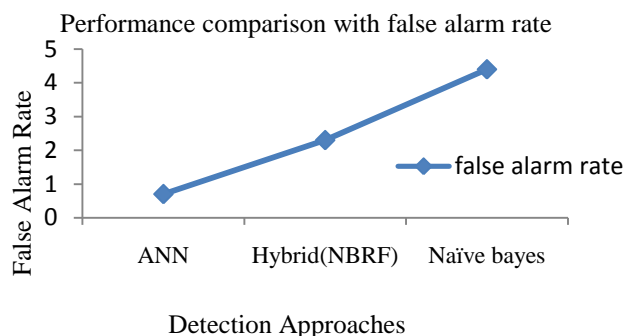
However for the performance analysis of IDS, the factors detection accuracy and false alarm rate are considered as the significant factors. The performance of Malicious Insider Detector is compared with IDS proposed by Naïve Bayes and hybrid approach (Naïve Bayes with Random Forest) [NBRF] [27]. The Figures 6 and 7 show that performance comparison of Malicious Insider Detector with the methods developed by Amjad Hussain, B et al [27] in which they have used Naïve Bayes classifier and a hybrid approach (NBRF).



**Fig. 6 Output comparison of proposed Naïve Bayes work and hybrid approach (Naïve Bayes with Random Forest) using detection accuracy**

In Fig.6, the Malicious Insider Detector is compared with an IDS which is developed with Naïve Bayes and the hybrid approach against detection accuracy. The Fig.6 shows that when compared to the intrusion detection systems built using Naïve bayes and Hybrid NBRF

method, the detection precision of Malicious Insider Detector is relatively high.



**Fig. 7** Output comparison of proposed Naïve Bayes work and hybrid approach (Naïve Bayes with Random Forest) in terms of False Alarm Rate.

The Fig.7 shows the comparison of the Malicious Insider Detector with IDS which is developed with Naïve Bayes and the hybrid approach against false alarm rate. From the Fig.7, it is experimental shows that false alarm rate of Malicious Insider Detector is very low when compared with the intrusion detection systems established by using Naïve bayes and Hybrid NBRF approach.

From Fig.6 and 7, the Malicious Insider Detector established with ANN produces high detection accuracy and low false alarm rate when linked with the approaches 1. Naïve Bayes and 2. Hybrid NBRF approach respectively.

## 6. Conclusion

This proposed malicious insider detector offers a best governing system called Malicious Insider Detector to perceive the malicious insiders in virtual cloud setting where the cloud is managed by a single cloud managing domain shared with absence of control over the cloud service provider (CSP). Here, the best classification technique ANN modeling is used to design the malicious insider detector. The proposed method uses threshold values for SLA parameters to detect the malicious insiders. From the performance comparison it can be observed that the Malicious Insider Detector can be the best one to detect malware actions. The Malicious Insider Detector designed with ANN has high detection accuracy and low false alarm rate. Hence, this could be the efficient, robust and immediate to practical system to identify malicious insiders in the cloud environment.

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