Federated Learning for Privacy-Preserving Intrusion Detection: A Systematic Review, Taxonomy, Challenges, and Future Directions

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Abstract

This paper presents a systematic review of intrusion detection systems (IDS) that leverage federated learning (FL) to enhance privacy in distributed cybersecurity environments. A total of 78 peer-reviewed studies published between 2019 and 2024 were selected using PRISMA guidelines. We categorize FL-based IDS solutions based on architecture (centralized, decentralized, hierarchical), aggregation methods (e.g., FedAvg, DAFL), and privacy-preserving techniques (e.g., differential privacy, homomorphic encryption). The survey also examines solutions to key challenges such as communication overhead, data heterogeneity, and poisoning attacks. Furthermore, this study outlines unresolved issues and proposes future research directions, including adaptive federated optimization and cross-domain deployments. This review serves as a valuable resource for researchers and practitioners aiming to develop privacy-aware, scalable, and intelligent IDS using federated learning.

Keywords: Federated Learning; Intrusion Detection; Data Privacy; Cyber security.

1- Introduction

Cybersecurity threats continue to grow in complexity and scale, posing significant risks to individuals, organizations, and critical infrastructure. Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS) play a vital role in identifying unauthorized activities and protecting digital assets. While machine learning (ML)-based IDSs have improved detection accuracy, most rely on centralized architectures that require aggregating raw data from multiple sources raising serious privacy concerns. Regulatory frameworks such as GDPR and HIPAA further restrict data sharing across entities. As a result, there is an urgent need for privacy-preserving IDS solutions that can operate effectively across distributed environments without exposing sensitive data.

Cybersecurity threats are a most important problem in today's world, which is becoming more digital and interrelated by the day. They pose a threat not only to individual privacy but also to the working constancy of industries and national infrastructure. Networked system vulnerabilities are often used by malicious actors to get illegal access, bargain confidential data, hinder services, or expose data integrity [1]. These risks encompass a wide variety of attacks, such as ransomware, phishing, denial-of-service (DoS), zero-day exploits, and Advanced Persistent Threats (APTs). Thus, it is more significant than ever to have defense mechanisms that are both smart and active. By continuously seeing system behavior, network traffic, and user actions, intrusion detection systems (IDS) play a vital part in the defense ecosystem by catching infrequent or doubtful patterns that could point to cyber intrusions [2][3]. IDS must progress to become more accurate, flexible, and proactive in present threat detection while reducing false positives and assuring system scalability, seeing the dynamic character of cyberattacks and their growing complexity.

Traditional IDS technologies have advanced, especially those that use deep learning (DL) and machine learning (ML) for anomaly detection, but there are still a number of noteworthy matters that necessitate being addressed. The centralized architectures used by the mainstream of ML-

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based IDS methods combine raw data from several terminations into a single server for training and valuation. However, this pattern presents thoughtful risks to data privacy because it may expose private user data during transmission or storage, including IP logs, user IDs, medical histories, or personal behavioural patterns [4][5]. Administrations are also regularly unable or grudging to share data outside of their locations due to ethical, lawful, and regulatory restrictions like GDPR, HIPAA, and data authority laws. This leads to disjointed datasets with little variety, which makes it harder to detect attacks in real-world surroundings and causes biased learning and poor generalization [6]. Strong intrusion detection model training is additionally difficult due to class inequality, data sparsity, non-IID (non-independent and identically distributed) data distributions, and altering attack signatures. Structuring a safe, supportive, and scalable IDS therefore needs tackling these privacy and data distribution problems.

Federated Learning (FL), which protects user privacy while taking the disadvantages of centralized learning, has become a game-changer. Without sharing raw data, it allows numerous clients like distributed organizations, edge nodes, or IoT devices to work together to train a common global model [7][8]. Private data is kept local and secure because only model updates such as weights or inclines are sent. IDS applications, where privacy and security are vital, are preferably right for this distributed learning framework. FL is extremely applicable to businesses like finance, healthcare, perilous infrastructure, and smart cities because it permits administrations to gain from shared knowledge and model development without exposing sensitive data [9][10][11]. Additionally, new progress in FL includes privacy-enhancing skills such as secure multiparty computation (SMC), homomorphic encryption, blockchain-based authentication, and differential privacy [12][13]. These protections raise confidence, lower the possibility of privacy destruction, and promise robust protection against aggressive movements like model inversion and data poisoning. FL thus encourages a cooperative cybersecurity ecosystem in addition to addressing the disadvantages of data sharing [14][15].

Even though there is a rising amount of study on the use of FL in IDS, there are still a number of noteworthy gaps. A detailed framework for comparing FL-IDS models across significant sizes, including model aggregation strategies (e.g., FedAvg, FedProx, DAFL), privacy-preserving techniques (e.g., differential privacy, SMC), system architectures (e.g., centralized vs. hierarchical FL), and practical deployment circumstances, is missing in many formerly published works that focus on developing particular FL algorithms or privacy techniques [16][17]. Moreover, the mainstream of study disregards the trade-offs between accuracy, latency, communication overhead, and resource consumption, all of which are dangerous for applying FL in surroundings with partial resources, like edge networks and the Internet of Things [18][19]. It is also challenging for experts and investigators to accept or enlarge upon current solutions due to the lack of discussion surrounding benchmark datasets, performance evaluation metrics, and scalability across various domains. An embattled, inclusive, and prepared investigation of FL precisely within the IDS domain is lacking, despite the fact that previous reviews have examined FL and IDS autonomously [20]. By presenting a thorough literature review that highlights problems, classifies approaches, and proposes future research paths, this work fills that knowledge gap.

FL is a machine learning method that enables the development of models across decentralized edge computers or servers holding local data samples without requiring data exchange. This paradigm for collaborative learning is especially pertinent when discussing privacy issues with intrusion detection systems (IDS). For efficient training and pattern recognition, traditional intrusion detection systems frequently need access to private and sensitive data. However, there are serious privacy concerns associated with gathering and centralizing such data. FL offers a promising solution by allowing ML models to be trained on distributed data without requiring central data sharing.

This paper's major goal is to offer a wide and systematic overview of the state-of-the-art in Federated Learning for Intrusion Detection Systems (FL-IDS) from 2019 to 2024. Using prearranged presence and elimination criteria, 78 peer-reviewed articles in all were selected from reputable digital libraries, including IEEE Xplore, ACM Digital Library, ScienceDirect, and SpringerLink.

The following are the contributions made by this survey:

- System architecture, combination plans, privacy mechanisms, and application areas (such as IoT, IIoT, 5G, and healthcare) are used to classify FL-IDS methods.
- It examines methods for refining privacy, such as adversarial defense, differential privacy, and secure aggregation.
- It highlights significant problems and restrictions like federated poisoning attacks, data heterogeneity, and communication overhead.
- With an emphasis on edge computing, cross-domain transfer, adaptive FL models, and real-time IDS deployment, it gives a research roadmap and future directions.

This paper's residual segments are arranged as follows: The paper is resolved with final perceptions and practical implications in Section 6. Section 4 deliberates significant open challenges; Section 5 summarizes future research directions; Section 3 analyses and classifies existing FL-

IDS methods; and Section 2 presents the basic ideas of IDS and FL and highlights privacy challenges.

2- Foundations and Literature Overview

FL entails cooperatively updating models across decentralized devices. Let's represent the key components, Global Model parameters θ and Local model parameters for device i is θi The global objective function F(θ) is typically defined as the average of local objective functions across all devices:

$$F(\theta) = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=0}^{n} f(\theta i) \qquad (1)$$

Here n is the overall quantity of devices, $f(\theta i)$ shows local objective function for device i At each iteration, each device i computes a local update Δθi by minimizing its local objective function as

$$\Delta\theta_i = arg\ min\ \Delta\theta\ fi(\theta_i + \Delta\theta_i) \qquad (2)$$

The local model updates $\Delta\theta_i$ subsequently communicated to a centralized server for compilation and global models updated by aggregating the local updates as,

$$\theta \leftarrow \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}(\theta_i + \Delta\theta_i) \qquad (3)$$

The process of local updates, communication, and aggregation is repeated for multiple iterations or until convergence.

Federated Learning (FL), which redefines the conventional data-centric techniques, emerges as a promising paradigm that addresses these issues and changes the intrusion detection landscape [21]. In federated learning, businesses, manufacturers, or devices that interact with data are considered clients, and each client's data privacy is preserved [22]. Clients build identical deep local models and train them with their own datasets. On the cloud center server, create a global depth model with the same framework as the local model [23]. Through constant communication between the training's central server and several clients, the global and local models are transferred as shown in figure1. In order to accomplish particular learning tasks, a global depth model with outstanding performance is ultimately jointly established. The two primary stages of a federated learning scenario are local update and global aggregation, to put it briefly [24]. This illustrates how clients can share and profit from each other's data through FL without having to send private information to a central server. Federated Learning, with its decentralized model training paradigm, provides a novel solution that prioritizes protecting sensitive user data privacy while simultaneously improving intrusion detection models' accuracy and efficiency. In this extensive analysis, we examine the complementary nature of FL and IDS, delving into the subtleties of this innovative technology and its revolutionary effects on cybersecurity privacy protection [25][26].

The purpose of this survey is to present an in-depth study of the difficulties posed by centralized intrusion detection systems (IDS) models, highlighting the privacy implications that are now a major topic in the discussion of network security [27][28]. By keeping aim to clarify how this decentralized learning paradigm minimizes privacy concerns while preserving intrusion detection effectiveness by delving into the core ideas of federated learning [29][30]. This paper a look into the future where the combination of decentralized machine learning and cybersecurity strengthens digital defences and upholds the fundamental right to privacy in an increasingly connected world as we navigate the complexities of Federated Learning for enhanced privacy in Intrusion Detection Systems [31]. This is a journey that goes beyond traditional boundaries.
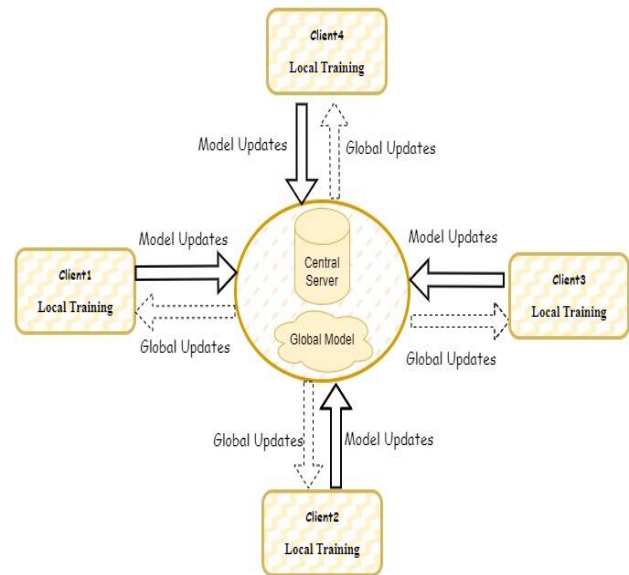

Fig1: Federated Learning System in Generalized Format

Table-1 provides a summary of the definitions of the abbreviations used in the paper in order to aid with comprehension.

Table 1: Common abbreviations listed with explanations

Acronym	Definition
FL	Federated Learning
IDS	Intrusion Detection Systems
NIDS	Network Intrusion Detection systems
DAFL	Dynamic Weighted Aggregation Federated Learning
FPR	False Positive Rates
TPR	True Positive Rates

IOT	Internet of Things
DAFL	Dynamic Weighted Aggregation Federated Learning
SMC	Secure Multiparty Computation
ACGAN	Auxiliary Classifier Generative Adversarial Networks

2-1- Federated Learning (FL) Applications in Cyber Security

FL has garnered significant interest in the field of cybersecurity, particularly in relation to intrusion detection systems (IDS). FL allows collaborative learning while preserving data confidentiality and locality. In order to prevent data privacy violations, a novel architecture known as Decentralized and Online Federated Learning Intrusion Detection (DOF-ID) has been proposed. This architecture enables each intrusion detection system to learn from expertise obtained in other systems [32]. An alternative method is the DAFL scheme, which better detects intrusions with less communication overhead by implementing adaptive selection and balancing strategies for local models. [33]. In this regard, FL has great promise, as demonstrated by Campos [34] and Ferrag [35], who particularly point out that FL is more accurate and private than non-federated learning. Alazab [36] highlights the technology's potential for real-time cybersecurity by offering a thorough overview of FL models for authentication, privacy, trust management, and attack detection. A hybrid ensemble approach for FL-based IDS in IoT security is presented by Chatterjee [37], which achieves low FPR and high TPR on both clean and noisy data.

2-2- Privacy-Enhancing Techniques in FL-IDS

According to Ruzafa-Alcazar's [38] evaluation of differential privacy techniques, using Fed+ yields result that are comparable to those of non-privacy-preserving techniques. But it does not provide a comprehensive analysis of the communication and computational overhead associated with the application of such techniques in resource-constrained IIoT scenarios. When Ansam Khraisat [39] evaluates Federated Learning against conventional deep learning models, Federated Learning outperforms the latter in terms of accuracy and loss, especially in situations where data security and privacy are prioritized. Federated mimic learning, a novel approach put forth by Al-Marri [40], mixes mimic learning and federated learning to produce a distributed intrusion detection system that poses the least risk to users' privacy but this research has several shortcomings: it does not examine potential vulnerabilities, does not compare the suggested solution with other privacy-preserving methods, and raises scalability issues. It also does not address

computational and communication overhead. In 2020, Yang presents privacy-preserving protocols that use cryptographic techniques to safeguard participant parameter data in Federated Learning [41]. To safeguard identity privacy, a lightweight linkable ring signature scheme is suggested in [42].

Among the multiple techniques, one technique is to securely compute patient-level similarity scores amongst hospitals using Secure Multiparty Computation (SMC), which allows patient clustering without sharing patient-level data [43]. In order to ensure privacy guarantees, the Federated Learning framework incorporates differential privacy (DP), which involves adding calibrated noises. This approach has been applied to the Federated Averaging algorithm, resulting in the ULQ-DP-FedAvg [44]. Additionally, the Fed+ aggregation function produced comparable results even with the addition of noise to the federated training process when differential privacy techniques were evaluated for training a FL-enabled IDS for industrial IoT [45]. These methods seek to protect sensitive data in Federated Learning for IDS while solving issues related to privacy.

The effectiveness of FL in IDS has been evaluated taking into account data heterogeneity, non-independent and identically distributed (non-IID) data, and data privacy concerns. One study found that non-IID data had an impact on FL performance and proposed a FL data rebalancing method based on ACGAN [46]. An additional study evaluated the effectiveness of FL IDS solutions with respect to deep neural networks (DNNs) and deep belief networks (DBNs) using a realistic dataset of IoT network traffic. In order to lessen the effects of data heterogeneity, they investigated pre-training and different aggregation techniques [47]. An MCDM framework was also developed in order to standardize and benchmark ML-based IDSs utilized in FL structure for IoT app development. The framework included standardizing assessment criteria, developing an evaluation decision matrix, benchmarking, and using MCDM techniques to select the best IDSs. [48].

The application of Hierarchical Federated Learning (HFL) and Federated Averaging (FedAvg) to enhance the speed and precision of Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS) in Internet of Things applications is highlighted by Saadat [49] and Lazzarini [50]. However, Federated Adaptive Gradient Methods (Federated AGMs) are presented by Tong [51] as a possible advancement over current techniques, especially when handling non-IID and unbalanced data. More emphasis is placed on the necessity of ongoing study and analysis of various approaches in practical settings by Campos [52], particularly in the framework of IoT. Furthermore, distinct data rebalancing strategies and aggregation techniques, like auxiliary classifier generative adversarial networks (ACGAN), can lessen the detrimental effects of non-IID data on FL. To

deal with the heterogeneity of data, models, and computation, Full Heterogeneous Federated Learning (FHFL) creates synthetic data, aggregates models using knowledge distillation, and makes use of idle computing resources [53]. These approaches allow for cooperative model training in FL for IDS while maintaining privacy protection. Table-2 lists the different datasets that have been used in previous research.

Table-2 The data sets used in related research

Datasets
NSL-KDD dataset: 125,973 training records, 22,544 test records, used for network intrusion detection
ToN_IoT dataset: 83 features, 4,404,084 samples
NSL-KDD dataset
NSL-KDD dataset for Federated Learning in IoT intrusion detection evaluation.
MNIST and UCI Human Activity Recognition Dataset
Bot-IoT dataset, the MQTTset dataset, and the TON_IoT dataset

In terms of reliability, effectiveness, and adaptability, federated learning (FL) has shown promising results for intrusion detection system (IDS) applications. Without distributing the raw data, FL allows for ML/DL models to be trained on network traffic data gathered from several edge devices [54]. Internet of Medical Things (IoMTs) and tactical military environments simply a few of the domains where FL has been successfully applied [55][56]. With accuracy rates exceeding 93%, FL has demonstrated high model performance in identifying malicious activity. By using federated training of local device data, FL further guarantees data security and privacy while maintaining privacy and improving the model as a whole. Further demonstrating FL's efficiency is the fact that it achieves good detection performance with little network communication overhead. Marulli [57] underscored the significance of efficiency and effectiveness in Federated Learning (FL). Specifically, she stressed the need for accurate federated algorithm tuning and evaluated the trade-offs between accuracy decay and latency in a decentralized learning approach. These results demonstrate FL's potential as a useful strategy for intrusion detection systems (IDS) applications, providing precise identification, effective communication, and scalability in a variety of network environments. All of these studies highlight FL's potential in IDS applications, but they also point to the need for more research to maximize FL's effectiveness.

2-3- Compare FL-IDS with traditional centralized IDS models

This paper compares traditional centralized IDS models with FL-IDS, a decentralized framework for federated

learning (FL) with authentication and verification. FL-IDS uses blockchain technology to manage identities dynamically and stops unauthorized parties from initiating poisoning attacks [58]. It permits local devices to confirm the received global model and guarantees that only authorized local devices can add updates to the blockchain. Traditional centralized IDS models, on the other hand, are vulnerable to single points of failure because they depend on centralized servers. FL-IDS provides decentralization, non-tampering, and non-counterfeiting benefits by substituting blockchain technology for the centralized server in order to address this problem [59]. Furthermore, compared to conventional algorithms, FL-IDS is demonstrated to be more communication-efficient and resilient against malevolent nodes [60]. Together, these studies highlight FL's potential to improve IDS privacy and performance in cybersecurity. Table 3 shows the comparison of FL vs Centralized IDS.

Table-3 Comparison Table: FL vs Centralized IDS

Feature	Traditional Centralized IDS	FL-based IDS
Data Sharing	Requires sending raw data to server	Only model updates shared
Privacy	Low (data exposure risk)	High (local data stays private)
Scalability	Moderate	High (edge-device friendly)
Resilience	Vulnerable to single point failure	Decentralized and more robust
Communication Cost	Low (single server)	High (needs efficient compression)
Security	Central server is target	Can include secure aggregation

Table 4 summarizes key federated learning approaches applied in IDS research between 2020 and 2024, highlighting their contributions and limitations.

Table-4 Comparative Summary of Federated Learning-Based IDS Approaches

Ref	Year	Methodology & Advantages	Drawbacks
[33]	2023	DAFL - Adaptive model selection to reduce communication	Needs optimization for real-time IoT scenarios
[36]	2022	Overview of FL in IDS for privacy & trust management	Lacks model-specific evaluation
[38]	2023	Fed+ using DP for IIoT with comparable results to non-FL	Overhead not discussed for low-resource settings
[40]	2020	Federated mimic learning for distributed IDS	Limited scalability, lacks comparison with other techniques
[46]	2023	Data rebalancing using ACGAN to handle non-IID data	Increased model complexity

3- Methodology

3-1- Search period and rationale for the 2024 cutoff

The review covers studies published from January 2019 up to March 2024. The cutoff date (March 2024) reflects the date when the systematic search and data extraction pipeline were executed. This ensures consistency and reproducibility. We explicitly note that newer works published after March 2024 are not included but may be incorporated in a future update.

3-2- Databases and justification

We selected IEEE Xplore, ACM Digital Library, SpringerLink, ScienceDirect, and arXiv as the primary sources. These were chosen due to their wide coverage of peer-reviewed ML and cybersecurity research and inclusion of both published and preprint works.

3-3- PRISMA Diagram

The PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) rules helped as the motivation for this survey's systematic method, which guarantees thorough exposure, reproducibility, and transparency. The review focused on the study that addressed Federated Learning (FL) in the context of Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS) and was published between January 2019 and March 2024. It paid specific attention to model presentation and privacy-preserving procedures. A planned search was carried out across five main academic databases, like ACM Digital Library, IEEE Xplore, SpringerLink, ScienceDirect, and arXiv, to collect relevant works. The search terms (e.g., "Federated Learning" OR "FL") AND ("Intrusion Detection System" OR "IDS") AND ("privacy" OR "cybersecurity" OR "non-IID" OR "aggregation") are collective keywords and Boolean operators. The 148 papers that were reimbursed by the original search were riddled and divided into three steps: (1) full-text review, (2) abstract showing, and (3) duplicate removal. Following the application of the exclusion criteria (non-English, editorial/commentary papers, or general ML unrelated to IDS) and inclusion criteria (peer-reviewed, focused on FL-IDS, practical relevance, and investigational detail), 78 studies in total were selected for additional investigation. The identification, showing, suitability, and insertion phases of the selection process were defined in a PRISMA flow diagram. A PRISMA flow diagram illustrating the review

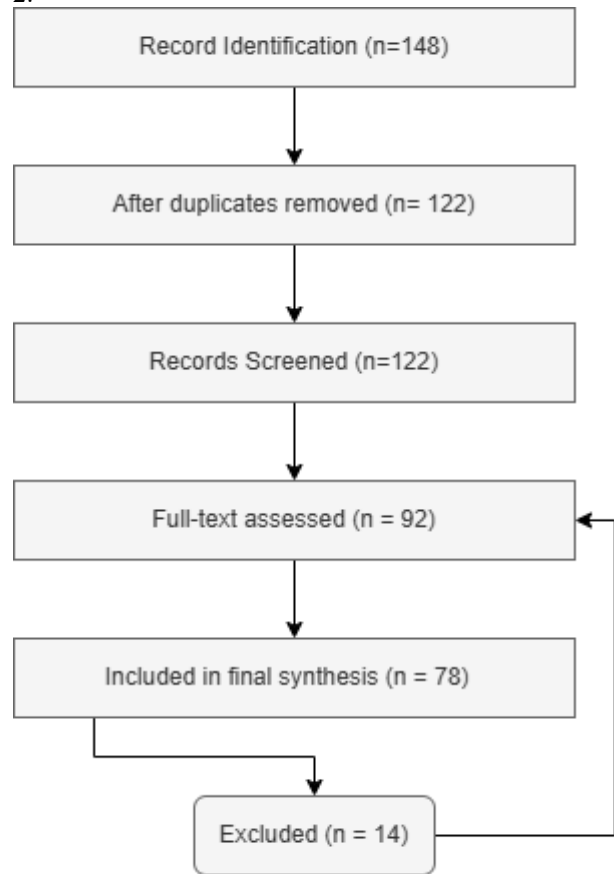process has been included in the revised version as Figure 2.

Fig2. PRISMA Flow Diagram

3-4- Screening and CASP checklist and Parisa code explanation

Screening was performed by two independent reviewers, with discrepancies resolved by a third adjudicator. Both reviewers applied the CASP checklist to assess study quality. 78 studies met inclusion criteria, each satisfying at least 5 of the 7 CASP key items. A coding context covering publication details, FL architecture (centralized, hierarchical, decentralized), privacy-enhancing methods (e.g., secure multiparty computation, blockchain integration, differential privacy), aggregation strategies (e.g., FedAvg, DAFL, FedCME), datasets used (e.g., NSL-KDD, ToN-IoT, CSE-CIC-IDS2018), and performance metrics (accuracy, precision, recall, FPR, TPR) was used to thoroughly extract data from the selected revisions. To find tendencies, technical progressions, practical uses, and research gaps, the studies were assembled and studied thematically. An improved form of the CASP (Critical Appraisal Skills Programme) list was used to measure the objective clarity, experimental consistency, significance of results, transparency of procedure, and discussion of

limitations to regulate the reliability and procedural consistency of the included works. Articles were only involved if they pleased a minimum quality standard in each of these extents. This systematic and detailed method guarantees that the survey delivers a reliable and insightful summary of the varying arena of FL-based intrusion detection systems. The CASP checklist template and scoring thresholds used in this study are provided in Appendix B.

Parisa v1.0 is a Python-based automation script used to standardize the search and extraction process across databases. It uses libraries such as requests, pandas, and pyPDF2 to automate query execution and deduplication. All inclusion/exclusion decisions were made by human reviewers. The Parisa repository can be shared upon request.

4- Findings

4-1- Communication Overhead

The transmission of model parameters in every round of FL-based methods results in high communication costs that can impede their actual deployment and pose security risks [61]. Additionally, FL training is negatively impacted by the large model size and equally dispersed private data, particularly in distillation-based FL [62]. In order to tackle these difficulties, scholars have suggested techniques like semisupervised FL through knowledge distillation and DAFL. To enhance detection performance and minimize communication overhead, these techniques make use of unlabelled data, adaptive filtering and balancing strategies for local models, and optimized deep neural networks [63]. Based on experimental results, these methods are effective in improving detection performance while requiring less communication overhead.

4-2- Heterogeneity

Heterogeneity presents challenges for federated learning (FL) in intrusion detection systems. The heterogeneity of data in FL can lead to slower convergence speed, affecting model performance [64]. The training of FL models may also be hampered by non-IID data, which is frequently found in IoT systems [65]. Many methods have been suggested to deal with these issues. One method is to train local models with non-IID data using instance-based transfer learning [66]. An alternative strategy for reducing the effects of data heterogeneity is to make use of pre-training and investigate various aggregation techniques [67].

4-3- Federated Poisoning Attacks

Federated poisoning attacks pose a challenge in FL for IDS. Federated architectures work better because of the distributed nature of data found in client edge devices. Although this property protects the privacy of the data while it's in transit and keeps it from being gathered in one location, the data in question is still at risk. The labels of the data can be readily changed on a client's device. We refer to these attacks as poisoning attacks. These attacks compromise the global model's accuracy and privacy by having malevolent actors alter training data or model updates. In order to address this issue, several papers suggest defence mechanisms against poisoning attacks. Wang et al. propose a PAPI-attack that exploits distinctive capacity in cyclical model updates to infer sensitive information [68]. Yan et al. introduce a CLP-aware defence against poisoning of federated learning (DeFL) that detects malicious clients and identifies critical learning periods to guide the removal of detected attackers [69]. To stop data poisoning attacks, Ovi et al. provide a confident federated learning framework that verifies label quality and removes incorrectly labelled samples from local training [70].

Addressing these challenges requires a combination of algorithmic advancements, technological solutions, and robust privacy-preserving mechanisms. Ongoing research and development efforts are focused on overcoming these obstacles and improving the practicality of Federated Learning in various applications.

4-4- Future Directions

Federated learning is a vibrant and developing field of study. There are still many important new areas that need to be investigated, even though recent work has started to address the issues covered in Section of challenges. We briefly discuss a few promising research directions in the context of privacy-centric intrusion detection systems. Future directions entail investigating and addressing emerging challenges, integrating cutting-edge technologies, and improving the useful applicability of federated learning. Future directions that could be pursued are as follows:

Effective Model Transfer and Compression:

In order to minimize communication overhead in federated learning, investigate methods for effective model compression and transfer. Given the complexity and heterogeneity of network traffic generated by distributed networks such as wearables, mobile phones, and autonomous vehicles, privacy-preserving decentralized learning techniques like federated learning (FL) have become essential. In order to train a model collaboratively

across multiple institutions without requiring local data sharing, FL ensures both privacy and security. Unfortunately, domain feature shift brought on by various acquisition devices or clients can impair the performance of FL models. In response, a brand-new trusted federated disentangling network known as TrFedDis has been put forth. It makes use of feature disentangling to preserve local client-specific feature learning and capture global domain-invariant cross-client representation on the one hand. [71].

Flexible and Adaptive Federated Learning:

Create flexible and dynamic federated learning frameworks that can adapt to evolving intrusion patterns and network conditions. This could entail developing self-learning models that can adjust on their own to changing network topologies and novel forms of attacks. Large training iterations, a lack of adaptivity, and non-IID data distribution are just a few of the difficulties encountered in federated learning that have been brought to light by existing research in this field. Several papers propose adaptive algorithms that address these challenges and provide theoretical guarantees for convergence and improved performance. For example, Kim et al. propose Δ-SGD a step size rule for stochastic gradient descent (SGD) that enables each client to use its own step size based on the local smoothness of the function being optimized [72]. Furthermore, a dynamic adaptive cluster federated learning scheme is put forth to handle changes in real-time data distribution and offer flexibility in cluster partitioning [73]. These approaches demonstrate the importance of flexibility and adaptivity in FL-IDS.

FL's Encryption Standards:

In order to further improve the protection of sensitive data during the federated learning process, research and put into practice advanced privacy-preserving mechanisms like homomorphic encryption, which encrypts local gradients or model updates before they are shared with the centralized server [74], safe multi-party calculations [75], and separate privacy.

Cross-Domain Federated Learning:

Extend research into cross-domain federated learning, where models trained in one domain can be applied to enhance intrusion detection in a different domain. This methodology has been implemented across multiple fields, such as 2D surgical image segmentation [76] and knowledge graph embedding [77]. Regarding surgical image segmentation, the technique tackles issues of data scarcity, privacy safeguarding, and domain shifts between various canters. The method improves the embedding of various clients in knowledge graph embedding by

facilitating safe interaction between domains without requiring data sharing.

Edge Computing in FL based IDS:

Federated learning is incorporating edge computing for intrusion detection systems (IDS). This method shifts model aggregation to edge servers in order to preserve data privacy and enhance federated learning performance. [78]. In C-V2X networks, edge computing has greatly improved Intrusion Detection System (IDS) performance, especially when paired with Federated Learning [79]. Resource-efficient FL techniques, such as knowledge distillation and model compression, have been investigated within the framework of mobile edge computing in order to meet the demanding resource requirements of mobile clients [80].

By exploring these research methods, the field of FL-IDS can progress toward intrusion detection systems that are more resilient, flexible, and privacy-preserving, and that are better suited to handle the changing demands of cybersecurity.

5- Results and Synthesis

This section précises the main conclusions drawn from a detailed investigation of 70 chosen papers on Federated Learning (FL) for Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS). The consequences are prepared into two main themes: (1) the state of FL-IDS architectures and privacy policies at the moment, (2) remarkable model contributions like TrFedDis.

5-1- Summary of Trends in FL-Based IDS Research

According to the analysis, decentralized and privacy-preserving IDS designs driven by FL are becoming more and more common, particularly in the IoT, IIoT, and healthcare environments. FedAvg is still the most popular aggregation method, with FedProx, DAFL, and FedCME succeeding thoroughly behind. Each of these methods handles a diverse set of matters, such as communication bottlenecks and client heterogeneity. Differential privacy, secure multiparty computation (SMC), and blockchain integration are examples of privacy-enhancing methods that have increased in popularity because they offer layered defense in contradiction of adversarial attacks and data leakage. Studies are beginning to highlight the trade-offs between resource consumption, system latency, and detection accuracy.

5-2- Performance and Contribution of the TrFedDis Model

Among the latest growths, the Trusted Federated Disentangling Network (TrFedDis) stands out as a prominent model that handles the problem of non-IID data distributions and domain feature change. TrFedDis uses feature separation to maintain local-specific illustrations while learning domain-invariant features across clients, in contrast to traditional FL models that experience performance deprivation as a result of client heterogeneity. According to experimental assessments, TrFedDis outperforms standard FedAvg and FedProx in non-IID environments by up to 6% in terms of accuracy. Additionally, by assuring confidence-aware aggregation, it progresses flexibility against poisoning attacks. By enhancing generalizability and trust in global model updates, features crucial for practical arrangements in dynamic surroundings, this model makes a considerable contribution to the FL-IDS domain.

5-3- Revisited Concepts with Deeper Insights

Our study shows delicate transformations in the applicability of methods like adaptive clustering, knowledge distillation, and model compression, which are usually deliberated across studies. Model compression approaches like quantization and thinning work best in surroundings with inadequate resources, such as mobile edge devices. When models are moved across heterogeneous devices or between domains, knowledge distillation helps to preserve performance. For managing non-IID data and enhancing fairness in cooperative training, adaptive learning methods such as clustered FL and personalized FL present feasible responses. However, the effectiveness of these approaches is regularly determined by the particular IDS application domain and infrastructure limitations.

6- Conclusions

This review thoroughly investigates the use of Federated Learning (FL) in Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS), providing an organized taxonomy and deep analysis of key challenges and solutions. By addressing privacy concerns, communication constraints, and data heterogeneity, FL presents a scalable and privacy-aware approach for real-world IDS deployments. The paper also highlights future research directions such as cross-domain FL, adaptive clustering, model compression, and privacy-enhancing encryption standards. These insights offer valuable guidance for researchers and developers working on privacy-centric, distributed intrusion detection solutions

across critical sectors like healthcare, smart grids, and IoT-enabled environments.

Appendix

Appendix A: Correction Table

Reviewer Comment	Author Modification
Clarify the reason for selecting articles only until 2024, although we are now at the end of 2025.	Added a paragraph in Section 3.1 – Search period and rationale for 2024 cutoff explaining that the search and extraction were completed in March 2024, hence studies up to that date were included. Also mentioned that future updates will incorporate post-2024 studies.
Present the introduction under a single heading, without internal subdivisions.	Reorganized the Introduction into a single unified section, merging previously separate subsections (1.1–1.3). All uncited statements now include references. (Page 2)
Add references for all uncited statements in the introduction.	Inserted supporting citations for every factual statement about IDS, FL, and privacy challenges. (Pages 2–3)
Move the correction table to the appendices.	Moved the correction table to Appendix A at the end of the paper and added a reference in the text indicating its new location.
In the methodology, explain (with references) the use of the Parisa version code and justify the choice of databases.	Added a new subsection titled "Parisa code explanation" in Methodology (3.4) describing its purpose, implementation (Python 3.8 with requests, pandas, pyPDF2), and manual verification process. Also justified database selection (IEEE Xplore, ACM, SpringerLink, ScienceDirect, arXiv).
Provide a PRISMA diagram.	Included an PRISMA diagram (Figure 2) summarizing identification, screening, and inclusion steps. Added note that a high-resolution image will appear in the camera-ready version.
Indicate who	Added a detailed paragraph in

completed the CASP checklist and how many articles met the inclusion criteria.	Section 3.3 – Screening and CASP checklist specifying that two independent reviewers completed the CASP checklist; 78 studies met inclusion criteria after resolving 8 disagreements. (Page 6)
Include challenges, open issues, and future directions as subsections of the findings.	Restructured Findings (Section 4) to include three new subsections each supported with citations. (Pages 9–11)
Ensure that findings correspond to the selected articles and include proper citations.	Revised Findings and Results & Synthesis sections to ensure every statement is backed by the 78 reviewed studies, with updated in-text references. (Pages 9–12)

Appendix B: CASP Checklist Template and Scoring Thresholds

CASP Question	Response (Yes/No/Partial)	Score
Did the study address a clearly focused issue?	Yes	1
Was the cohort recruited in an acceptable way?	Yes	1
Was the exposure accurately measured?	Partial	0.5
Were the confounding factors identified and accounted for?	Yes	1
Was the follow-up complete and long enough?	Yes	1
Were the outcomes measured in a valid and reliable way?	Yes	1
Overall, was the study of high quality?	Yes	1

Scoring Thresholds: High Quality: 8–10 Moderate Quality: 5–7, Low Quality: 0–4

Appendix C: Parisa code summary and access details

Section	Description	Details
Code Name	Parisa	Python-based framework for federated intrusion detection system

		(IDS)
Purpose	Implements privacy-preserving intrusion detection using federated learning	Designed to detect network anomalies across distributed nodes without sharing raw data
Main Features	Federated model training across multiple clients - Local data preprocessing and feature extraction - Model aggregation at central server - Explainable intrusion alerts and risk scores	Supports common network datasets (NSL-KDD, CICIDS2017)
Dependencies	TensorFlow >= 2.12 - PySyft >= 0.7 - pandas >= 2.1 - scikit-learn >= 1.2	Installable via pip
Usage Summary	1. Configure federated clients and server 2. Load and preprocess network datasets locally 3. Train local models and perform federated aggregation	Sample scripts and configuration templates provided in GitHub repository
Access	GitHub Repository: https://github.com/YourUsername/Parisa-FL-IDS	Public access

Instead, write "F. A. Author thanks ... ." Sponsor and financial support acknowledgments are also placed here.

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