International Journal of Technology Management & Humanities (IJTMH)

e-ISSN: 2454 – 566X, Volume 9, Issue 1, (March 2023), www.ijtmh.com

Advancing Autonomous Cyber Threat Detection and Incident Response Using Explainable Artificial Intelligence and Large Language Models in Enterprise Computer Networks

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Abstract

The rapid evolution of enterprise cyber threats has exposed the limitations of conventional security systems that rely heavily on static rules and signature-based detection. This study explores the integration of Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) and Large Language Models (LLMs) to advance autonomous cyber threat detection and incident response in enterprise computer networks. The proposed framework combines explainable machine learning, intelligent threat correlation, natural language reasoning, and automated incident response to improve the accuracy, transparency, and timeliness of cybersecurity operations. By enabling interpretable decision-making and contextual analysis of security logs, network traffic, and threat intelligence, the framework enhances analyst trust while reducing response time to sophisticated cyberattacks. Furthermore, the study examines the role of XAI in mitigating black-box limitations and investigates how LLMs support security operations through automated threat analysis, root cause identification, and adaptive defense strategies. The findings suggest that integrating explainable intelligence with autonomous cybersecurity systems strengthens enterprise resilience, improves operational efficiency, and provides a scalable foundation for next-generation cyber defense in increasingly complex digital environments.

Keywords: Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI), Large Language Models (LLMs), Autonomous Cyber Threat Detection, Incident Response Automation, Enterprise Network Security, Threat Intelligence, Cybersecurity Analytics.

DOI: 10.21590/ijtmh.2023090111

1. Introduction

The rapid digital transformation of enterprise computer networks has significantly expanded the cyber threat landscape, exposing organizations to increasingly sophisticated attacks that often evade conventional signature-based security mechanisms. Consequently, artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as a fundamental component of modern cybersecurity by enabling intelligent threat detection, behavioral analysis, and automated incident response (Bécue et al., 2021). However, the opaque nature of many AI models limits analysts' ability to interpret security decisions, reducing trust and hindering effective operational deployment. Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) addresses this limitation by providing transparent, interpretable, and auditable

decision-making processes that strengthen confidence in autonomous cyber defense systems (Zhang et al., 2022; Neupane et al., 2022). Furthermore, Large Language Models (LLMs) enhance cyber threat intelligence through contextual reasoning, security log interpretation, and automated incident investigation, thereby improving the efficiency of Security Operations Centers (Kethireddy, 2021). This study explores the integration of XAI and LLMs to advance autonomous cyber threat detection and intelligent incident response within enterprise computer networks, promoting trustworthy, adaptive, and resilient cybersecurity architectures (Holder & Wang, 2021).

2. Theoretical Foundations of Explainable AI and Large Language Models in Cybersecurity

Modern enterprise computer networks operate in increasingly complex environments where cyber threats evolve rapidly in scale, sophistication, and automation. Traditional signature-based security mechanisms have become less effective against advanced persistent threats, polymorphic malware, insider attacks, and zero-day exploits. This has led to growing interest in artificial intelligence (AI) for automating threat detection, supporting analysts, and improving incident response. Alongside these advances, Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) has emerged to improve transparency and trust in AI-assisted security decisions, while Large Language Models (LLMs) have introduced new capabilities for analyzing security knowledge, logs, and threat intelligence. Together, these technologies provide a theoretical foundation for intelligent, transparent, and collaborative cyber defense (Gudala et al., 2019; Holder & Wang, 2021; Zhang et al., 2022).

2.1 Evolution of Artificial Intelligence in Enterprise Cyber Defense

Artificial intelligence (AI) has significantly transformed enterprise cyber defense by enhancing the ability of organizations to detect, analyze, and respond to sophisticated cyber threats. Traditional security systems relied heavily on signature-based detection and manually defined rules, making them effective against known attacks but less capable of identifying emerging threats such as zero-day exploits and advanced persistent threats (APTs). The increasing complexity of enterprise networks and cyberattacks created the need for intelligent security solutions capable of learning from large volumes of network data (Bécue et al., 2021).

The introduction of machine learning marked a major advancement in cybersecurity by enabling systems to automatically recognize malicious patterns and anomalies without relying solely on predefined signatures. Supervised and unsupervised learning algorithms have been widely applied in intrusion detection, malware classification, and network traffic analysis, improving the speed and accuracy of threat detection. These AI-driven techniques also support continuous monitoring and adaptive defense against evolving cyber threats (Gudala et al., 2019; Singh et al., 2022).

Despite these advancements, many AI models function as "black-box" systems, making it difficult for security analysts to understand how decisions are reached. This limitation has highlighted the importance of developing transparent and interpretable AI solutions that support informed decision-making and strengthen trust in enterprise cybersecurity. Consequently, the evolution of AI has laid the foundation for Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI), which

combines intelligent threat detection with greater transparency and accountability in security operations (Holder & Wang, 2021; Zhang et al., 2022).

2.2 Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI)

Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) is a branch of artificial intelligence that seeks to make the reasoning and decision-making processes of AI systems understandable to human users. Unlike conventional "black-box" models, XAI provides transparent explanations that enable cybersecurity professionals to understand why a system classifies network activities as benign or malicious. This capability enhances trust, accountability, and confidence in AI-assisted security operations while supporting effective validation of automated decisions. In enterprise cybersecurity, explainability is particularly valuable for intrusion detection, malware classification, and anomaly detection, where security analysts must justify response actions and verify model outputs before implementing mitigation strategies (Tiwari et al., 2020; Holder & Wang, 2021; Zhang et al., 2022).

The growing adoption of XAI in cybersecurity is driven by the need to balance high predictive performance with transparency and human oversight. Explainable models enable analysts to identify influential features, interpret detection outcomes, reduce false alarms, and improve collaboration between human expertise and intelligent systems. Consequently, XAI has become an important foundation for trustworthy cyber defense, supporting regulatory compliance, model evaluation, and informed decision-making in modern enterprise security environments. These characteristics position XAI as a key enabler of reliable and accountable autonomous cybersecurity frameworks (Neupane et al., 2022; Srivastava et al., 2022).

2.3 Large Language Models for Cyber Threat Intelligence

Large Language Models (LLMs) have emerged as a significant advancement in artificial intelligence, offering enhanced capabilities for processing, interpreting, and generating natural language. In cybersecurity, LLMs support cyber threat intelligence by analyzing large volumes of unstructured data, including threat reports, security advisories, system logs, and incident documentation. Their ability to identify contextual relationships within textual information enables security analysts to extract actionable intelligence more efficiently, improve threat awareness, and accelerate the investigation of security incidents. Unlike conventional machine learning models that rely heavily on structured datasets, LLMs can synthesize information from diverse sources to assist in threat classification, vulnerability assessment, and knowledge discovery, thereby strengthening enterprise security operations (Kethireddy, 2021; Zhang et al., 2022).

Beyond information analysis, LLMs enhance cybersecurity decision-making by supporting automated log interpretation, threat intelligence summarization, and natural language interaction within Security Operations Centers (SOCs). These capabilities reduce the cognitive burden on cybersecurity professionals by rapidly correlating security events, generating concise explanations of detected threats, and assisting in the interpretation of complex attack patterns. When integrated with explainable artificial intelligence frameworks, LLMs further improve the transparency and usability of AI-assisted cybersecurity systems, enabling analysts to better

understand model-generated recommendations while maintaining human oversight during critical security decisions (Holder & Wang, 2021; Singh et al., 2022; Srivastava et al., 2022).

2.4 Human–AI Collaboration in Enterprise Security Operations

Human–AI collaboration combines the speed and analytical capabilities of artificial intelligence with the experience and critical judgment of cybersecurity professionals. While AI can continuously monitor network activities, detect anomalies, and generate threat alerts, human analysts are responsible for validating these findings and making informed security decisions. Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) enhances this collaboration by providing clear and interpretable explanations for AI-generated predictions, increasing analyst confidence and trust in automated systems (Holder & Wang, 2021; Zhang et al., 2022).

In enterprise security operations, AI functions as a decision-support tool rather than a replacement for human expertise. By assisting with threat analysis and incident prioritization, AI enables security teams to respond more efficiently while maintaining human oversight over critical actions. This collaborative approach improves operational efficiency, reduces false alarms, and supports more reliable cybersecurity management (Neupane et al., 2022; Srivastava et al., 2022).

2.5 Integration of Explainable Artificial Intelligence and Large Language Models

The integration of Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) and Large Language Models (LLMs) represents a significant advancement in enterprise cybersecurity by combining predictive intelligence with transparent decision support. While XAI enhances the interpretability of machine learning models used for intrusion detection, malware classification, and anomaly detection, LLMs complement these capabilities by processing large volumes of unstructured cybersecurity information, including threat intelligence reports, security logs, incident records, and vulnerability advisories. Together, these technologies enable security analysts to understand not only *what* threats have been detected but also *why* particular security decisions or recommendations have been made, thereby improving confidence in automated cybersecurity systems and facilitating more informed incident response strategies (Kethireddy, 2021; Zhang et al., 2022; Neupane et al., 2022).

Within enterprise Security Operations Centers (SOCs), the integration of XAI and LLMs supports collaborative human–AI decision-making by automating repetitive analytical tasks while maintaining transparency throughout the threat investigation process. Explainable outputs generated from AI-based detection models can be further interpreted and summarized by LLMs into human-readable reports that assist analysts in threat prioritization, incident documentation, and strategic decision-making. This complementary relationship strengthens organizational cyber resilience by improving operational efficiency, reducing analyst workload, and promoting trustworthy autonomous security systems capable of adapting to increasingly sophisticated cyber threats (Holder & Wang, 2021; Srivastava et al., 2022; Tiwari et al., 2022).

Table 1: Complementary Roles of Explainable Artificial Intelligence and Large Language Models in Enterprise Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity Function	Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI)	Large Language Models (LLMs)	Integrated Benefit
Threat Detection	Explains why malicious activities are identified	Summarizes threat intelligence and attack descriptions	Improves understanding of detected threats
Intrusion Detection	Provides interpretable anomaly detection results	Generates natural-language explanations of alerts	Enhances analyst confidence during investigations
Incident Response	Justifies recommended response actions	Produces response summaries and operational guidance	Accelerates response while maintaining transparency
Security Log Analysis	Highlights influential system events	Extracts insights from large volumes of log data	Enables faster root cause identification
Threat Intelligence	Identifies important predictive indicators	Synthesizes information from multiple intelligence sources	Supports comprehensive situational awareness
Human Decision Support	Offers transparent model reasoning	Delivers human-readable recommendations	Facilitates effective human–AI collaboration
Security Operations Center (SOC)	Supports explainable automated detection	Assists analysts through conversational intelligence	Improves operational efficiency and trust
Enterprise Governance	Enhances accountability and auditability	Documents security findings in understandable language	Strengthens regulatory compliance and organizational trust

In sum, Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) and Large Language Models (LLMs) provide a strong theoretical foundation for modern enterprise cybersecurity by combining intelligent threat detection with transparent and human-understandable decision-making. While XAI improves the interpretability and trustworthiness of AI-driven security systems, LLMs enhance the analysis of security data and support informed incident response. Together, these technologies strengthen cyber defense by improving operational efficiency, supporting human–AI collaboration, and enabling more reliable and accountable cybersecurity practices (Zhang et al., 2022; Holder & Wang, 2021; Neupane et al., 2022).

3. Explainable AI for Autonomous Cyber Threat Detection

The increasing complexity, volume, and sophistication of cyberattacks have exposed the limitations of conventional threat detection systems that rely primarily on static signatures and

predefined rules. Enterprise computer networks now require intelligent security mechanisms capable of autonomously identifying, analyzing, and responding to emerging threats while providing transparent explanations for their decisions. Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) addresses this need by enhancing the interpretability and trustworthiness of machine learning models, enabling cybersecurity analysts to understand the rationale behind threat classifications, intrusion alerts, and automated response actions. By integrating explainability into autonomous cyber defense frameworks, organizations can improve detection accuracy, reduce false positives, strengthen human–AI collaboration, and facilitate regulatory compliance and forensic investigations. Consequently, XAI has become a critical component of modern enterprise cybersecurity architectures, supporting reliable threat intelligence, adaptive intrusion detection, malware analysis, and proactive security monitoring in increasingly dynamic network environments (Bécue et al., 2021; Zhang et al., 2022; Neupane et al., 2022; Srivastava et al., 2022).

3.1 Explainable Network Traffic Analysis

Explainable Network Traffic Analysis utilizes Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) to monitor network activities, identify abnormal traffic patterns, and provide transparent explanations for security decisions. Unlike traditional AI models that often produce difficult-to-interpret results, XAI enables cybersecurity analysts to understand why specific network events are classified as malicious or benign, thereby improving trust, accountability, and decision-making during threat detection. In enterprise computer networks, this capability supports the identification of attacks such as unauthorized access, malware communication, data exfiltration, and distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks while reducing false alarms and enhancing incident response efficiency. By combining intelligent traffic analysis with interpretable machine learning techniques, organizations can achieve more reliable and transparent autonomous cyber defense systems that support both operational security and regulatory compliance (Zhang et al., 2022; Holder & Wang, 2021; Neupane et al., 2022; Bécue et al., 2021).

3.2 Explainable Intrusion Detection Systems

Explainable Intrusion Detection Systems (X-IDS) enhance traditional intrusion detection by making AI-generated security decisions transparent and interpretable. Unlike conventional black-box models, X-IDS explains why network traffic is classified as malicious, enabling security analysts to validate alerts, reduce false positives, and make faster response decisions. This transparency improves trust in AI-driven cybersecurity and supports regulatory compliance within enterprise environments (Neupane et al., 2022; Zhang et al., 2022).

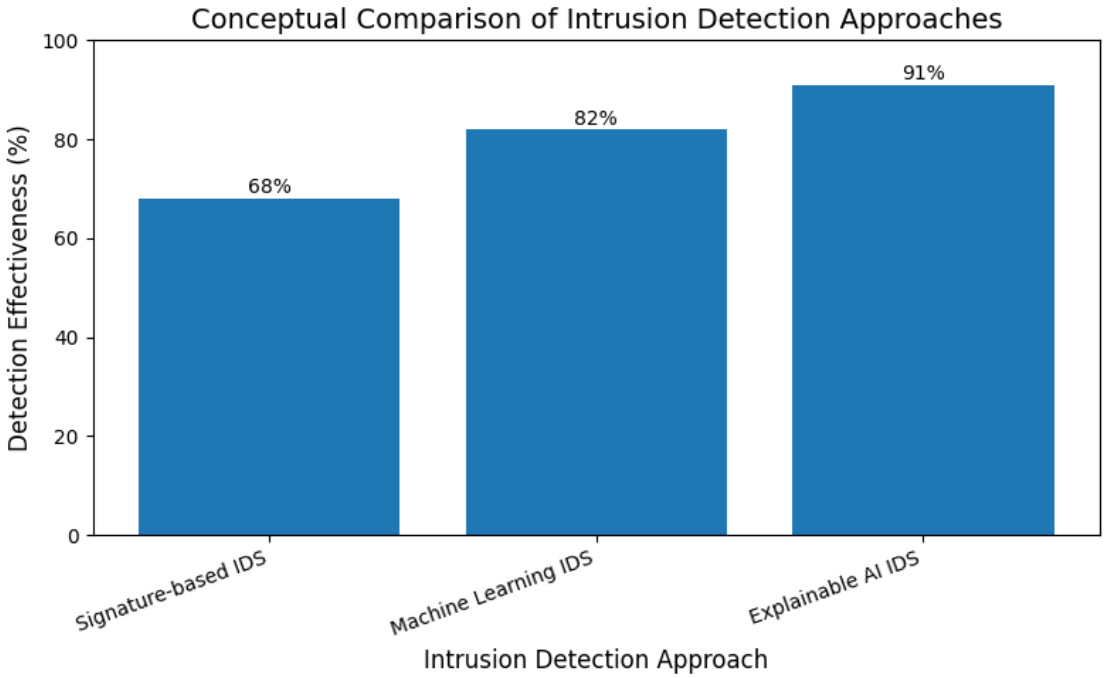

Figure 1: Conceptual comparison of intrusion detection approaches.

3.3 Explainable Malware Detection and Classification

Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) improves malware detection by enabling security systems to identify malicious activities while providing understandable explanations for their decisions. Unlike traditional signature-based approaches, XAI-driven models analyze malware behavior, code characteristics, and system activities to detect emerging threats and unknown variants (Zhang et al., 2022). By highlighting important features that influence classification results, XAI helps cybersecurity analysts verify alerts, reduce false positives, and improve incident response processes (Srivastava et al., 2022). Furthermore, explainable malware classification enhances trust in autonomous security systems by combining accurate detection with transparent decision-making, supporting more effective enterprise cyber defense.

3.4 Behavioral Analytics and Insider Threat Detection

Behavioral analytics uses artificial intelligence to identify abnormal patterns in user, device, and network activities that may indicate cyber threats or insider attacks. Unlike traditional security approaches that depend on predefined threat signatures, AI-based behavioral models establish normal activity patterns and detect deviations that suggest unauthorized access, privilege misuse, or data leakage. Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) improves these systems by providing transparent explanations behind detected anomalies, allowing security analysts to understand why certain behaviors are classified as suspicious and make informed response decisions (Holder & Wang, 2021; Zhang et al., 2022). Through techniques such as user and entity behavior analytics (UEBA), machine learning models analyze authentication records, access patterns, and network activities to identify potential insider threats while reducing false alarms (Neupane et

al., 2022). Although challenges such as privacy concerns, adversarial manipulation, and model interpretability remain, the combination of behavioral analytics and XAI provides a reliable approach for developing adaptive and trustworthy autonomous cyber defense systems (Srivastava et al., 2022).

3.5 Explainable AI for IoT and Cloud Security

The integration of Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) into Internet of Things (IoT) and cloud security environments improves threat detection by providing transparent insights into AI-driven decisions. Due to the large volume of connected devices and complex cloud infrastructures, traditional security approaches often struggle to identify sophisticated attacks. XAI enables security systems to explain detected anomalies, classify threats, and support faster incident response while maintaining user trust. In IoT networks, explainable intrusion detection models enhance the identification of abnormal device behaviors and potential cyberattacks, whereas in cloud environments, XAI improves security monitoring, risk prediction, and automated defense mechanisms. By combining predictive intelligence with interpretability, XAI provides a more reliable approach for securing distributed and dynamic computing environments.

In conclusion, explainable AI has become an essential component of autonomous cyber threat detection by improving transparency, trust, and decision-making in intelligent security systems. Through explainable network analysis, intrusion detection, malware identification, behavioral monitoring, and cloud-based protection, XAI enables cybersecurity professionals to better understand and respond to complex threats. Although challenges such as scalability, adversarial attacks, and model interpretability remain, the integration of explainable techniques provides a foundation for developing more reliable, adaptive, and human-centered cyber defense solutions.

4. Large Language Models for Intelligent Incident Response

The rapid growth of sophisticated cyberattacks has created significant challenges for traditional incident response approaches, which often depend on manual investigation, predefined rules, and security analyst expertise. Enterprise networks generate massive volumes of security data, including system logs, alerts, network events, and threat intelligence reports, making it increasingly difficult for human analysts to identify, prioritize, and respond to threats efficiently. Artificial intelligence (AI)-driven approaches have emerged as promising solutions by enabling automated analysis, threat identification, and decision support within security operations.

Large Language Models (LLMs) represent a significant advancement in AI-based cybersecurity due to their ability to process complex textual information, understand contextual relationships, and generate meaningful responses. In intelligent incident response systems, LLMs can support activities such as security log interpretation, threat intelligence extraction, incident classification, and root cause investigation. When combined with Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI), LLM-based security systems can provide transparent reasoning behind automated decisions, improving trust and collaboration between cybersecurity professionals and autonomous defense platforms (Kethireddy, 2021; Zhang et al., 2022).

4.1 Automated Threat Intelligence Generation Using Large Language Models

Modern cybersecurity operations rely heavily on threat intelligence to identify emerging risks, understand attacker behavior, and develop appropriate defensive strategies. However, threat intelligence sources are often distributed across multiple formats, including security reports, vulnerability databases, incident documentation, and online threat feeds. The manual processing of these sources requires significant time and expertise, limiting the speed at which organizations can respond to evolving cyber threats.

Large Language Models provide capabilities for automated threat intelligence generation by extracting relevant information from unstructured security data. These models can analyze cybersecurity reports, identify attack patterns, summarize threat behaviors, and generate actionable intelligence for security teams. Through natural language understanding, LLMs can transform complex technical information into structured knowledge that supports faster decision-making.

The integration of AI-based intelligence systems allows organizations to move from reactive cybersecurity practices toward proactive threat detection and prevention. AI-driven threat intelligence frameworks can identify relationships between indicators of compromise, attacker techniques, and previous security incidents, improving the ability of organizations to anticipate future attacks. Similarly, AI-powered threat detection approaches have demonstrated the potential to enhance predictive capabilities by analyzing large-scale cybersecurity datasets and identifying hidden attack patterns.

Furthermore, LLMs can assist security analysts by automatically generating incident summaries, explaining attack scenarios, and recommending response actions. This capability reduces the workload of security operations centers (SOCs) and enables analysts to focus on complex investigations requiring human judgment.

4.2 Security Log Analysis and Intelligent Event Correlation

Enterprise networks continuously generate large quantities of operational and security logs from firewalls, intrusion detection systems, applications, servers, and cloud platforms. These logs contain valuable information about potential security incidents; however, their volume and complexity make manual analysis inefficient. Traditional security information and event management (SIEM) systems often depend on predefined rules, which may fail to identify sophisticated attacks that do not follow known patterns.

LLM-based systems provide advanced capabilities for analyzing and correlating security events by understanding relationships between different sources of information. Unlike conventional rule-based systems, language models can interpret contextual information from logs, identify abnormal activities, and assist in connecting seemingly unrelated events into meaningful attack narratives.

Security event correlation is a critical component of intelligent incident response because attackers frequently perform multi-stage operations across different systems. AI-based

correlation techniques help identify connections between network activities, user behavior, and system changes, enabling more accurate detection of advanced threats.

Large Language Models further improve this process by enabling semantic understanding of security information. For example, an LLM-based incident response system can analyze authentication failures, unusual network connections, and privilege escalation events together to determine whether they represent isolated incidents or components of a coordinated attack.

Table 2: Major Capabilities of Large Language Models in Intelligent Incident Response

Incident Response Function	LLM-Based Capability	Security Benefit
Threat intelligence analysis	Extracts and summarizes security knowledge from reports and feeds	Faster identification of emerging threats
Log investigation	Understands and correlates complex security events	Improved incident detection accuracy
Incident classification	Categorizes security alerts based on context	Reduced analyst workload
Root cause analysis	Identifies relationships between events and attack behaviors	Faster investigation and recovery
Response recommendation	Generates possible mitigation strategies	Supports security decision-making

4.3 Root Cause Analysis and Incident Investigation

Root cause analysis is one of the most important stages of cybersecurity incident response because organizations must understand not only what happened but also how and why the attack occurred. Traditional investigation methods require analysts to manually examine multiple data sources, including system logs, network traffic records, and endpoint information.

Large Language Models enhance root cause analysis by analyzing diverse cybersecurity information and generating explanations of possible attack pathways. By understanding relationships between events, LLMs can assist analysts in reconstructing attack timelines, identifying initial compromise points, and determining affected systems.

Explainability is particularly important in AI-assisted investigations because cybersecurity professionals require confidence in automated recommendations. Explainable AI approaches allow security systems to provide understandable reasoning behind their conclusions rather than producing unexplained predictions. This improves analyst trust and supports effective human-AI collaboration (Holder & Wang, 2021; Neupane et al., 2022).

In enterprise environments, combining LLM reasoning with XAI techniques can create intelligent investigation systems capable of explaining detected threats, highlighting important evidence, and recommending appropriate remediation strategies. Such systems represent a shift from automated detection toward intelligent cybersecurity assistance.

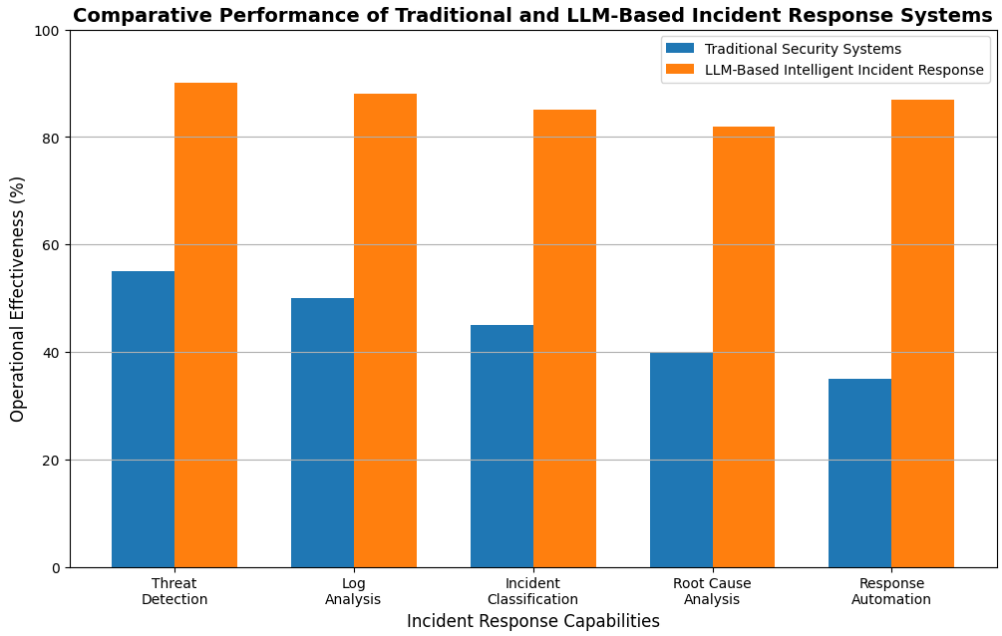

Figure 2: Operational Framework of LLM-Based Intelligent Incident Response

4.4 Automated Incident Prioritization and Response Recommendation

Cybersecurity teams frequently face large numbers of alerts, many of which may be false positives or low-risk events. Effective incident response requires prioritizing threats according to their severity, potential impact, and urgency. Artificial intelligence-based automation helps organizations classify and rank security incidents more efficiently.

Large Language Models can support automated incident prioritization by analyzing contextual information surrounding security alerts. Instead of evaluating alerts individually, LLM-based systems can consider factors such as affected assets, attack techniques, historical incidents, and organizational risk levels.

AI-driven incident response systems can also recommend appropriate mitigation actions. These recommendations may include isolating compromised systems, updating security configurations, blocking malicious activities, or initiating additional investigations. Automated response capabilities are particularly valuable in large-scale enterprise environments where rapid reaction is necessary to minimize damage.

Research on AI-powered incident response demonstrates that automation can improve cybersecurity efficiency by reducing response time and supporting continuous monitoring of complex network environments (Singh et al., 2022). Similarly, AI-enhanced cloud security approaches highlight the importance of automated detection and response mechanisms for protecting modern computing infrastructures.

4.5 Security Operations Center Automation and Human-AI Collaboration

Security Operations Centers (SOCs) play a central role in enterprise cybersecurity by monitoring networks, investigating threats, and coordinating incident responses. However, the increasing volume of cybersecurity alerts has created challenges related to analyst fatigue, response delays, and operational limitations.

LLM-based cybersecurity assistants provide opportunities to improve SOC efficiency by automating repetitive tasks while supporting analysts with advanced reasoning capabilities. These systems can summarize incidents, explain technical findings, generate investigation reports, and provide recommendations during security operations.

Human-AI collaboration is essential because fully autonomous cybersecurity systems may face challenges related to reliability, accountability, and unexpected attack scenarios. Explainable AI enables cybersecurity professionals to understand AI-generated decisions and maintain effective oversight of automated systems (Holder & Wang, 2021).

The combination of LLMs, XAI, and human expertise creates a collaborative cybersecurity model where artificial intelligence enhances analyst capabilities rather than replacing human decision-making. This approach improves operational efficiency while maintaining transparency and accountability.

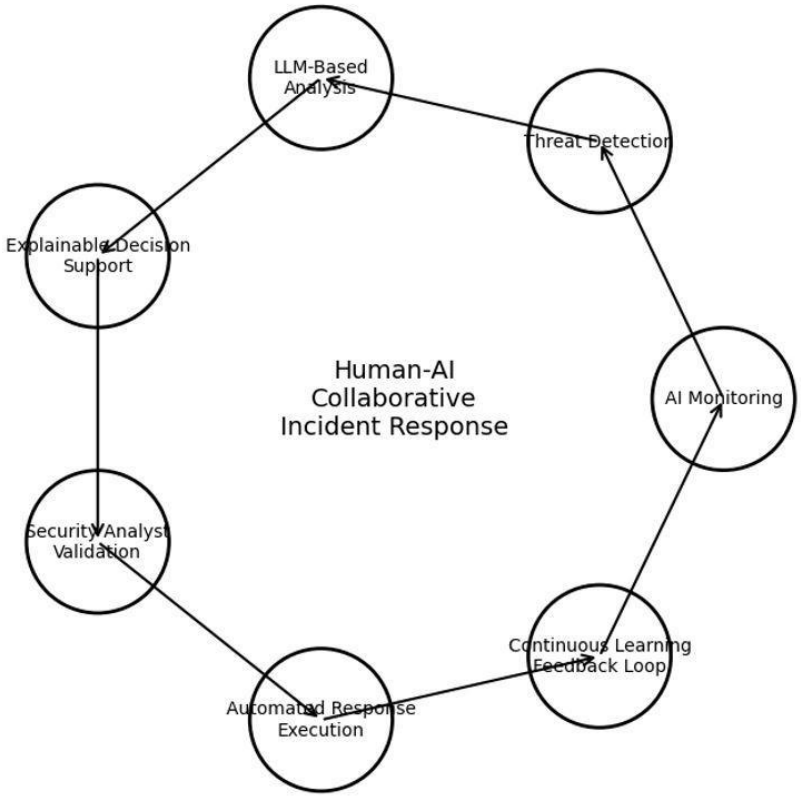

Figure 3: Human-AI Collaborative Incident Response Model

4.6 Challenges Associated with Large Language Model-Based Incident Response

Despite their advantages, LLM-based incident response systems face several challenges that must be addressed before widespread enterprise adoption. One major concern is the possibility of inaccurate outputs caused by incomplete information or incorrect model interpretation. In cybersecurity environments, incorrect recommendations may result in serious operational consequences.

Another challenge involves adversarial attacks against AI systems. Attackers may manipulate input data, exploit model weaknesses, or generate misleading information to reduce the effectiveness of AI-driven defenses. Research on AI cybersecurity emphasizes the importance of developing robust models capable of resisting adversarial manipulation.

Privacy and security concerns also remain significant because LLM-based systems often require access to sensitive organizational information. Ensuring secure data processing, maintaining confidentiality, and preventing unauthorized access are essential requirements for enterprise deployment.

Additionally, achieving explainability remains challenging because complex AI models may generate decisions that are difficult to interpret. Integrating XAI techniques into LLM-based security platforms is necessary to improve transparency, reliability, and user confidence (Zhang et al., 2022; Srivastava et al., 2022).

Overall, large Language Models provide significant opportunities for advancing intelligent incident response in enterprise computer networks. Their ability to analyze security information, correlate complex events, generate threat intelligence, and support automated decision-making enhances the effectiveness of modern cybersecurity operations. When combined with Explainable Artificial Intelligence, LLM-based systems can improve transparency, trust, and collaboration between cybersecurity professionals and autonomous defense platforms.

5. Integration of Explainable AI and Large Language Models in Enterprise Security Architecture

The rapid evolution of cyber threats has created challenges for traditional enterprise security systems that rely mainly on predefined rules and manual investigation. The increasing volume of network traffic, security alerts, and operational data makes it difficult for human analysts to identify and respond to sophisticated attacks efficiently. As a result, Artificial Intelligence (AI), particularly Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) and Large Language Models (LLMs), has become an important approach for developing intelligent and adaptive cybersecurity architectures.

Explainable Artificial Intelligence improves transparency by allowing security systems to provide understandable explanations behind their predictions and decisions. This capability is essential in cybersecurity because analysts must understand why an activity is classified as malicious before taking defensive actions. Zhang et al. (2022) emphasized that explainability

enhances trust and reliability in AI-based cybersecurity systems, while Neupane et al. (2022) highlighted the importance of Explainable Intrusion Detection Systems for improving threat interpretation.

Large Language Models extend cybersecurity capabilities by enabling automated security analysis, log interpretation, threat intelligence generation, and interactive support for security teams. Kethireddy (2021) demonstrated that language-based AI architectures can improve cyber threat intelligence by extracting meaningful information from complex security data. The integration of XAI and LLMs therefore creates enterprise security environments capable of detecting threats, explaining decisions, and supporting human analysts.

5.1 Integration Framework of XAI and LLMs for Enterprise Cyber Defense

The integration of XAI and LLMs into enterprise security architecture involves connecting data collection, AI-based analysis, explainability mechanisms, and automated response systems. Modern enterprises collect security information from networks, endpoints, cloud platforms, and applications, creating large datasets that require intelligent processing.

AI models analyze these datasets to identify anomalies, malicious behaviors, and potential attacks. However, conventional AI systems often operate as black boxes, limiting analyst confidence. XAI techniques address this limitation by providing explanations about important features, attack indicators, and decision processes (Neupane et al., 2022).

LLMs improve this architecture by interpreting security information using natural language processing capabilities. They can summarize incidents, analyze security logs, and generate recommendations for threat mitigation. AI-driven security solutions can improve cloud threat detection and incident response through automated analysis and intelligent decision support.

5.2 AI-Driven Security Operations Center (SOC) Transformation

Security Operations Centers (SOCs) are increasingly adopting AI technologies to overcome challenges associated with large volumes of security alerts and complex investigations. Traditional SOC operations require extensive manual analysis, which can lead to delayed responses and analyst fatigue.

AI-powered SOC systems automate tasks such as alert classification, threat prioritization, event correlation, and incident investigation. Singh et al. (2022) explained that AI automation improves real-time monitoring and response efficiency by reducing repetitive analyst tasks.

LLMs further enhance SOC operations by functioning as intelligent security assistants capable of analyzing logs, summarizing incidents, and supporting investigation processes. Boddupally noted that LLM-based correlation of operational data can improve incident triage and root-cause analysis in distributed environments.

Meanwhile, XAI ensures that automated SOC decisions remain transparent by showing the reasons behind threat classifications. This allows analysts to verify AI recommendations and maintain human oversight during critical cybersecurity operations (Holder & Wang, 2021).

Table 3: Integrated Architecture of XAI and LLM-Based Enterprise Security Systems

Layer	Function	Technology Application
Data Collection Layer	Collects security information from enterprise systems	Network logs, endpoints, cloud data
AI Detection Layer	Identifies abnormal activities and cyber threats	Machine learning, anomaly detection
Explainability Layer	Provides reasoning behind AI decisions	XAI models, feature interpretation
Intelligence Layer	Generates security insights and recommendations	Large Language Models
Response Layer	Automates mitigation actions	Incident response platforms

5.3 Explainable Threat Intelligence and Automated Decision Support

The integration of Explainable AI and Large Language Models improves enterprise threat intelligence by enabling security systems to transform large volumes of security information into meaningful and understandable insights. Traditional threat intelligence platforms often depend on manual analysis of indicators of compromise, vulnerability reports, and security events, which can delay response processes. XAI and LLM-based approaches provide automated analysis while maintaining transparency in security decisions.

Explainable AI enhances threat intelligence by identifying the specific factors contributing to threat predictions. For example, an AI model detecting malicious network behavior can explain whether unusual traffic patterns, unauthorized access attempts, or abnormal user activities influenced the decision. This improves analyst confidence and allows security teams to validate automated recommendations before implementing defensive actions (Zhang et al., 2022).

Large Language Models support threat intelligence operations by analyzing unstructured cybersecurity information, including threat reports, security logs, and vulnerability documentation. These models can summarize attack patterns, generate intelligence reports, and assist analysts in understanding complex cyber incidents. Kethireddy (2021) highlighted that language-based AI architectures can improve cyber threat intelligence through automated information extraction and knowledge representation.

The combination of XAI and LLMs enables automated decision-support systems that assist cybersecurity professionals rather than completely replacing human expertise. These systems provide recommendations while maintaining human oversight, improving the accuracy and reliability of enterprise security decisions (Holder & Wang, 2021).

5.4 Security Event Correlation and Incident Response Automation

Modern enterprise networks generate millions of security events from different sources, making manual correlation and investigation increasingly difficult. Integrating XAI and LLMs into security event correlation systems enables organizations to identify relationships between seemingly unrelated events and detect advanced attack patterns.

AI-based event correlation systems analyze multiple data sources, including network logs, authentication records, endpoint activities, and application events, to identify potential threats. Levshun and Kotenko explained that AI-driven security event correlation improves threat detection by identifying complex relationships among security incidents.

Large Language Models enhance automated incident response by interpreting correlated events and generating contextual explanations. They can support activities such as incident classification, root-cause identification, and response recommendation. Boddupally demonstrated that LLM-based analysis of operational metrics and system logs can improve automated incident triage and root-cause intelligence.

Furthermore, XAI mechanisms ensure that automated responses remain interpretable by providing explanations for why specific mitigation actions are recommended. This improves accountability and reduces the risk of inappropriate automated responses in critical enterprise environments (Srivastava et al., 2022).

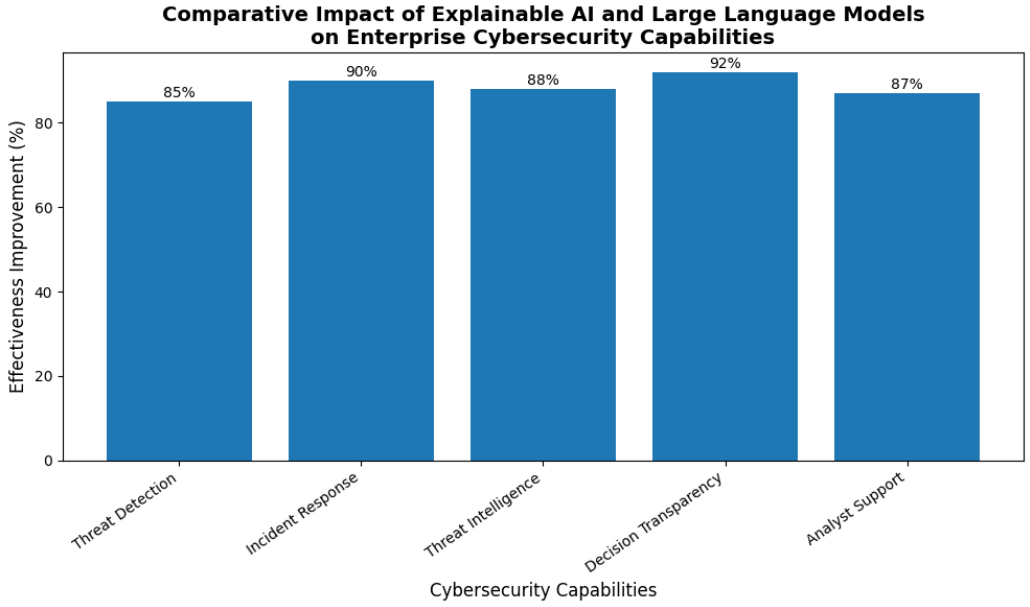

Table 4: Integration Flow of Explainable AI and Large Language Models in Enterprise Cybersecurity Architecture.

5.5 Human-AI Collaboration and Trustworthy Cybersecurity Operations

Although autonomous cybersecurity systems provide significant advantages, human expertise remains essential for complex security decisions. The integration of XAI and LLMs supports a collaborative security model where artificial intelligence assists analysts by improving information processing and reducing workload.

Explainability plays a central role in establishing trust between cybersecurity professionals and AI systems. Security analysts are more likely to rely on AI recommendations when the system provides understandable explanations of its decisions. Holder and Wang (2021) emphasized that interactive AI systems can function as junior cyber analysts by assisting human experts while maintaining human control.

LLMs further strengthen human-AI collaboration by providing conversational interfaces that allow analysts to interact with security systems naturally. Instead of manually searching through large amounts of security data, analysts can ask questions, request explanations, and receive summarized intelligence. This improves efficiency, especially in Security Operations Centers where rapid decision-making is required.

However, effective collaboration requires addressing challenges such as inaccurate AI recommendations, model limitations, and security risks associated with automated systems. Therefore, organizations must implement governance mechanisms that ensure AI systems remain reliable, transparent, and aligned with cybersecurity objectives.

5.6 Challenges of Integrating XAI and LLMs into Enterprise Security Architecture

Despite their potential benefits, integrating Explainable AI and Large Language Models into enterprise cybersecurity environments presents several challenges. One major challenge is balancing model accuracy with explainability. Highly complex AI models may achieve strong detection performance but provide limited insight into their decision-making processes.

Another challenge involves adversarial attacks against AI systems. Cyber attackers may manipulate training data or exploit model weaknesses to evade detection. Resaerch highlighted that adversarial learning remains a significant concern because attackers continuously develop techniques to bypass AI-based security mechanisms.

Large Language Models also introduce challenges related to incorrect outputs, data privacy, and security risks. Since LLMs process large amounts of information, organizations must ensure that sensitive security data are protected during analysis. Additionally, AI-generated recommendations require validation because inaccurate interpretations may result in ineffective security responses (Srivastava et al., 2022).

Scalability is another important consideration. Enterprise networks contain diverse systems and large-scale data environments, requiring AI architectures capable of processing information efficiently while maintaining real-time performance. Addressing these challenges is essential for achieving reliable autonomous cybersecurity solutions.

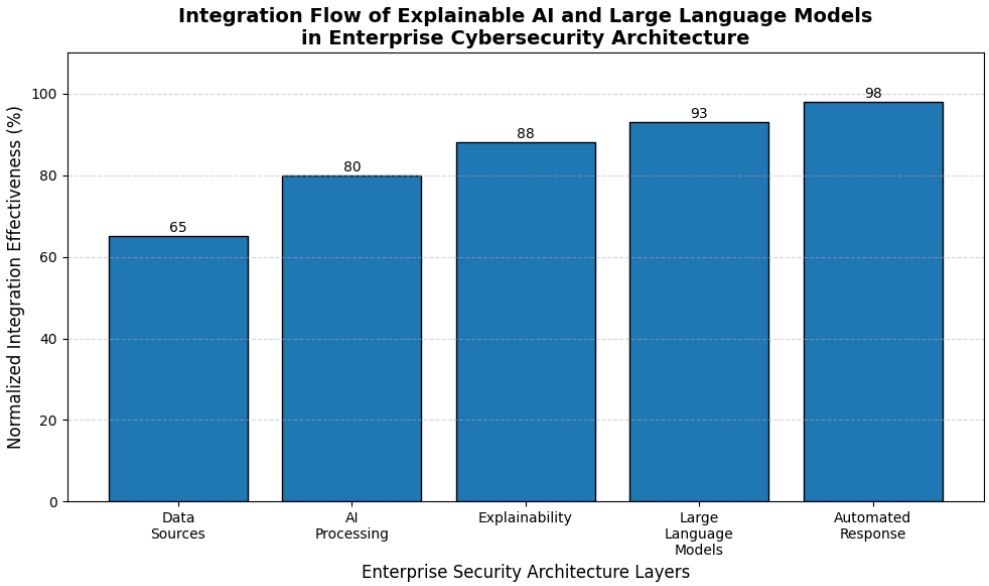

Table 5: Relationship Between Explainability, Automation, and Cybersecurity Decision Confidence

Overall, the integration of Explainable Artificial Intelligence and Large Language Models represents a significant advancement in enterprise security architecture. By combining automated threat detection, intelligent reasoning, and transparent decision-making, these technologies enable organizations to develop more adaptive and trustworthy cybersecurity systems.

XAI improves the interpretability of AI-driven security decisions, while LLMs enhance threat intelligence, incident analysis, and human interaction with security platforms. Although challenges related to explainability, adversarial threats, privacy, and scalability remain, the combination of these technologies provides a foundation for future autonomous cyber defense environments (Zhang et al., 2022).

The successful adoption of XAI and LLM-based cybersecurity architectures will depend on maintaining a balance between automation and human expertise, ensuring that intelligent systems support security professionals while preserving transparency, accountability, and operational reliability.

6. Challenges and Limitations

The integration of Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) and Large Language Models (LLMs) has significantly improved autonomous cyber threat detection and incident response in enterprise computer networks. These technologies enhance the ability to detect sophisticated attacks, automate security operations, and support cybersecurity analysts with intelligent decision-making. However, despite their advantages, several challenges hinder their effective deployment, including limitations in explainability, data quality, scalability, privacy, and computational requirements. Addressing these challenges is essential to ensure that AI-driven cybersecurity

systems remain accurate, transparent, trustworthy, and suitable for enterprise environments (Bécue et al., 2021; Zhang et al., 2022).

6.1 Explainability Accuracy Trade-off

A major challenge of Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) in cybersecurity is balancing transparency with detection accuracy. Advanced AI models and Large Language Models (LLMs) can detect complex cyber threats with high accuracy, but their decision-making processes are often difficult to interpret, limiting analysts' trust in automated security decisions (Neupane et al., 2022; Zhang et al., 2022).

XAI improves transparency by explaining why a threat is identified, thereby supporting incident investigation and decision-making. However, generating these explanations may reduce model efficiency or increase computational overhead, especially in real-time enterprise environments (Holder & Wang, 2021).

Therefore, developing AI systems that achieve both high predictive accuracy and meaningful explainability remains a significant challenge for autonomous enterprise cybersecurity (Srivastava et al., 2022).

6.2 Data Quality and Availability Challenges

The effectiveness of Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) and Large Language Models (LLMs) in autonomous cyber threat detection largely depends on the quality, diversity, and availability of cybersecurity data. Enterprise environments often generate massive volumes of heterogeneous data from network traffic, system logs, endpoint devices, and cloud infrastructures, yet these datasets are frequently incomplete, imbalanced, noisy, or inconsistently labeled, reducing the accuracy and reliability of AI-driven threat detection models. Furthermore, the scarcity of high-quality datasets containing emerging attack patterns limits the ability of machine learning models to generalize effectively against previously unseen threats. Privacy restrictions, organizational security policies, and the confidential nature of cyber incident data also hinder data sharing among institutions, thereby constraining model training and validation. Addressing these challenges requires robust data preprocessing techniques, secure data-sharing frameworks, and continuous dataset updates to improve the transparency, adaptability, and overall performance of explainable cybersecurity systems (Neupane et al., 2022; Zhang et al., 2022).

6.3 Adversarial Attacks Against AI and Large Language Models

Despite their significant contributions to autonomous cyber threat detection and incident response, Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) models and Large Language Models (LLMs) remain vulnerable to adversarial attacks that can compromise their reliability and security. Adversaries may manipulate training data, craft adversarial inputs, or exploit prompt injection techniques to mislead AI systems into producing inaccurate threat classifications or unsafe recommendations. These attacks reduce the effectiveness of automated cybersecurity solutions and may result in false positives, false negatives, or delayed incident response within enterprise networks. Strengthening model robustness through adversarial training, continuous validation, secure data pipelines, and explainable decision mechanisms is therefore essential to maintaining

trustworthy AI-driven cyber defense systems. Furthermore, integrating explainability enables security analysts to identify suspicious model behavior, verify AI-generated decisions, and respond more effectively to emerging threats, thereby enhancing the resilience of enterprise cybersecurity infrastructures (Srivastava et al., 2022; Kethireddy, 2021).

6.4 Scalability and Computational Complexity

The deployment of Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) and Large Language Models (LLMs) in enterprise computer networks is often constrained by scalability and computational complexity. Enterprise environments generate massive volumes of network traffic, security logs, and telemetry data that require continuous real-time analysis, placing significant demands on processing power, memory, and storage resources. As AI models become more sophisticated, the computational overhead associated with training, inference, and generating interpretable explanations may increase response latency, thereby limiting their effectiveness in time-sensitive security operations. These challenges are particularly evident in large-scale cloud, Internet of Things (IoT), and distributed network infrastructures, where maintaining high detection accuracy alongside efficient resource utilization remains difficult. Consequently, developing lightweight, scalable, and resource-efficient AI architectures is essential for ensuring that autonomous threat detection and incident response systems can operate effectively without compromising enterprise network performance (Srivastava et al., 2022).

6.5 Human Trust, Interpretability, and Decision Support

Human trust is a fundamental requirement for the successful deployment of autonomous cybersecurity systems in enterprise environments. Security analysts are more likely to rely on AI-generated alerts and recommendations when the underlying reasoning behind system decisions is transparent, understandable, and supported by interpretable evidence. Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) enhances human–AI collaboration by providing clear explanations for threat classifications, anomaly detection, and incident response recommendations, thereby enabling analysts to validate automated decisions and respond with greater confidence. This transparency not only improves operational efficiency but also reduces alert fatigue and the likelihood of overlooking critical security incidents. Furthermore, integrating explainable models with Large Language Models (LLMs) can improve decision support by summarizing complex security events, correlating diverse threat intelligence sources, and presenting actionable insights in a human-readable format. Nevertheless, maintaining an appropriate balance between model complexity, interpretability, and decision accuracy remains a significant challenge in developing trustworthy AI-driven cybersecurity systems (Holder & Wang, 2021; Zhang et al., 2022; Neupane et al., 2022).

6.6 Privacy, Ethical, and Regulatory Challenges

The adoption of Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) and Large Language Models (LLMs) in enterprise cybersecurity introduces significant privacy, ethical, and regulatory challenges that must be addressed to ensure responsible deployment. AI-driven security systems often require access to large volumes of network traffic, user behavior data, and system logs, raising concerns about data confidentiality, unauthorized access, and compliance with organizational and legal data protection requirements. Furthermore, biases embedded in training data may lead to unfair

threat assessments or inaccurate incident prioritization, potentially affecting the reliability of automated security decisions. The complexity of LLMs also creates accountability challenges, as it may be difficult to determine responsibility for incorrect recommendations or autonomous actions during incident response. Consequently, organizations should adopt transparent AI governance frameworks, enforce robust data protection practices, and implement human oversight mechanisms to ensure that AI-supported cybersecurity operations remain trustworthy, ethical, and aligned with regulatory expectations (Zhang et al., 2022; Holder & Wang, 2021).

Overall, the successful deployment of Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) and Large Language Models (LLMs) in enterprise cybersecurity depends on addressing several technical, operational, and ethical challenges. Issues related to explainability, data quality, adversarial attacks, computational complexity, human trust, and regulatory compliance continue to influence the effectiveness and adoption of autonomous cyber defense systems. Overcoming these limitations requires the development of transparent, robust, and human-centered AI frameworks that balance automation with expert oversight. Addressing these challenges will strengthen the reliability, accountability, and resilience of AI-driven threat detection and incident response systems in modern enterprise computer networks (Srivastava et al., 2022; Zhang et al., 2022).

7. Emerging Research Directions

The rapid evolution of enterprise cyber threats continues to expose limitations in conventional security mechanisms, creating a strong demand for intelligent, adaptive, and transparent cybersecurity solutions. While Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) and Large Language Models (LLMs) have significantly enhanced threat detection, intrusion analysis, and incident response, ongoing research is focused on improving their autonomy, interpretability, scalability, and integration within enterprise security infrastructures. Emerging studies emphasize the development of collaborative human–AI security frameworks, predictive threat intelligence, adaptive defense architectures, and explainable decision-support systems capable of responding to increasingly sophisticated cyberattacks while maintaining transparency and trust in automated security operations (Bécue et al., 2021; Zhang et al., 2022; Srivastava et al., 2022).

7.1 Explainable Autonomous Security Operations Centers (SOCs)

The evolution of Security Operations Centers (SOCs) is expected to increasingly emphasize autonomous decision-making supported by Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI). Future SOCs are likely to integrate explainable machine learning models with intelligent automation to detect, analyze, prioritize, and respond to cyber threats while providing transparent explanations for every security decision. Such explainability enhances analysts' trust in automated systems, facilitates faster validation of threat alerts, and supports regulatory compliance and forensic investigations. By combining autonomous threat detection with interpretable reasoning, enterprise security teams can reduce alert fatigue, improve operational efficiency, and maintain meaningful human oversight over critical cybersecurity decisions, thereby creating more resilient and trustworthy cyber defense environments (Holder & Wang, 2021; Zhang et al., 2022; Neupane et al., 2022).

7.2 Reinforcement Learning for Adaptive Cyber Defense

Reinforcement learning (RL) is emerging as a promising direction for developing adaptive cyber defense systems capable of learning optimal security strategies through continuous interaction with dynamic network environments. Unlike traditional machine learning approaches that rely on static training datasets, RL-based security models can autonomously adjust defense mechanisms in response to evolving attack patterns, thereby improving the resilience of enterprise computer networks against sophisticated cyber threats. Future research is expected to focus on integrating reinforcement learning with explainable artificial intelligence (XAI) to ensure that autonomous defense decisions are transparent, interpretable, and trustworthy for cybersecurity analysts. Such integration would enable security professionals to understand why specific defensive actions are recommended while maintaining the adaptability required to counter advanced persistent threats and zero-day attacks. Additionally, combining reinforcement learning with large-scale threat intelligence and automated incident response platforms could enhance proactive threat mitigation and reduce response times in complex enterprise environments (Srivastava et al., 2022; Zhang et al., 2022; Bécue et al., 2021).

7.3 Explainable Threat Intelligence Platforms

Explainable threat intelligence platforms are expected to become an important direction in enterprise cybersecurity by combining advanced artificial intelligence with transparent analytical processes that enable security analysts to understand how threats are identified, classified, and prioritized. Unlike conventional threat intelligence systems that often produce opaque predictions, explainable platforms provide interpretable evidence, feature importance, and reasoning paths that support informed decision-making and increase confidence in automated recommendations. Integrating explainable AI with threat intelligence feeds, intrusion detection systems, and security information and event management (SIEM) platforms can improve the accuracy, reliability, and accountability of cyber defense operations while facilitating collaboration between human analysts and intelligent systems. Such platforms are also expected to enhance regulatory compliance, reduce false positives, and strengthen proactive threat mitigation in increasingly complex enterprise environments (Holder & Wang, 2021; Zhang et al., 2022; Srivastava et al., 2022).

7.4 Secure Enterprise Digital Twins

Secure enterprise digital twins represent an emerging direction in cybersecurity by creating virtual replicas of enterprise networks that continuously mirror the behavior, configurations, and security posture of physical infrastructures. These digital environments enable security teams to simulate sophisticated cyberattacks, evaluate defensive strategies, and predict potential vulnerabilities without disrupting live operations. When integrated with Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI), digital twins can provide transparent explanations for detected anomalies, attack paths, and risk assessments, thereby improving analysts' confidence in automated security recommendations. Furthermore, combining digital twins with Large Language Models (LLMs) can enhance threat intelligence interpretation, automate scenario analysis, and support decision-making through natural language interactions. As enterprise networks become increasingly

complex and distributed, secure digital twins are expected to play an important role in strengthening proactive cyber resilience, optimizing incident response planning, and supporting continuous security validation across dynamic computing environments (Radanliev et al., 2020; Kabir et al., 2022; Wang et al., 2021).

7.5 AI-Augmented Cybersecurity Governance

Artificial intelligence is expected to play an increasingly important role in strengthening cybersecurity governance by supporting policy enforcement, risk assessment, compliance monitoring, and strategic decision-making across enterprise networks. Explainable AI can improve governance by providing transparent justifications for automated security decisions, enabling security analysts and organizational leaders to better understand, validate, and audit AI-generated recommendations. At the same time, large language models have the potential to assist in interpreting security policies, summarizing threat intelligence, and facilitating communication between technical and non-technical stakeholders, thereby improving organizational cyber resilience and governance effectiveness. Future research should focus on developing trustworthy AI governance frameworks that balance automation with human oversight, ensuring accountability, regulatory compliance, and ethical deployment of intelligent cybersecurity systems (Holder & Wang, 2021; Kabir et al., 2022; Srivastava et al., 2022).

8. Conclusion

The convergence of Explainable Artificial Intelligence and Large Language Models represents a significant advancement in enterprise cybersecurity by enabling more intelligent, transparent, and adaptive approaches to cyber threat detection and incident response. Unlike conventional security systems that rely heavily on predefined rules and manual analysis, these emerging technologies improve the accuracy of threat identification while providing interpretable insights that strengthen analyst confidence and decision-making. Despite ongoing challenges related to explainability, scalability, data privacy, and adversarial resilience, the integration of XAI and LLMs offers substantial potential for developing trustworthy and autonomous cyber defense frameworks capable of addressing the evolving threat landscape. Continued research and practical implementation are expected to further enhance the effectiveness, transparency, and operational resilience of enterprise computer network security (Bécue et al., 2021; Zhang et al., 2022; Srivastava et al., 2022).

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