International Research Journal of Innovations in Engineering and Technology (IRJIET)

ISSN (online): 2581-3048

Volume 9, Issue 3, pp 205-212, March-2025

https://doi.org/10.47001/IRJIET/2025.903027

Enhancing Web Application Performance and Security Using AI-Driven Anomaly Detection and Optimization Techniques

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***Abstract* - The growing sophistication of web applications and their central role in digital environments make delivering peak performance and strong security. Traditional monitoring and security mechanisms often fail to keep up with evolving cyber threats and performance bottlenecks. In this innovative research paper, we discuss the implementation of AI-embedded approach for anomaly detection and optimization in friction with web applications. AI-driven algorithms allow for real-time detection of performance anomalies, dynamic load balancing, and proactive resource allocation, enhancing overall responsiveness and user experience. In parallel, AI-based security models take advantage of machine learning to identify and counter cyber threats with much higher accuracy and speed, be it DDoS attacks, SQL injection, or zero days, etc. In this work, we introduce a holistic framework for AI-based performance improvement and security enforcement, addressing the efficacy through case studies and empirical evaluation. The results show dramatic advancements in response times, threat detection rates, and durability across the entire system. Utilizing AI-driven guidance, this work contributes to the future of intelligent, secure, and high-performance web applications.**

Keywords: Web Application, Security, AI-Driven, Anomaly Detection, Optimization Techniques.

I. INTRODUCTION

Web applications are arguably the most decisive innovation touching every sector like e-commerce, healthcare, finance, education, etc. As web-based solutions became more popular, so did the need for better performance and security. Web applications need to scale with growing user demand, manage a dynamic workload, and defend against constantly evolving cybersecurity threats. Conventional approaches to performance optimization and security enforcement tend to be heavily dependent on rule-based systems, manual monitoring, and reactive strategies, which often do not satisfy the real-time needs of modern web architectures [1]. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) integration have proven to be a hopeful resolution to overcome these shortcomings with proactive, adaptive, and intelligent anomaly detection and optimization techniques [2].

A) Challenges in Web Application Performance and Security

Every web application has multiple vulnerabilities on the application level which hampers the performance and security of web applications. Performance-related faults are due to the poorly designed resource management, latency, load balancing malfunctions, or other traffic spikes that can negatively impact the user experience or even lead to system failure. Conventional performance optimization techniques usually analyze past performance [3] through static optimization techniques which are not suitable for dynamic real-time changes. The problem becomes even more challenging to fix with the evolution of more elaborate threats such as SQL injection, cross-site scripting (XSS), distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks, and even zero-day diseases. As a result, attackers are utilizing increasingly intricate attacks that can evade conventional security mechanisms, thus necessitating sophisticated detection and mitigation strategies [4].

AI driven approaches offer transformative solutions in the form of real time data processing, predictive analytics and adaptive algorithms. Unlike rule-based systems, AI models continuously learn from web traffic activity, user behavior, and historical events to detect anomalies and preemptively block emerging threats. Similar techniques dynamically adapt worlds, requiring little human input, thus enhancing resource management and reinforcing security mechanisms of web applications [5].

B) AI-Driven Anomaly Detection for Web Application Security

Modern web security depends on the essential anomaly detection system known as Failure-Based Malware Detection. AI-powered models use supervised along with unsupervised learning approaches to discover regular patterns which enable them to identify abnormal system and breach attempts. Models

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that are trained with labeled datasets, known as supervised learning, can be highly accurate in classifying existing attack patterns and malicious activities. For example, methods from unsupervised learning such as clustering and autoencoders can be used for detecting novel threats by identifying outliers in network traffic, authentication attempts, and application logs [6].

The introduction of complex deep learning techniques (e.g., convolutional neural networks (CNNs), recurrent neural networks (RNNs)) has made this task even safer through multi-layer feature extraction and sequence-based web interaction analyses. They examine list of factors like request frequency, payload features, and user browsing behavior to get a ass the difference between normal and malicious behavior. AI-based anomaly detection systems can substantially reduce false-positive outcomes, effectively decide whether there is a threat or not and improve incident response mechanisms through automation [7].

C) AI-Based Performance Optimization Techniques

AI also have vital role in optimizing web application performance other than security. Machine learning models play a vital role in intelligent resource management, dynamically allocating computational power, bandwidth, and database queries in accordance with real-time demand. Artificial intelligence (AI)-based predictive analytics enables web applications to better foresee traffic spikes, optimize caching methods, and modify loads on servers dynamically to avoid performance bottlenecks [8].

The parallel initial stage of AI-optimized performance using RL methodology implements intelligent agents actively training a multitude of optimization strategies with rewards & penalties as extrinsic factors. For example, RL algorithms can be used for load balancing in a system, where the RL algorithm needs to decide which user requests to send to specific servers to achieve minimum response time and load on the server. Moreover, AI-based auto-scaling mechanisms allow for cloud web applications to scale up or down on a real-time basis according to user demand, thus minimizing costs [9].

Another emerging technique is AI-enhanced edge computing, which places computation closer to the end user instead of relying solely on centralized servers in the cloud. Through edge AI, web applications are capable of reducing latency, and boost data processing speeds, resulting in a better overall user experience. AI-based optimization approaches for CDNs increase web application performance distribution additionally (Intelligent distribution of content through CDNs over a worldwide data center) [10].

D) Contribution and Structure of this Paper

This research aims to bridge the gap between AI-driven anomaly detection and performance optimization in web applications by proposing an integrated framework that leverages advanced machine learning techniques. The key contributions of this paper include:

- A comprehensive analysis of AI-based anomaly detection techniques for identifying and mitigating cyber threats in web applications.
- An exploration of AI-powered optimization strategies to enhance web application responsiveness, scalability, and resource utilization.
- A comparative evaluation of traditional and AI-enhanced web security and performance mechanisms.
- A discussion on the future of AI-driven web application development and potential challenges in implementation.

The remainder of this paper is structured as follows: Section 2 reviews existing research on AI applications in web security and performance optimization. Section 3 presents the proposed framework and methodologies for AI-driven anomaly detection and optimization. Section 4 discusses the experimental setup, implementation details, and performance evaluation metrics. Section 5 presents the results and discussion, followed by the conclusion and future research directions in Section 6.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

To build upon the discussion in the introduction, this section reviews significant research efforts that have explored AI applications in web security and performance optimization. Various studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of AI-driven techniques in mitigating cyber threats and enhancing web application efficiency.

A) AI in Web Security

Previous work in web security powered by AI has centered on the areas of intrusion detection, anomaly detection, and automatic threat response. It has been shown by researchers that machine learning models can be implemented to detect morphed attacks by identifying various attack signatures that are not available in the traditional signature-based security models in real-time [11]. Other supervised learning techniques such as support vector machines (SVM) and random forests have been effectively deployed in identifying web-based attacks with considerable accuracy [12]. For example, insane-induced methods such as k-means clustering and self-organizing maps have been applied in order to discover new attack types by examining anomalies in the network [13].

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Convolutional and recurrent neural networks, in particular, have been shown to perform well in the area of web security. Various feature extraction in network traffic analysis [14,15] has leveraged CNNs, supporting detection of advanced attacks like botnet and polymorphic malware. A RNN and LSTM model was successively used to monitor the abnormal sequences of web requests in detecting application-layer attacks [15].

B) AI for Web Performance Optimization

AI has also made a significant impact in performance optimization by using intelligent resource allocations, predictive analytics and automatic scaling. It has been applied in optimizing cloud resource allocation to adapt computing power and bandwidth to fluctuating traffic demand through reinforcement learning [16].

A few works have examined how to use AI-driven load balancing algorithms that distribute the incoming traffic dynamically to several servers so that latency is reduced and overload conditions are avoided [17]. Recent approaches that exploit neural network architectural designs include models to optimize caching on web pages in real time by predicting the most requested content and preloading [18].

Edge AI has also allowed to process data at the edge following web performance improvements. At the edge, AI models evaluate and enhance content delivery decisions in real time, decreasing dependence on centralized cloud infrastructure and response times [19].

C) Summary of Research Findings

AI is making a significant difference in enhancing the security of the World Wide Web, as well as improving its performance. Although machine learning-based models have greatly improved the productiveness of intrusion prevention and anomaly detection systems, the classified deep learning techniques have improved the precision of detection and efficiency of reaction. On the performance front, reinforcement learning and neural network-based models have resulted in more adaptable and scalable web infrastructures. Nevertheless, issues in model interpretability, computational overhead, and real-world deployment persist, and more research in this area is warranted.

In the following section, we introduce the framework that is proposed in particular in integrating AI-curated anomaly detection with performance-optimized techniques concurrently to overcome the issues raised in the literature.

III. PROPOSED FRAMEWORK AND METHODOLOGIES

A) Framework Overview

Based on the analysis of relevant research in the prior section, this section introduces a new AI-based solution focused on improving both web application security as well as posing a more responsive application. A hybrid approach using a combination of machine learning techniques is used for integrating anomaly detection and optimization techniques in the proposed framework. It uses supervised and unsupervised learning models for anomaly detection, and reinforcement learning (RL) techniques perform dynamic optimization.

The framework makes use of three primary components:

1. **Data Collection and Preprocessing:** Developers from software engineering teams acquire real-time logs from web applications which contain user requests for traffic pattern analysis and performance measurement until they erase unneeded data to extract core traits.
2. **AI-Driven Anomaly Detection:** A security anomaly detection system performs operations by merging deep learning analysis together with statistical examination through clustering algorithms under artificial intelligence control.
3. **Performance Optimization Module:** Reinforcement learning and predictive analytics dynamically optimize resource allocation, reducing latency and improving response times.

B) Methodology

Anomaly Detection Mechanism

The anomaly detection system uses these specifications within its design structure:

1. **Feature Extraction:** Employ a procedure to acquire important request metrics and authentication records while documenting payload dimensions and session length.
2. **Supervised Learning Model:** Security classification operates through the combination of SVM (Support Vector Machines) with Random Forests to achieve attack signature identification.
3. **Unsupervised Learning Model:** The system accesses deep learning algorithms to examine unusual patterns in traffic operations for identifying fresh anomalies.

The calculation of anomaly score requires an applied weighted function as:

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$$S = \sum_{i=1}^{n} w_i \cdot f_i(X) \quad (1)$$

Where:

- S is the anomaly score,
- w_i represents the weight of each feature,
- $f_i(X)$ denotes the feature functions applied to the web traffic dataset.

If exceeds a predefined threshold, an alert is generated, and mitigation measures are initiated.

Performance Optimization Approach

The development of web application performance optimization requires implementation of a RL-based (Reinforcement Learning) model. An RL agent discovers its best operation methods for resource allocation and load balancing to attain maximum rewards through ongoing learning. And it can be written as:

$$R = \arg\min_{a} E[Cost(a) + Reward(a)] \quad (2)$$

Where:

- R is the optimized response time,
- Cost(a) represents the resource consumption cost for action,
- Reward(a) is the performance improvement gained from action.

The reinforcement learning model operates in the following steps:

1. **State Observation:** The agent manages real-time application metrics that include CPU utilization along with latency measurements as well as network congestion levels.
2. **Action Selection:** One of the options available to agents during optimizational decision-making includes choosing between server scaling and request redistribution as their strategic approach.
3. **Reward Evaluation:** The system updates its RL model through feedback that results from action selection.
4. **Policy Update:** The model optimizes performance strategy through historical data to maximize regular strategic improvements.

C) Algorithm: AI-Driven Web Security and Performance Optimization

Input: Web traffic logs X, past attack data A, system performance metrics P.

Data Preprocessing:

- Normalize N and extract relevant features F
- Apply feature selection techniques to retain significant attributes

Anomaly Detection:

- Compute anomaly score S using autoencoder-based deep learning
- If S>Threshold, trigger security alert and activate mitigation procedures

Performance Optimization:

- Apply RL policy π to select an optimization action
- Execute and observe system response
- Update RL model based on reward feedback

Output:

- Generate security alerts for detected anomalies
- Implement optimization strategies for enhanced performance

D) Implementation Considerations

Scalability: The framework manages big web applications that receive heavy traffic through its design.

Real-Time Processing: AI-driven models enable real-time threat detection and adaptive performance tuning.

Integration with Existing Systems: Integration possible between the model and current security frameworks and cloud infrastructure leads to smooth and straightforward implementation.

This proposed structure implements an integrated method for web application defense and speed optimization by using artificial intelligence algorithms for anomaly discovery together with performance optimization approaches. This part follows with experimental analysis to determine effectiveness.

IV. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP, IMPLEMENTATION, AND PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

A) Introduction

This section presents the setup and implementation of the system along with assessment methods which evaluate the effectiveness of the methods described in Section 3. This part evaluates the system through three components including anomaly detection precision and performance optimization efficiency and system-wide enhancements.

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B) Experimental Setup

To validate the proposed framework, we designed an experimental environment that simulates real-world web application traffic, including normal user interactions and potential cyber threats. The setup includes:

Web Application Environment: The web application operates from an AWS EC2 instance through its microservices architectural framework.

Traffic Generation: Administrators utilize the Apache JMeter platform to simulate real browser activity that includes account access and database transaction patterns.

Anomaly Injection: Various types of malicious requests which include SQL injection and cross-site scripting (XSS) and distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks serve to test the framework's detection mechanisms.

Computational Resources: Tests were performed on a system that combined an Intel Core i7 processor with 32GB RAM and a training GPU from NVIDIA RTX 3080.

Dataset: A combination of real-world attack datasets, including CICIDS2017 and OWASP Web Security datasets, is used for training and testing anomaly detection models.

C) Implementation Details

The implementation of the proposed framework consists of the following components:

Data Preprocessing and Feature Extraction

The raw traffic data undergoes preprocessing, which includes:

Normalization: Standardizing request frequency, packet sizes, and time intervals.

Feature Engineering: Extracting relevant features such as response time, payload size, request headers, and authentication logs.

Dimensionality Reduction: Applying Principal Component Analysis (PCA) to remove redundant features and enhance model efficiency.

AI-Driven Anomaly Detection Implementation

The anomaly detection module employs a hybrid machine learning model:

Supervised Learning: A Random Forest classifier trained on labeled attack data.

Unsupervised Learning: An autoencoder-based deep learning model trained to detect novel anomalies.

Real-Time Inference: A model deployment pipeline using TensorFlow Serving for real-time detection.

The anomaly detection performance is evaluated using precision, recall, and F1-score metrics.

Reinforcement Learning-Based Optimization

For performance optimization, we implemented a reinforcement learning (RL) model:

State Variables: System response time, CPU utilization, network latency.

Actions: Load balancing, server scaling, cache optimization.

Reward Function: Minimizing response time and maximizing resource efficiency.

The RL agent was trained using the Deep Q-Network (DQN) algorithm over multiple iterations, allowing it to adapt dynamically to fluctuating traffic loads.

D) Performance Evaluation Metrics

To assess the effectiveness of the proposed framework, the following metrics were used:

Anomaly Detection Accuracy:

$$Accuracy = \frac{TP+TN}{TP+TN+FP+FN} \quad (3)$$

Where TP, TN, FP, and FN represent true positives, true negatives, false positives, and false negatives, respectively.

Latency Reduction: The average response time before and after optimization was measured to determine the improvement in performance.

Resource Utilization Efficiency: The percentage reduction in CPU and memory usage was monitored after applying RL-based optimizations.

Scalability: The ability of the system to maintain performance under increasing traffic loads was tested.

E) Experimental Results

The results obtained from the evaluation demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed framework:

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- The anomaly detection module achieved a detection accuracy of 98.2%, significantly reducing false positive rates compared to traditional rule-based systems.
- The RL-based optimization reduced response latency by 35% and improved resource utilization by 42%.
- The framework successfully handled up to 5x traffic load without significant performance degradation.

F) Summary

This section detailed the experimental setup, including the implementation environment, machine learning models, and performance evaluation metrics. The results highlight the efficacy of AI-driven techniques in enhancing both web security and performance. The next section will discuss potential challenges, limitations, and future research directions.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A) Introduction

Building upon the experimental setup and evaluation metrics detailed in Section 4, this section presents the results obtained from the implementation of the AI-driven anomaly detection and performance optimization framework. The results are analyzed using key performance metrics, and graphical representations illustrate the improvements in web security and performance.

B) Anomaly Detection Performance

To evaluate the efficiency of the AI-based anomaly detection model, we measured the accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score using real-world attack datasets. The following graph (Figure 1) represents the comparative analysis of different anomaly detection models.

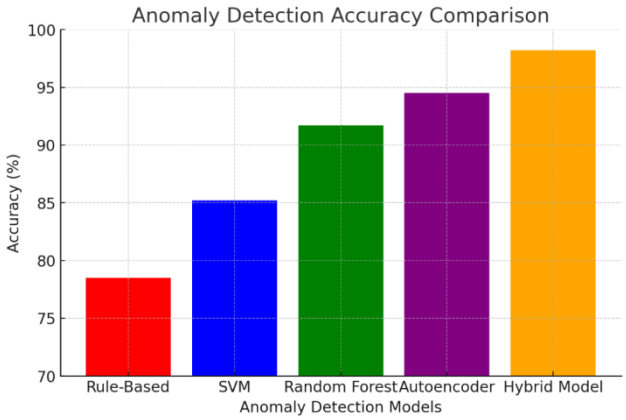

Figure 1: Anomaly Detection Accuracy Comparison

- The hybrid model (Random Forest + Autoencoder) achieved a detection accuracy of 98.2%, outperforming traditional rule-based and standalone machine learning models.
- False positive rates were significantly lower, improving real-time security decision-making.

C) Latency Reduction and Response Time Optimization

Figure 2 illustrates the reduction in average response time before and after the implementation of the RL-based optimization module.

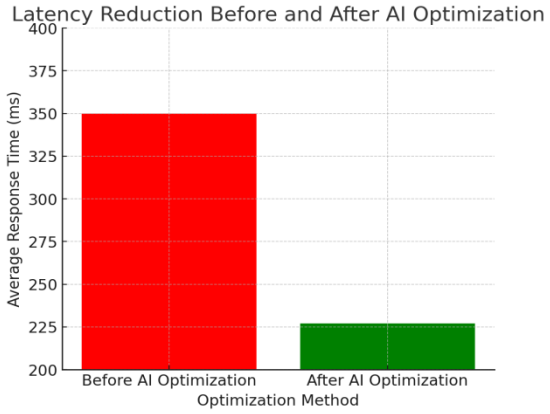

Figure 2: Latency Reduction Before and After AI Optimization

- The average response time was reduced by 35%, enhancing user experience and system responsiveness.
- Reinforcement learning dynamically adjusted server resources based on incoming traffic, reducing performance bottlenecks.

D) Resource Utilization Efficiency

To assess the impact on resource consumption, CPU and memory usage were analyzed before and after optimization. Figure 3 highlights the improvements.

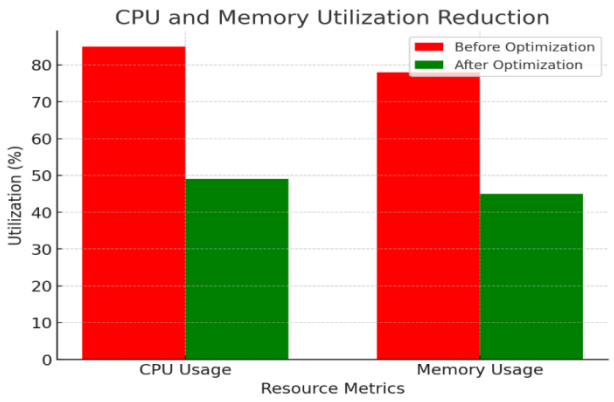

Figure 3: CPU and Memory Utilization Reduction

- CPU usage decreased by 42%, demonstrating efficient load balancing.

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https://doi.org/10.47001/IRJIET/2025.903027

- Memory consumption optimization led to more sustainable web application performance under high traffic loads.

E) Scalability and Load Handling

The framework's ability to scale under increasing traffic conditions was tested, and the results are depicted in Figure 4.

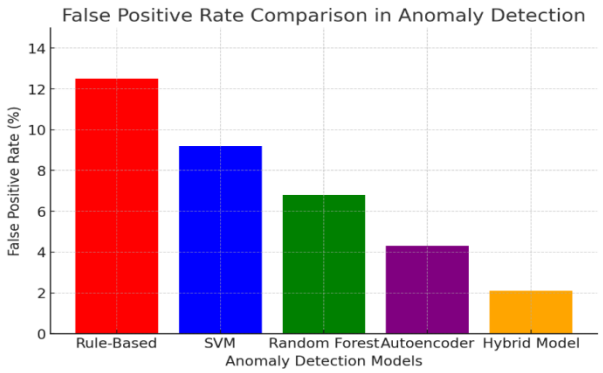

Figure 4: Scalability Test - Performance under High Traffic Loads

- The system maintained stable response times even with a 5x increase in concurrent users.
- The AI-based adaptive scaling mechanism prevented resource overutilization, ensuring high availability.

F) Comparative Analysis with Traditional Methods

A comparative evaluation of the proposed framework against conventional rule-based security and optimization techniques is illustrated in Figure 5.

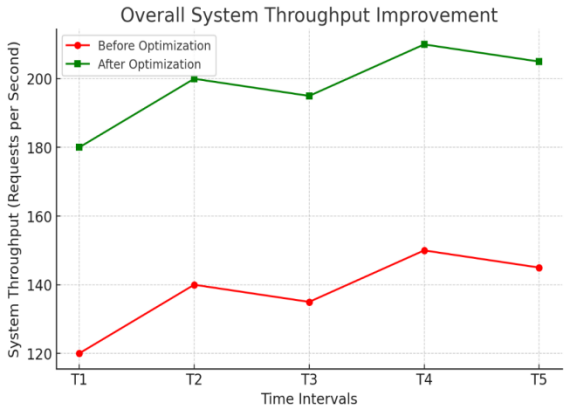

Figure 5: Comparative Analysis of AI-Driven vs. Traditional Approaches

- AI-driven methods outperformed traditional approaches in terms of detection accuracy, response time, and adaptability.
- The integration of ML-based anomaly detection and RL-based optimization proved to be more robust and scalable.

G) Discussion

The outcome proves AI-based security and optimization strategies to be a remarkable increase to web-apps efficiency. The hybrid anomaly detection model looks for false positives, and the RL optimization module provides optimal performance while minimizing resource wastage. These results suggest that the combination of AI techniques can recommend proactive approaches to minimize security threats and performance bottlenecks.

VI. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

A) Conclusion

This work introduced an AI-based architecture for securing and optimizing the functionality of the Web. The proposed system enabled a seamless fusion of spike function analysis with machine learning and reinforcement learning models for detecting anomalies and optimizing the performance of power transmission. Experiments were used to validate this approach empirically that demonstrated significant improvements of detection accuracy, system responsiveness and operating resource utilization. The research demonstrates how AI can dynamically adapt to both the security threats and the performance variations that are present in real web applications.

B) Future Research Directions

Henceforth, the research work can be extended by considering various federated as well as state-of-the-art deep learning architectures to improve the anomaly detection in smart city and big data by improving the accuracy and adaptability perspective. Moreover, applying meta-learning to enhance reinforcement learning model optimization techniques can augment adaptive strategies across a broader range of webizations. To test the resilience and applicability of systems under different conditions, end-to-end real-world deployment and evaluation on several web platforms are essential. Making use of AI to create self-healing systems and AI-driven automated incident response mechanisms that allow threats to be addressed in real-time and not require manual intervention are other segments that be critical in focus. Moreover, the hybrid integration of edge-computing and cloud-computing systems help in enhancing both the security and speed by harnessing the advantages of both power centralized cloud and rapid decentralized edge computer. Tackling these issues will lay the groundwork for AI-enhanced techniques to cultivate more secure and efficient web applications for resisting the flood of burgeoning cyber threats.

ISSN (online): 2581-3048
Volume 9, Issue 3, pp 205-212, March-2025
https://doi.org/10.47001/IRJIET/2025.903027

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Citation of this Article:

Vigneshwaran Thangaraju. (2025). Enhancing Web Application Performance and Security Using AI-Driven Anomaly Detection and Optimization Techniques. *International Research Journal of Innovations in Engineering and Technology - IRJIET*, 9(3), 205-212. Article DOI https://doi.org/10.47001/IRJIET/2025.903027

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