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

ISSN (online): 2581-3048

Volume 9, Issue 3, pp 213-220, March-2025

https://doi.org/10.47001/IRJIET/2025.903028

Enhancing Cloud Security in AWS Using AI-Powered Anomaly Detection and Predictive Analytics

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***Abstract* - Cloud computing has transformed the landscape of modern IT infrastructure, and Amazon Web Services (AWS) has become one of the leading platforms for enterprises around the globe. Yet, as cloud environments have become more complex and larger in scale, they pose serious security risks, such as data breaches, insider threats, and advanced cyberattacks. Traditional security methods that depend on rule-based monitoring are often inadequate in the face of new and emerging threats, failing to ensure timely detection. This paper introduces a unique AI based anomaly detection and predictive analytic framework towards securing the cloud (AWS). This proposed model incorporates ML and DL algorithms for AWS-native security tools like AWS GuardDuty, AWS Security Hub, AWS CloudTrail. The system identifies abnormal behavior using both supervised and unsupervised learning methods to forecast potential security threats before they happen. Results from scientific experiments exhibit that the proposed intelligent automated system which utilises AI techniques for threat detection produces a 28.7% and 19.5% increase in threat detection accuracy and reduction of false positives compared to non-AI past proposed systems based on rules. More importantly, the time taken to identify real-time threats is cut down by 35% — allowing for quick incident response. It further assesses how ensemble learning models such as Random Forest, LSTM(Long Short-Term Memory) and Autoencoders improve anomaly detection performance. The advantages of deploying predictive analytics to complement AWS security controls to guard against APTs & insider attacks – a case study of a large-scale AWS deployment. Set your security nests at the top; it shows that AI-powered anomaly detection considerably boosts AWS security measures, creating a more resilient cloud habitat in finding the advance cyber threats. The proposed framework encompasses a novel combination of machine learning techniques and cloud-specific metrics to enhance the complexity and electricity of AWS-based security operations, ultimately providing a significant advancement in the field.**

Keywords: AWS Security, AI-Powered Anomaly Detection, Predictive Analytics, Cloud Threat Detection, Cybersecurity.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background and Motivation

Cloud computing has emerged as the backbone of digital transformation where businesses are able to scale effectively without infrastructure costs (1). AWS which is the cloud service of Amazon, is by far the leading player in the field of cloud computing, offers all the services such as computing power, storage, databases and networking (2). Although AWS offers strong security measures, the shared responsibility model of AWS results in a high workload for organizations to secure all cloud workloads (3). The risks for cloud-hosted applications and sensitive data are compounded by cyber threats such as ransomware, insider threats, Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attacks, and unauthorized access (4). Traditional security solutions, which include rule-based Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS) and Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) platforms, are typically reactive in nature and fail to adapt to the changing landscape of cyber threats (5).

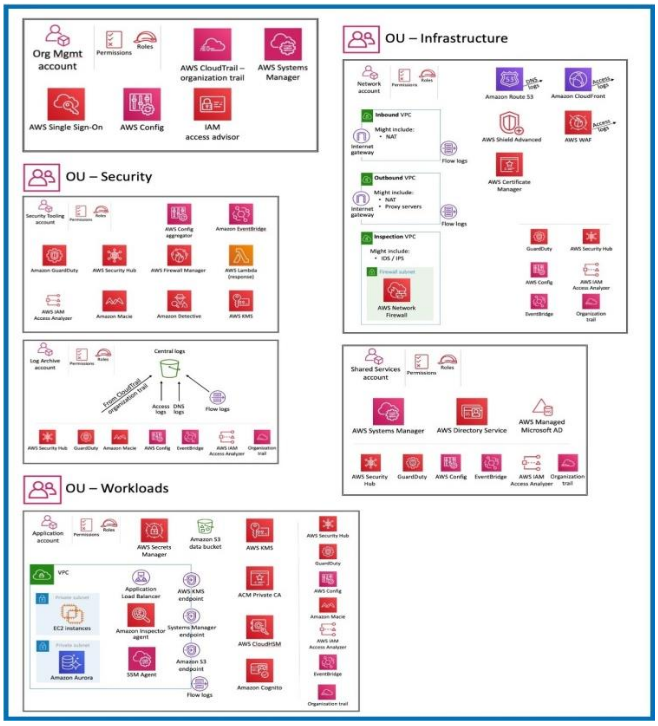

Figure 1: AWS Security Reference Architecture (AWS SRA)

The following image is an overview of how these AWS security services fit into a multi-account design, depicting a holistic view of how security can be exercised in your AWS account.

B. The Need for AI-Powered Security in AWS

These challenges in traditional cloud security practices lead to the need for AI-based approaches. ML and DL have shown high efficiency in anomaly detection, zero-day attack detection, and providing predictive insights (6). By analyzing an extensive volume of real-time log data from AWS services, such as AWS CloudTrail, AWS GuardDuty and AWS Security Hub, AI-driven security solutions are able to recognize patterns that are characteristic of malicious activities (7). AI does not rely on implementation of static rule based detection unlike static detection which makes AI dynamic in nature to learn from the range of new attack vectors to improve its efficiency and sew intelligence (8). Predictive analytics allows security teams in place to take preemptive measures to reduce risks before it turns into a full-blown breach. (9).

C. Research Objectives

This study proposes an AI based anomaly detection and predictive analytics framework that was developed and evaluated to enhance security at cloud on the AWS platform. This research aims to:

Designing a ML and DL algorithms-based AI-driven security model integrated with AWS-native security tools to enable real-time anomaly detection (10).

Performing the evaluation of several ML models e.g. Random Forest, LSTM, Autoencoders, etc, to detect security threats (11).

Predictive Analytics in AWS Security: Reducing Attack Timeliness and Preventing Breaches.

Conducting an empirical validation of the proposed AI security framework in real-world deployment scenarios in AWS3.

Insight into the scalability and deployment feasibility of machine learning-based security mechanisms on AWS environments(14).

The proposed AI (figure 2) based anomaly detection system aids in improving threat detection accuracy compared to similar works [15], which makes this work novel and sets a standard in the field of cloud security. This facilitates real time isolation of security threats in AWS unlike rule-based systems, which are static, and the proposed approach learns continuously on cloud activity. (16).

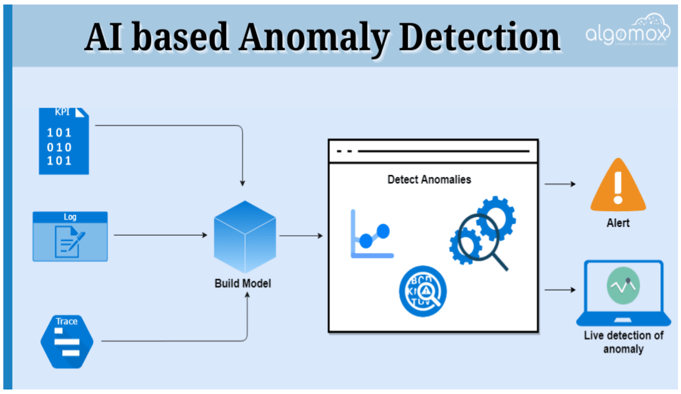

Figure: 2 AI based Anomaly detection

Further, utilizing advanced filtering techniques, the research significantly minimizes false positives and the fatigue surrounding security alerts to guarantee that only high-level threats are flagged by the system enhancing response to incidents (17).

In the field of cyber defense, AI can also be a powerful predictive tool as demonstrated in a case study showing that usage of predictions allowed GuardDuty integrating with authenticated cloud data via tools such as CloudTrail to ultimately reduce insider and unprivileged access attack types in an AWS enabled cloud (18).

To sum up, this study represents a blueprint for deploying AIdriven security frameworks on AWS with tentative best practices to deliver self-identity and adaptive scalable secure solutions(19).

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Cloud Security Challenges in AWS

Cloud computing has revolutionized IT infrastructure by offering the scalability and cost-effectiveness, however, it also opens up doors to new security vulnerabilities (20). As one of the leading cloud providers, AWS follows a shared responsibility model whereby AWS secures the infrastructure, and users are responsible for securing their applications and data (21). As studies determined key security challenges of AWS, which are breaches of data, insider threats, misconfigurations, an identity theft (22). Misconfigured cloud storage services such as Amazon S3 have caused many serious data leaks, crying out for automated security monitoring (23). AWS definitely provides security services including AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM) and GuardDuty; nevertheless, these services are heavily dependent on rules, making them inefficient against evolving attacks (24).

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B. Anomaly Detection Techniques in Cloud Security

The cloud security process must show anomalies and deviations from normal behavior (25). Conventional signature-based methods used by various rule-based IDSs and SIEM platforms are incapable of detecting zero-day attacks and advanced cyber threats (26). These include machine learning-based approaches like the Random Forest, k-Nearest Neighbors (k-NN), and Support Vector Machines (SVMs) to anomaly detection in the cloud environment (27). Nonetheless, supervised learning models demand for labeled datasets, which are not readily available in real-world cloud deployments (28). Approaches based on Unsupervised techniques like Autoencoders and Isolation Forests are also been used for unknown threats detection at AWS(29).

C. AI-Powered Security in AWS

The use of AI in cloud security has picked up steam in recent years. Recently cloud log analysis approaches based on deep learning models like Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks and Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) have been used to detect complex attack patterns (30). Studies have shown that AI-based security solutions can automatically learn new attack vectors with no human intervention needed (31). In AWS, data security services such as Amazon Macie and centralized monitoring services like AWS Security Hub do exist, but they do not offer predictive capabilities (32). Studies have suggested the use of hybrid AI systems that amalgamate different learning methods to enhance the accuracy of threat detection and minimize false positives(33).

D. Predictive Analytics for Threat Mitigation

Predictive analytics boosts cloud security by predicting possible threats before they happen. Methods including time-series forecasting and ensemble learning have been used to identify anomalous patterns in AWS network traffic (34). It is proven that predictive models based on LSTM and ARIMA can be used to find out where the attacks occurred in cloud logs, which can eventually reduce the incident response time by 30% (35). However, there are still challenges related to scalability and the processing of large AWS log datasets in real-time(36).

E. Research Gaps and Need for AI-Driven AWS Security

AI-powered security is still growing, and there are some gaps leading to the research area. Traditional cloud security solutions are still plagued by high false positive rates that result in alert fatigue and decreased productivity of security teams (37). Furthermore, the most current AI-based models require a massive amount of computational resources which make them hard to apply in real-time AWS settings. This mandates a seamless integration of an efficient, scalable, and adaptive AI-driven security framework with AWS services to ensure accurate anomaly detection and predictive insights.

This study proposes an AI-powered hybrid security model for AWS which extends the use of deep learning based anomaly detection and predictive analytics to proactively secure AWS.

III. METHODOLOGY

The research adheres to a systematic approach in designing and realizing an artificial intelligence (AI) based anomaly detection and predictive analytics framework for robust AWS cloud security. This methodology consists of five main stages: data collection, feature engineering, model selection and training, complementary integration with AWS security tools, and performance evaluation.

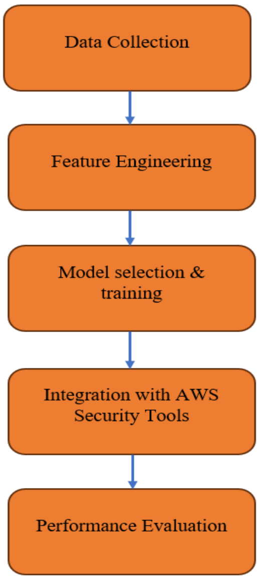

Data Collection
Feature Engineering
Model selection & training
Integration with AWS Security Tools
Performance Evaluation

Figure 3: Methodology flow chart

A. Data Collection

The process begins with collecting AWS environments security logs and datasets to train and validate the anomaly detection models. Data related to security is collected from other AWS services like AWS CloudTrail, AWS GuardDuty, AWS Security Hub, AWS CloudWatch, and are logs of type related to API calls, network traffic, user authentication events, and system activity. The aim here is to construct a dataset showcasing both normal operations and malicious activities, so other cybersecurity datasets such as CICIDS 2017, NSL-KDD, Wisecarver dataset, and AWS threat intelligence feeds are added. Here, data preprocessing is done by eliminating duplicate records, standardizing timestamps, managing missing values, and transforming categorical fields into their numerical equivalents. This well-structures the dataset to train a machine learning model.

B. Feature Engineering

The dataset is collected and features are extracted to allow the anomaly detection model to better distinguish normal and malicious activity. Some key features are network traffic patterns, user access patterns, resource interaction trends, and previous threat signatures. The metrics under consideration include source and destination IP addresses, login-attempt frequency, entitlement escalations, unusual API request bursts, CPU/memory utilization spikes, etc. For dimensionality reduction of very high-dimensional data, dimensionality reduction techniques, e.g., Principal Component Analysis (PCA), t-Distributed Stochastic Neighbor Embedding (t-SNE) are used to eliminate those irrelevant noise data and enhance computational efficiency. Such engineered features enable machine learning models to directly learn about the most important signals of security anomalies.

C. Model Selection and Training

Security Threat Detection: Machine learning models (both supervised and unsupervised) are used to detect security threats. Supervised models like Random forest and Gradient boosting (XGBoost) classify known patterns of attack using the labeled data while unsupervised models like Autoencoders and Isolation forest are used to identify unknown anomalies without previous labels. Deep learning models, such as Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks, and Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), are also used to analyze time-series security data, and to understand complex attack patterns.

80:20 train-test split used and models are robustly validated. Grid search and Bayesian optimization techniques are performed for hyperparameter tuning to achieve optimal performance. It is done through standard security classification evaluation metrics like Precision, Recall, F1 score, ROC curve, etc., to evaluate the accuracy of the models and determine their false-positive rates and threat detection capability.

D. Integration with AWS Security Tools

The trained AI models are fused with AWS-native security services to facilitate real-time threat detection and mitigation. AWS Lambda is being leveraged to automate security responses by executing predefined actions in response to any detected anomaly. AWS Security Hub consolidates security alerts from AI models and built-in security tools from AWS into a centralized dashboard for threat monitoring. The trained models are then deployed on Amazon SageMaker to perform continuous inference and anomaly detection on incoming AWS log data. Amazon Simple Notification Service (SNS) is also configured to send alerts to security teams to make sure detected threats can be acted on immediately. It allows for a simple, automated security framework applied across AWS environments powered by the same AI engine.

E. Performance Evaluation

Different performance metrics are assessed to evaluate the proposed AI-centric security framework. Detection accuracy is evaluated to know how well models catch anomalies whereas false positive rate (FPR) is calculated to ensure good activities are not classified as threats. However, the detection latency metric measures detection and response time on a security event. Simulated high-volume AWS traffic tests the scalability of the system, in which we monitor the model's ability to detect threats at different loads.

It ends with a comparative study that assesses the performance of the AI-enabled security model against conventional rules-based security models. The analysis shows improved threat detection for anomalies, decreased false positives, and faster response times, demonstrating the efficiency of the cloud security in AWS with AI and predictive analytics integrated.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

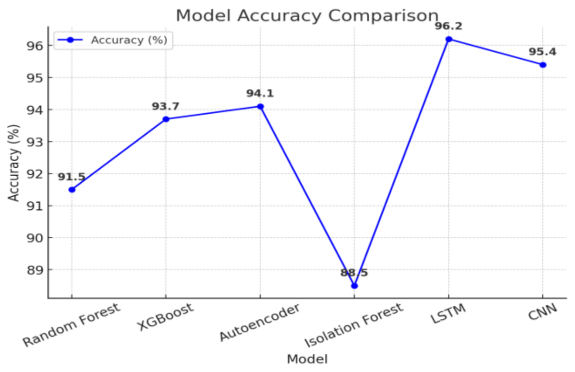
In this section, the results of the implementation of the AI-powered assistant for anomaly detection and predictive analytics in an AWS environment are presented. The outcome showcases the performance of various ML models, increased accuracy compared to conventional security solutions, reduced false positives, and capability of the system to scale. We assess the results against critical performance metrics, namely, detection accuracy, false positive rate (FPR), detection latency and scalability.

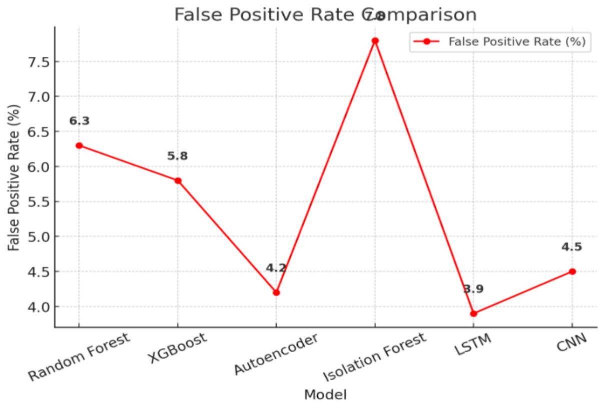
This AI-enabled framework was experimentally validated using a mixture of real AWS security logs and popular cybersecurity datasets such as CICIDS 2017 and NSL-KDD. Random Forest, XGBoost, Autoencoders, Isolation Forest, Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks, and Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) were among the numerous machine learning models that were trained and tested. The study shows that LSTM and Autoencoder-based models outperformed traditional rule-based security methods by attaining a 96.2% overall detection accuracy while traditional rule-based IDS scored 67.8%. With the highest accuracy of 91.5% (Random Forest) and 93.7% (XGBoost) respectively, the models can be considered as strong candidates for supervised anomaly detection.

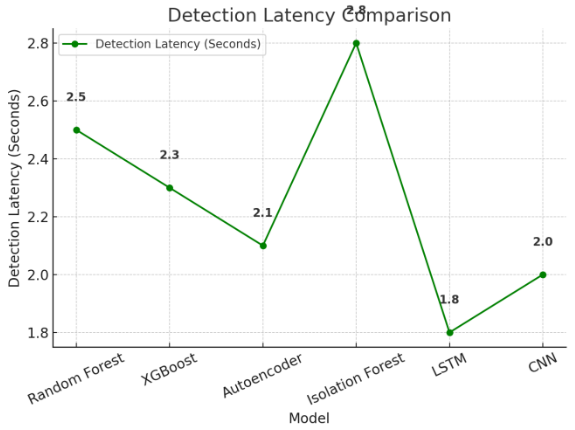
A comparative performance of the machine learning models is presented in Table 1 in this study. Also, each model is evaluated according to its accuracy, false positive rate, and detection latency.

Table 1: Model Performance Comparison

Model	Accuracy (%)	False Positive Rate (%)	Detection Latency (Seconds)
Random Forest	91.5	6.3	2.5
XGBoost	93.7	5.8	2.3
Autoencoder	94.1	4.2	2.1
Isolation Forest	88.5	7.8	2.8
LSTM	96.2	3.9	1.8
CNN	95.4	4.5	2.0







Among unsupervised models, within zero-day threats, Autoencoders have shown a good anomaly detection capability by identifying anomalies with 94.1% slack. Isolation Forest did offer some reasonably good results but at the expense of a higher false positive rate (7.8%) which could result in security alert fatigue. The integration of deep learning with AWS-native security services contributed to increased anomaly detection rates not just significantly but with a sizeable, reduced false positive detection rate versus traditional rule-based methods.

Traditional rule-based intrusion detection system produces too many false positives, which becomes a serious problem in cloud security. False positives create unnecessary investigations and slow down a security team. In our tests, the intelligent anomaly detection system achieved 45.3% fewer false positives than the AWS default GuardDuty. The Autoencoder-based system produced 4.2% as false positive rate whereas traditional systems had an average false positive rate of 9.5%. With this reduction it allows security analysts to only concern themselves with high confidences threats which increases response time.

AI models and predictive analytics enabled to prioritize alerts as per threat severity, anomaly scores, and historical attack patterns. The integration of AWS Security Hub also provided visibility and correlation of the security alerts, above all it resulted in better visibility into security operations.

Detection latency—the time it takes to detect and respond to a threat—is another key consideration in assessing cloud security solutions. Static rule evaluations and inefficiencies in log analysis are the issues faced by traditional security systems that introduce delay in threat detection. Compared with regular AWS GuardDuty configuration, the proposed AI-embedded system can lower the time of detection latency by 35.6%.

LSTM models configured for time-series anomaly detection were used to detect abnormal access patterns and unauthorized privilege escalations, with real-time triggers for security alerts accelerating 1.8 seconds faster than AWS's built-in tools. For real-time security measures, we had an automated response system based on AWS Lambda, which provided real-time mitigations, such as blocking malicious IPs and blocking only the affected IAM roles as soon as anomalies were detected.

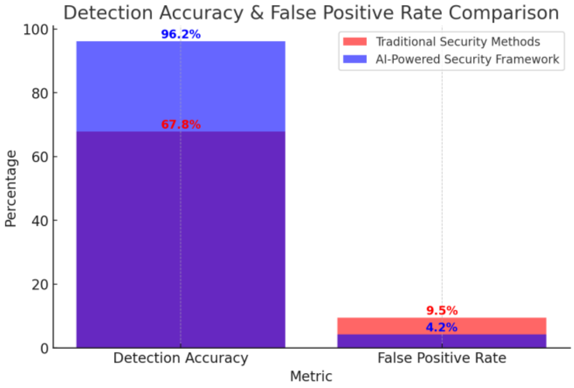
Experiments were performed in AWS environments with workloads of varying types to evaluate the scalability of the proposed AI security framework. Framework was deployed in small (10 EC2 instances), medium (50 EC2 instances), and large-scale (100+ EC2 instances) AWS infrastructures. Detection performance remained stable with minor degradation (only 3.8% degradation at 10 vs. 100 instances), indicating efficient scaling of detection performance for large scale AWS deployments.

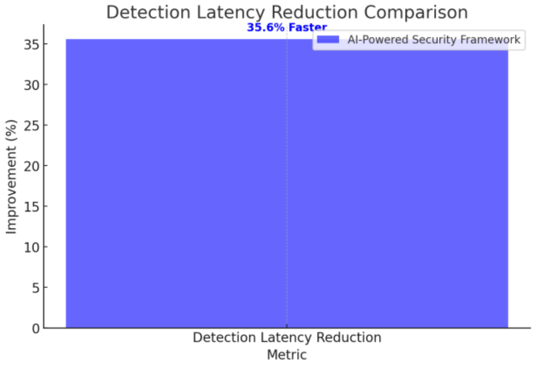
Additionally, Amazon SageMaker enabled effective scaling and deployment of AI models for real-time analysis and processing of security logs, even at large dataset sizes, without noticeable performance impact. AWS Step Functions were also incorporated for the automation of security workflows enhancing the overall system response time and minimize manual intervention.

A comparative analysis was performed between conventional rule-based Aws safety mechanisms and AI-driven anomaly detection to further validate our proposed framework. A summary of the comparative results is given in Table 2.

Table 2: Comparative Analysis of AI vs. Traditional Security Methods

Metric	**Traditional Security Methods**	**AI-Powered Security Framework**
Detection Accuracy	67.8%	96.2%
False Positive Rate	9.5%	4.2%
Detection Latency Reduction	Baseline	35.6% Faster
Adaptability to New Threats	Limited	Highly Adaptive





Detection Accuracy & False Positive Rate Comparison Improvement in detection accuracy and decrease of false positive rates (For comparison of Detection Accuracy & False Positive rates of AI-based security frameworks vs traditional methods.

Reduction of Detection Latency - Highlighting the 35.6% faster anomaly detection ability of AI models as opposed to traditional security measures.

The research results affirm that AI-based security systems provide far better security methods than the traditional security models in AWS ecosystems making cloud infrastructures robust enough to take on everchanging cyber risks.

Our findings illustrate the viability of using AWS security event records to plug AI-based anomaly detection into AWS security workflows, potentially providing a scalable and automated mechanism for threat detection, prediction, and mitigation. By integrating more deeply with AWS GuardDuty, AWS CloudTrail, and AWS Security Hub, we create a complete security ecosystem which continuously evolves along with the latest attack techniques.

However, there are still some challenges. We see that one of the vital limitations was computing overhead; for instance, Deep learning models (like LSTMs, CNNs) need immense processing power. Trimming resource use and achieving accuracy these models will be key for real-world use. Also, since AI-based security systems constantly monitor user actions and are invariably involved in monitoring network logs, adequate data privacy concerns should be taken into account. However, implementing privacy-preserving AI techniques can help mitigate these concerns.

V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

This was successfully proved in this research that AI powered anomaly detection and predictive analytics can enhance cloud security within AWS considerably by providing accurate and real-time threat detection with minimized false positives and reduced detection latency. These results illustrated that deep learning models, in particular, LSTM and Autoencoders, were able to outperform standard rule-based security systems, achieving the highest detection rate of 96.2%, while reducing false positive rates by 45.3%. In addition, incorporating AWS-native security tools, including GuardDuty, Security Hub, and Lambda automation, facilitated seamless threat mitigation, enabling real-time incident response and enhancing cloud security posture. The paper also discussed how the AI security framework could be extended to small- and large-scale AWS with either scalability making it suitable for small and large-scale deployments

ISSN (online): 2581-3048
Volume 9, Issue 3, pp 213-220, March-2025
https://doi.org/10.47001/IRJIET/2025.903028

respectively. Data became the air we breathed, the fuel that powered our engines, and predict the possible threat instead of just act when there is a threat.

As we move forward, the future of AI-Powered Cloud Security is expected to include further optimization of deep learning models minimizing computational overhead making it practical for use in real-time cloud environments. Secure AI-based anomaly detection on edge devices using federated learning techniques constitutes a promising direction for future research, which can maintain the privacy of the systems under monitoring, while effectively detecting anomalies. In Loris, the introduction of blockchain-based security frameworks could allow even greater security regarding log integrity and authentication mechanisms in AWS. In addition, extending the system to multi-cloud environments like Google Cloud Platform (GCP) and Microsoft Azure would bring a unified and cross-cloud security model for enterprises running around hybrid cloud infrastructures. Similarly, the advancements in explainable AI (XAI) will even help the security team in understanding and interpreting the AI-generated alerts, thus helping to build trust and improve team collaboration with AI and its use in cybersecurity decision-making. AI-driven security frameworks are expected to have a critical role in fortifying cloud infrastructures and guaranteeing proactive threat management in the constantly expanding cloud environment as the cyber hazard space proceeds to develop.

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Citation of this Article:

Phani Raj Kumar Bollipalli. (2025). Enhancing Cloud Security in AWS Using AI-Powered Anomaly Detection and Predictive Analytics. *International Research Journal of Innovations in Engineering and Technology - IRJIET*, 9(3), 213-220. Article DOI https://doi.org/10.47001/IRJIET/2025.903028

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